

COLABSQUARE

UT Austin | Portugal INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORY FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, CoLab



■ WELCOME note from CoLab@ Austin Digital Media Director

June is shaping up to be a very busy time for the Digital Media program. Our Institute at the New University of Lisbon is designed to give many people – students and working professionals – a taste of several topics and developments in our field. We are offering intensive workshops in scriptwriting, online journalism, music for games and film, digital documentary, advanced graphics and rendering, and a “big picture” course examining trends in digital industries and policies. Professor Tom Schatz is augmenting the courses with his weeklong film series composed of films that represent important uses and representations of new technologies in their times. He'll also contribute evening talks to highlight aspects of those films, all screening at the Cinematheque in Lisbon. A few additional speakers offering some comments in evening talks open to the public will round out the month: Dr. Craig Watkins, an expert in youth and new media; Stuart Kelban, a screenwriter speaking on how writing changes – or doesn't – with new media; and I'll offer remarks on the digital divide and broadband services. We hope this is just the start of many conversations, ideas, and shared knowledge that the partnership among the three universities will cultivate among our respective communities.

While this is going on in Lisbon, our colleagues in Porto are planning for the fall Digital Media Festival dubbed “Future Places” (more on this in a later newsletter), and also participating in summer classes. Stuart Kelban will offer a two week class in June focused on writing for television and other media, followed by Gary Chapman's “Internet and Digital Transformation of Organizations” course in July. There will be a lot of “behind the scenes” work during the summer as facilities and schedules fall into shape for “Future Places”. Karen Gustafson will be visiting Porto in June to help with the preparations.

We look forward to seeing everyone during these busy months.

Sharon Strover

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- **SUMMER INSTITUTE 2008 (DIGITAL MEDIA)** – Lisbon, Portugal – May 26th-June 27th – for information visit: www.utaustinportugal.org
- **PUBLIC TALKS (OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC):**
 - DIGITAL FILM WITH TOM SCHATZ – Auditorium 1 at FCSH/UNL, Lisbon, Portugal – June 6th – 6:00 pm
 - YOUTH AND NEW MEDIA WITH CRAIG WATKINS – Auditorium 1 at FCSH/UNL, Lisbon, Portugal – June 17th – 6:00 pm
 - REMAPPING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE WITH SHARON STROVER – Auditorium 1 at FCSH/UNL, Lisbon, Portugal – June 20th – 6:00 pm
 - LIFE & DEATH IN 3 MINUTES OR LESS: THE SCREENWRITER'S ROLE IN NEW MEDIA WITH STUART KELBAN – Auditorium 1 at FCSH/UNL, Lisbon, Portugal – June 24th – 6:00 pm
- **OPENING SESSION OF THE SUMMER INSTITUTE 2008 (DIGITAL MEDIA)** – Auditorium 1 at FCSH/UNL, Lisbon, Portugal – June 2nd– 6:00 pm (Open to the General Public)
- **MATHEMATICS SUMMER SCHOOL (MATHEMATICS)** – at IST, Lisbon, Portugal – June 16th-20th (attendance by application only)
- **WORKSHOP “SCREENWRITING FOR NEW (AND OLD) MEDIA” BY STUART KELBAN (DIGITAL MEDIA)** – at U.Porto, Porto, Portugal – June 16th – 27th (for Multimedia Master's Students at U.Porto only)
- **DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION FOR THE SUMMER SUPERCOMPUTING INSTITUTE PRESENTED BY TACC (ADVANCED COMPUTING)** – at U.Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal – June 30th. For registration and more information visit <http://cfc.fis.uc.pt/events/tacc2008/>.
- **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE WORKSHOP “DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF ORGANIZATIONS” (DIGITAL MEDIA)** – U.Porto, Porto, Portugal – June 30th – For more information on how to apply, please visit <http://www.utaustinportugal.org/Events.aspx?event=169>.
- **COLLOQUIUM “THE NEW KNOWLEDGE FORGE” (DIGITAL MEDIA)** – at FEUP, Porto, Portugal – June 30th – For more information visit <http://www.wikisym.org/knowledgeforge>.

