



The FPCBP and José Placido recognize Business and Professional excellence in the Portuguese community

The FPCBP's 2008 Business Excellence Awards Gala was held on Saturday, February 23, 2008 at the Pearson Convention Center with keynote speaker José Placido, CEO of RBC Dexia. More than 250 people attended the event, which was sponsored by RBC Royal Bank, to honour members of the community who have demonstrated excellence in the fol-

lowing categories: Professional Excellence, New Generation, Civic Commitment, and Business Excellence.

"The FPCBP is proud to recognize and celebrate business and professional excellence in our community," said Lena Barreto, FPCBP President. "This year's recipients are an exceptional group of individuals who have excelled in their chosen fields – academia, journalism, government and business."

The 2008 Business Excellence Award recipients are: Dr. Irene M.F. Blayer (Professional Excellence), Isabel Teotonio (New Generation), Charles Sousa (Civic Commitment), Jose Duarte and Manuela Querido (Business Excellence).

Special thanks to evening sponsor, RBC Royal Bank, and Louanne Ducharme for their continued support.

The FPCBP also wishes to recognize and thank our corporate sponsors: RBC Royal Bank, Scotiabank, BMO Bank of



Lena Barreto, FPCBP President, with keynote speaker, José Placido

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To promote business activity, foster professionalism, develop networking opportunities, enhance political visibility, encourage academic excellence and, as the representative voice, advocate the prominence of our members within and outside the Portuguese Canadian Business and Professional community.

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From left to right: Cidalia Faria, PCLA Vice President; Dr. Irene M.F. Blayer (Professional Excellence Award recipient); Francine Antonio, FPCBP Secretary; and Isabel Teotonio (New Generation Award recipient)

The evening began with a loving tribute to Teresa Melo, FPCBP Director, and Branch Manager of Scotiabank at Dundas and Brock who passed away in February 2008.

“Teresa’s contributions to the community, and the FPCBP, were incredible,” said President Barreto. “Her dedication, passion and commitment will be remembered always.”

At the event, Scotiabank announced a special scholarship in honour of Teresa Melo.

Also in attendance were FPCBP special

guests: Dra. Maria Amélia de Paiva, Consul General of Portugal in Toronto; Dr. João Pedro da Silveira Carvalho, Embaixador de Portugal no Canada; Peter Fonseca, Minister of Tourism and Recreation; and Wajid Khan, MP of Mississauga Streetsville.

Guests heard about keynote speaker José Placido’s inspiring immigrant success story – from his humble beginnings as a new Canadian to his rise to CEO of a global financial services industry giant. Eager to give back to his community, and support the professional development of its youth, Mr. Placido announced an annual work abroad program



Suzy Melo and Lena Barreto, FPCBP President



Jude Fernandes, FPCBP Director, and Avelino Fonseca, FPCBP Vice President, with Jose Duarte and Manuela Querido (Business Excellence Award recipients)



Charles Sousa (Civic Commitment Award recipient), with Paula Oliveira and Paul Silva, FPCBP Directors

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where one successful student of Portuguese descent will be given an incredible opportunity to work for RBC Dexia Investor Services in London, England.

FPCBP Director Eunice Machado was the evening's Master of Ceremonies and ensured the event ran smoothly, and media sponsor OMNI Television provided the video presentation of the FPCBP's 2008 Business Excellence Award recipients.

One lucky attendee took home the door prize valued at \$4,600 – a stunning double strand pearl necklace with 14kt gold and diamond clasp, which was generously donated by Louro Jewellers.

Fernando Tavares Jazz Trio provided the musical entertainment during the dinner service, and Parabolica Band closed the evening's formal portion of



2008 Business Excellence Award recipients and FPCBP Directors

the program.

The FPCBP would like to thank our loyal sponsors and members, the Portuguese media, and Pearson Convention Center for supporting the event, and the organization, over the years.

Congratulations to this year's recipients. Your success is a source of pride and inspiration to the community.

*By: Francine Antonio, FPCBP Secretary
Pictures courtesy of: Bernadette Gouveia*

Biography *José Placido*

José Placido is chief executive officer of RBC Dexia Investor Services.

RBC Dexia Investor Services ranks among the world's top 10 global custodians and provides specialised investment administration solutions for institutional investors. With USD 2.9 trillion in assets under administration, RBC Dexia Investor Services has offices in 15 countries around the world and a global custody network covering more than 80 markets.

The company is a joint venture of Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) and Dexia. The holding company, RBC Dexia Investor Services Limited, is headquartered in London, UK. Operations are conducted mainly by RBC Dexia Investor Services Bank in Luxembourg and RBC Dexia Investor Services Trust

in Canada, and their affiliates and branches around the world.

