



WELCOME note from CoLab@Austin Director

The first year of CoLab focused on building personal relations among professors and CoLab staff within Portugal and between Portugal, UT Austin and government and business entities in the capital city of Texas. These initial activities included visits of Portuguese faculty and students primarily from universities in Lisbon, Coimbra, Porto, Aveiro and Minho to Austin and UT Austin faculty visits to Portugal to conduct workshops and give presentations primarily in Lisbon and Porto.

In the coming year, CoLab will launch a Professional Masters in Digital Media and PhD Programs in Digital Media, Mathematics, and Advanced Computing. There will be an increased emphasis on collaborative research projects to be selected on the basis of a national call for proposals. We intend to have UT Austin sponsored events in Portugal that will include a broader participation from more Portuguese universities including both graduate and undergraduate students. Additionally we will work to broaden visits to Austin to include faculty and students from additional Portuguese universities and have more activities directed to the benefit of the CoLab Industry Affiliates in Portugal. Also in its second year, CoLab will promote the development of new competencies and the internationalization of Portuguese Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs). In this regard, the University Technology Enterprise Network (UTEN) will build on established Portuguese institutions and talent to leverage UT Austin and IC2 Institute know-how and networks to develop successful and sustainable commercialization processes within Portuguese TTOs.

I would like to emphasize the high level of commitment to CoLab by the Program Directors and Co-Directors in Digital Media, Advanced Computing, Mathematics and UTEN. This commitment includes additional Portuguese and UT Austin faculty and Portuguese and Texas' business and government leaders. The CoLab Program is considered a very important model for the University of Texas and the City of Austin in building strong and productive international academic, business, and government partnerships and activities. We look forward to your active participation in CoLab's second year which will be focused on value-added activities that produce meaningful educational, research, and business results for Portugal.

David V. Gibson

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ONLINE JOURNALISM (DIGITAL MEDIA) – Austin, Texas – April 4th-5th
visit : <http://online.journalism.utexas.edu/>
- MUSEUMS & THE WEB 2008 (DIGITAL MEDIA) – Montréal, Canada – April 8th-12th
visit : <http://www.archimuse.com/mw2008/index.html>
- EUROGRAPHICS 2008 (DIGITAL MEDIA) – Crete, Greece – April 14th-18th
visit : <http://www.ics.forth.gr/eg2008/home.php>
- WORKSHOP DE NARRATIVA ESPACIAL EM INSTALAÇÕES AUDIOVISUAIS INTERACTIVAS (DIGITAL MEDIA) – Porto, Portugal
April 15th-19th- Contact : econdorcet@gmail.com
- DEADLINE FOR GRADUATE APPLICATIONS FOR MATHEMATICS SUMMER SCHOOL 2008 (MATHEMATICS) – Lisbon, Portugal -
April 30th - visit : math.utaustinportugal.org/summer08 to register.
- DEADLINE FOR UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATIONS FOR THE SUMMER WORKSHOP (MATHEMATICS) – Austin, Texas - May 1st
Visit : <http://www.math.utexas.edu/rtg/course.html> for forms, topics and reading lists.



COLAB News Center

South by Southwest Coverage (Austin, Texas)

South by Southwest (SXSW) invaded Austin for two weeks. During SXSW, Austin especially lives up to its "Keep Austin Weird" motto that is so dear to the Austinites. With 12,500 participants and 1,775 "official" performing acts for the 10-day event, there is live music in every bar and film screenings in theaters spread around town. SXSW is arguably the greatest cultural event in Texas and one of the most important in the world with its three components: film, music and interactive. The Austin Convention center hosts the Interactive panels but the city-based music, film and social events are a major part of the experience! SXSW Interactive is also a great opportunity for artists blurring the borders between disciplines to make their work shown at museums, bars and coffee-shops. For all the information on the festival please go to www.sxsw.com.



