



ISSUE # 19

MARCH 2014

A Day to Remember

**International
Women's Day**

**Idioms: Why are
They so Hard?**

Costa Rica's Tomato War

Zotero

COVER PAGE



In this month we celebrate International Women’s Day, so our cover page honors all women who share our world. The ILE Post crew wishes all women a happy Women’s Day.

“Being a woman is a terribly difficult task, since it consists principally in dealing with men.”

Joseph Conrad

Picture edited by Eric Herrera from several pictures taken from:
<http://www.morguefile.com/> (A public domain picture repository)

If you have an awesome picture you think could be the cover of one of The ILE Post editions, send it to eherrera@utn.ac.cr. So far several readers have sent amazing pictures that we will be sharing with you soon.

If you want to know what is happening in ILE, follow us in



<http://www.facebook.com/utnile>

INSIDE

- Editorial.....2
- NEWS**
- Multicultural Fair.....3
- ILE Language and Society Festival.....4
- A Day to Remember.....5
- Most Star-Studded Selfie Ever at Oscars.....6
- Gambia to Drop English as “Colonial Relic”6
- US Man Walks Free after 30 Years on Death Row.....7
- Costa Rica 2014.....8
- THE ILE ETHOS**
- Idioms: Why are They so Hard?.....9
- Cooperative Language Learning.....10
- God’s Alliance with Man.....12
- Vox Populi.....14
- 60 SECONDS WITH**
- Eufemia González.....15
- THE ATTIC OF BERTHA MASON**
- March 21st: World Poetry Day.....18
- Costa Rica’s Tomato War19
- Traditional Toys and Games of My Old Costa Rica.....20
- LANGUAGE BITS.....21**
- HUMOR.....22**
- TECHNOLOGY**
- Zotero.....23
- THIS MONTH IN HISTORY**
- It Happened in January.....24
- Famous People Born this Month.....24
- International Women’s Day.....25
- PROVERB OF THE MONTH.....26**
- CONTRIBUTORS:**
- Marco Araya (ad writer)
- Sandra Argüello (column writer)
- Eufemia González (biography contributor)
- Melisa González (article contributor)
- Eric Herrera (photographer, writer)
- Jason Marsh (editorial contributor)
- Beatriz Rojas (photographer)
- José Rugama (article contributor)
- Niki Sims (academic journal article editor)
- Cindy Soto (student contributor)
- Jill Suttie (editorial contributor)
- Aarón Torres (article contributor)



A Happy Life or a Meaningful One Do We Really Need to Choose?

By Jill Suttie, Jason Marsh

"Having a meaningful life contributes to being happy and being happy may also contribute to finding life more meaningful"

Philosophers, researchers, spiritual leaders—they've all debated what makes life worth living. Is it a life filled with happiness or a life filled with purpose and meaning? Is there even a difference between the two?

Think of the human rights activist who fights oppression but ends up in prison—is she happy? Or the social animal who spends his nights (and some days) jumping from party to party—is that the good life?

These aren't just academic questions. They can help us determine where we should invest our energy to lead the life we want. The controversy surrounding it raises big questions about what happiness actually means: While there may be more to life than happiness, there may also be more to "happiness" than pleasure alone.

"A happy life and a meaningful life have some differences," says Roy Baumeister, a Francis Eppes Professor of Psychology at Florida State University. He bases that claim on a paper he published last year in the *Journal of Positive Psychology*, co-authored with researchers at the University of Minnesota and Stanford. They found that a meaningful life and a happy life often go hand-in-hand—but not always. And they were curious to learn more about the differences between the two. Their statistical analysis tried to separate out what brought meaning to one's life but not happiness, and what brought happiness but not meaning.

One of the more surprising findings from the study was that giving to others was

associated with meaning, rather than happiness, while taking from others was related to happiness and not meaning. Baumeister's study raises some provocative questions about research in positive psychology that links kind, helpful—or "pro-social"—activity to happiness and well-being. Yet his research has also touched off a debate about what psychologists—and the rest of us—really mean when we talk about happiness.

Baumeister, though, clearly believes it is useful to make distinctions between meaning and happiness—in part to encourage more people to seek meaningful pursuits in life whether or not doing so makes them feel happy. Still, he recognizes that the two are closely tied. But one piece of warning: If you are aiming strictly for a life of hedonistic pleasure, you may be on the wrong path to finding happiness. "For centuries, traditional wisdom has been that simply seeking pleasure for its own sake doesn't really make you happy in the long run," he says.

In fact, seeking happiness without meaning would probably be a stressful, aggravating, and annoying proposition, argues Baumeister.

Instead, when aspiring to a well-lived life, it might make more sense to look for things you find meaningful—deep relationships, altruism, and purposeful self-expression, for example—than to look for pleasure alone... even if pleasure augments one's sense of meaning, as King suggests.

Multicultural Fair

by Eric Herrera



On March 5th, Programa de Idiomas para el Trabajo (PIT) organized the 2014 UTN Multicultural Fair in Puntarenas campus. Under the high temperature of this part of the county, students had the chance to immerse themselves in a unique blend of conferences, music, workshops, food and dance.

