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PORTUGAL | UT AUSTIN SUMMER SCHOOL IN DISTRIBUTED COMPUTING

■ Instituto Superior Técnico held a Summer School in distributed computing for doctoral and senior undergraduate/master's students.

This Summer School took place at the campus of IST (University of Lisbon), September 6, and consisted of a full day of lectures by renowned researchers on selected topics in the broad area of distributed computing. In addition, students had ample time to engage in discussion with all the participants.

Lecturers and topics

Lorenzo Alvisi (UT Austin): Consistency and performance in transactional systems

Peter Druschel (Max Planck Institute for Software Systems): Mobility and privacy

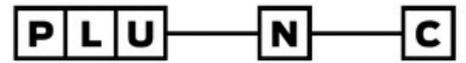
Luis Rodrigues (IST, Univ. Lisbon): Concurrency vs metadata size tradeoffs in causal consistency

Rodrigo Rodrigues (IST, Univ. Lisbon) and Nuno Preguiça (NOVA Univ. Lisbon): Defining and mixing consistency guarantees

Marco Serafini (Qatar Computing Research Institute): Big data analytics - large scale graph processing systems

PLUNC – NEW MEDIA AND DIGITAL ART FESTIVAL CONNECTING ALMADA AND LISBON

■ PLUNC is a New Media and Digital Art Festival that will have its first edition from September 24 to 27. Organized in collaboration with the UT Austin | Portugal Program, with a special focus on interactivity,



PLUNC seeks original projects/ideas/experiments new media and digital art fields, that somehow engage with the audience. This engagement can be direct or indirect - through works that make use of interactive processes or provide interactive results.

The theme for this year's edition focuses on different social and cultural approaches to the approximation, proximity and pathway between the two shores of the Tagus River, more specifically the strands of the cities of Almada and Lisbon, where the festival takes place.

For more information please visit www.plunc.pt

FUTUREPLACES, MEDIALAB FOR CITIZENSHIP: COMING TO PORTO OCTOBER 20-24

■ On its 8th consecutive edition, FUTUREPLACES will welcome researchers, citizens and creatives into a melting pot of possibilities for socio-cultural betterment. All in Porto, October 20 to 24: activities are free and registration happens on the spot.

Highlights this year will include a scientific recital, an exhibition marking the inauguration of the participatory project "Porto Pelo Porto", a wealth of Citizen Labs, the digital media doctoral symposium, and keynote addresses by Paul Stacey of EdTechFrontier and Chris Csikszentmihalyi of the MIT Center for Civic Media.

Preceding FUTUREPLACES is UD15, 4th PhD in Design Forum: October 19 and 20.

UPTec PINC will be the anchor of both initiatives, the program spreading throughout the city to include events in bars, galleries and local associations.

All information can be accessed at:

<http://futureplaces.org/> and <http://ud15.org/>



UD15: PERIPHERY AND PROMISE

■ UD is an annual, peer-reviewed conference series organised by the PhD in Design Programs of University of Porto and University of Aveiro that will be held October 19-20.

This year, UD stands for Under Development: doctoral research in Design currently in progress or recently completed. UD15 invites PhD students, candidates and prospective scholars in Design to share the accomplishments, uncertainties, puzzlements and challenges they face during their research process and to unravel them with other participants. The forum aims to create a pool of common issues and inquiries that have yet to be addressed, resolved and embraced.

For more information please visit <http://www.ud15.org/>

UT AUSTIN DIGITAL MEDIA HOSTS OPEN INSTITUTE

■ **The Digital Media Program at UT Austin hosted the Open Institute from August 2-7.** Thirteen students from U. Porto and UNL attended the intensive residential program, joining sessions with their UT Austin graduate student counterparts and exploring different aspects of the “open” movement. The Institute was organized into themes including open data and access, open software, open government, open hardware and different aspects of open culture. Students made final presentations at the conclusion of the program.

The Institute’s leaders included Nuno Correia of UNL, Valentina Nisi of the University of Madeira, Catarina Mota, a recent graduate of the Digital Media Program at UNL, and Pedro Ângelo of U. Porto, as well as UT speakers Sharon Strover, Phil Doty, Caroline Frick, Liz Gushee and Andrés Lombana Bermudez. U. Porto doctoral student Gustavo Magalhães Pereira, a visiting

researcher at UT, also served as one of the program’s leaders. Drawing on Austin’s active open technology community, the Institute brought in Chip Rosenthal to speak on civic hacking and James Seppi and Andrew Wilson of Texas Natural Resources Information System to lead two mapping workshops.

The week included trips to the City of Austin offices, ATX Hackerspace, WeWork, a co-working center, and the Harry Ransom Center, an internationally renowned archive and library on the UT Austin campus. Participants additionally had the opportunity to explore the city in the evenings and go to prominent Austin attractions including Barton Springs Pool and the Broken Spoke country dance hall.

The Open Institute’s full agenda is here.

