



ISSUE # 29

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Brazilian Carnival

Mass Training
Organizational
Workshop

It's the Little Things
that Matter Most

The Task-Based Approach

Jing



cover page



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In this month of February, Brazil becomes the place to be. Carnival, samba, caipiriña and tons of fun. In this edition, our cover page is dedicated to the Brazilian Carnival. Find more information inside this edition.

If you have an awesome picture you think could be the cover of one of The ILE Post editions, send it to eherrera@utn.ac.cr. So far several readers have sent amazing pictures that we will be sharing with you soon. If you want to know what is happening in ILE, follow us in



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

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EDITORIAL

A Thank You Note



I am writing to the ILE outstanding crew hoping everybody can read what I'm about to say. I

have prided myself to answer, (whenever it has been asked) where I learned English: *"I learned at UTN, in the Inglés como Lengua Extranjera (ILE) Major. Just in the time and place God chose for me."*

This has been a once in a lifetime experience. During my time as an ILE student, I felt blessed. I met extraordinary people with extraordinary souls, minds, and above all hearts. Since day one, I felt welcomed at ILE. The different types of people I met—quirky, serious, young, old, funny, extrovert—showed a high compromise and professionalism in everything they did. I really admire the unity, brotherhood and charisma the ILE team projects. The range of cultural, spiritual, intellectual and personal mix you find in this major is admirable. The ILE team allowed me to come out of my shell and explore a world that is waiting to be conquered.

I want to thank all of my educational guides for their encouragement, support, attention callers, patience bestowed upon me. They helped me to open my

mind and find out about many things I would have not discovered without their help. Thank you for seeing me as a partner in learning and sharing. Thank you for making me do my best.

This would not be a complete thank you letter without thanking those who are behind the scenes/classrooms. Thank you for your precious and priceless efforts to keep us going, growing and improving day by day. Thank you for fueling students' hopes and ambitions. Although not in the classroom, your labor is vital.

I would like to finish by mentioning that by this date I have been working as an ESL teacher at Centro Cultural Costarricense Norteamericano for ten months. This blessing has made me understand and appreciate more how challenging your job is. This multitasking profession demands all I was able to see you did, while studying at ILE.

In the same way you do, one day I would like to become an inspirer, and empowerer and an engager for my students.

Thank you ILE for everything and keep touching lives in each passing day helping to build the foundations for new professionals Costa Rica needs.

Truly yours,

Luis Fernando Céspedes Sánchez

UTN NEWS

Mass Training Organizational Workshop

On January 27th, UTN had the visit of Iván Labra. Mr. Labra is pioneer in the Organizational Workshop, a method for large group capacitation in economic and social development. During his presentation, Mr. Labra narrated how a large group (at least 40 people) receives some training, assistance and some resources in order to organize themselves as a small business trying to survive and become successful. It is very interesting to see how people, forced by circumstances and sharing one single resource base, learn to organize in a complex manner, involving a division of labor.

The Organizational Workshop field of study in the broadest sense is social psychology, the discipline that bridges the gap between psychology and sociology.

As a result of the OW a group typically achieves:

- ✓ Infrastructure needed to embark on sustainable development projects (housing, production infrastructure, roads, bridges, dams).
- ✓ Innovations in organization, and changes in individual behavior, to tackle

challenges such as domestic and public violence, care of children and the AIDS pandemic

- ✓ The organizational consciousness that it requires for sustained activity after the workshop.
- ✓ Vocational skills and knowledge from the lectures on Theory of Organization
- ✓ Management skills developed during the workshop.

Each group that engages in the OW can thus achieve very practical results that benefit the community, and start the formation process for individuals committed to ongoing social development.

The Organizational Workshop originated in Brazil with sociologist Clodomir Santos de Moraes in 1954. Since then, the Organization Workshop became a constant in a number of agrarian reform efforts in Latin America and (community) development projects elsewhere. From Chile, the Organizational Workshop spread to Mexico, Panamá, Colombia, El Salvador, Venezuela, Ecuador, Honduras, Perú,

Nicaragua, Guatemala, Brazil, the Caribbean, a number of African countries as well as Europe.



After the presentation, there was a question session in which Mr. Labra expanded his explanation of the Organizational Workshop and its quiet success.

Besides UTN, Mr. Labra offered a discussion session in URCOZON Ciudad Quesada and a workshop in La Catalina, Birrí Heredia.

Extension Vice Chancellor Luis Fernando Chaves expects that with the development and application of this methodology, UTN can help as an organizer of organizational groups that give communities the chance to create job opportunities focusing on local collective entrepreneurship.

