



ISSUE # 32

MAY 2015

Star Wars Day

La Tea 2015

The Art of Creativity

Carbon Neutral: Is It Possible?

Duolingo



cover page



Photo credit: **Bryan K Ward / Source / CC BY**

For thirty-five years, audiences around the world have followed the adventures of Luke, Darth Vader, Han Solo and others. On May 5th people get crazy and have fun celebrating Star Wars Day. Find more information inside this edition.

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.



<https://www.facebook.com/TheILEPost?fref=ts>

INSIDE

Editorial.....	
UTN NEWS	
-Carbon Neutral: Is It Possible?.....	3
-UTN Present At Expo PYME 2015.....	3
-La Tea 2015.....	4
WORLD NEWS	
-Mayweather Defeats Pacquiao In Most Lucrative Fight.....	5
-US Allows Ferry Services To Cuba.....	5
-Antarctic Glacier Melt Accelerating.....	6
-France To ban Food Waste In Supermarkets.....	6
THE ILE ETHOS	
-The Art of Creativity.....	7
-Holding Onto Your Cheese.....	8
VALUE OF THE MONTH.....	9
VOX POPULI.....	10
PLACES AND FACES.....	11
90 SECONDS WITH	
-Ricardo Ramírez Alfaro..	12
THE ATTIC OF BERTHA MASON	
-A Friend.....	15
-Soul.....	16
-Myself.....	16
LANGUAGE BITS.....	17
HUMOR.....	19
TECHNOLOGY	
-Remind.....	20
-Duolingo.....	20
THIS MONTH IN HISTORY	
-Star Wars Day.....	22
PROBERB OF THE MONTH.....	23
CONTRIBUTORS	
Sandra Argüello (column writer)	
Alejandro Camacho (poem)	
Clare Goodman (article writer)	
Nicole Herrera (poem writer)	
Merlin Perez (article writer)	
Ricardo Ramírez Alfaro (biography)	
Jose Soto (editorial writer)	
Niki Sims (academic journal editor)	



EDITORIAL

Work

By Jose Soto (ILE DIRECTOR)



May is the month we celebrate work. And celebrating work may seem odd to many as a holiday to sit back and relax. Shouldn't it be obvious to celebrate it with a joyful attendance at our office or school? Or consciously observing the 1st of May with a prime rendering of our travail quotidian? I would rather not just go in there and provoke a skirmish among the workaholic and vacation enthusiasts, but mainly take this time off to value and reflect on some positive attitudes about work. Of course, there is more to consider about work after waking up late, and looking up at the tiles on the ceiling and the other colors it may be painted with.

While setting back for a day away from the dignified activities in support of making a honest living, and instead of retreating to otherwise different forms of past times on a well-earned holiday, it must be worth it to review our feelings and thoughts about work; for a small amount of time during this holiday. Work is enriching and not just about money.

Work should at all times fill up your spirits, and promote the feeling of satisfaction for the welfare of society. After a long day of work, feeling that the day has been productive and enjoyable is just priceless. Does it sound a bit ironic? Indeed so, but this is how work should be seen. If this does not seem true for some reason or another, sit down and think. The value of work must rely on how good people feel about their jobs, and how this heightens the self and others. Sadly, in the eyes of someone who is not pleasant in his or her work, someone who feels out of place, someone whose inner voice keeps saying, "What are you doing here? You should be doing something else!" the enthusiasm of others that enjoy the exultant rewards of work must be really unnerving.

Work should lift you up, even if it exhausts you. At the end of the day, the feeling of gratification must be there. If not, think... what can be wrong?

Reality of life sometimes blows up in our faces in those times when a circumstance of life offers a different option than the one that is truly pursued. The daily battle of people drowned in debts, single mothers struggling hard to get by, entire families going to work only in order to survive, really make all above a joke. It is even harder when there is no work at all. And this is reality for many people.

Wise words go, look after your work, because many are after yours. And truly it is a blessing to have a salary at the end of the month, but how easily is this to forget, appreciate and be grateful?

Let us count our blessings! All those with us can go home and rejoice in the fact that there is a roof over our heads and bread on our tables can be grateful for the opportunity to work. If one job was not basically the best option that came about, think about this: There is a sacred chance given to those who can contribute to the society in terms of helping others and everyone at the same time. There is always a reason for what we are doing.

In this issue we ask teachers why they teach, and we interviewed an artist of the finest bakery in Alajuela. Find that in every word said related to their jobs there is passion, and commitment. What if they do not really mean it? There is no way to know. What we know is that our job should be appreciated as a space to learn and grow. Work must not be depleting our lives either, but mostly improving our souls and bodies.

Now, let us take our day off if we have already thought about this, thought about others, counted our blessings and learning, and of course said thanks. Enjoy your day and your reading.

I will now go look for a color palette for the ceiling.

UTN NEWS

Carbon Neutral: Is It Possible?

On May 12th, the research vice chancellor department held the conference: *Information and Communication Technologies: Sustainable Clean Alternatives for The Climate Change Mitigation in Costa Rica*. For about two hours, presenter Marco A. Jaubert Vincenzi shared with the audience very interesting information about the importance of interdisciplinary teams when planning almost any kind of project.

He explained how emissions, mainly of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other "greenhouse gases" (GHGs) as a consequence of the development of society, make it very difficult to achieve the government's goal to become "Carbon Neutral" some day.

With his anecdotes, he kept the audience interested and brought to the table examples of Los Negritos Creek in Montes de Oca, where local government disagreements and lack of long term pacification has caused a huge waste of money on building and rebuilding sewer pipes. In addition, Mr. Jaubert clarified different questions about the real meaning of carbon footprint, not only for the short-term benefits, but also for the long-term needs to maintain it.

