

U. Porto Faculty Explore UT Austin: UT Austin | Portugal Digital Bits for December 2012

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UT-Austin | Portugal Digital Media Program <updates@utaustinportugal.org>

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INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORY FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, CoLAB

DIGITAL BITS



U. Porto Faculty Visit UT to Discuss Next Phase

University of Porto professors José Azevedo, António Coelho, and Raul Vidal spent several days in Austin at the end of November touring facilities and meeting with a number of faculty in Computer Sciences, the School of Information, and a few departments in the College of Communication, including Radio-TV-Film. Azevedo is the new academic director of the Digital Media doctoral program at U. Porto, assisted by Informatics Engineering faculty member Coelho, who also leads the Multimedia Masters program there. Vidal heads the Informatics Engineering Department at U. Porto.

The faculty visited Austin to discuss plans for the 2013-2017 cycle, focusing especially on the program's new research priorities. Coelho observed, "On the verge of another five years of collaboration between Austin and Portugal, a well-organized schedule allowed us to plant seeds for the establishment of educational and research projects in the areas of Digital Games, Health Informatics and Lusophone media." In addition to meeting with numerous faculty with expertise in these areas, Azevedo, Coelho, and Vidal took part in several tours, learning about the RTF media production facilities and seeing several components of the Texas Advanced Computing Center, which supports "big data" research, and visiting the IC2 Institute, which promotes entrepreneurship and technology incubation. Additionally, they met with Director Sharon Strover to confer on the program's upcoming activities and goals.

University of Porto Students Explore UT Austin

The UT Digital Media program was pleased to host two University of Porto doctoral program students, Rodrigo Guedes Carvalho and Henrique Serro, who arrived in Austin in late November for exploratory visits. During their time in Austin, the students met with faculty from diverse disciplines to discuss prospective research and performance projects and also attended a Radio-TV-Film Department happy hour where they met UTA-P students and researchers currently staying in Austin.

Carvalho's research focuses on the relations between sound, image and movement in real-time audiovisual interactive spaces,

including dance and music performances. Serro has proposed a thesis project on 3D printing, with the goal of improving Mask Projection Stereolithography (MPSLA) processes by developing a robust, affordable, and user-friendly desktop 3D printing system. The students' visits included individual meetings with faculty from Computer Sciences, Theatre and Dance, and Radio-Television-Film.



Yago de Quay directs Dance Show for Peugeot

Dual-degree student Yago de Quay, who is currently based in Austin, was invited to act as Project Director for the Peugeot dance show at South America's largest automobile trade show in São Paulo, Brazil this fall. His work, which explores sound, motion, and technology, was well-suited to Peugeot's 2012 theme "Let Your Body Drive." Over 12 days, he and his team performed the high energy, technically complex 6-minute show approximately 90 times, so that it was seen by thousands of attendees.

The performance consisted of several components, including performers playing the car as a percussive instrument; de Quay playing electronic instruments through a Kinect camera placed onstage; a Dance Battle showcasing performers' best urban dance moves; and choreographed dance of eight performers accompanied by de Quay singing and beatboxing. De Quay was pleased with the audience response, noting, "The show attracted a lot of people. I remember seeing kids begging their parents to watch it for the third time in a row." He is currently developing a piece for the Ears, Eyes + Feet show at UT Austin in May 2013.

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