UT Austin | Portugal
INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORY FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, CoLab

DIGITAL BITS

Students, Faculty Present at Digital Media Methods Conference in Porto

Austin Digital Media Director Sharon Strover attended the Digital Media Research Methods conference at U.Porto on May 24, 2013, in company with Portuguese directors and co-directors Nuno Correia, José Azevedo, Carlos Guedes, Heitor Alvelos, and Artur Pimenta Alves. Presented topics included user experience and survey design, social networking dynamics and innovations, and journalism and digital media challenges. While in Lisbon teaching a Summer Institute course on Research Methods, Strover also enjoyed visiting with many students at a riverbank happy hour (pictured above).

Interaction Design Workshop Scheduled for July in Porto

Digital Media doctoral students Bruno Nobre and Cláudia Pernencar will lead a workshop in Interaction Design at FEUP, which is expected to begin July 8. The course is aimed at both students and professionals and will focus on practical skills including storyboarding, usability testing, conceptual mapping, prototyping, and project development and also give participants a stronger grasp of interactive design theory and the current state of the art. Both instructors have extensive professional and academic experience in the practice, teaching, and research of interaction design and multimedia.

Digital Media PhD Student Diana Marques at Smithsonian Museum

Digital Media doctoral student Diana Marques is currently working at the Office of Education and Outreach at the world-renowned Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. Marques, whose areas of expertise include scientific illustration and animation as well as biology, studies the integration of technology, particularly augmented reality, in museum environments. At the Smithsonian Museum, she is part of a skilled team that is developing a mobile AR experience to digitally renovate a skeleton exhibit. Study of the public's interaction with the existing exhibit, which dates to the nineteenth century, has revealed it currently produces low engagement among visitors.

Filmmaker and UNL Faculty Member João Mário Grilo Visits Austin

Award-winning filmmaker João Mário Grilo visited Austin in May. Grilo, a professor in the department of Communication Sciences at UNL, met with UT students

News Bits

The Captivate Conference focuses on the creative industries of games, mobile technologies, film, and music, and will take place in Austin from October 6-8. Speaker applications are accepted until June 30.

Digital Games Design, a course led by Bruce Pennycook at U. Porto, has attracted over 30 applications! Meetings begin June 17.

UT Austin Digital Media faculty Sharon Strover, Karin Wilkins, Joe Straubhaar, Laura Stein, Jorge Peña, and Michael Mackert will be speaking at the International Communication Association annual meeting in London, June 17-21.

and faculty and presented some of his latest work. While traveling in Mexico and the United States, he has studied the landscapes appearing in films by legendary directors such as Sergei Eisenstein and John Ford. Grilo is researching the potential of using new media to appropriate the landscape images and directors' framing choices, such as through building 3-D models. This may offer a new means to acquaint today's students with influential directors of earlier decades.

INVITE Research Group Convenes at UT

Several members of the INVITE project team met at UT this month to perform field experiments and to discuss potential directions for the future. INVITE: social Identity and partNership in VirTual Environments, an FCT-funded collaborative project that originated in 2010, explores the development of artificial intelligence mechanisms that can perform well in complex social situations including games and virtual environments. The researchers have produced a strategic game that employs AI and allows a great deal of design flexibility, with potential to be used in the fields of psychology, business, and education. The visitors, including principal investigator Rui Prada, professors Pedro Santos and Carlos Martinho and graduate student Guida Preto, met with co-principal investigator Jorge Peña of UT's Communication Studies and UT graduate student Nick Brody.

Tiago Videira Departs UT

After nearly two years as a visiting researcher, Tiago Videira returns to Lisbon this month to complete his dissertation. Videira worked closely with UT professor Bruce Pennycook, learning programming techniques for musical analysis and symbolic manipulation using the programming language Lisp. During his highly productive visit, Videira composed over a dozen original music pieces and began development of a new instrumental music generator, still in progress, in addition to studying a wide range of disciplines as he shaped his dissertation topic. He took advantage of his last weeks in the US to tour the west, including Arizona, California, and Nevada.