UTN NEWS

Teacher Training Opportunities

Teaching is a challenging profession. Besides being specialists in one or several areas, teachers are members of learning communities, in which they are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning development. Teaching standards have increased in recent decades. Even if well prepared, new teachers are often assigned to the most challenging courses with little supervision and support.



UTN authorities know that to improve the quality of education, they should address the big picture, which is to think systematically

about the teaching practice. Taking into consideration these aspects, UTN has designed and implemented a series of three courses (pedagogical mediation, academic research and evaluation). The purpose of these courses is to accompany the teachers in the process of constant training they need, but that sometimes is difficult to find.

This month, the evaluation course was opened with great success. Many teachers enrolled in this hybrid course (face-to-face and online out of class work). The course concentrates on updated evaluation methods, types of evaluation, how to make evaluation an integral part of a course, etc. At the same time, there is space for teachers to share, discuss, and reflect about their experiences.

Once again UTN shows its compromise with teachers, students and the community keeping in mind that No education system can be better than the quality of its teachers.

New Conference Building

On January 30th, UTN inaugurated a new conference building at the Atenas Campus. This 386 m² facility is fully equipped with the latest technology and cost around ₡169.000.000. The idea is that not only UTN but also companies can use the conference building for training and extension courses. This ceremony had Japan Ambassador in Costa Rica Mr. Mamoru Shinohara as a special guest. This is another effort UTN makes to grow and offer students and the community better facilities and in this way consolidate itself as one of the best locations to study.



WORLD NEWS

Cybercrime Robbers Steal Up To \$1bn From Global Banks

An international gang of cybercriminals has stolen up to \$1bn from banks and financial institutions around the world in what could be one of the biggest banking breaches ever recorded.

Kaspersky Lab, a Russian security company, said that hackers had infiltrated more than 100 banks in 30 countries in the past two years.

Dubbed 'Carbanak,' the gang used carefully crafted emails to trick employees into opening malicious software files, in a technique known as **'spear phishing'**.

The hackers were then able to get into the internal network and track down administrators' computers for video surveillance.



Once the hackers become familiar with the banks' operations, they use that knowledge to steal money without raising suspicions, programming ATMs to dispense money at specific

times or setting up fake accounts and transferring money into them.

In one case, a bank lost \$7.3m through ATM fraud, while in another example, a financial institution lost \$10m after the attackers exploited its online banking platform.

Most of Carbanak's targets were in Russia, the US, Germany, China and Ukraine, although Kaspersky said the attackers could be expanding throughout Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe. It said the ring included hackers from Europe, including Russia and Ukraine, as well as China.



(Information and image taken from: <http://mwcnews.net/news/business/49772-cybercrime-robbers.html>)

Egyptian Football Suspended After Deadly Cairo Stampede

Egypt has suspended its football league and ordered an investigation after at least 40 people were killed and dozens injured in a stampede and clashes between police and supporters of Zamalek football club at a game in Cairo, officials said. According to witness accounts, violence erupted when police tried to set up barricades and used tear gas to disperse football fans trying to force their way into the army-owned

stadium in the city's northeast on Sunday, February the 8th.

Ultras have often clashed with security forces in and outside of stadiums, and as well as in the context of political protests, with



police accused of using excessive force while confronting them.

The decision to suspend the league season indefinitely is the same measure taken after the Port Said match three years ago where the home Al-Masry fans attacked Cairo's Al-Ahly supporters with explosives, knives and broken glass.

After that incident, the interim Egyptian government banned domestic league football for two years.



(Information and image taken from: <http://mwcnews.net/news/sports/49621-egyptian-football.html>)

WORLD NEWS

Fifty Shades Of Grey Rakes in \$81.7 Million On Opening Weekend

By Chris Michaud

Fifty Shades of Grey, the widely anticipated adaptation of the best-selling novel about a kinky relationship between a businessman and a college student, took in \$81.7 million in ticket sales to soar to the top of US and Canadian weekend box office charts. *Fifty Shades* got a boost from a Valentine's Day opening after it was released earlier in the week

in 57 foreign markets. It took in an additional \$158 million overseas, for a global total of \$240 million. Early US screenings on Thursday night brought in \$8.6 million, setting the scene for a record-breaking opening for any Presidents' Day weekend. Nick Carpou, president of domestic distribution for Universal Pictures, the Comcast Corp.



said a combination of Valentine's Day, a long holiday weekend and intense interest from smaller and mid-sized markets all helped drive the record numbers.