UT Austin | Portugal presence at SXSW Interactive 2008

At SXSW Interactive 2008, the Digital Media Program was represented in three panels:

1. Ana Boa-Ventura (CoLab@Austin Digital Media Associate Director) moderated a panel on Collaboration in International Communities, where Prentiss Riddle (CoLab@Austin staff member) was one of the speakers.
2. Marta Vieira (YDreams) was a speaker on a panel discussing Location Based Entertainment.
3. Heitor Alvelos (UPorto) chaired a panel called Virtual Scandals and Sacrilege: Who's GrieFing Now?

Collaboration in International Communities



Ana Boa-Ventura and Prentiss Riddle (on the right) present at SXSW

Ana summarized some situations in her professional life that made her place culture at the forefront of her work as a scholar and consultant. Prentiss talked about the web infra-structure of support the collaboration between the two countries that are part of the UT Austin | Portugal Program and ways in which our different cultures may justify different preferences regarding web 2.0 technologies, such as the preference to use Blogs or Wikis to foster international collaboration.

The others panelists were Aaron Marcus (President, AM+A), Steve Howard (Senior Manager, 50_15 Initiative - AMD) and Tim Landgell, PhD (Lead Faculty for Videogames, Department of Media, National University) who discussed collaboration in three other perspectives, respectively: user-interface and information and visualization design, the 50x15 Initiative (One Laptop per Child), and cultural models in game design.

Location Based Entertainment – Animating Overlooked Spaces

This panel discussed how location can play an important part in games, and how this can inherently change the way we interact with our surrounding space. The panel included Rodney Gibbs from Amaze Entertainment and IGDA, Andy Mathis from Motorola, Catherine Herdlick from Gamelab and the Come Out and Play Festival and Marta Vieira from YDreams.

Rodney gave the motto and identified some of the current issues of the genre. He started by talking about original LBE's and quickly moved on to today's landscape, where technology has allowed gamers to take their LBE's with them wherever they go. Andy brought the corporate view and shared great data about the market. Marta talked about YDreams solutions – from traditional mobile Location Based Games to the Adidas Eyeball as a travelling interactive playground. Finally, Catherine shared her view of location-based entertainment and how it will change how people interact with spaces, especially the ones in dire need of help like airport terminals.



Marta Vieira presents some of YDreams products at her panel

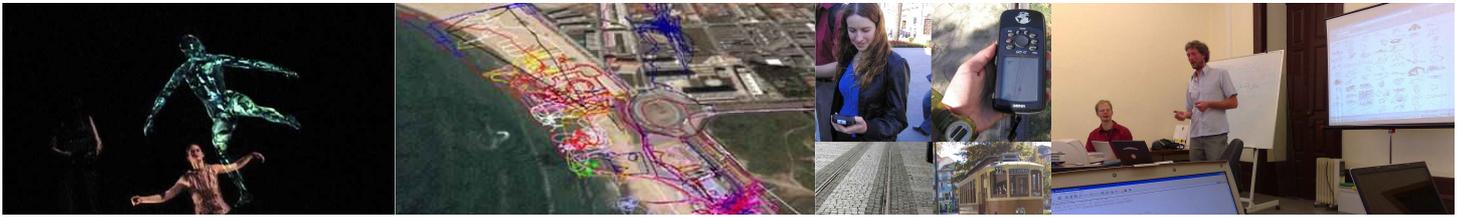
Virtual Scandals and Sacrilege: Who's GrieFing Now?



Heitor Alvelos and the other panelists debate over Who's GrieFing now? At SXSW.

This panel included Heitor Alvelos (chair), Jeff Ferrell, Phil Harvey, Peter Ludlow, Hector Postigo. The panelists analyzed a series of cases that made up a draft encyclopedia of digital transgression. All wildly different, but all contributing to the core issues: is digital transgression comparable to physical damage? Is it punishable under the same parameters? Most importantly: is good coming out of these so-called "bad behaviors?"

Incidents covered included the 1993 LambdaMOO "Rape in Cyberspace", the 2007 conflict between the Church of England and Playstation, the ongoing grieving attacks on Second Life, the "Grey Tuesday" piracy front, iTunes DRM Hacks, The GI Joe Mod for Battlefield 1942, the San Precario shoplifting movement, the fake fashion designer Serpica Naro, and the 2005 legal battle between Juniper Networks and Light Reading message board posters. After this panel a Blog was created at [<http://virtualsacrilege.wordpress.com>].



