



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
LISBON · PORTUGAL

DEPARTMENT of STATE

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



MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR SHERMAN

IN THIS ISSUE

Greetings. We have had a very busy summer at the Embassy and are planning an exciting lineup of activities, initiatives and programs in the months ahead.

The United States is proud of our long-standing alliance with Portugal, and Portuguese engagement, along with our other NATO partners at the most recent NATO Summit in the United Kingdom. The summit was

testament to that relationship which forms the bedrock of our transatlantic security alliance, particularly in light of instability and the spread of armed conflict in eastern Europe.

In the same light, the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon is also highly committed to promoting the proposed U.S.-EU trade agreement as we believe it will bring solid economic benefits to small and medium-sized enterprises in Portugal, and will further strengthen the economic bonds between our two countries. As part of that commitment, we brought over a delegation of investors, venture capitalists and business men and women to Portugal to promote investment and trade opportunities, as well as help support the budding entrepreneurship community at incubators around the country. Concurrently, my wife and "Embaixatriz", Kim Sawyer, has spearheaded the "Connect to Success" initiative, which aims to help support women-owned businesses and female entrepreneurs through improved access, an international network and a mentoring program.

I have also began a series of road trips around the country to promote the proposed T/TIP agreement by highlighting the real life stories of Portuguese companies that stand to benefit greatly from increased trade with the United States. I hope you will join our Twitter page so you can follow me on my road trips and also take in some of the most beautiful roads and landscapes in this beautiful country.

But our engagement efforts are about more than just economics. In case you missed the dynamic beat-boxing and rapping to the tune of mathematics by Professor Chris Emdin, we hope to bring back similarly engaging speakers to engage youth in the fields of science and technology this coming year. We have also been generous supporters of the arts this summer, supporting the annual Disquiet Literary Program bringing together Portuguese and American writers; the 4th annual Walk & Talk international public art festival in the Azores; and most recently a series of art and photography exhibits, including the 'Pool' interactive light exhibit, which will be running at the Colombo shopping center through November. So welcome back to all of you and here's to another exciting year ahead of us!



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U.S. REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO DEFEND AND SUPPORT NATO ALLIES AT NATO WALES 2014 SUMMIT



President Obama was in Europe September 2-5 to coordinate with our closest allies and partners, and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the defense of our NATO allies. The NATO Summit in the United Kingdom focused on the additional steps we can take to ensure the Alliance remains collectively prepared for any challenge. The United States takes our Article 5 commitments to defend each other very seriously, from the smallest to the largest NATO member. The President travelled to Estonia on the 25th anniversary of their movement for independence and freedom to let Estonians know that the United States means what we say with respect to our treaty obligations.

At the NATO Summit, the President met with President

Poroshenko of Ukraine "to show that our 28 nations are united in support of Ukraine's sovereignty and its right to defend its territory." He called on NATO to make concrete commitments to help Ukraine modernize and strengthen its forces.

The President called the situation in Ukraine "a moment of testing," as the violence kills thousands and forces more to flee.

Speaking in Tallinn, Estonia, the President also addressed Russia's "brazen assault on the territorial integrity of Ukraine."

It challenges that most basic of principles of our international system -- that borders cannot be redrawn at the barrel of a gun; that nations have the right to determine their own future. It undermines an international order where the rights of peoples and nations are upheld and can't simply be taken away by brute force. This is what's at stake in Ukraine. This is why we stand with the people of Ukraine today....

Just as we refused to accept smaller European nations being dominated by bigger neighbors in the last century, we reject any talk of spheres of influence today. And just as we never accepted the occupation and illegal annexation of the Baltic nations, we will not accept Russia's occupation and illegal annexation of Crimea or any part of Ukraine. As free peoples, as an Alliance, we will stand firm and united to meet the test of this moment.

ROAD TRIPS THROUGH PORTUGAL WITH AMBASSADOR SHERMAN

Follow Ambassador Sherman on Twitter (#AmboRide) to hear about his adventures traveling through Portugal.

The Ambassador road trips series kicked-off on September 21-22 when he joined over 300 Harley Davidson riders in Alentejo to roar down some of the country's most scenic roads. He visited small- and medium-sized companies in the area to learn more about Portugal's agriculture sector and discuss how they can benefit from increased trade and investment with the United States.

Stay tuned, we've got some more great trips planned this Fall!



