50 YEARS OF BEATLEMANIA

VALENTINE´S DAY

MY FIRST VOTE

SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

RUBISTAR

COVER PAGE

In the month in which we celebrate love and friendship, approximately 233 million roses are sold only in the US. The ILE Post crew wishes you a happy Valentine´s Day.

¨One word frees us of all the weight and pain in life. That word is love¨.
Sophocles

Picture taken by Ste Elmore, and it was taken from:
http://www.flickr.com/photos/steelmore/193810845/sizes/l/in/photostream/

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

http://www.facebook.com/utnile

INSIDE

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EDITORIAL

Avoiding the Comfort Zone

By Trent Hamm

It is easy to become comfortable and complacent. You get a job. You work there for a few years. You get to know the people there and the routine. You earn a few perks for being there for a while, such as a bit of additional vacation. It's easy to just settle in and ride.

You wake up to your financial situation. You make a bunch of moves to pay down debt and establish some new routines that aren't as costly. Eventually, you start to simply enjoy the lower bills and it all seems to come easily. You just settle in and ride.

Settling in is the easy thing to do. Usually, it's the path of least resistance, so unless you're consciously making other choices, you'll probably wind up doing just that.

The problem is that **"settling in and riding" is more dangerous than you think.** Settling in assumes that the thing that comes easy today will last forever.

If you're coasting in your career, you're just assuming that your current job will just last and last. You never see the job loss coming. If you're coasting with your finances, you're assuming your income will just last and last and that you'll just eventually take care of all of your debts and your goals. You never see the changes in your life coming.

On a more positive note, if you're just coasting with your career, you might never see opportunities for a great promotion at work or a new job opportunity that could put you in a great place. The same is true with finances – if you're just coasting, you might not be ready to take advantage of something when it comes along.

The challenge for all of us is to avoid falling into a comfort zone. But when the comfort zone is so easy to fall into, how do we avoid it?

How do we keep ourselves ready for change when there doesn't seem to be any change on the horizon?

One tactic is to **make preparing for change part of our ordinary life routine.** For example, part of your ordinary professional routine should be to keep your resume fresh through educational opportunities and taking on professional challenges in the workplace. Part of your ordinary financial routine should be improving your financial state month over month and seeking out new ways to ramp up the improvement. *This should be normal behavior.*

For me, I find it useful to spend some time each week looking at the various areas of my life – my professional goals, my finances, my marriage, my parenting responsibilities, my community responsibilities, my skills and passions, and so on – and ask myself what I'm doing to improve in those areas.

Another tactic I value is to **regularly envision disastrous scenarios.** What exactly happens in your life if you lose your job? What exactly happens in your life if your spouse falls ill? What exactly happens in your life if your health starts to slip?

Walk through those scenarios a little bit. What would you do? You'll quickly be able to find some steps that you could take *right now* to make that scenario go down smoother. Add those steps to your to-do list.

The key to both of these steps is to **add things to your to-do list that will lead you to better preparedness** for opportunities and for disasters. Riding in the comfort zone makes you complacent and poorly prepared for both disaster and opportunity. Every day, you have a chance to take little steps to make sure that you're ready for whatever comes your way.

Don't be complacent. You'll miss out.

UTN NEWS

English Teaching Training at UTN

By Eric Herrera

Programa Institucional de Idiomas para el Trabajo (PIT) organized the workshops:

> *Getting Real: Authentic Materials in Learning-Centered Language Classrooms (Oral Skills)* on Monday, January 27th, at UTN, Alajuela Campus

> Summative and Formative Evaluation Schemes and Classroom Realities, on Thursday, January 30th, at UTN, Puntarenas Campus

> Evaluation in English for Specific Purposes, on Saturday, February 1st, at UTN San Carlos Campus

The UTN was honored by the visit of Ph. D Liz England, ESL professional from Shenandoah University, Virginia. She shared with teachers and students interesting information based on her research and experience as a language teacher. Miss England has had the chance to work in universities in the United States, Hong Kong and Egypt. One of the most important points she emphasized on was training and opening spaces for teachers to reflect as tools for professional development.

