

# Leonardo Boff at UTN

## Journey of the Universe

## Iron Lady dies

## From Green to Blue

## April Fool's Day

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# COVER PAGE

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This month's cover page is dedicated to the restored building in Alajuela downtown. This building is more than a hundred years old and it was previously used by Instituto de Alajuela High-School, and Alajuela Community College (CUNA). It was abandoned for several years and thanks to UTN, the local government, and the community, it was finally opened last April 11<sup>th</sup>.

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



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# EDITORIAL

## *The School of Open*

*"Education is more than a luxury; it is a responsibility that society owes to itself."*

*Robin Cook*



The third-year celebration of Open Education Week will be held from March 11th to 15th. The purpose of this event is to raise awareness of the open educational movement and the opportunities it creates in the teaching learning process worldwide.

The School of Open is a community of volunteers that develops and runs online courses on the meaning and impact of "openness" in the digital age and its benefits to creative endeavors, education, research, and beyond. High quality education is accessible for more and more people around the world thanks to the efforts made by people like Richard Baraniuk, a professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Rice University. In 2007, the Shuttleworth Foundation<sup>1</sup> and the Open Society Institute<sup>2</sup> came up a conference on open education which led to the writing and signing up of the Cape Town Open Education Declaration: "Unlocking the Promise of Open Educational Resources Document".

Under the motto: "Everyone has something to teach and everyone has something to learn", this declaration has highly contributed to the development of education rights from its beginning. It supports the claim that XXI Century Education requires collaborative work and the production of resources to grow together as learning peers in the society of knowledge. The Open Education Week featured over 60 webinars or seminars online to individuals and numerous local

events and workshops around the world. Topics are varied and given out in different languages. This year's celebration brings forward the great news that the School of Open will officially launch its first set of courses soon; including courses on copyright and Creative Commons for educators. Courses will be free and open to reuse and remix under P2PU's (Peer to Peer University) with creative commons licensing procedures.

To consider the mission, the vision and the principles that constantly strive to sustain and enhance the quality of teaching and research through the use of technology; can take advantage of strategic alliances to implement the School of Open. For instance, professors can be initially introduced to aspects like public domain, copyright laws, creative commons, and the fair use of materials. Second, document resource centers of UTN will need assistance in terms of knowing how to guide students through digital research. Third, as the production of materials, books, documents, essays among others is still unusual, there must be some improvement of aspects such as the promotion of more university research and increasing of the academic drive for authentic production of materials. This will also require training on how to achieve these. In the hope of noticing fresh new productions of UTN towards the end of 2013 in the direction of the School of Open for example, we could take confident steps to be the leading in the top list of public universities in Costa Rica.

*Eric Herrera*

<sup>1</sup> The Shuttleworth Foundation was established in January 2001 by South African entrepreneur Mark Shuttleworth as an experiment with the purpose of providing funding for people engaged in social change.

<sup>2</sup> The Open Society Institute was founded by George Soros, aimed to shape public policy to promote democratic governance, human rights, and economic, legal, and social reform.

(information taken from: <https://p2pu.org/en/schools/school-of-open/> <http://www.openeducationweek.org/welcome-2/>)



## NEWS

### *U.S. Beats Costa Rica Amid Heavy Snow*

On a snowy night, more suitable to slaloms than soccer, the United States beat Costa Rica 1-0 on Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup> in a key qualifier for next year's World Cup. Snow began falling during the afternoon and got stronger as the game went on. Snow plows were used on the field until just before kickoff, but the boundary lines were covered again in minutes; forcing stadium workers to run out with shovels constantly. There was even a brief stoppage in the 55th minute when it was unclear whether the match commissioner would let the contest continue. As the conditions went worse, the U.S. survived Michael Umana's apparent 70th-minute goal for Costa Rica that was not valid because of an offside position. For home-field advantage against a Central American team; the weather couldn't be better -4 degrees with snow on the field and on the air.

Costa Rica decided to file protest on inclement World Cup qualifier weather. The team's coach, Jorge Luis Pinto, told reporters after the game that "it was embarrassing for soccer" that the game was not postponed. However, FIFA declined the protest.

Clint Dempsey scored the winning goal for the United States. The victory puts the team back on track to earn one of CONCACAF's three automatic bids to the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.



### *Louisville Cardinals Became NCAA Champions*

On Monday April 8th, Louisville Cardinals defeated Michigan Wolverines 82 to 76 to win its third NCAA men basketball championship (1980-1986). It took them 27 years to become the number one university team after two previous final appearances in the Final Four. The Cardinals had to muster an offensive attack as Michigan started this game on fire. It was an exciting game.



