



The ILE Post
Monthly Magazine 

ISSUE # 16

NOVEMBER 2013

Two Teams, One Passion

My TCU Experience

**End of Program
Diagnostic Examination**

Cacoo

Day of the Dead

COVER PAGE



Soccer plays an important role in the culture of Costa Ricans. For many, a Sunday is not a Sunday without a good soccer game. Most Costa Ricans are either Liguistas or Sapristas. In this edition, we want to share with you this beautiful picture taken by Eric Herrera during last Alajuela-Saprissa game, played in Estadio Nacional, last November 17th. Also, there is a nice collage that shows how ticos live this special game.

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.

Due to Institution Instructions, all FACEBOOK pages have been closed

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

ILE UTN



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EDITORIAL

Time to Celebrate

"There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens:

***A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance..."***

Eclesiastés 3:1-8



It is hard to believe that the year has come and is almost gone. It seems like only yesterday that we were still on hot days of March, and now the first chilly north winds make us put umbrellas

away.

In spite of the feeling of time running by so quickly, this year has left a meteorite exploding over Russia, a new Pope being elected, two bombs during the Boston Marathon, terrible floods, landslides hitting countries all over the world, and the US government experienced a threat of shutdown. In Costa Rica, we have seen main bridges collapsing, Dengue mosquitoe out breaking, President Obama visiting the country for the first time, and the national team classifying for the next World Cup in Brazil. Here at UTN, we have seen the raising of a new large classroom building in Alajuela, distinguished academic people like Leonardo Boff and Jorge Rey



attending different UTN events, old Instituto de Alajuela building reopening after its restoration, and the establishment strategic links with different organizations and institutions like MEP and INA.

For The ILE Post family, this has been a great year. Little by little, our

publication is reaching more

and more people. The

feedback we have

received has been quite positive.

Nothing pleases us more

than receiving e-mails

where they say the pages

of this magazine entertain,

inform, motivate and

inspire. In brief, this 2013 has

been a challenge in many

levels, and it is about time to

relax for a while, charge our

batteries and get ready for

whatever 2104 might bring. We

are all eagerly looking forward

to all the celebrations and events we

will be attending in the coming weeks,

sharing with family and friends, and

keeping in mind there must always be a

balance between work and leisure

time.

Eric Herrera

(Image taken from: http://www.flickr.com/photos/george_eastman_house/3123692128/sizes/m/in/photostream/
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NEWS

Training, a Key to Success

With teaching English becoming more and more important in the world economy, teacher-training courses are necessary. UTN knows that, and that is why this year it has organized several workshops, forums and certification courses.

Last Friday October 26th, Bernal Céspedes from the Center for Teacher Development (CFTD) offered a workshop on workshops on Standards-Based Instruction. About fifteen teachers took part of this interesting activity in which they share updated knowledge about how to apply the Standard-Based Instruction to improve the teaching- learning process. Aspects as grade level standards, assessment, curriculum and technological tools were widely discusses during the day. At the end of the activity Bernal Céspedes with the enthusiastic response there was from UTN teachers.



Another aspect UTN worries about is the quality of text book for its courses. Because of this, last Tuesday, October 28th, all UTN English as a Second Language teachers attended a book presentation in San Carlos. The activity was organized by Educasa, ELT Services. The ILE major has been evaluating book in order to improve their different courses. Book needs were previously specified to this company, so an international consuler met with

teachers to show a series of new book options to take into consideration at the time to choose the new books to be adopted.



Finally, during all Wednesdays in November, ILE Professors Cindy Rodriguez and Aaron Torres who had been awarded with a scholarship at Centro Espiral Mana offered a workshop. In this workshop, they shared what they learned in their intensive TESOL Certificate Course. One of the most interesting aspects, they shared, is the one related to the ECRIF learning



The ECRIF framework is a way of looking at how people learn. Rather than prescribing what teachers should or should not do, the aim of this framework is to provide a tool that teachers can use to see student activities and content from the perspective of student learning.

***“When you know better you do better.”
Maya Angelou***

End of Program Diagnostic Examination



On Friday, November 8th, the ILE major applied its End of Program Diagnostic test, for the second year on a row. This test is a tool that enables the major to assess or measure student's levels in terms of skills and knowledge. It enables the major to know the strong and weak points of its program in terms of the four main skills to be developed: listening, speaking, reading and grammar. According to the ILE major exit profile, a student should achieve a B-1 level based on the Common European Framework (CEF). The CEF provides a common basis for the elaboration of language syllabuses, curriculum guidelines, examinations, textbooks,



etc. The CEF is designed to describe how language users communicate and how they understand written and spoken texts.