Ambassador Sherman

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EMBASSY
EMBASSY CELEBRATES 4TH OF JULY INDEPENDENCE DAY

To celebrate this year's Fourth of July, Ambassador Robert Sherman and Ms. Kim Sawyer hosted an evening party at the U.S. Embassy Lisbon's courtyard on July 3.

The Independence Day extravaganza featured American food, Route 66 theme décor, and live American pop music to liven the evening. Over 900 guests enjoyed the event. Among the distinguished guests were Portuguese politicians, academics and foreign diplomats.

[View more photos of the Embassy's 4th of July](#)



U.S. Marine Guards present the colors



Route 66 theme added fun to the party



Ambassador Sherman and guests having a good laugh



USAFE band "Touch 'n Go" performing upbeat live music



Ambassador Sherman and wife Kim Sawyer, and guests dancing to live music

“CONNECT TO SUCCESS” PROGRAM

The U.S. Embassy launched “Connect to Success” on July 1st, a program aimed at strengthening women owned businesses (“WOBs”) and promoting gender equality in the corporate world. Connect to Success’s first project is a mentor program, which pairs volunteers from our corporate partners with WOBs.

The program is designed to pair experienced business professionals with WOBs to assist their businesses to grow. Selected WOBs will have the opportunity to present their difficulties and challenges to their corporate mentor team, which in return will provide their WOBs with “tools” to success.

According to Kim Sawyer, the U.S. Embaixatriz in Lisbon, “I was selected as a mentee to participate in a similar corporate mentor program in the U.S. My relationship with my mentor team resulted in the development and implementation of new processes and procedures for my business.

As a direct consequence of these new processes and procedures, my company attained increased efficiency and productivity, lower costs, a differentiated service offering, and, ultimately, a map for long-term profitability.”

The July 1st kick off introduced the program and the benefits of being a corporate partner. Speakers included: Her Excellency the Minister of State and Finance, Maria Luís Albuquerque; Kim Sawyer; and, Diversity Specialist at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Liveda Clements.



Ms. Kim Sawyer addresses the entrepreneurs



Ambassador Sherman, Ms. Sawyer, Maria Luís Albuquerque and Liveda Clements

GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP DELEGATION MEETS WITH PORTUGUESE ENTREPRENEURS

The U.S. Department of State Global Entrepreneurship Program (GEP) and the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon organized a prominent entrepreneurship delegation that visited Portugal on July 14-17. The delegation included eleven highly successful American entrepreneurs and investors in the technology, finance, marketing, real estate and gourmet food industries.

During their visit throughout Lisbon, Aveiro and Porto, the delegation met with local entrepreneurs, held mentoring sessions, and attended a showcase event where local entrepreneurs demonstrated their products, apps, and services. The delegation also met with Portuguese officials to discuss key entrepreneurial opportunities and challenges in Portugal.



Young entrepreneurs show their apps to a GEP delegate at Fábrika de Startups in Lisbon

[View more photos of the GEP Delegation in Portugal](#)

PROFESSOR USES HIP-HOP TO BRING MATH TO YOUTH

The American Corners in Portugal, in partnership with the U.S. Embassy Lisbon, welcomed Professor Christopher Emdin to Portugal for a series of talks on using hip hop and other urban genres of music and language to teach youth math in Porto, Aveiro, and Lisbon from July 11 to July 16.

From teachers to students alike, audiences were pleasantly surprised with Prof. Emdin's new approach to teaching, particularly when he demonstrated himself how rap and hip hop can be an empowering and powerful tool to impart knowledge and connect with youth.

Prof. Emdin is an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics, Science and Technology at Teachers College, Columbia University. He is also the co-creator of the #HipHopEd media movement and the author of the recently released, award-winning book *Urban Science Education for the Hip Hop Generation*.



Professor Emdin mixing math and hip hop with an audience in Aveiro

"DISQUIET INTERNATIONAL LITERARY PROGRAM" IN LISBON

The 4th annual Disquiet International Literary Program was held in Lisbon from June 29 through July 11. The Disquiet International Literary Program is a two-week program that brings writers from the United States and around the world together with their Portuguese counterparts.

This year, the festival brought over 90 American authors to Lisbon who interacted with Portuguese writers via workshops, lectures, and readings—all leading to meaningful cross-cultural exchanges and helping to develop a new generation of literary talent on both sides of the Atlantic.

The program takes its inspiration from the Fernando Pessoa masterpiece, *The Book of Disquiet*.