Trailing 33-21 with just under 4 minutes left in the first half, bench player Luke Hancock scored four three point baskets to end the first half losing by one. The second half was a real battle where both teams showed their wish to win. At the end, Hancock was awarded MVP of the game, and at the moment to cut the basket net (tradition when a team wins a championship), the basket was lowered to court level, so injured player and inspiration Kevin Ware could do it. Ware, part of the starting lineup, was hardly injured a week ago during the game against Duke Blue Devils. Louisville coach, Rick Pitino had the chance to win his second NCAA National Title becoming the first coach to win two championships with two different teams.

## *Iron Lady Dies*

Margaret Thatcher (1925-2013), the first woman ever to serve as a Prime Minister of Great Britain died on April 9<sup>th</sup> at age 87. Her impact on the 1980's was such that opponents, including Labor's Tony Blair and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, led tributes to a legacy that radically transformed the British economy along free-market lines now widely taken for granted as well as the role she had in the peaceful end to the Cold War. From 1979 to 1990 as a prime minister, Thatcher transformed her country through a ruthless dedication to free markets and infuriated European allies. She transferred large chunks of the economy from the state's hands to private ownership. The former premier died peacefully on Monday morning at the Ritz Hotel after a stroke. She had been in poor health for months.



*"Where there is discord, may we bring harmony. Where there is error, may we bring truth. Where there is doubt, may we bring faith. And where there is despair, may we bring hope."*

(Margaret Thatcher's words paraphrasing the "Prayer of Saint Francis in her opening speech as a Prime Minister in 1979)

(Information taken from: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret\\_Thatcher](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_Thatcher) )

## *Explosions at Boston Marathon*

Two explosions occurred near the finish line at the Boston Marathon on Monday about four hours after the start of the race. At least three people were killed, and more than 170 were wounded. The explosions occurred shortly before 3:00 p.m. on April 15<sup>th</sup> as dozens of runners were crossing the finish line near Copley Square, packed with thousands of spectators and friends and family of the competitors. Runners still on the course were called in after the explosions and authorities evacuated two hotels in the vicinity. The deadly bombs that turned the Boston Marathon into dreadful devastation were apparently placed inside pressure cookers hidden in backpacks. This tragedy comes after more than twelve years since 9/11 attack and brings back the ghost of terrorist attacks in the United States.



(Pictures taken from: <http://www.prensaescrita.com/adiario.php?codigo=AME&pagina=http://www.diarioextra.com> )

## *Jorge Rey Gives Conference at UTN*

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, Jorge Rey Valzacchi, Head of Virtual Educa, an initiative of multilateral cooperation in the fields of education, gave a conference at UTN. Virtual Educa is supported by the Organization of American States (OEA), and the Ibero-American General Secretariat (Secretaría General Iberoamericana). Virtual Educa is a leader in E-learning in Latin America, and several UTN teachers have had the chance to take some courses Virtual Educa offers. Virtual Educa promotes the creation of national and international networks and alliances that share and replicate satisfactory training models that incorporate new technological tools. Jorge Rey Valzacchi talked about the importance of bringing awareness and developing skills on the use of ICT's (Information and Communication Technology) in education to teachers. He added that the investment on technology should go together with the investment in training for teachers, and one of the best ways to fulfill this is through on line courses. To conclude its participation, he invited the attendants to register into the next cohorts in April, August, or September. Finally, the authorities from the university announce the organization of the first Costa Rican Forum of Virtual Education next November.



(Pictures taken by Carlos Herrera)

## *Leonardo Boff at UTN*

Last April 3<sup>rd</sup>, UTN offered the community an international forum with the participation of Brazilian Leonardo Boff. Leonardo Boff is the first Latin American liberation Theologist to situate social and political liberation within a broader ecological framework. Boff gained worldwide attention in 1985 when he was summoned to the Vatican to explain sections of his book, *"The Church: Charism and Power"*, which questioned certain teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. As a founder of liberation theology, Boff's concern has always been with the poor and oppressed of the world. In his early writings, the oppression of the poor was exposed through social scientific (Marxist) analysis, evaluated in the light of faith, and then actively opposed. In Boff's later writings, he articulated an "eco-spirituality," claiming that the plight of the oppressed and the earth are connected.