The results from this test will be used to improve syllabus and implement strategies to benefit the ILE program. Half of the students registered in the sixth level took the test for approximately three hours and thirty minutes. Most students show a high level of self-confidence under a comfortable environment. The report, together with its corresponding analysis, will be ready by the middle of December.

First Science, Technology and Society Forum

Last October 31st and November 1st, the Teaching Vice-Chancellor Department organized with great success the first national forum on Science, Technology and Society. During the activity there was participation of special guests, students and officials of all the venues of the UTN. Leading experts gathered to discuss perspectives and convergence of social issues, science and technology. During this two-day Forum, over eight keynote speeches, dialogue sessions and panel discussions were presented on themes such as innovative education and science and technology policy recommendations. Some of the main presenters were: Dr. Arnaldo Mora Rodríguez, Lic. Juan Carlos Tedesco, Science and Technology Minister Alejandro Cruz Molina, Dr. Rolando Araya Monge and Dr. Roberto Artavia Loría. One more time UTN showed its commitment to offer this kind of academic activities, and the excellent organization structure there is in the university to organize such events.



White Irazú Volcano

Last November 1st, images of “snow-covered” ground near the Irazú volcano spread quickly on social networks. However, Eladio Solano, an official with the National Meteorological Institute (IMN), said the phenomenon, which took place in the area of Santa Rosa de Oreamuno in Cartago, was actually heavy hail in the form of small hailstones. The Irazú Volcano National Park



released on its Facebook page on Friday what appeared to be ground covered with a blanket of snow. Park official, Daniel Nunez, said the hailstorm occurred about 3:30 pm, describing it as very intense and lasting about 20 minutes. The phenomenon drove about 400 visitors to the park during the first weekend of the month.

(Information adapted from <http://insidecostarica.com/2013/11/04/snow-costa-rica-friday/> and Photo courtesy of the Irazú Volcano National Park)



New mall coming to Alajuela in 2015

Anyone who travels along La Radial, Alajuela knows how congested it can get during rush hour. That congestion may get even worse with the development of a new mall scheduled to start construction soon. The 185.000 m² City Mall will be located next to the Mall Internacional, and based on information from *El Financiero* newspaper, it will open by October, 2015. This mall will bring more than 250 stores, including eight movie theaters, a parking lot for 2.400 cars, and a mini amusement park. The best part of it is that it is expected to offer 3.500 jobs.

Corporación Lady Lee from Honduras chose this place because it is near the airport. This corporation has already participated in some other megaprojects like Multiplaza, Metroplaza and Megaplaza in several Central American countries. Some stores that have already confirmed their presence in this mega project are: GAP, Forever 21, Shana, Mother Care, Chilli's, Pizza Hut, Aliss, Universal, and Carrion among others.

(Picture taken from El Financiero Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151731110955334&set=a.435418005333.213790.47921680333&type=1&theater>)

TWO TEAMS ONE PASSION



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THE ILE ETHOS

Comic Books: Much More than Bang, Boom, Bonk

by Alonso Vega (ILE Professor)

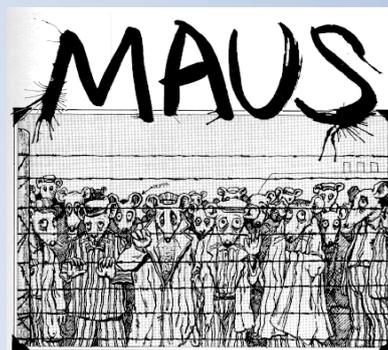


Whenever students ask me about what they can do to improve their English level, I never hesitate on the answer: Read! Read

whatever you can: books, newspapers, magazines, the ILE post, chocolate wrappings, anything. Also, I am often disconcerted with their reply: I don't like to read. I guess it is not that surprising that young people leave high school with a feeling of dispassion for reading. When you are sixteen years old and you are forced to read Don Quixote, no positive result could come out of it. Nonetheless, I always try to encourage my students to find something that they would find interesting to read: the funnies, cooking recipes, the horoscope, song lyrics, subtitles, erotic novels, anything. A friend of mine who used to hate reading is now hooked on *Fifty Shades of Grey*. The objective here is not to become a classical literature scholar, but to develop better language skills in English. Once you find a topic of interest, the linguistic benefits of reading about it will certainly snowball.

I myself recently rediscovered the joy and education that reading comic books brings. First published in the late 19th Century, comic books became widely popular in the United States. The art form of sequential juxtaposed panels represented individual scenes. The panels were often accompanied by brief descriptive prose and written narrative, making comic books an easy-to-read combination of literature and graphic arts. Almost every single blockbuster movie you can recall, from

Superman to *The Avengers*, comes from a comic book. But comic books can be so much more than superheroes from outer space. Joaquin Salvador Lavado's *Mafalda*, for instance, features a 6-year-old Argentinean girl who funnily reflects the Latin American middle class and progressive youth.