¨*ESL teachers need to be prepared. They have a very important role in today's world, far greater a role than most people realize. They need training, high quality training, along with teaching experience*, ¨ she said. She was happy with UTN teachers' ´participation during her workshops. She praised the willingness of teachers who mentioned change and innovation as essential keys to improve the language acquisition process. This is the first training activity PIT organizes this year, and once again teachers thanked this department for the opportunity to have Ph. D Liz England at UTN.

Ph. D Liz England, ESL professional from Shenandoah University

(Picture taken by Eric Herrera)

UTN NEWS

Back to School
By Eric Herrera

The 2014 academic year began on January 13th. Students came in with enthusiasm in order to study and come out with better grades. New students have just been admitted in to the school. The induction activity took place as new students learned about the different departments and services UTN has and offers. Representatives of the central library, the academic and student affairs, admission and enrollment, financial affairs, administrative computing services among others explained to freshmen everything they need to know about their new house. Sad news for those who usually take all holy week long on vacation because beginning this year UTN will only close during Thursday and Friday that week.

(Picture taken by Eric Herrera)

Specialization in Virtual Learning Environments
By Yetty Lara

For the second year on a row, Centro de Formación Pedagógica y Tecnología Educativa (CFPTE) organized a conference on: Specialization in Virtual Learning Environments. The conference was in charge of Virtual Educa Director Jorge Rey Valzacchi. He emphasized how technology supports both teaching and learning, expands course offerings, experiences, and learning materials, increases student engagement and motivation and accelerates learning. Mr. Rey also pointed out the agreement there is between UTN and Virtual Educa, which helps UTN professors to study in the Specialization in Virtual Learning Environments Program. During 2014, four cohorts will be open, so all UTN staff is invited to enroll in this exciting academic adventure.

NEWS

Elections in Costa Rica

Last Costa Rican elections surprised voters. PAC's Luis Guilllermo Solís overtook PLN's Johnny Araya by less than 2% of the total votes.

Solís said that, if he wins, his administration would focus on cleaning up corruption in the government to restore voter confidence, while getting the country's public works infrastructure back up and running. The PAC candidate has never held elected political office but is no stranger to the halls of power, working in several PLN administrations and serving as ambassador to Panama during the administration of José María Figueres (1994-1998), before leaving the party for the PAC. With 9 percent counted by the Supreme Elections Tribunal at 8:30 p.m., the ruling PLN candidate Johnny Araya had what seemed a commanding lead at 36.24 percent, followed by Citizen Action Party candidate Luis Guillermo Solís, with 22.8 percent. But as the night wore on, the flags started to fall limp and the music got louder as organizers tried to buoy their supporters' spirits as Araya's lead fell and Solís' rose. Araya continued the air travel metaphor: "*Today's outcome has not caused any turbulence in my heart or mind*."

Because of this surprising outcome, center-left presidential candidate Luis Guillermo Solís will battle ruling party candidate Johnny Araya in a runoff on April 6th.

Costa Rica's elections, which were peaceful, showed a growing polarization among progressive and conservative voters.
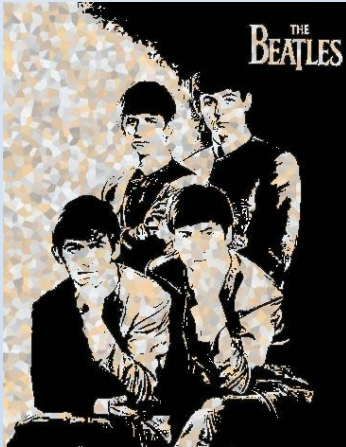
The next president, who will take office May 8th, will need to be a strong negotiator to face a divided Assembly. The voter abstention rate on February 4th election hovered between 32-34 percent of 3.1 million voters, consistent with the previous two presidential elections.

