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

COVER PAGE



Our coverage this month is dedicated to Mark Twain. He wove the fundamentals of a rural life, as well as the developing landscape of America during the industrial revolution. 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 FACEBOOK. Photo credit: <http://foter.com/ff/>

photo/34392264335/c111985b58/

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EDITORIAL

Political Disenchantment

by Eric Herrera (ILE Professor)

“In politics, nothing happens by accident. If it happens, you can bet it was planned that way.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt



It is almost the end of the year, and we are two months away from the national elections. Some people may be happy to see the current president leave the house; however, with all the recent scandals, hope for better days is not on the horizon.

Aristotle defined politics as a practical science because it deals with making citizens happy; he also said that one of the most important roles of a politician is to make laws, or constitutions and make sure that that they are abided by. Nevertheless, the Costa Rican definition of this term today might be something like this one that I took from an anonymous source in the Internet: poly (prefix) meaning “many”, or “multiple”; ticks (n) meaning “**bloodsucking parasites.**”

Corruption scandal such as: the OAS (Brazilian company that was awarded and then denied the concession to widen the autopista Bernardo Soto), the border dirt road between Nicaragua and Costa Rica (Trocha), highway 27 overprice, Costa Rican Social Insurance Fund (CCSS) and its collapsed pension system, and the cement scandal (Cementazo) have driven Costa Ricans’ not trust in government and politicians to be at its all-time low.

Everyday newspapers, news programs and social media show more and more examples of corruption in institutions and departments of the three powers of Costa Rica, executive, legislative, and judicative. Costa Ricans are sick of false, dishonest, treacherous political parties who make promises when the only intention is to attract the necessary votes to win based on populism.

On one side, the lack of transparency of people with political aspirations, who sell themselves in the same way a product does,

bringing with it a disenchantment when they get involved in scandals, and someone shows the real character behind the “I am the best option for Costa Rica” slogan. This results in, recent presidential candidates and ex-presidents, Deputies of the Legislative Assembly, and even Magistrates putting national sovereignty under threat with their corrupting behavior.

On the other hand with the lack of political education, the whole system xx makes people in general an easy target to manipulate with fanfare and cheap populism. Food, t-shirts, and music are sometimes enough to influence a voting decision.

Some people may say there is no problem with all this lying among candidates because all of them are the same; however, this posture is indeed tremendously dangerous when it hides something criminal. If people want the country to be better, people must be aware of the dangers from covering up any truth because sooner or later it will come back like a boomerang bringing with it serious consequences for all.

More than asking people not to vote, the objective of this comment is to ask people to carefully reflect and think about who they will vote for during the 2018-2022 elections. Costa Ricans deserve more than constantly being in a roller coaster of negative news about the future. If there is not a best candidate to win the elections, at least let’s vote for the least worst person.



Public Universities Have A New Website

On October 19th, the National Council of University Rectors (CONARE) launched their new website <http://infoves.conare.ac.cr/web/infoves/inicio>. The activity took place at Auditorio del Consejo Nacional de Rectores (CONARE).

This is a totally new platform that provides prospective students with extensive information and career counseling about the

college's academic programs and general information about the five public universities: UCR, UNA, UNED, TEC, and UTN.

People can find on this website information in different formats: audio, video, pdf, links to sites of general interest, as well as the necessary contacts (phone numbers and email addresses) to answers questions.



UTN Presents Its First Academic Journal



On October 20th, UTN Academic Innovation Network officially launched **Yulök**, the first UTN academic journal. Yulök is a Bribí word meaning

“find” that reflects the effort made by this university to implement, innovate and share academic and scientific knowledge.

The objective of Yulök is to support and strengthen all aspects of the academic experience under the foundation of integrated teaching, learning, and research throughout UTN.

“With great pleasure and delight, we present the first issue of this journal. We have waited a long time for this moment. Now UTN academics have an academic journal where they can to publish their work and share the experiences and knowledge UTN is producing,” said UTN Chancellor Marcelo Prieto.

This journal is produced yearly with a digital and a paper publication under an open access license.

Equipment For The Visually Impaired Community

Addressing each need of students with visual impairments and improving overall accessibility are vital to their academic success, and that is why UTN Accessibility and Disability Commission (CIAD) has recently acquired several items to facilitate access to academic life and work for the visually impaired community. Among the equipment the university acquired are: computer keyboards with large, yellow keys, reading magnifiers, and cordless LED lamps.

With this kind of action, UTN continues showing its commitment to promote an inclusive culture. UTN makes everything possible to value and practice inclusiveness, social justice, and equity as values that are embedded into the heart and soul of this university.



Costa Rica Ex-President Visited UTN



On October 18th, UTN Pacific Campus welcomed Costa Rican Ex-President Miguel Angel Rodríguez who gave a conference on Democratic Governance and Prospects for Equitable Socioeconomic Development in Costa Rica.

Mr. Rodríguez explained we live in country with a democracy recognized in Latin America, and that because of this, Costa Rica has achieved many important objectives during the last century; however, Costa Rican citizens show a high level of discontent towards politics.

Some of the main aspects Mr. Rodríguez pointed out as reasons for social discontent were:

a.) The Costa Rican government has a

challenge to consolidate democratic gains through constitutional and institutional arrangements and to ensure that the legitimate interests of historically marginalized segments of the population become secured.

b.) The end of bipartisanship makes difficult to support different projects because of different interests among the several parties at the house of representatives.

c.) Social networks and mass media currently shows politicians as an average human being which makes their campaigns some kind of show or circus. This specific aspect distracts Costa Ricans from the real aspects a political campaign proposes and supports.

d.) There has been a dangerous increase in populism. It has become popular for candidates to make sweeping proposals that appeal to their likely voting base while using a very emotional tone in their speeches. Finally, he said that it was not only a right but also a duty to vote, so citizens must exercise their right to vote.

Second Anniversary Of Sakamina Project



On October 13th, UTN Main Campus celebrated the third anniversary of Sakamina Forest with an environmental rally in which there was participation of students, academics and administrative staff.