■ GARY CHAPMAN visited Portugal to talk about the new internet tools that are changing government information



Gary Chapman presents his talk at FEUP, Porto.

Gary Chapman (School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin) was in Portugal to give two lectures on government information and how the web is transforming the way we see and analyze it, at FCT/UNL on March 11th and at FEUP on March 14th.

The lectures had a vast and participative audience at both locations, composed by students, as well as professors and professionals in the public policy area. The presentation given by Chapman's presentation focused on 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. Chapman stressed that because citizens are now using these new online tools and because government information in available in open data formats, this creates a new form of government transparency, accountability, and knowledge creation and blurs the lines between citizen volunteers and government officials. The presentation slides and photos can be found at <http://www.utaustinportugal.org/Events.aspx?event=132> or at <http://www.utaustinportugal.org/Events.aspx?event=133>. Watch Expresso's coverage of this talk on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T63RDFj2Ag>.

■ ADVANCED COMPUTING Portuguese Board of Directors visit Austin



Jay Boisseau, Pedro Medeiros, Keshav Pingali, Alberto Proença and Luis Silva (Advanced Computing full Board of Directors)

Professors Alberto Proença (CoLab@Portugal Advanced Computing Director), Pedro Medeiros and Luis Silva (CoLab@Portugal Advanced Computing Co-Directors) were in Austin, March 6-7, for several board meetings and visits to the Advanced Computing facilities of CoLab@Austin.

The Portuguese visitors also included the following Advanced Computing faculty from the University of Porto:

Vitor Santos Silva, Inês Doutra, Álvaro Figueira and Fernando Silva. Key meetings were with Keshav Pingali and Jay Boisseau (CoLab@Austin Advanced Computing Director and Co-Director) and other UT Austin faculty at UT's Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences (ICES, www.ices.utexas.edu) including J. Tinsley Oden, founding Director of ICES. ICES nine research centers and five research groups are designed to accommodate interdisciplinary research with the belief that computational science, computer modeling and simulation, and computational and applied mathematics represent fundamentally important evolving intellectual disciplines that are having an increasingly profound effect on all of science and engineering.

The visiting Portuguese AC faculty also met with faculty and staff at the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC, www.tacc.utexas.edu) including a tour of "Ranger", the most powerful supercomputer in the world for Open-Science Research. Cooperative research and educational programs and activities are planned like the TACC workshop to be held in Coimbra at the end of June 2008.



Jay Boisseau shows Ranger to the AC Board of Directors and Portuguese Visitors

■ FERNANDO ZAMITH presents paper at International Symposium on Online Journalism in Austin



Fernando Zamith

Fernando Zamith, PhD student at UT Austin | Portugal Program for Digital Media, was recently chosen to present his paper entitled "A Methodological Proposal to Analyze the News Websites Use of the Potentialities of The Internet" at the 9th International Symposium on Online Journalism, taking place in Austin, Texas, on April 4-5.

Fernando's presentation will be part of a panel called "Issues in Online Journalism Research" and it will happen on April 5th, at 3:30 pm, at the Applied Computational Engineering & Sciences (ACES) Building of the University of Texas at Austin, Avaya Auditorium (ACE 2.302). Also presenting at this event will be António Granado, online editor of Público newspaper (a Digital Media Industrial Affiliate), who will be chair on the topic "Engaging Communities: The old, passive audiences are increasingly becoming clusters of new, active communities that still read, listen and watch the media, but demand to be read, listened and watched. Engaging those communities has become high priority for the media, but are their efforts succeeding?". This panel will take place on April 4th, at 1:30 pm at the Avaya Auditorium (ACE 2.302).

■ ARIE STAVCHANSKY (UT Austin) is teaching a full semester course in Rich Website Design at the University of Porto (UPorto)

Arie Stavchansky visited Porto in the end of February to launch his course in Rich Website Design at UPorto, a course that will be composed of 11 lessons (full semester).