Mr. Placido began his career in institutional investor services when he joined Royal Trust Corporation of Canada in 1988. The company was later acquired by RBC where Mr. Placido held several leadership positions. From 1996 to 1999, he was managing director of RBC Global Services' London, UK office, becoming senior vice president in 2001 and later executive vice president in 2003.

During his leadership, Mr. Placido oversaw revenue growth of nearly 40%, and an increase in assets under administration of close to 50%. He also led the successful acquisition of the performance measurement business of SEI Investments Canada in 2000 and the Perpetual Fund Services business (in Australia) in 2001, expanding RBC's presence in the Asia Pacific market. A graduate of Montreal's McGill University, Mr. Placido has close to two decades of experience in the financial services industry.



*José Placido
Chief Executive Officer*



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Business Excellent Award Recipients 2008

Business Excellence Award

Jose Duarte & Manuela Querido

Jose Duarte and Manuela Querido are co-founders of JM Vacations, a travel wholesaler that promotes and sells vacation packages, and VistaSol Tours, a company specializing in selling charter airline tickets. Both companies are wildly successful, with VistaSol Tours alone, generating sales in excess of 16 million dollars annually. Through numerous innovative marketing campaigns, JM Vacations has been able to promote Portugal as a travel destination to markets outside of the Luso-Canadian community. Their formula has proven successful and resulted in very impressive cumulative sales in the millions of dollars, and more than 30,000 travelers annually choosing Portugal as their preferred travel destination.

Both Mr. Duarte and Ms. Querido started working in the travel and tourism industry in the 1970's. After a decade of working for a number of tour operators, they decided to embark on an entrepreneurial venture opening JM Vacations in January 1985. The first letter of each of their names was used to create the name JM Vacations.



Due to the extensive operational responsibilities involved, Mr. Duarte manages VistaSol Tours, while Ms. Querido oversees JM Vacations.

Aside from their business ventures, both Mr. Duarte and Ms. Querido have made it a priority to give back to their community by continually donating to Portuguese organizations, including the FPCBP, ACAPO and Academia do Bacalhau.

The FPCBP is proud to honour them both as our Business Excellence Award recipients.

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BEA Recipients 2008

Professional Excellence Award Dr. Irene M.F. Blayer



Dr. Irene Maria F. Blayer has continually demonstrated professionalism in her field, academia, while tirelessly promoting Portuguese culture.

Her contributions to the academic community are extensive and range from co-organizing large international conferences to delivering academic papers on literary and linguistic diversity at national and international academic conferences.

Dr. Blayer also has the distinction of being the first Luso-Canadian woman to be granted tenure and to be promoted as a full Professor at a university in Canada. In addition, she has published countless scholarly articles, co-authored five books, and is currently working on a new book with Dr. Francisco Cota Fagundes entitled “Narrativas em Metamorfose: Abordagens Interdisciplinares,” which is slated for release in the Spring.

Aside from her academic achievements, Dr. Blayer has devoted her time and expertise to the community as a judge on the FPCBP’s Scholarship Award Selection Committee, and as member of the editorial board for the FPCBP’s 25th Anniversary Magazine. Her civic and professional contributions have resulted in a plethora of awards, including a Teaching Excellence Award; internal and external research awards such as Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; and a nomination in 2006 for the premio Talento Awards founded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal. Since starting her tenure position at Brock University in 1995, Dr. Blayer has received merit rating of I, “Exceptional,” for her academic performance. In 2002, she was elected to the University Senate, and in 2005 she was nominated to the Senate Governance Committee.

Dr. Irene Maria F. Blayer is an illustrious academic figure that the FPCBP is very proud to recognize with the Professional Excellence Award.

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BEA Recipients 2008

Civic Commitment Award **Charles Sousa**

Charles Sousa is an active member of the Portuguese community who has contributed to various charitable institutions and non-profit organizations over the years. He was recently elected as the MPP for Mississauga South and belongs to the governing Ontario Liberal Party. This past October, he was appointed as the Par-

liamentary Assistant to the Minister of Government and Consumer Services of the Government of Ontario. In addition, Mr. Sousa is a member of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, and sits on the Cabinet Committee, which addresses economic and environmental resources policy.

Previously, Mr. Sousa was the Manager of Government Affairs for RBC Financial Group, and later became the Director of Corporate Business Development in RBC's commercial markets sector.

Mr. Sousa's civic contributions are extensive and include being an am-



bassador for Credit Valley Hospital, and coordinating events for the United Way and the Rainbow Ball Foundation of Mississauga. In the past, he was also a director for the American Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. In

2000, Mr. Sousa served as the elected president of the FPCBP. In recognition of his outstanding achievements, Mr. Sousa was honoured in 2003 with the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.