UTN Research Vice Chancellor Francisco Romero thanked Mr. Jaubert for his participation and pointed out the importance of the information he shared in order to implement different policies in the university.



UTN Present At Expo PYME 2015

During April 24th, 25th and 26th, UTN participated at Expo PYME 2015 in Plaza Turcios, Barrio Don Bosco. PYME means "pequeña y mediana empresa" (SME: Small and Medium Enterprises in English). About 350 people visited the UTN stand. This event is very important because several entrepreneurs and organizations offer business-to-business based programs that provide care and support these small businesses. There were several categories, among them: gastronomy, which is one usually attracts lots of people and business to business help. One of the main objectives of Expo PYMES is to spur the existing production system by improving competitiveness and promoting the setting-up of new firms by helping SMEs planning new production.

UTN took advantage of this event to show people what we do at the university, and, at the same time, to see what others are doing in this field.



UTN NEWS

La Tea 2015

On Thursday, May 21st, UTN organized an Open House Day, also known as La Tea. This is a great opportunity to find out more about a university and meet potential professors, check the campus and its daily routine.

Following the success of the previous La Tea, this year UTN opened its doors with a variety of educational and fun activities from 9 am to 6 pm. There were conferences, specific expositions and demonstrations of what to expect when registering in each major UTN offers, food stands, artistic presentations and concerts.

"La Tea gives the students an opportunity to get a sneak peek at university life, a chance to get answers about the different majors and programs, learn the resources available through their campus and to get familiar with the university environment and all it has to offer," said English as a Second Language Major (ILE) Jose Soto.

About 2.000 high school students had the opportunity to ask counselors and professors questions about programs, scholarships, admission criteria, academic and extracurricular activities. The English as a Second Language Major offered participants the chance to take an oral test to check their proficiency language level according to the Common European Frame.

"It was a great day. I enjoyed interviewing the students and talking with them about our program and courses," said Andrés Bejarano (ILE Professor).



WORLD NEWS

Mayweather Defeats Pacquiao In Most Lucrative Fight

Long-awaited Las Vegas bout ends with judges scoring American boxer higher than Philippine icon in unanimous decision. Floyd Mayweather has beaten Manny Pacquiao on a points decision in one of the most lucrative boxing matches of all time.

Neither of the fighters succeeded in landing a winning blow during 12 rounds late on Saturday, May 3rd night, and judges awarded Mayweather the fight at the MGM Grand hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, on a point decision.

All three judges scored Mayweather higher than Pacquiao in a unanimous decision. The new unified WBC, WBA and WBO Welterweight champion scored 118-110, 116-112, 116-112.

American Mayweather took his unbeaten record to 48-0, with Pacquiao's record slumping to 57 wins and six losses after the Philippine national icon's defeat.

Saturday's long-awaited bout, which had been more than five years in the making, transcended the traditional boxing scene.



It catapulted the sport back into the public consciousness and promised to rewrite the record books as the richest fight of all time.

Las Vegas was buzzing in the run-up to the welterweight world title showdown.

The total revenue for the bout could reach \$400m, driven by as many as three million pay-per-view purchases.



(Information and picture taken from: <http://mwcnews.net/news/sports/51333-mayweather-defeats-pacquiao.html>)

Photo credit: [JustinMatthewMedia](#) / Source / CC BY

US Allows Ferry Services To Cuba

The United States has authorized commercial ferry services to Cuba for the first time in more than a half-century, in a major step in improving relations between the two countries.



In what was hailed by ferry operators as an "historical event," the US Treasury on Tuesday, May 5th lifted a decades-old ban and at least

four Florida companies said they had been licensed to launch boat services to the island.

That adds to the charter air services that had been permitted until now, focused on enabling Cuban-Americans to visit their families.

The ferries will also be allowed to carry cargo to the communist island of 11 million, which sits just 150km off the southern tip of Florida.

Four companies confirmed they had received licenses from the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control to

provide ferry travel. Operators suggested the first trip would still take some time, because other permissions were still needed from authorities in both countries.

In April, the presidents of the US and Cuba met in Panama City, marking a potential turning point in US relations with Cuba and the region after a decades-old blockade.

A normalization of relations has seemed unthinkable to both Cubans and Americans for generations.



(Information and picture taken from: <http://mwcnews.net/news/americas/51389-ferry-services-to-cuba.html>)

Photo credit: [*Psycho Delia*](#) / [Loveseat Deals](#) / CC BY-NC

WORLD NEWS

Antarctic Glacier Melt Accelerating

New research suggests that glaciers in part of the Antarctic ice shelf may be melting at an unprecedented rate, raising concerns about rising sea levels.

The findings of the research by the University of Bristol, UK, were published in the journal *Science*. The scientists focused their research on a 750km long stretch of the coastline in the southwest of the continent where many glaciers are sliding down the mountainous terrain into the Bellingshausen Sea.

The team analysed more than 10 years of satellite data, including that from the European Space Agency's Cryosat-2. This satellite can measure the elevation of the

underlying ice surface to a very high degree of accuracy.



For much of the first decade of the new millennium, satellite data indicated that glaciers were gaining snow and ice at the same rate they

were slipping into the sea. But it appears that from around 2009/10, the surface of the ice began to reduce at an alarming rate - up to four metres per year in some locations. The loss of ice is estimated to be around 60 cubic kilometres per year.