A couple of weekends ago, I had the pleasure of coming across a unique comic book: Art Spiegelman's *Maus*. First published in 1978 as a serialized graphic novel in *Raw*, an avant-garde comics and graphics magazine, the first part of *Maus* became a comic book in 1986. The graphic novel deals with one of the most delicate events of the 20th Century: the Jewish Holocaust. Using the metaphoric benefits of the comic format (the Jews are mice and the Nazis are cats), Spiegelman captivates the reader with uncompromising sense and sensibility as he goes into the abyss of one of the most terrifying darkest moments in history. The book's incredible take on life and death and everything in between is too strong to be easily forgotten. *Maus* is the perfect mix of a history lesson, a foreign language class, and a good friend's word of advice.

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Seven Secrets of Good Presentations

by Trent Hamm



Over the last few months, I've given a small pile of presentations related to *The Simple Dollar*, my upcoming book, and other topics. Along the way, I've learned several things about what constitutes a good presentation and what constitutes a failure. Here are the seven key things I've learned, which you can take away to make your own presentations better.

1. Lots of words on the screen is bad. If you have a lot of words on the screen, people stop paying attention to what you're saying and start reading the words on the screen. I suppose this is fine if you don't want people to pay any attention to you at all, but that's usually the opposite of the effect you want.

I had this problem with my early presentations, where I loaded down slides with words. As I spoke and looked out over the crowd, I could see a large number of them quite obviously tuning me out and reading the words on the screen. Then, when they were finished and tried to tune back into what I was saying, they had lost the thread and many of them became bored.

Try to stick to at most ten words on the screen per slide.

2. Instead, choose pictures that complement what you want to say. Instead of thinking of the information your slides can present, think of how the slides can complement what you're saying.

For example, if I mention my children in a presentation, I'll often include a slide that's just a large picture of my children at play. No words, no anything. It

doesn't detract at all from what I'm saying, it merely complements and illustrates it and brings my words to life.

When you make an outline of what you want to say, consider what sort of visual image will match each idea. Then, find an image that matches that idea and actually show that image to the crowd, bringing the idea to life in their mind much as it is in your own.

3. Speaking of outlines... never forget you're telling a story. A presentation is storytelling, pure and simple. If you look at your presentation as simply a way to convey lots of information, you're missing out on why you're doing it.

For me, the story is obvious – I just tell my life story. I talk about my many mistakes and how I recovered from them. It's largely a chronological story – and it's a visual story because I use picture-heavy slides.

Sit down for a moment and ask yourself what the story you're telling is. Where did you start? Where did you go with it? What's really interesting along the way? If you need to convey lots of information, have a handout. The purpose of a presentation is to stick your big message in their mind.

4. Have lots of slides. Since you don't have many words on your slides, you don't need to stick with each slide for a long time. Since the slides are picture heavy, they provide a great visual complement for your points. So, have a lot of slides.

On average for my more recent talks, I stay on a slide for about ten seconds. Yes, ten seconds on average. That's six slides a minute or, in terms of pure slide count, 180 slides in a half an hour.

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For me, this serves two purposes. One, each picture accents a point I'm making and carries the story I'm telling forward. Two, it also serves as a visual outline for me, as each slide points to just one very specific idea I want to convey. The pictures themselves clue me into what I want to talk about.

5. Make the audience laugh on occasion. I find the easiest way to do this is with the pictures, since I'm not great at telling jokes myself.

I simply just choose a picture with a humorous bent that matches my point – a picture of my children making a mess, a picture of a funny street sign, a picture of a burnt casserole (when I'm talking about cooking at home). These things make people laugh (or at least chuckle) because they point to simple failures we have in common.

Humor is one of the best ways to connect with someone. Use it.

6. Use the “peak-end rule.” People will usually just take away two or three memories of your presentation, and one of them is how you finish. Keep that in mind.

I usually save something big for the finish. Usually, it's a very explicit challenge for my audience, something simple and memorable for them to do when they leave: “go home, right now, and start an automatic savings plan.”

What can you save for the finish that will help your audience remember what you spoke about?

7. It is you. Whenever you stand up in front of a crowd and present, the audience is informing an impression of you. If you stammer and look down and hide behind the information on your slides, it won't be a good impression.

Don't give yourself crutches when you're out there, because you will lean hard on those crutches and create the impression of someone who can't walk on their own. Throw away the note cards. Throw away the pieces of paper. Most important of all, practice, practice, practice. Go through your slides until you're numb, then go through them again. You should be able to know exactly what's coming next and be intimately familiar with the story you want to tell.