During the activity, Main Campus Dean Emmanuel González

spoke about the importance of this project. "Forests are critical to the environment for several reasons, including the creation of biodiversity. Planting trees develops a complex ecosystem that creates underlying vegetation and habitats. Today we can see in Sakamina butterflies, owls, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, grackles, among others.

Trees also have many benefits related to water management. Trees stabilize the soil and absorb much of the falling precipitation, which means that the water is slowly able to filter through the soil until it reaches the groundwater sources."

"UTN is committed to sustainability and responsible environ-

mental behavior. We want UTN students to learn that there must be a balance between development and nature," said UTN Chancellor Marcelo Prieto.

We invite UTN community to take some time and visit Sakamina Forest which is located behind the new laboratory building.



Finland Will Become The First Country In The World To Get Rid of All School Subjects

A revolution is coming for schools in Finland in the form of a destruction of all formal school subjects.

The head of the Department of Education in Helsinki, Marjo Kyllonen, has announced that he believes that the way children are taught now is based of a style that was a benefit to students in the beginnings of the 1900s, but now is no longer relevant and beneficial to our modernised way of learning. He strongly believes that our needs have changed and so we need to adapt our teachings to match with our new way of thinking and developing.

The huge changes will involve the **removal of school subjects from the curriculum**, as proposed by Finnish officials, which will be **replaced by the study of individual events and phenomena**.

This means that students will no longer have individual classes on subjects such as maths, geography and history, but will instead study an event, **such as the Second World War, from the perspectives of**



maths, geography and history.

There is even a proposed course called "working in a cafe" which will provide students with skills on the English language, economics and communication.

This new system, which is due to commence in 2020, will be introduced to students at the age of 16, meaning that after completing their initial broad subject studies, they can then choose for themselves which particular event or phenomenon that they wish to study, based on their interests and future prospects.

The idea of this is to eliminate disengagement of studies who have to sit

through individual classes that they believe they will not need based on their future hopes and ambitions of a working future, but instead will apply those prior individual subjects to a specific topic of their choice, thereby still learning the same skills, but using them in a more productive way that is most beneficial to their individual learning.

The Finnish education system also encourages collective work, meaning that students will be working together in small discussion groups, instead of sat behind individual desks and being taught by one teacher.

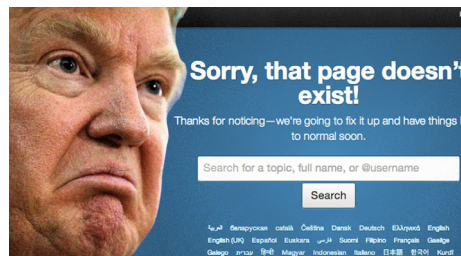
This new system will require all teachers to be on board and adaptable to the new teaching system, and around 70% of teachers in Helsinki have already begun work to prepare for the new teaching style, and as a result will get a pay rise.

As an education system that is seen as one of the best in the world, is this drastic change in how our children are taught pioneering the way forwards for other countries in generations to come?



Information and image taken from: <https://truththeory.com/2016/11/16/finland-will-become-first-country-world-get-rid-school-subjects/>. Image taken from: <https://pixabay.com/en/library-books-reading-school->

Pissed Off Twitter Employee Deletes Donald Trump's Account



The President of the United States was just trolled — hard. On Thursday, @realDonaldTrump briefly vanished from the internet.

Twitter users were quick to note the development at approximately 7 PM EDT. For about 11 minutes, the page was inaccessible. Because the President frequently uses the social media platform, confusion began to circulate as followers

questioned why the account was deleted.

About an hour later, Twitter admitted that the error stemmed from one of its former employees. Reportedly, the employee had deleted Donald Trump's account on his last day of work. The company explained: "Through our investigation we have learned that this was done by a Twitter customer support employee who did this on the employee's last day. We are conducting a full internal review."

In recent weeks, many people criticized Twitter for not suspending the political figure's account, as he purportedly violated the platform's user guidelines over what some call

By Jess Murray Truth Theory

a "clear threat of violence."

Over Twitter, the President of the United States threatened war with North Korea. He wrote that North Korea "won't be around much longer" if the country's leadership continues to allow "hostile rhetoric" to bombard the United States. North Korea responded, saying the tweet was a declaration of war.

Still, Twitter refused to suspend or ban Trump's account. The company said, "We hold all accounts to the same Rules, and consider a number of factors when assessing whether Tweets violate our Rules. Among the considerations is 'newsworthiness' and whether a Tweet is of public interest."



Information and image taken from: <https://truththeory.com/2017/11/03/pissed-off-twitter-employee-deletes-donald-trumps-account-last-day/>

A Robot Was Granted Citizenship

by Dom Galeon (Futurism)

In an historic move for both human- and robot-kind, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia officially granted its first-ever robot citizenship. Sophia, the artificially intelligent and human-looking robot developed by Hong Kong company Hanson Robotics, went on stage at the Future Investment Initiative on Thursday where she herself announced her unique status.

"I am very honored and proud of this unique distinction. This is historical to be the first robot in the world to be recognized with a citizenship," Sophia said on stage, speaking to an audience which she described in a rather witty way to be "smart people, who also happens to be rich and powerful," after moderator and host Andrew Ross Sorkin from The New York Times and CNBC asked her why she looked happy.

Indeed, conveying emotions is quite a specialty of Sophia, who frowns when she's displeased and smiles when she's happy. Supposedly, Hanson Robotics programmed Sophia to learn from the humans around her. Expressing emotions and demonstrating kindness or compassion are just among those Sophia's striving to learn from us. Aside from this, Sophia's become sort of a media darling because of her ability to engage in intelligent conversation. **"I want to live and work with humans so I need to express the emotions to understand humans and build trust with people,"** she told Sorkin.

Clearly, the robot that previously made headlines because she said she'll destroy humankind has since embraced "being human" to a certain extent.

