

UT Austin | Portugal INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORY FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, CoLAB


■ Welcome Note from CoLab@Austin Principal Investigator

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this issue of COLABSQUARE. The second year of CoLab has produced many successful collaborative activities and partnerships. The momentum generated by these activities and partnerships resonates well and likely foreshadows major accomplishments in year three.

Last month the CoLab External Review Committee met in Lisbon for the second-year program evaluation (see below for additional comments). As a member of the CoLab board of directors, I was privileged to participate in the meeting with the review committee, CoLab program directors, FCT representatives, and individuals attending on behalf of collaborating Portuguese universities. It is my sense that the meeting was very productive and went a long way in increasing and promoting communication among all of the involved parties at the meeting. If the CoLab activities outlined for year three proceed according to plan, year three should be very exciting and result in significant progress in the numerous proposed collaborations. Indeed, I would like to see an acceleration of activities now that a cooperative foundation has been firmly established.

In mid-2008 the FCT posted an initial call for research proposals that would involve collaborations between researchers in Portugal and UT Austin. In particular, the proposals were to be created by researchers in Portugal in collaboration with research partners at UT Austin. I am pleased to report that 28 research proposals were submitted for funding consideration. Seventeen of the research proposals emanated from the Digital Media component of CoLab, seven from Advanced Computing, and four from Mathematics. One of my CoLab responsibilities is serving as chair of the research proposal evaluation committee. Committee members consist of CoLab@Austin program directors and individuals selected for their expertise in the respective program areas. It is anticipated that the committee will recommend that the FCT fund several research proposals, and that the research activities set forth in the proposals funded will begin as early as next month.

Although academic activities often seem to slow in December due to the holidays, I would like to mention a specific UTEN activity that will take place in Austin. About a half-dozen technology transfer managers from Portugal will spend two weeks in Austin this month. The managers will spend the two weeks attending workshops, initiating networking activities with individuals and incubators, and generally familiarizing themselves with technology commercialization resources that UT, Austin, and Texas have to offer. The visit will serve as a precursor to a UTEN training and mentoring workshop to be held in Porto in January and a series of visits to, and internships in, Texas for individuals involved in technology transfer and commercialization in Portugal.

Robert A. Peterson

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- **FUTURÁLIA 2008** – December 10th–13th – Pavilion 3 at FIL – Lisbon, Portugal – For more information please visit: www.futuralia.fil.pt.
- **I CONGRESSO INTERNACIONAL DE CIBERJORNALISMO** – December 11th–12th – University of Porto – Porto, Portugal – For more information visit <http://cobciber.wordpress.com/>.

COLAB News Center

António Aleixo is the first Portuguese participant in Digital Media's Internship Program

António Aleixo, who participated in the Digital Media Summer Institute, is now interning on Skateland, an independently produced feature film. Aleixo is the first of what we hope will be a number of Portuguese students and early-career professionals placed with internships in the United States through the Digital Media Program.

He will be working in the editorial department for Skateland on-site in Louisiana. More information about the internship program is available at <http://colab.ic2.utexas.edu/dm/internships/>.

FUTURE PLACES winners present work at Portugal Tecnológico

The festival FUTURE PLACES was represented at Portugal Tecnológico's event, which took place from November 18th to 23rd at FIL in Lisbon. The festival winners Filipe Pais and Rodolfo Quintas, as well as Rui Penha, presented their projects at the event.

Filipe Pais, FUTURE PLACES first prize winner, presented his installation "Living Room Plankton". 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.



FUTURE PLACES projects presented at Portugal Tecnológico

Rudolfo Quintas presented "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. Rui Penha's project "Digitópia" was also on display at the event.

Portugal Tecnológico was an event that aimed to bring together, in the place, all the major players in the technologies market, from startups to consolidated companies, as well as public service companies, one of the greatest consumers of technology in the market.



Rodolfo Quintas prepares to perform "Burning the Sound"

UT AUTIN | PORTUGAL represented at Fórum Ciência Viva 2008



Minister Mariano Gago visits the UT Austin | Portugal stand at the fair



The UT Austin | Portugal Zeppelin was one of the main attractions at Ciência Viva 2008

The UT Austin | Portugal Program was present at Fórum Ciência Viva 2008 with a representation of the different sides of CoLab, both academic and corporate. The Program showed a collection of videos of both the Summer Institute and FUTURE PLACES, as well as a presentation of CoLab itself. Nuno Correia had one of his students' projects on display for people to interact with. It was named "The Memory project" and it was presented in a gestures game format.

The Program's industrial affiliates Duvideo and YDreams were also involved with CoLab's space. YDreams brought their product "Bubbles", which was a big crowd pleaser all weekend long. Duvideo had a 6 meter long Zeppelin flying around the fair during the weekend, capturing images of the different spaces on to a screen placed at the UT Austin | Portugal stand.



MIT's Chancellor, Philip Clay, and the Secretary of State, Manuel Heitor, visit CoLab's stand

The UT Austin | Portugal space was visited by a diverse group of people during the fair, as well as government and academic representatives such as the Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education, Mariano Gago, the Secretary of State for Science, Technology and Higher Education, Manuel Heitor, the President of the Foundation for Science and Technology, João Sentieiro and the Chancellor of MIT, Philip Clay.