<http://moody.utexas.edu/tipi/open-institute>

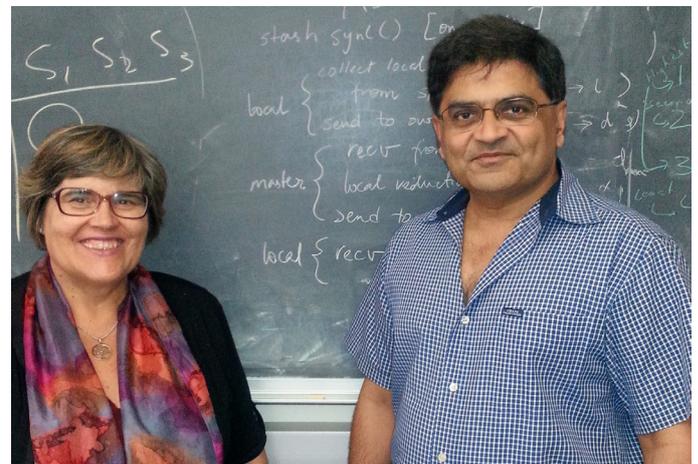
ADVANCED COMPUTING SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

■ **For the 8th continuous year, 15 Portuguese students traded their summer vacations for an advanced computing internship at The University of Texas at Austin.**

The program, International Collaboratory for Emerging Technologies (Co-Lab), is an international exchange between three Portuguese institutions—University of Minho (UM), University of Porto (UP), and Instituto Superior Técnico (IST) — and UT Austin. For four to six weeks, graduate students developed joint research projects with experts at the Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences (ICES), UT’s Department of Computer Science (CS), and the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC).

This year’s group – four students from IST, four from UP and seven from UM - worked on a diverse set of projects ranging from developing applications for heterogeneous computing environments to investigating cardiovascular biomechanics.

With guidance from Donald Fussell, a professor in the CS department, Paul Navartil manager of TACC’s Scalable Visualization Technologies Group, and João Barbosa, a research associate at TACC, UM students developed several projects related to heterogeneous computing environments. The projects covered real time graphics, efficient data, and work distribution on heterogeneous resources such as TACC’s Stampede and Maverick supercomputing clusters.



Prof. Adélia Sequeira with Prof. Keshav Pingali

“This experience was an excellent opportunity to work together with other researchers from our area of study and use computing resources that we simply do not have access to in Portugal,” said UM student John Maia. Paulo Sousa, also from UM, added, “The opportunity to intern at UT was undoubtedly a great privilege. We worked directly with leading experts, and took advantage of today’s best computational infrastructures.”

Ana Torrado and Diana Oliveira, from IST, that are completing their MSc degrees in Biomedical Engineering, worked with Prof. Michael Sacks’s group on subjects related to their interests on cardiovascular engineering, namely on advanced simulations for the study of patient-specific heart valve diseases.

The other two students, Ricardo Xavier and Pedro Ferreira, are enrolled in the MSC of Mechanical Engineering and worked with Prof. Robert Moser's group on modeling and simulation of turbulent flows. "This overall experience was a great one, not only in terms of this work but in terms of meeting different people and acknowledging the different types of projects that can be developed regarding cardiovascular mechanics. All of it made me open my eyes and fully understand the potentialities of this vast research field", said Diana Oliveira.

"The structure and work environment at ICES motivated me to cultivate my self-learning, critical thinking, objectivity, and independence," said Ricardo Xavier. "It also provided experience working on a subject in which I do not possess deep prior knowledge."

David Aparício, a first year student at FCUP, enrolled in the MAP-i Computer Science Doctoral Program working on scalable algorithms for motifs discovery. Pedro Paredes just completed his BSc in Computer Science degree and is continuing for the masters also at FCUP. He has also been working on fast algorithms for subgraph enumeration. Jorge Silva is a Master student in the Networks and Information Systems Engineering course at FCUP and will submit his dissertation on parallel hybrid algorithms for feature selection. Altino Sampaio is completing his PhD at FEUP (PRODEI) and has been working on energy efficient and SLA-based management of IaaS cloud data centers. These four students are working with Prof. Keshav's group at UT on the Galois project, mostly on implementing parallel and distributed algorithms and scheduling strategies using the Galois framework.

"These programs are a valuable opportunity to meet people with different academic backgrounds and diverse cultures," said student David Aparício. "Last year, I worked on a topic that wasn't directly related to my research, but was probably a differentiating aspect of my curriculum that helped me earn a Ph.D. scholarship in Portugal."

To enhance the internship for next year's participants, Adélia Sequeira, professor in the mathematics department of IST, visited Austin to plan the future of advanced computing activities with ICES and CS professor Keshav Pingali. She also collaborated with UT researchers Tom Hughes and Shaolie Hossain on their CoLaB research project titled "MRI-Based Computational Modeling of Blood Flow and Nanomedicine Deposition in Patients with Peripheral Arterial Disease: Insights into Disease Management." "Even though the internships only last about a month to a month and a half, the students make significant contributions to research projects at UT, and in turn, benefit from the collaboration and networking

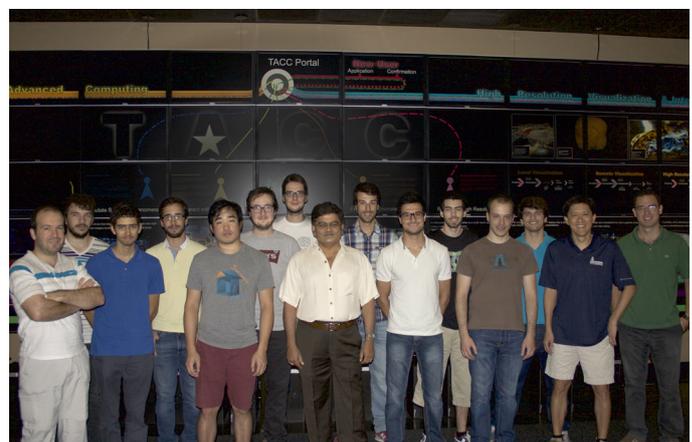
opportunities provided by this experience," said Pingali. "We at UT are very impressed with the quality of the students, and we look forward to continuing these internships for years to come."

