

ISSUE # 2

AUGUST 2012

Conversation sessions

Logomania

PDF24

Business class:  
a blessing in disguise



# COVER PAGE



This beautiful image is part of the mural: *El Flamenco un Mural para la Humanidad* donated by Zafra Foundation of Costa Rica. This work of art be admired in the lobby of the Administración Superior building. The Spanish reknown artist David Zafra was invited to the Universidad Técnica Nacional by Rector Marcelo Prieto and Mrs. Damáris Fernández, president of Zafra Foundation in Costa Rica. This has been the first mural painted by David Zafra at a university campus to honor Flamenco, an art that has been declared by the UNESCO as part of intangible heritage of humanity.



In this great work we can see several Flamenco icons such as: guitarist Paco de Lucía, dancer Carmen Amaya, singer Enrique Morente. The whole piece expresses color, love, passion, beauty, art. We invite everyone to take some time to enjoy this great work of art. To know more about David Zafra visit: <http://www.zafra.com/>

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**ILE UTN**

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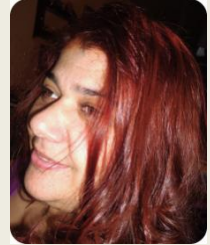


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## EDITORIAL

*"I do not try to dance better than anyone else. I only try to dance better than myself."*

-Mikhail Baryshnikov



I love to observe ants. When I was a child, I would sit and just look at them zigzagging up the wall, carrying their small treasures and running into each other like if they were talking. I still have no idea how they find the place they are supposed to go. There is something about the way they move that shows just how driven they are. I would like to think about it as intrinsic motivation and not just mere survival instinct. As opposed to the motivation that comes from the promise of rewards, be it money, beauty, or acceptance by the prettiest ant in the ant-hill, intrinsic motivation is that vital force that moves us and, as dancer Baryshnikov beautifully said it, makes us want to better ourselves every day. There is always room for

growth, regardless of what we do in life. As students, intrinsic motivation should grow from the love of learning itself: the discovery of a big world out there full of wonders and magic. It is also the awareness that developing a critical mind is the only way to position ourselves in a complex and rapid-changing world. At ILE, we want to foster an environment where we all can grow and learn, in and out of class. The ILE Post is one example of that. Through sharing our ideas, experiences, and activities, we will strengthen our learning community. Where there is commitment, there is motivation. That is why ILE professors and staff keep working together to bring you more activities and learning opportunities. May our ant-hill grow in number and spirit!

*Pandra Argüello Barbán*

**English as a Foreign Language Professor**



## University Welcomes The ILE Post

The first issue of the ILE Post was highly accepted by the university community. Many people expressed the university needed this kind of tools to give voice not only to teachers but also to students. Here you have some of the different comments:

- "The sections included were varied, fresh and interesting."*
- "We liked the pictures, good job."*
- "It is nice to see several teachers working together outside the classroom."*
- "This is a way everybody knows a little bit of what is going on in campus."*

The Director of the ILE major Jose Soto was congratulated by several university authorities, colleagues and students. *"We did not expect this reaction, we are proud and will try to do it better every month"*; said Jose Soto.



## Conversation Sessions

Are you a student of the second year of the ILE major? Would you like to practice your English outside the class? Well, every Saturday morning and weekday's evenings at 5, you have the opportunity to be part of a conversation club. Thanks to the free collaboration of some Americans living in Atenas and our new partner ATENAS TODAY, the ILE major opened these clubs last July 28<sup>th</sup>. All volunteers are professional people, some of them are retired and there are even some teachers who worked or are currently working at universities and community colleges in the US. People in charge of the groups said students have a good level of English and that their knowledge to talk about a variety of topics and speaking ability is good as well.

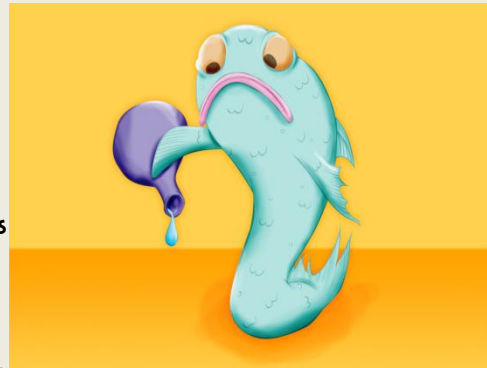
So far the answer from students has been great, groups between seven and ten people have shown up with a lot of enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. For more information visit the ILE office.



