



A WELCOME note from CoLab@Portugal's Director

On behalf of the UT Austin-Portugal Program I would like to welcome you to our brand new monthly newsletter. By reading "CoLab Square" you will find out everything that's happening on all areas of the Program, as well as any special events happening in Austin or Portugal that might interest you.

Now a little bit of CoLab history: The Government of Portugal and the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) signed an agreement in 2007 to promote advanced training and research on digital media, advanced computing and mathematics. This agreement has been materialized in a program called CoLab that includes UT Austin and relevant Portuguese Universities and Industrial Affiliates in those fields.

CoLab will include PhD and Post Doctoral fellowships, undergraduate exchange programs and industrial internships in both sides of the Atlantic. Research projects involving Portuguese Universities, UT Austin and Industrial Affiliates will also be developed. Fellowships and research grants will be awarded after competitive calls to be held during the next four years. The Portugal-UT Austin agreement will also include UTEN, a program designed to foster technology transfer and entrepreneurship in the leading Portuguese Universities.

Both CoLab and UTEN will strengthen Portugal's capabilities in key scientific, technological and business areas. UT Austin is an outstanding research institution and has been associated to the generation of some of the most significant high tech companies in the World.

CoLab and UTEN will have, at least, three other meaningful results. The first will be the series of seminars and workshops that will enrich the environment of Portuguese Universities. By facilitating the relationships with Austin based firms, these programs will also open the door for Portuguese companies that want to expand to the North American market. Finally, Austin itself, one of the most creative cities in the US, will be an inspiration for our cities that are betting on the knowledge based economy.

So as you can see we will have lots of exciting news to report in the future. So stay involved, participate, and take advantage of the many activities in this Program that will make you "stay ahead of the pack" in your academic or professional field of choice. Don't forget to check our official website (www.utaustinportugal.org) frequently.

António Câmara

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST (SXSW) FESTIVAL (AUSTIN, TEXAS) – MARCH 7 TO 16
 - SXSW Interactive – March 7 to 11
 - "Location-based Entertainment, Animating Overlooked Spaces" with Marta Vieira, YDreams – March 8 – 2:00pm
 - "Redrum in the Rue Morgue": Collaboration in International Communities" with Ana Boa-Ventura, UT Austin and Prentiss Riddle, IC2 Institute – March 8 – 3:30pm
 - "Virtual Scandals and Sacrilege: Who's griefing Now?" with Heitor Alvelos, U. Porto – March 10 – 5:00pm
 - SXSW Film – March 7 to 15
 - SXSW Music – March 12 to 16
- SEMINAR *"The Wiki State: Transforming Government With New Internet Tools"* by Prof. Gary Chapman (Digital Media) – March 11, 3:00 pm, at FCT/UNL (Library Auditorium)
- SEMINAR *"The Wiki State: Transforming Government With New Internet Tools"* by Prof. Gary Chapman (Digital Media) – March 14, 2:30 pm, at FEUP (Room B001)
- Deadline for Austin Internship Applications (Digital Media) – March 17 - Contact Carly Kocurek (carlykocurek@mail.utexas.edu)
- UT Austin-Portugal Program Student Orientation Session 2008 – March 19, at FCT/UNL (Monte da Caparica), at 10:00am - Library Auditorium (All Areas – Only for Students with the Program's Scholarships)



■ COLAB News Center

Congratulation new students!

The UT Austin-Portugal Program Selecting Committee has chosen the first group of students that will start their PhDs and Post-Docs in Digital Media, Advanced Computing and Mathematics in 2008.

This first group has 19 students. The sixteen (16) that were chosen for PhD scholarships will be divided in the three areas of the program: twelve (12) in Digital Media, two (2) in Advanced Computing and two (2) in Mathematics. The Committee also awarded 1 grant for a Post-Doc in Digital Media and 2 grants for Post-Docs in Mathematics.