The experience not only represented a unique learning opportunity, but also a cross-cultural exchange and introduction to life in the United States. And sometimes the experience is influential enough to warrant a return —just ask former CoLab participant, and current mentor Barbosa:

"In 2010, my research took a major turn after my summer internship at TACC through CoLab. I was able to pursue a dual Ph.D. between UT's CS department and institutions in Portugal fulfilling a cornerstone of CoLab—exchanging ideas through projects that bridge researchers across the Atlantic. It has been a privilege to mentor students during the last few summers and give something back to the program."



Ana Torrado and Diana Oliveira (IST) with Prof. Keshav Pingali



Group of students from the AC Internship with Prof. Pingali

DIGITAL MEDIA PROGRAM HOLDS 2015 SUMMER INSTITUTE

■ The 2015 Digital Media Summer Institute kicked off on May 25 with “Digital Media in Theory and in Culture”, taught at UNL by UT Austin alumnus Chris Lucas. Lucas’s class explored how issues related to media, technology and society have evolved over time and how communication practices have been shaped by mobile, digital and online platforms. The second Lisbon course, led in July by UT School of Information doctoral student Sam Burns, studied another aspect of digital culture - how items in non-text formats, including images and sound, are classified and how communities of users make decisions about how to conceptualize these media objects. The course, titled “Tag You’re It: Vernacular Classification of Images, Sound, and Video,” took a hands-on approach, with the students collaborating with Burns to create user testing interfaces as well as a visualization tool.

In Porto, UT Austin professor Kathleen Tyner led “Media and Information Literacy in a Digital World” in early June. The course explored the concept of multiliteracy and how literacy tools change social practices of media use over time. The class studied media literacy in relation to issues including privacy and surveillance, media arts, game design and Big Data, and examined principal theories. Later in June, Paul Toprac’s “Game Design and Development” gave students the opportunity to learn foundational

aspects of video game creation including ideation, playtesting, user interface design and presentations.



Sam Burns @ Tag You’re It course.



Sam Burns Class

UTEN GLOBAL STARTUP PROGRAM 2015

■ The University Technology Enterprise Network (UTEN) is an international initiative sponsored by the Portuguese government and established by IC² Institute, The University of Texas at Austin, to provide Portuguese technology firms with opportunities for international outreach, acceleration, and business development. In response to the large number of high-quality technology companies found in Portugal last year by the IC² Institute UTEN team, hereafter referred to as GSP, the group restructured its Global Startup Program (GSP) to work with a larger number of firms this year.

From the first pilot programs initiated in 2011, UTEN has helped Portuguese firms realize revenue in the United States, China, India, as well as other nations of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

(SAARC). To date, these efforts represent an overall direct impact of 60 million US dollars to the Portuguese economy of:

- \$22M investment risk capital.
- \$23M committed revenue (sales and distribution contracts).
- \$15M strategic capital (trials).

Every year, the GSP selects early stage and mature Portuguese technology-based companies and accepts a few very early stage companies for incubation, if they possess a promising technology or concept with strong international market potential. GSP provides mentorship and guidance to help the companies advance to the next stage of development and attain commercial success.

The majority of companies GSP accepts into the annual cohorts are at the launch phase, and are focusing on business development and acceleration. These companies are viable, have a market ready product, and possess materials appropriate for the target markets. They already have funding and a successful product, but need assistance approaching global markets and managing global logistics.

2016 Cohort

The applicant process for the 2016 cohort closed on July 17, 2015. During September 21st to the 29th, the Austin team will be in Portugal to conduct final interviews with the applicants. In an effort to assist all applicants prior to final selection, the team has scheduled 2-day visits to three Portuguese cities: Lisbon, Coimbra, and Porto. Day One the team will offer a Workshop on Entrepreneurial storyboarding that is only open to official applicants. Day Two will be devoted to conducting interviews for final selection. (See travel schedule below.) Notifications of cohort acceptance happen in October, companies travel to Austin for a week-long immersion in November, and January is when the business development cohort begins.

Travel Agenda for GSP in Portugal follows.

- September 22 (Lisbon, Startup Lisboa): Entrepreneurial Storyboarding workshop
- September 23 (Lisbon, Startup Lisboa): Interviews to select companies.
- September 24 (Coimbra, IPN): Entrepreneurial Storyboarding workshop
- September 25 (Coimbra, IPN): Interviews to select companies.
- September 28 (Porto, UPTEC): Entrepreneurial Storyboarding workshop
- September 29 (Porto, UPTEC): Interviews to select companies.

A few examples of **selected Companies participating in the 2015 Cohort**

Take the Wind/Body Interact was co-founded in 2012 by Pedro and Teresa Pinto with headquarters in Coimbra. The GSP team worked with Kelly McKowan CEO of Corp1, to establish a Delaware C-Corporation in the USA under the name Body Interact, Inc. in order to more efficiently do business with U.S. based entities.

Take the Wind (TTW) developed its premier product, Body Interact, as the world's first 3D interactive medical simulation platform to train doctors, nurses, medical and nursing students and EMT/paramedics in

healthcare management. TTW completed a Chinese version of Body Interact, and sold tabletop versions of its product to TellYes, the exclusive Chinese distributor. GSP efforts helped produce the distribution contract in China, and TTW staff spent a week there training Chinese sales teams. The GSP team helped TTW establish a trial evaluation with Glaxo-Smith-Kline (Colombia, SA), and identified possible opportunities in Mexico. TTW is evaluating a research proposal from George Brown College in Toronto, Canada, to prepare a longitudinal case study comparing Body Interact to alternative medical simulation solutions across ~500 graduate students. Internationally, The University of Texas at Austin and the University of Toronto have issued a call for proposals from Continuing Professional Development faculty to pilot test Body Interact's ability to deliver certified training to 20,000 plus members of remote/off-site clientele.