Fernando Villalobos, UTN Pacific Campus Director, and Marisol Rojas, PIT Director welcomed the public and explained the importance of this kind of activities to

promote cultural diversity, along with arts & crafts that represent various cultures under one language, English.

Everybody enjoyed and shared while learning. Some of the activities included in the program were:

- ✓ Afrocaribbean Movement in Costa Rica
- ✓ Multiculture in Education
- ✓ The Mathematic of Culture
- ✓ Costa Rican Folklore
- ✓ Rural Tourism in Costa Rica
- ✓ International Dancing Class



People from the American Embassy in Costa Rica had a stand where they gave information about scholarships, promoted some material and gave away some souvenirs.

The UTN Multicultural Fair team ensured everything was in place and, in brief, pulled together a varied and creative program. People left Puntarenas looking forward to attending next year's event.



ILE Language and Society Festival

by Eric Herrera

On March 14th, English as a Foreign Language Major (ILE) organized a Language and Society Festival. This is the first of three scheduled activities for 2014.

The activity started in the morning with the cineforum: *What is the Problem with the Modern Society?* The movie *Falling Down* was commented and analyzed by moderator Danilo Coto. Mr. Coto has over 20 years of experience as an English teacher, translator, actor and playwright.

In the evening, two extraordinary activities gave the attendants the opportunity to learn from real life experiences in the round table: *Skills and Strengths for Current Job Market*.

Participants in this round table were: Engineer Andrés Valenciano, who has worked as

executive director for Fundación Acción Joven; Elizabeth George, team leader in visual graphics for McKinsey & Company and Adriana Sánchez, former ILE student now



working as a business professional for IBM. People at the auditorium had the chance to ask question related to the work environment in a relaxed atmosphere. The kind of information that this kind of presenters offer is so valuable because they are young successful people that just a few years ago were university students too. One of the key aspects speakers emphasized was that it is very important to look for ways to give back to

the community.

To close the day, Songstress, Performance Activist and Spiritual Healer Silvia Parra shared her work: *Border Crossing: Tale and Songs with the audience*.

March gave the UTN English-spoken community the chance to grow and learn with two well organized extra-curricular activities.



A Day to Remember

by Eric Herrera

A historical ribbon cutting ceremony to officially hand over a two storey classroom building took place, on Friday March 22nd at UTN Alajuela campus.

This 24 classroom facility was designed to be friendly with the environment. In an area of 2060 m², this building will optimize the use of natural resources and reduce energy consumption and environmental emissions following Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) standards. This facility also includes several gardens, as well as accessible ramps for people with disabilities.



President Laura Chinchilla officially opened the UTN new classroom building. After the unveiling of a commemorative plaque, the President took some time to share with university authorities and guests.



Among several honor guests was famous Alajuelense painter and sculptor Edgar Zuñiga Jimenez. Mr. Zuñiga has a prestigious career and trajectory in Central American and Latin American sculpture, and some of his works are located in Europe and Asia. For this opening ceremony, he presented his sculpture exposition: *Columnas del Pensamiento*, a masterpiece that moves between subtle language and expressionism, and between the past and the future.

UTN Chancellor, Marcelo Prieto, and Dean Emanuel González were pleased that this project has been finally completed because the increment in registration the university is having urgently demands it. Both highlighted that this new facility will be embraced and treasured deeply as it will continue to benefit students to come in its pursuit for quality education. This is another milestone development and a dream come true for our university.



(Picture of President Laura Chinchilla taken by Beatriz Rojas. Other three pictures taken by Eric Herrera)

Most Star-Studded Selfie Ever at Oscars

Ellen DeGeneres spearheaded possibly the most star-studded selfie of all time at Sunday's March 2nd Academy Awards. With help from Meryl Streep, Julia Roberts, Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence and even more celebs, the Oscar host attempted to set the record for the most retweeted photo ever. It ultimately took just 33 minutes for the record previously held by a Twitpic of President Obama and the First Lady after his second election win to be broken. With more than a million retweets so far, the picture is pretty epic.



(Information and pictures taken from: <http://www.gossipcop.com/ellen-degeneres-oscars-selfie-photo-stars-oscar-photo-celebs-academy-awards-twitter-picture/>)

Gambia to drop English as 'Colonial Relic'

Gambia will drop English as an official language soon because it is a colonial relic, President Yahya Jammeh has said, without indicating which language the tiny West African country would use in its place.

"We no longer believe that for you to be a government you should speak a foreign language. We are going to speak our own language," Jammeh said in an address in English last week that was broadcast on Tuesday.

Gambia's 1.9 million people speak several African languages including Mandingo, Fula and Wolof, the most widely spoken language of Senegal, its only direct neighbor.

