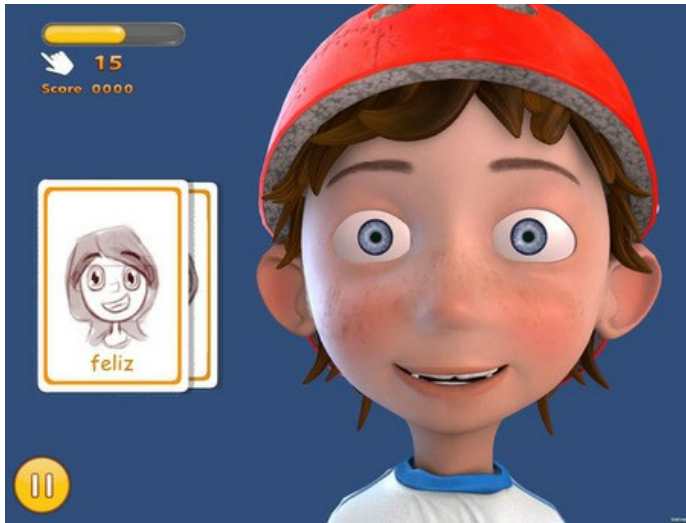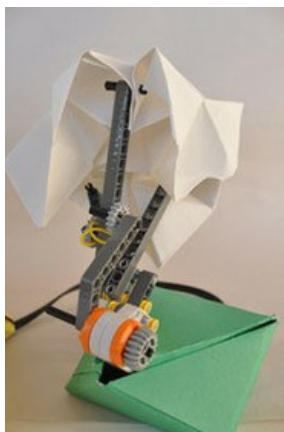Share this:

UT Austin | Portugal
INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORY FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, CoLab

DIGITAL BITS

LIFEisGAME Project Presented in Porto
The LIFEisGAME research team gathered to present the results of their work on June 11 in Porto. Begun in 2010, the FCT-sponsored project has developed tools to help children with Autism Spectrum Disorder improve their communication skills in an engaging game environment. Innovations produced by the team may be applied to a variety of fields including psychology, entertainment, health, and academia. Led by principal investigator Verónica Orvalho of U. Porto, the researchers include co-PIs Jake Aggarwal of UT Austin, Miguel Sales Dias of Microsoft, Cristina Queirós of U.Porto, and António Marques of IPP.

Doctoral Student Leads Workshop in Brazil
Isabel Paiva will conduct the PaperBots Workshop on July 23 and 24 at the Electronic Language International Festival (FILE) in São Paulo. The workshop, which combines digital and physical computing, teaches participants how to construct PaperBots, interactive devices built with technology from LEGO Mindstorms kits. Paiva works with faculty at UNL and UT Austin, specializing in design, engineering, and art, and has been both a registered student and a visiting researcher at UT. The FILE festival features exhibitions, roundtables, workshops, and lectures focused on art, technology, and digital culture. It will run from July 23 to September 1.

Researcher Teaches Austin Youth About Locative Media
UNL doctoral student Cláudia Silva has finished her first series of workshops on locative media and storytelling at Latinitas, a Texas nonprofit organization devoted to empowering young Latinas through media and technology. Silva, who has taken classes at UT Austin, is now a visiting

researcher and works with two local community groups, Latinitas and the River City Youth Foundation. Her dissertation project, supervised by Professors Joe Straubhaar of UT and António Granado of UNL, studies the potentials of locative citizen journalism. More information about her research is available on Silva's blog.

UT Faculty Member Speaks at Interfaces

News Bits

Doctoral student Gustavo Pereira is doing research in San Francisco this summer with nonprofit organization Code For America. Pereira is studying entrepreneurship in the fields of civic and open data technology.

Carlos Figueiredo of U.Porto is expected to return to Austin as a visiting researcher in the fall 2013 semester. He will work with Professor Wenhong Chen of the Radio-TV-Film Department.

UT Austin anticipates several doctoral students from UNL and U. Porto this fall, including exploratory visitors and visiting researchers. Currently, about 10 students are expected. Students wanting information about mobility opportunities may consult the CoLab website.

Lusophone

UT Austin's Joe Straubhaar spoke in a plenary panel at the International Conference Interfaces Lusophone, which took place in Braga from July 4-6. The conference addressed a range of study areas including Lusophone media production, migration and identity, and trends in Lusophone culture around the world. Straubhaar, an expert on global media and international communication, contributed to the plenary session titled "Intercultural and representations of the Portuguese language in the media," and was joined by former UT visiting researcher Isabel Ferin Cunha of the University of Coimbra, Maria Manuel Baptista of the University of Aveiro, and Claudia Castle of the Tropical Research Institute.

Summer Institute 2013 Courses Wrap Up

The Digital Media Summer Institute has just concluded. The program featured four intensive courses taught by UT faculty in Lisbon and Porto, each graduate-level course lasting three weeks. Beginning in late May, students attended classes on Research Methods, taught by Sharon Strover; Entrepreneurial Journalism, taught by Rosental Alves; Human-Computer Interaction, led by William Moner; and Digital Games Design, led by Bruce Pennycook. Also, an intensive one-week class on Interaction Design, led by UNL doctoral students Bruno Nobre and Cláudia Pernencar at FEUP, has just finished. The course was aimed at students as well as professionals and addressed a thorough range of topics including conceptual mapping, wireframing, prototyping, usability testing, and more. Students have responded very positively to the diverse Summer Institute offerings thus far, giving the courses an average overall rating of 4.7 out of 5.