50 Years of Beatlemania

By Grace Flores-Hughes (February 4th, 2014)

On February 7, 1964, The Beatles arrived at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport, greeted by scores of screaming, swooning fans who rushed the gate to catch a glimpse of John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr as they took their first steps on American soil. Two nights later, on Sunday, February 9, 74 million viewers in the U.S. and millions more in Canada tuned in to CBS to watch The Beatles make their American television debut on "The Ed Sullivan Show." The excitement of The Beatles' February 7 arrival in New York, where they were met by an estimated 3,000 ecstatic fans at the airport, was documented by the world's leading media outlets, beamed around the world in a blitz of news bulletins and photos. Every move The Beatles made, and seemingly every word they uttered, was captured – melting hearts of young fans everywhere who simply could not get enough of these charming, witty and stylish British boys and their electrifying new songs.

There was only one place on earth I wanted to be on February 7th, 1964, and that was at New York City's newly re-dedicated John F. Kennedy Airport. The announcement that four mop headed lads from Liverpool, England were coming to the United States for their first concert tour, sent shock waves throughout the baby boomer community. Several magazine writers published critical observations of The Beatles personal appearance and their performance, among them was Newsweek reporter Richard Lemon.
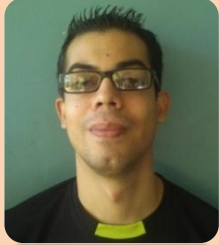

He wrote a scathing article calling them, "mop heads" and said they had no talent and predicted, "the odds are that they will fade away, as most adults confidently predict."

Long live the music of the four working class kids from Liverpool, England that changed so much about America and so much about our lives.

THE ILE ETHOS

A World beyond Dreams:
The Faces behind the Super Heroes

by Neskens Sanbria (ILE Student)

This is the world of the most famous and incredible super heroes of all times, where anything can happen, they belong to the most important comic company on earth: Marvel comics and DC Comics. They have transformed the way we read comic books, because they have created different worlds and characters that have caught the attention of people around the world; however, not everybody knows the story behind each company, or how each character and the plot were created?

Stan Lee is considered the father of Marvel Comics, but at the beginning he was just a handy man working for a small newspaper in New York; however, from 1961 to 1969, he came up with a bunch of heroes that saved the comic business. Since Marvel Comics was established in 1961, many different heroes with incredible super powers have become the idols of millions around the planet. In 1962, for example, Stan Lee created Spider-man, best known as Peter Parker. Spider-Man was the super hero who saved Marvel Comics when it was in a very difficult economical situation, because comics were not sold due people finding the stories boring and predictable.

Spider Man was inspired in Lee's own life as a teenager. He wanted a character with normal problems like any 19 year old during the 50s. One day when Stan Lee saw a fly walking on the wall and the idea of a man with the powers of an insect was born. Stan Lee first tried with different insects, but he ended up choosing the spider. Then, the red costume with black spider webs was invented. Spider-man's weakness is his own personality; he had to deal against his own way to control his powers and how to use them. It is believed that Spider-Man is so popular because of these human traits and vulnerability.

On the other hand, another important character created by Marvel Comics was Hulk. Hulk came to life in 1962, when the atomic war was about to begin, so Stan Lee based his character on that, but and also he wanted to add some aspects from his favorite monsters like Frankenstein and doctor Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Hulk had two personalities, one was normal and the other one was not easy to control. Hulk did not have a

great costume, when he turned into Hulk his skin changes its color to a deep green and his pants are the only clothes he keeps after transformation. Hulk is powerful but his weakness is his explosive personality.

In general, the places where heroes live are most of the time unreal worlds or cities and Stan Lee decided to change that. He wanted his heroes to have connection with people, so he did not created fantasy cities, instead, he wanted his characters to live in well-known cities like New York or Los Angeles; besides, and he wanted his heroes to travel around the world. For example, Peter Parker lives in New York, he has to face the reality of paying the rent of his apartment, because it does not matter if he is Spiderman, he has to pay it, and if he does not have a job he has to go like any other human and find a new job; besides, he has to escape from the police, because not everybody thinks that he is a hero. Hulk, on the other hand, has to face that each time that he becomes Hulk, he is totally aware that he is going to destroy the city, so he has to tackle with that reality. Marvel Comics is a world of amazing super heroes that can make us dream, but it is not the only one, DC comics has also created a bunch of heroes to compete with Marvel.

