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From the Ambassador's Desk | [A Bi-Monthly Update from the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon](#)



**MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR KATZ**

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Every four years, the United States puts on a grand spectacle that highlights the strength and vibrancy of the American democratic tradition – the U.S. Presidential Elections. Like many Americans, I stay up all the night waiting for the final results. This year I was fortunate to watch it live in the company of Portuguese colleagues, friends, and the media in the lively atmosphere of the Hard Rock Café on Lisbon's historic Avenida da Liberdade.



It's been a busy time for the Embassy. We were proud to work with FLAD and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in October to host the "Portugal and the Holocaust Conference," which looked back on the personal histories of war time refugees fleeing Nazi persecution through Portugal, the heroic efforts of Aristides de Sousa Mendes and how we can best teach the next generation of youth so that they never forget the atrocities that marked this tragic chapter in world history. This month, we are continuing our series in conjunction with our partner, Carpe Diem, and our American Corners, of bringing dynamic art curators to share their experiences with Portuguese colleagues, artists, and the general public. The Embassy is also excited to be launching soon a contest for aspiring entrepreneurs in conjunction with NOVA University's NES called StartMeUp. Two deserving teams will each be winning over \$12,500 in seed money and a trip to the United States to make important contacts. And finally, I would like to wish a Happy Thanksgiving to all the Newsletter readers.

As always, we welcome your [comments](#).

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**ELECTION NIGHT WATCH AND THE U.S. ELECTION RESULTS**

On the evening of November 6th, the U.S. Embassy Lisbon organized an Election Night Watch, in partnership with the American Club, where invited guests could watch and participate in live coverage of the United States Presidential Elections. The event took place at the Hard Rock Café in Lisbon and included about 350 guests throughout the evening. Guests participated in a mock election and photographs with stand-ups and live impersonators of the candidates. Screens and televisions displayed the Electoral College as polls were closing. President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden were reelected. According to the latest data, President Obama has garnered 50% of the popular vote to Romney's 48%. While the final official results are not yet in for all 50 states, news media are projecting that Obama will win 332 electoral votes to Romney's 206.

Learn more about the speeches: [President Obama's](#) | [Governor Mitt Romney's](#)



Mock election at the Hard Rock Cafe

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EMBASSY

### PORTUGAL AND THE HOLOCAUST CONFERENCE

The conference entitled “Portugal and the Holocaust – Learning from the Past, Teaching for the Future” took place on 29-30 October, 2012 at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (CGF). This conference was organized by the U.S. Embassy, the Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD) and the CGF. The main goal of this conference was to promote an understanding of the Holocaust and Portugal’s role during that period, and to support Holocaust education in Portugal. The conference brought together leading American, Portuguese, and other European specialists, scholars and educators in the field. Besides the conference, other public events took place such as: the week-long exhibit “The Holocaust Refugees and Portugal,” “Music and Memory of the Holocaust,” performed by the Nossa Senhora do Cabo Music School, and a Film/Documentary “Witness Testimonies” by Esther Mucznick.

[Learn more about the Conference and the Holocaust](#)



Bernhard Wrabetz, Austrian Ambassador to Portugal; Ehud Gol, Israeli Ambassador to Portugal; Allan Katz, U.S. Ambassador to Portugal, and Helmut Efenkamper, German Ambassador to Portugal

### CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

On October 25, Embassy Political & Economic Affairs Officer Stephanie Kotecki-Bonhomme participated in a conference organized by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies on “International Best Practices Against Human Trafficking” in Porto, Portugal. Fighting human trafficking is a global priority for the United States. Kotecki-Bonhomme spoke about the U.S. government’s anti-trafficking efforts and its cooperation with NGOs on this important global issue. Her presentation focused on the need to identify key vulnerabilities, to address the practices of the private sector, and to provide funding and resources to NGOs with specialized experience and skills. Kotecki-Bonhomme also highlighted the ability of local service providers to provide important data and referrals to law enforcement and prosecutors.