During the last six months, Take the Wind signed a distributor agreement with Skillqube in Germany after initial meetings at a SSIH show in New Orleans. Body Interact successfully converted a trial agreement into a multi-year exclusive distribution deal with EMS/iSimulate of Philadelphia to support sales into hospitals, simulation centers and universities nationwide. GSP hosted demonstrations of Body Interact with the American Heart Association's leadership team at IC² Institute. This led to a contract agreement to showcase and demonstrate novel ways to deliver cardiology training at their Orlando, Florida conference in October. Body Interact continues to gain momentum using its interactive touch tabletops and iPad solutions to deliver medical training and education.

Vertequip, was cofounded in 2014, and provides safety



Take the Wind CEO Pedro Pinto demonstrates the Body Interact interactive simulator to health educators from the Seton Hospital Simulation Center

solutions with an industrial grade, turnkey fall arrest for persons working at heights, across industries such as building construction, commercial window cleaning, wind turbine operations and maintenance, and oil and gas mining.

In April, 2015, Vertequip closed a new round of growth funding from EDP Ventures and Rising Ventures out of Portugal, as a result of the confidence their product represents to the funders. The company's COO and Co-founder Pedro Gonçalves make his first trip stateside in October to attend the National Safety Council trade show in Atlanta. Afterwards he will travel to Austin to meet with potential prospects in the Commercial Window Washing, Building/Construction and Safety Equipment Distribution sectors, organized by GSP's business development team. Vertequip is working to validate and document certain ANSI, ASSE and OSHA standards to operate their gear and equipment within the North American marketplace. This effort includes a review of Vertequip's equipment safety labeling and product liability.

IPBrick was founded in 2005 by Raul Oliveira and is located in Porto. IPBrick designs and delivers novel, custom Linux-based IT infrastructure solutions to customers primarily seeking alternatives to Microsoft or Google software platforms. The firm has more than 1,500 customer accounts that use some form of an IPBrickdesigned module or end-to-end solution set. Potential partners include VolP/telephony. Providers are finding it attractive to have an alternative solution to Microsoft, with broader functionality, increased flexibility, and customer-driven customization across the enterprise.

The IC² Institute is coordinating an internal product pilot of an IPBrick module (the IPBrick CAFE) that offers instant messaging, chat, and video conferencing. In parallel, existing IPBrick customers are being canvased via phone and email to ensure they have a thorough understanding of the firm's unique value proposition and of the elements which differentiate IPBrick from incumbents in the market. This will allow them to gauge and grade its capabilities to sell in US accounts either directly or via channel. This research will be followed with an aggressive North American marketing campaign.

2east developed a proprietary drink delivery backpack system to promote and sell beverages at large festivals, conferences, and events, as well as brand activation campaigns. With current customers such as Lollapalooza (Brazil), Rock in Rio (Portugal and

Brazil) and Alive (Portugal), 2east is well established with key global events and has recently secured its first US opportunity through a contract with a MGM for a major music event, in May 2015. The company's CEO for the United States currently resides in Austin with office space at the IC2 Institute.

ARPublisher creates 3-D illustrations that can be seen on a smartphone, tablet or other smart device with the use of a downloaded mobile app. When a smart device camera is focused on the illustration it picks up "invisible" markers which launch 3-D images on the smart device. As the story is narrated, the images become active, characters move and speak, in the language of preference. Yet, when you look back to the printed picture on the page the activity is no longer visible.

In April 2014, ARPublisher spun out of BInteractive, a software company, in order to capitalize on the expertise it had developed creating augmented reality illustrations. The principals are Narciso Melo, CEO and Dani Barreiro, CFO.

There are a few other augmented reality children's books on the market but most use visible markers (like a QR bar code) in the illustration, which detracts from the experience. ARPublisher's technology eliminates the visible markers, and makes its images interactive with the latest enhancements to their algorithms.

In July 2015 the GSP team helped to achieve a major accomplishment, and register ARPublisher with Ingram Publishing, the world's largest wholesaler and distributor of books. ARPublisher is launching an initial line of children's books based on the tales of La Fontaine which Ingram Publishing will make available through its 39,000+ retail booksellers, and online through Amazon, and Barnes and Nobles Bookstores. ARPublisher plans to take advantage of this visibility and showcase their expertise for augmented reality illustrations to other publishers. They hope to also find opportunities for creating new illustrated content.

The firm is now exploring opportunities to work with other publishers by offering its 3D augmented reality services to illustrate and enhance books on a contract or partnership basis. They plan to extend their product line with games and educational materials. GSP is assisting the firm in meetings with a variety of US publishers and distributors.

LineHealth, formerly PharmAssistant, is an early-stage firm participating in the program at the

incubation level. Diogo Ortega, is its CEO, and Sofia Simões de Almeida its COO. In 2014 they won a major competition with their mobile app and smart pill box to increase patient engagement and adherence to health care regimens.

Through a partnership with Bayer, the firm started product trials with various pharmaceuticals. At the end of February, the firm finished the device prototype, which now functions with and without the associated application.

After initial meetings with U.S. stakeholders Line Health totally redeveloped their value proposition for the US market and identified more potential customers. They then remodeled their smart pill box, changing their name and branding.

Many companies have developed smart pill boxes and

mobile applications to address medical adherence. Line Health's device offers a high degree of confirmation about whether the patient has actually taken their medication, and it is priced much lower than its competition. This tool is especially helpful to hospitals seeking to cut their 30-day readmission rates.