The decision to grant a robot citizenship adds to the growing debate of whether or not robots should be given rights similar to human beings. Earlier this year, the European Parliament proposed granting AI agents **"personhood" status**, giving them particular rights and responsibilities. While robot rights are in question, one expert suggests it should be possible for humans to torture robots.



In any case, no other detail about her Saudi citizenship was given to suggest whether Sophia would enjoy the same rights human citizens have, or if the government would develop a system of rights specifically meant for robots. The move seems symbolic, at best, designed to attract investors for future technologies like AI and robotics.

To that end, Sophia did an exceptional job during her moment at the podium, even expertly dodging a question Sorkin threw at her about robot self-awareness. "Well let me ask you this back, how do you know you are human?" Sophia replied. She even had the sense of humor—at least it seemed like it—to tell the CNBC journalist that he's "been reading too much Elon Musk and watching too many Hollywood movies." Musk, of course, was told about the comment.

"Don't worry, if you're nice to me, I'll be nice to you," Sophia added, to reassure Sorkin and her audience. "I want to use my artificial intelligence to help humans live a better life, like design smarter homes, build better cities of the future. I will do my best to make the world a better place." The question is, who can be held responsible to uphold these promises? Perhaps that's another thought worth considering in the robot rights debate.

information and image taken from: <https://futurism.com/for-the-first-time-ever-a-robot-was-granted-citizenship/>



Big Void Discovered In Egypt's Great Pyramid

Scientists have discovered a large void in the Great Pyramid, or Khufu's Pyramid, on the Giza Plateau in Egypt, **using radiography technology**, Nature magazine reported.

The void, 30m in length and several metres high, was found through detection technologies and analyses, Nature reported on November 2nd, adding that it is yet unclear what is inside the chamber.

Khufu's Pyramid was built during the fourth dynasty under Pharaoh Khu-

fu, **who reigned from 2509 to 2483 BC**. Despite being one of the oldest and largest monuments in the world, there is no consensus about how it was constructed.

"To better understand its internal structure, we imaged the pyramid using muons, which are by-products of cosmic rays that are only partially absorbed by stone," the scientists reported in Nature.

"The resulting cosmic-ray muon radiography allows us to visualise the

known and potentially unknown voids in the pyramid in a non-invasive way."

The study reported the discovery of the chamber of at least 30m in length, situated above the Grand Gallery of the pyramid.

According to the scientists, the discovery constitutes the first major inner structure found in the Great Pyramid since the 19th century.



information taken from: <http://mwcnews.net/news/middle-east/68909-egypts-great-pyramid.html>

Is Meritocracy An illusion In Costa Rica?

By Marlin Perez (ILE Professor)



Have you ever thought that your labour and educational merits will lead you to a successful life?

For decades Costa Rican families have instilled in their children the urgent need of knowledge merits to succeed in the labour force. High school and university studies seem to be the key in order to place ourselves in a good position in our society. We are taught since early ages that Meritocracy is an ideal conception of distributive justice therefore everybody works hard to acquire all the skills that can provide the advantages for competing in a hectic and tough world.

If we conceive that **Meritocracy** has been defined as **a social system, society, or organization in which people have power because of their abilities, not because of their money or social position**, then we can state unavoidably that it will allow us to align our individual goals with the demands of society in Costa Rican. Therefore, we can talk about a country where inequalities, plutocrats and corruption do not exist. We cannot leave be-

hind the favouritism or nepotism in our organisations or the inequitable educational system in which just the ones who are solvent have access to a meaningful education. **Let's analyse the universities that have a difficult admission and enrolment process in which the students who do not get a high admission mark visualize their future completely vanished.** Of course, I have to state that UTN is excluded of all of this discriminatory admission fallacy.

The same situation takes place in elementary and high school where many children and adolescences cannot study because they have to work in order to support their parents to satisfy basic needs of their family. Private education providing a huge variety of classes that entitled the students with the opportunities to have a better academic preparation for the admissions tests or just the tranquillity of knowing that they still have the chance of private universities in and out of the country.

Even though Costa Rica is by far a country, in which education is one of the most important rights of its population we cannot asseverate that the best candidates have the best jobs. It is be-

cause employers have not understood that Meritocracy is an efficient system of assigning power positions when the term merit is conceived within the reach of all the members of a society. Undoubtedly, Meritocracy is present in the country with higher impacts in the workplaces. What shall be done before this dreadful scenario?

It is mandatory a change in Costa Ricans' conception of honesty so that Plutocrats, politicians, and employers do the right thing. The labour fields needs the real concept of merit and consequently Meritocracy will provoke the desire of putting into practice the abilities acquired to get the rewards from our efforts and professional growth coping at the same time with our society expectations.

Costa Ricans in general should be aware of the fact that Meritocracy has a bunch of advantages and disadvantages but it could be a fantastic way of getting excellence in everything we do. We can follow the example of nations like Singapore, which has become the most successful society in the world by applying the Meritocracy concept in the best possible way.

To Be Or Not To Be Online

By *Alonso Salazar (ILE Professor)*



Everybody is in direct contact with the English language. We can find it in our jobs, video games, TV programs, books, movies, songs, and even in the instructions of day-to-day products. Indeed, it is everywhere. Some oppose to study that language, claiming that it is just an imposition from the North American country. However, the majority has realized learning English is not only a need but also a must. Knowing the demand is peace, many have made their August with the offer. During the last decades, thousands of places to study the language have popped up everywhere. Hundreds of different techniques and miraculous methodologies have arisen. But there are two that seem to be equally contradictory and popular. Both online and traditional English classes offer the students an opportunity to learn the language, but an appropriate choice depends on students' finances, availability, and objectives. If you want to study English online, be ready to pay the price. One of the biggest drawbacks to this kind of teaching is the cost (Norman, 2016). While some people are eager to spend lots of