(Information and image taken from: <http://cyprus-mail.com/2015/02/16/fifty-shades-of-grey-rakes-in-81-7-million-on-opening-weekend/#prettyPhoto>)

Pope Orders Bishops To Cooperate With Sex Abuse Commission

By Philip Pulella

Pope Francis on Thursday ordered Roman Catholic bishops around the world to cooperate as a matter of priority with a commission he set up to protect children from sexual abuse by clerics, even if it unearths new scandals.



The pope, who met victims of abuse last year, sent the letter to the bishops and heads of religious institutions a day before the commission was due to hold its first full meeting.

"Everything possible must be done to rid the Church of the scourge of the sexual abuse of minors and to open pathways of reconciliation and healing for those who were abused," the pope says in the letter.

"Families need to know that the Church is making every effort to protect their children ... priority must not be given to any other kind of concern, whatever its nature, such as the desire to avoid scandal, since there is absolutely no place in ministry for those who abuse minors."

One of the members of the commission, Marie Collins of Ireland, herself a victim of sexual abuse, told Reuters that commission members had asked the pope for a

letter to thwart any resistance from bishops, which she said some members expected.

The worldwide scandal, which came to global prominence in Boston in 2001, has seen known abusers shunted from parish to parish instead of being defrocked and handed over to authorities.

In a number of developed countries, particularly in the United States, the Catholic Church has paid tens of millions of dollars in settlements.

It has put in place new measures in recent years to protect children, but victims' groups say it must do more, and make bishops who allegedly covered up the abuse accountable.



(Information and image taken from: <http://cyprus-mail.com/2015/02/05/pope-orders-bishops-to-cooperate-with-sex-abuse-commission/#prettyPhoto/0/>)

THE ILE ETHOS

The Task-Based Approach

by Euyenia González (ILE Professor)



Learning a foreign language requires the development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

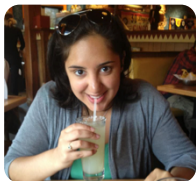
Since this is not something simple for the students, teachers have to look for appropriate methodologies to motivate students to acquire those specific abilities. Among the approaches for teaching foreign languages, the task-based approach is one of the most commonly used. It has three specific steps that help students to acquire the necessary skills. One way to remember the different steps of the approach is by remembering it as the three P's model. The PPP model of language teaching (presentation, practice, production) is based on the assumption that a language is best presented to learners as a system of structures in which there is a controlled practice to get a natural performance. The presentation of the topic, also called by some as the "warm up," inspires students to relate the new material with something they know, something familiar for them. Besides, it is useful for the teacher to diagnose how much information the students manage about the topic. It is basically a moment to introduce the students into the topic and motivate them to learn more about it. In this step some games are recommended to increase the students' interest. Moreover, the second step is the practice. It comes with different pre-tasks that pretend to be the necessary input the students require for getting the competencies expressed in the lesson objective. The teacher has to be sure that there is enough practice to make students perform later the main task that

is strictly related to the pre-tasks. In this step of the class, listening, speaking, reading and writing exercises have to be developed in an integral way, considering that it is important for students to internalize the language. To do this, the objectives developed in the classroom must be meaningful and memorable, so students can process language, which is being learned more naturally. Finally, production is the third important step. This is the part of the class when students have to show what they have learned. This third step is called the "main task." As I mentioned before, the task required has to be something similar to what the students practiced in the pre-tasks. In this step, the students have to show what they have learned through a contextualized activity. Contextualization is an important aspect since this approach emphasizes the fact that content must be taught in contexts that are familiar to the students. Also for this part, integral activities such as role-plays, oral activities such as dialogues are recommended. After the performance, it is necessary that the teacher gives appropriate feedback to the students who need guidance in the teaching and learning process. As a conclusion, to teach a foreign language requires specific skills. Therefore, teachers must look for alternative methodologies that help students acquire the necessary skills to be competent in the target language. Following approaches such as the task-based approach is a way to help teachers and students to follow a structured class by using authentic materials that will help them to develop the required skills for students of a foreign language.

THE ILE ETHOS

It's the Little Things that Matter Most

By: Natalie Nazar (PIT Professor)



At the beginning of my senior year of college, I took a chance and applied for a Fulbright ETA grant. Fulbright is the most competitive grant and scholarship program in the United States; worldwide Fulbright's only competition is the Rhodes Scholarship from the United Kingdom. Once the application had been submitted and the interviews were over, my life went into overdrive. I was consumed by standardized exams, capstone papers, research, graduation, and finally job interviews. By the time May rolled around, Fulbright was the last thing on my mind. None of the other people who I applied with had gotten the grant and so I thought, "Oh well, I gave it my best shot. Onto other things." Two weeks after my college graduation, I received a phone call that changed my life. I did get the Fulbright grant. I was going to Costa Rica for ten months. It took ten months before I got on the plane. Ten months of medical forms, work contracts, and visa preparations. Mentally and emotionally I didn't fully understand the scope of what I was doing until I was already in Costa Rica. While in the States my thoughts centered on all the cool things and people I was going to meet and how it would be ten months of warm sunshine, no ice and no snow! I handled my departure really well. There were no tears at the airport, no dramatic scenes with my friends. I was just going on a trip, a rather long trip to a place where I had never been and where I didn't know anyone. I arrived in Costa Rica on a very hot March afternoon. I had left the bitter cold of New Jersey behind and entered a tropical paradise. Anyone who travels

