UT Austin | Portugal
INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORY FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, CoLab

DIGITAL BITS

ISDT Spawns Transatlantic Hackathon Collaboration

Hackers and government transparency advocates will get together around the world Saturday Dec. 4 for the International Open Data Hackathon. This event is intended as a workday for computer applications that refine and display government data to educate the public on a variety of issues. Two speakers from this year's International School on Digital Transformation, Pedro Markun and Daniela Silva helped organize the global event. In addtion, Portuguese digital media PhD students Tiago Assis and Eduardo Morais organized a local hackathon at the Porto hackerspace Hacklaviva. ISDT brought these groups together this summer, and the relationship will continue Saturday as they plan to have a live video link between the Porto and São Paulo hackathons.

The Porto group at Hacklaviva has been working to convert government data about Portuguese ministers of parliament into machine-readable formats and publish this information to the public on the web. They plan to use the event as a public launch of their web project which will include information about each MP. Tiago Assis says he first started thinking about open data at ISDT, and plans to use software developed by the organization of another ISDT speaker, Eric Gunderson to manage the content online. One of the goals of ISDT is to nurture relationships and collaborations that lead to computer-based projects that serve the public good, and this collaboration is evidence ISDT is working toward that goal. To learn more about the International Open Data Hackathon, please visit http://www.opendataday.org/

Design and Computation Speaker Series Coming this Spring

The UT-Portugal program in digital media is pleased to announce a special Design and Computation Series for the spring. We have invited several prominent designers to share talks and/or conduct workshops with students and faculty during the spring semester, 2011. Led by Drs. Nuno Correia (UNL), Rui Prada (IST), and Sharon Strover (UT-Austin), the Lisbon-based series will be a unique opportunity to hear about some of the most interesting, contemporary work in the digital media design field. Students also will have the opportunity to have their work critiqued by the visitors.   More details with dates and workshop announcements will be forthcoming.
The speakers include:

- Ernest Adams, UK
- Anthony Brooks, Denmark
- Panos Markopoulos, Netherlands
- Dan Olsen and Peter Hall, Design, University of Texas at Austin

Portuguese Students Arriving for Spring Semester

The UT Campus and Digital Media program will welcome a record twelve Portuguese students for the spring 2011 semester. Seven members of the Digital Media doctoral program and five winners of the Prémio ZON Creatividade em Multimédia prize will be arriving in January to spend several months in Austin as visiting researchers at the University.

During their stay, the visitors intend to audit courses or register for them as official non degree-seeking students. The PhD students plan to work with faculty from a diverse number of units at UT including, the Department of Radio-TV-Film, School of Journalism, LBJ School, and College of Education. In addition to students from PhD programs in Portugal, winners of the ZON prize are coming to campus as well. Creators of the award-winning short film "Romeu & Julieta, o Musical" plan to enroll as students at the University for a semester and take the RTF graduate course Writing for Film and Electronic Media as well as audit other courses, while winners of the multimedia prize plan to take courses relevant to their work.

Digital Media Program Presents to External Review Committee

Directors of the UT Austin | Portugal Digital Media Program presented its accomplishments from 2009 and 2010 to the external review committee. The committee follows the work of the program and evaluates its progress toward is goals of nurturing digital media in Portugal. The committee acknowledged the efforts of the program and noted its successes in a written response. In particular, it praised the contributions of UT Austin faculty in supporting the new PhD programs in Portugal and identified the Future Places festival , the Summer Institute, and the Zon Intensive Script Laboratory as programs that expand international recognition of Portugal's digital media efforts.

DMLP Seeks Internship Placements in Video, Animation

The Digital Media Leadership Program continues to grow with an increasing number of applications for Spring semester of 2011. The program places interns in a variety of fields including interface design, game production, and online journalism. Currently the program is looking for placements in video post-production and animation, as well as broader multimedia placements for Portuguese interns. The Digital Media Leadership Program matches UT and Portuguese students with employers in Austin to give them experience in the digital media field. If you believe your organization can provide an internship in any of these areas, please contact internship coordinator Jonathan Daniels at jadaniels@mail.utexas.edu.