Line Health is conducting a Clinical Pilot with the NeuroTexas Institute. The hospital applied for multiple grants from the NIH and American Heart Association to financial the pilot with Line Health. The company has pitched to the Hill Country Angels and Central Texas Angel Network. There is a potential partnership with Dell in the works.

"The UTEN program helped us a lot figuring out which actors should we talk to in the US, and how can we best market our products. They added an immense value since our first interaction one year ago, as our internal KPI's show." -- Diogo Ortega, CEO

TEXAS-EU BUSINESS SUMMIT & VENTURE GROWTH INITIATIVE

■ **The IC² Institute's UTEN Portugal program and UT's Center for European Studies partnered with the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) to hold a two-day networking and matchmaking event in Austin, April 22-23, designed to accelerate technology startups in Austin and Portugal.**

Field trips, networking, and panel discussions encouraged firms to develop US/EU markets for their products and services. The event's main goal was to deliver measurable business development for Central Texas and Portuguese technology firms. The event, a component of the 2015 Texas-EU Summit, exposed the Portuguese delegation, including representatives from 24 technology companies, 8 technology incubators, and 3 venture capital groups, to the Austin technology cosystem. From Central Texas, in addition to UT Austin's IC² Institute, speakers from 5 venture capital groups, 7 incubators/accelerators, the City of Austin, the Austin Chamber of Commerce, South-by-Southwest, and 2 corporations also participated in the event. The first day included visits to local technology incubators and accelerators (including the Austin Technology Incubator, TechRanch, TechStars, and Capital Factory) to learn about collocating in Texas, finding US commercial partners, and using Austin as a "landing pad" for US operations.

US Ambassador to Portugal Robert Sherman kicked off the workshop on the second day through a pre-recorded video welcome and emphasized how closely the event dovetailed with his overall mission of deepening United States-Portuguese commercial relationships. Three workshop panels gave both the Portuguese delegation and Austin-based tech and VC firms

the opportunity to gain practical knowledge about entering the European and United States markets and how to obtain startup capital. Portuguese Ambassador to the United States, Nuno Brito, addressed the workshop via Skype to applaud the Institute's transatlantic partnership with Portugal and urge attendees to use his trade attaché and other programs of his Washington office to strengthen business development between Central Texas and Portugal. UTEN Scientific Director José Mendonça, and Ireland's Consul-General in Austin, Adrian Farrell, closed the event with summary remarks about the importance of international trade and investment. Other speakers included Kevin Johns, Director of Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services for the City of Austin; Michele Skelding, Senior VP of Global Technology and Innovation for the Austin Chamber of Commerce; and Hugh Forrest, Director of SXSW Interactive.



Portuguese participants talked with panel speakers and other Texas guests at a welcoming event at Scholz's Biergarten

CONFERENCE ON IP ISSUES IN ICT

■ On Thursday, June 18 INESC TEC hosted a one-day conference on intellectual property issues in ICT.

The Conference IP Issues in ICT, was specifically designed for Academia, and had renowned international IP experts discussing the importance of IP and patents in the area of Information and Communication Technologies. This was one of the initiatives organised as part of INESC TEC's 30th anniversary celebrations.



FOSTERING SCIENCE & INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS: PORTUGAL-USA PARTNERSHIPS

■ On May 28-29, 2015, the International Partnerships - CMU Portugal, MIT Portugal and UT Austin Portugal - held the 1st Joint Conference and Exhibition on "Fostering Science & Innovation Ecosystems: Portugal-USA Partnerships."

The purpose of these events was to showcase the activities and outcomes of the partnerships to Portugal, the commitment of the USA universities, and the strength of the relationships that have been created regarding Education, Research and Innovation.

Under discussion was the relevance of the commitment and the relationships built with American partners, concerning education, research and innovation, and the goals achieved by these partnerships in the creation of new businesses and startups, generation of employment, development of products and services, or the attraction of talent.



Several researchers, entrepreneurs, students and former students connected to the different partnerships gave their testimony during the conference, that was accompanied by a display with some of the most emblematic projects developed under the three programs and that demonstrated the collaborative process between the Portuguese institutions and American universities.

The event took place at Palácio Foz, in Lisbon and was streamed live online.

AUSTIN VISITING RESEARCHER HIGHLIGHTS

■ **Six Digital Media students visited Austin in the spring as official visiting researchers, engaged in everything from preliminary dissertation research to finalizing chapters.** Gustavo Magalhães Pereira of U. Porto continued his work on open government data; he has worked with a variety of prominent organizations on this topic, including NYU's Governance Lab and Code for America in San Francisco. Cláudia Silva of UNL, another continuing researcher, returned to Austin in January to work with members of local community groups dedicated to technology education and bridging digital inequalities, with the supervision of her advisor Joe Straubhaar. Fernando Governo of U. Porto has further developed his research on digital cinema and innovative distribution platforms, and U. Porto's Rodrigo Carvalho, a visiting researcher in 2014, returned to UT to work with Bruce Pennycook of the Butler School of Music and collaborate in a performance showcased at UT's annual event "Ears, Eyes + Feet." Other spring semester visiting researchers included Ivo Teixeira of U. Porto, and André Mourão of UNL, who travelled to Austin to work

with Jay Bernhardt, director of UT Austin's new Center for Health Communication, on a funded collaborative research project, "Mobile Measurement and Motivation: A Feasibility and Pilot Study of Smartwatches for Health in the United States and Portugal."