## A fish out of water

Last Friday August 17<sup>th</sup> the video *A fish out of water* was finally shown to the student community.

The video tells the story of Beto Soto, an excellent student of English in Costa Rica who was awarded a scholarship to study in the US. In the video, Beto experiences several problems during his first class in the US because he is not able to understand his classmates and teachers, the reason: they use many idiomatic expressions which Beto literally imagine in his mind. The video has two versions, one with images of what Beto thinks and signs showing the idiomatic expressions, and another one without them.



Last week some students watched the video and filled in a validation questionnaire to test if the objectives were fulfilled and to get feedback. Students not only enjoyed the video but also laughed a lot watching some of his teachers "acting".

Right now some teachers are working in a didactic guide to use with the video and in this way give teachers some new, fresh and original resources to use in class. If you are interested in the video, visit the UTNILE FACEBOOK page or go to [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LI3VzAUXFQ&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LI3VzAUXFQ&feature=player_embedded)

## Promotion of ILE in high-schools

Last July 27<sup>th</sup> there was a university fair in the Liceo de Belén high-school. The university participated with a stand where students could get general information of the UTN majors and registration process. ILE took the chance to promote the program among students and high school teachers. There have been more visits to Orientation offices in other high schools in the area of Naranjo and Palmares. By the time this issue has been published, two teachers from Belén's high school have already been admitted to the program in 2013.



Many students were interested in getting information about the UTN.



Andrea Mena was in charge of the stand. Mario Acuña was in charge of giving information about the ILE major.

In this second edition we start this section called the ILE ETHOS. First of all let's give a definition of ETHOS. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, ethos is a Greek word used to describe the set of beliefs, ideas, etc. about social behavior and relationships of a person or group. It is divided into three important aspects or categories:

- ✓phronesis - practical skills & wisdom
- ✓arete - virtue, goodness
- ✓eunoia - goodwill towards the audience

Here teachers, students and the rest of the UTN community will have a place to give their opinions about different topics, share knowledge of specific school or work issues, make recommendations and be critical.

In case you are interested in writing something for the ILE ETHOS please contact Eric Herrera at [eherrera@utn.ac.cr](mailto:eherrera@utn.ac.cr) or ask any of your teachers.

With no more explanations, here you have the three first columns of this section, enjoy them.

## Highlights about Second Language Acquisition according to Saviile-Troike

*By Verónica Oguilve, ILE professor*



Children come with an innate capacity that allows them to learn languages in context and create novel utterances until they

become proficient users. This capacity is known as Universal Grammar (UG). The main assumption is that children are able to learn any language depending on the context they are exposed to. After they have acquired a language system (known as first language or L1), they are able to generalize rules in a systematic manner until they master the language. The process starts with linguistic input. Then, they gain experience with their L1, try their hypotheses and quickly learn what is possible in the language and what is not.

This capacity has not been proven to continue into adulthood; nevertheless, adults are capable of attaining a native-like competence as well (Saviile-Troike, 2007) if they go the extra mile. There are many variables that can affect the level of proficiency in the L2. Prior knowledge of a language system causes either positive or negative transfer of language components because of the languages typological distance. Based on the L1/ L2 typological

relationship, when linguistic structural components overlap, this facilitates the acquisition of lexis, morphology, phonology, syntax and discourse.

In addition to interpreting new information in light of their L1 language system, adults also use their knowledge of the world, social patterns, and cognition to analyze new language input and re-structure their L2. For that reason, input and interaction play a major role in language acquisition because they give an insight not only to language use but also to culture.

The implication of this information for L2 learners is that the process of language acquisition for L1 and L2 is different. First, learning an L1 and a subsequent L2 requires adult learners to notice the typological differences between both languages and avoid negative transfer. Second, the L1 should not be seen as an enemy but as a means to learn the L2 easily because of the shared features of the L1 with the L2. Third, input is essential to trigger L2 re-structuring and acquisition. Most important, in order to get a native-like competence, learners should become active participants in L2 acquisition, get out of their comfort zone and avoid language fossilization.