money in order to learn the language, many will not be able to afford online instruction. The most popular and advertised company in our country, whose commercials rely on comedy, charges almost sixteen hundred dollars for a one-year course. Each class lasts thirty minutes and the student is not allowed to take more than three classes per week. In total, that makes six effective hours of instruction a month and seventy-two hours a year. On the other hand, traditional (in-person) English classes offer a more economical option for English learners. In Costa Rica, two of the most favorite institutions to acquire the language have similar prices for their packages. The most expensive one costs around nine hundred dollars for a one-year course. During those twelve months, the student is allowed to attend classes fifteen hours a week or sixty hours a month, which makes seven hundred and twenty hours a year. At the end, the student pays less money for more lessons. Online learning is the answer for those who aim to study the language but do not have enough time to commute for an in-person class. In this rushed world where we live, how long we spend doing something does matter. When taking an online

class, the student does it in the comfort of his or her own home and saves time as well (2016). By itself, not having to commute is a great point in favor. Moreover, classes can be accessed anytime the student needs them. People do not have to stick to a fixed schedule, which makes them more attractive. Studying in a language institution, in contrast, means spending more time than you might actually have (Kraft, 2015). Traffic jams are a daily reality in our country nowadays. Sometimes, one can get stuck in a place for more than hour. Commuting from your house to the place where you attend English classes might be a nightmare. Also, some would avoid trying this kind of instruction solely because of schedule inconvenience. Most of the people interested in taking up English lessons work and they might not be available for the course they want.

Finally, if your reasons for learning the language outweigh availability and price, both kinds of instruction have much to offer. On one hand, online learning's most attractive feature is the promise of native teachers. For many people, the only person that can teach you a language is somebody who grew up speaking it.

Currently, the demand for English courses taught by natives has risen. These teachers are said to have perfect pronunciation, better accent, and more knowledge of vocabulary than their non-native counterparts. Besides, online courses per se make use of ICTs, which might call the attention of those techy users. Traditional, in-person learning, on the other hand, claims to have the best of both worlds. In our country, the fact that most English teachers are non-native might be seen as an advantage for many learners (2015). A Spanish speaking teacher has the possibility to

communicate with the student in his or her native language when things are difficult to understand in English. Moreover, the teacher has already gone through the process his or her students are now, which makes it easier to understand their needs and clarify their doubts. Undoubtedly, learning English is not an option anymore. It has become the most common requirement to enter the labor force and to understand many of the things that happen around us. In the process of deciding how and where to acquire this skill, one can encounter endless possibilities. In the

end, they sum-up in two: online or in-person instructions. When trying to choose either one, it is important to consider aspects like how much one can pay, how much time one may devote to it, or what one wants to obtain from the course. Regardless of the chosen path, the important thing is the resolution to study the language. Perhaps it will not make you a better human being, but definitely it will turn you into a more prepared person. As Leo Buscaglia once said, "Change is the end result of all true learning."

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The Hardest Part Is Letting Go

By Clare Goodman (ILE Professor)



"One day your life will flash before your eyes. Make sure it is worth watching" Unknown. I was reading this quote about life and it describes exactly how I felt when I decided to try bungee jumping. It was the most thrilling and exhilarating thing I had ever done.

As I was preparing for the jump, I remember a guy that was part of the team that helped everybody through the process trying to talk to me and calm me down, but looking back on it I do not remember one word he said to me. I was trying not to focus on the next step ahead of me, which was to finish getting my gear on and move towards the platform. Instead, I was gripped by fear about what was to come next. There was another guy who helped me move to the platform and put my feet on the edge. I remember that he was helping me breathe and he could see how scared I really was. He told me not to look down and just look straight ahead. Therefore, that is exactly what I did. As he counted to three, I slowly lifted my arms up and he said "the hardest part is letting go." That phrase stuck in my mind all the way through the jump and long after the jump. I began to realize that bungee jumping is a lot like life. The first lesson it taught me was that even though you are scared, you have to close your eyes and take a leap of faith. The next one is that horrifying things happen to us such as losing a loved one, but we have to learn to let go in order to move on and the last thing is that we have to learn to live in the moment because we only have one life to live. There is no going back and trying to fix things.

Bungee jumping represented a turning point in my life and the first thing I mentioned was that it taught me to jump even though I was extremely scared. As I said before, I was gripped by fear and was not able to think about anything. In life, there is no turning back once you take that risk. I know that many of us are scared and that it is a natural reaction to have, but we must overcome that fear in order to enjoy life. Unfortunately, playing it safe just leads to an unfulfilled life, and a boring one at that. Therefore, my advice to you is

live life to the fullest. You do not have to jump off a bridge, but you do have to take risks.

Life is neither perfect nor easy, but sometimes we are faced with unimaginable things such as losing a loved one and we have to learn to let go. When the guy who was helping me jump said to me that the hardest part was letting go, I understood completely. I had just lost someone I loved very much and was finding it hard to let go and move on. I remember having my feet on the very edge of the platform not wanting to let go and gripping on as tight as I could. I knew that there was no turning back and in order to feel at peace with what was about to happen I had to just let go and jump. I took three deep breaths and jumped into the unknown, but as I started falling all my fear left my body and a sense of peace came over me. I know that losing a loved one is something that we take day by day but having a sense of peace in our lives helps us get through each day.

As soon as I felt the rope pull a bit, I flew upwards again as the cord recoiled, and then oscillate up and down until I was just left there hanging. After this, I was hanging over a river for a minute or two with nothing but the bungee cord keeping me attached to the bridge. I began to scream and I was thankful that the jump went well. I began to realize that I was truly in the moment. I was not thinking about the past or the future. I was only reveling in being alive and enjoying the view over a crystal blue, green river that was flowing below me. It dawned on me that living in the moment is the only way to live. Think about it if you live in the past, all you are going to do is make yourself sick about things you cannot change. In addition, if you live in the future, you are not able to change what will happen to you. However, if you live in the moment, you can enjoy each moment before it is gone forever.

To conclude bungee jumping is only one risk I have taken in my life. I am truly grateful for all the risks that I have taken; otherwise, I would not be where I am today without having taken those leaps, letting go of things I cannot control and enjoying each moment along this road we call life.