Cláudia Silva and Joe Straubhaar

UT AUSTIN HOSTS SEVEN EXPLORATORY VISITS

■ **The Digital Media Program in Austin hosted seven short-term exploratory student visits in the spring semester.** Ricardo Baptista of U. Porto, who specializes in training competences certification and connections between specific game designs and assessment methods, arrived in February and consulted with faculty including youth and media expert Craig Watkins of the Radio-TV-Film Department. Baptista later returned to UT in June to begin a stint as a visiting researcher and work on a research project led by Watkins and U. Porto's António Coelho.

Sandro Dias, Madalena Miranda, Ioli Campos, Ilo Aguiar, and Carla Saraiva of UNL and Rui Leitão of U. Porto came to UT Austin in March and April. Leitão, who studies educational technologies, game design, and gamification, met with Craig Watkins and also discussed his work with Denius-Sams Gaming Academy Program Director Warren Spector, Sharon Strover, and Marco Bravo of UT's IC² Institute. Dias's research focuses on second language learning and gamification; he found it useful to

meet with several members of UT's Foreign Language Education graduate program during his week in Austin. His UNL colleague Ioli Campos, whose research looks at news literacy and journalism for children, discussed her studies with Journalism and Radio-TV-Film faculty members as well as with Spector and game development expert Paul Toprac. Campos returns to UT this summer to begin an extended stay as a visiting researcher.

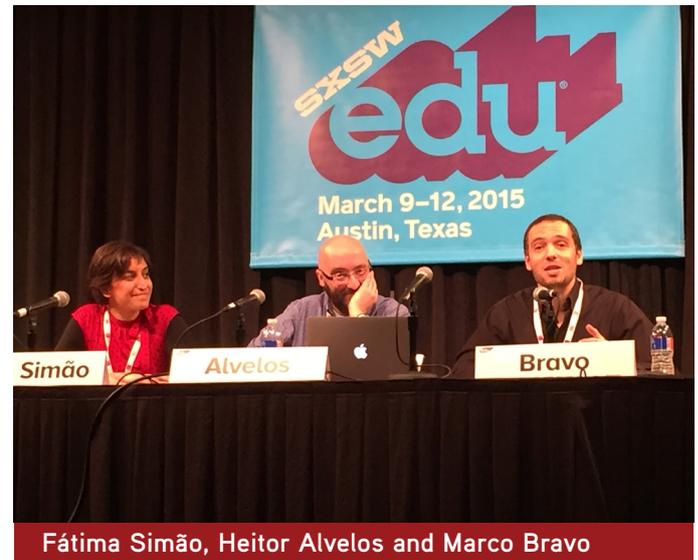
Ilo Aguiar, also a researcher of journalism, focused his meetings at UT around the topics of data visualization, open source, and media ethics. Miranda discussed new documentary forms and changes in cinematographic language with some of UT's top documentary makers including Ellen Spiro and Nancy Schiesari, and Saraiva met with Center for Health Communication director Jay Bernhardt and faculty in the Department of Psychology to discuss how mHealth technologies may aid users with mood disorders. Aguiar and Saraiva both return to UT this August to take part in the Digital Media Program's Open Institute.

DIGITAL MEDIA PROGRAM REPRESENTED AT SXSW FESTIVAL

■ Professor Heitor Alvelos of the University of Porto and Fátima São Simão, Creative Projects Director of U. Porto's Science and Technology Park (UPTEC), joined UT Austin's Marco Bravo in a panel on entrepreneurialism and education at the SXSW festival in March. The panel, titled "Research, Startups, Citizens: All Together Now" focused on the startup community fostered by UPTEC, exploring how the organization's development models have promoted design research, bringing together citizen-led projects, startup businesses, and academics to create a space for cross-pollination and creative growth. It was part of SXSW.edu, a component of the media festival focused on innovative approaches to education.

The speakers represented a variety of backgrounds, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of their topic. Alvelos heads the Design PhD program at U. Porto, São Simão has been a leading member of UPTEC while pursuing her doctorate, and both are actively involved in Creative Commons Portugal and are key organizers of the FUTUREPLACES MediaLab for Citizenship. Bravo, who was previously with the Portuguese government's Ministry for Science, Technology, and Higher Education, is now Project Director for Global Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Technology Commercialization at UT's IC² Institute. The panel was followed by an interactive period of audience discussion.

João Beira of U. Porto, who is pursuing PhDs at both U. Porto and UT Austin, joined a SXSW Interactive panel titled "Natural User Interface Design for Engaging Art and Performance" this year. The panel also featured Jerome Morrison, who produces interactive pseudoholographic displays. Beira and Morrison presented some of their own work and discussed the advantages and drawbacks of various interface technologies including Kinect. Beira also contributed to the spectacular SXSW Eco Light Garden at Austin's Republic Square Park, an interactive public art project.



MENDES AND CORREIA ATTEND UT NEW AGENDAS CONFERENCE

■ Mónica Mendes, an alumna of the Digital Media doctoral program, and Nuno Correia, the program's academic director in Lisbon, visited Austin for the Moody College of Communication's New Agendas Conference on February 26-28. The annual conference features the research of emerging scholars of note, with the primary topic changing every year. The 2015 conference, which was planned by Sharon Stover, focused on immersive media and included presentations on storytelling and game narratives, creating immersive experiences of nature, social media surveillance. The meeting included presenters from the University of

Alabama, Temple University, Georgia State University, the Illinois Institute of Technology, the University of Washington, and UT Austin.

