Program to Proceed 2013-2017: UT Austin | Portugal Digital Bits for November

1 message

UT-Austin | Portugal Digital Media Program <updates@utaustinportugal.org>   Fri, Nov 9, 2012 at 4:00 PM

UT Austin | Portugal
INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORY FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, CoLab
DIGITAL BITS

MOU Signed: Program to Continue to 2017

A new memorandum of understanding was recently signed in Lisbon between the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) and UT Austin. The new agreement recognizes the considerable accomplishments of the program during its first five years and ensures the continuation of the UT Austin | Portugal Program through 2017. The recent MOU specifies that UT Austin | Portugal will receive € 2 million in support per year, with the funds divided among the principal programs at UT and partner institutions in Portugal. The program looks forward to continuing support of its growing doctoral programs while also increasing emphasis on joint research projects and entrepreneurship.

FUTUREPLACES 2012 Attracts Crowds

The FUTUREPLACES Digital Media Festival celebrated its fifth anniversary last month! Since 2008, the Porto festival has explored digital media and local culture with exhibitions of artistic work, workshops, panel discussions, and performances. The 2012 edition ran from October 17-20 and was organized by the original team of co-curators Heitor Alvelos and Karen Gustafson and project manager Fátima São Simão, now coordinator of creative industries incubator UPTEC-PINC.

The festival opened with a doctoral research symposium and Citizen Labs, participant-driven projects that addressed different aspects of local culture and digital media. The Labs were more popular than ever this year, and their opening session at UPTEC-PINC attracted a full house.

The festival was proud to host a diverse array of speakers and performers, including internationally known designer Phillip Marshall and designer and cultural activist Miguel Januário. Other guests included the notorious experimental music and copyright activist group Negativland. After one member delivered a keynote address on music sampling and intellectual property, the group presented a concert to a standing-room only crowd at Maus Hábitos, one of the festival's primary venues.

Doctoral Students Present at Second Annual

Doctoral Students Present at Second Annual Research Symposium

Students from the New University of Lisbon and the University of Porto gathered at the start of the FUTUREPLACES Digital Media festival last month to present a diverse array of research projects. The event was well attended and held at the UPTEC-PINC campus. It included presentations on the engagement of library users through digital media; the use of real-time video to encourage awareness of environmental issues; the use of neuroscience to explore emotion and dance performance; and a broad range of other topics. Nuno Correia of UNL led the organization of the symposium and Heitor Alvelos of U. Porto gave the opening keynote talk. The symposium concluded with speaker Luis Francisco-Revilla, a human-computer interaction specialist from UT Austin's School of Information. Francisco-Revilla spoke on how human-centered computing and design can empower users to intensively engage with increasing amounts of online information. For a full list of the presentations, please see the FUTUREPLACES website.

INVITE Research Team Gathers in Oeiras, Portugal

The INVITE: social Identity and PartNership in VIrTual Environments research team met in Oeiras, Portugal from October 1-2 to discuss plans for the next stages of the project. The group included Jorge Peña of UT Austin who with Rui Prada of the Instituto Superior Técnico of Lisbon leads the project. The Portugal team is developing a serious game to study social identity effects in virtual collaborations. The UT team will observe and measure the effects of the resulting social simulation game in Spring 2013. Project INVITE explores the development of artificial intelligence mechanisms to create artificial players or autonomous agents that can perform well in complex social situations provided in games and virtual environments.

Blender PT Conference Call for Submissions

PROBlender, the Portuguese Blender Association, has issued a call for submissions for its 2013 conference, organized with the Catholic University of Porto. The conference, scheduled for April 6-7, is co-chaired by Pedro Bastos, a Digital Media doctoral program student at FEUP. Primary conference topics include concept design, animation, modeling, rigging, interactive 3D, and more. The conference is accepting both theoretical and practical submissions until December 10, 2012. In addition, the conference is holding a Game Contest, with the intention of stimulating the game and digital entertainment industries of Portugal. For more information, please see the site.