Part of his message is summarized with the following thoughts:

*"Today, we are in a new phase of humanity. We all are returning to our common house, the Earth: the people, the societies, the cultures and religions by exchanging experiences and values, we enrich ourselves, and we complete ourselves mutually".*

*"The most important challenge is to cultivate forms of coexistence that do not exclude anybody".*



*"Globalization can also manifest itself in the sphere of spirituality. Economic, political and sociological factors give impetus to another determinant of globalization: a new planetary awareness that we are all responsible and accountable for our common fate, for the fate of all life forms and of the earth".*

(Biographical information taken from: <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/bron/pdf--christianity/Maclean+Lorentzen--Leonardo%20Boff.pdf> )

## *UTN Participated in Third International Workshop on Distance Education and Pedagogy in Cuba*

*by Mauren Guevara (PIT Professor)*

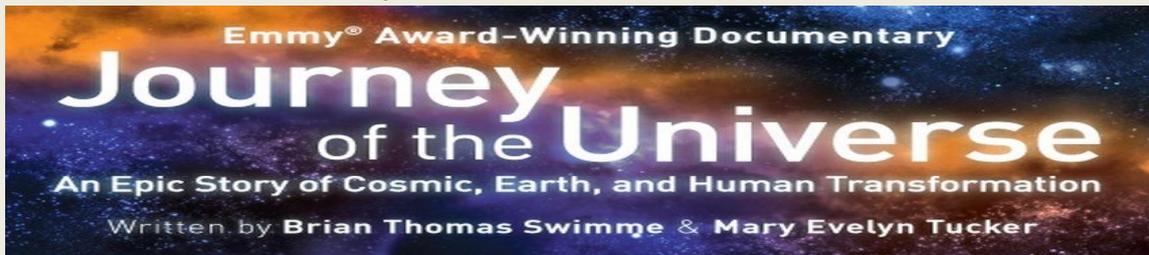
Representatives of Universidad Técnica Nacional participated in the Third International Workshop on Distance Education and Pedagogy held in the city of Bayamo, Cuba, from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of March this year. This workshop was within the framework of the IV Cuban Congress of Local Development, whose motto was "developing strategies for sustainable development." The university was represented by Mag. Nury Bonilla, head of the Educational Technology Department, Lic. Mauren Guevara, professor at Programa Institucional de Idiomas para el Trabajo (PIT), and M.Ed. Gabriela Calvo, Program Coordinator of PIT in the panel: Impact of the distance training on professional, with the conference: "Virtual Learning Environments: Using Educational Technology for Learning English Meaningfully at Universidad Técnica Nacional in Costa Rica ". UTN representatives presented the different e-learning processes that are taking place in the institution as well as the training courses and workshops that have been developed by the Educational Technology department since 2010. Likewise, PIT presented the pilot virtual course implemented last year in the Accounting and Finance major. Mrs. Guevara and Mrs. Calvo mentioned the variety of learning objects used, the methodology, evaluation and the importance of communication and collaborative work in virtual learning environments.



## *Journey of the Universe*

*by Jose Soto (ILE Director)*

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, professors of the English Academic Area of Sede Central and a good number of students filled the auditorium and enjoyed the documentary, *Journey of the Universe*, an EMMY® Award Winner. No one expected that this was going to be some of the best lessons we have ever had in our lives about our life on Earth. Another important guest in the audience was UTN Vice-Chancellor Katalina Perera, who understood the significance of this event and honored us with her presence.



It was five o'clock in the evening, and the feeling of accomplishment and anxiety got mixed up together with the visit of two important scholars from Yale University. It was Professor Gabriela Calvo and Jose Soto who arranged the logistics of the event and planned it out in order to have some of the best events of the first quarter of 2013. Undoubtedly, this has been one of the most prestigious visits. Mary Evelyn Tucker and her husband John Grim were early to their appointment, sitting down outside the auditorium watching students pass by, who obviously did not have an idea of who these two special guests were.

A quick search on the web reveals many different biographies of both Evelyn and John. Mary Evelyn Tucker, a Senior Lecturer and Senior Research Scholar at Yale University; where she has appointments at the School of Forestry & Environmental Studies as well as the Divinity School. She is a co-founder and co-director with John Grim of the Forum on Religion and Ecology.<sup>1,2</sup>



Punctually at six thirty, Ms. Tucker addressed students and professors with an introduction to the film. She reminded everyone the importance of keeping cell phones off in order to make sure everyone understands the vital content of the film. She indicated to keep subtitles in Spanish, and this obviously was not understood by many, but the seriousness of Mary set the indication straight. She needed it everyone to get every word and message that Brian Swimme narrated in the *Journey of the Universe*.