COLAB News Center

Mathematics Summer School for Graduates brings 14 different countries to IST

CoLab's first Mathematics Summer School (from June 16th to 20th) received registrations from students representing 14 countries around the world. This program will see the interconnection of registrants from such diverse countries as France, India, Ukraine, Romania, Brazil, Czech Republic, Algeria, USA and Portugal, among others.

The students will explore the topic of "Dynamical Systems" with particular emphasis on pure and applied Hamiltonian dynamics. The faculty for this school, with names such as B. Engquist, A. Fathi, K. Khanin and R. de la Llave, is composed by internationally known experts and the Program believes that their courses will be extremely useful for Ph.D. students, post-docs and faculty that would like to broaden their knowledge in this very active area of research.

Summer Institute 2008's workshops received more than 190 applications

The Summer Institute in Digital Media 2008 registered an astounding 191 applications for the 80 openings it had concerning its workshops: Collaborative Scriptwriting, Digital Documentary, Digital Hollywood, Online Journalism, Creating Music and Audio for film, video and games and photorealistic 3D Graphics Rendering & Simulation. In the two weeks opened for the application period, the interest shown by all the applicants and just curious people showed that there is a true hunger for such programs to be accessible to the student and professional population and also that Digital Media is a thriving area, an area that expands beyond traditional subjects and is able to mash together such different subjects such as cinema, journalism, sociology, music and 3D graphics.

The Summer Institute started on May 26th but has its Opening Session on June 2nd, at 6:00pm, in the Auditorium 1 at the FCSH/UNL, in Lisbon.



TOM SCHATZ (UT AUSTIN) discusses the connection between technology and film in two talks in Lisbon on May 30th and June 6th



Tom Schatz

Schatz will give two lectures in Lisbon, one on May 30th at the Cinemateca Portuguesa and another, on June 6th at FCSH/UNL's Auditorium 1. He will also present a film series at Cinemateca, from May 29th to June 6th. The main theme of the film series (as well as Professor Schatz's two lectures) is the dynamic, complex relationship between Hollywood cinema and technological innovation. All seven of the films in the series are not only Hollywood "classics" but also excellent examples of the ways in which the American movie industry throughout its history both adopted and adapted to new technologies.

The lecture on May 30th at the Cinemateca focused on both a contemporary Hollywood film, THE MATRIX, and a classic film from the 1930s, KING KONG, which are examples of the American movie industry's ability to both absorb and exploit technological innovation, and to do it in ways that enhance but do not significantly change the industry's established mode of production and narrative style. The talk of June 6th at FCSH/UNL's Auditorium 1 will explore the making of THE MATRIX, the film's highly complex (and contradictory) depiction of technology in the postmodern world, and also the film's massive influence on subsequent movie franchises. THE MATRIX (both the initial film and the ever-expanding narrative system that it generated), took computer-generated (CG) digital effects to a new level and ushered in a new mode of "transmedia storytelling" – thus creating a template for the Hollywood blockbuster in the new millennium.

LIFE & DEATH IN 3 MINUTES OR LESS will be Stuart Kelban's premise at FCSH/UNL on the 24th



Stuart Kelban

Stuart Kelban will focus his talk on the role of the screenwriter in the era of New Media. He will begin by talking about the recent strike of the Writers Guild of America concerning financial issues related to writing for new media. The productions stopped for four months and yet no one truly knows what shape "writing for new media" is going to take.

Kelban will discuss some notable successes ("Lonelygirl") and some very public failures ("Quarterlife") of this new format. By using clips from recent web-series, he'll explore the directions that writing for new media may take in the near future, along with the implications for traditional cinematic story-telling.

