

COLABSQUARE

UT Austin | Portugal INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORY FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, CoLab



Welcome Note from CoLab@Austin Mathematics Director

Our involvement with the CoLab community continues to build and strengthen in both opportunities for exchange and real research results. We began our collaboration with a workshop held here in Austin last fall. At the moment, we are planning an even larger and more applied workshop with the help of our Portuguese colleagues to be held in the Institute for Computational Sciences and Engineering next spring on the topic of imaging, modelling and visualization in multiscale biology.

An important part of our CoLab framework is PhD and post doctoral fellowships and undergraduate exchange programs. We have been fortunate to host here at UT Austin several visiting postdoctoral researchers and visiting faculty members to allow the exchange of ideas and expertise. Also, for the first time, we invited undergraduates to attend a three-week summer program on multiscale modeling and analysis sponsored by the National Science Foundation, where they were housed in a dormitory on campus and could experience student life at the University of Texas. Perhaps some of these students will go on to earn their PhD through a CoLab Dual Degree Program. This degree path was inaugurated this fall by a student who was admitted under a pilot program to get the ball rolling.

This fall we are busy finalizing plans for the 2009 CoLab Mathematics Summer School, an annual event held in Portugal that brings together students and faculty to focus on a particular research area. This past summer, the topic was dynamical systems with particular emphasis on pure and applied Hamiltonian dynamics. For 2009, we have designed a program to highlight kinetics and statistical methods for complex particle systems. This is sure to be a fruitful environment for research collaboration as it will be followed by a one week conference featuring talks at an even more advanced level.

As you can see, many exciting developments are in the works for CoLab Mathematics. We thank everyone who has contributed to our ongoing so far and invite each of you to stay tuned as we expand and develop ongoing collaborations.

Luís Caffarelli

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- **CONFERENCE WITH PROF. DARIUS MAHDJOUBI ON PARADIGMS OF INNOVATION AND ACTION BUSINESS PLANNING** – November 7th – Library's Auditorium at FCT/UNL – Monte da Caparica, Portugal – For more information visit: www.utaustinportugal.org
- **ARTECH 2008 - 4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DIGITAL ARTS (DIGITAL MEDIA)** – November 7th -8th – Portuguese Catholic University - Porto, Portugal – For more information please visit: <http://artes.ucp.pt/artech2008/index.html>.
- **I CONFERÊNCIA, JORNALISMO DE INVESTIGAÇÃO E NOVOS MEIOS TECNOLÓGICOS (DIGITAL MEDIA)** – November 7th – Auditorium of the Museu das Comunicações – Lisbon, Portugal – For more information visit: www.jornalismoe-tecnologia.com
- **PEOPLE-POWERED MEDIA [UN]WORKSHOP (DIGITAL MEDIA)** – November 8th – Ruiz Branch Library – Austin, Texas – For more information please visit: <http://texascommunitymedia.org/unworkshop>.
- **IV ENCONTRO DE BLOGUES: BLOGUES E CULTURA (DIGITAL MEDIA)** – November 14th- 15th – Portuguese Catholic University – Lisbon, Portugal – For more information please visit: <http://www.ucp.pt/site/custom/template/ucptplfac.asp?SSPAGETID=1566&lang=1&artigoID=6261>
- **SC08: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING, NETWORKING, STORAGE AND ANALYSIS (ADVANCED COMPUTING) –** November 15th – 21st – Austin Convention Center – Austin, Texas – For more information please visit: <http://sc08.supercomputing.org.org>
- **PORTUGAL TECNOLÓGICO 2008** – November 18th-23rd – FIL (Feira Internacional de Lisboa) – Lisboa, Portugal – For more information please visit: <http://www.portugaltecnologico.fil.pt/index2.html>.
- **UT AUSTIN | PORTUGAL PROGRAM ERC MEETING (ALL AREAS)** – November 20th – FCT – Lisbon, Portugal.
- **FÓRUM CIÉNCIA VIVA** – November 22nd-23rd – FIL (Feira Internacional de Lisboa) – Lisboa, Portugal – For more information please visit: <http://www.cienciaviva.pt/forum/8forum/>.

■COLAB News Center

CoLab R&D Projects Call receives 28 proposals



The UT Austin | Portugal Program (CoLab) has recently closed the call for Research & Development Projects in the areas of Digital Media, Advanced Computing and Mathematics. CoLab received a total of 28 proposals distributed by the different areas.