knows that for the first few weeks everything in a new place seems super cool and different. One of the first places I visited was the bank because I needed colones. In reality, Banco Nacional in downtown Alajuela is just a bank. The United States is filled with banks and I've probably been to over twenty different kinds of banks throughout my lifetime but at that moment the Banco Nacional was the most interesting and unique bank in the world. To be honest, it is the only bank that I have been to where you have to first go through a security cubicle before you can go into the lobby.

When the initial awe and glamour of a new place disappears, usually after the first two or three weeks, you start to notice differences between your home culture and the culture in which you suddenly find yourself immersed. If you're a simple, relatively laid back person then the big differences will probably not bother you. In reality, it's the small things, the small differences that start to irritate and help feed the inevitable homesickness that every traveler experiences. For me, it started off with not having WiFi throughout the first house I lived in. I couldn't watch Netflix in bed or Skype with my friends from the comfort of my dining table. After that, it was a domino effect, just one thing after another that would drive me nuts: the non-stop heat, drivers who didn't respect pedestrians, the long lines at the bank at the end of the month, the colones, having to walk everywhere, rice and beans for breakfast, etc. I missed my car. I missed dollars and cents. I missed home.

THE ILE ETHOS

Being homesick is not fun. It can be a long time before you finally get through the nostalgia, the sadness, and the loneliness. In the same way that the little things irritate you, it's the little things that you miss the most. I missed sitting on the couch eating pizza with my best friend. I missed the ice cream from my favorite ice cream parlor and the sound of my mom making dinner. Little things, insignificant things that you take for granted until they are no longer there. I would watch the planes take off from Juan Santamaria and imagine myself on that plane going back to the comfort of home, the warm embrace of my family, and the loving smiles of my friends. And just when I was about ready to pack my bags, I remembered that this opportunity was a once in a lifetime chance to prove to myself that I am the independent and intelligent woman I've always wanted to be. It is easy to be independent in your comfort zone where nothing is foreign or strange, where you don't need to ask questions or take risks. But it takes a special kind of character to live happily in a totally new place.

After long weeks of homesickness and a few tears and lonely nights, I learned to make a new life for myself in Costa Rica. I moved into my own apartment where I could cook whatever and whenever I wanted. I stopped going to the bank at the end of the month. I was really productive during the morning, so I could nap during the hottest part of the day, and most importantly I made new friends. If you're like me then you'd

probably have the same group of friends since elementary school or high school. We reach an age where we stop making friends. In adulthood we have partners, coworkers, teammates, classmates, boyfriends/girlfriends, neighbors, but we don't focus on making friends. I had to relearn how to make friends. I'm a very social person, but I've had the same close friends for over ten years. My friends are like my family members, they use my clothes, eat dinner at my house, sit and have coffee with my mom. In Costa Rica I had to start over, meet new people, get to know them, and try to find some common ground. It's scary to find yourself alone on a Friday night with no one to share a beer with. After a few lonely months, I finally got the courage to talk to people and ended up making great friends. I'm grateful to all the friends I made in Costa Rica. They welcomed me into their homes, their social circles, and their hearts.

Living in Costa Rica for ten months taught me that humans are adaptable creatures. You think that you can only be happy if you live close to your family and friends, in the same place where you've grown up, eating the same thing day in and day out, and surrounded by familiarity and comfort. But the truth is your happiness isn't dependent on any of those things. Your happiness depends solely on your determination to adapt and find happiness in the small things. I learned to find happiness in afternoon coffee with coworkers, in sunsets after the rainy season, and in talking with new people. So if you are ever far from home, look for the little things that make life beautiful regardless of where you find yourself.

Value of the Month

UTN begins Value of the Month campaign. For the month of January, the value is Tolerance in the Workplace. This campaign has the objective to permeate school life and, as students and staff live these values, their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development increases.

Adaptability in the Workplace

Adaptability means being flexible when things change. An adaptable person is one who is open to new ideas and concepts, to working independently or as part of a team, and to carrying out multiple tasks or projects.