Antarctic ice and snow melt is estimated to contribute just 0.5mm to global sea rise each year. These findings raise the possibility of a rapid increase in this figure.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change suggests that global sea level rises are expected to accelerate, from 20cm in the last century, to almost one meter by 2100.

(Information and picture taken from: <http://mwcnews.net/news/americas/51742-antarctic-glacier.html>)

Photo credit: Rita Willaert / Foter / CC BY-NC



France To Ban Food Waste In Supermarkets

France's parliament has voted unanimously to ban food waste in big supermarkets, notably by outlawing the destruction of unsold food products.

Stores will be forced to donate unsold but still edible food to charity or for use as animal feed or farming compost.

Under the legislation passed on Thursday, as part of a broader law on energy and the environment, supermarkets will be forced to donate any unsold but still edible food goods to charity or for use as animal feed or farming compost. All large-

sized supermarkets will have to sign contracts with a charity group to facilitate food donations.

"It's scandalous to see bleach being poured into supermarket dustbins along with edible foods," Socialist Member of Parliament Guillaume Garot, who sponsored the bill, said.



French people throw away between 20 to 30 kilos of food per person per year costing an estimated \$13m to \$22m annually, according to the AFP news agency.

The government is hoping to slice food waste in half by 2025.

Up to one third of all food globally is spoiled or squandered before it is consumed by people, according to the UN.

The waste of about 1.3 billion tons of food each year is causing economic losses of \$750bn and significant damage to the environment, a 2013 report stated.

(Information and picture taken from <http://mwcnews.net/news/europe/51748-france-to-ban-food-waste.html>)

Photo credit: Foter / CC BY-SA



THE ILE ETHOS

The Art of Creativity

By Clare Goodman (ILE Professor)



“Creativity takes courage.” a quote by Henri Matisse applies to our professional and personal lives. In order to be creative we need to think outside the box and take risks, which most people are not willing to do. When it comes to teaching, we need to come up with creative and challenging tasks for our students. This will help our classes be more dynamic and interactive. I chose this particular topic because I am not only a teacher, but also an artist. I have studied art and have a degree in clothing design and technology. I paint as a hobby, and I apply my creativity as an artist to my classes. I would like to tell you more in regards to exploring ways in which to help you get your creative juices flowing and make it part of your daily life.

Creativity is intrinsic and we can develop it in many ways. Here are some ideas to help you to further your creativity. Doodle something, it can jump-start creativity and it can help you recall and activate unique neurological pathways. Next sign up for a class in something that you have never done before. Creativity really flourishes when you push yourself to do something new. Try a cooking class, photography class, or even learn a new language. It is important to create the right environment. This environment should

make you feel relaxed, and comfortable. Try to move your body. It has been shown that physical movement such as going for a walk has a positive effect on creative thinking. Sketching is also a great way to get your creative juices flowing. You do not have to be a great artist in order to start sketching. Another idea that I am sure you will like is playing with toys to develop your creativity such as playing with Lego or Play-Doh, etc. There are many websites that you can explore for creativity development, such as Flash Fiction. This is a technique where you write extremely short pieces. Try the 30 circle test, where all you have to do is take a piece of paper and draw 30 circles on it. Then, in one minute, adapt as many circles as you can into objects. For example, one circle could become a planet. The idea is to think like a traveler by trying to see things as if you have just landed on that spot.

These are ways to become more creative. Whether you are a teacher coming up with a great idea for your class or someone who wants to start becoming more creative. Give it a try and see how your world will open up and you will see things in a new light.

Here are some websites that might help:

<http://flashfictiononline.com/main/about-us/>

<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/brainboosters/>

<https://www.ted.com/>

THE ILE ETHOS

Holding Onto Your Cheese

By Merlin Perez (ILE Professor)



Every day the whole world has to face the globalised chaos of political and social issues and to deal with economic crisis. Poverty, famine, and death are the constant of our lives, therefore it is quite indispensable to make a stop and think what our new lease in life is.

When you are a child life seems to be easy to enjoy and you do not know what the world is like, later on when you become a young adult you go through the ultimate reality check and start planning your future and you work for your vital niche. Once it has been found you place yourself in a comfort zone and want to stay there, but life is a daily challenge and we have to be aware of it and realise that change is our only choice because it is a constant in your lifetime.

According to Spencer Johnson "Cheese is a metaphor for what you want to have in life – whether it is a good job, a loving relationship, money, or spiritual peace of mind," so let us use this metaphor to analyse the issue under consideration. Are you afraid of change? Are you one of those persons who like ordinary jobs or activities? If so, then you have to embrace the idea of change. It has been said that if you do not change you will become extinct, meaning that you will not be able to cope with the demands of the globalised world. Nowadays if you

want to get a good job you must have a bunch of skills and demonstrate your proactive, creative and innovative spirit. Moreover you have to speak several languages and have updated computer science knowledge. If you want to create good inter-personal relationships and a pleasant and gratifying working environment, then you have to polish your assertiveness and attitude. If you want to succeed as a professional, then you cannot hold onto your cheese but visualise the land of opportunities around you to be prepared for them to reach you.

Change is a petrifying concept, but a reality all of us have to know, live and assimilate. It is everybody's responsibility to work on internal and external transformations so that we can lead the changes our world needs. Let's pull together and put an end to the chaos worldwide societies face. Poverty, famine and death should not be accepted by us like normal events taking place. Every single day, grief and sorrow are not natural conditions for free thinking souls that were, are and will be shapers of their own destinies.

The more important your cheese is to you, the more you want to hold onto it, but is it really making you happy? Think about it and remember that change will always be a constant in your life. Do not avoid it but embrace it.

