



September 2013 | [Clique aqui para a Versão Portuguesa](#)



[From the Charge D’Affaires Desk](#) | **A Bi-Monthly Update from the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon**

MESSAGE FROM CHARGE D’AFFAIRES JOHN OLSON

IN THIS ISSUE

Greetings! It is a great pleasure for me to be once again in Portugal at the U.S. Embassy, where I served as Management Counselor from 2003-2007. After four wonderful years in Lisbon, the only way to soothe my *saudade* was to return to this beautiful country.



This newsletter, we would like to highlight U.S. efforts to combat one of the largest and most destructive illicit businesses in the world – the trafficking of human beings. It is only through international cooperation that we can stop this transnational criminal activity which affects the lives of millions of victims across the globe.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I have a dream” speech. As President Obama has noted, “We rightly and best remember Dr. King’s soaring oratory that day, how he gave mighty voice to the quiet hopes of millions.”

This summer has been very busy for the U.S. Embassy, with youth programs being a major focus. In July, the Embassy hosted two sessions of an Intercultural Youth Camp, which brought teenagers from all over Portugal for a week long retreat to learn about the United States and global issues. The Embassy also sent two Portuguese students to the annual Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellows Summer Institute in the United States. In this issue you will find a personal testimony by one of the fellows on how the experience changed her life.

The Embassy is proud to announce that a team of alumni of U.S. exchange programs has won a grant from Washington to support a project that aims to sensitize youth on the Portuguese criminal justice system.

Congratulations ABC Justice! Congratulations as well to Patricia Portela for winning a place in the prestigious U.S. State Department-funded International Writing Program in Iowa City, Iowa.

And finally, the Embassy is continuing its renowned speaker program by bringing to Portugal Robert Kahn, an expert from the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations, to Portugal to speak at several universities around the country, ending with a debate at Catholic University on the economic crisis and debt restructuring on the 26th September.

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The U.S. Government is committed to fighting human trafficking in all its forms, particularly in vulnerable countries, where people are often attracted by misleading job offers advertised by trafficking networks. An example of this dedication is in Burma, where the USA has worked with the government together on issues such as forced labor, sex trafficking, and the unlawful recruitment and use of children soldiers, looking for ways to fight the scourge of trafficking. During his 2012 visit to Burma, President Obama called upon the Burmese government “to reach for a future where the law is stronger than any single leader ... where no child is made to be a soldier and no woman is exploited, and where the laws protect them.”

Earlier this year, the White House hosted the first-ever White House Forum to Combat Human Trafficking, joining governments, the private sector, advocates and survivors, faith leaders, law enforcement, and academia. Survivor stories were told, results shared and new solutions were looked at that may help end human trafficking. Another tool the United States uses is the [annual report on trafficking in persons](#), which looks at the challenges facing the fight against trafficking in nearly every country across the globe, including the United States.

And finally, the United States has been expanding its task force to include enforcement partners such as the FBI, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, along with many other Federal agencies, as well as developing cutting-edge technology that will help stop trafficking, help victims, connect them to services, and expose traffickers.

[Find more about U.S. efforts to stop this issue](#)



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MARCH TO WASHINGTON – 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Martin Luther King Jr. represents one of the most emblematic speakers of America, a Nobel Peace Prize winner who, through his oratorical gifts and his non violent activism, always fought against violence and racial discrimination. Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi’s philosophies, Dr. King played a crucial part in the civil rights struggle in the United States until he was murdered on 4th April, 1968.

On 28th August, 1963 King delivered the legendary “I have a dream” speech at the National Mall in Washington to the hundreds of thousands of Americans assembled that day, representing a cross section of diversity in the United States. “I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal,’” he famously said that day. Known as one of the largest rallies of human rights in America’s history, this event was a big step towards equality, freedom and justice, with over 250,000 people congregating around the Lincoln Memorial to demand change. In order to celebrate the [50th anniversary](#) of the march this year, Washington D.C. hosted a series of events the last week of August, bringing once again people from across the country to the nation’s capital to relive MLK’s dream. The Washington ceremonies culminated on the 28th with an interfaith service, a call to action and a bell-ringing ceremony echoed in places across the United States and the world, to mark the exact time at which King delivered his speech.

Learn more about [Martin Luther King Jr.](#) and read an eyewitness account from someone who participated in the original [March on Washington](#)



About 250,000 people at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EMBASSY

AMERICAN-PORTUGUESE INTERCULTURAL YOUTH CAMP

From July 13 to July 27, the Embassy hosted two sessions of an *American-Portuguese Intercultural Youth Camp*, with the participation of 82 campers from high schools across Portugal, including students from the Azores and Madeira. The goal of the camp was to familiarize Portuguese youth with American culture, history, and government, while promoting intercultural interactions between young Portuguese and American campers, all in the context of a traditional American summer-camp experience.