Characteristics of adaptable people include:

- ✚ Willingness to learn new methods, procedures, or techniques and take on new tasks
- ✚ Making suggestions for increasing the effectiveness of changes
- ✚ Drawing conclusions from new and changing information
- ✚ Being resourceful with a positive, 'can do' attitude to change
- ✚ Looking for ways to make changes work rather than identifying why change won't work
- ✚ Shifting your priorities in response to the demands of a situation
- ✚ Not being frightened to improvise
- ✚ Being tolerant of time pressure, working well close to deadlines
- ✚ Keeping an open mind
- ✚ Seeing the bigger picture

To encourage adaptability at work, employers should give employees the opportunity to acquire skills that will help them become more productive and proficient in what they are doing and also create spaces where employees can come up and share ideas that can help the organization.

When you can't change the direction of the wind — adjust your sails.

~H. Jackson Brown Jr.



VOX POPULI

The UTN community includes professors, administrative staff and students. Each individual has something to say about everything. In this section, we give the university community the opportunity to express what they feel about different school, country and world issues that in one or another way affect or impact our lives, feelings and opinions. Professor Cindy Rodriguez is in charge of this interesting section. In this issue, we asked ILE students:

What has been one of the best books you have ever read?

100 Años de Soledad by Gabriel García Márquez. I like the magic realism developed through out the story.

-Tatiana Oconitirillo

I really liked *La Muerte de la Brújula*. It has everything I like in a story: mystery, suspense, action.

-Marvin Mora

I love Julio Cortazar's books. Once you start reading them, you cannot stop.

-Meize Quirós

I usually read *The Bible*. When I read it, I find spiritual peace and the answer to many of my daily questions.

-Roswuel Gadesa

I like the trilogy of *The Hunger Games*. There is a country dominated by a selected group, and a girl who does everything to protect her little sister.

-Allan Chavarría

I read JJ Benítez *Caballo de Trola*. It is a great story in which some astronauts travel in time to Jesus Christ time. I recommend it.

-Kenia Domínguez

The best book I have ever read is *La Isla de los Hombres Solos* by Jose León Sánchez. It is a mix between fiction and a real story. The story provides details about what life in jail was like 100 years ago. The main character is sent to the worst jail in Costa Rica because he stole the Virgen de Los Angeles image.

-Jason Céspedes

The best book I've ever read is *A Orillas de Río Piedra* by Paulo Coelho. It shows how love and religion complement each other and cannot be separated.

-Merylyn Robles

90 seconds with...



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

Luis Restrepo Gutiérrez: UTN San Carlos Campus Dean, Business Manager, Mexican Food Lover, and Athlete.

Where do you live?

I was born in San José, but now I live and work in San Carlos. This is a place I chose because I needed a place where I could relax and enjoy a little bit more with my family.



Best childhood memory?

My father went to study to Mineral de Pozos, Guanajuato in Mexico. Because of this, I lived several years over there, so my best childhood memory is the time I spent there learning about the culture and admiring all the new things I had the chance to experience at that moment, for example learning how to dance the famous Jarabe Tapatio or understanding and living El Grito de la Independencia celebration.

First job

When I was finishing high school at Liceo de Costa Rica, my grandfather helped me get a job at Durman Esquivel Hardware as a Messenger and Helper for everybody doing different things.

Favorite food

I love Mexican food: mole, pozole, chilasquilas. They are simply delicious.

Something you really can't stand.

For some people, it may sound strange, but I hate cucumber, and I do not like onions when they are cooked; however, I like raw onions.

90 seconds with...



Would you class yourself as a day or night person?

I am an early bird. I work better if I start working early in the morning. Sometimes, I get to my office at 6 am. I am very productive during the morning.



A good book

I always read the Bible, and if someone asks me advice, I immediately go to the scriptures. However, a book that really helped me in a very important stage of my life was *The New Dare to Discipline* by James Dobson. This book gives excellent advice on how to deal with children discipline. It helps people understand that discipline is not only punishing and spanking, an important part of it is to be consistent as a parent.

Favorite music

My favorite music is religious music, for example Jesús Adrián Romero, Marcos Barrientos. This kind of music helps me relax and get calmed.

What is always in your fridge?

Hot pepper and hot sauces: jalapeño, tabasco, etc.

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

Since I spent a wonderful time in Mexico, I really enjoyed when I took my family to visit Mineral de Pozos in Guanajuato. I took them, and they also loved the place and the traditions. Actually, we want to go back soon.

What is your greatest fear?

I used to have a couple of fears. One was fear of height. However, I have worked on it to overcome that fear. I practiced canopy to start with, and I have traveled abroad, so I think I can control it. My second fear is of cockroaches. I do not like those insects. At the beginning, I try to stay away from them, but now if I see one, I kill it.