When you walk out there, it's as easy as pie. Just tell your story. Your slides will accent them beautifully. And the crowd will love you.

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Fifty-Fifty

By Alonso Salazar (ILE Professor)



It was a windy morning at UCR Letras Faculty. I arrived quite early because I had to take the 4:45 am bus from Atenas to San José in order to make it on time. I was outside room 204 waiting for the janitor to come and open the door. Twenty minutes before classes started, he showed up, and my classmates and I entered the place making the least possible eye contact and trying to look confident.

The course was English 101. It was supposed to be the very first class to take in the bachelor degree program, and even though I was nervous, I thought it was going to be somehow easy. I imagined the professor giving instructions, and then their corresponding translation into Spanish. While I was persuading myself that everything was going to be just fine, Mrs. Vargas walked in, and the class turned even quieter than before. She greeted with a huge smile, and everybody answered back. I thought, "Well, greeting in English is something I can handle." So far I was doing all right. Suddenly, she started speaking in such a speed that it was impossible for me to follow her. I waited the first two hours longing for the translation, but it never happened. I was screwed.

Recess finally arrived, and I walked out of that classroom with an awkward feeling. Even though I was very shy at that time, I started interviewing some of my classmates about how they had felt during their first encounter with college English. After talking to a few of them, I was astonished when I found out the terrible truth: I was the only one who came from a public high school. All of them had graduated from bilingual institutions or had at least taken English conversational courses before. I was doubly screwed.

I did not pay much attention to the second part of the class that day. My head was too busy wondering how I was going to make it through. The year before I was studying Computer Engineering, but I did not like it. Therefore, I had decided to give English Teaching a chance since it was easy for me in high school (just for the record, English in high school just dealt with memorizing vocabulary and filling in the blanks with the right conjugation of the verbs. That is why it was not a challenge for me and the reason why I was having such a hard time now in college). On top of everything, there was another dilemma. My father was unemployed at that time, so I could not afford the luxury of waiting one more year in order to change into another career. Days

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passed and classes were getting worse. My pronunciation and understanding of the language could not be more deficient, and the trigger for my desperation was Mrs. Vargas telling me that I could never be able to learn English or become a professor. It was almost as if she was asking me to give up. Was that the end?

No, it definitively was not. I certainly needed to demonstrate to myself that I was able to accomplish my goals, and that I was not a quitter. Besides that, there was the financial situation at home and the fact that I would have had to wait one long year if I decided to study another major. The reasons to overlook my professor's advice were several, and what I could lose if I continued was nothing but time.

I was a huge fan of music in English, and I used to sing in that language all the time. I did not know what I was saying, though. So I decided religiously to download two lyrics from a song, from the Internet three times a week. The idea was to look for unknown vocabulary, create my own list, underline useful expressions, sing along with the song, practice pronunciation and fluency, and most important of all, use all of that in classes. If my professor taught me

a list of ten colors in class, I looked for ten more at home. If she asked me to write a ten sentence paragraph, I wrote a twenty sentence one. In other words, even though I was not a professor at that time, I knew that the learning process was not definitively a hundred percent in charge of the teacher; it was a fifty-fifty commitment, and I was just doing my part.

After lots of failure and success, I ended up with the highest grade of the class during that semester. At the end, my inner and outer motivation, the necessity of learning another language, and the deep understanding of what learning really is defeated my fears and doubts. Nowadays, when I am assigned to teach courses for the first level and see some faces full of uncertainty, I can see myself there sitting on those desks waiting for a helping hand or a word that can cheer me up. I always tell this story to my students. They know it very well, and this is not a story to show off the fact that now I am a college professor, or to make them feel bad with themselves. On the contrary, I do it to make them understand that if I have gotten this far, with all the advantages and possibilities they own today, there are no limits for what they can do.

BACK IN TIME

Every day we get tons of new information. Newspapers, books, pamphlets, and the internet give us the chance to learn about what people think, what happens around the world, and even some things we could not even imagine. In this section, we want to give a glimpse to what was happening around the world more than fifty years ago. We want to clarify that this article is used because it is considered of public domain. When a work's copyright term ends, the work passes into the public domain. This is why it is important to check the copyright length which changes according to the country. In the case of the USA, for example, its rules establish that a work's copyright term ends:

- ▶ 95 years from publication or 120 years from creation whichever is shorter (anonymous works, pseudonymous works, or works made for hire, published since 1978)
- ▶ 95 years from publication for works published 1964–1977; 28 (if copyright not renewed) or 95 years from publication for works published 1923–1963 (Copyrights prior to 1923 have expired.)

After this important explanation, we leave you with an article published in the magazine Vanity Fair in December, **1914**.

Foolish Question: Who is Goldberg

His cartoons all come under the head of pleasure.