[Learn more about Trafficking in Persons](#)



### JAMES RAGAN'S PORTUGAL TOUR

On October 17-19, American poet, playwright and screen writer James Ragan visited Portugal for a series of inspirational talks at universities in Lisbon, Coimbra, Aveiro, Porto and Braga on the “connections between literature and cinema”. The talks, including lively Q&A sessions, also featured a number of poetry readings by the internationally acclaimed writer and first-hand accounts of his experiences reading poetry with Bob Dylan and Seamus Heaney on the other side of the Iron Curtain, as well as fascinating anecdotes from his time working in Hollywood and the European film industry.

[Photos of the talks](#)



James Ragan at the University of Minho

## STARTMEUP - POWERED BY U.S. EMBASSY PORTUGAL

On our continuous efforts to engage the Portuguese academic and entrepreneurial communities, the Embassy has partnered with NOVA Entrepreneurship Society (NES) to develop a project that is built on three major concepts:

**Learn:** the Embassy and NES will conduct five, one-hour, monthly workshops via digital videoconference (DVC) with American speakers who all have an expertise in entrepreneurship and innovation to share experience/knowledge and cases that demonstrate best practices. An integral part of these events will be networking sessions for budding entrepreneurs, representatives of the business world and institutions that support innovation.

**Start:** In addition to the DVC sessions, and building on the previous joint work with NES, students and entrepreneurs will integrate what they have learned from the experts, in order to develop/improve their own business ideas/plans. The project will include a series of workshops with an entrepreneur/venture capitalist traveling from the U.S. to assist students/entrepreneurs with their projects.

**Accelerate:** The Embassy and NES will organize a final event/competition for ideas, projects and startups from universities all across Portugal including the Azores. It will consist of a pitch to a group of experts, who will judge the idea based on its originality, business plan viability, and other key factors. The two competition winners will then each be awarded \$12,500 in seed money and a trip to the U.S. which will be tailored to fit their business interests and needs.

[Stay tuned for more information](#)



## JENNIFER MCGREGOR IN PORTUGAL TO TALK ABOUT ART IN PUBLIC SPACES

Under the auspices of our American Corners program, and in partnership with the Lisbon Carpe Diem Art Gallery, from November 12-20 the Embassy will bring art curator Jennifer McGregor for a lecture series and meetings at Portuguese universities and institutions. McGregor is a Public Art expert and will lecture on “Public Art Engaging the Environment” at:

- Univ. of Porto’s Faculdade de Belas Artes on 16 November at 1600
- The Carpe Diem Gallery on 17<sup>th</sup> November at 1800.
- Univ. of Lisbon’s Faculdade de Belas Artes on 19 November at 1830.

We hope you will join us at one of the sessions.

Jennifer McGregor is the Senior Curator at Wave Hill, a 28-acre public garden and cultural center overlooking the Hudson River in the Bronx, New York City. Throughout her career she has worked with non-traditional public spaces, diverse audiences, and artists.

[Learn more about the lectures](#)



Invitation to the Carpe Diem Gallery event

## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

- Lincoln Center Film Director in Portugal

Richard Peña is Professor of Film at Columbia University, Program Director of the Film Society of Lincoln Center and the Director of the New York Film. On November 16 the Embassy will organize lectures on Avant Garde cinema and independent film-making in the United States at the University of Lisbon’s Faculdade de Letras at 1030 and the Escola Superior de Teatro e Cinema at 1430.

- Internet and Education – **STATE ALUMNI** Webchat with Salman Khan on Nov. 14

Are you a Fulbright, IVLP, E-teacher or other alumnus of a USG sponsored program? Are you interested in the role of the Internet and education? Have you heard of the [Khan Academy](#)? Its founder [Salman Khan](#) would like to talk with State Alumni members during a web chat on Wednesday November 14, 2012. He will take [questions only from State Alumni members!](#)

**STATE ALUMNI**

Join the exclusive global community exclusively for participants of U.S. government sponsored exchange programs. Register [here](#)