These proposals will now be evaluated by a panel of UT Austin's representatives, chaired by Bob Peterson, Associate VP for Research at UT Austin. The chosen proposals will be announced soon. The call received project proposals from the various universities in Portugal, which, as stated by the Program's Executive Director, Pedro Madeira "shows the large scope of this Program and the interest that it creates in companies and institutions all over the country".

If you have any questions regarding this matter send them directly (in English) to the directors of your interest area: dm.colab@fct.mctes.pt (for Digital Media), ac.colab@fct.mctes.pt (for Advanced Computing) and math.colab@fct.mctes.pt (for Mathematics).

■FUTURE PLACES COVERAGE

FUTURE PLACES: a 13 day celebration of Digital Media in Porto

The festival **FUTURE PLACES** brought Digital Media to the most emblematic places in Porto, such as Fundação de Serralves, Casa da Música, Passos Manuel, Maus Hábitos, the University of Porto, among others.

FUTURE PLACES, took place from October 7th to October 19th. The festival was comprised of workshops, conferences, panels, concerts, performances, exhibitions and parties. The inaugural event happened on October 9th at the Salão Nobre of the Reitoria building at the University of Porto and was followed by a welcome reception at Casa da Música, with the performance of renowned musician BJNilsen.



The festival had world renowned speakers and workshop instructors such as Philip Dean, former Director of the Media Lab of the University of Art and Design in Helsinki, Steven Devleminck, Director of the Transmedia program of Hogeschool Sint-Lukas in Brussels, Caroline Frick, founder of the Texas Archive of the Moving Image, Mike Harding, the U.K. Ambassador to the Kingdoms of Elgaland-Vargaland, and Ana Nassar of the Museu da Pessoa (Museum of the Person), in Brazil, among others.

The Awards Ceremony happened on October 11th at the exhibition site in the Reitoria building of University of Porto. It was presented by the university's rector, Prof. Dr. José Marques dos Santos and the chairman of the competition's jury, Geoff Marslett. Also present were the Secretary of State for Science and Technology and Higher Education, Manuel Heitor, CoLab's Digital Media co-Directors, Artur Pimenta Alves and Nuno Correia and the festival's organizing committee, Heitor Alvelos and Fátima São Simão, as well as dozens of attendees.



Foto: Lúcia Barroso

Foto: Lúcia Barroso

■ Filipe Pais wins FUTURE PLACES with "Living Room Plankton" installation



First Place – Filipe Pais



Second Place – Rodolfo Quintas

The installation "Living Room Plankton", by Filipe Pais, has taken the first prize in the FUTURE PLACES international competition for the best work in Digital Media. This project beat out around other 30 finalists from such countries as Brazil, Portugal and the United States.

Filipe's installation allows for the visitor's interaction with the process of growth and daily routine of an artificial organism. The organism is a sphere, a sort of vegetable with an organic feel to it, whose image is projected on a wall and it changes as the sounds produced by the user also change.

The jury, composed by Geoff Marslett, from UT Austin, Philip Dean, from Media Lab of the University of Art and Design Helsinki and André Rangel, from the Portuguese Catholic University, has also awarded two second prizes, to Rudolfo Quinta's "Burning the Sound", a performance about the visual amplification of sound under the theme of nature and the rituals and relationships that these establish with power and control, and to Shlomit Lehavi for the installation "Time Sifter", which suggests time travelling through movement, space and sound.

The jury also awarded a few honorable mentions: to Marta Calejo's "Time Anchorage", to Rui Penha's "Digitopia", to Mónica Mendes "Loev", to Rui Coelho's short films and to Muge Belek and Frederico Fialho's "Biophotonic Avatar".



Second Place – Shlomit Lehavi

■ Caroline Frick opens conferences at FUTURE PLACES

The Festival FUTURE PLACES was also made out of a series of conferences and panels that introduced and discussed the most important issues in the Digital Media world nowadays, in particular when it comes to its contribution to the development of local cultures. The conferences started on October 9th, at the inaugural session that occurred in the Reitoria building of the University of Porto, where Caroline Frick and Ana Nassar both presented their work.

Frick, founder and executive director of the Texas Archive of the Moving Image, talked about the value of digital technology in the increasing access to archival media product – from home movies and industrial films to educational videos and training footage. In Caroline's perspective "these films, along with more mainstream commercial media material, encourage new understandings of local, regional and national cultures around the world".