By Joseph Edgar Chamberlin

A rather pale, unaggressive, mild young man of the age of twenty-four came into the New York "Evening Mail" office one day, seven years ago, and asked for a job as a funny cartoonist. The City Editor, who seemed to be the only man he could get at, glanced at the drawings that the young had in his portfolio—drawings that he had been doing for a San Francisco paper. The City Editor thought that they were the most awful things he had ever seen. "Not for us; we don't want 'em" he said. The young man was leaving, as he had already left several other New York newspaper offices. But the City Editor suddenly thought of the grudge that he had against the Sporting Editor, "On your way out." He said to the young man, "You might look in at the sporting department and show those things to the man there."

With that "on your way out" hanging around his neck like a millstone, the young man passed the drawings to the Sporting Editor, who happened to be Fred Wenck. Wenck was busy and bored, but he is indomitably kind, and he looked at one of the sketches. He whistled a little in surprise, paused, and then a joyous wonder came into his eyes. He took another sketch, and grinned widely. Another and another—grinning more all the time. Then Wenck took the whole bunch of drawings, rushed in to the managing editor, and said: "See here, Mr. Niles,—here is a young man that we want to hire."

The fact was that the young man was Goldberg, and these were Goldberg pictures; and Wenck has recognized in them the Goldberg twist and curve; the absolutely original Goldberg thing; the touch of broad yet incisive ridicule with nothing but good nature and joy in it. In a few days Goldberg was hired, and began making his funny pictures for the "Mail" and for a syndicate of papers. This is the way he got his start in New York. The start was all he wanted. The public found the pictures immensely funny; and the high brows, who liked them just as well, accounted for their liking by saying-which is true- that Goldberg is not like the other funny artists- that this things have a significance- as art and literature.

Goldberg, by the way, having intelligence and thinking powers, can write as well as he can draw. In the drawings, his lines are all funny- every of them. His ideas are funny. This is the foundation. On top of that is the trick that he has of selecting, in making a picture, the best aspect to exaggerate in a face or figure. And then, on top of that, is the industry and the patience of the man. He works every day. He works in the office- needs the inspiration of the toil-atmosphere. You can see him hammer an idea out of the cold metal of thought, perhaps heating it up by talking it over with somebody, the pounding into shape on the anvil of experiment. Fertility – oh, yes; it comes easy to him. He is inspired. But I have seen him putting in some good days' work with his inspirations.

Reuben L. Goldberg is his name, and he was born in San Francisco, where his father still lives. In spite of the fact that he was, like all artists, determined to draw from childhood, and did draw, and took prizes at it; in spite of a consuming hankering for newspaper offices, they sent him to the University of California and made a mining engineer out of him. He threw that off, however, learned to draw, and did funny cartoons for the San Francisco "Bulletin." He did well at it. But he knew that New York was the place for him, and before he got into a rut he came here.

That is where the "Mail" started with him; and he is there yet. He is Goldberg. That is about all you can say of him, and about all you need to say. They laugh at his pictures and read his little stories all over the country, and all rising funny cartoonist are little Goldbergs. He is made to do vaudeville stunts and to make speeches, and to bear most of the other burdens of celebrity.

A quiet fellow, you nevertheless see the eager and scrutinizing intelligence in him when you look at him. He is as American as a Blue-jay on a rail fence. He is a part of our Art and our literature.

Amazing as it may seem he makes a cartoon every day, and not infrequently more than one, for his operations are not confined to a single newspaper, and he writes sporting stories, reminiscences of European travel, and whatever else has amused and occupied him.

He has invented the following thrilling series of the high lights of human nature; "Foolish Questions." "I'm the Guy." "They all look good when they are far away." "What are you gonna do with it?" "Phoney Films." "this all comes under the head of pleasure." "It's all wring.



Readers usually attempt one form of writing or another at some point in their lives. Since writing should be shared to accomplish its purpose of letting others be surprised by our own creativity, here is list of some literary contests that are open to anybody. I hope some of you take the chance!

Thirteenth International Poetry Competition

The prize for first place is around \$300. Ten special commendations will also be awarded and all the winners will be published in first writer magazine and receive a subscription voucher to the site worth \$36. The contest is open to poems of any style and on any subject, but they must not be longer than 30 lines. The closing date for submissions is October 1, 2014. For more information, check www.firstwriter.com.

Walker Percy Prize in Short Fiction

Previously unpublished original stories up to 7,500 words.
Contest open to all writers in English.

Winner receives \$1,000 and publication in New Orleans Review. For more information, check www.neworleansreview.org/contest/.

Danill Paskoff Prize for Creative Writing in English for Non Native Speakers

You may enter for both prose and poetry. Entrants born after January 31, 1994 will be placed in the category 19-; those born before that date will be placed in the category 20+.