Students and professors who watched the documentary by Brian Thomas Swimme & Mary Evelyn Tucker thought of it as magnificent, powerful, enlightening, and of course splendidly didactic. Using his skills as a masterful story teller, Swimme connects such big picture issues as the birth of the cosmos 14 billion years ago – to the invisible frontiers of the human genome – as well as to our current impact on Earth's evolutionary dynamics. Through his engaging and

thoughtful observations, audiences everywhere will discover the profound role we play in this intricate web of life.<sup>3</sup>

In the meantime, Mary and John stayed and watched it probably their 100th time. However, they could still be noticed as amazed by the piece of art and knowledge that we were all watching. Students' behavior was highly appraised for actually keeping their cell phones away in their bags or somewhere; abiding by the strong and passionate indication of Mary.

After the film, Mary and John started the post viewing commentary on the movie. Here on, the excitement of Mary and John's words captivated all the students and professors. Students asked questions and made comments as part of the feedback presenters expected. It was clear how the message of the documentary got through the audience as expected by Mary. The conversation took longer than maybe any other movie forum has ever taken before, but it kept a rich line of discussion in the topics of life, cosmic evolution, creativity, holism, the importance of accepting changes and other humanistic insights concerning the nature of the universe. The kindness in the words of John and Mary appealed to the mindset of everyone present.

Students and professors left, and we had the chance to delight the guests with a delicious treat at the lobby of the Francisco Picado Soto library of Sede Central.

We thank Mary and John for their visit and at the same time, our desire is to have them around here sometime soon, not only for the English departments, but for the rest of the university in order to make everyone understand the importance of embrace, accept, and motivate change.

1. <http://environment.yale.edu/profile/tucker/>
2. <http://environment.yale.edu/profile/grim/>
3. [http://www.journeyoftheuniverse.org/storage//JOTU\\_FILM\\_SYNOPSIS\\_7.18.12.pdf](http://www.journeyoftheuniverse.org/storage//JOTU_FILM_SYNOPSIS_7.18.12.pdf)



## *First Stone is Laid*

UTN Chancellor, Marcelo Prieto, and Dean Emanuel González laid the first stone of the new classroom building in the presence of the university community. This ceremony marks the launch of the main works in a project that will be completed in 2013 with the delivery of classrooms and facilities able to house up to 750 students. The building's architecture will be innovative, sober and functional, and it was conceived entirely with environmental and ecological factors in mind in line with the selection criteria of the international architecture competition governing its design. This building will optimize the use of natural resources and reduce energy consumption and environmental emissions.

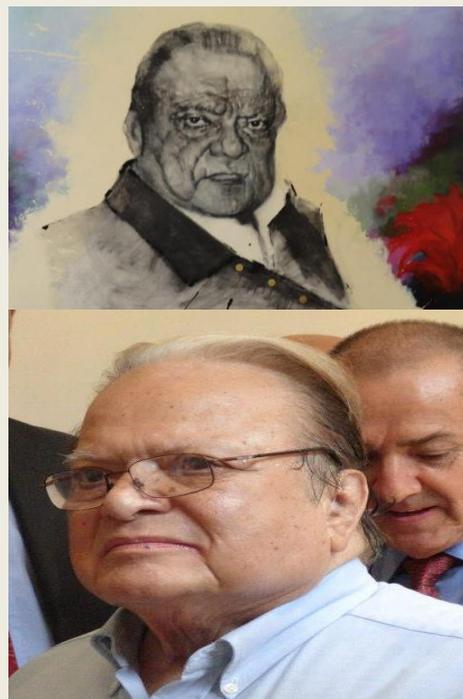


## *Historic Building restored*

After more than a year under restoration, UTN opened the old Instituto de Alajuela building on April 11<sup>th</sup>. The university invested \$463 million, and the city hall \$50 million on this project. This building was built in 1890 and has been home of different institutions like República de Guatemala elementary school, Gregorio José Ramírez high-school, and former Alajuela Community College (CUNA) in the past.



The renovated building will hold twenty classrooms that will allow the university from now on to allocate a higher number of students. Bringing a building of this historic age back to work has been very difficult and expensive, but thanks to UTN, the local government, and public in general who participated in fundraising campaigns made it possible. The significant history of the building required a highly-trained and specialized crew to complete the delicate work. The building is located in the heart of Alajuela downtown, just in front of Central Park, and it was given the name of Luis Alberto Monge after this Alajuelense former president who studied in this building when it was Instituto de Alajuela. Several government representatives attended the opening ceremony, and the public finally had the chance to see the beautiful restored structure alive. The whole community is proud that this landmark building will served again as the center of student life.