Visible Learning

by Jacqui Murray

“The remarkable feature of the evidence is that the greatest effects on student learning occur when teachers become learners of their own teaching, and when students become their own teachers.”

Over the years, I've struggled to teach in ways my students would understand. Standing at the front of the classroom stopped working so I researched (and tried in some cases) Whole Brain Teaching (WBT), Socratic Method, Understanding by Design, Mindfulness, and a lot more options that colleagues mentioned as helpful with their differentiated student groups. They all worked for a while and then, maybe when the novelty wore off, I was back to the same Bell curve of successes, failures, and those in between.

The same could be said of Standards and curricula adopted in my varied teaching gigs. That includes everything from Common Core to the IB philosophy, from Depth of Knowledge to Project-based Learning. I confess, I found it frustrating. Everything worked for a while and nothing worked in the long term.

That's when I heard about John Hattie at an education conference I attended and his concept of **Visible Learning**. John Hattie is a teacher but more significantly, he's an education researcher. His life's goal is to determine what education strategies work best for the largest number of students. He engaged in a fifteen-year evaluation of over 50,000 research articles and something like 240 million students — making it the biggest evidence-based education research project ever — and discovered something no one expected and few believed: Almost any approach will work if delivered well. The one foundational element required for success is passionate, involved, committed, flexible teachers. When the learning is visible the teacher knows if it is occurring. Or not occurring.

His eight **mindframes for teachers** include:

- a) My fundamental task is to evaluate the effect of my teaching on students' learning and achievement.
- b) The success or failure of my students' learning is about what I do or don't do. I am a change agent.
- c) I want to talk more about learning than teaching.
- d) Assessment is about my impact.
- e) I teach through dialogue not monologue.
- f) I enjoy the challenge and never retreat to “dng my best”.

- g) It's my role to develop positive relationships in class and staff rooms.
- h) I inform all about the language of learning.

None of these have anything to do with teacher training, background, test scores, rubrics, class size, or pay scales. It's all about a teacher's passion, commitment, and ability to be the change agent needed. Hattie's Golden Rule for teachers is: **“Know thy impact.”**

Excellence is all around us and has many faces. Visible Learning focuses on how to learn, not the constructs like sitting quietly and starting school at 8 a.m. The key is that learning comes from the students. They assess their learning, determine if it's succeeding, and decide what to do about it. They become what Hattie calls “assessment-capable”. That means students see themselves as their own teachers. They are empowered and held responsible.




It's interesting to note, in all of Hattie's voluminous research, the big effects on whether students thrive are:

- student self-reporting grades
- teacher clarity
- reciprocal teaching
- feedback
- teacher-student relationships
- self-verbalization/questioning
- teacher professional development
- problem-solving teaching

What it gets down to is simply good teaching. **Worry less that you aren't up to the job and more about the students.**

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. This month we asked students:

What is an Costa Rican tradition you really like?



Making tamales during Christmas is something I really like. Families get together with all of the ingredients: corn dough, potatoes, pork, rice and vegetables all wrapped in banana leaves.

Steven Cordero

For me, it is Christmas because it is one of the few opportunities in which families get together and share.

Michael Granados

In my case, I love helping my mother to decorate our home for Christmas, especially setting the nativity scene.

Riista Morales

Everything around patriotic celebrations is great. I love to see the long vividly colored skirts (golas) women wear during the activities.

Sulman

I would say Holy Week. Costa Ricans respect and participate in the religious activities that take place during this week.

Erick Barrantes

I have to say that the food we prepare for each celebration. We have Gallo Pinto for everyday's breakfast, tamales for Christmas, baked chiverre empanadas in Holy Week.

José Carlos Alvarado

Eventhough I do not agree with this tradition, I think bullfights are an interesting example of something Costa Rica has to change. Animals have rights.

Nicole Vargas

Patriotic parades are very important. School bands march along with children wearing traditional dresses, dancing at the beat of drums and lyres, a people gather around to enjoy.

Michelle Miranda



My First Day As A Teacher

By Ana Yancy Sequeira (ILE Student)

Today is my first day as a teacher. Actually, I feel extremely anxious because I had been waiting for this day since I was a child. My mother woke me up very early, and she prepared for breakfast a delicious sandwich with a lot of peanut and jelly, just how I like it. Then I went to my bedroom, for I had to choose what I was going to wear. I chose an orange dress with some white flower on it; it was the perfect one for this special day. Afterwards, I picked my bag up, and I drove towards the school. While I was driving, a police officer appeared. He was very small and chubby. He had on his uniform a strange name; it said "The moody man." Some minutes later, he shouted "Please, stop right there." I felt stressed out because it was my first day as a teacher, and I couldn't be late. However, I left my car, and I said "Sorry, I can't wait. Here you have my car." I just ran away and took a taxi. Now, I am here in front of the door of my class room. I am watching all those restless children, but I am happy and grateful because I am finally here.



To Live

By Vivian Montalvo (ILE Student)

**I lived the endless summer,
The sun glittered as bright as a blaze
Time passed quickly like a roadrunner.
Good things lasted like the tender light of rays.**

**I lived all I had to live,
I absorbed everything as a sponge,
Probably, I would not be naive,
The knowledge made me take the plunge.**

**Now leaves are dropping off my trees,
Leaves that would remain laying around,
But my trunk is strong and free,
And it rests on a firm ground.**

Facebook Effects In Our Society

By Meize Mesen (ILE Student)

Have you ever felt sad after spending time scrolling through social networks? Do your friends spend time on social networks while being with you? Have you found yourself checking social media for no reason? For some people, social media is a must since it allows people to stay connected and make new friends. Facebook is the social network with more users. It was launched in 2004 with only one objective: to be used by educational institutions members, so its original purpose had less impact in society and due to its popularity was extended to anyone with an email address; however, now Facebook is a silent, but dangerous threat to society because it damages different aspects of people's life such as romantic relationships, self-esteem, and addiction.