She used the Texas Archive of the Moving Image as a case study for these issues.

The festival also saw conferences and panels presented by a series of well known digital media players, such as Ana Nassar, who talked about the Museum of the Person, BJNilsen, MSC Harding and Heitor Alvelos (work processes in field recording and digital music composition), Stephan Baumann on his recent research on gathering of urban signals for well-being, Pedro Leão on CCRE, an online platform for urban reinvention, Steven Devleminck on Transmedia program, António Câmara on YDreams and national strategies for the development of Digital Media, Philip Dean on MediaLab Helsinki program and projects and Pedro Custódio on the SHIFT conference. FUTURE PLACES also held a MAPA event, an open forum led by representatives of Portuguese universities about the theme of "how Portuguese Education is handling digital media". and participatory music events at Casa da Música (The Impromptu All-Stars Orchestra) and C.C.Stop (The Start! Collective).



Caroline Frick gives her presentation at the inaugural session of FUTURE PLACES

■ PARTICIPANT Surveys Reveal FUTURE PLACES Workshops' Success



One of the workshops in motion

Another visible success of FUTURE PLACES was the workshops that took place during the festival. The reviews sent by the attendants have been very enthusiastic, as participants from a variety of backgrounds described how the short classes gave them the opportunity to explore new design ideas, network, and learn from experts. Anonymous surveys from the Introduction to Arduino and Interface Design for Mobile Devices workshops showed the different ways in which participants benefited from the experiences, and also offered some suggestions for future workshop topics.

Students learned about the physical computing platform Arduino in a two-day workshop led by Alex Zivanovic and Andrea Piccolo of consulting firm Tinker.it!, which specializes in Arduino training. Participants included secondary school and college instructors, programmers, multimedia designers, and graduate students. All were very positive in their feedback, and several specifically cited the unique opportunity the workshop offered in allowing them to experiment with the hardware under the guidance of experts. Additionally, about half of the Arduino surveys praised the workshop as a great occasion to make contacts with other people in related fields and share ideas.



One of the workshops in motion



Participants in the Interface Design for Mobile Devices workshop were similarly pleased, reporting that they enjoyed the practical and hands-on nature of the meetings, and also valued the opportunity to meet others in this emerging communications field. The workshop was led by experienced instructor Mónica Mendes, who teaches multimedia courses at the University of Lisbon, and Nuno Correia, a researcher and professor in the Computer Sciences Department at the New University of Lisbon. One participant mentions that "It did open my mind to a new field--making a product that works with mobile devices" as another points out that "We did some design for mobile applications and it was important to see everyone's ideas and [think about] how I can improve my own work".

For more information please visit the Festival's official website www.futureplaces.org.

- By Karen Gustafson (FUTURE PLACES organizing committee)

■ UT AUSTIN students find success at U.Frame festival



The first edition of the U.Frame festival awarded two of the main prizes to UT Austin students participating under the cooperation of the CoLab Program. Marianela Vega Oroza won the Best Documentary Award with "Conversations II" and Nazanin Shirazi's "Red Wednesday" took home the Audience Award.

The U.Frame festival is the first of its kind organized by the University of Porto and it was created as an initiative of the Communications Degree at the university. Simultaneously with the University of La Coruña, the festival aimed to create a bridge among the different degrees in the audiovisual and multimedia fields at a world level, by promoting the creativity of university students.

The event that took place from October 1st to 5th at the facilities of the Communications Degree of the University of Porto, the Almeida Garrett Library and the bar Plano B brought together works from 14 different countries and according to Marianela Oroza (winner of the Best Documentary Award) "It was great for all of us to show our films to an international audience and get to watch several films from different parts of the world, as well as meeting some of the filmmakers."

For more feedback from UT Austin participants at U.Frame please visit <http://colab.ic2.utexas.edu/dm/> and for more information on U.Frame festival please log on to <http://www.uframe.org/>.

■ MATTHEW PAYNE (UT AUSTIN) gives series of lectures in Portugal

During end of October Matthew Payne, a doctoral student in the Department of Radio-TV-Film at UT Austin, gave a series of lectures at University of Porto and at the New University of Lisbon to classes of undergraduates as well as graduate students.