# THE ILE ETHOS

## *From Green to Blue*

by Eric Herrera (ILE Professor)



On Friday March 19<sup>th</sup>, I had the chance to attend the conference "From Green to Blue" ("Del Verde al Azul") organized by "Centro de

Formación Pedagógica" featuring lecturer Doctor Christian Rivera founder of *Costa Rica Azul*, a national development plan that promotes the "Wellness Tourism" concept as a generator for economic growth and social well-being.



In his lecture, Dr Rivera elaborated the concept of wellness tourism and offered a set of examples and initiatives promoted by *Costa Rica Azul*. This organization aims to bring up different professionals together to promote a wholesome Tourism Developmental Program, with the purpose of improving Costa Ricans' quality of life by maintaining a balance between the economic and social boundaries, environmental protection, culture, and facilities. The fresh and innovative ideas in the organization go along with the policies that ICT (Instituto Costarricense de Turismo) has established.

Regarding the meaning of wellness, Dr. Rivera explained that in the past, if you were not sick, you were considered healthy. However, that perspective has changed, and not being sick does not indicate whether you are in a state of well-being. The National Wellness Institute (USA) defines "Wellness as an active process of becoming aware of and making

choices towards a more successful existence."

Doctor Rivera also explained that a growing number of companies around the world have been promoting activities for better lifestyles to their employees. The main goal is to keep workers from expensive medical treatments in the future. Very common diseases like diabetes, heart disease, cholesterol, cancer, depression among others, drain lots of money from the health care systems, and that can be prevented.



Medical treatments in the USA are very expensive. For example, while people in USA pay an average \$39,299 for a total hip replacement, they might pay between \$12,500 and \$16,500 for the complete package in Costa Rica including surgery and a week-long post-op recovery stay. Attracting foreigners to visit Costa Rica for medical procedures is not clearly a substitute, but a complement that will highly benefit the tourism industry.

Doctor Rivera also mentioned the need of advertising some specific advantages of the country when promoting it as an outstanding destiny. First, the water of Costa Rica and its quality is such that anyone can drink from the tap almost everywhere, and prevent many of them from getting sick. However, this is something we rarely brag about overseas. Another advantage is the accessibility to medical services and hospitals. For example, a couple of months

ago Bono, lead singer of the band U2, and his wife came for vacation. Unfortunately, she had an accident while riding a quad, but she was immediately taken to a hospital and recovered with no problem and continued their stay in the country satisfactorily. Those two factors must be better publicized internationally.

Finally, Doctor Rivera mentioned gluten free tourism as something that may sound like a crazy idea to many, but in fact it is getting widely common in many developing countries. Gluten, a protein

found in wheat, rye and barley, causes an inflammatory reaction, and damage to the intestinal villi, which inhibits the absorption of nutrients. Gluten is found in beer, bread, soups, and even pasta. According to the Gluten-Free Certified Organization (GFCO), over 15 million people follow a gluten-free diet. Countries such as Finland, Italy, and many states in the USA are taking advantage of this particular to attract a high amount of tourists. "So why should not we do the same?" he asked the audience.

## *An Exemplary Professional*

*By Marlin Pérez (ILE Professor)*



We as human beings need a perfect framework or ideology to determine our destination and decide the direction and scope of our

actions for complete success in life. But we need not only theoretical guidelines and lofty ideas, but also living role models and real life examples worth emulating.

Have you ever paid attention to people around you? Have you found specific characteristics that make them to be exemplary professionals? If you have not, I would like to share with you a remarkable experience I went through last January.

I work for a bilingual school where the economical status is very high, and the professionals are carefully selected to reach the highest educational standards. This process implies a constant way of improvement in terms of professional development; that is why, I asked Katalina Perera to give a talk to my teachers knowing that our university Vice Chancellor is a fantastic lecturer, knowledgeable and a real lover of education. She spoke about how to be a teacher in the twenty first century and of course it was more than astonishing, it was

marvellous because she reached not only the mind of the participants; but also their hearts. Our school normally thanks our guests by buying presents, but Katalina would not take hers instead, she told me to use the price of the gift to help poor children whose parents could not afford their school supplies, and she asked me to make sure they would get them by the beginning of the school year. I did it that way ;and two little girls from elementary school and two young men from high school got their school materials from somebody they did not know, so from now on, Katalina will be present in their daily prayers.

So, dear reader now that you know this inspiring experience, a fact that makes you remember that happiness is in everybody's hands and those people are much closer to you than what you think. I would leave you with the following question and the invitation to stop and look around and identify the exemplary professionals and human beings two steps away from you.

