



Digital Media Program Affiliates to Present at ACM SIG-CHI Conference in Austin

One of the most prominent conferences in the Human-Computer Interaction field, SIG-CHI, comes to Austin this May, and the UT Austin | Portugal Digital Media Program will have a presence there. Four researchers related to the UT Austin | Portugal Digital Media program will present recent work at the conference.

Tomas Henriques, now an assistant professor at Buffalo State College; Luis Leite of U.Porto; Joao Beira, a doctoral student at UT Austin and U.Porto; and Isabel Paiva of UNL all have work at the SIG-CHI conference

which takes place May 5-10 in Austin.

Henriques, who won an FCT-funded exploratory grant for his See Through Sound project, will present his project titled "Sonic Spring." This interface uses gestural motion and kinesthetic feedback to control sound output. It is based on a 15-inch spring that provides expressive capabilities to the user.

Leite, also known as "Grifu," has a paper titled "Shape Your Body: Control a Virtual Silhouette Using Body Motion." This describes research that explored using the Microsoft Kinect input device for real-time animation. This enables full-body control of virtual puppets on screen. He co-authored this paper with Veronica Orvalho of the Instituto de Telecomunicações, Portugal

Beira and Paiva collaborated on a team that also included researchers from UT Austin's School of Information and the Netherlands. This team will present a project titled "Super Mirror: An Interface for Ballet Dancers." Super Mirror also uses the Microsoft Kinect to record ballet positions and real movement.



Summer Institute Courses Announced

The Digital Media Summer Institute will return to Portugal, offering students credit in five specialized areas. Three classes will be offered in Lisbon, and two classes will be offered in Porto.

In Lisbon, students can take classes related to journalism, research methods, and cinematography. UT Austin journalism professor Rosental Alves will be offering his popular "Entrepreneurial Journalism" course, which looks at new practices and business models in the digital age. UT RTF professors Sharon Strover and Joseph Straubhaar will teach a research methods course emphasizing digital media research methods. The cinematography course will be taught by RTF lecturer Steve Mims, who received rave reviews for his teaching during the 2010 ZON lab.

In Porto, Jeanne Stern, an MFA alumna of the RTF MFA program, will teach a new experimental animation class emphasizing "Illusionary Worlds," and UT iSchool professor Luis Francisco-Revilla will teach an intensive course on human-computer interaction.

For more information about the 2012 Summer Institute, [please visit the program website.](#)

UNL Student Premieres Fado Piece in Austin

Although he's in the land of country and blues, UNL doctoral student Tiago Videira has kept true to his roots and explored Fado music compositions while studying at UT Austin. This year, two of his fado-related pieces have been performed on campus.

In April, Videira's piece "A Portuguese Soul" premiered at a concert presented by UT's Butler School of Music. The piece composed for string quartet mimicked the four layers that comprise fado próprio. Instead of using guitars as in traditional Fado, those parts were played on the violin, viola, and cello.

In the fall semester, Videira presented "The Portuguese Way," which was composed for solo piano. Both of the pieces were included in the programs for semester recitals that



drew large crowds. Videira says that the experience has been beneficial both for him and the local community. "These compositions not only were a kind of cultural mark left on American soil but also nifty experiments on my part to better understand how the rules and intuitions I have about instrumental music based on fado work," he says.



New Digital Media Interns Arrive in Austin

Several young professionals and graduate students have gained new professional experiences through Digital Media in internships in Austin. In March, a new intern arrived in Austin in time for the South by Southwest group of media conferences, and this month another intern will join her.

Filipa Rodrigues, who recently completed a degree at U.Porto, is interning at KUT-FM, a public radio station based at UT Austin. KUT has received broad recognition for its innovative use of digital media in news reporting and bridging aural programming on the radio and digital media online.

Rodrigues has been interning in the news department, where she has been tasked with a variety of digital media responsibilities. In particular, she has been working on stories related to the Austin mayor and city council election coming in May.

In May, Mário Jacinto will arrive in Austin to begin an internship at KUT. Jacinto is a master's student in Interactive Music and Sound Design at U.Porto. In addition to interning at KUT, he plans to explore some opportunities at local studios and sound design houses.

Emily Donohue, the news director at KUT is particularly enthusiastic about the interns the Digital Media Program provides, saying, "Everyone you've sent our way has been great." Interns have also said that working at KUT has shown them new ways of working and organizing news operations.

UT-Austin | Portugal Digital Media Program
University of Texas at Austin
Department of Radio-TV-Film
1 University Station A0800
Austin, TX 78712-0108
www.utaustinportugal.org