Value of the Month

UTN continues with its Value of the Month campaign. For the month of **May**, the value is **Positive Discipline** in the Workplace. This campaign has the objective to permeate school life and, as students and staff live these values, their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development increases.

Positive Discipline in the Workplace

Positive discipline fosters appropriate behavior by encouraging employee participation. The first step is to lay out clear protocol and ethical guidelines to ensure employees fully understand what you expect. The next step is to use constructive criticism to instill correct behaviors. For example, a company might explain to an under-performing employee how his/her failure to follow proper protocol is hurting his/her performance and then offer helpful suggestions for increasing productivity.

An important element in positive discipline is positive reinforcement, which motivates your employees to comply with organizational protocols and standards. A company might worry that being soft on its employees will encourage misbehavior, but rewards, bonuses, promotions and other types of positive reinforcement align employee interests with the company's, inspiring employees to work harder.

An important aspect of positive discipline is continual feedback. Employees need to know when they're doing things right. If you limit your feedback to corralling misbehavior, your employees learn nothing more than how to stay out of trouble. Provide regular, constructive feedback so employees always know where they stand.





VOX POPULI

The 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 one or another way affect or impact our lives, feelings and opinions. In this issue, we asked ILE students:

What are some of the best places to visit in Costa Rica?

La Fortuna, San Carlos: there are hot spring waters, waterfalls, rain forest. There you can ride a horse, or practice canopy. It is about 3 hours from San José.

Monte Verde: it is like being in the clouds, a mountainous place with wonderful views of valleys and the coast. It is about 3.5 hours from San José.

La Paz waterfall in Vara Blanca, Heredia: the weather is so fresh, the fall is amazing and the noise of the waterfall is so relaxing. It is about 1.5 hours from San José.

Poás Volcano National Park in Alajuela: it has the biggest crater in the world, there are trails to walk around and see big leave plants and a beautiful lagoon. It is about 1.5 hours from San José.

Río Celeste in Guatuso, Alajuela: one of the few places where you can see turquoise color water. There is an incredible waterfall. It is about 4 hours from San José.

Jacó Beach in Garabito, Puntarenas: it is like a small city in the beach. There are disco clubs, many supermarket, and you can practice several water sports. It is about 2 hours from San José.

Manuel Antonio National Park in Quepos, Puntarenas: it offers impressive landscapes and beautiful white beaches. Walking around the park you can see many animals and birds, and depending on the season, you can see dolphins. It is about 4 hours from San José.

Conchal Beach in Guanacaste: the sand is composed of hundreds of millions of tiny crushed shells. The water is so clean. It is about 4.5 hours from San José.

Places & Faces

The Pastry Shop

What's the best pastry shop in Alajuela? Ask everybody and the answer will immediately be The Pastry Shop (La Pastelería Inglesa). Located 75m south from Parque Juan Santamaría, Richard Mendoza opened a small shop in 1980 and with a lot of effort and imagination, he later moved to a bigger building.



They specialize in all kinds of cake designs, for all occasions; however, their children cakes with any imaginable decoration and design is one of the reasons why they have earned a place in the heart of the Alajuela community.

The Pastry Shop offers people personalized attention and is the only bakery Mr. Mendoza has in the country. Mr. Mendoza explained that he is involved with every single cake prepared in his bakery, and by looking at the magical works we see in display, anyone can easily understand all the

dedication each piece demands.

Eleven people form The Pastry Shop crew, including a baker, sales people, and an Australian paste expert among others.

Mr. Mendoza studied at Johnson and Wales College, in Rhode Island, NY; however, he is proud to say that what he has done at The Pastry Shop does not have to do with what he learned there. It is his creativity that rules The Pastry Shop, and he tries to come up with new ideas, so people do not come to The Pastry Shop to buy the same product all the time.



One interesting service The Pastry Shop offers is that people can send e-mails asking about sizes, tastes,

prices etc. There is a person in charge of this, and the public receive the answers on the same day.



Mr. Mendoza constantly encourages his crew to try new things, to feel free to show their creativity.

Something that always catches the public's attention is that The Pastry Shop is constantly creating and showing cakes that have something to do with the current news and events.

Finally, Mr. Mendoza's message for people who are thinking about opening a business is: *All you have to do is to use your imagination. Look in the mirror, look at yourself and believe that you can. Try as many ideas as you have. One of them can be the one.*

If you have not tried yet, we invite you to go to The Pastry Shop. We guarantee you will soon be walking back.

90 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 are 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, let's meet:

Ricardo Ramírez Alfaro: Centro de Formación Pedagógica y Tecnología Educativa Executive Director, Agronomist, Hydroponics Farmer, and Nature Lover.

Where do you live?

I was born and raised in Mercedez Norte, Heredia, and I now I live in María Auxiliadora, in Heredia.

Best childhood memory?

I come from a big family. I am the youngest of 10 children my parents had, so I remember my family life sharing and learning with and from my siblings and parents. My parents fought to give us everything they could, especially education.

First job

There were several coffee plantations in Mercedez Norte, so my first job was a as coffee collector. I worked during December, January and February in order to save money to buy everything I needed for school.

Favorite food

I am a pasta lover; however, I love beans.

Something you really can't stand.

Honestly, I have eaten it, but it is something that I do not like that much is sushi.



90 seconds with...



Would you class yourself as a day or night person?

Because of my job, I start work early in the morning. I am a very punctual person, so I am usually at the office at 7 am.