With a combination of interactive classes, fun workshops and games, group discussions and debates, site visits – including a trip to the U.S. Embassy and volunteer opportunities – this summer's camp program experience marked the lives of these youth in a special way, instilling a greater global consciousness, appreciation for America in all of its diversity, and creating new bonds of friendship.



American Football Match at Summer Camp (First Week)

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SCHOLARS

"I had the pleasure of being a part of the Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellows Summer Institute (BFTF) that took place this summer in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, along with 44 other students from all across Europe and the United States.

During the whole month each one of us had to develop an original project idea capable of improving our own countries once we came back home. For the matter, we had multiple classes and workshops on subjects like "Citizenship and Conflict", "Comparative Constitutionalism", "Social Entrepreneurship", "Documentary filmmaking" and "Grant Writing". We also had the chance of fully experiencing American culture by spending ten days with a host family, celebrating the Fourth of July and visiting important historical sites at both Washington D.C. and Philadelphia.

Now that I look back at the very first day of the program, I see myself surrounded by all these unfamiliar faces that later on became so special to me. Allan Loudon (the former BFTF director) gave a beautiful speech that day that almost brought me to tears. He said those four weeks would change our lives forever. At first I didn't quite believe him but he was right. I learned so much, I grew so much, I lived so much. Time went by so fast. I was always someone who dreamed really big but after the BFTF I have grown to be even more ambitious. It was definitely the best experience of my life!"

By Joana Larsen



Benjamin Franklin Scholars in United States

U.S. COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS ECONOMIST IN PORTUGAL

Robert Kahn, a renowned economist and expert in macroeconomic policy, finance and crisis resolution, will be visiting Portugal from September 23-26, to give a series of talks on the economic crisis and debt restructuring. Kahn is currently the Steven A. Tananbaum senior fellow for international economics at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) in Washington, D.C. With vast experience in both public and private sectors, Robert Kahn has worked at Moore Capital Management, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, Citigroup, the Council of Economic Advisors and the Federal Reserve Board. During his time in Portugal, Kahn will speak at universities in Lisbon, Porto, Coimbra, Aveiro and Braga. He will also take part in a debate at Catholic University (Lisbon) at 6:00 p.m. on 26 September.



U.S. Economist Robert Kahn

PATRÍCIA PORTELA

Portuguese writer Patricia Portela has been selected for the 2013 International Writing Program (IWP) at the University of Iowa. The program brings to the United States established and emerging foreign writers to participate in this prestigious ten-week international residency. Since 1967, when the IWP was founded, it has hosted more than 1,400 writers from 130 countries during the Fall Residency. It is truly a one-of-a-kind experience for early- to mid-career writers with the alumni roster including Bei Dao, Bessie Head, Orhan Pamuk and many others. Born in 1974, Portela lives between Antwerp and Lisbon. She has published four books (including *O Banquete*), written and staged several performances (including *Flatland Trilogy*) and won numerous awards. Widely travelled, she is known for her disconcerting and humorous style.

Follow Patricia Portela on her [webpage](#).



Portrait of Patricia Portela by Afonso Cruz

ABC JUSTICE PROJECT

Congratulations to the team of ABC Justice who won this year's Alumni Innovation Engagement Fund! Led by International Visitor Leadership Program alumni Frederico Marques and João Lázaro of the nongovernmental organization, [Associação Portuguesa de Apoio ao Vitima](#), ABC Justice aims to launch this year a sustainable and creative public information campaign to promote the transparency of Portugal's criminal justice system, particularly among the youth.



IVLP Alumni Frederico Marques and João Lázaro
with APAO Scott Hartmann

UPCOMING EVENTS

“The Importance of Humanities in Portugal’s Future” by the Fulbrighter Alum Isabel Capelo Gil

- **September 25**
Catholic University – 6:30 p.m.

U.S. Council on Foreign Relations Speaker Robert Kahn

- **September 23:** University of Minho – 11 a.m.
University of Porto – Business School – 6:30 p.m.
- **September 24:** University of Aveiro - 2:30 p.m.
Univ. of Porto – Faculty of Economics - 6:30 p.m.
- **September 25:** University of Coimbra – 11:00 a.m.
- **September 26:** Debate at Catholic University – 6:30 p.m.