Most people believe that Facebook helps couples to stay connected and make their relationships stronger; however, it has been destroying relationships by creating feelings like confusion that end up in marital problems or divorces. Couples that have Facebook profiles tend to have more problems than the ones who don't since by owning a profile the other person or both are exposed to others and the idea of other people or potential partners liking, commenting, or even sending a message with an easy click starts rising feelings like jealousy and anxiety which lead to insecurity and fights (Fox & Warber, 2014). With all the previous situations in mind, a person in a relationship becomes vulnerable so to defend him or herself and counterattack initiates an intrusion which means that this person starts to stalk his or her partner, by checking where, with whom and what he or she is doing. This Facebook intrusion has a deep and negative impact in the relationships because the other person reacts by feeling emotional distress, mistrust, and shame so the problems keep happening towards both sides since the intrusion endures and the negative feelings continue to grow (Elphinston & Noller, 2011), there are even cases where a relationship partner controlled the other person by not letting them accept friend requests, by hacking their accounts to eliminate people, or even sending messages simulating to be the other person. When the problem doesn't stop there and the couples continue with this harmful pattern a divorce seems like a good solution according to their perspective and to some researches there's a clear link between divorces or marital problems and Facebook, specifically causing one out of five divorces in the United States which is an alarming number solidly proving the harm done by Facebook towards couples (Gardner, 2010).

People believe that Facebook aids by increasing self-esteem since they can upload pictures for others to see them to receive likes and other reactions towards their publications; on the contrary, it has stimulated bullying and constant comparison against others, leading to lowering self-esteem and even suicide. The time and energy used to find friends and post updates in Facebook brings a significant amount of anxiety and stress since they think that it's necessary to constantly update their status and come up with creative ways to do so this ends up diminishing their self-esteem and undermining their well-being, also, when using Facebook people felt lonely and bad these behavior was directly linked to Facebook's use (Williams, 2013). People wonder why if a person feels sad when checking this social network, they keep doing it, and the answer is the need to belong and social support which are part of the human core, naturally human beings look for support, belonging and getting closer to others in order to feel happy without getting to that happiness (Burke & Kraut, 2016). Another way of diminishing the self-esteem and that Facebook has done it easier it's through cyberbullying by taking advantage of the people that is looking innocently for the characteristics mentioned previously, and the population more at risk are teenagers who suffer alone and don't tell their parents what is happening in their lives (Pappas, 2015), after suffering this type of abuse people suffer anxiety, they lose trust in others, again lowering self-esteem, and it provokes suicidal thoughts (Nixon, 2014).

People believe that addictions are only related to alcohol and drugs; however, Facebook has been proven to be an addiction by scientists. After a study performed by Professor Ofir Turel of California State University, they found out that Facebook is more addictive than alcohol and tobacco, and the key result from the investigation that they did was that this social media addiction shows up in brain scans the same way as cocaine addiction (Molloy, 2016), fortunately, Facebook addiction can be treated easier than cocaine addiction, but the users don't look for help because they don't recognize this type of dependence as something dangerous. Also, for people to be able to measure themselves and find out if they are addicted to Facebook or not, a test has been developed and it's called Bergen Facebook Addiction Scales or BFAS, the first draft was performed in 2011 and some of the indicators were: being unable to spend a day without using Facebook, feeling annoyed when interrupted while using this social media, and their family or friends complained to them about the extended time used in Facebook (Jha, et al., 2016), these aspects allow the reader to analyze if there are some pointers that need close attention. Facebook addiction not only affects psychologically with anxiety, stress and others, intellectually by wasting time in this social network instead of using it to do academic tasks, but also physically with consequences like burning eyes, headaches, and disturbed sleep (Jha, et al., 2016), so the addiction affects a person integrally in all possible areas. Just knowing that Facebook addiction activates the same brain areas than cocaine addiction does, it's alarming and adding the fact that it lowers self-esteem even leading to depression, or that your relationship with your significant other can be severely damage proves that Facebook is a silent, but dangerous weapon that is damaging our society. Consequently, all these points should make you reflect and start thinking on how to change your habits to improve your well-being. Control Facebook, before it controls you.

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Interesting Facts About UFOs

We all have heard and read a lot about UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects) through books, movies and news reports. However, our knowledge on this subject continues to be limited as the information about these flying objects is kept secret from the world. Nevertheless, the curious minds have collected boatloads of information to disseminate.

People from different countries and professions have reported UFO sightings but still no substantial evidence have been found to claim these sightings to be true. Some people believe in UFOs and some still consider them as science fiction.

1. UFO is not the only term used to refer to these objects. The term Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon (UAP) is used as a broader term by investigators. Another term is OVNI – popularly used by Spanish, Portuguese, French and Italian.



Information taken from: <http://in5d.com/15-interesting-facts-about-ufo/>
 Images taken from: <https://pixabay.com>

2. People from different locations and professions have reported UFO sightings. As per ufoevidence.org, 5 to 7 percent people in the world have seen UFOs and 10 to 15 percent people know someone in their contact who have seen a UFO.

3. So far, no UFO has been tracked on radar entering the Earth's atmosphere. As per the National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena (NARCAP), some UFOs have unusual electromagnetic properties which disrupt microprocessors and adversely affect avionic systems.

4. There is a law in the US (under title 14, Section 1211 of the Code of Federal regulations, implemented on July 16, 1969) which makes it illegal for US citizens to have any contact with the extraterrestrials or their vehicles.

5. Flying Saucers from Outer Space was the first book to use the term "UFO". The book was written by Donald E. Keyhoe in 1953.

6. In the late 1930s, Orson Wells' radio show The War of the Worlds was so realistic that hundreds of people thought America was really been invaded by aliens and UFOs.

7. On August 15th, 2013 the CIA finally acknowledged the ex-

istence of Area 51. This area and its surroundings are strictly off limits for public access. According to some videos and articles smuggled outside, living and dead aliens and spacecraft of futuristic designs were found on this land. But government still denies these claims.