SHARON STROVER (Digital Media Director of CoLab@Austin) talks about the Remapping of the Digital Divide at the Summer Institute on June 20th



Sharon Strover

In this talk, Sharon Strover will review some of the claims regarding digital technologies, and examine aspects of digital space - and time-compressing technologies embedded in contemporary societies as they may contribute to digital divides.

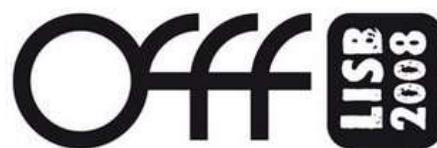
The idea of "digital divides" dates back roughly fifteen years, and it has been used in many different contexts and it means several different things. Strover will discuss some of these meanings and then examine what the divide means in the contemporary context, for the U.S. and other countries. Divides between populations or regions can have important policy implications, even as they reflect on other processes of globalization and innovation and diffusion.

A STUDENT'S POINT OF VIEW: Offf 2008

The atmosphere at Offf Lisbon 2008 was as fun as ever, with designers and artists from around the world converging at a beautiful 19th century industrial space — to celebrate digital design and inspire each other to push it a bit further every day. There was something for everyone, with presentations covering typography, motion design, web design, generative art, data visualization, installation, advertising, print, performance, illustration, film, and animation. Eternal rebels Fakelpilot and Joshua Davis managed again to draw laughter tears out of the crowd with their edgy and ironic takes on design, inspiration and business. Other highlights include All of Us' fun interactive spaces and objects; Fallon's greatest hits that somehow never get old; Random International's PixelRoller (a paint roller that paints pixels!); and Devoid of Yesterday's beautiful cinematic stories.

This edition of Offf just left me wishing for a wider and, well, less corporate, art exhibit (maybe next year?). It was also unsettling to see TMN (major cell phone service provider) take over the festival's image to a point where it was impossible to distinguish between Offf's identity and the corporate advertising messages: "A wi-fi! A wi-fi! My kingdom for a wi-fi!"?

Anyway, it was fun and interesting and inspiring, and I hope to see you all at Offf Lisbon 2009.



By Catarina Mota (UT Austin | Portugal Program Student)

■ SHORT COURSE on "Digital Transformation of the organizations" with Gary Chapman – July 14th – July 19th – University of Porto, Porto



Gary Chapman(UT Austin)

As part of the partnership between the University of Texas at Austin and Portugal, the University of Porto will offer a short course in July 2008 titled "Digital Transformation of Organizations." This course will be an introduction to the interesting changes brought to organizations by new information technologies, particularly the Internet and "Web 2.0."

This course is meant for non-technical students and professionals, meaning that it presumes no technical background or preparation. But technical professionals may find it useful as well, as an introduction to managerial, social and political trends that are influenced by information technologies.

The theme of the course will be that all organizations are being transformed from an older paradigm of bureaucracy to a new paradigm of the network and that organizations and economies that navigate this change will succeed and thrive. The course will consist of six three-hour sessions, from July 14 through July 19, 2008. In addition to covering a list of topics, students will also be engaged with developing a collaborative Web site that will demonstrate the capabilities of new online tools. To know more about the topics and reading list for this workshop please visit: www.utaustinportugal.org.

To apply for this workshop (there is a limited number of places) send an email to sofia.santos@fct.mctes.pt or pvalves@inescporto.pt with your name, occupation, short CV and a motivation letter (In English and max. 150 words) until June 30th.

■ FUTURE PLACES applications deadline extended to July 11th

The deadline for Pre-registration and submission of the synopsis for the **FUTURE PLACES** festival has been extended to July 11th. If you wish to participate in this international digital media festival, submit your work for the competition at the event's official website <http://futureplaces.org>.



