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DIGITAL BITS

Digital Media Program Announces 2011 Summer Institute Workshops

Students in Porto and Lisbon will be able to explore a variety of digital-media topics ranging from experimental animation to entrepreneurial journalism this summer through the 2011 Summer Institute. Six short courses featuring UT Austin faculty will be offered this summer at U.Porto and UNL.

One of the most exciting developments is the addition of Jeanne Stern to the Summer Institute faculty. Stern graduated with a Master of Fine Arts in Radio-TV-Film from UT in 2007 with an emphasis on animation. She currently teaches at the Austin School of Film and has taught animation and experimental film at Connecticut College. For the 2011 Summer Institute, Stern will be teaching an animation workshop in Porto emphasizing experimental techniques and abstract or non-traditional story-telling.

Several faculty members will also be returning to Portugal. In Porto, UT journalism professor Rosental Alves will offer career guidance in "Entrepreneurial Journalism in the Digital Age." This workshop will identify opportunities for journalists in the rapidly shifting world of journalism. Radio-TV-Film professor Nancy Schiesari will offer a workshop in "Short Form Documentary Production" where students will identify local subjects and produce brief documentaries during the course of the workshop.

In Lisbon, three workshops will delve into aspects of film and film-making. Radio-TV-Film professor Tom Schatz will teach a short seminar on how new technologies have changed the ways stories are told on screen and online. "Convergence Culture and Transmedia Storytelling" will examine these changes in mainstream US film and TV, examining how writers can spread narrative across different platforms. Karen Kocher will continue her work with location-based documentary in "Collaborative Database Documentary." The footage created in this course will be integrated into location-based projects in Google Maps or Korsakow. Finally, RTF screenwriting professor Richard Lewis will share his insights in a special intensive screenwriting course developed for Portuguese students.

This is the fifth year the UT Austin | Portugal Digital Media program will offer the summer institute, which has served over 200 students to date. For more information on attending a Summer Institute workshop, please visit http://utaustinportugal.org/news/digital_media_summer_institute_2011

International Symposium on Online Journalism Provides Global View of News World

A visit to Austin can always provide new experiences, but a digital-media doctoral student got a special opportunity at UT last month. Tiago Gama Rocha was able to attend the International Symposium on Online Journalism while at UT on an exploratory visit. A program of the Knight Chair in Journalism, the UNESCO Chair in Communication, and the Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas at the University of Texas at Austin, the meeting held April 1-2 attracts scholars, media executives, and journalists from around the world.

This year's gathering featured keynote speeches from Vivian Schiller of the US National Public Radio network, Meredith Artley, vice president and managing editor of news site CNN.com, and Madanmohan Rao, editor of The Asia Pacific Internet Handbook in India. Research panels at the Symposium addressed issues including nonprofit journalism, news and mobile devices, the practice of charging users for news content, and social networking sites.

In addition to Rocha, one of the many interns in Austin from Portugal was also able to attend. Cíntia Mendonça Morais, who interns with the Knight Center. Morais said she was particularly impressed that the center was able to prepare to launch a new journal in time for the event. Rocha praised the event because it allowed him to interact with potential faculty advisors.

The International Symposium on Online Journalism has been held in Austin each year since 1999. For more information about the event, please visit the ISOJ website.

U.Frame Now Accepting Submissions

U.Frame, the international academic video festival, is now accepting submissions for potential inclusion in the festival this fall in Porto. This is the fourth edition of the film festival that showcases work made by student filmmakers.

Students have until July 15th to submit original films up to 25 minutes long for competition in one of four categories, documentary, fictional film, animation, and experimental film. Accepted films are also eligible for two additional prices, the jury first prize and the audience award.

The UT Austin | Portugal Digital Media Program has maintained a strong presence at U.Frame. The program sent RTF professor Andrew Shea in 2008 for a directing master class, and Stuart Kelban conducted on on screenwriting in 2010. To date, two of the main prizes have been awarded to UT Austin students participating through the Digital Media Program.

For more information about the festival, please visit uframe.org

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