## Business class: A blessing in disguise

*By Adriana Sanchez Badilla, ILE student*



I am pretty sure you have all felt that sometimes life is trying to tell you something. Well, last October 2011 life was yelling at me;

and it was yelling go back to school! You need to get your bachelor. It's time! So, after a lot of research (I went to UNED, UNA and some private universities) I decided I wanted to go back to Alajuela, back to UTN. Doubts were present all the time and when I enrolled in business for my optional class uncertainties were astronomical. Indeed, I was under the impression business class was going to be just a lot of vocabulary provided in British English by a very serious looking teacher. Then, in the blink of an eye first quarter was over and I realized I had actually learned business basics and that my teacher was incredible rather than serious. What is more, now that second quarter is over and Business two is also over, I can honestly say me and all my classmates have learned how to really develop the first stages of a business plan and understand how with lots of organization and planning we could eventually dare to create our own company. As mentioned before, we learned how to create a business plan since final project consisted of creating one for a product from our own invention. I worked with Roy Fallas, Stephanie Quesada and Yens Arce and by using tools such as freedcamp.com and prezi.com we organized our project to make sure we would go through all the areas our teacher Marlin wanted us to cover. Right from the beginning we

decided to go with the idea of a service. We created a company that would provide English consulting to small technological companies (software and apps related companies) that were interested in entering English markets. We followed all the steps we had learned in class: marketing for the company, vision, mission, brochures, FB page, twitter, presentation cards, leadership type, even how much we would need as an initial investment and many other things that we were actually happy to include in our project and that we realized were truly necessary. In particular, we owned it; we believed in our company and had real discussions that made us feel like members of a real partnership and we noticed that what we had learned in class made total sense and was applicable in real life, we learned we can actually go ahead and eventually try to have our own business. The day we had to present our project to Marlin we dressed up as if we were going to get the funding and we were confident and proud of the presentation we had put together.

To wrap up, after only two quarters of having enrolled in the English bachelor and only two classes of business and commerce I have become conscious of the projection this major can have in our University. We have to feel and trust our major, we need to believe in what we are studying and study hard so we can be proud of the knowledge we are picking from our teacher's brains and from having optional courses that could provide more than a mention in our much desired bachelor's diploma.

## Unlock your mind: Spot change

*By José Andres Solano, ILE student*



It's been over twelve years since the first time I heard about C.U.N.A deploying a new major. "It'll be something innovating" they said; "Hurry, we'll surely have many people interested" they said. Well, both statements were correct, as I would say D.I.C.S.E.L (Diplomado en Inglés como Segunda Lengua) was a total success for C.U.N.A., the demand was high and all of us had to go through several selection stages, proving a good degree of planning. In the end, there I was: Part of D.I.C.S.E.L's first student wave, and eventually becoming part of D.I.C.S.E.L's first graduation wave in 2002.

I then decided to leave C.U.N.A behind in the pursuit of different projects, just to "come back home" in 2011 and join once again the English Major, called now I.L.E (Inglés como Lengua Extranjera), and of course in our newborn U.T.N. Several improvements were quite evident to me, for example: The quality of teachers, in general, is kept to excellent levels, the programs have been streamlined and are far more adapted to the reality of students who are just coming from high

school; students count on media technological equipment presently installed in every single classroom; U.T.N, jointly with I.L.E, is now investing an interesting set of resources on cultural activities, bringing different and diverse approaches to what being a U.T.N and I.L.E student means. Great news if you ask me!

Then let's talk about benefits I obtained from I.L.E., I could mention some of them: improved presentation and observation skills, reading-writing style and competence reached advanced levels (this is interesting, as errors on other people's work are far more obvious), conversational skills showed dramatic progress, imagination and proactive approaches are stimulated in many ways, thus better problem-solving abilities are acquired; these factors I'm sure had a direct positive impact on my employability and academic profile. In a nutshell, majoring English in I.L.E, sounded like the right decision to me back then, and it does now.

I encourage you to not hesitate to let someone else know the good choice you made by starting your adventure in I.L.E., it might motivate this someone to join you!



## LANGUAGE BITS

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Here there are some examples of how to say things in different situations.

SITUATION	FORMAL	RELAXED	INFORMAL
You ate a lot of cookies.	I consumed a large quantity of baked goods.	I ate a lot of cookies.	I pigged out on cookies.
You found something extremely boring.	It was of a soporific nature.	It was boring.	It bored me to death.
A friend slept at your house last night.	He reposed at my abode.	He slept at my house.	He crashed round at my place.