The festival **FUTURE PLACES**, will take place at the new Edifício Douro (Fundação da Juventude), in Porto, Portugal, from October 7th to October 19th. The festival will begin with workshops on October 7 and 8, which aim to bring together members of the digital arts communities, including people involved in research and production, to creatively explore several art forms included under the term "digital media". Part of the festival will be devoted to panels conducted by speakers with academic and industrial affiliations, and on topics with a business orientation, such as social networking in the corporate environment, bringing the mobile web into the academic environment, alternate reality games, blogging as a profession, and so forth.

The objective of the "Creative Residency Program" is to support creativity and exploration in digital media, by engaging technology, the arts, and the humanities. The Program is looking for works with the potential to have an impact on local and global communities. This 3 month-long residency program seeks to connect international emerging artists and young talents from across the interdisciplinary spectrum of the digital media field to the strong technology resources at the University of Porto and the New University of Lisbon.

To know more about the Future Places Festival go to <http://www.utaustinportugal.org/Events.aspx?event=165> and about the Creative Residency Program click on <http://www.utaustinportugal.org/Events.aspx?event=166>. You can also visit the festival's official website – <http://futureplaces.org>.

■ Summer Supercomputing Institute presented by TACC happening at University of Coimbra in July



The UT Austin | Portugal Advanced Computing Program is putting together a Summer Institute in Supercomputing in collaboration with the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC). The center has the largest computing system in the world for open science research, Ranger, a world-class supercomputing machine with 62,976 cores, a total memory of 123TBytes and peak performance of 504 Tflops. The event will take place at the University of Coimbra, from July 14th to July 18th.

The summer institute will provide researchers with an intensive introduction to using HPC, grid computing and massive data storage technologies. While the focus will be on using TACC's computing resources, the skills will be general and thus applicable to a wide range of technologies in these areas.

This institute will cover such topics as: the revision of the hardware and software of all TACC resources; the development parallel programs with OpenMP and MPI; the usage of data analysis software and systems; among others. There will also be Applications Seminars where leading computational researchers from TACC and Portugal will discuss their work and share effective methods for consulting with TACC's user support group and explore how these technologies and services can best address Portuguese computational requirements.

On the final day of the Institute, TACC staff will assist participants in applying techniques and technologies covered in the Institute to their own applications. Please check the workshop's official website <http://cfc.fis.uc.pt/events/tacc2008/>, for more information on how to register and the detailed schedule. There are a limited number of openings for the Summer Supercomputing Institute and registration ends by June 30th.

■ WHAT'S happening in Austin?

UT Austin Mathematics Program for Undergrads chooses eight Portuguese Students

UT Austin has chosen, for the first time, Portuguese students to be a part of the Research and Training Grant in Applied and Computational Mathematics Summer School on Multiscale Modeling and Analysis, which will occur at UT Austin's Mathematics department between July 21st and August 8th. Sérgio Pequito (IST), João Batista (IST), Lia Rodrigues (FCUL), Telmo Peixe (UL), Rui Barbosa (UMinho), Nuno Monteiro (IST), Maria Serpa (UL) and José Castro (UCoimbra) will be the first Portuguese representatives at this Summer Program. There, they will work in contact with some of the best mathematicians in the world, such as Luís Cafarelli, director of the Mathematics Program at CoLab@Austin.

The three-week Research Training Group (RTG) Summer Program on multiscale modeling and analysis will consist of 5-6 short courses in the first two weeks and a workshop on the last week that aims to give an overview of the current research activities in multiscale computation. This program main organizers are: Kathy Davis, Bjorn Engquist, Richard Tsai and Lexing Ying (all from UT Austin).

■ THE UTEN CORNER | UTEN@Portugal visits Texas

During April 7-11, 2008 UTEN@Austin received the following visitors representing UTEN@Portugal: José Mendonça, UTEN Director@Portugal and Professor, University of Porto and President, INESC Porto; Maria Oliveira, University of Porto; Maria José Francisco, Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisbon; and Ana Paula Amarim, TecMInho, University of Minho. Also included in the visit were Marco Bravo, Ministry of Science, Technology, and Higher Education; and Pedro Madeira, Executive Director, CoLab@Portugal (see photo). Topics for UTEN Planning Sessions included discussions on Portugal's S&T commercialization challenges, needs, and concerns especially with regards to being successful in the US market.