A good book

Long time ago, I read a book: Abriendo las Auras. I am an agronomist, and what I like about this book is that it guides people, especially farmers, on how to achieve their goals. It is a story of people who need to go the extra mile in order to get a piece of land. Some of them have to work with only their machetes to clean the land, but at the end they are an example of hard work and self-motivation

Favorite music

I am a romantic person; I like ballads, and my favorite singers are Jose Jose and Braulio. For me, they are great. In each song there is a story to enjoy.

What is always in your fridge?

Milk. I like to have a glass of milk with every meal.

What's a trip or vacation you really have enjoyed?

I have the chance to travel a lot, but one place that I would like to visit again is Israel. It is a little country, but almost every corner is historically important. In addition, it is amazing to see how they use technology, and how efficient they are in terms of education and farming. They grow almost everything they need in the desert.

What is your greatest fear?

My greatest fear is not to be able to support my children, especially my youngest son who is eleven years old. I would like to be there for him until he becomes a professional.

Tell me a joke or proverb you remember right now.

I use many proverbs to the point that my children gave me a t-shirt with many of them. One proverb my father used, and that I try to teach it to my children is "save for a rainy day. That is what we did in my childhood. We worked during vacations and saved money to be able to pay for everything when the school year began.

The Attic of Bertha Mason

To Comma or not to Comma

As SHANE FERRO defines it, "An Oxford, or serial, comma is the last comma in a list, which goes before the word "and." It's, technically, grammatically optional in American English."

The Oxford comma causes heated debates in the fields of linguistics and among language lovers. Its use is actually up to the writer, unless you write for a publication that has very definite writing guidelines.

Defendants of the comma love it specifically because it reduces ambiguity that can be really annoying in some cases:

"We invited the strippers, JFK and Stalin."

If we add the Oxford comma, we will get:

"We invited the strippers, JFK, and Stalin."

The latter one was of course the intended meaning of the famous phrase. On the other hand, detractors of the comma say that it is overrated and the most readers will understand what we mean. For example, "This book is dedicated to my parents, Ayn Rand and God." Maybe believers will be offended, or maybe it is just a good reason to laugh. You be the judge.



Words Cited

Ferro, S. Oxford Comma. Retrieved from <http://www.businessinsider.com.au/always-use-the-oxford-comma-2015-5>.

The Attic of Bertha Mason

A Friend

By Alejandro Camacho (ILE Student)

When in trouble I find myself, whom may I going call?
I can call a super hero.

No, no they can't be trusted at all.

When I am alone and blue, whom can I tell all my sorrows?

I can visit the man in the moon

No, he is so out of touch.

What will happen to me if my tears I need to wipe?

I can go to the hospital

No, they can't listen to my heart

If I need help with my troubles, if I feel alone and blue

If I need a shoulder to cry on

The only one I can truly count on

Is you my friend because

Without being my brother,

Without being my doctor,

Without being my super hero,

Without being an alien,

He is more powerful than any superhero, or a doctor.

Without any super power,

You can make me smile and all my troubles forget.

You can make me be happy by just simply being there.

I know that if I crash and burn,

You'll come to my rescue

Because you're my superhero, and

Even though we don't share the same blood,

Will be infinity and beyond the best of friends.

The Attic of Bertha Mason

Soul

By Nicole Herrera (ILE Student)

By the shape of her almond eyes, and the deepness of her sight
 He found himself immersed
 In the mysterious condition he was looking for.
 The sharpen knife killing his thoughts was the weapon hurting his soul.
 No matter how many times he closed his eyes
 She will be there, like a bright intriguing light.

(Pictures of cloud taken from: <http://www.clker.com>)

Myself

By Nicole Herrera (ILE Student)

As the wind blows through my red cheeks
 Every human feelings becomes weak.
 No matter what the city lights show
 My spirit is the one who decides where to go
 Loving what is surrounding myself
 Is my mental disease and nobody's concern.
 If I could spread my wings,
 I would be running out of this absurd spell.

(Pictures of cloud taken from: <http://www.clker.com>)

LANGUAGE BITS

SITUATION	FORMAL	RELAXED	INFORMAL
A friend asks if you think you are going to win a competition. You are certain that you won't win.	There is but a slim possibility of that happening.	There isn't a chance.	Fat chance!
A friend tried to help you but she did more harm than good.	Her assistance was but in vain.	She wasn't very helpful.	A fat lot of good she did!
You failed a test.	My work did not attain the required standard.	I failed it.	I flunked it.

(Information taken from Hot English Online Magazine #105 p.36)

A No-No Situation – Double Negatives for English

by Irwin Céspedes (PIT Professor)

How many times have you heard phrases that may seem to be positive in English, but the action after them demonstrates the opposite? Welcome to the world of double negatives. A double negative in linguistics is the “nonstandard usage of two negatives used in the same sentence so that they cancel each other and create a positive” (Escalas, 1999). In most “Romance” languages such as Spanish, French and Italian (Mazzaro & Cuervo, 2015), the presence of it is quite marked, however in other languages with Germanic ascensions, they are a No-No, literally speaking (Fuster Sansalvador, 2013).

For example, when we start learning a second language, we tend to do language switching quite regularly. And, in essence, we just tend to say things like:

¿No quiere comprar papas? Translated to English, that would be as:
Don't you want to buy potatoes?

The real issue begins when we want to answer the questions. In Spanish, both: Yes and No will eventually mean No. But in English, this could be the panorama.