In recognition of his many civic accomplishments, the FPCBP is pleased to honour Charles Sousa as the recipient of the Civic Commitment Award.

Thank you to the 2008 FPCBP Sponsors



New Generation Award **Isabel Teotonio**

As a young Portuguese-Canadian woman, Isabel Teotonio has already established a respected career in journalism writing features and articles for various Canadian media outlets, including the Canadian Press and the Ottawa Citizen. Presently, Ms. Teotonio is a news reporter at the country's largest newspaper, the Toronto Star, where she writes about significant current events, and subjects that impact the social fabric of our everyday lives. She is reminded each day why she became a journalist:

"To tell human stories that can inspire important change."

Although it is still early in her career, Ms. Teotonio has already amassed an impressive portfolio of published stories, including one about the inquest into the shooting death of a teenager by

Toronto police, and another about 18 Toronto men accused of belonging to an al Qaeda-inspired homegrown terrorism cell. She also traveled to Brazil to report on the country's treatment of AIDS.

In 2006, Ms. Teotonio paid the FPCBP and the community it serves a great tribute by writing the cover story for the FPCBP's 25th Anniversary Magazine. Always the dedicated professional, she spent countless hours thoroughly researching the organization's history,



and interviewing past FPCBP Presidents and Founders in an effort to document some of the FPCBP's vibrant past. This important work is further testament to her phenomenal talents and ability to capture human stories for future generations.

The FPCBP is pleased to honour Isabel Teotonio with the New Generation Award for her contribution to journalism in Canada.

Rolling out the new Blue Bins

Blue Bins to replace the current blue/grey boxes are rolling out city-wide from east to west. Blue Bins come in three sizes: medium, large and extra-large. These larger bins encourage residents to maximize their recycling efforts to help the City achieve its goal of 70 per cent waste diversion from landfill by 2010. There's no cost for the bins but residents must use the new bins to receive pick-up. By early fall 2008 all households will have the new Blue Bins. More info: www.toronto.ca/target70/index.htm

Helping parents choose quality child care

Children's Services is improving service quality through the development of new operating criteria for child care operators and by posting the results of assessments on the City's website. The operating criteria outlines clear expectations, service standards and guidelines for child care providers with a City of Toronto contract. Results of assessments will be posted on the City's website so that when parents choose a child care

program, they can make quality a key consideration. Postings of criteria assessments began on January 22, 2008. Visit: www.toronto.ca/children/operatingcriteria.htm

Improved online help for immigrants settling in Toronto

Every year Toronto becomes home to more than 45 per cent of the immigrants arriving in Canada. This reality prompted the City of Toronto to develop a new portal on the City's website that helps newcomers find the information needed to live, work or open a business here. More info: www.toronto.ca/immigration

One-Stop access to range of government services now available at City Hall

Through a partnership between Service Canada, ServiceOntario, and the City, residents now have access to a range of government services and information offered by all three governments in one location: Toronto City Hall. Employment insurance, pension benefits, birth registrations and marriage licenses or



information on various government programs are all available at this 'one-stop' service stop in the main lobby at City Hall.

"Developing" an easier way for applicants

The City of Toronto is improving the development application review process for property owners, developers and builders. The goal: to make it faster and easier for applicants. A staff team has been created to improve and harmonize co-ordinating processes and policies for planning applications, engineering reviews and building permits amongst the City divisions involved. Some improvements to date include, revamping the City's "Developing – Toronto" website and developing an online fee calculator that provides applicants with an estimate of all the fees upfront rather than at the various stages of the process. Visit: www.toronto.ca/developing-toronto



TIPFFest is turning three! Come help us blow out the candles

With films from local and international filmmakers from North and South America, Portugal, Brazil and other places, this year's Toronto International Portuguese Film Festival (TIPFF) is perhaps the most exciting one yet. We welcome back to the festival Bill Moniz and greet for the first time Fernando Monte, and Miguel Gaudêncio among many others.

"Our biggest concern is making sure that Luso-Descendant filmmakers from all over the world, including our home bred talent, get exposure," said Ruth S. Fernandes, Executive and Artistic Director,

TIPFF. "We want to commemorate the work they create and nurture the process of creation. TIPFF believes that together with brilliant filmmakers we can celebrate birthday after birthday and raise the profile of the unique Luso-Descendant style of story telling."

We want you to join us for the third anniversary of our film festival, which takes place at the National Film Board of Canada at 150 John St. in the heart of the entertainment district from June 26-29, 2008. And you will not want to miss our signature event, Cinema-Night-at-the-Park on June 14 (location to be determined). Finally, we

wrap up this year's events by tipping our hats off to this year's festival winners at the Awards Reception on July 5.