Visits to UTEN partners in Texas included:

- In Austin - IC2 Institute (www.ic2.utexas.edu), Austin Technology Incubator, UT-Austin Office of Technology Commercialization, and Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce (www.austinchamber.com)
- In Dallas - UT-Dallas' Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (<http://innovation.utdallas>) and Office of Technology Commercialization, and Arts & Technology Institute (<http://atec.utdallas.edu>).
- In San Antonio - UT-San Antonio's Center for Innovation and Technology Entrepreneurship (<http://business.utsa.edu/entrepreneur>), INCELL Corporation (www.incell.com), and TEKSA (www.teksa.net).

During these visits Portugal UTEN met with faculty and business professional experts that will work with UTEN in Texas and visit Portugal to provide advice, mentoring, internships, and US networking opportunities concerning such issues as US IPR, technology marketing, university-industry partnerships in technology commercialization, bootstrapping and Business Angel Funding, technology valorization and business development, and technology forecasting. Discussions also focused on (1) developing value-added Internship Positions for select Portuguese Tech Transfer Managers and Staff from universities, incubators, and research parks, and (2) business development opportunities for select Portuguese entrepreneurs and start-up companies. The overall goal of the UTEN program is to promote the development of new competencies and the internationalization of Portuguese Technology Transfer Offices. For more information on UTEN's activities send an email to jmendonca@nescporto.pt.



UTEN@Portugal Team, Pedro Madeira (UTAustin | Portugal Executive Director) and Marco Bravo (MCTES) attend a meeting in Austin, Texas

■ ONGOING Educational Opportunities

Digital Media:

FUTURE PLACES 2008 - October 7th-19th, Edifício Douro, Porto

The call for entries is now open and includes a call for synopses for a new 'creative residency program' for which academic affiliation is not required. Make sure you check <http://futureplaces.org> or www.utaustinportugal.org for information on how to apply for both calls.

Short Course on "Digital Transformation of the organizations" with Gary Chapman - July 14th -July 19th - University of Porto, Porto

To know about the topics and reading list for this workshop please visit www.utaustinportugal.org. To apply for this workshop (there is a limited number of places) send an email to sofia.santos@fct.mctes.pt or palves@nescporto.pt with your name, occupation, short CV and a motivation letter (In English and max. 150 words) until June 30th.

ZON Award for Creativity in Multimedia - Deadline for entries: October 3rd

The competition is only open to Portuguese candidates and is divided in three areas: Applications, Content and Short films. The deadline for the submission of works is October 3rd at 6:00pm (Portuguese time). To know more about the award, go to <http://www.utaustinportugal.org/Events.aspx?event=160> or to <http://premio.zon.pt>.

Advanced Computing:

First UT Austin | Portugal Workshop on Computational Engineering: Fluid Dynamics - July 10th - 11th - At IST, Lisbon

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.

For more information go the workshop's official site <http://cemat.ist.utl.pt/cfd/>.

Summer Supercomputing Workshop presented by TACC - July 14th-18th - At U.Coimbra, Coimbra

The Supercomputing Summer Workshop (given by the Texas Advanced Computing Center - TACC) will happen in the middle of July in Coimbra. This workshop will focus on such topics as: the revision of the hardware and software of all TACC resources; the development parallel programs with OpenMP and MPI; the usage of data analysis software and systems; among others.

For more information and registration please go to the workshop's official website <http://cfc.fis.uc.pt/events/tacc2008/>. Registration for this Summer Workshop ends by June 30th and there are a limited number of openings available.

Useful links

www.utaustinportugal.org
www.ati.utexas.edu

www.ftc.mctes.pt
www.austin-chamber.org

www.utexas.edu
<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.