Don't you want to buy potatoes?	Yes, I don't want to buy potatoes
No, I do want to buy potatoes	

For us, the thing gets real when we start using our Romance Language logic and believe that yes means Yes and No means No, whereas the No actually means Yes and Yes, actually means No. This has its roots in the development of the English language from 1000 to 1500 CE. (Wagner, 2015). Even though, the history and mechanics of the language are correlated, in this time we will help you to get acquainted with the usage and correct recognition of when you could get puzzled by the Double Negative stuff. These help outs are adapted from the wise knowledge of Escalas, (1999)

LANGUAGE BITS

First of all, remember that two negatives form a positive will help you to avoid the "double negative" grammar problem:

Negative + Negative = Positive Negative + Positive = Negative

Second of all, take a special look for these words that are regarded as negatives:

No	Nobody
Not	No one
None	Hardly
Nothing	Scarcely
Nowhere	Barely
Neither	

Using the rule explained above in the box and the list of negative words given, study the following examples:

	Sentence	Meaning
Positive Construction negative + negative	I <u>hardly</u> have <u>none</u> .	I have some.
I <u>don't</u> want <u>nothing</u> .	I want something.	
Negative Construction negative + positive	I <u>hardly</u> have <u>any</u> .	I have few.
I <u>don't</u> want <u>anything</u> .	I want nothing.	

When do we don't have to use double negatives? In written works, specially the academics. These may lead to some confusion among the writers and the readers, because depending on the native language of the reader; the idea may be blurred leading to misconceptions from the voice of the writer. (Fogarty, 2011) With these, we can assure you that you would never have problems with double negation in the future.

References:

- Escalas, M. (1999). Double Negatives. Retrieved April 18, 2015, from <http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/grammar/doubneg.html>
- Fogarty, M. (2011). Grammar Girl: What's a Double Negative? :: Quick and Dirty Tips TM. Retrieved April 20, 2015, from <http://www.quickanddirtytips.com/education/grammar/whats-double-negative>
- Fuster Sansalvador, C. (2013). *Negation in Germanic Languages: A micro-typological study on negation*. Stockholms Universitet. Retrieved from <http://www.diva-portal.se/smash/get/diva2:641563/FULLTEXT02.pdf>
- Mazzaro, N., & Cuervo, M. C. (2015). *Duplicación de la Negación en el Español de Corrientes*. University of Toronto, University of Texas at El Paso. Retrieved from http://www.nataliamazzaro.com/Cuervo___Mazzaro_duplicacion_de_negacion.pdf
- Wagner, J. (2015). History of English. Retrieved April 18, 2015, from <http://ielanguages.com/enghist.html>

HUMOR



This month, we share with you some British jokes.

A man asked for a meal in a restaurant. The waiter brought the food and put it on the table. After a moment, the man called the waiter and said:

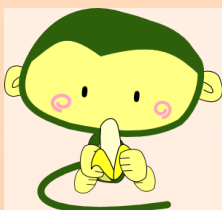


"Waiter! Waiter! There's a fly in my soup!"

"Please don't speak so loudly, sir," said the waiter, "or everyone will want one."

Q/What's the definition of a pessimist?
A/A pessimist is a well-informed optimist.

A woman gets on a bus with her baby. The driver says, "Ugh! That's the ugliest baby I've ever seen."



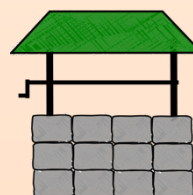
The woman stalks off to the rear of the bus and sits down. She turns to the man sitting next to her and says, "The driver just insulted me!"

The man says, "You go and give him a telling off. I'll hold your monkey for you."

Q/ Did you hear about the winner of the English beauty contest?

A/ Me neither.

My mother-in-law fell down a wishing well, I was amazed, I never knew they worked.



Q/Why did the bald man paint rabbits on his head?

A/Because from a distance they looked like hares!

Q/What kind of ears does an engine have?

A/Engineers



Q/How do you count a herd of cattle?

A/With a cowculator.

Two Americans are talking. One asks: "What's the difference between capitalism and communism?"

"That's easy" says the other one. "In capitalism man exploits man! In communism it is the other way around!"

Technology

Remind

Remind is a free app that allows users to set notifications for themselves and create lists. Remind (formerly Remind 101) offers teachers a free, safe and simple way to instantly text students & parents. Teachers, coaches, or administrators can send reminders, assignments, homework, assessments, or motivational messages directly to students and parents' phones. Messaging is safe because phone numbers are kept private. Teachers save time because they can send quick, one-way Announcements, or opt-in to Chat for personalized communication with a student or parent. For students and parents, Remind provides an easier way to stay informed outside of the classroom. Teachers, students, and parents can download the Remind app to stay connected more easily. If you love Remind, share it with your colleagues or write a review. To learn more about Remind, go to <https://www.remind.com/learn-more>.



Duolingo

One of the most popular and well-known tools for learning a language online is Duolingo. Duolingo is completely free. The free language learning app Duolingo offers 9 language courses for English speakers. These include Spanish, with over 30 million learners signed up, Italian, with almost 8 million learners, and Irish, with half a million learners.

Duolingo also includes language courses for speakers of languages other than English. These include French for Portuguese speakers, English for Czech speakers, and so on. Duolingo is a great example of a straightforward language app. It's really simple to use. You set up a profile, choose your target language, set your weekly goals (only if you're brave enough) and off you go!

Each course in Duolingo is made up of modules, which are grouped to form skills. Duolingo dictates the order in which you need to complete the different modules, with new modules becoming active only once you've completed the previous one. This is also the case with individual lessons within each module. You need to complete lesson 1 to be able to progress to lesson 2, and so on. That said, Duolingo allows you to 'test out of' individual modules as well as groups of modules (skills). To learn more about Duolingo, go to <https://www.duolingo.com>.