This new ensemble of students that will now become a part of the UT Austin-Portugal community will start their studies in Portugal, in existing PhD programs offered by the participating universities. They can later choose to apply to UT Austin's PhD programs and in case of acceptance, the students will receive two degrees, recognized by both universities.

For the applicants that were not selected this time and for all interested prospective students, don't forget that there will be a new call for Scholarships in March/April of 2008. Don't forget to apply and Good Luck.

■ Digital Media Represented at South By Southwest (SXSW) Interactive

This year SXSW will be even better than before: UT Austin-Portugal Digital Media Program will be represented in three different panels at the event.

On March 8th, Marta Vieira from YDreams (one of our program's industrial affiliates) will be present on the "Location-based Entertainment, Animating Overlooked Spaces" panel and Ana Boa-Ventura and Prentiss Riddle will present the "Redrum in the Rue Morgue: Collaboration in Intemational Communities", a panel that discusses if culture is a relevant issue in web programming and designing asks the question "Can you design/develop virtual environments and spaces that are global without being amorphous?"

On March 10th, the Program will be represented by Heitor Alvelos in the panel "Virtual Scandals and Sacilege: Who's grieving Now?" which discusses the consequences of digital and online acts of transgression in the so-called "real" world and debates over to what extent has the emergence of virtual environments changed the rules of transgression and acceptability in socio-political and economic contexts.

For more information on the SXSW Festival click on www.sxsw.com <http://2008.sxsw.com/interactive/>

■ Want to have some work experience in Austin? Ask me how. (Digital Media)

If you always wanted to have an international work experience in your resume or want to make sure your CV is more interesting than anyone else's than you should apply to UT Austin's College of Communication's internships, now also available to Portuguese students.

Interested students need to apply by March 17th. The internship consists of 120 hours of work at a participating company in Austin, Texas (summer internships run from June 9 to August 15 but dates are flexible to fit the accepted students' calendars).

If you wish to apply or receive more information about this program please contact Carly Kocurek at carlykocurek@mail.utexas.edu. Prospective students will be contacted and interviewed by March 30th and notified of acceptance by April 14th.

Note: These internships will not be sponsored by UT Austin-Portugal Program - The accepted students will need to make arrangements for the appropriate visas, travel, room and board.

■ DON TURNBULL explains how to "Make Search better" in Lisbon and Porto

Dr. Don Turnbull (UT Austin) has visited Portugal to give two lectures on the theme "Making Search Better". These talks happened at FCSH/UNL and at FEUP on February 21st and February 26th respectively.

The talk reviewed a set of developing ideas and some ongoing research including personalization, filtering, user-defined metadata and information architecture that provide both research and development opportunities with potential impact to advance search utility.

For the presentation slides please go to or <http://www.utaustinportugal.org/Events.aspx?event=114> or <http://www.utaustinportugal.org/Events.aspx?event=116>.



Don Turnbull

■ ROSENAL ALVES teaches the opportunities and threats of Digital Journalism at FCSH/UNL (Lisbon)

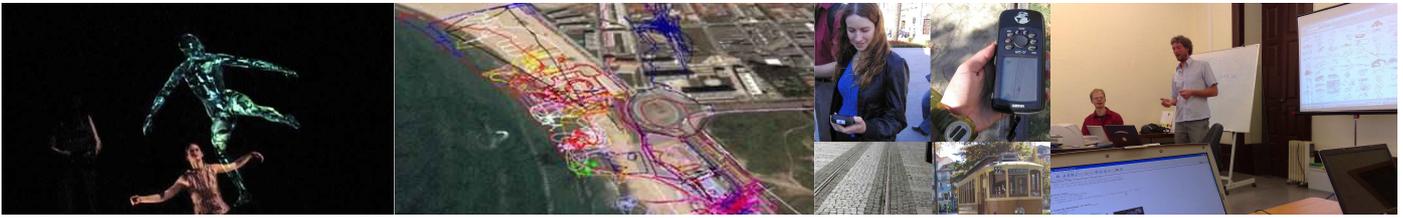


Rosental Alves

Professor Rosental Alves (UT Austin) was in Lisbon on February 26th to give a talk on the evolution and development of journalism from the Industrial Era to the Digital Era. There were about 50 people in attendance at FCSH/UNL that participated lively in the debate after the presentation.