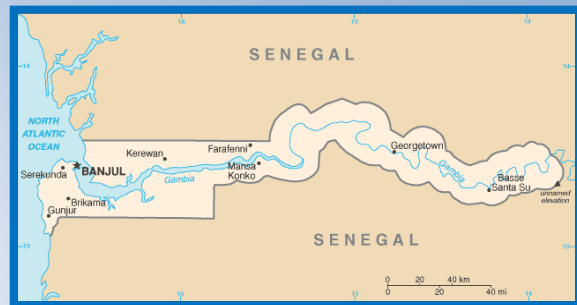
The country gained independence from Britain in 1965. English is the main language of education, but Jammeh said that was no reason to keep it.

"The British did not care about education, that means they were not practicing good governance. All they did was loot and loot and loot," he said.

Jammeh spoke during the swearing-in of Justice Ali Nawaz Chowhan, a Pakistani national, as Gambia's new chief justice. The president, who seized power in a 1994 coup, drew international criticism after he executed a number of prisoners in 2012. In October, he accused the US and UK of fomenting coup attempts and supporting the opposition.

He did not give a precise timeframe for dropping English but said it would happen "very soon".

(source: <http://mwcnews.net/news/africa/37847-gambia-to-drop-english.html>)





US Man Walks Free after 30 Years on Death Row

A Louisiana man who spent nearly three decades on death row has walked free, after prosecutors asked a judge to set aside his first-degree murder conviction and death sentence, citing new evidence in the case that exonerated him.

Glenn Ford, 64, was convicted by an all-white jury for the 1983 robbery and murder of Isadore Rozeman, a 56-year-old Shreveport watchmaker, who was found shot dead behind the counter of his jewellery shop.

Acting on new information that exonerated Ford, a judge in Shreveport ordered him to be released on Tuesday from Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, where he has been held on death row since March 1985, according to Reuters news agency.

"We are very pleased to see Glenn Ford finally exonerated, and we are particularly grateful that the prosecution and the court moved ahead so decisively," said Gary Clements and Aaron Novod, lawyers for Ford from the Capital Post Conviction Project of Louisiana.



Multiple appeals

Ford, a California native who did occasional yard work for Rozeman, was found guilty in 1984 and was sentenced to death by electrocution, which was then the state's method of execution. For three decades, Ford maintained his innocence and filed multiple appeals, most of which were denied.

But in 2000, the Louisiana Supreme Court ordered a hearing over Ford's claim that the prosecution suppressed favorable evidence related to Jake and Henry Robinson, two brothers initially implicated in the crime.

According to the *Shreveport Times*, court records showed that an unidentified informant told prosecutors in 2013 that Jake Robinson admitted to shooting and killing Rozeman.

Last Thursday, prosecutors filed a motion to dismiss Ford's conviction and sentence, saying that in late 2013 "credible evidence" came to their attention "supporting a finding that Ford was neither present at, nor a participant in, the robbery and murder of Isadore Rozeman."

If the prosecution had been privy to the information initially, the motion said, "Ford might not even have been arrested or indicted for this offence."

Caddo Parish Assistant District Attorney Catherine Estopinal declined on Tuesday to elaborate on what she termed "a recent development" that had prompted prosecutors to reverse course.

(Source: <http://mwcnews.net/news/americas/37816-us-man-walks.html>)

Picture taken from:

http://alaska-native-news.com/national_news/10288-louisiana-man-walks-out-of-prison-free-after-decades-on-death-row.html)

Costa Rica 2014

A whole new chapter was written in the history of Costa Rican football on Saturday March 15th, when the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2014 got underway. This year's tournament is just the fourth edition, but the competition, first launched in 2008, has already proved a huge success. Above all, it has given younger female players the chance to show they possess technique to match their elders, and match attendances have grown since its inception as a result. Costa Rica 2014 has been the second edition of the tournament to feature games on artificial pitches, after Azerbaijan 2012. Matches took place in four host cities – San Jose, Liberia, Tibas and Alajuela – with the last two boasting synthetic pitches provided by FIFA.



Previous champion, France, was not able to defend its title as they fell short during the qualifying campaign in Europe. Also absent was USA, runners-up in 2008 and perennial rivals of Germany at every age group in the women's game, after they lost out to Mexico on the road to the finals.

The opening match proved to be a disappointing one for the, who were supported in style at San Jose's Estadio Nacional by a boisterous 34,000 crowd, a record for the opening match of the tournament. However, three second-half goals saw Venezuela claim a 3-0 win. Four days later, Costa Rica lost again against Italy and said good-bye to the World Cup.

THE ILE ETHOS

Idioms: Why are They so Hard?

by Aarón Torres (ILE Professor)



Idioms are considered to be within the periphery of language and not its core. However, through the study of idioms one can learn more about the core. Idioms make up a great part of our knowledge of a language. In fact, as Mel'cuk in Everaert et al 1995 points out, "People do not speak in words, they speak in phrase." He defines an idiom as a multiflexemic expression whose meaning cannot be deducted by the regular rules of the language in question. Idioms then, are complex for they are made up for more than one word and at the same time they are in one sense as a unit. Idioms as Everaert et al states are idioms by convention, and like all conventions they have to be learned and remembered. Schenk argues that only the idiom as a whole can refer, there is no relation between the parts and the whole.