DC comics has become the perfect competition for Marvel, but DC Comics is older than Marvel. DC comics was founded in the year 1934 by Malcolm Wheeler Nicholson; however, at the beginning the name was not DC comic, it was DETECTIVE COMIC BOOKS, and the stories that the company wrote in that period was basically about detective mysteries, love stories and aliens. Soon after, the stories became boring and the seales went down, so the company had to make a change; for that reason, the company tried to create different heroes in an attempt to save the company. In 1938 an unknown artist called Jerry Siegel, came up with the idea of one Superman that had the ability to fly, and that also had great strength; so Superman was created in the perfect moment to save the company.

Jerry Siegel created Superman. He based his character in different moments and aspects of his own life; for example, when he was a child he lost his father in a car accident, so he wanted to create someone invincible; in addition, his story was also inspired by Robin Hood. Because the country was going through a very difficult situation, he wanted to create a symbol of freedom and justice. The personality of superman was inspired in movies from the 20s; for that reason, the name Clark Kent was the union of two famous actors Clark Gable and Kent Taylor. Then, Superman costume's was a cape, a

pair of boots and no mask, and the colors was red, blue and yellow, but the costume has changed through time. Then, in 1939, The Batman was born. Bob Kane and Bill Finger were his creators. The Batman was inspired in detective novels and his costume at the beginning was a pair of boots, two wings and no mask; the colors were red and black; however, before they drew the final version, Finger came up with the idea of gloves, a cape simulating bat wings, and a mask. He also decided to eliminate the red color. Batman has no powers, but his intelligence, strength and technology are enough to defeat the criminals.

DC Comics authors did not want to put their characters in known places, so they created new places. The city of Metropolis, where Superman lives, was inspired in a movie from 1922; then, the character of Superman was created to be the savior of Metropolis. Superman cannot kill or take advantage of his power, because Siegel based part of his personality in characters from the Bible like Moses and Angel Gabriel because he can fly, and he is a symbol of God.

On the other hand, Kane and Finger created the unreal city of Gotham because it was a reflection of Batman dark and mysterious life; moreover,

Gotham city tried to follow the classic detective comics with dark halls that helped Batman to hide easily at night. Batman should undergo a difficult training to become Batman, and that's why his personality is as that of a cold fish. One more aspect is that he had to learn how to stop his thirst for revenge because his parents were killed when he was just a child.

Stan Lee and Kane brought to life great characters and also developed the plot, costume, background and the personality of their heroes; nevertheless, they never imagined that their heroes would be the idols of millions of people around the world. These are just some examples of super heroes that DC and Marvel have created, but there are no limits, the world of super heroes will grow every day, because all of us are heroes, maybe not with cape or power, but with intelligence and love.

THE ILE ETHOS

Second Language Acquisition

by Gabriela Calvo (ILE Professor)

There are many theories and different points of view regarding second language acquisition. Neither of the theories or approaches proposed in this matter can be totally discarded. There are quite interesting facts in almost all of them which can give us some answers to how students acquire English as a foreign language (EFL).

In the case of Universal Grammar, this theory suggests that grammar or linguistics does not need to be taught to children when their first language (L1) is being acquired. Children have an already existing system of linguistic knowledge that they use when learning their native language. The question that arises is whether or not individuals still have this innate ability when acquiring a second language (L2) as adults.

It is my opinion that this innate ability is never lost in older learners. What happens is that there is now interference from L1 to L2. This interference or transfer can be positive or negative. "When L1 and L2 parameter settings for the same principle are the same, positive transfer from L1 to L2 is likely; when L1 and L2 parameter settings are different, negative transfer or interference might occur."(Saville-Troike, 2012) For instance, there are many words that are written the same or are very similar in English and in Spanish (assit, asistir, economic, económico, etc.), but many of them do not have the same meaning once they are translated. It happens quite often with our students that they use lexicon incorrectly because of language transfer. If they do not internalize the difference in cases like these, then that negative transfer can lead to fossilization. In the case of positive transfer, I can mention the example of plural forms. In both English and in Spanish, most words are pluralized by just adding a final -s to them.

Opposed to the Universal Grammar approach proposed by Chomsky, there are some functional approaches that although different in some aspects share some common characteristics. The focus of these approaches is on performance and competence. Language is seen as a system of communication and not as a set of rules.