What makes a human being the best role model and the most perfect example for others to emulate?

## *Psychological Considerations about Second Language Acquisition*

*By Xinia Nagygeller (ILE Professor)*



The study of language, and more specifically of Second Language Acquisition (SLA), takes principles from different fields or disciplines in an attempt to understand what, how, and why people learn or acquire language. In the case of Psychology, the study of brain functions and learning processes has provided some interesting conclusions that may help explain the process of SLA, and how it can be aided through teaching methodologies rooted in those findings.

A first approach mentioned by Saville-Troike (2012) refers to the idea that “particular locations in the brain may be specialized for language functions” (p.72). This premise holds the left hemisphere of the brain is responsible for most language related-processes whereas the right hemisphere serves to help the left side operations, besides of dealing with other kinds of mental functions (lateralization or specialization of the brain hemispheres). Moreover, the realization that age influences our capacity to deal with language due to brain specialization, and the lost of brain plasticity (Critical Period Hypothesis) may help explain why it is usually harder for adult L2 learners to attain a good level of proficiency in the target language while it is not so for children. Saville-Troike (2012) explains that age of acquisition dictates what brain hemisphere the L2 learner will use in his or her learning attempt; being usually the right instead of the left hemisphere in the case of adults, as opposed to younger learners (p.76). This suggests that adults’ mechanisms for language acquisition/learning are different from children’s mechanisms. As a result, the specialization of the human brain areas may

serve to identify how to better address the needs of L2 learners according to their age. Consequently, the kind of L2 instruction designed for adult learners, who use different means to learn language as it has been shown by Neurolinguistics, must take into account this conclusion in order to best ascertain acquisition and learning.

A second Psychological Approach to SLA focuses on the way information is processed or the kind of mental activity involved in the process of language learning and on language use. Researchers in the field have produced a comprehensive description of how information is processed through three main stages: Input (perception), Central Processing Functions, and Output (production). Moreover, according to McLaughlin (as cited in Saville-Troike, 2012, p.78) the language learning process is a complex one, and it normally goes from controlled to automatic processing through practice that allows learners to gradually acquire higher-order skills. Also, it has been found that restructuring/reorganization of mental representations is a parallel mental activity that takes place during the learning process (Saville-Troike, 2012).

The importance of these implications in the teaching and learning of second or foreign languages cannot be underestimated. If the way we humans process information goes from the simple to the more complex forms, it is just logical that English programs, curricula, lesson plans, learning situations, etc., follow this pattern. Educators should be better trained and informed on processing matters, so that they can use this information to understand what goes on during different stages of their students’ learning process and to direct their efforts to make the best of every stage by providing the kind of input (i+1) that will promote constant growth in L2 competence.

### References

Saville-Troike, M. (2012). *Introducing second language acquisition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.



## *Is a writer born or made?*

Regarding creativity and the creative genius, a lot has been said. Some people believe writers are born with their talent. Others strongly believe they are made.

Let's read what some writers said about this:

"There is nothing to writing. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and bleed."

- Ernest Hemingway

I have been successful probably because I have always realized that I knew nothing about writing and have merely tried to tell an interesting story entertainingly.

- Edgar Rice Burroughs

Most of the basic material a writer works with is acquired before the age of fifteen.

- Willa Cather

They all suggest writing requires practice and hard work. I have come to believe it is a combination of both. Writing is a solitary endeavor that requires a lot of time, effort, thinking, and going deep into your soul. When we want to write, we all have our doubts, especially if we have read a lot (which I expect all writers to do). You start wondering if you have what it takes to tell something worth reading. I have been lucky to teach Creative Writing for the last two years and in every course I have been positively surprised by the talent of one or more students. By having a space where they can create, students begin to discover they have something to say. What I have done is to facilitate some tools to put words together in a way that is crafty and complex. The truth about writing is that it is difficult, but the rewards of creating worlds and people of your own are worth the effort.

## *The number eight*

*by Silvia Elena Acuña (ILE Student)*

Through the moonless night

I could hear the sound

of the bike wheels

looking for it.

I saw the figure eight

moving tense

Rolling everywhere

in different sizes and positions.

The high resonance of

the wheels rumbling

through the dark road.

## *Fundamental Aspects learned at an Early Life*

*by Michael Arroyo (ILE Student)*

Any Psychologist would accept that many important aspects of personality are learned during early stages in life. Behaviors, thoughts, attitudes you see in a person are the direct result of distinctive experiences during his or her childhood.

