

## UT Austin | Portugal

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORY FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, CoLAB

DIGITAL BITS



### Horácio Tomé Marques Explores UT and SXSW

During his March 2013 visit to Austin, U. Porto student Horácio Tomé Marques explored the UT campus, met with faculty, and attended numerous on- and off-campus presentations and events. Marques met with several Butler School of Music faculty members, including Bruce Pennycook (his co-advisor), Eugenia Costa-Giomi, who studies music perception, cognition, and early learning, and Adam Holzman, a professor of guitar. Marques also conferred with program director Sharon Strover about his impressions from his visit and future plans.

Marques, whose research focuses on music perception and cognition, arranged his trip to coincide with Austin's world-renowned SXSW media festival. "I was impressed by the

mobilization capacity of the city itself and the amount of available conferences, lectures and workshops by renowned personalities," Marques says of his SXSW experience.

### UTA-Portugal Faculty Participate in SXSW; Marslett's Film Wins Award

UT Austin Radio-TV-Film Department faculty members Karen Kocher and Geoff Marslett were among the media producers participating in SXSW, Austin's music, film and interactive media festival, held March 8-18.

Kocher, an award-winning multimedia innovator, organized a panel titled, "Storytelling Devices in Interactive Documentary." Speakers included German documentary maker and software creator Florian Thalhofer, interactive designer and storyteller Bart Marable, and Radio-TV-Film doctoral student Laura Dixon. The discussion centered on examples of existing interactive documentaries and explored how the digital format can better engage audiences in a substantive way.

Marslett's work with digital animation has resulted in numerous short films and an award-winning feature-length animated film,



“Mars,” in 2010. His first live-action feature, “Loves Her Gun” premiered at SXSW this year, one of 133 chosen from a pool of approximately 2,100 film submissions. Directed by Marslett and co-written by Marslett and screenwriter Lauren Modery, the film tells the story of a woman who moves to Austin after being attacked in New York City, and how her residual anxieties lead her to embrace Texas gun culture. The film met with critical acclaim, winning SXSW’s Louis Black “Lone Star” Award. (Photo by Patrick Rusk)



### **Digital Inclusion Conference Announced**

The University of Texas, in collaboration with several public interest organizations, is holding a conference on digital inclusion on April 26 and 27. Sponsors include the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs and the Telecommunications and Information Policy Institute at UT, in addition to [austinfree.net](http://austinfree.net), Technology for All, the City of Austin, and Connected Texas. [Registration](#), which is normally \$50 for both days, is free for UT students and faculty and includes panel sessions, coffee breaks, lunches, and a reception.

Among the invited speakers are representatives from federal agencies including the Federal Communications Commission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the American Library Association, and several leading scholars examining digital divide issues. The conference will have two components—“Public Access to the Internet in Texas” on April 26, and on April 27, “The Gary Chapman Colloquium on Communities and Computing,” named for the late Internet policy expert and founder of the UT Austin-Portugal International School on Digital Transformation. The conference’s organizers include College of Communications Professor and Digital Media program director Sharon Strover and LBJ School Professor Ken Flamm.

### **Summer Institute Courses Announced for Lisbon**

Three Summer Institute courses are scheduled in Lisbon and registration opportunities will be announced in the coming weeks. Rosental Alves of UT’s Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas will teach Entrepreneurial Journalism in a three-week course beginning on May 13. The course is expected to be taught partially online and will look at how digital media is affecting the news industry processes of production, distribution, and consumption. Research Methods, led by Radio-TV-Film faculty member Sharon Strover, will commence the week of May 20 and will address both theoretical and practical aspects of conducting research. A new course on human-computer interaction and interactive media, taught by William Moner of the Radio-TV-Film doctoral program, will start June 10. The course will give students the opportunity to employ commercial and open source software to design a narrative experience that communicates the story of a place, using the web as a data source for materials and platforms. Plans for activities in Porto are underway.