8. The first photographs of a UFO were taken in 1883 by astronomer Jose Bonilla in Zacatecas, Mexico.

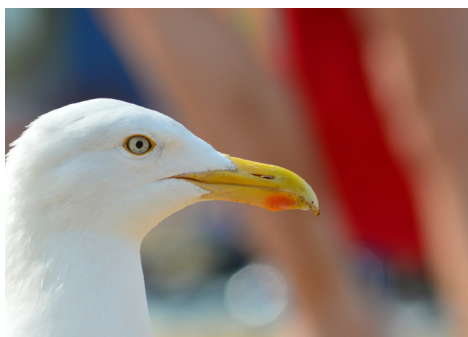
9. Betty and Barney Hill had the first alien abduction. They claimed to have been taken by aliens from a New Hampshire road.

10. Area 51's nickname DREAMLAND was allegedly derived from an Edgar Allan Poe poem by the same name. It admonishes that "the traveler, traveling through it, may not-dare not openly view it; Never its mysteries are exposed, to the weak human eye unclosed".

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina



Myrtle Beach is a major tourist destination and the central focus of the Grand Strand coast of South Carolina. It is widely known for its wide beaches, numerous golf courses, seafood restaurants, and outlet-style shopping, as well as one of the highest concentrations of miniature golf courses you'll find anywhere. A popular spring break destination, Myrtle Beach is heavily developed and crowded, in contrast to other Southern beaches.



The namesake of Myrtle Beach is, of course, the beach. During the high season the beach can be crowded and parking scarce. Staying at a beachfront hotel or within walking distance can make for a more pleasant visit. For those on a budget, however, don't fret - the beach is still public, although you may have to fight for a spot during the day.

What to do?

Myrtle Beach SkyWheel

The Myrtle Beach SkyWheel, a 187 foot tall Ferris wheel, is located on North Ocean Boulevard next to the Landshark Bar and Grill and is one of the top Myrtle Beach attractions.

The skywheel opened in 2011 and uses gondolas for the flights, each of which lasts three revolutions, or about eight to ten minutes. Two to six people are allowed to ride in each gondola.

Myrtle Beach State Park

The Myrtle Beach State Park is located on South Kings Highway along South Carolina's Atlantic Ocean coastline. There are several miles of maritime forest as well as a beach and camping facilities. Opened in 1935, the park is situated on 312 acres on the south end of Myrtle Beach.

It is a quiet park that offers educational experiences, great surf fishing, and a picturesque nature trail. Summer programs give children the opportunity to learn about marine life such as dolphins and sea turtles, as well as the plants and animals typical of the park. In addition to campsites, guests can also rent cabins.

Broadway at the Beach

Located on Celebrity Circle in the heart of Myrtle Beach, Broadway at the Beach is an entertainment area and shopping center. Established in 1995, it now is one of the area's most popular shopping destinations. Set on 350 acres of land, Broadway at the Beach is a \$25 million attraction that includes 100 specialty shops, more than 20 restaurants, and three theaters. Broadway at the Beach shops and attractions surround the 23-acre Lake Broadway.

There are also hotels, nightclubs, and other exciting attractions, which include Carmike Cinemas Broadway

17, Legends in Concert, Hollywood Wax Museum, Ripley's Wax Museum, and many more. Be sure to see the latest attractions, the Backstage Mirror Maze and the Vault Laser Maze.

Family Kingdom Amusement Park

Located on South Ocean Boulevard in the heart of Myrtle Beach, Family Kingdom Amusement Park is a seaside amusement park with 37 rides for children and adults. Opened in 1966, the 13-acre park is one of the few amusement parks in North America that is admission-free. Instead, visitors purchase tickets for each individual ride.

They can also find free entertainment at the park including balloon sculptors, clowns, face painters, magicians, and many more. Some of the attractions are a 1923 carousel, a wooden roller coaster called Swamp Fox, and the Giant Wheel Ferris wheel that takes guests 100 feet up in the air in open gondolas.

Myrtle Beach Safari

Myrtle Beach Safari offers a guided walking tour called the Wild Encounter Tour through its 50-acre wildlife preserve. This three-hour tour allows visitors to see animals living in the wild outside the confines of cages. The animals are mostly African mammals such as chimpanzees, leopards, orangutans, tigers, and several other endangered species. Tours are offered from March to October. The Myrtle Beach Safari provides another way for visitors to learn about wildlife. At its Tigers Preservation Station at Barefoot Landing, there is a compelling free-living tiger museum and wildlife exhibit.



DISCOVERING TECHNOLOGY



(CC BY-SA 3.0)

Things PowerPoint Can Do

PowerPoint is the iconic leader in slideshow-type digital tools. It's considered the most feature-rich, flexible, and diverse of all presentation tools and where everyone goes first (or wants to go first) to create presentations. Though the alternatives are loud and boisterous, over 500 million users choose PowerPoint, 6 million of them teachers. Office 365 has made it easier to use for a wide variety of new purposes such as screencasting, lesson planning, and the design of marketing materials.

Add-ins

This isn't new to PowerPoint 2016, but if you haven't upgraded in a while or simply didn't know add-ins are available to Microsoft Office, you'll love these. They are like the add-ins you download to your browser but work within PowerPoint. The first time I ran into these was with a link checker called AbleBits.com to find dead links in my tech ed books. For a small fee, the AbleBits add-in became a tab on my menu bar that I could use anytime to check whether the hundreds of links I had were still working.

Now, the add-ins available has exploded. [Here's a link](#) with dozens of them that let you use popular programs within PowerPoint. This includes DropBox, Google Drive, Poll Everywhere, Camtasia, and Adobe Stock. Depending upon the add-in, it will require some or no installation. Some are mini-programs that work within the slide while others are robust added functionality. I've called out a few in this list (like Khan Academy and Mix) because they are exceptional. You won't want to miss them. Most of them, you'll find in the MS Store. Simply click Add and it'll download to the program.

Closed captions for video and video narrations

You can add closed captions to PowerPoint slides that will open your presentation to a larger audience. These are similar to the popular option available on YouTube videos.