Tell me a joke or proverb you remember right now.

I had a very bad experience with something I once said that it was not true, so I keep in my mind that you need to be careful when talking, or as we say in Spanish "*para hablar y comer pescado, hay que tener mucho cuidado.*"

The Attic of Bertha Mason

Room in New York

A poem inspired by Hopper's painting

By Sandra Argüello

Cubicles of the living
 The secluded spaces amidst the city
 We look, expecting a response,
 We become the neighbors, the passersby,
 We pain to know what's next:
 A man and a woman.
 As simple as that.

The evening skillfully penetrates through the window
 In silence

There is liveliness in silence,
 There's an electric energy uniting their heads.
 We, uninvited guests pain to know
 What lies behind closed doors.



The Attic of Bertha Mason

Knight of Your Heart

by Victor Romero (ILE Student)

*This is the story of a fiery knight,
The one who keeps you safe at night,
That one who makes our dreams come true,
And is the protector of your truth.*

*Your heart is safe if it is with me,
I'll never give anyone the only key.
I'll always protect your heart with my life,
And I won't be afraid to use my hunting knife.*

*This is a promise I will always keep,
Even if I have to spend my nights with no sleep.
I want you with me all my life,
And that's why I want you to be my wife.*

My Mom

by Pamela Quesada (ILE Student)

*My mom, my mom I'll love you forever
To repeat it I will be tired never.
You were always there when I grew,
And made me happy when I was blue.*

*They say you are strong as a tree,
Whose shadow only covers me.
Lullabies you sang for me to sleep,
In my heart those songs I'll always keep.*

The Attic of Bertha Mason

The Beauty of Costa Rica is a Business

by Juan Quesada Ugalde (Ile Student)

Costa Rica has incredible biodiversity with scenic beaches, rainforest, impressive volcanoes, and exotic wildlife. 25% of the Costa Rica's territory is National parks or protected areas besides having 5% of the world's biodiversity. This has become a source for many people to create a business in the tourism industry. There are all kinds of businesses related to tourism such as hotels, restaurants, National Parks, Beaches, etc. In addition, tourists can take part in adventure activities, such as canopy tours, bungee jumping, kayaking, rafting, and surfing. These activities make Costa Rica an amazing place to visit, creating tremendous opportunities for local people to create their own business.

Most people within this industry try to take advantage of the natural resources without making too great an impact on nature, while at the same time promoting the preservation of the environment. Costa Rica is a place that is suitable for any kind of adventure; as a result, people from all over the world who like adventure are attracted to Costa Rica because of its beauty and the convenience of being able to travel here from anywhere in the world.

Most people who come to Costa Rica are from the United States or Canada, which means that Costa Rica's proximity to the United States gives its tourist industry a clear advantage over the adventures offered in Africa or Asia. Around one point five million tourists a year visit Costa Rica, which is a considerable amount of people from where the local businesses benefit greatly.



The average amount money that an American spends in Costa Rica is around \$95 per day, which is a reasonable price for the quality of service and variety of activities that can be enjoyed.

So, people start coming up with ideas and adventures to offer, so that the tourists want to come back or tell their friends the amazing experience they experienced in Costa Rica. This is one part that makes Costa Rica a beautiful country, its people, and the role it plays in providing a key element in the successful tourist industry.

LANGUAGE BITS

SITUATION	FORMAL	RELAXED	INFORMAL
You are studying at university and you find the course very easy.	It is not a stressful nature.	It's easy.	It's a breeze.
A friend is earning a lot of money.	He is being remunerated a substantial amount of money for his occupational activities.	He is earning a lot.	He's getting lots of dosh.
A friend is extremely drunk.	He is in a state of inebriation.	He is drunk.	He is out of his face.

(Information taken from Hot English Online Magazine #104 p.36)

What are Interjections?

An interjection is one of the eight major parts of speech, along with verbs, nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions and conjunctions. Some grammarians believe that interjections are the least important part of speech. This is because interjections are not generally required in order for the meaning of a sentence to become clear.