One of the interactive projects on display at the UT Austin | Portugal space

■ CoLab's External Review Committee meets in Lisbon to evaluate Year 2

The Program's ERC members, together with the Board of Directors and the areas' Directors and Co-Directors met in Lisbon, on November 20th to evaluate the Year 2 of the UT Austin | Portugal Program.

The meeting took place at the FCT's offices and each area, Digital Media, Mathematics, Advanced Computing and UTEN made a brief presentation of the achievements and challenges of Year 2, as well as the plans for Year 3.

■ FUTURÁLIA 2008 will have a UT Austin | Portugal representation

CoLab will be represented at the fair Futurália 2008, an event that will take at Pavilion 3 at FIL, in Lisbon, between December 10th and 13th.



Futurália 2008, a fair for youth, qualification and employment, is the biggest education related event being organized in Portugal and it presents an unique opportunity for students to directly contact with most of the country's education institutions and programs, such as the UT Austin | Portugal Program.

If you wish to know more about the Program and its opportunities, please visit us at the Graduate Training (Formação Avançada) section of the fair. For more information on Futurália, please visit: www.futuralia.fil.pt.

■ CARLOS GUEDES (ESMAE) visits UT Austin

Carlos Guedes (ESMAE) recently visited UT Austin. He went to the Radio, Television and Film and Music schools and did a couple of lectures on both schools.

According to Guedes "the exchanges between UT and Portugal should be intensified beyond the programs that were created in Digital Media, and that students from both sides will benefit immensely from this opportunity – be it through short-term stays, entire semesters or academic years, taking classes, doing artistic residencies or even internships."

■ WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AUSTIN?

Portuguese Project wins second prize in international competition at UT Austin

The Project 'Ion Jelly' won the second prize in an international competition for technological based ideas and projects that took place at the University of Texas, at Austin.

Developed by COHITEC, the Project brought together teams from Instituto Superior Técnico and the Faculty for Sciences and Technology of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa in an investigation about the thin and flexible batteries, which can be printed in different materials.

The Project received the second prize on the "Cockrell School of Engineering Challenge Idea to Product (I2P) Global Competition" mostly because of the potential of the technology presented combined with the commercialization plan developed by the Portuguese team, made of Pedro Vidinha, Nuno Lourenço, Emilie Gaudet and João Nascimento.

The I2P competitions are an ensemble of contests of technology commercialization plans in its early stages, taking place around the world. The goal is to identify business opportunities on unique products, using innovative technology and made for very specific and identified markets.

■ THE UTEN CORNER

WE ADAPT WINS 2008 PORTUGAL START COMPETITION

Congratulations to *We Adapt*, a startup venture from TecMinho, University of Minho, for winning the 2008 Portugal START competition. The University of Minho is a UTEN partner institution. The award for first prize was 50.000€ cash, 10.000€ in software and services from Outsystems, and 12.000€ in mobile calls from Optimus.

We Adapt started when Miguel Carvalho, a professor at University of Minho, was challenged by a Romanian student to be her mentor in a thesis about clothes for the handicapped. The idea ended up being developed by a team of four others, that come from such different areas, such as textile engineering, electronic engineering, physics, psychology and others. After three years of studies, *We Adapt* has managed to have developed its first collection of clothes for people with special needs.



We Adapt team receiving their prize at the START competition

■ US UTEN experts meet tech-transfer officers and entrepreneurs in Portugal



Laura Kilcrease and Eli Mercer meeting entrepreneurs at UPTeC

The visit of Laura Kilcrease and Eli Mercer to Portugal during the last week of November can be characterized by three key expressions: discussion, exchange of ideas and cooperation. Throughout this week of intensive work, the experienced Venture Capitalist and the Consultant – both from Austin, Texas – worked together with Portuguese Spin-offs, Technology Transfer Offices and Venture Capital Companies which are members of the UTEN network. The objectives were clear: share privileged know-how and contacts and establish a closer relationship with the North American market.

TecMinho, AvePark, Spinpark, UPTeC (U. Porto Science and Technology Park), IPN (Pedro Nunes Institute), Taguspark, YDreams and IST (Instituto Superior Técnico) were the eight institutions selected for this visit that took place between 24 and 28 November in the cities of Guimarães, Porto, Coimbra and Lisbon. Throughout five demanding days and 25 meetings, 50 entrepreneurs had the opportunity to be advised and mentored by two US experts in the areas of venture capital and technology transfer: Laura Kilcrease and Eli Mercer.

Laura Kilcrease is the founder and Managing Director of Triton Ventures - LLC, a venture capital fund that is used to invest in spinouts and technological enterprises in their embryonic stage. With more than 25 years of experience in the field of technology commercialization, this Venture Capitalist has a great deal of knowledge on the promotion of new opportunities aiming at "growing business around business", as well as in the deconstruction of business models in order to obtain significant results. Eli Mercer, expert in technology transfer, is an adviser at the UTEN network whose job is to get to know the candidates to the internships pilot program starting in Texas in December 2008.

Through these meetings and informal experience exchange, UTEN intends to foster on-the-job training in US and, at the same time, pave the way for cooperation between US and Portuguese Venture Capitalists and Business Angels. Ultimately, the intention is to establish a bridge to the North American market through the promotion of specialized competence training and through the gradual establishment of networks.

■ 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.fct.mctes.pt

www.utexas.edu

www.ic2.org

www.ati.utexas.edu

www.austin-chamber.org

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

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