I like the idea of regarding language as a system of communication where rules exist but are not the most

THE ILE ETHOS

important part of it. Many times, students get frustrated when learning English because they do not see any advance or progress in the learning process. If they could get to master some basic functions of the language and then from there create or develop new meaning for practical usage, they would be more successful at acquiring an additional language.

The social context, as the systemic linguistics approach suggests, should be taken into account in the acquisition of a second language. I have noticed that when my students see some purpose or connection with what they are learning and their own needs, they appear to be more enthusiastic at using the language.

Even though the different theories and approaches seem to give good explanations and examples to clarify why the ability to acquire and use language in L1 is easier and faster than acquiring a L2, or why some learners are more efficient than others when acquiring the same L2, more extensive research has to be done in regards to this subject matter.

(Picture taken by Jose Soto during conversation club at UTN)

THE ILE ETHOS

Costa Rican Educational Policies

By Euyenia González (ILE Professor)

Costa Rica's political system values education as an important way of reducing the gap between classes. Education creates new opportunities for social advancement, and it is therefore considered the basis of democracy. Costa Ricans are proud of their educational system, and our laws state that Costa Rican education is obligatory for primary school students; the government has the responsibility to regulate all educational levels from preschool to university. It is evident the intention of our nation is to look out for our students' needs. In this regard, great efforts have been done to sign agreements that reinforce our education, especially in rural areas where conditions and resources are not the optimum. Thus, to improve the education in our country, The Superior Council of Education approved in 1994 "The Educational Politics towards the XXI Century" which states that: "*our educational system has the purpose of achieving an integral improvement for the learner, based on principles of equality and equity*". (Ministry of Education, p. 18). It is also based on some philosophical sources where constructivism and humanism are the most relevant ones.

The principles of humanism and constructivism are essential in the teaching and learning process. The humanism refers to the fact that the educational process must analyze the individual's demands. This should take into consideration not only the resources such as material and technology, but also the student's cognitive needs. Students deserve to be respected and considered as unique individuals with specific necessities. Professionals in education have to be capable and willing to handle different learning styles in the classes and give students the specific strategies they need to learn. Furthermore, humanism is a paradigm that promotes collectivity. Since early ages, students should learn how to interact with others, learn from others and respect other's opinions; in that way, they will develop the competences to live in society, looking for the individual and collective welfare. On the other hand, constructivism takes into consideration the individuality and interests of the learner. The student performs an active role and the teacher is a guide in the teaching and learning process (Salgado, 2006).

THE ILE ETHOS

In this holistic paradigm, the tasks are presented authentically, taking into account the context where the student is immersed. The teachers need to develop students' thinking and knowledge by using a variety of strategies that emphasize problem solving and critical thinking. These are relevant techniques in the construction of the knowledge that should also be considered in the process.

Costa Rica is proud of its educational system, and our constitution guarantees the conditions to develop an integral paradigm. "The Educational Politics towards the XXI Century" describes the ideal educational system our institutions must develop. However, the government is not the only responsible party for taking care of the process and identifying the students' needs. All the actors in the educational community must work to have a system based on equality and equity. A system that promotes self- learning and independence recognizing individuality must be implemented. Only in that way, we will have better professionals and definitely better citizens in our country.

Referencias

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60 SECONDS WITH...

We see them walking around the UTN campus. They are always willing to help us when we need information, advice and guidance. UTN academic and administrative staff is an important element of the university. However, people hardly have the chance to meet them. In this section, we will try give you a glance of the other side of all those people who are behind UTN organization and functioning. In this issue, let´s meet:

Jose Soto:

ILE Major Director, Musician, Vegetarian, Cat Lover, Radio Announcer

Where do you live? I live in Palmares, Alajuela.

Best childhood memory?
It was when I visited my cousins in summer. I used to play a lot, and definitely had the best times of my life, so far.

Most frequented restaurant and absolute favorite dish?
There is a Peruvian restaurant in San Ramón, they serve the best dishes in the area. Another place I used to like a lot was Vishnu restaurants and its entire menu.

Favorite dish: pastas, rice, sautéed vegetables and sandwiches.