An interjection is a word solely designed to convey emotion. It expresses meaning or feeling. It does not:

- ✚ relate grammatically to the other parts of the sentence
- ✚ help the reader understand the relationship between words and phrases in the sentence

Instead, it simply conveys to the reader the way the author is feeling. Interjections are rarely used in academic or formal writing, but are common in fiction or artistic writing. They are usually, but not always, offset by an exclamation point (which is also used to show emotion). Some common

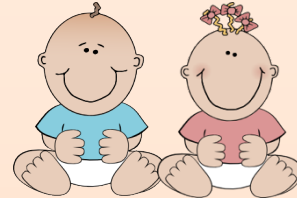
INTERJECTION	USE
Ahem	The sound of someone clearing their throat and means "attention" or "listen"
Boo	Used to scare someone or to voice disapproval
Eh	This is used when you didn't hear or understand what someone said
Hmm	This can mean you are thinking or hesitating
Jeez	Could mean you can't believe something, or you are exasperated
Ooh-la-la	A slightly comical way to refer to something as fancy or special
Oops	An exclamation people use when they accidentally do something
Yahoo	Expresses joy or happiness
Yoo-hoo	This is used to get someone's attention and is usually used by women
Zing	This is similar to a rim shot used in comic acts and emphasizes a clever statement or comeback

(Information taken from: <http://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-interjections.html>)

HUMOR



A child asked his father, "How were people born?" So his father said, "Adam and Eve made babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on." The child then went to his mother, asked her same question and she told him, "We were monkeys then we evolved to become like we are now." The child ran back to his father and said, "You lied to me!" His father replied, "No, your mom was talking about her side of the family."



Dear Santa,
For this year I'm requesting, a fat bank account, and a small body.

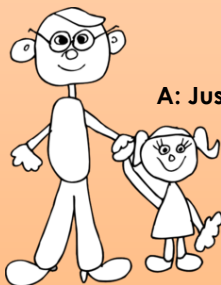
P.S. This year, please don't mix them up, like you did last year!

Teacher: Today, we're going to talk about the tenses.
Now, if I say "I am beautiful," which tense is it?
Student: Obviously it is the past tense.



A very drunk man comes out of the bar and sees another very drunk man.
He looks up in the sky and says, "Is that the sun or the moon?"
The other drunk man answers, "I don't know. I'm a stranger here myself."

The mother says to her daughter, "Did you enjoy your first day at school?"
The daughter answers, "First day? Do you mean I have to go back again tomorrow?"



A: Just look at that young person with the short hair and blue jeans. Is it a boy or a girl?
B: It's a girl. She's my daughter.
A: Oh, I'm sorry, sir. I didn't know that you were her father.
B: I'm not. I'm her mother.

Technology

Jing

Jing is a screencasting computer program launched in 2007 as Jing Project by the TechSmith Corporation.

The software takes a picture or video of the user's computer screen and uploads it to the Web, FTP, computer or clipboard. If uploaded to the web, the program automatically creates a URL to the image that can be shared with others. Jing is compatible with Macintosh and Microsoft Windows. Users must sign up for an account before using the software.



Jing takes the form of a sun-shaped icon with three spires. The lower left one lets you capture anything on your screen. The middle one looks at your capture history, and the right one pulls up options. It's the capture spire that's most fascinating about Jing.

You can capture anything on your screen as a static image or a movie, then you save it or store it on TechSmith's free 2 GB of server space (hosted at Screencast.com). If you choose to store it, you send the link to anyone and everyone. There's also a 2GB bandwidth limit, so be judicious about letting your link get spread around too much.

Jing is designed to share images and movies with people quickly and easily while chatting or emailing, to help you get a point across. It's great for tech support or working remotely.

One caveat is that the captured image can't be embedded somewhere as just an image. Only a link can be shared, and the free version of Jing shows that image with a couple of ads for Jing and Screencast around it. This is useful in IM conversations and social networking, but not as useful in a forum environment.

Using Jing to record a video screenshot is simple and straightforward. The resulting video (of five minutes or less) can be saved in SWF format (a Flash format which can be read by any browser with Flash installed), or stored on Screencast. Sharing the link to the stored version pulls up a new window with a Flash video on it. This video can be watched on this screen, but you can't embed the video itself anywhere else. Plus, there's a five-second ad at the end for Jing.








Its simple format and the ability to quickly upload screencasts have made Jing useful for virtual reference in libraries. To know more about Jing, go to: <http://edtechreview.in/reviews/124-jing>

This Month in History

IT HAPPENED IN FEBRUARY

February 4 th , 1789	George Washington is unanimously elected to be the first President of the United States by the U.S. Electoral College.
February 10 th , 1824	Simon Bolivar named dictator by the Congress of Perú.
February 12 th , 1818	Chile gains independence from Spain.
February 14 th , 1936	Hitler announces building of Volkswagens for the people.
February 20 th , 1944	Batman & Robin comic strip premieres in newspapers for the first time.
February 22 nd , 1630	Indians introduce pilgrims to popcorn, at Thanksgiving.
February 23 rd , 1893	Rudolf Diesel receives a patent for the diesel engine.
February 24 th , 1895	Revolution breaks out in Baire, a town near Santiago de Cuba, beginning the second war for Cuban independence, which ended with the Spanish-American War in 1898.
February 26 th , 1930	The first red & green traffic lights installed (Manhattan NYC).
February 28 th , 1985	In Toronto Ontario, publisher Ernst Zundel convicted for distributing hate literature in a book that said the mass extermination of Jews in Germany in World War II never occurred.

