

# UT Austin | Portugal

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORY FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, CoLAB

DIGITAL BITS



## Future Places Places Porto on International Map

In October, the 2010 Future Places in Porto festival hosted speakers from around the world, local community activist groups, researchers, and several outstanding artists. Through presentations, performances, screenings, and exhibitions, the festival celebrated digital media's potential to strengthen local cultures.

**FUTUREPLACES**  
DIGITAL MEDIA AND LOCAL CULTURES

futureplaces.org  
radiofuture 91.5FM

digital media festival  
porto, portugal  
oct 12-16 2010

The festival officially opened with a party at the popular Porto club Passos Manuel, and featured a concert by recording artists Jana Winderen of Norway and Mike Harding, head of UK-based media label Touch. Bruce Pennycook of the University of Texas' Butler School of Music and the Department of Radio-TV-Film gave the first keynote speech the following day at the festival's primary venue, prominent Porto cultural space Maus Hábitos. Pennycook's address described how the diffusion of digital technologies has affected the processes of music composition and performance, in some ways changing what it means to be a musician. This opening keynote talk was followed by presentations on different aspects of digital media and community, and a formal opening of the invited artists exhibits.

The outstanding pieces chosen in the highly competitive review process included projects produced by artists from around the world including Portugal, the UK, Finland, Colombia, France, and Germany. To learn more about the artists and the festival itself, [please visit FuturePlaces.org](http://FuturePlaces.org).

## U.Frame Features UT Austin | Portugal Talent

The U.Frame international student film festival was held this October in A Coruña, Spain. This year, UT Austin sent two RTF students to the festival to present their work. Angela Chen was a finalist in the fiction competition with her film "By Jude," a domestic drama that includes the perspective of a boy with a camera. An RTF MFA student Angela Torres, also attended the festival and screened her pre-thesis film, "Frente Noreste (Northeast Front)," which portrays a true story about drug violence in Mexico. Students from U.Porto also presented work at the festival, including Guilherme dos Santos Junior and João José da Costa Batista Pereira.



Professor Stuart Kelban served as a judge for the festival in 2010 and conducted a master class in Writing for the Short Film to 50 students. Kelban commented that this class addressed some of the weaknesses in the movies he screened: "They need more focus on storytelling and characters. It all begins with the script, and the sooner you recognize that the better off you are."

## Internship Update

### Internship Program Picks Up Steam

UT Austin | Portugal is pleased to announce the placing of two Portuguese prospects into digital media positions in Austin. Nuno Martins, a professional web-developer, will be taking a position with patent software startup Innography. Nuno will also be working with Innography to strengthen ties between Portuguese firm Viatecla and Austin-area digital media organizations. Also, freelance journalist Ioli Campos will be taking a position with KUT beginning in February. Ioli will work with KUT on developing their web journalism initiative. We are still looking for to place prospects in organizations that have strong backgrounds in digital animation and music production. Please email [jadaniels@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:jadaniels@mail.utexas.edu) if you or someone you know might be interested in hosting an intern.

This month, undergraduate students in the Digital Media Leadership Program had the opportunity to meet with

Juan Garcia, a new media strategist for the University of Texas. They will also be meeting with Rene Lego, an Emmy-nominated producer working for Austin firm SolarWinds and touring their facility. Our undergraduate program continues to take positive steps towards building a networked digital-media community for University of Texas undergraduates to tap into in order to expand their professional portfolios.

For more information about the Digital Media Leadership Program and internships, [please visit the UT Austin | Portugal site](#).

## Researchers Plug In to Interactive TV

The ImTV research project is getting off the ground in Austin and Lisbon. Selected by the Digital Media Program for FCT, the project is an investigation into the potential of interactive television systems. Unlike the iTV initiatives of the 1990s, which experimented with viewer control of narrative and shot selection, this project looks at existing services like Hulu and YouTube, which offer viewers the ability to select content from large video libraries.

Led by João Miguel Costa Magalhães of UNL and Sharon Strover at UT Austin, the research team has four objectives for this research. First, the team will examine how interactive TV distribution affects producers of content and how it may change their relationships with audiences and market. The team will also examine how this distribution method affects the pace of production and considerations for discovery methods. The third objective emphasizes interfaces used by viewers to access interactive TV content; which interfaces work best for which audiences and which kinds of content? Finally, the researchers will endeavor to integrate the results of this research into recommendations on how to create an optimal TV viewing experience.

The results of this research may aid broadcasters and TV distributors such as RTP and Zon and improve the viewing experience for users. It's clear that Interactive TV is already here; this research can make it better and expand our understanding of what it means to the industry and society.

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