What food would you really turn your nose up to?
As a vegetarian, I would definitely refrain from eating meats, specially beef, pork or poultry. But something that I cannot even get to swallow is "arroz con leche" dessert.

Would you class yourself as a day or night person?
What's your idea of the perfect night/day out?
I am definitely a night person, although I have not been putting up with it much lately.
A best day out must be with friends, music and fun to the beach or the mountain.

Best book ever read?
For Whom the Bell Tolls is a novel by Ernest Hemingway

Best holiday ever taken? What's your dream trip?
A trip to a Guanacaste beach some years ago, definitely the best vacations up to now. My dream trip is a 2 week tour along the Pacific coast of Costa Rica visiting, and enjoying its beaches. And of course a trip to Europe as well.

Favorite music?
Rock, rock and roll, acoustics.

What is always in your fridge?
There is always cheese, soft drinks and beer.

**Dream house: rural retreat or urban dwelling?
Where would it be?**
Rural retreat, a warm house in cold and moist Zarcero.

If the world is ending in 24 hours what would you do?

The first last 10 hours I would absolutely do as many things I have not been able to do in my life. ... name them... the rest of that time must be accompanied by friends and close relatives. The last hours I would induce myself a kind of deep dream and die dreaming.

What is your greatest fear?
To die in a plane or car crash

Tell me a joke or proverb you remember right now
"I won't give you excuses because all I have is reasons"

THE ATTIC OF BERTHA MASON

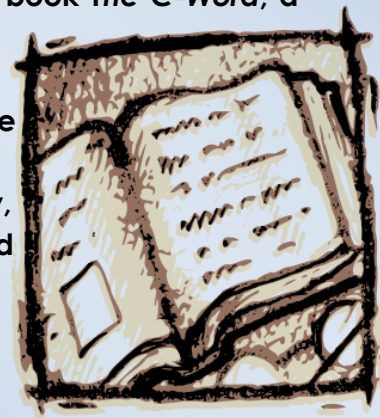## From the Screen to the Page

Some people said online publishing could kill the printed book. But others have begun to take advantages of the numerous opportunities internet offers for getting read. Blogging is one of them. However, it´s an ever-changing world. Many of us have attempted at keeping a blog only to find ourselves a few months later discouraged by the lack of readership or the effort required to make a blog successful. Wordpress reports monthly blog entries of 40 million. Yes, MILLION. That's just discouraging enough if you are looking for potential publishing options. Nevertheless, there have been some successful stories of blogs turned into books. One of the most famous ones is the *Julie & Julia: 365 Days, 524 Recipes, 1 Tiny Apartment Kitchen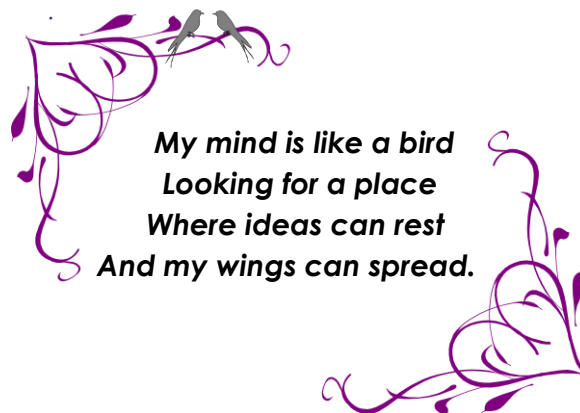* blog-turned-book-turned-movie. The chick flick is full of delicious French recipes and the two different lives of Julie Powell and well-known Julia Child. Another not so happy story is Lisa Lynch's book *The C-Word*, a result of her blogging about her experience with cancer in *Alright Tit*.

These two stories show that reader like human-connection type of writing. What is it that makes you unique? How are you facing the challenges life is throwing at you? Humor, sensibility, and honesty took these two women from bloggers to published authors. The other millions of bloggers can only hope that their readership increases, or maybe accept that, well, the writing itself is the reward.

THE ATTIC OF BERTHA MASON

From one of our students' inspiration, here we share some thoughts and feelings:

My mind is like a bird
Looking for a place
Where ideas can rest
And my wings can spread.