In literature the term idiom has been used as fixed expressions with specific semantic properties. The idiom "to kick the bucket," for instance seems to be very popular, it comes up at least once in readings in textbooks about idioms. Broader classes have been discerned by Everaert et al. First

they found expressions that are not predicative expressions:

- a. At the sentence level: proverbs and sayings like easy come, easy go, home is where the heart is, gimme a break, long time no see, etc.
- b. At the phrasal level: compounds like cranberries.

Second, they grouped expressions that are semantically transparent:

- a. Irreversible binomials: mother and child or sooner or later.
- b. Comparisons: straight as an arrow, strong as a bear, etc.
- c. Light verbs: make a proposal, make a decision, etc.

Third, they classify those expressions with special semantic properties:

- a. Pragmatic properties: ladies and gentlemen, gimme a break, no way, how do you do, best before....
- b. Stylistic expressions: Dutch, kick the bucket, etc.

Fernando (1996) defines idiom as a conventionalized multiword expression, often but not always non-literal. She talks of three types of idioms: metaphoric as the idiom "spill the beans," in which beans has nothing to do with beans; semi-idiom such as catch one's breath, and

THE ILE ETHOS

literal idioms such as on foot, want not, etc.

We must keep in mind that idiomatic expressions like language in general are a reflection of people's beliefs, values, history and view of the world.

References

Everaer, M. et al. 1995. *Idioms: Structural and Physiological Perspectives*. New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc., Publishers.

Fernando, Chitra. 1996. *Idioms and Idiomaticity*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Cooperative Language Learning

by *Melisa González (ILE Professor)*



When you are an English student, you have to take a couple of subjects in which you learn about the different approaches that

linguistics have created to find an effective way for teaching English as a Second Language. I remember that when I was taking one of those courses my professor prepared a huge anthology with all the approaches and we had to read from the obsolete to the newest ones. Each one of them had at least one interesting feature, but the one that caught my attention the most was the Cooperative Language Learning. It is a teaching strategy in which small teams, each with students of different levels of ability,

When a student understands why people in the target culture use the language they way they do; then we as teachers have made a difference.

use different learning activities to improve their skills. Each member of a team is responsible not only for learning what is taught but also for helping teammates learn, thus creating an atmosphere of collaboration and achievement.

There are three commonly recognized types of cooperative learning groups:

Formal Cooperative Learning Groups :

it consists of students working together, for one class period to several weeks, to achieve shared learning goals and complete specific tasks and assignments.

Informal Cooperative Learning Group:

it consists of having students work together to achieve a joint learning

THE ILE ETHOS

goal in a few minutes to one class period.

Cooperative base groups: they are long-term, heterogeneous cooperative learning groups with stable membership.

In my opinion, Cooperative Language Learning is a great method that brings amazing benefits for students in different aspects; it gives them the chance of improving their language skills while learning the real meaning of values such as solidarity, collaboration, team work and self confidence that are fundamental to succeed not only in a job, but in life. Nevertheless, implementing it in a classroom requires some work. First of all, the group must be analyzed to determine if the method is useful for it because the fact that a professor assigns some group work, does not mean that students are a real and collaborative team. Second, the teachers need to establish the skills that will be evaluated, and the techniques and materials that are

going to be used. Finally, the instructor must promote a positive environment in class and monitor their students until they really understand the meaning of team work.

I have used this method several times with some of my friends and colleagues and we all believe that it can be very useful. Activities such as jigsaw, three steps interviews and inside – outside circles are really common when applying cooperative language learning and the positive aspect is that students have some fun while they are learning. Nevertheless, making them understand that working together is the key to succeed while they improve not only their language competence, but their own personal skills is the main objective of this strategy. As I mentioned, it requires some extra work, sometimes the groups are not collaborative enough, but most of the time it is worth it.

God's Alliance with Man

by José Rugama Hernández (UTN Professor)



Taking time to reflect, while jogging in La Sabana, and paying a visit to an inseparable friend, an old tree I frequently lavish with my fearlessness, and in return, I come into the brotherhood of cosmos in which mother Earth, "Pachamama," "Gaia," takes me to... Who am I? Where do we come from? Where are we going? Who is God? The questions we want answered to understand the underlying the perennial immensity of the universe.

God is that upper, perfect, infinite energy, ruling and supporting the universe. He is not a lord or physical entity, as perceived by the collective imagination, which is only in charge of punishing and forgiving human beings and other creatures of the cosmos. God does not act under emotions or feelings; otherwise, we would eternally live in apocalyptic suspense. God moves between certainty and order.

God has created all Beings of Light in the universe, heavenly warriors looking after perfect spirituality while helping human beings. They are the means and channels the Lord employs so that we can live in peace throughout our holy consciousness and free will. These gifts have given us the chance to

act and behave responsibly. It is the same human being, through science, philosophy and religion, the one who has blurred the essential knowledge, and produced bewilderment, skepticism and confusion among humanity.

God's will comes into contact with man's will, granted by the intercession of higher beings—Seraphim, Cherubim, Archangels, Angels, Jesus Christ, Mahoma, Virgin Mary—,then the work is done because Man's will follows; it will not lead.