The talk was focused on the premise that "The new millennium started amidst the intensification of the effects of the Digital Revolution." Professor Alves stressed that the world has "inherited a journalism which is a result of the of the unidirectional mass communication environment created during the last century and that is becoming an anachronism when faced with the appearance of the Information Society, where everyone can "create, research, use and share the information and knowledge" based on the new communicational paradigms."

The professor also analyzed the fact that "journalism has already entered a deconstructive process that will allow it to evolve and change so that it can adapt itself and survive the new conditions imposed by the proliferation of the new digital technologies and by the political, social, economic and cultural changes".



WHAT'S happening in Austin?

Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) creates "Supercomputer Ranger"

UT Austin has teamed with Sun Systems, Advanced Micro Devices, Arizona State University and Cornell University to create a new "supercomputer" nicknamed Ranger, established at the Texas Advanced Computing Center. The Ranger is considered to be five times more capable than any other open-science computer that has been available in the United States in the past. While working on full power, Ranger will deliver about 504 teraflops, using 15,744 of Advanced Micro Devices Inc.'s latest Barcelona chips. That is the same amount of power used if we combined 50,000 of today's PCs.

"Ranger is so much more powerful than anything that's come before it for open science research", says TACC's Director Jay Boisseau. TACC's director also feels that this new supercomputer will improve scientists' ability to see the world in a better, clearer way and make many discoveries based on that new vision.

For the full story click on <http://www.utexas.edu/features/2008/ranger/>



"Ranger" principal investigator Jay Boisseau, and Co-Principal investigators Karl Schulz and Tommy Minyard.

ONGOING Educational Opportunities

Mathematics:

Mathematics Summer School 2008

The CoLab Mathematics Summer School is a yearly event that aims at bringing together Ph.D. students and junior faculty with well known experts in the several areas of mathematics.

This first summer school will be held in the Mathematics Department of Instituto Superior Técnico in Lisbon, from June 16-20, 2008. The chosen topic was Dynamical Systems with particular emphasis on pure and applied Hamiltonian dynamics. The faculty for this school (B. Engquist, A. Fathi, R. de la Llave and K. Khanin) are internationally known experts.

Applications are open and free until April 30th at math.utaustinportugal.org/summer08 - "Registration".

Digital Media:

Gary Chapman's talk "The Wiki State: Transforming Government With New Internet Tools"

The appearance and success of new "Web 2.0" tools on the Internet - such as blogs, wikis, maps, image and video galleries and social networking sites - offer some interesting and potentially historic opportunities for transforming government. Citizens using new online tools and government information in open data formats are creating new experiments in government transparency, accountability, and knowledge creation, and thus blurring the lines between citizen volunteers and government officials. This talk will describe some of these innovations, with a particular focus on "disaster informatics," fiscal transparency, and this year's election in the United States.

Talks will be given at FCT/UNL (Monte da Caparica) on March 11, at 3:00 pm at the Library Auditorium and at FEUP (Porto) on March 14, at 2:30pm, in Room B001 - Open to the general public - If you wish to attend, please send an email with your name and the location you want to be present at to maria.oliveira@fct.mctes.pt

Who's who at UT AUSTIN-Portugal Program?

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Useful links

www.utaustinportugal.org www.fct.mctes.pt www.utexas.edu www.ic2.org www.ati.utexas.edu www.austin-chamber.org

We want to hear from you! Want to share your doubts and concerns about something you read? Want to see other topics featured in next month's newsletter? Want to contribute with articles or art? Please send all your feedback to sofia.santos@fct.mctes.pt.