Dr. Stavchansky will examine what makes a website "rich" in media, and to what extent such websites are useful in communicating messages. After studying how and where novel interactions are designed, students will implement crafted interactions in the context of website development. The goal of the course is for students to learn the design process for building websites that make use of novel interactions.

This course will be conducted mostly by video conference with the entire class and one-to-one skype meetings with the students.

Dr. Stavchansky will also lecture in Portugal at the beginning and at the end of the course as well as to evaluate the students' work.

■ MATHEMATICS and ICES faculty at CoLab@Austin help Portuguese Post Docs develop their research

Eugénio Rocha (UAveiro), Sílvia Barbeiro (UCoimbra), Isabel Figueiredo (UCoimbra) and Juha Videman (IST) are at UT Austin developing their Post Doc research. They are working together with some of the CoLab@Austin faculty in the Mathematics department and at the Institute for Computational Engineering and Science (ICES -).

Eugénio is collaborating with Luis Caffarelli (CoLab@Austin Mathematics Director) in the study of the theoretical issues concerning subelliptic operators and (fractional) Laplacians evolving in Carnot groups (a subclass of nilpotent Lie groups). Sílvia is working with Mary F. Wheeler, from ICES, and her interests are in the field of numerical solution of partial differential systems applied to coupled geomechanics and reservoir flow models. Isabel's research involves a group of UT Austin faculty composed by Omar Ghattas, Chandrajit Bajaj, Bjorn Engquist and Richard Tsai (all from ICES) and focus on the colorectal cancer and the investigation to look for proof that the Aberrant Crypt Foci (ACF) may be determinant in the adenoma-carcinoma sequence. Finally, Juha Videman's Post Doc is being done in collaboration with Clint Dawson, from ICES, and Brian Arbic, from UT Institute for Geographics and is about the partial differential equations in geophysical fluid dynamics.

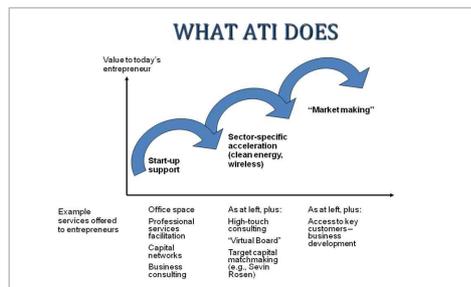


WHAT'S happening in Austin?

University Technology Enterprise Network – UTEN@Portugal Director visits Austin to launch new activities

A UTEN@Portugal team including Professor José Mendonça (UTEN@Portugal Director), Ana Paula Amorim (UMinho), Maria Oliveira (UPorto) and Maria José (IST), as well as Marco Bravo (MCTES) will be in Austin, April 7-11 to continue to build relations and explore network links with key leaders in Austin and Texas' technology-based industry, including the IC2 Institute (ic2.utexas.edu), the UT Austin Office of Technology Commercialization (www.otc.utexas.edu), Austin Technology Incubator (ati.utexas.edu), the City of Austin (www.ci.austin.tx.us/vision/) and the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce (austin-chamber.org/). UTEN participants will also visit potential partners for innovation and S&T commercialization training and internship opportunities at UT Dallas (<http://innovation.utdallas.edu>) and UT San Antonio (<http://business.utsa.edu/entrepreneur>).

UTEN's overall objective in the coming four years is to promote the development of new competences and the internationalization of the Portuguese's Tech Transfer Offices (TTOs), as well as to leverage UTEN@Austin's S&T commercialization networks to help develop successful and sustainable business development opportunities for Portuguese entrepreneurs in U.S. and other international markets.



ATI's incubator process

ONGOING Educational Opportunities

Mathematics:

Summer School in Portugal for Graduate Students – June 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 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".

Summer Workshop in Austin for Undergraduates – July/August 2008
The Mathematics Department at the University of Texas at Austin will offer a three-week RTG summer course on multiscale modeling and analysis from July 21, 2008 to Aug 8, 2008.

Many important physical systems have features at multiple spatial scales and time scales. Examples include the galaxies, digital images, DNA and proteins, and nano-systems. The goal of multiscale modeling and analysis is to study the interaction between different scales and to develop efficient mathematical tools to predict their behaviors.