By Dayan Pérez (ILE Student)

The strong wind does not allow me to breath
But just like a tree.
It cannot move me 'cause
my roots hold me to the ground.

By Dayan Pérez (ILE Student)

THE ATTIC OF BERTHA MASON

My First Vote

Every year, ILE Major receives approximately 125 new students. Most of them have just finished high-school. This year, they not only faced the new experience to become university students, but also they had the chance to participate in their first official Costa Rican elections. This is what two ILE students who voted for the first time think about it:

"I first voted on my 21st year of life. Before that, I had not really felt like a true Costa Rican. Now, I know that even by marking an "x" on a piece of paper can make a difference. I did not vote for either of the two parties that got the majority of the total votes; nevertheless, I voted for the party that I felt represented my ideas and ideals. The ones that could help my beloved Costa Rica to be a better place to live. I voted with no fear or doubts. I voted to honor all those who cannot celebrate democracy, those who by any reason cannot do it, and to honor my country."

Fernando Céspedes (ILE STUDENT)

¨Undoubtedly, it is such a matter of pride that my first vote was for Frente Amplio candidate Jose María Villalta, a gentleman who has demonstrated his love for the country and has dedicated his life to the benefit of the unprivileged people. It is such a matter of proud that my vote was a well-thought, intelligent, pro-Costa Rica choice.¨

Carlos Daniel González (ILE STUDENT)

LANGUAGE BITS

SITUATION	FORMAL	RELAXED	INFORMAL
A baby is crying very loudly in a public place.	That infant child has tears streaming profusely from his face.	That baby is crying a lot.	That kid is bawling his eyes out.
Your friend is very angry about something.	He is completely incensed about what happened.	He's really mad and upset.	He's fuming.
You heard a noise and you are scared.	That curious sound frightened me to the very core.	I'm really scared.	I'm wiggin' out, man.

(Information taken from Hot English Online Magazine #87, p.54)

What is a paradox?

A paradox is a statement that apparently contradicts itself and yet might be true.[1][2] Most logical paradoxes are known to be invalid arguments but are still valuable in promoting critical thinking. Some paradoxes have revealed errors in definitions assumed to be rigorous, and have caused axioms of mathematics and logic to be re-examined.

Common themes in paradoxes include self-reference, infinite regress, circular definitions, and confusion between different levels of abstraction. Some example of famous paradoxes are:

"War is peace."
"Freedom is slavery."
"Ignorance is strength."
(George Orwell, 1984)

"Some day you will be old enough to start reading fairy tales again."
(C.S. Lewis to his godchild, Lucy Barfield, to whom he dedicated *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*)

"I can resist anything but temptation."
(Oscar Wilde)

Men work together whether they work together or apart.
(Robert Frost)

Nobody goes to that restaurant; it's too crowded.

"Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it."
(Mahatma Gandhi)

"You are never too old to become younger!"
(Mae West)

"It's weird not to be weird."
(John Lennon)

(Information taken from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paradox
Examples taken from: http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/paradox)

HUMOR

The **broccoli** says:
'I look like a small tree',
The **mushroom** says:
'I look like an umbrella',
The **walnut** says:
'I look like a brain',
and the banana says
'Can we please change the subject?' -

Diet rule #1: If nobody sees you eating it, it doesn't contain any calories.

If you didn't see it with your own **eyes**, or hear it with your own **ears**, don't invent it with your small **mind** and share it with your big **mouth**! -

If you **die** in an elevator, be sure to push the Up button.

I'm not **clumsy**! The floor just hates me, the table and chairs are bullies, and the walls get in my way. -

He who **laughs** last didn't get it.

Cell phones these days keep getting thinner and smarter... people the opposite.

Love your enemies. It makes them so damned.

TECHNOLOGY

Rubistar

RubiStar is a online rubric maker. RubiStar helps teachers who want to use rubrics but do not have the time to develop them from scratch. RubiStar provides generic rubrics that can be printed and used for many typical projects and research assignments. The unique thing about RubiStar, however, is that it provides these generic rubrics in a format that can be customized. Teachers can change almost all suggested text in the rubric to make it fit their own project. Register for free.