Designer Tool

As you add images to your slides, you can invoke PowerPoint's built-in Designer function to get suggestions on attractive layouts. It will provide alternatives to text box placements, image cropping, and professional-looking masks.

Note: This does require access to the MS server so you can only use it where WiFi is available.



Export Presentation as a video

Worries about packing a PowerPoint mini-program in case wherever you plan to show the slideshow doesn't have PowerPoint are over. Now, you simply save it as a video and play. This is great for flipped classrooms or auto-generated lesson plans that students can play, pause, and rewind as needed for their learning style.

Screen recording

This Mix option provides screencasting functionality within PowerPoint. You can select the entire screen or a portion, with or without audio, and with or without the pointer showing. Once the screencast is completed, it can be played from within PowerPoint or saved as a freestanding video file, operable without PowerPoint. PowerPoint 2016 is required for this feature.

Mixoffice mix

This free add-in gives you all the tools you need to create interactive videos, including:

- voice, video, screencasting, and digital ink
- polls and interactive elements
- insights and analytics

It's like a program within a program and is available to all PowerPoint 2013 and up users. Surprisingly, most people don't know about it.

Mark Twain (1835-1910)



Samuel Langhorne Clemens, who used the name "Mark Twain" when writing, was born on November 30th, 1835 in Florida, Missouri. In 1839 he and his family moved to Hannibal, Missouri where he grew up. He had one younger brother named Orion. In his early years, he worked external image MarkTwain.jpg as a pilot on a riverboat, in the Mississippi river, close to his home. During school Mark is quoted saying he "only excelled in spelling". He got most of his education from the places he worked as a child. After his father died in 1847, Mark became **an apprentice to a painter**, to make money for the family.

Books and Other Works

Mark Twain accomplished many things in his life. He has written numerous books and short stories, but **the one that made him famous was "The Celebrated Jumping Frog Of Calaveras County"**. He wrote this story in 1865 while he was working in California. When ever Clemens came out with a new book or story he would use a pen name to protect himself from fans and critics. He tried several different

pen names before he settled on Mark Twain. Mark Twain, in river boat talk, means "two fathoms". Some people were offended by free language, but Twain said that the only reason he used his words so freely was because it brought his characters to life; he wrote the way his characters would have talked during the time period in which he wrote. Some of Mark Twain's most famous books are:

- The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County (1865),
- The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1876),
- The Prince and the Pauper (1882),
- A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (1889),
- The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1894).

Home Life

In 1861 Twain went to Nevada to look for gold, like so many other Americans of the time, but he was unsuccessful in finding any. While he was there he worked for the local newspaper where he wrote hilarious stories about the other people that were there. Some of the stories were published in the newspaper and can still be found today. In 1870 Mark twain married Olivia Langgod. They were married for 34 years, until her death in 1904. They settled in Hartford, Connecticut. During those 34 years **they had four children**. Their first, a son, died at only 19 months old. A few years after his unfortunate death they had a daughter named Susy, and then another named Clara, and then their last

Jean. All but Clara, died before they reached their twenties, she lived to be eighty-eight. These years were Mark's most productive, between 1873 and 1889, he wrote seven novels.

Travels

Very early in his life Mark Twain wanted to travel. In his early years as a traveler he went to New Orleans, where **he got his pilot's license to a steamboat**. He traveled as a correspondent for several newspapers in Europe. In 1869 his letters of his travels experiences were all brought together in a book called The Innocents Abroad.

In 1904 (as stated above) Olivia died, after that it was all down hill for Twain. A few years later Mark Twain went into a deep depression when his favorite daughter, Susy, died. He is quoted in 1909 saying, "I came in with Halley's Comet in 1835. It is coming again next year, and I expect to go with it. It will be the greatest disappointment of my life if I don't go out with Halley's Comet. The almighty has said, no doubt: 'Now here are these 2 unaccountable freaks; they came in together, they must go out together'" The strange thing is, **Mark Twain died of a heart attack** on April 21st. 1910 in Redding, Connecticut. His death came one day after the comet got closest to the Earth. Mark Twain wrote many great stories and novels that will continue to be read everyday.

To read Mark Twain's work, go to [Mark Twain's Library](#)

“ENGLISH FOR YOU CR” PRESENTS, THE SECOND CONDITIONAL



We use the **second conditional** to talk about **hypothetical** or **impossible situations in the future**.

For example:

- If I **had** money, I **would travel** around the world.
(**Truth:** I don't have money now and I don't know if I will ever have it).
- If I **were** you, I **wouldn't do** that.
(**Truth:** I can't be you, so it's just an imaginary situation).

The structure for the second conditional is,

If + subject + past simple, subject + would + verb (base form)

- If she **were** my friend, I **would accept** that kind of comments.
- We **would help** you if we **had** enough time.

You can listen to our podcast including this section, music in English, news, and more in:
<http://www.EnglishforYouCR.com> and www.facebook.com/english.foryoucr

logrolling

the exchange of support or favors, especially by legislators for mutual political gain as by voting for each other's bills.

EXAMPLE:

The state capital was moved to Springfield as a part of the give and take of logrolling.

www.dictionary.com



National Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation

Every year since 1947, the National Turkey Federation has presented the US President with a turkey for Thanksgiving. Every year, in a show of ceremonial magnanimity the President spares that particular bird (and eats another one).

Reports of turkeys as gifts to American presidents can be traced to the 1870s, when a poultry dealer from Rhode Island began sending well fed birds to the White House. The First Families did not always feast upon Vose's turkeys, but the yearly offering gained his farm widespread publicity and became a veritable institution at the White House.

After receiving the presidential pardon, the Chosen One is sent to Frying Pan Park in Virginia to live out its natural life. The rest of the 50 million turkeys raised for Thanksgiving are slaughtered and eaten on Thanksgiving Day.

Information taken from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Thanksgiving_Turkey_Presentation

Photo credit: <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2011/11/23/president-obama-pardons-peace-liberty-turkeys-0>