Many religious leaders consider this compromise with God as a sacrilege or human aberration; however, it is our essence, the highest faculty we have received. Everyone should accept God to understand the reason why we are here. This agreement is indissoluble, unchangeable and prolific since the moment we make it to the end of our lives. Our Lord is a God of agreements who keeps His promises and guides our destiny.

This pact is one difficult predominant decision to make in our lives. That promise may be interrupted, and God's will and man's will become uncertain. If this happens, we become like boats drifting out to an unknown sea, without that spiritual anointing all Christians long for.

THE ILE ETHOS

To enjoy that everlasting heavenly protection, we should connect to that spiritual frequency in our day-to-day activities exercising what it is known as faith. When Christians act out on their faith, the evidence of things not seen is revealed. Faith is the source of Christian's strength, and it is achieved through different ways such as: meditation, worship, praise and prayer.

To live a long life full of peace, wisdom, love, health, happiness and

blessings, we should ask God to help us overcome old habits, and build new ones with the power of His Spirit, directing our steps to become positive people.

We Christians believe God is our ally, and the first step at collaborating with him in this beautiful alliance will guide us under his direction in this world. That is why we should find our stride alongside God, dependent on and secure in Him.

(Taken from: La Prensa Libre: <http://www.prensalibre.cr/comentarios/99571-undiosdepactos-.html> Lunes 03 de Marzo)



(picture taken from:

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Michelangelo%27s_%22God%22,_from_%22the_Creation_of_Adam%22.jpg

This picture is in the public domain.



Vox Populi

UTN community includes professors, administrative staff and students. Each individual has something to say about everything. In this section, we give the university community the opportunity to express what they feel about different school, country and world issues that in what or another way affect or impact our lives, feelings and opinions. Professor Cindy Rodriguez is in charge of this interesting section. In this issue, we asked ILE students:

What is your opinion about Araya's drop-out?

I think you should finish what you start.

(Vivian Montalvo)

It must be some kind of campaign strategy.

(Joaquín Rodríguez)

He's scared to manage our country government.

(Jazmín Valerio)

I think it is the best decision he could make. Costa Rica needs a new government.

(Vanessa Arrieta)

I think Johnny Araya is using a strategy to win. It's stupid to say or declare that he decided to quit the campaign just because he doesn't want to spend money or because of a poll.

(Roxana Hurtado)

In my opinion if he won he would not quit his charge!

(Fabian Herrera)

I think he can't afford his campaign. Maybe he thought that he wouldn't win, and it was the best option for him.

(Edwin Parajeles)

It's the best thing he has ever done in his entire campaign because he is saving money that belongs to our country.

(Jonathan Morera)

In my opinion I think that Johnny Araya made the right decision because he had no chance to win the elections.

(Bryan Salas)

I'm not pretty sure, but maybe he did it as a strategy to make people think he is a considered guy.

(Ivania Soto)

60 SECONDS WITH ...



We see them walking around the UTN campus. They are always willing to help us when we need information, advice and guidance. UTN academic and administrative staff is an important element of the university. However, people hardly have the chance to meet them. In this section, we will try give you a glance of the other side of all those people who are behind UTN organization and functioning. In this issue in which we celebrate the International Women Day, let's meet:

Eufemia Salazar: Administrative Assistance Major Director and Professor, Psychology Student at UCR and Business Administration Student at UNED, Ovo-vegetarian



First of all, what is ovo-vegetarian?

This term is used to call vegetarian people who do not eat eggs.

Where do you live?

I live in Tres Ríos, Cartago, which means I have to travel to Alajuela every day.

What are your hobbies?

I love dancing, jogging. I am a talkative person, so like chatting and listening to people.

Best childhood memory?

I remember that when I was a child, my parents used to take me to a farm where I could eat different fruit like mangoes, mangos, guayabas, jocotes, marañones, cherries, oranges, lemons.

Most frequented restaurant and absolute favorite dish?

As a vegetarian, I frequently eat at Vishnu restaurants in San José. Honestly I do not have a particular favorite dish.

Favorite dish:

More than a favorite dish, I love coffee. I always like to enjoy a good coffee.



60 SECONDS WITH ...



What food would you really turn your nose up to?

Again I would go with meat, especially if it is from nontraditional animals like rabbits, iguanas, deer, etc. Some days ago, I tried rice with beef, and it was a terrible experience.

Would you class yourself as a day or night person?

I consider myself an early bird. I can start my day very early with no problem; however, I find difficult to go to bed early. There are three days during the week that I get home about 9:45 pm.

What's your idea of the perfect night/day out?

My perfect day would be a family Sunday, to go to Zooave in La Garita, to have lunch over there and in the afternoon to practice canopy, and, of course, a good cup of coffee to end the day.

Best book ever read?

The best book I've read was Carlos Cuauhtemoc's *Mujeres al Amanecer*. It was so interesting that I could not stop reading it.



Best holiday ever taken? What's your dream trip?