According to Payne, "the presentations were based on a wide-range of new media research projects, from military blogging practices, to repurposing video game content, to examining the James Bond franchise across entertainment mediums".

Payne, whose research focuses on the social impacts of communication technologies and new media, video games and alternative media practices, presented at four different venues in Portugal. In Porto, he presented "Video Games and Social Science Research" at the School of Computer Science and at the School of Engineering at U.Porto, on October 20th. In Lisbon, he introduced "The Challenges of Milblogging and Online Journalism" (<http://revistan.org/2008/10/27/novas-regras-influenciam-conteudo-dos-blogues-militares-americanos/> - article in Portuguese) and "Genre and Media Crossing as Remediation: From James Bond's Technothrillers to Videogames" at the Faculty for Social Sciences and Humanities on October 23rd.



■ PROF. CHELIKOWSKY (UT Austin) speaks at Advanced Computing workshop at UMinho

Prof. Chelikowsky (UT Austin) was invited by the University of Minho to be a keynote speaker at the First Portuguese Workshop on Functionally Graded Materials. This workshop took place at the Azurém Campus of the university, located in Guimarães, on October 9th and 10th. The main goal of this first workshop was to join knowledge (researchers), available laboratory facilities and, most of all, to promote the exchange of ideas and expertise in order to create a National/International network of researchers and industries within the frame of functionally graded materials.

■ WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AUSTIN?

[Un]Workshop gives power to the People's Media

We all know that nowadays the media doesn't belong to a small group of people. Today, we can all use the free very accessible tools to produce and distribute all sorts of information. To talk about these changes and hear from the community that now produces media content, a free event, called A People Powered Media [un]Workshop, will be held on November 8 at the Ruiz Branch of the Austin Public Library.

The [un]Workshop, hosted by the Greater Austin Community Media Action Group, is scheduled from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and is an "unconference" created to explore community media and how it can be a tool for information, organization, and action. In the morning, attendees will generate the agenda, the sessions and the discussion.

The [un]Workshop will consist of two tracks with as many as 18 half hour sessions. Possible session topics include blogging and podcasting, citizen journalism, communications and media policy, and community broadcasting.

The Admission to this event is free, but space is limited, so the organization is encouraging people to register in advance at: <http://media-unworkshop.eventbrite.com/>.

For more information on this event please visit the website: <http://www.texascommunitymedia.org/unworkshop>.

■ THE UTEN CORNER

UTEN@AUSTIN VISITS PORTUGAL

In early October, the UTEN@Austin team consisting of Dr. David Gibson, Director; Cliff Zintgraff, Program Manager; and Prentiss Riddle, UTEN CoLab Liaison, visited Portugal as part of the CoLab yearly board meeting. In addition to that meeting, visits were made with technology transfer officers and entrepreneurs to further the goal of a sustainable technology transfer system in Portugal.

Visits were made with Maria José Francisco, Instituto Superior Técnico (IST); Maria Oliveira and and Fátima Ramalho, UPIN, University of Porto; and Clara Gonçalves, UPTEC, University of Porto. In Lisbon, UTEN visited with entrepreneurs from CarCrash, Albatroz, OpenCell, Wizi, Bioalvo, Maeil Consulting, Alfama, and vectrLab. In Porto, UTEN visited with Fluidinova, MOG Solutions, Ideia.M, EWEN, Bluemater and Tomorrow Options. Numerous steps were taken to advance training and to assist Portuguese entrepreneurs in their ventures.



Maria José Francisco from IST and Décio Bento of Albatroz during a UTEN visit to IST

■ ONGOING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Digital Media:

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN AUSTIN COMPANIES

The internship program has officially begun. Those interested in internships must complete the application process which is described on the internship web page at <http://colab.ic2.utexas.edu/dm/internships/>. Applications may be submitted at any time, but the minimum time for processing and placement is 4 months, so those interested must plan ahead.

Internships will last a minimum of 6 weeks, and interns will be placed at digital media companies in Austin. During their time in Austin, interns will not only have the opportunity to learn about the digital media industry through their internship assignment, but will also be able to participate in professionalization and leadership training with University of Texas students enrolled in the Digital Media Leadership Program.

Useful links

www.utaustinportugal.org

www.ati.utexas.edu

www.fct.mctes.pt

www.austin-chamber.org

www.utexas.edu

www.ic2.org

<http://colab.ic2.utexas.edu/dm/>

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