Poetry includes anything that looks like a poem, including songs, raps, chants, sms-lyrics. An entry for poetry must contain no less than 30 and no more than 100 lines. You may submit more than one poem.

Entries for prose should contain no less than 1000 and no more than 1400 words. There is a entry fee. For more information, check <http://www.writers-ink.de/html/2014contest.html>

“That is part of the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings, that you're not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong.”

F. Scott Fitzgerald



From Nightmare to Hallucination

by Carlos Daniel González (ILE student)

Excitement I got from writing and reading
 Enjoying how easy and spontaneously
 Words and ideas, phrases and continuously
 Stories in my head,
 Make a journey on the sunset.
 Then, winter violently blew!
 As had never been seen,
 So I scared looked at the blue sky
 Praying with my keen
 That my parents never die
 That my poetry never lies!
 In the ocean I dreamed I could be free
 Like a grampus will flee
 From the hunter and the sun
 From the fear in the run..
 Cause been free to live and write
 To have peace in mind
 Is what my country means
 Every time I sing.
 Proudly the national hymn
 With verses and stanzas, stories
 And ideas,
 Yearningly written,
 Silently in reading,
 Hopeful my message would change
 What I have seen so far
 What I can see in the light
 What I can hear at night
 Until my life is gone
 Until my words are re told.

Picture taken from
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/nypl/3990000597/sizes/m/in/photostream/>
 It does not have any restriction to be used.

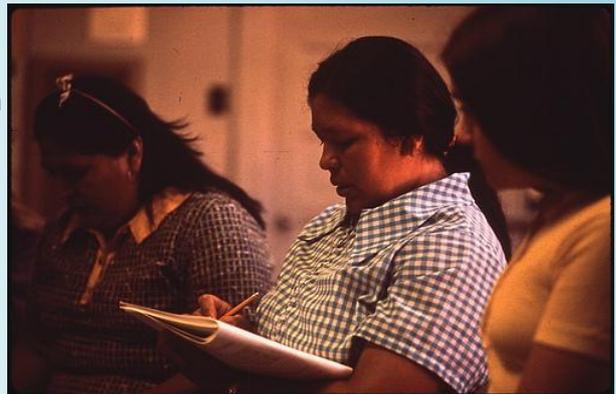
My TCU experience

by Fernando Céspedes (ILE Student)

Trabajo Comunal Universitario (**TCU**) is social service all students must fulfill for graduating from the bachelor's degree program. For some students it represents a great amount of hours invested in any activity, for some others TCU is just a task that must be accomplished; however, for me it was a moral duty.

The first aspect a student has to consider for his/her TCU is the program to choose. I have to admit the program I doubly chose made me wonder for quite a while. Did I pick the right option? What if the people involved are not friendly or committed as I am? And will I be able to pull this off? Were some of the questions that flooded my head, every corner of it? Actually, until I met the place we were going to work on I felt much better.

My tutors Julie Chan and Francisco Rodriguez represented a great support for us. Me and my TCU mates Jose Trejos and Cindy Soto to whom I owe great respect and admiration were about to embark to an 8 months adventure. Our mission was simple: to teach a group of parents from Marta Saborio's Special Education School Basic English. Luckily enough Cindy had already taken teaching courses, so she was the leader regarding techniques and materials.



Jose and I were two young men wanting to become teachers, and as you might think, a great opportunity to set the basis of our careers was just ahead of us.

The first day of class I was feeling nervous. I felt the pressure of being the person in charge of other's knowledge. Also, I knew the situation of the families who go to the school. Marta Saborio is a school for children physically and /or mentally impaired which makes the school a place to practice tolerance and respect for others, respect for differences, respect for every human being at the school. Although I was not going to teach children, I was going to work at the school. I was going to watch them play, laugh, sometimes cry, love their parents and be loved by them for eight months.

As I entered the school, I saw kids in wheelchairs going to classes eager to learn and be with their friends, mother kissing good bye their "special angels" (that's how they called them), the security guard, in the main entrance, saying good morning with a warm smile to everyone that entered the school, many parents already in their places waiting for us, teachers and other members of the staff patiently and gently taking care of every child. In that moment, a warm feeling grew strong deep in my chest. Like sunbeams gently warming a flower in a meadow. There was when I saw it with that: I was born to do this.

For the next eight months, I and my mates gave the very best of us for those students, families and staff in those eight months. Our TCU met its objective: to form people more human. It made us see the world with different eyes. No more indifference, no more judging, no more intolerance, and no more prejudice. I'm grateful with every person involved in our TCU. I humbly thank TCU the opportunity given to us to be part of their lives for eight months, because at the end we greatly learned more from them than they did from us.

