



### Editorial



The brand new year that we now inaugurate is likely to be a year of economic recession, continued conflicts and unsolved crises. But if the Chinese adage is right, in every crisis lies an opportunity, which means that if each one of us takes current problems as individual challenges, chances are something will improve

over the next 300 and many days. It was precisely this audacity of hope that helped elect the man who said "I am asking you to believe. Not just in my ability to bring about real change, I am asking you to believe in yours". On January 20, right after Martin Luther King's Day, Barack Obama will take office, thus becoming the 44th President of the United States. Within the State Department, transition started at least the day after the election. Em-

bassies operate with a steady diplomatic corps, which more than serving an Administration, serves American interests. In this edition, we bring you Ambassador Stephenson's look upon the new American political chapter; food for thought on religious freedom; a fun article on presidential dogs, the state of Delaware and a lot of environmental effort. May your 2009 kick off in the best of fashions!

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### Religious freedom - Still not a Given

On Religious Freedom Day, January 16, the U.S. celebrates the passage of the 1786 Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom and the protection of religious freedom in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. The Founding Fathers knew the importance of freedom of religion to a stable democracy, as many of the pilgrims who first arrived in America coming from Europe had been subject to religious persecution themselves.

Every year, the State Department releases an International Religious Freedom Report and lists Countries of Particular Concern (CPCs). The designation applies to countries that have "engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom" during the reporting period. In 2008, Burma, China, North Korea, Iran, Sudan, Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, and Uzbekistan were listed as CPCs, yet many other countries around the world experience violations of

religious freedom and tension.

Conflicts between Christians and Muslims in Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Sudan; Muslims against Orthodox Serbs in Kosovo; clashes between Hindus and Muslims in Pakistan – in 2008, religious conflicts claimed thousands of lives and caused massive suffering. Despite being a matter of individual conscience, religion will continue to be a foreign policy issue. ❖

RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE CONTINUED TO CLAIM LIVES IN 2008.





PRESIDENT BUSH'S SCOTTISH TERRIER BARNEY WONDERS AS HE AND MISS BEAZLEY GET READY TO GIVE THE FLOOR TO ANOTHER FIRST DOG.

WH photo by Joyce N. Boghosian Draper



Did you know that...?

The job of a U.S. President comes with a huge to-do list. However, since the election, the one question on everyone's mind is "what kind of dog will the Obamas take to the White House?" Dogs, like cufflinks, are highly personal presidential symbols.

The Trumans may have been an exception since they were not much of a pet owning family. When the President was offered a cocker spaniel and the press reported that the First Fam-

ily would not be keeping the puppy, many people wrote to offer him a home. Over White House history, you will find names and breeds galore. Lyndon Johnson went for beagles, a white collie and a mongrel dog. Under JFK, the list is long with particular mention to Pushinka, a gift from Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev. Names can be patriotic like Ford's Liberty, royal like Nixon's King Timaboe, professional like Bush father's Ranger, or plain feminine like Eisenhower's Weimarener

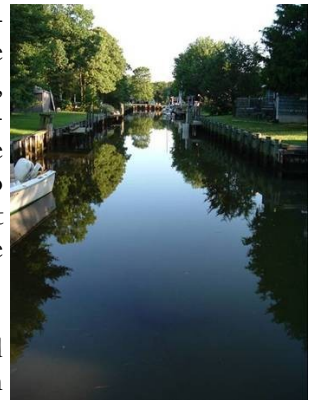
Heidi. Presidential dogs pay back with affection and Buddy proved to be a staunch ally of President Clinton at all times.

With George W. Bush, the First Dog even had his own White House website - featuring a biography, films, a photo gallery, Q&A section, and games. No doubt there will be lots of applicants interested in filling the position, so keep an eye on the next incumbent!



STATE of mind: DELAWARE

Nicknamed "First State" because it was the first state to recognize the American Constitution on December 7, 1787, Delaware offers variety enough to deserve a tourist's closer look. In fact, in the sixteenth century early explorations of this state's coastline were made by the Spaniards and Portuguese, who would be later followed by the Dutch and, in 1638, by the Swedes who established their colony near present-day Wilmington, in what constituted the first permanent European settlement in the Delaware Valley.



Today, Delaware's 1,982 square miles are packed full of arts and culture, history, sports, riveting landscape and more. You can retrace history along the Nanticoke and Broad Creek rivers with the Captain John Smith Reenactment Voyage, as easily as you can go duck hunting, or enjoy the is a charming town to visit with its original cobblestone streets and colonial homes of charming Old New Castle.

If, on the other hand, you want to pursue business opportunities in Delaware, note that the state is economically dominated by agriculture, fishing, manufacturing and mining. Whatever your motives may be, Delaware's almost 800,000 residents will try to convince you that here it's good being first.

