

### XXXVIII Anniversary of the University of Minho

Salão Nobre, Largo do Paço, 17<sup>th</sup> February



On the 17<sup>th</sup> February the University of Minho celebrated its 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Secretary of State for Higher Education, Professor Doctor João Queiró, as well as representatives from Câmara Municipal (City Hall) of Braga and Guimarães and several other academic, civilian and military authorities participated in the ceremony.

The Rector of UMinho, Professor António Cunha, referred the role of the University in the search for answers and solutions to the great challenges that the present society faces. After summarising the main activities and results of 2011, the Rector also mentioned the university's activities for 2012, in its several domains, education, research and internationalisation, focusing also on university's sports and on the main infrastructural projects the university is involved in. The Rector also confirmed that the university is complying with the action programme defined for the period 2009-13.



In his speech, the President of the AAUM, Hélder Castro, referred the recognition of the merit and resourcefulness which characterise UMinho's endeavours in several fields of knowledge.

The Secretary of State for Higher Education, Professor Doctor João Queiró, classified UMinho as one of the strongest European universities, also referring the excellence of research and education and complimenting the dynamics of projects such as CampUrbis.

The Commencement Speech was delivered by Armando Machado, professor at the School of Psychology, with the theme "The perception of time in man and animals".

The Research Merit Award was granted to Odd Rune Straume, associate professor at the School of Economics and Management.



Amongst other awardees, the students of the EEUM, Sandro Emanuel Salgado Pinto and Bohdan Arzhanov received the awards "Prémio Escolar Caixa Geral de Depósitos" and "Prémio Escolar Câmara Municipal de Guimarães", respectively, as recognition of their performance.

During the ceremony, the Medal of the University was awarded to the older members of staff, amongst which was Eng. Manuel José Cabrita Romero, from the Department of Industrial Electronics (DEI) of the EEUM. The PhD certificates were also handed over.

## Nominations

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### **António Gomes Correia nominated for the Scientific Council of the IFFSTAR** France, 5<sup>th</sup> February



António Gomes Correia, full professor at the Department of Civil Engineering (DEC) and director of the research centre Territory, Environment and Construction Centre (C-TAC) of the EEUM, has been nominated member of the Scientific Council of the *Institut Français des Sciences et Technologies des Transports, de l'Aménagement et des Réseaux* (IFFSTAR).

The IFFSTAR, which results from the merger of the *Institut national de recherche sur les transports et leur sécurité* (INRETS) and the *Laboratoire central des ponts et chaussées* (LCPC) in January 2011, is a public scientific and technological institution and is overseen by France's ministry of ecology, sustainable development, transport and housing on one hand and the ministry of higher education and research on the other. The IFFSTAR is an international reference institution and its mission is to conduct applied research and technology transfer projects in the fields of transport, infrastructure, natural hazards and urban issues, promoting the sustainable development of our societies.

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## Awards

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### **Rita Macedo wins Best Paper Award in international conference** Vilamoura, Portugal, 6<sup>th</sup> February



Rita Macedo, researcher from the Algoritmi research centre and invited professor of the Department of Production and Systems (DPS) of the EEUM won the Best Paper Award at the *1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Operations Research and Enterprise Systems* (ICORES 2012), an event promoted by *The Institute for Systems and Technologies of Information, Control and Communication* (INSTICC), with the paper "*Generalized disaggregation algorithm for the vehicle routing problem with time windows and multiple routes*". The paper's co-authors are Said Hanafi, from the *Université de Valenciennes et du Hainaut-Cambrésis*, François Clautiaux from the *Université de Lille*, and Cláudio Alves and José Valério de Carvalho, both professors at the EEUM.

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### **Hélder Pereira wins "Professor Doutor Jorge Mineiro" Award** Estoril, Portugal, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2011



Hélder Pereira, researcher from the Biomaterials, Biodegradables and Biomimetics research group (3B's) has been granted the "Professor Doutor Jorge Mineiro" Award, the main award from the Portuguese Society of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, during the 31<sup>st</sup> edition of the National Orthopaedics and Traumatology Congress. The award aims at recognising, encouraging and stimulating highly valuable contributions to research in the field of orthopaedics.