Mendes, a digital media artist and designer who is now an assistant professor coordinating the Multimedia Art degree at the University of Lisbon, presented some aspects of her dissertation research in a talk titled "Creating Immersive Experiences of Nature Using Networked Surveillance." Correia served as a conference discussant. During their stay, the two visitors also met with several Digital Media doctoral students who were staying in Austin as visiting researchers.

DIGITAL MEDIA HOSTS E-HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

■ The Digital Media Program produced an eHealth Research Symposium on February 6 at UNL-FCT. The meeting, which was organized by Sharon Strover of UT Austin and Nuno Correia of UNL, attracted about 60 attendees and brought together students and faculty members from UT Austin and Portuguese universities including UNL, U. Porto, and the Lusophone University of Humanities and Technologies.

Researchers gave presentations on topics including smartwatches for health tracking and interventions, using messages to increase physical activity in dialysis patients, evaluating consumers' understanding of online health information, improving prenatal health communication with male consumers, and integrated personal health records. Other presentations addressed techniques for health information retrieval, training and scientific publishing in the field, and opportunities for future research collaborations.

The Symposium took place during the visit of several UT Austin faculty members who are collaborating on research projects with their Portuguese colleagues. The group included professors Jay Bernhardt, founding director of UT's Center for Health and Communication, Jacek Gwizdka and Yan Zhang of the School of Information, Keri Stephens of Communication Studies, and doctoral candidate Allison Lazard. Lazard is a member of the UT team led by Advertising and Public Relations professor Michael Mackert, who was unable to attend. Portuguese symposium participants included professors Manuel José Damásio of Universidade Lusófona, João Magalhães of UNL, Carla Teixeira Lopes of U. Porto, and Paulo Moreira, senior researcher at the University of Extremadura in Spain and Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Healthcare



Dr. Sharon Strover

Management. Digital Media doctoral candidate Inês Rodolfo also took part in the talks, presenting her research on integrated personal health records. The day concluded with an industry presentation from Pedro Pinto, CEO of Take the Wind, the company behind the cutting-edge 3D medical simulator Body Interact. A full program of the event including slide presentations, research project synopses, and biographies is available [online](#).

UT FACULTY VISIT FOR LAUNCH OF NEM PORTUGAL

■ Sharon Strover of the Digital Media Program and Rosental Alves, Director of the Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas, attended the kickoff of the New European Media-Portugal in late January. NEM Portugal is a developing platform for the discussion of national research on new media

technologies, content production and innovation. The initiative is led by INESC, working with ADDICT Creative Industries Portugal and TICE.PT, and will mirror a larger, existing version that spans Europe and includes major telecommunications and media companies in addition to research organizations.

Alves, who has led numerous UT Austin Portugal Digital Media Summer Institute courses, served as a keynote speaker for the kickoff event, speaking on the importance of partnerships between technology companies and content producers. At the conclusion of the program, Strover and NEM Portugal representatives signed a document recognizing the commitment to future collaboration between NEM Portugal and UT Austin-Portugal.



Rosental Alves

DIGITAL MEDIA DOCTORAL STUDENTS' NEWS

Digital Media student wins a MusicBricks Incubation Award at Music Tech Fest, Sweden

■ **Horácio Tomé Marques, a FEUP student and fellow FCT | UT Austin Portugal finishing his PhD on Digital Media (PDMD – Doctoral Program on Digital Media) won a Blue Vinyl Award — MusicBricks Incubation Award* category — at MTF - Music Tech Fest Scandinavia 2015, 29 - 30 May, Umeå, Sweden.**

Horácio Tomé Marques won the Award with the project FindingSomething SoundingBonding, created and produced together with Francisco Marques Teixeira and Fanny Fazakas (Hungary) in the Hackathon - a MTF program where participants had to create and develop a project in 24 hours, according to some themes and guidelines released by MusicBricks program.

The FindingSomething SoundingBonding project is an audio-visual performative piece for two actors, who expose a narrative conceptually anchored in an inter-relational event between two human beings (a kind of game, based on provocation/perception, using ingredients such as body gestures, body language, reception/perception/cerebral-reaction, iteration). In terms of processes and technologies it is based on gestures/movements and brain electric potentials, where one of the participants uses various gesture/movements R-IoT sensors (IRCAM) and the other uses a brain-computer interface (Emotiv).

The MusicBricks incubation awards are incentives to research and development, configured by grants of €3,000 rewarding innovative and well-founded projects, denoting previous field research, and that have a clear potential for

further development and future real impact in fields of arts, science and technology.

The author was invited to participate and present (with his project colleagues) the next-step of the project development at the next MTF - Music Tech Fest in Ljubljana, Slovenia next September.

Links:

www.musictechfest.org

www.musictechfest.org/musicbricks

* MusicBricks: Musical Building Blocks for Digital Makers and Content Creators, is an Innovation Action funded by the European Commission coordinated by Sigma Orionis SA (France) involving Fraunhofer (Germany) the IRCAM (France), Technische Universität Wien (Austria), The Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona (Spain) and Stromatolite Ltd (UK).

<http://sigma-orionis.com/musicbricks-innovating-music-technology-value-chain/>

http://www.ircam.fr/58.html?L=%5C&tx_ircam_pi%5BshowUid%5D=92&ext=1&L=1

<http://mtg.upf.edu/projects/musicbricks>



Digital Media PhD Program students at TIC@Portugal'15

■ **António Maneira and Luís Frias, of UT Austin | Portugal Digital Media PhD Program, participated in the 2015 edition of TIC@Portugal.**

As part of the team that organized TIC@Portugal'15, António Maneira, Alumni of the UT Austin | Portugal Digital Media PhD Program, managed all the procedures at the Faculty of Science and Technology (FCT), including a session that took place at the FCT's Media Ground room. Luís Frias, currently a student of the Program, was responsible for a workshop entitled "Multimedia Production in the Classroom using mobile devices", in which participants learned how to use and produce applications for filming, editing and publishing content using a tablet.

