



ImTV Team Attends EuroITV 2012 in Berlin

Several members of the FCT-funded "ImTV: On-Demand Immersive-TV for Communities of Media Producers and Consumers" research project team attended the European Interactive TV Conference in Berlin from July 4 to 6, presenting papers on immersive television research. Now in its tenth year, EuroITV is an international conference that addresses social, design, marketing, policy, and technological trends surrounding the development of interactive television. Principal investigators João Magalhães of UNL and Sharon Strover of UT Austin attended the conference, and were joined by Teresa Chambel of the University of Lisbon and Filipa Peleja and Flávio Martins of UNL.

The researchers presented a global survey of the ImTV project's primary areas of study at the conference's Future TV workshop, including user behaviors and media engagement, technologies driving social and personalized TV, and technologies that enable new ways for users to interact with television. The researchers also introduced the SentiTVchat application to the EuroITV audience and provided a demonstration of the new communication tool. This innovative Social-TV chat system is designed to analyze viewers' messages and gauge the attitude of viewers toward a given TV show; the data gathered with this system can then be used to inform viewers of the show's popularity.

Cinematography Class Wraps Up

Cinematography, a Summer Institute class taught by UT Austin faculty member Steve Mims at UNL, concluded on July 6. The three-week class was a combination of lecture, labs, shooting and editing. It addressed production and post-production concepts and introduced students to strategies and techniques for creating advanced documentary projects. One particular focus of the class was editorial organization and decision making, and the class referred to examples of successful documentaries to better understand these concepts.



The eight students worked intensively in teams to produce four short documentaries, a considerable accomplishment for a three-week course. Mims, a veteran instructor and award-winning filmmaker, commented, "It was pretty ambitious for a workshop, but the students really rose to the challenge. In the end we had substantial cuts of four short biographical films with the common theme of 'obsession'. It was fascinating and fun."



Animator Jeanne Stern Leads Summer Institute Course

Jeanne Stern conducted a course on Experimental Animation from June 25 to July 13 in Porto. The classes focused on the representation of space and on visual motion, rather than on traditional narrative elements. Fifteen students collaborated to produce innovative group projects over a three week period. The workshop participants created colorful three-dimensional sets out of construction paper and other materials and shot short pieces including a stereoscopic slide show and videos using a moving camera dolly.

At the conclusion of the course, the students and their friends, colleagues, and family members gathered at Lófte, an art venue in downtown Porto, and screened the projects. About 50 people attended. Stern expressed great satisfaction with the course's final evening and with the quality of the participants' projects, commenting, "I was so pleased with the event, the work, and the people."