Oh! It was when I traveled along the North Pacific, from Pleito Beach to San Juanillo and up to Bongo Beach.

My dream beach would be a family trip with my daughter and my husband to Europe. I would love to visit Portugal, Spain and the Netherlands.

Favorite music?

I might sound as a strange combination, but I like classical music and also tropical music.

What is always in your fridge?

In my fridge, you will always find cheese, whole wheat bread, and vegetables.

60 SECONDS WITH...



Dream house: rural retreat or urban dwelling?

Where would it be?

It would be in the country side, up in the mountains with an excellent and fresh view, with several bedrooms, all of them with big windows.

If the world is ending in 24 hours what would you do?

What a difficult question! Well I think, I would first send a good-bye message to all my FACEBOOK friends. I would spend the last moments with my daughter and if it would be possible with some other loved relatives.

What is your greatest fear?

My greatest fear is to lose control of my life, not knowing where I am going and why.

Tell me a joke or proverb you remember right now.

When there is an injustice, I think that "*Todas las cosas caen por su propio peso.*" (things fall by their own weight)

THE ATTIC OF BERTHA MASON

March 21st: World Poetry Day



In 1999 UNESCO declared March 21st as the World Poetry Day in an effort to celebrate this universal genre and to recognize its contributions to world understanding.

Poetry, more than any other genre, touches an ancestral cord in us: it originated from the oral tradition of passing stories from generation to generation. Poetry is linked to sounds, rhythm, musicality, all aspects of human nature found in any culture. The writing of poetry is very much alive and thriving, but it seems that it is enjoyed by a small audience. Unlike novels, poetry is not a common genre to find or buy in a bookstore. But fortunately we have access to poetry on the internet. To

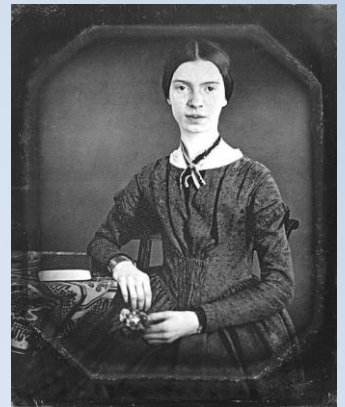
celebrate this day, here I leave you with one of my favorite poets: Emily Dickinson.

***I taste a liquor never brewed,
From tankards scooped in pearl;
Not all the vats upon the Rhine
Yield such an alcohol!***

***Inebriate of air am I,
And debauchee of dew,
Reeling, through endless summer days,
From inns of molten blue.***

***When landlords turn the drunken bee
Out of the foxglove's door,
When butterflies renounce their drams,
I shall but drink the more!***

***Till seraphs swing their snowy hats,
And saints to windows run,
To see the little tippler
Leaning against the sun!***



(Picture in the public domain taken from:

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Emily_Dickinson_daguerreotype_%28Restored%29.jpg)

THE ATTIC OF BERTHA MASON

Costa Rica's Tomato War

by David Chaves

I guess every country has its own weird or crazy celebrations and traditions. Costa Rica is no exception, and I can proudly say that Costa Ricans' imagination appears to have no limits. At Trojas, a small community located in Sarchí, residents and visitors celebrate what they call the



“tomato war.” This unusual activity takes place at the end of the annual tomato fair held in that town. Sadly, I have never participated in such activity, but it certainly sounds like something I would dare to do.

So, I decided to ask a friend of mine if he had ever been there, and he told me that he had. In fact, he had gone four years in a row, and very happy to talk about it because the “war” was a real blast. He used to go with some of his friends, in order to make the whole experience a lot funnier. The event takes place at the local soccer field. The rules are quite simple; two teams are located on opposite sides of the field. After that, each team gets a considerably large quantity of tomatoes. Then, everyone grabs as many tomatoes as they can to begin attacking the other team's members. Even though there are no losers or winners, he commented that the common objective is to hit as many people as possible and have plenty of fun. He also mentioned that people must be very careful because the field usually gets very slippery, and pushing someone could turn into a very painful situation.

After everybody has had enough and their bodies are all covered by tomato carnage and tomato juice, the war is concluded. Some may stay a little bit more to fool around and use up every tomato left, though. I did not really think that an activity like this could bring so many people together. I love having fun, and I hope this year I can go to Trojas and be part of one of my country's crazy traditions.

(Picture taken from:

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tomatoes_at_the_Yauco_Cooperative_Growers%27_Association_1a34049v.jpg)

THE ATTIC OF BERTHA MASON

Traditional Games and Toys of My Old Costa Rica

by Cindy Soto (ILE Student)

Traditional games and toys are those that our grandparents, parents and we played with in our childhood. My parents told me that when they were at elementary school, they played different games. For example, men played with marbles, "trompo" (spinning tops), yo-yo's and kites. On the other hand, girls played with jump ropes, jumping games, jacks and "jugar de la casita" (a game that consisted of playing housewife).