This Month in History

IT HAPPENED IN MAY

May 2 nd , 1777	American Revolutionary War: American forces under the command of George Washington repulsed a British attack at the Battle of the Assunpink Creek near Trenton, New Jersey.
May 5 th , 1877	Indian Wars: Sitting Bull leads his band of Lakota into Canada to avoid harassment by the United States Army under Colonel Nelson Miles.
May 9 th , 1502	Columbus left Spain on his 4 th & final trip to New World.
May 12 th , 1551	National University of San Marcos, the oldest university in the Americas, was founded in Lima, Peru.
May 16 th , 1770	14-year old Marie Antoinette marries 15-year-old Louis-Auguste who later becomes king of France.
May 22 nd , 1906	Wright brothers are granted U.S. patent number 821,393 for their "Flying-Machine."
May 24 th , 1893	The Niagara Falls Park and River Railway opens in Ontario.
May 26 th , 1805	Napoleon Bonaparte is crowned King of Italy.
May 28 th , 1953	Premier of first animated 3-D cartoon in Technicolor-Melody.
May 31 st , 1279 BC	Ramses II (The Great) (19 th dynasty) becomes pharaoh of Ancient Egypt.

FAMOUS PEOPLE BORN THIS MONTH

PERSON	JOB	BIRTHDAY
	Philosopher	May 3 rd , 1469
	Scientist	May 6 th , 1856
	Pop Singer	May 8 th , 1975
	Soccer Player	May 11 th , 1984
	TV Actor	May 21 st , 1952
	Wrestler	May 25 th , 1985
	Soap Opera Actress	May 29 th , 1959

This Month in History

May The 4th Be With



Star Wars Day, May 4th, celebrates Star Wars created by George Lucas. Observance of the holiday spread quickly due to Internet, social media, and grassroots celebrations. The date was chosen for the easy pun on the catchphrase "May the Force be with you"—"May the fourth be with you". Even though the holiday was not actually created or declared by Lucasfilm, many Star Wars fans across the world choose to celebrate the holiday.

The reference was first used on May 4, 1979; the day Margaret Thatcher took office as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Thatcher's political party, the Conservatives, placed a congratulatory advertisement in The London Evening News that stated "May the Fourth Be with You, Maggie. Congratulations." This reading of the line has also been recorded in the UK Parliament's Hansard.

To celebrate this day, there are online and in-store deals on "Star Wars" merchandise and gaming, "Star Wars" food galore and events where fans are encouraged to dress up or play "Star Wars" trivia or just enjoy their favorite film franchise.

Star Wars is an American epic space opera franchise centered on a film series created by George Lucas. The franchise depicts a galaxy described as "far, far away" in the distant past, and portrays Jedi as a representation of good, in conflict with the Sith, their evil counterpart. Their weapon of choice, the lightsaber, is commonly recognized in popular culture. The franchise's storylines contain many themes, with influences from philosophy and religion.

Aside from its well known science fictional technology, Star Wars features elements such as knighthood, chivalry, and princesses that are related to archetypes of the fantasy genre.

Characters and other fictional elements from Star Wars have inspired several scientific names of organisms. Examples include *Midichloria*, a genus of bacteria named after the fictional microorganisms midichlorians associated with the Force, and *Yoda purpurata*, (an acorn worm).

The Star Wars saga has had a significant impact on modern American pop culture. In 1989, the Library of Congress selected the original Star Wars film for preservation in the U.S. National Film Registry, as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

(Information taken from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_Wars)

(Pictures taken from <http://www.freshrags.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/MAYTHE4TH-430x425.jpg>)

PROVERB OF THE MONTH

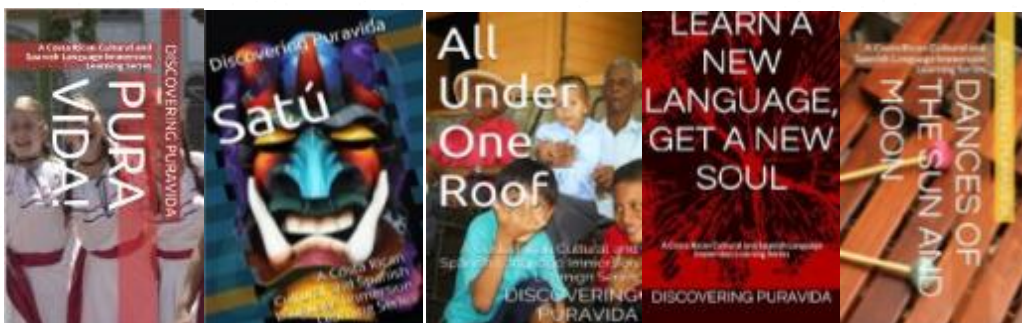
A proverb is a short saying or sentence that is generally known by many people. The saying usually contains words of wisdom, truth or morality that are based on common sense or practical experience. It is often a description of a basic rule of conduct that all people generally follow or should follow. Proverbs can be found in all languages. In this month, in which we celebrate Star Wars Day, we want to share with this saga fans this interesting quote taken from one of the Star Wars movies:

**“Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger.
Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering.”**

— George Lucas, *Star Wars, Episode I: The Phantom Menace*

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_1?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](#)

PROGRAMA DE IDIOMAS



Description

Our language open courses have been designed to provide students an environment in which they can participate and role play everyday situations.

Experienced teachers and small groups complement a process applying appropriate foreign language learning strategies. Phonetic concepts are included to reinforce oral abilities in a way students can integrate other language skills, such as reading comprehension, listening, and grammar structures.

