UT Austin | Portugal

DIGITAL BITS

Summer Institute Application Period Opens

Applications are now being accepted for the 2015 Summer Institute! The program features several new classes and instructors this year. In Porto, UT Austin faculty member Kathleen Tyner will lead "Media and Information Literacy in a Digital World" (June 4-5, 8-9, and 11) and Paul Toprac, Associate Director of the UT Austin Game Development Program, will lead Game Design and Development (June 11-July 1) in collaboration with António Coelho of U. Porto. In Lisbon, the program will offer "Digital Media in Theory and in Culture" (May 25-June 5), taught by Chris Lucas, a UT alumnus. The second Lisbon course, "Tag You're It: Vernacular Classification of Images, Sound, and Video," will be led by UT School of Information doctoral student Sam Burns from July 6-17. Course details and application instructions are here. [Photo credit: Chris McConnell]

Students Explore UT Austin

UT Austin hosted six exploratory students in late March and early April. Sandro Dias of UNL, who specializes in second language learning and gamification, met with several members of UT's Foreign Language Education graduate program during the week of March 30. Five more visitors arrived the following week, including Ioli Campos, Madalena Miranda, Carla Saraiva, and Ilo Aguiar of UNL and Rui Leitão of U. Porto. Campos, whose work focuses on news literacy and journalism for children, met with Journalism and Radio-TV-Film faculty as well as game development experts Warren Spector and Paul Toprac. Aguiar, also a researcher of journalism,

met with faculty across the university to discuss 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, . Leitão, who studies educational technologies, game design, and gamification, met with Spector, youth and media expert Craig Watkins, Sharon Strover, and Marco Bravo of UT's IC2 Institute.

UT Austin to Host Open Data Institute

An Open Data Institute will be held this summer at UT. The intensive residential program takes place in early

August and will include doctoral students from UNL and U. Porto as well as students from UT Austin. The Institute is designed to be highly interactive and will address a range of topics including open source hardware and coding, access and availability of open data, data collection through crowdsourcing, open data and privacy, and open government. Participants will have the opportunity to network and collaborate with fellow emerging researchers and experts in the field.

UNL Student Visits UT for eHealth Project

Third year UNL doctoral student André Mourão is visiting UT this spring to contribute to "Mobile Measurement and Motivation: A Feasibility and Pilot Study of Smartwatches for Health in the United States and Portugal." The project is led by Jay Bernhardt, the Director of the Center for Health Communication, in collaboration with UNL faculty J. Paulo Moreira and João Magalhães, and Kate Magsamen-Conrad of Bowling Green State. The project has several components, including a comparison of existing devices' capabilities and the development of data collection software, with the aim of storing and mining wearable data patterns.

University Collaborators to Convene in Lisbon
Members of the International Partnerships programs between Portugal and MIT, Carnegie Mellon University, and UT Austin will gather in Lisbon on May 28-29 for the programs' first joint conference. "Fostering Science and and Innovation Ecosystems: Portugal-US Partnerships" will take place at the Palácio Foz and feature presentations of the programs' accomplishments in research, education, and innovation and entrepreneurship. UT-Portugal Digital Media will be represented by UT Austin's Sharon Strover, Heitor Alvelos of U. Porto, and doctoral program alumnus Paulo Nuno Vicente, journalist and founder of Lisbon's Bagabaga Studios, a co-op focusing on digital media production, training, and development. Presentations of the programs' activities will be given on May 29.

New Digital Media Facebook Group--Join Now!

Several doctoral students have organized a new Facebook page for the Digital Media Program to facilitate communication between members in Porto, Lisbon, and Austin, publicize new opportunities, and strengthen the program's growing community. Join now to connect with fellow students, faculty, and alumni!