In Christmas time, my grandpa and father told me that they received toys such as a hobby horse; grandpa told me that my great grandparents were so poor that they gave the same hobby horse each year, the trick was to paint it a different color, they also were given "Maromeros" (a toy that represents tightrope walker), "pirinolas" (spinning tops) "carritos de Madera" (timber trucks) and kites. In the case of women, my grandma and mother were given as a gift rag dolls, "Trastitos" (toys formed by metal glasses and dishes), or the famous "Cromos" (trading cards). These are the games and toys when my grandparents and parents grew up in those times.



On the other hand, during my childhood, I also enjoyed many these funny games. I remembered to play "la gallinita ciega" (blind man's bluff), "Escondido" (see and hide), and sacks race, trading cards and jumping rope. Those years were the most wonderful time of my childhood. I really recall these games with tenderness.

Some of these games still survive in time. I try to teach many of them to my niece. Sometimes she and I played "Los Moros" (a game that came from Spain, it consists of running away from Arabian people who represented the Moro and tried to kill Spaniards).

Besides this game, we sing and played "Federico song" "Arroz con Leche" or "Ambo Ambo Matarile Lire Ron." My niece loves those songs that are part of the game. She always arrives at my home and asks me to teach the song over and over again. Moreover, she knows how to play jumping rope, spin a top and marbles.

Many of these games and toys have survived generation to generation in some Costa Rican families. Unfortunately, it is a small group that still keeps these traditions alive since the influence of technological games has eliminated their usage. However, people can make the difference teaching these games and sharing these toys with their family and increasing bonds of friendship and love among relatives.

(Picture taken from: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Boy_playing_trompo.jpg?uselang=es)

LANGUAGE BITS

SITUATION	FORMAL	RELAXED	INFORMAL
You are convinced that your employee has been lying to you and you want to confront her about it.	I believe you have uttered a series of falsehoods.	I don't believe you're telling me the truth.	Fess up! I know you've been lying.
You are very hungry.	I'm absolutely ravenous for some nourishment.	I'm famished.	I could eat a horse; I'm starving.
Your friend is very busy working.	She is totally absorbed in her task.	She's really busy.	She's slammed with work.

(Information taken from Hot English Online Magazine #87, p.54)

What is the Difference between a Monologue and a Soliloquy?

Soliloquies and monologues have one thing in common: they each involve a solitary speaker. The difference between the two doesn't have to do with who's talking but with who's listening.

A monologue — from the Greek *monos* ("single") and *legein* ("to speak") — is a speech given by a single person to an audience. A monologue might be delivered to an audience within a play, it might be delivered directly to the audience sitting in the theater and watching the play.

But a soliloquy — from the Latin *solus* ("alone") and *loqui* ("to speak") — is a speech that one gives *to oneself*. In a play, a character delivering a soliloquy talks to herself — thinking out loud, as it were — so that the audience better understands what is happening to the character internally. The most well-known soliloquy in the English language appears in Act III, Scene 1 of *Hamlet*:

To be, or not to be, — that is the question;
 Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
 The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune
 Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
 And by opposing end them? (etc.)

(Information taken from <http://www.cliffsnotes.com/cliffsnotes/literature/whats-the-difference-between-a-soliloquy-and-a-monologue>)



HUMOR



Question: What is a tree's favorite drink?

Answer: Root beer!



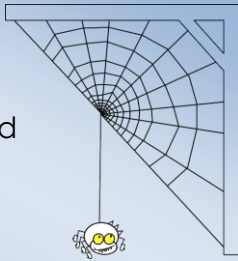
Question: Why did the girl bring lipstick and eye shadow to school?

Answer: She had a make-up exam!



Question: How do spiders communicate?

Answer: Through the World Wide Web.



Question: Why can't a leopard hide?

Answer: Because he's always spotted!



Question: Which month do soldiers hate most?

Answer: The month of March!



Question: What did the tie say to the hat?

Answer: You go on ahead and I'll hang around.



Question: What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary?

Answer: a thesaurus.



Question: How do you organize a space party?

Answer: You planet!



TECHNOLOGY

Zotero

Zotero is basically defined as a personal research assistant. Zotero is the only research tool that automatically senses content in your web browser, allowing you to add it to your personal library with a single click. Whether you're searching for a preprint on arXiv.org, a journal article from JSTOR, a news story from the *New York Times*, or a book from your university library catalog, Zotero has you covered with support for thousands of sites.

The first release of Zotero was made available in October 2006 as an add-on for the Firefox web browser.

Zotero collects all your research in a single, searchable interface. You can add PDFs, images, audio and video files, snapshots of web pages, and really anything else. Zotero automatically indexes the full-text content of your library, enabling you to find exactly what you're looking for with just a few keystrokes. Zotero allows you to attach PDFs, notes and images to your citations, organize them into collections for different projects, and create bibliographies.

It automatically updates itself periodically to work with new online sources and new bibliographic styles.

On many websites such as library catalogs, PubMed, Google Scholar, Google Books, Amazon.com, Wikipedia, and publisher's websites, Zotero shows an icon when a book, article, or other resource is being viewed. By clicking this icon, the full reference information can be saved to the Zotero library. Zotero can also save a copy of the webpage, or, in the case of academic articles, a copy of the full text PDF. Users can then add notes, tags, attachments, and their own metadata. Selections of the local reference library data can later be exported as formatted bibliographies. Furthermore, all entries including bibliographic information and user-created rich-text memos of the selected articles can be summarized into an HTML report.

