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UT Austin | Portugal

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORY FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, CoLAB

DIGITAL BITS



User interface from GimmeDaBlues

Digital Media Faculty and Students Win ZON Prizes

Once again this year, students and faculty associated with the Digital Media Program received honors in the Prémio ZON Criatividade em Multimédia competition. These prominent awards offer the largest cash prize in Portugal for a multidisciplinary competition.

A team led by U.Porto music professor and program co-director Carlos Guedes won first prize in the Multimedia Applications and Content category for the application GimmeDaBlues. The team included Rui Dias, George Siorios, Gilberto Bernardes, Telmo Marques, Clara Morão, and Amaury Hazan. The application for iPhone and iPad offers a virtual backing band for blues performances. The creation of this application grew out of the FCT-funded Kinetic Microcontrollers research project.

In summer 2011, the Digital Media Program collaborated with ZON to offer an intensive animation laboratory that brought Portuguese students to Austin. Two of the students from last summer won awards in the Digital Animation category. David Mourato won second prize for his piece titled "Depressure," and João Alves won third prize for the trailer to "As Extraordinárias Aventuras de Dog Mendonça e Pizza Boy II."

Portuguese Ambassador Visits UT

Nuno Brito, the Portuguese Ambassador to the United States, visited the Digital Media Program this month. This provided the program with an opportunity to discuss the impact of its efforts for Portuguese students, researchers and industry.

Brito met with about two dozen students, faculty members, and staff during an informal session that presented the activities of the Digital Media Program, and the programs in Mathematics and UTEN. The Ambassador was particularly interested in the programs' efforts to link academic work with industry partners and efforts to commercialize research.

Several Portuguese students had the opportunity to describe their experiences with the program. Several noted that the Digital Media Program offered them experiences and resources they would not have otherwise had in Portugal, while others shared anecdotes about how the program has raised the profile of Portugal in Europe.

Spring PhD Students Arrive in Austin

With the start of the new semester, a handful of visiting PhD students has arrived in Austin. These students have enrolled in classes at UT for the semester.



Cláudia Silva is a doctoral student at UNL studying digital media. Her research interest lies in location-based media. This semester, she is taking “Interactivity,” a media research methods seminar with RTF professor Sharon Strover, “Entrepreneurial Journalism” with journalism professor Rosental Alves, and also an independent study with Alves.



Gustavo Magalhães studies the film industry in his doctoral work at U.Porto. This semester in Austin, he’s splitting his time between the College of Communication and the McCombs School of Business. He’s enrolled in a qualitative research methods course with communication studies professor Larry Browning, as well as an independent study and “Research in Information Systems” with business professor Sirkka Jarvenpaa.

Ana Figueiras is a doctoral student in the digital media program at UNL. This spring at UT, she will be taking a design studio with Riley Triggs in the Department of Art and Art History, Sharon Strover’s “Interactivity” course, and a special writing workshop for international students.



Digital Media Program Tentatively Renewed

After a program review by the National Academy of Finland, the members of the Portuguese government and representatives from UT Austin met this month to discuss the future of the Digital Media Program and related programs at UT. The government acknowledged the successes of the program and tentatively agreed to renew the program for future years.



DMLP Welcomes New Intern

The Digital Media Leadership Program, the internship component of the Digital Media Program, welcomes a new intern for the spring. Vera Tavares come to Austin from Porto, where she works at OSTV - Canal 180. Over the coming months she’ll be at the offices of Mercury Mambo, a marketing agency that specializes in reaching Hispanic audiences.

The program would currently like to place students roles related to game production and sound design. If your organization could host an intern in these fields, please contact research assistant Chris McConnell at mcchris@utexas.edu.

UT-Austin | Portugal Digital Media Program

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