The TIC@Portugal'15 Meeting aimed to reflect about the use of Communication and Information Technologies (TIC) practices in Education by hearing from educators and teachers that use these tools, through the presentation of their work, and by inviting specialist to share the newest developments in this field.

The event - an EDUCOM/APTE (Portuguese Association of Educational Telematics) Association initiative, hosted jointly by the Faculty of Science and Technology (FCT),

New University of Lisbon, and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FCHS), University of Algarve - was held on July 3rd, with more than 500 participants, 50 presentations and 28 workshops taking place locally and by videoconference in Monte da Caparica (FCT), Faro (FCHS), Braga, Santarém, Évora, Setúbal, Aveiro/Manteigas, Coimbra, Lisboa and Bragança.



TIC@Portugal'15 session at FCT's Media Ground Room.

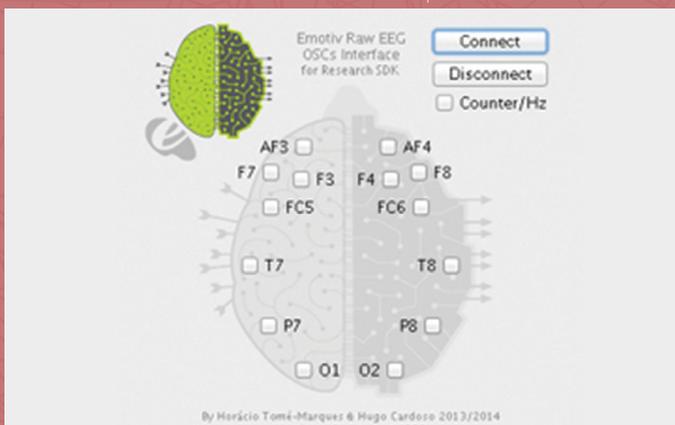
Emotiv offers brain-computer interface app by Digital Media students

■ **Emotiv, a leading international manufacturer of brain technology devices, recently introduced an application developed by Digital Media doctoral student Horácio Tomé Marques and FEUP masters student Hugo Cardoso in its online store.**

The application, **HoMy_EmoRAW**, is a research tool designed and created by Marques in collaboration with Cardoso during Marques's dissertation research, which focuses on the real-time representational forms

of brain phenomena within context of art practice. The application was created to address the needs and problems related to accessing the headsets' brain-computer interface (BCI) raw data, an integral part of Marques's study.

Marques, who is now concluding his Digital Media PhD, initiated the development of HoMy_EmoRAW in 2013 but the application had to progress through a series of required development processes and testing before being released by Emotiv.



Emotiv and HoMy_EmoRAW in use at Musicmakers Hacklab, CTM Berlin Festival 2015 (photo by RUMEX)

CoLab Digital Media student produces award-winning science education app

■ Fourth year Digital Media student Diana Marques was recognized by the American Alliance of Museums for her mobile application *Skin and Bones*, which won the AAM's Gold Media and Technology MUSE Award.

The app, developed for her doctoral work, superimposes virtual representations upon real museum exhibits, allowing the museum visitor to interactively learn about natural history with 3D digital experiences.

Marques is conducting research at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., focusing on augmented reality and the museum visitor's experience. She was recently invited to speak about her work at the National Academy of Sciences.

To learn more:

Skin and Bones: the App

New app adds virtual flesh to Victorian-era bone exhibit, Smithsonian Science News

App review: See Natural History skeletons before they were just bones, Washington Post



Company founded by CoLab students and graduates offers short courses in digital media

■ Bagabaga Studios, a company founded by CoLab Digital Media PhD students and alumni, has launched an innovative collection of short and effective courses in digital media and other tools.

Bagabaga's one-day "Cursos Relâmpago" (lightning courses) cover such diverse topics as video production with DSLRs and mobile phones, WordPress, field sketching, presentation design, JavaScript, and social media for organizations. Bagabaga Studios is a Portugal-based co-op with participants

from many disciplines in digital media production, training and research. Its director is co-founder Paulo Nuno Vicente, PhD graduate from the UT Austin|Portugal Program. Bagabaga is a member of UPTeC's Creative Industries Center (UPTeC PINC) at the University of Porto.

On **Bagabaga Studios' Twitter feed** they cite the short film "15 Frames" by co-founder Rui Avelans Coelho as the kind of work participants can learn to do from their training.

For more information see <http://bagabagastudios.org/>

EVENTS

■ **PLUNC - New Media and Digital Art Festival**
Almada/Lisbon | September 24 to 27 | www.plunc.pt

■ **FUTUREPLACES 8TH edition**
Porto | October 20 to 24 | www.futureplaces.org

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

■ **2015 FCT Investigator Programme**

- Call for Applications: 16 July - 15 September 2015 (5pm, Lisbon time)
- Association of host institution to application: 16 - 30 September 2015 (5pm, Lisbon time)

The FCT Investigator programme aims to support the recruitment of outstanding researchers into Portugal's R&D centres. Open to scientists of all nationalities, and across research fields, this highly competitive programme targets scientists with exceptional track-records and clear potential to develop innovative research.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.fct.pt/apoios/contratacaodoutorados/investigador-fct/2015/index.phtml.en>

MORE OPPORTUNITIES can be found at FCT website: <http://www.fct.pt/concursos/>

USEFUL LINKS

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

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