Zotero users can generate citations and bibliographies through word processor plugins, or directly in Zotero, using Citation Style Language styles. Zotero allows users to create their own customized citation style. If you want to know more about this fantastic tool, go to <http://www.zotero.org/groups/>.







THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

IT HAPPENED IN MARCH

March 3 rd , 1863	Abraham Lincoln approves charter for National Academy of Sciences.
March 5 th , 1916	Spanish football club Real Club Deportivo Mallorca is founded.
March 7 th , 1969	Golda Meir elected as the first female Prime Minister of Israel.
March 9 th , 1669	Volcano Etna in Italy erupts killing 15,000.
March 15 th , 1907	Finland is first European country to give women the right to vote
March 16 th , 1935	Hitler orders German rearmament, violating Versailles Treaty.
March 18 th , 1850	American Express is founded by Henry Wells & William Fargo.
March 19 th , 1984	Mobil oil tanker spills 200,000 gallons into Columbia River.
March 25 th , 1807	First railway passenger service began in England.
March 27 th , 1931	Charlie Chaplin receives France's distinguished Legion of Honor.

FAMOUS PEOPLE BORN THIS MONTH

PERSON	JOB	BIRTHDAY
	Actor	March 2 nd , 1968
	Musician	March 4 th , 1678
	Scientist	March 14 th , 1879
	Actor	March 19 th , 1964
	Soccer Player	March 21 st , 1980
	Poet	March 26 th , 1874
	Poet	March 28 th , 1936

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



march

International Women's Day

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8th across the world. IWD is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women in the past, present and future. It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements, regardless of divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political.

It is an occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments, and more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential and opportunities that await future generations of women.

IWD events are held worldwide. Various women, including political, community, and business leaders, as well as leading educators, inventors, entrepreneurs, and television personalities, are usually invited to speak at various events on the day. Such events may include seminars, conferences, luncheons, dinners or breakfasts.

The messages given at these events often focus on various themes such as innovation, the portrayal of women in the media, or the importance of education and career opportunities. Many students in schools and other educational settings participate in special lessons, debates or presentations about the importance of women in society, their influence, and issues that affect them. In some countries school children bring gifts to their female teachers and women receive small presents from friends or family members. Many workplaces make a special mention about International Women's Day through internal newsletters or notices, or by handing out promotional material focusing on the day.



The first IWD ay occurred on March 19 in 1911. The UN drew global attention to women's concerns in 1975 by calling for an International Women's Year. It also convened the first conference on women in Mexico City that year. The UN General Assembly then invited member states to proclaim March 8 as the UN Day for Women's Rights and International Peace in 1977.

The International Women's Day logo is in purple and white and features the symbol of Venus, which is also the symbol of being female. The faces of women of all backgrounds, ages, and nations are also seen in various promotions, such as posters, postcards and information booklets.

(Information taken from <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/un/international-womens-day>
Image taken from: <http://all-images.org/march-8th-womens-day-vector/>)

PROVERB OF THE MONTH

A proverb is a short saying or sentence that is generally known by many people. The saying usually contains words of wisdom, truth or morality that are based on common sense or practical experience. It is often a description of a basic rule of conduct that all people generally follow or should follow. Proverbs can be found in all languages. To close this month's edition, we want to make you think about this popular English proverb in the month when we celebrate women's day:

Men make houses, women make homes.

Remembering the name of some of the hundreds of women who have made history, ILE major staff wishes all our women a happy Women's Day.



Discovering Pura Vida

Remember if you want to read authentic stories made in UTN-ILE, you can find them in Discovering Pura Vida. The books are series of language learning and culture immersion original stories in English with an interesting way of learning Spanish. They are for kindle readers at the moment, but any PC or tablet can display them, too. Each book is \$3.99.



(Images taken from: Amazon: http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=discovering+pura+vida&prefix=discovering+pura%2Caps&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Adiscovering+pura+vida)

To buy one of these wonderful titles go to [DISCOVERING PURA VIDA](#)

International Accreditations at UTN

by Marco Araya

Trinity College London offers its second roll of international accreditations this coming December. This entity honored **Universidad Técnica Nacional, Registered Examination Center 46172**, as the only representative institution in Costa Rica to test people who want to acquire a worldwide recognition in his/her English language skills.

Each year, more than half a million applicants in Latin America are accredited by Trinity which is not only the oldest but also best-qualified European educational entity.

Examinations are based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

PIT (Programa Institucional de Idiomas para el Trabajo) office provides all the information you need to register for the next examination process. Representatives will be pleased to guide aspirants through this remarkable experience: registration requisites, pre-tests, tutoring, and assertive advice. **Contact us and become a Trinity certified member. Ph: 2435-5000 ext: 1233**

TRINITY
COLLEGE LONDON
Registered Examination Centre