Dylan Revoc was a child raised by his parents in a typical Costa Rican home. His home was next to his grandparent's house, and Dylan developed a special relationship with his grandfather; they enjoyed everything they did together, especially playing soccer almost every afternoon.

Dylan's grandfather wanted to give everything to his grandson. He used to buy toys for Dylan every weekend even though Dylan's grandmother didn't like this. Dylan's grandparents loved to admire the smile in Dylan's face.

One day Dylan asked his grandfather to buy him a bicycle, and a couple of weeks later he got his first marvelous red bicycle. However, now Dylan had a tough challenge to face: riding his new bicycle.

Every day Dylan got up early and tried to ride his bicycle. He got a lot of scars in his legs and arms during his practice. But each time Dylan fell down from the bicycle, there was his grandfather cheering him up: "You can Dylan, I know you can".

Dylan gave his best, and after three weeks, he was able to ride his bicycle alone, and his grandfather was always proudly looking at him every single moment. Three years later, Dylan's grandfather died, but Dylan had in his mind something to remember his grandfather for the rest of his life.

As expected, Dylan faced a lot of challenging situations during his life. Many times he failed on a test, at work, and in all those occasions he remembered his grandfather's words: 'you can Dylan do it, I know you can'.

Even though Dylan grew up in an environment in which people used to give up when they were supposed to make an effort, many people admired him because he always figure out how to solve difficult situations in his life. This was true,

One day someone asked Dylan: "How did you learn to give your best once more even when you have failed many times? You are so persistent! "

And Dylan replied:

"Trying to ride a bicycle".

## LANGUAGE BITS

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

| SITUATION  | FORMAL                               | RELAXED                 | INFORMAL                                       |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| You see something horrible in your plate of food..                 | That is most displeasing to the eye. | That is disgusting.     | That's gross.                                  |
| A friend of yours is from New Zealand.                             | She is a citizen of New Zealand.     | She's from New Zealand. | She's a kiwi.                                  |
| A friend is having a little sleep in the afternoon on an armchair. | He is reposing temporarily.          | He's having a nap.      | He's having 40 winks; he's having some shuteye |

## What is a Bias?

The connotations of some words can communicate personal, social, or political prejudice. This is sometimes deliberate and sometimes not. Some bias is built into the language, as in the case of words containing 'man'. In Old English the word 'man' meant person, and there were separate words for male person and female person. Of these only 'woman' has survived, while 'man' has come to mean specifically 'male person'. If you wish to be even-handed and not discriminate against half the population, you have problems with expressions such as:

-businessman

-mankind

-policeman

-chairman

There is no single solution to this. A common approach is to replace 'man' with 'person'. This works well for a number of the expressions above; it may appear slightly awkward—chairperson, policeperson—; or absurd like in peoplekind.

The other problem that English poses for those who wish to avoid a sexist bias in speech or writing is that it lacks a neuter personal pronoun, so it is better to write his/her, she/he.

(Information taken from: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bias> )

# HUMOR

## The Waiting Room

There were three fathers to be in a hospital waiting room, waiting for their babies to be born.

-The first nurse comes out and tells the first father, "Congratulations you're the father of twins!" He says, "Great! I am the manager for the Minnesota Twins."

-The second nurse comes out and tells the second father, "Congratulations you're the father of triplets"! He says, "That's cool! I work for 3M."

-The third father opens the window and jumps out.

-The third nurse comes out, and asks, - "Where's the third father?"

-One of the other fathers said, "Oh he jumped out the window."

-The nurse asks, "Why?"

-He replied, "He works for Seven Up!"



-Do you know why a room full of married people looks so empty?

-There's not a Single person in it.

A sloth calls the police to report that he was attacked and robbed by a gang of turtles. When the police ask him to describe the attack, he replies:

"I.....Dooooon't.....knoooooow...  
It... all... happened..... soooooo ... fasssst....."

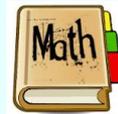
Q: How do bees get to school?

A: On the school buzz!



Q: Why was the math book sad?

A: Because it had too many problems.



A police recruit was asked during the exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" He answered, "Call for backup."



Q: What sound do porcupines make when they kiss?

A: Ouch

Q: Why did the tomato turn red?

A: It saw the salad dressing!



Q: Why did the tree go to the dentist?