## What are Palindromes?

The word **palindrome** is derived from the Greek palíndromos, meaning running back again (*palín* = AGAIN + *drom-*, *drameîn* = RUN). A palindrome is a word or phrase which reads the same in both directions. Some simple examples are:

Rotor  
Was it a cat I saw?

Deed

Radar  
Live not on evil

Eye

Civic  
Stressed or desserts

## HUMOR



A: Why are you crying?  
B: The elephant is dead.  
A: Was he your pet?  
B: No, but I'm the one who must dig his grave.

*By Joe, from Indiana*

When asked how he would like to die, this man told: "I would like to die just like my grandfather did, peacefully in his sleep, not screaming or yelling like the passengers in the car he was driving".

- What's the definition of mixed emotions?
- Seeing your mother-in-law driving your new car off the edge of a cliff.

*By Oliva Navarro from Barcelona, Spain*

*Husband:* Sweetheart, would you say that I'm the only man you've ever loved?

*Wife:* Of course you are. Why do all men ask me the same silly question?

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Bizarre Foods with Andrew Zimmern

*Tell me what you eat, I'll tell you who you are. ~Anthelme Brillat-Savarin*

Bizarre Foods with Andrew Zimmern is a documentary-styled travel and cuisine television show hosted by Andrew Zimmern on the Travel Channel. *Bizarre Foods* focuses on regional cuisine from around the world which is typically perceived by Americans as being disgusting, exotic, or bizarre. In each episode, Zimmern focuses on the cuisine of a particular country or region. He typically shows how the food is procured, where it is served, and, usually without hesitation, eats it. If you want to learn a lot from a culture, check out its food, and there is no better way to do it than by watching bizarre food.

To get more information about this interesting TV series, you can visit this website: <http://www.travelchannel.com/tv-shows/bizarre-foods>

(Information taken from Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bizarre\\_Foods\\_with\\_Andrew\\_Zimmern](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bizarre_Foods_with_Andrew_Zimmern))

## TECHNOLOGY

### PDF24

Probably you have sometimes wanted to share part of a PDF document, but you do not want to send the whole document. It is possible to cut only some pages and have a new document with them. To do this I recommend PDF 24.

The 100% free PDF Creator and PDF Converter supplied by PDF24.org works with all Windows programs and has a lot of features you wouldn't expect from free software: create PDF files from almost any Windows application, re-order pages, merge, split, and password-protect your existing PDF files.

It also has an online version where you can convert the most common file formats into a PDF without installing any software. The only thing you have to do is upload your file to our website and the resulting PDF will be emailed to you shortly afterwards. You can even integrate the Online PDF converter into your own website.

To download the program and learn more about it, go to <http://en.pdf24.org/>.

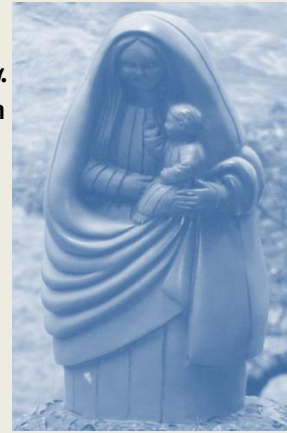
## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

### Costa Rica's Patron Saint

Virgen de los Angeles Day is a Costa Rican holiday celebrating Costa Rica's patron saint, the Virgen de los Angeles, also known as *La Negrita*. According to tradition, La Negrita, *the Black Virgin*, is a small (less than a meter tall), probably indigenous, representation of the Virgin Mary found on this spot on August 2, 1635 by a native woman. As the story goes, when she tried to take the statuette with her, it miraculously reappeared twice back where she'd found it. The townspeople then built a shrine around her.

In 1824, the Virgin was declared Costa Rica's patron saint. La Negrita now resides on a gold, jewel-studded platform at the main altar in the Nuestra Señora de los Angeles Basilica in Cartago. Each August 2, on the anniversary of the statuette's miraculous discovery, pilgrims from every corner of the country (and beyond) walk the 22km from San José to the basilica. Many of the penitent complete the last few hundred meters of the pilgrimage on their knees. This basilica is equally visited by tourists and locals.