As an added bonus we continue our partnership with the Consulate General of Portugal and the Instituto Camões each month until May. Upcoming community screenings include: April 16 "Pass the Gift" by Rafael Dias and Ruth S. Fernandes; and May 14 "A Vizinha do Lado" by André Brum. All film screenings are held at the Portuguese Consulate, located at 438 University Ave., 14th floor.

Visit our website for festival updates: www.portuguesefilmfestival.com

As a birthday treat, Natas all around!

By: Ruth S. Fernandes, Executive and Artistic Director, TIPFF



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FPCBP hosts first ever International Women's Day Luncheon

One hundred years ago, 15,000 women marched through the streets of New York City demanding shorter working hours, better pay and women's voting rights. March 8 has since been marked International Women's Day, and on this day, thousands of events are held around the world to celebrate women and their achievements. To celebrate, the FPCBP held its first ever International Women's Day Luncheon on Friday, March 7, 2008 at the Society of Portuguese Disabled Persons Building in Toronto, with keynote speaker Inês Pedrosa.

Inês Pedrosa was born in Coimbra,

Portugal on August 15, 1962 and published her first article in the magazine *Crónica Feminina* at the young age of 14. Since obtaining her degree in Communication Sciences from the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Inês Pedrosa has led an exciting career. She has worked as a journalist, columnist and editor for various newspapers in Portugal; she was a founder of *O Independente*; she was the Director of *Marie Claire* magazine (Portuguese version) for three years; and she has published eight novels, five non-fiction works and some theatrical pieces. Several of her works have been translated into Spanish, Italian and German, and her novel, *In your hands*, was the recipient of the Máximo Prize in 1997.

In addition to being an extraordinary author, Inês Pedrosa is an exceptional



woman. She is a feminist, and she was publicly in favour of the voluntary interruption of pregnancy and same sex marriage in Portugal. At the FPCBP's International Women's Day Luncheon, Inês Pedrosa addressed a crowd of more than 65 women, and reminded them that despite the many ad-

vancements women have made over the last century, women's fight for equality is far from over.

Over the last hundred years, significant advancements have been made in terms of women's equality. Today we see women in boardrooms, women in politics, and women becoming astronauts and prime ministers. Nonetheless, we also see that women continue to be underrepresented in business and politics, women are still not paid equally to their male counterparts, and violence against women is still rampant. International Women's Day serves to not only honour and celebrate the great strides that women have made to date, but



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also remind them to stay vigilant and continue working to ensure that women's equality is gained and maintained all over the world.

Also in attendance for the celebration was FPCBP special guest Dra. Maria Amélia de Paiva, Consul General of Portugal in Toronto, who serves as an inspirational female role model to all women and the FPCBP's third female President, Lena Barreto who called on all women to "get together, stand tall and be proud."

Through the generosity of the wonderful women in attendance, and a kind donation by Professor Manuela Maraujo, the FPCBP was able to raise \$655 to be donated to the Society of Portuguese Disabled Persons Building Fund (SPDPF).

The FPCBP would like to thank the SPDPF and a special thanks goes to Chiado Restaurant for their exceptional service, wonderful cuisine and continued support.

By: Josie Caldas, FPCBP Director



In Memoriam: Teresa Melo (1965 - 2008)

Teresa Melo was born on October 20, 1965 in Furnas, São Miguel to Mr. Anibal and Teresa Melo. In December 1967, at the tender age of two, Teresa and her mom immigrated to Toronto, Canada, joining her father who had preceded them. Teresa was a graduate of Bloor Collegiate in 1983 and later obtained her B.A. from the University of Toronto.

In 1987, Teresa joined Scotiabank where she held several senior positions, her most recent, Branch Manager at the Dundas and Brock location. This assignment was especially dear to her as it allowed her to reconnect with her roots and work within the Portuguese community to help further its success and progress.

Teresa was active in the community and sat on a number



of boards, including Casa Dos Açores and the Dundas West BIA. In 2006, Teresa was elected to the board of directors for the Federation of Portuguese Canadian Business & Professionals, where she immediately made her mark through her tireless commitment to the organization.

Above all, Teresa was a loving daughter and sister. She was a selfless individual and the very epitome of friendship. She loved life and was always willing to lend a helping hand, which is befitting seeing as she admired Mother Teresa. On occasion, Teresa enjoyed romantic comedies; her perennial favourites being classics.

Teresa Melo will be sorely missed by her peers, friends and more importantly her loving family, sister Suzy, and parents, Teresa and Anibal.

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