A: To get a root canal.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## *National Arts Festival*

Since 1989 in Costa Rica is done biennial International Festival of the Arts, an artistic-cultural festival that takes to the streets, avenues, theaters and open stages of the Costa Rican capital for 10 days. This program, conducted by the Ministry of Culture and Youth and the National Theatre of Costa Rica aims to "bring together the best national and international artists to strengthen and encourage the artistic development of the national community, producing a high quality event diversity, promoting the exchange, fraternity and cooperation among artists, countries, civil society organizations, public

institutions and private companies. This year, the National Arts Festival (FNA) inauguration took place from April 5<sup>th</sup> in Mora's Central Park in San José. The show "Central America in Marimbas: Fraternal Chords" along with the music of the Fab Breast and colorful fireworks opened the festivities. Mora, Santa Ana and Puriscal – the cities in which the festival took place – are known for investing in culture and programs for safeguarding cultural heritage, arts and education and preserving tradition. The FNA displayed the work of more than 2,000 artists and put on more than 300 shows. There were workshops, reading activities, book exchanges and a decoration project in which artists were responsible for adorning a nursing home in Ciudad Colón.



## TECHNOLOGY

### *Public Domain Images*

It is common for teachers to be looking for pictures and images to produce didactic resources, prepare exams and material for their classes. Today most teachers worry about the use of images and copyrights. Looking for these kind of images take long if you do not know where to look for. The best thing you need to do is to look for public domain images. The public domain is generally defined as consisting of works that are either ineligible for copyright protection or with expired copyrights. Public domain refers to the total absence of copyright protection for work. The public domain is a range of abstract materials commonly referred to as intellectual property which are not owned or controlled by anyone. The term indicates that these materials are therefore "public property", and available for anyone to use for any purpose. Here we leave some websites where you can find public domain photographs and clipart images, we hope you get familiar with them, and that they can help you in your material production.



[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)

<http://www.morguefile.com/>

<http://www.copyrightfreephotos.com/>

<http://pdphoto.org/>

<http://www.public-domain-image.com/>

<http://publicphoto.org/>

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

### *April Fools' Day*

April Fools' Day is celebrated in many countries on April 1<sup>st</sup> every year. April 1<sup>st</sup> is not a national holiday, but is widely recognized and celebrated as a day when people play practical jokes and hoaxes on each other called April fools. Precursors of April Fools' Day include the Roman festival of Hilaria, held on March 25<sup>th</sup>, and the Medieval Feast of Fools, held on December 28<sup>th</sup> (día de los inocentes as we know it in Costa Rica), still a day on which pranks are played in Spanish-speaking countries. The earliest recorded association between April 1<sup>st</sup> and foolishness is an ambiguous reference in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* (1392). Many writers suggest that the restoration of January 1<sup>st</sup> by Pope Gregory XIII as New Year's Day of the Gregorian Calendar in the 16th century was responsible for the creation of the holiday, sometimes questioned for earlier references. This year Google surprised many people with its jokes. First they announced that youtube was going to be closed, then they gave a very convincing explanation of google maps treasure mode for those who wanted to look for a treasure. Finally they also announced google nose beta, an application to use the sense of smell in the internet.



(Information taken from: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April\\_Fools%27\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April_Fools%27_Day))

## It happened in April

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 1875     | The Times of London becomes the first newspaper to print a daily weather chart.  |
| April 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 1972     | Actor Charlie Chaplin returns to the United States for the first time since being labeled a communist in the early 1950s during the Red Scare. |
| April 6 <sup>th</sup> , 1830     | The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is organized by Joseph Smith, Jr. and others at Fayette, New York.                             |
| April 9 <sup>th</sup> , 1914     | First full color film shown "The World, The Flesh and the Devil" in London   |
| April 11 <sup>th</sup> , 1856    | In Rivas, Nicaragua, Juan Santamaría burns down the hostel where William Walker's filibusters are holed up.                                    |
| April 15 <sup>th</sup> , 1912    | The wreck of the Titanic   |
| April 21 <sup>st</sup> , 1984    | After 37 weeks, "Thriller" is knocked off as top album by "Footloose."   |
| April 24 <sup>th</sup> , 1184 BC | Greeks enter Troy using the Trojan Horse.  |

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 1994      South African general election, 1994: The first democratic general election in South Africa, in which black citizens could vote.

## Famous People Born In April

| PERSON           | BIRTHDAY                      |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Robert Downey    | April 4 <sup>th</sup> , 1965  |
| Gabriela Mistral | April 7 <sup>th</sup> , 1889  |
| Jackie Chan      | April 7 <sup>th</sup> , 1954  |
| Eliot Ness       | April 19 <sup>th</sup> , 1903 |
| Adolf Hitler     | April 20 <sup>th</sup> , 1889 |
| John Cena        | April 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 1977 |
| Oskar Schindler  | April 28 <sup>th</sup> , 1908 |

## 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 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**