(Information taken from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virgen\\_de\\_los\\_Angeles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virgen_de_los_Angeles))



### Mother's Day

Mother's Day, a national holiday in Costa Rica is celebrated on August 15 and coincides with the Catholic feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The country's official religion is Catholicism and as well as the religious significance, this day is a time-honored celebration when mothers are showered with gifts, flowers and goodies. Many are taken out to their

favorite restaurant for a special meal, or enjoy one cooked at home by family members.

Some Costa Ricans lament the fact that Mother's Day observances have been influenced by North American sensibilities and the significance of this day in their culture is being lost by over commercialization.

There are many different ways to celebrate Mother's Day. They include (but are not limited to):

- Giving cards, flowers, or cakes.
- Family gatherings or visits.
- Family breakfasts, brunches, lunches, and dinners either at home, at a café or at a restaurant.
- Personal phone calls, particularly from children who live away from their mothers and/or mother figures.
- Mother's Day poems and messages.



- Gifts of chocolate, jewelry, accessories, clothing, hobby equipment or tools, handmade items, or gift vouchers.
- A day at the movies with mothers and/or mother figures.

Many companies hold a Mother's Day party for their female staff, and apart from celebrating Father's Day with their family, fathers organize some type of all-male activity in or away from the office. However, after Christmas and Easter, Mother's Day is the most important traditional Costa Rican celebration and family members all contribute to make August 15 a really special occasion for everyone.

(Information taken from <http://www.welovecostarica.com/public/256.cfm>)

## It happened in August

### IMPORTANT EVENTS

August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1931, Einstein urges all scientists to refuse military work

August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1492, Columbus sets sail from Palos, Spain for "Indies"

August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1945, The United States dropped an Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima, Japan

August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1914, The Panama Canal opens to traffic with the transit of the cargo ship Ancon

August 30<sup>th</sup>, 30 BC, Cleopatra, the seventh and most famous queen of ancient Egypt committed suicide, 30 B.C.

August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1997, Lady Diana, Princess of Wales and her companion Dodi Al Fayed died tragically in a car crash in Paris, France

August 29, 1897, Chop Suey is invented in New York as a dish to appeal to both Americans and Chinese

## Famous people born in July

PERSON	BIRTHDAY
Percy Bysshe Shelley	August 4th, 1792
Louis Armstrong	August 4 <sup>th</sup> , 1901
Barack Obama	August 4 <sup>th</sup> , 1961
Pete Sampras	August 12, 1971
Robert de Niro	August 17 <sup>th</sup> , 1943
Usain Bolt	August 21 <sup>st</sup> , 1986
Michael Jackson	August 29 <sup>th</sup> , 1958

## A Committed Friend

*By Katalina Perera, UTN Vice-chancellor*



*Jacobo González*

With the creation of the English Program, it became absolutely necessary to find professionals willing to work hard and perform outstandingly. The search for dutiful personnel could not have been better: the first recruited professor was Jacob González, who, by then, already happened to have unbeatable experience in the field.

Ever since then, Professor González has devotedly fulfilled his job, teaching most grammar and composition courses in the program and checking lots of final research projects. Jacob has been willing to share his knowledge, expertise and, most important of all, his truthful friendship with all students and

coworkers for the past 13 years. This is, indeed, the most important reason why I feel extremely honored to write about Jacob as a professional and human being.

My fondest friend and partner Jacob, has always been the kind of person who never refuses to help unconditionally. When asked to attend a meeting, to work extra hours, to teach a course “ad honorem,” to do some research, to clear out doubts about grammar or history, to bring a birthday gift, to help organize a party or to simply give me ride home after a long working day, he would always say “My pleasure.”

Due to his quiet and discreet personality, there are several things few people have had the chance of knowing about Mr. González, but today I’ve been blessed with the opportunity of telling you all Jacob’s particular love and dedication to his family, his friends, his flattering knowledge of classical music, history, art and his particular interest in complexity. Accordingly, Jacob’s priorities follow that same order.

I’m pretty sure that whenever any of us professors or students of the program find ourselves in need of a piece of advice for teaching, studying or for simply prioritizing and appreciating daily things, it would be more than wise to look for the help of our endowed, unquestionably loyal and committed friend Jacob.

## 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 guest 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 achieve 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**

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