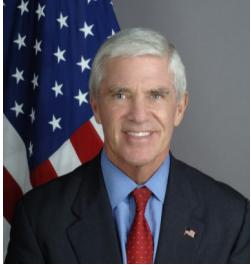


FIRST THINGS FIRST: ON INAUGURATION MONTH, THIS HAD TO BE OUR PICK . DISCOVER DELAWARE AND WHY IT IS NAMED THE FIRST STATE. THEN VISIT THE SITE, IN CASE YOU WANT TO MAKE IT A DESTINATION DURING YOUR NEXT TRIP TO THE STATES.

For more information, visit <http://delaware.gov/>



## *Happy 2009 from the Ambassador*



I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the readers of *Atlantic Notes* a very happy and successful new year. It is hard to believe that over a year has passed since I arrived in Portugal, and my family and I have enjoyed every minute of our time here.

It has been a busy 2008, with visits from Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman in May and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in September, as well as numerous other programs and projects that have helped to move forward our relationship with Portugal, especially in the area of renewable energy. There have also been

important trilateral initiatives we've undertaken with Portugal in the area of African security, such as counternarcotics cooperation in Cape Verde, and border guard training in Mozambique.

The U.S. also continues to work closely with Portugal and Europe on a range of issues: security (Afghanistan, NATO enlargement, Somali piracy); peacekeeping and institution building (Kosovo and Bosnia); and the economic/commercial relationship.

As the government of the United States prepares for the presidential transition from George Bush to Barack Obama, many of you may be wondering "What's next?" for the U.S. Ambassador to Lisbon, and I am pleased to note that I will be staying another five months, until the end of June. While both our countries are fac-

ing many serious problems right now, we must never let that obscure a deeper and more meaningful truth: our engagement in the world today is defined not only by our challenges, but by our opportunities -- opportunities to help shape a future in which more men and women than ever before in human history enjoy lives of peace, prosperity and freedom.

During my remaining months here, I look forward to working closely with Portugal in meeting the challenges that lie ahead and taking full advantage of the opportunities our mutual engagement in world affairs presents.

Thomas F. Stephenson  
**U.S. Ambassador to Portugal**

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*Thomas F. Stephenson was sworn in as Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of Portugal on November 21, 2007. He presented his credentials to President Cavaco Silva on Feb. 8, 2008.*

*Born and raised in Delaware he is a Harvard alumni. Prior to coming to Lisbon he was partner of a Silicon Valley venture capital firm. Mr. Stephenson, his wife and their son live in Lisbon. He has three other children who reside in the United States.*

**ATLANTIC NOTES** is a monthly electronic newsletter produced by U.S. Embassy Lisbon's Office of Public Affairs. Suggestions and letters to the editor should be sent to [CarmoAC@state.gov](mailto:CarmoAC@state.gov)

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## WE ARE ON THE WEB!

Please check out our homepage at

<http://portugal.usembassy.gov>

## Coming up

☞ **Jan. 16-** Prof. Steven Brint at ISCTE for lecture on *Sociology and Education in the United States*

☞ **Jan. 16-** Highschool students from Liceu D. Pedro V visit the Mission for lecture on *The Last Two Decades of US History*

☞ **Jan. 19-** Martin Luther King's Day

☞ **Jan. 20 -** Presidential Inauguration, Washington D.C.

## @ a Glance: Red, White and Blue go Green

State Department's "Green Diplomacy" efforts abroad include environmental protection for areas of cultural heritage in Georgia, recycling projects in Cyprus, water aid in the Balkans and forestry projects in Russia. But they also target American missions.

In 2007, a consortium of U.S. Embassies joined hands to shape American eco-diplomacy efforts worldwide. The aim of the *League of Green U.S. Embassies* was to share best practices on greening diplomatic missions, act collectively to obtain funding and use public affairs to highlight green practices. Since then, 22 U.S. Embassies and diplomatic missions have joined the League. Enthusiasm and good ideas encompassed

indoor environment, as well as transportation.

Participating embassies started to recycle paper, plastic, cans and batteries. They established their own energy conservation program for all U.S. Government properties; replaced incandescent lamps with compact fluorescents and installed motion-detection switches on most office lights. The initiative has also triggered U.S. collaboration with local governments and the private sector. Additionally, a Web-portal was created for sharing of best practices, case studies, and energy saving tools and strategies.

U.S. Embassy Lisbon is also a member of the League and the program implemented in March 2007 already bore fruit. Since the beginning of the program, Embassy Lisbon has reduced its carbon footprint by 208 tons. Electricity consumption dropped by 16% and due to smart water policy, the mission saved 2.4m liters of water to date, a 16% decrease. In diesel fuel consumption, savings were even more spectacular at 27%.

Replacing its transportation fleet with more fuel efficient vehicles, more lighting improvements, installation of humidity detectors in the garden's sprinkler system and purchase of more Energy Star Appliances are among the plans for 2009.



**AFTER ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SPORTS DIPLOMACY, THE EXPRESSION ECO-DIPLOMACY ENTERS THE LEXICON OF AMERICAN MISSIONS ABROAD.**