LANGUAGE BITS

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

SITUATION	FORMAL	RELAXED	INFORMAL
You have just taken a very difficult exam.	The exam was complicated.	The exam was hard.	The exam was tricky.
You accidentally noticed your neighbor in his house. He was naked.	I saw him in the clothe God gave him.	He was in his birthday suit.	I saw him bare- assed.
You see something horrible in your plate of food.	That is most displeasing to the eye.	That is disgusting.	That's gross.

(Information taken from Hot English Online Magazine #84, p.54)

Business Acronyms

Several times during travel, we can hear tourist agents, bellboy, pilots and others using terms that we tourists do not understand. Here are some common acronyms used in the tourist business, so next time we hear people using them, we will not feel as if they were trying to keep us in the dark.

ADR: Average Daily Rate

FIT: Free and Independent Traveler

ATB: Automated Ticket and Boarding Pass

MLOS: Minimum Length of Stay

B&B: Bed & Breakfast

SRP: Special Rate Plan

Canx: cancelled

TIC: Tourism Information Councilor

CIQ: Customs, Immigration and Quarantine

TQM: Total Quality Management

CTA: Close to Arrival

VCB: Visitors and Convention Bureau

DOS: Director of Sales

WTM: World Travel Market

(Words taken from: <http://www.allacronyms.com/tag/tourism/6>)

TECHNOLOGY

Cacoo



Cacoo is an online drawing tool for creating diagrams, such as sitemaps, wireframes and network charts. When you first log in, you start out on your home screen where you can edit existing projects and add new ones. When you start a new project you can choose to start from scratch or use one of Cacoo's many pre-made templates. The templates cover a variety of project types, but of course starting from scratch affords you the greatest flexibility when making your own charts. Cacoo uses a simple drag and drop method for adding and arranging stencils. Start by picking the stencil you'd like from Cacoo's many categories and then drag it into your work area. You can move it around or use the line tool to draw lines connecting various dropped stencils. In addition to placing stencils, you have a lot of control over how the individual stencils appear. A handy inspector is used to make any needed edits to your stencils. Adding custom text is probably the most used feature in the inspector. You can choose the font, size, color, alignment and more. You can also edit the color of objects, from basic shapes to office furniture pieces. You simply click on the object and use the inspector to determine the type of color – solid or a two-color gradient. You can also add/drop shadows from this menu. The ability to collaborate with team members in real time is part of what makes Cacoo stand out. You can add team members to the project and then work together in real time. You can add/edit pieces and notes as well as use the chat function to brainstorm. It's this unique feature that makes Cacoo so useful. To learn more about this wonderful online tool, go to <https://cacoo.com/lang/es/>

(Information taken from: <http://web.appstorm.net/reviews/images/create-diagrams-and-collaborate-easily-with-cacoo/>)



HUMOR

A teacher called for sentences using the word "beans."
 "My father grows green beans," said the star student.
 "My mother cooks lima beans," said another pupil.
 Then a third student added: "We are all human beans."



Question: What was the witch's favorite subject in school?

Answer: Spelling!



Teacher: There will be an eclipse of the moon tonight.
 Perhaps your parents will let you stay up to watch it.

Pupil: What channel is it on?

The politician said to a woman, "You sure do look beautiful today!!!"
 The woman replied, "Thanks, but unfortunately I could not say the same to you."
 "Sure you could!!!" said the politician, "if you could lie as well as I do!"

Two moving van men were taking things into a house.

One said, "Joe, help me move this chest."

Joe asked, "Why? Did Miss Jones tell you to?"

"No.", replied Tom.

"Then how do you know she wants it moved?" asked Joe.

"Because she's under it."



The math teacher saw that little Jimmy wasn't paying attention in class.

She called on him and said, "Jimmy! What are 24, 11, 4 and 44?"

Little Johnny quickly replied, "ESPN, FOX, NBC and the Nickelodeon!"

Three rats are sitting at the bar talking bragging about their bravery and toughness.

The first says, "I'm so tough, once I ate a whole bagful of rat poison!"

The second says, "Well I'm so tough, once I was caught in a rat trap and I bit it apart!"

Then the third rat gets up and says, "Later guys, I'm off home to harass the cat."



(Images taken from: <http://www.wpclipart.com/>)
 (Jokes taken from <http://dailyjokes.somelifeblog.com/search?updated-max=2010-07-01T07:00:00-07:00&max-results=15&start=105&by-date=false>)

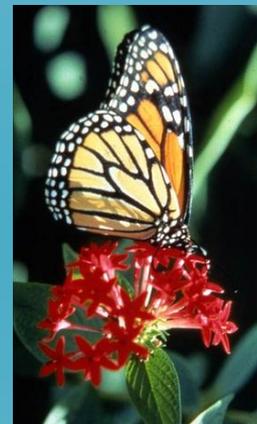
THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



Day of the Dead

The Day of the Dead is celebrated on November 1 and 2 in Mexico and in Mexican communities around the world.