The awarded paper is *Regeneration of the Human Meniscus using Tissue Engineering: new cellular and acellular approach*, co-oriented by Professor Rui Reis, full professor at the Department of Polymer Engineering (DEP) and director of the 3B's research group of the EEUM.

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### **CEB finds milk protein to prevent breast cancer**



Researchers from the Centre of Biological Engineering (CEB) of the EEUM discovered that lactoferrin, a milk protein, is decisive in the treatment and prevention of breast cancer. In a study recently published in the Journal of Dairy Science, the researchers concluded that breast cancer cells treated with lactoferrin decreased the cancer cells' viability 47-54% and decreased the growth rates of the cancer cells 40-64%.

"There is overwhelming evidence that biologically active food components are key environmental factors affecting the incidence of many chronic diseases," said Professor Lígia Raquel Rodrigues, researcher at the CEB and author of the study. "However, because the full extent of such components in our diet isn't known, nor is the understanding of their mechanisms of action, we undertook this study for a closer look."

While additional studies will be needed to establish a clear role for lactoferrin as a potential tool in fighting breast cancer, the results from this study suggest that lactoferrin interferes with some of the most important steps involved in cancer growth.

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### **EEUM participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Environment and Energy Fair**

Ponte de Lima, Portugal, 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> February



The municipality of Ponte de Lima invited the EEUM to participate in the first edition of the Environment and Energy Fair, an event organised by the Ponte de Lima municipality, the Enterprise Association, "Área Alto Minho" and "Ancoraeventos".

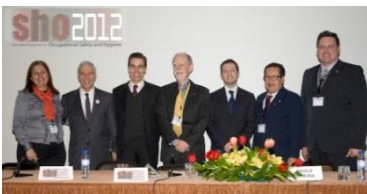
The theme "environment" was chosen for the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of this event. The mission of the fair was to "find solutions for the energetic efficiency of each home and reduce the negative impacts in our planet", according to the organization.

The EEUM had the opportunity to divulge its expertise in the area of energetic efficiency, namely through the presence of the Department of Civil Engineering (DEC), Department of Mechanical Engineering (DEM) and Department of Production and Systems (DPS).

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### **Human Engineering Group of the EEUM and SPOSHO homaged**

Campus of Azurém, 10<sup>th</sup> February



The Brazilian Society of Safety Engineering – SOBES has publicly recognised the work carried out by the Portuguese Society of Safety and Occupational Engineering – SPOSHO and by the Human Engineering Group of the EEUM during the closing ceremony of the International Conference SHO2012.

The SOBES awarded a Plaque of Merit to Professors Sérgio Miguel and Pedro Arezes, from the Department of Production and Systems (DPS) of the EEUM, which was handed over by the President of the SOBES, Eng. Marlise Vasconcellos.

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### **MSc students of the EEUM organise "De Onde Vêm?" exhibition**

CAR, Guimarães, 18<sup>th</sup> February to 31<sup>st</sup> March



The Turkish Beylem C. Gursoy, MSc in Design and Marketing, and the Brazilian Gabriel Baquit, MSc in Fashion Design and Communication, both students of the EEUM, present the exhibition "De Onde Vêm?" (Where are you from?), at the CAR. The two young authors are currently living in Guimarães due to their participation in exchange programmes. With this exhibition they aim at illustrating the imaginary references of individuals on Guimarães 2012 – European Capital of Culture.

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## CEB leads project to export “queijo da serra”



The coating which delays the formation of mould in the “queijo da serra” (typical Portuguese cheese from the Serra da Estrela region) might be the key to the commercial success of this traditional product, as it would allow the expiry date to be extended, thus facilitating exports.

The project is promoted by the BLC3 Association (Platform for the Development of the centre inland region), in partnership with the Centre of Biological Engineering (CEB) of the EEUM and the cheese producer Casa Matias. Professor António Vicente, researcher at the CEB and project leader, states that “the edible, unflavoured, unscented and neutrally coloured coating” has been applied to other cheeses successfully.

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