The course will provide a comprehensive coverage of the modern research of multiscale systems. The prerequisites of the course are advanced calculus and linear algebra. Some familiarity with numerical analysis and computer programming will be helpful.

Under the UT Austin | Portugal Program, CoLab, Portuguese undergraduate students ("1º e 2º ciclo") can apply for the course. Travel, on-campus accommodation and meal allowances will be provided.

Applications are open until May 1st at <http://www.math.utexas.edu/rtg/course.html> (for forms topics and reading lists). For any questions, please email Prof. Lexing Ying (include Summer08 RTG in the title) at lexing@math.utexas.edu or Diogo Gomes at dgomes@math.ist.utl.pt.

Digital Media:

Digital Storytelling Workshop – University of Porto – Session 1: May 8 and 9/Session 2: May 12, 13 and 14

Ana Boa-Ventura (UT Austin) will conduct two workshops at the University of Porto in Digital Storytelling using the methodology developed by Joe Lambert (Center for Digital Storytelling, Berkeley).

On May 8 and 9, the workshop will be offered to future workshop DS facilitators: scholars and professionals who plan to develop workshops on storytelling as a community empowerment tool, such as nonprofits on social inclusion, museums with community programs, and journalists working with crowdsourcing.

On May 12, 13 and 14 the workshop will be offered to researchers in all scientific fields: academics interested in exploring storytelling to illustrate their research in exciting new ways, through an inclusive audiovisual language that appeals to, rather than alienates, the person on the street. Scholars with no technology skills are encouraged to participate.

If you wish to attend one of these workshops (there is a limited number of places), please send an email with your name, occupation, and email, stating which of the workshops you wish to attend to maria.oliveira@fct.mctes.pt.

Summer Institute 2008 – May/June 2008, Lisbon

The CoLab will soon launch the calls for the first Summer Institute in Digital Media. The Digital Media Summer Institute 2008 will take place during the end of May and the entire month of June at FCSH and FCT/UNL, both in Greater Lisbon. This Institute will cover several areas in Digital Media such as Online Journalism, Film & Documentary, Design and Music.

FUTURE PLACES 2008 – October 9th-19th, Porto

After the success of the Digital Media Festival in November 2007, at the Reitoria of the University of Porto, the Digital Media team of the UT Austin | Portugal Program is launching a new edition of the festival. This year the festival, entitled FUTURE PLACES, will take place at the new Edifício Douro (Fundação da Juventude) in Porto. The call for entries is opening soon and will also include a call for synopses for a new 'creative residency program' for which academic affiliation is not required. These residencies will take place after the festival at one of the Portuguese universities that are part of the Digital Media Program. CoLab will also send information on the call for entries for the festival to all Portuguese universities with a digital media programs. Make sure you check for updates on both CoLab programs www.utaustinportugal.org.

Advanced Computing:

Advanced Computing Summer Workshop 2008 – June 2008, Coimbra
The CoLab will soon launch the call for the Summer workshop in Advanced Computing. The Advanced Computing Summer Workshop 2008 (given by the Texas Advanced Computing Center - TACC) will happen in the end of June in Coimbra. Please keep checking the UT Austin | Portugal's official website (www.utaustinportugal.org) for updates on this workshop.

First UT Austin | Portugal Workshop on Computational Engineering: Fluid Dynamics – At IST, Lisbon – July 2008

This CoLab workshop will cover several topics related to some of the applications of advanced computational fluid dynamics, including biological, biomedical and clinical flows, environment and geophysical flows, noise generation, flow control and fluid-structure interactions, modeling and simulation of turbulent flows, transition and chaos in fluid flows and turbulence in reacting and multiphase flows, among others (to be announced).

For more information and registration please log on to the workshop's official website at <http://cemat.ist.utl.pt/cfd/>

Useful links

www.utaustinportugal.org www.fct.mctes.pt www.utexas.edu www.ic2.org www.ati.utexas.edu www.austin-chamber.org <http://colab.ic2.utexas.edu/dm/>

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.