Founded in 1996, the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture is designed as a forum for the interdisciplinary study of the language, literatures and cultures of the Portuguese-speaking world. The publication of a scholarly journal at this juncture, in the third year of the Center's existence, underscores the Center's research goals in the field of Portuguese Studies.

The Center is intended to serve as a liaison between the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and other institutions involved in Portuguese Studies in the United States and abroad. It aims to develop pedagogical materials to aid in the teaching and learning of the Portuguese language at all levels of instruction, while fostering the development and dissemination of knowledge about the Portuguese-speaking communities of the United States.

The Center organizes annually a five-week Summer Program in Portuguese (founded in 1994) and sponsors international colloquia on topics and authors related to the Portuguese-speaking world. The International Colloquiums on Almeida Garrett (9-10 October 1999) and on Eça de Queirós (14-15 October 2000) exemplify our commitment in this area. In addition, the Center organizes an annual lecture, concert and dance series and art exhibitions, accentuating its responsibility to the UMD campus and to the communities of the region. The Center also supports a Visiting Distinguished Scholar program and promotes the exchange of students and faculty with universities in the seven countries whose official language is Portuguese, as exemplified by the University's agreement with the University of the Azores.

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