Good Rubrics Should...

address all relevant content and preformance objectives

define standards and help students achieve them by providing criteria with which they can evaluate their own work

be easy to understand and use

be applicable to a variety of tasks

provide all students with an opportunity to succeed at some level

yield consistent results, even when administered by different scorers

A rubric is a scoring guide that describes criteria for student performance and differentiates among levels of performance within those criteria. Because rubrics set forth specific criteria, define precise requirements for meeting those criteria, and often assign numerical scores to each level of performance, they provide teachers with an effective and objective method for evaluating skills that do not generally lend themselves to objective assessment methods. Rubrics simplify assessment of student work and provide students, parents, and administrators with an answer to the age-old "Why did you give it this grade?" question. And, at their very best, rubrics provide students with standards and expectations they can use to evaluate their performance while completing the assignment. If you want to learn more about Rubistar, go to http://rubistar.4teachers.org/

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

IT HAPPENED IN FEBRUARY

February 3rd, 1815	World's first commercial cheese factory is established in Switzerland.
February 5th, 1973	Comic strip *Hagar The Horrible* (OLAFO) debuts.
February 7th, 1962	President Kennedy begins blockade of Cuba.
February 9th, 1895	Volleyball is invented by W G Morgan in Massachusetts.
February 11th, 1990	South African activist Nelson Mandela is freed after 27 years in prison.
February 13th, 1633	Galileo Galilei arrives in Rome for his trial before the Inquisition.
February 16th, 1959	Fidel Castro becomes premier of Cuba after overthrowing Batista.
February 19th, 1986	The Soviet Union launches the Mir space station.
February 25th, 1932	Adolf Hitler obtains the German citizenship by naturalization, opening the opportunity for him to run in the 1932 election for Reichs president.
February 27th, 1967	Pink Floyd releases their first single *Arnold Layne*.

FAMOUS PEOPLE BORN THIS MONTH

PERSON	JOB	BIRTHDAY
Clark Gable	Actor	February 1st, 1901
Jennifer Aniston	Actress	February 11th, 1969
Abraham Lincoln	President	February 12th, 1809
Vicente Fernández	Singer	February 17th, 1940
Galileo Galilei	Scientist	February 15th, 1564
Levi Strauss	Businessman	February 26th, 1829
Mario Andreti	Car Racer	February 28th, 1940

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Valentine's Day

People have celebrated Valentine's Day on February 14th for centuries. It is especially popular in England, France, Canada, and the United States. St. Valentine's Day began as a liturgical celebration of one or more early Christian saints named Valentinus. Several martyrdom stories were invented for the various Valentines that belonged to February 14, and added to later martyrologies. A popular hagiographical account of Saint Valentine of Rome states that he was imprisoned for performing weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry and for ministering to Christians, who were persecuted under the Roman Empire. According to legend, during his imprisonment, he healed the daughter of his jailer, Asterius. An embellishment to this story states that before his execution he wrote her a letter signed "Your Valentine" as a farewell.

The day was first associated with romantic love in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. In 18th-century England, it evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines"). Valentine's Day symbols that are used today include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have given way to mass-produced greeting cards.

Many superstitions surround the day. Some people think that the first person you see on this day will be your valentine. It is good luck to be awakened by a kiss. It is also thought that if you dream of someone the night before Valentine's Day, that person will be your sweetheart.

In Slovenia, Saint Valentine or Zdravko was one of the saints of spring, the saint of good health and the patron of beekeepers and pilgrims. A proverb says that "Saint Valentine brings the keys of roots". Plants and flowers start to grow on this day. It has been celebrated as the day when the first work in the vineyards and in the fields commences.

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 Algerian proverb:

The word of a friend will make you cry.
The word of an enemy will make you laugh.

ILE major staff wishes all our readers and friends a happy Valentine's Day.

Discovering Pura Vida

Remember if you want to read authentic stories made in UTN-ILE, you can find them in Discovering Pura Vida. The books are series of language learning and culture immersion original stories in English with an interesting way of learning Spanish. They are for kindle readers at the moment, but any PC or tablet can display them, too. Each book is $3.99.

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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.

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