Besides, students are able to discuss and express their opinions on several topics regarding a variety of common interest issues such as sports, culture, pollution, social problems, and the like, by using proper grammar structures and pronunciation.

At the end of the program, students achieve an intermediate level of language production (B1 according to the Common European Framework) intended as satisfactory to fulfill their academic and professional requirements with native speakers.

Academic program

Our program consists of the following academic offerings:

English Introductory Level (INGLES NIVELATORIO)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Registration fee is not charged.
- Placement test (Optional).
- Age requirement: 15 years old minimum. (does not include the Children Program)

Further information: Tel. 2435-5000 ext: 1192-1193 or through e-mail programaidiomas@utn.ac.cr

A basic two-month course designed to provide students elementary language tools.

Regular English Program (INGLES REGULAR)

A two-year program in which students attend classes twice a week, morning or evening schedule, or only on Saturday mornings.

Intensive English Program (INGLES INTENSIVO)

A twelve-month program in which students attend three times a week, morning or evening schedule.

English For Children and Teenagers (INGLES PARA NIÑOS Y ADOLESCENTES)

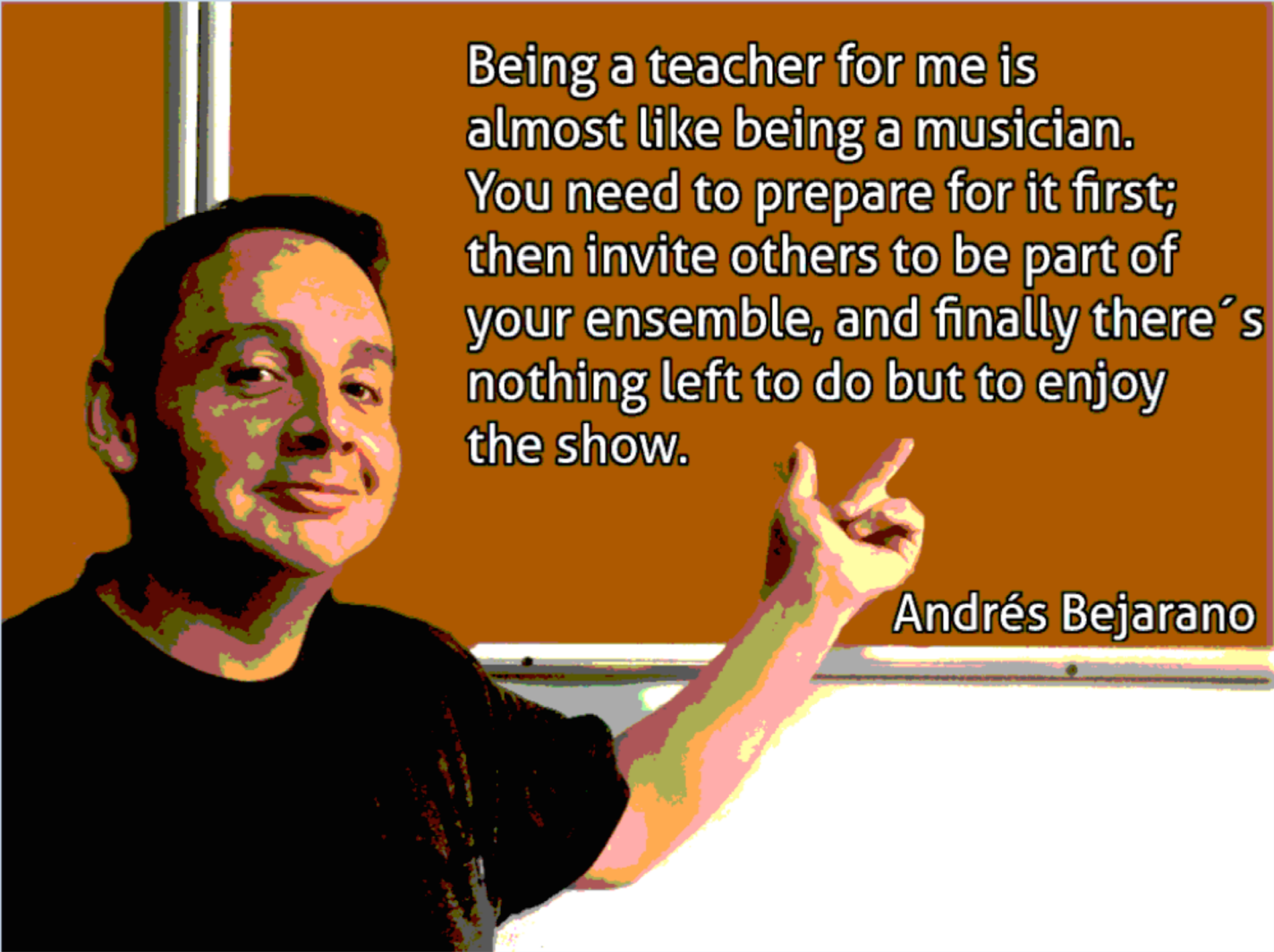
A two-year program designed for children and teenagers up to 14 years old. Students attend classes on Saturday evenings.

Portuguese

A fourteen-month program in which students attend classes twice a week, morning or evening schedule, or only on Saturday mornings.

Italian

A sixteen-month program in which students attend classes twice a week, morning or evening schedule, or only on Saturday mornings.



Being a teacher for me is almost like being a musician. You need to prepare for it first; then invite others to be part of your ensemble, and finally there's nothing left to do but to enjoy the show.

Andrés Bujalín