The origins of the holiday can be traced to the Aztecs, who lived in Mexico centuries ago. The Aztecs believed that the souls of the dead were links between the living and the gods. Because of that important role, festivals developed that honored the souls. The Day of the Dead is celebrated as a time when the souls return to their homes to check that everything is going well and to make sure that they have not been forgotten. In parts of Mexico, monarch butterflies migrate to the area during the Day of the Dead celebrations. Since ancient times, it has been believed that the beautiful butterflies carry the spirits of the dead.



To prepare for the Day of the Dead, families create *ofrendas*, or altars, in their homes to welcome back the souls of their departed family and friends. The *ofrendas* are adorned with flowers, candles, and colorful pictures. Incense is burned.



Day of the Dead celebrations are joyful. While respecting the souls of the dead, the festivities often mock death itself. People wear skeleton costumes and masks. Children run through the streets shouting, “*Calaveras! Calaveras!*” which means “Skulls! Skulls!” People give them candy, fruit, and money. Children also enjoy special candy available only on the Day of the Dead, such as chocolate skulls and sugar coffins. At night, fireworks explode in the sky. Bands play on street corners while people dance and sing.

(Information taken from: Mohenm, H., (2000). World Holidays. p. 23)

(Image taken from: butterfly <http://www.flickr.com/photos/floridamemory/3341375526/sizes/m/in/photostream/>
graveyard http://www.wpclipart.com/American_History/civil_war/battles/the_dead/Gettysburg_national_cemetery.jpg.html
candy: taken by Robert Couse-Baker <http://www.flickr.com/photos/29233640@N07/10527588465/sizes/m/in/photostream/>)

It happened in November

November 1 st , 1512	The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, painted by Michelangelo, is exhibited to the public for the first time..
November 3 rd , 1903	Panamá declares its Independence from Colombia.
November 5 th , 1895	Inventor George B. Selden receives a patent on a road engine, the first gas-powered automobile.
November 9 th , 1921	Albert Einstein is awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for his work with the photoelectric effect.
November 12 th , 1660	John Bunyan an English Baptist minister is jailed for preaching without a license.
November 16 th , 1801	The New York Post newspaper is founded.
November 22 nd , 1922	Egyptology: Howard Carter, assisted by Lord Carnarvon, opened the tomb of Tutankhamun.
November 24 th , 1960	Wilt Chamberlain pulls down 55 rebounds in one game, setting an NBA record.
November 30 th , 1945	Macy's produces its first Thanksgiving Day Parade.

FAMOUS PEOPLE BORN THIS MONTH



PERSON	JOB	BIRTHDAY
David Guetta	Musician/Producer	November 7 th , 1967
Sammy Sosa	Baseball Player	November 12 th , 1968
Owen Wilson	Actor	November 18 th , 1968
Calvin Klein	Fashion Designer	November 19 th , 1942
Lope de Vega	Poet	November 25 th , 1562
Tina Turner	Singer	November 26 th , 1939
C. S. Lewis	Writer	November 29 th , 1898

PROVERB OF THE MONTH

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

The ruin of a nation begins in the homes of its people.

~ Ashanti Proverb

International Accreditations at UTN

by Marco Araya

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

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

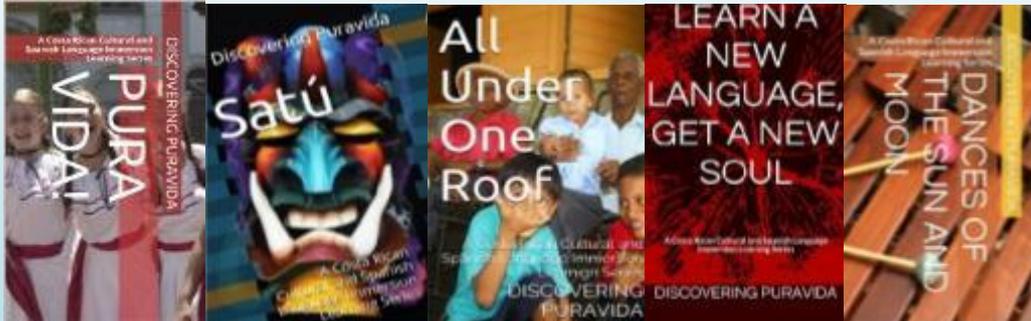
Examinations are based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

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

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*May you and yours
have the spirit of
Christmas which is
peace, the gladness
of Christmas which
is hope, and the
heart of Christmas
which is love.*