Participants pose in front of Fernando Pessoa's statue in Lisbon

AZOREAN ISLAND IS TRANSFORMED DURING THE WALK & TALK AZORES



The U.S. Consulate in the Azores and U.S. Embassy Lisbon helped sponsor the Walk & Talk Azores International Public Art Festival, which took place in the Azorean island of São Miguel from July 18 to August 3. This festival is dedicated to promoting public art, interaction between artists and the local public, as well as leaving a tangible, relevant collection of public artworks in the Azorean capital of Ponta Delgada. During the festival, which involved Portuguese, as well as international artists from around the globe, the public were offered unique opportunities to engage with the artists as they created their works through workshops and talks, thus creating a groundbreaking art exhibition experience. Luso-American duo architects Carolina and Jeremy Backlar from Atelier Backlar, American documentary photographer Martha Cooper, and prominent Portuguese street artist Alexandre Farto (aka Vhils) were among the established contemporary art names who took part in this festival.

Take a look [here](#) for more pictures of some of the latest installations to join the budding art circuit in Ponta Delgada.

(photo: Walk & Talk Azores/Rui Soares)

LIGHT INSTALLATION "THE POOL" COMES TO LISBON'S CENTRO COMERCIAL COLOMBO

The U.S. Embassy Lisbon is sponsoring the art installation in Lisbon of "The Pool" by American artist Jen Lewin. The giant art creation fuses visual art, technology, and human interaction. When a person steps on a pad, it lights up, radiating color and light that ripples to other pads.

Come and dive into "The Pool." The computerized art is scheduled to appear in the main courtyard of Lisbon's Centro Colombo (Colombo Shopping Center) from September 16 through November 2.



"The Pool" at Lisbon's Centro Colombo

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Upcoming Social Entrepreneurship Development Workshop for Alumni

What would you do if you could change the world? Are you innovative? Can you develop new yet practical solutions to solve social issues?

If you are an alum and have these kind of questions, then save the date for the Social Entrepreneurship Development Workshop in Porto on November 29. The workshop will help alumni learn about the tools to develop innovative and sustainable projects with social impact, and skills to pitch their projects to stakeholders. We promise a workshop that is intense, complemented with energizing moments, fun, and chances for networking.

Look out, alumni, for an email announcing the workshop details and registration information soon!



(photo: International Exchange Alumni)

Alumni Collect nearly 5,500 Books for Mozambican School

E-teacher and SUSI alumni from schools around Portugal, together with their colleagues, helped the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon, the U.S. Peace Corps and the U.S. Embassy in Maputo collect nearly 5,500 new and used Portuguese language textbooks in a variety of subjects. The donations, including a large shipment from Madeira, where teachers collected the greatest number of books, will be donated to Escola Secundária Samuel Graciano, a school located in Insaca—a small, rural, and impoverished town in Mozambique's northern Niassa province, where Portuguese language textbooks are scarce.

A special thanks to all the alumni around Portugal for their great efforts to support this project—we certainly could not have reached this number without your contributions!



Books collected by alumni for Mozambican school

Check out the new Portugal alumni newsletter!

Check out the new issue of the *PORTUGAL USG-ALUMNI News* and keep up with news on fellow alumni, alumni events, and how you can get involved! View the newsletter [here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS/IMPORTANT DATES

- **“Bohemia: Life and Death in the Chelsea Hotel”**
photo exhibit by Rita Barros – September 15-
November 15
American Corner, FCT, NOVA University, Caparica
Campus
- **“The Pool”** an interactive art installation by Jen Lewin
at Centro Colombo– September 16-November 2
Main courtyard, Centro Colombo, Lisbon
- **“Space Exploration and NASA Mars Curiosity Mission”** a
talk by Bobak Ferdowski (systems engineer at NASA's Jet
Propulsion Laboratory) – October 10-17:
 - Oct. 10-11 in the Azores – Public Library of São Miguel
and other venues to be announced.
 - Oct. 14-15 in Lisbon - Technical Institute American
Corner, Faculty of Science and Technology American
Corner, Institute of Education and Science, and Ciência
Viva Center in Sintra.
 - Oct. 16-17 in Aveiro, Porto and Braga – University of
Aveiro American Corner, Faculty of Sciences of the
University of Porto and University of Minho.
- **“Cine Clube Ciclo American Divas”** – screening of
“Another Woman” featuring Gena Rowlands, October
21@5:00 p.m., and “The Hours” featuring Meryl Streep,
November 18@5:00 p.m.
American Corner, FCT, NOVA University (Library
Auditorium), Caparica Campus