FAMOUS PEOPLE BORN THIS MONTH

PERSON	JOB	BIRTHDAY
	Author	February 2 nd , 1882
	Entrepreneur	February 7 th , 1804
	Soccer Player	February 10 th , 1986
	Singer	February 13 th , 1974
	Singer	February 20 th , 1988
	Guitarist	February 25 th , 1943
	Poet	February 27 th , 1807

This Month in History

Brazilian Carnival



The Carnival of Brazil is an annual festival held between the Friday afternoon (51 days before Easter) and Ash Wednesday at noon, which marks the beginning of Lent, the forty-day period before Easter. On certain days of Lent, Roman Catholics and some other Christians traditionally abstained from the consumption of meat and

poultry, hence the term "carnival," from carnelevare, "to remove (literally, "raise") meat." Carnival has roots in the pagan festival of Saturnalia, which, adapted to Catholicism became a farewell to bad things in a season of religious discipline to practice repentance and prepare for Christ's death and resurrection.

Rhythm, participation, and costumes vary from one region of Brazil to another. In the southeastern cities of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Vitória, huge organized parades are led by samba schools. Those official parades are meant to be watched by the public, while minor parades ("blocos") allowing public participation can be found in other cities. The northeastern cities of Recife, Olinda, Salvador and Porto Seguro have organized groups parading through streets, and public interacts directly with them. This carnival is also influenced by African-Brazilian culture. It is a six-day party where crowds follow the trios elétricos through the city streets, dancing and singing.

The typical genres of music of Brazilian carnival are, in Rio de Janeiro (and Southeast Region in general): the samba-enredo, the samba de bloco, the samba de embalo and the marchinha; in Pernambuco and Bahia (and Northeast Region in general) the main genres are: the frevo, the maracatu, the samba-reggae and Axé music.

Carnival is the most famous holiday in Brazil and has become an event of huge proportions. Except for industrial production, retail establishments such as malls, and carnival-related businesses, the country stops completely for almost a week and festivities are intense, day and night, mainly in coastal cities. Rio de Janeiro's carnival alone drew 4.9 million people in 2011, with 400,000 being foreigners.

Arguably, this cultural manifestation could be historically traced to the Portuguese Age of Discoveries when their caravels passed regularly through Madeira, a territory which already celebrated emphatically its carnival season, and where they were loaded with goods but also people and their ludic and cultural expressions.

(Information taken from: Vector Open Stock: www.vectoropenstock.com)
(Pictures taken from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazilian_Carnival)



PROVERB OF THE MONTH

A proverb is a short saying or sentence that is generally known by many people. The saying usually contains words of wisdom, truth or morality that are based on common sense or practical experience. It is often a description of a basic rule of conduct that all people generally follow or should follow. Proverbs can be found in all languages. In this month, we want you to keep in mind the importance of refreshing your soul smiling and laughing to life. We want to close this month's edition with this inspiring Yiddish proverb to start the year with the best attitude:

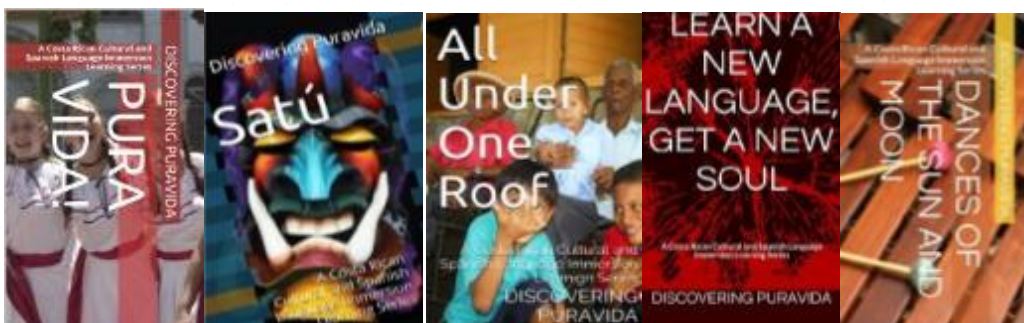
What soap is to the body, laughter is to the soul.

~ Yiddish Proverb

4

Discovering Pura Vida

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



(Images taken from: Amazon: http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss_1?url=search-alias%3Daps&field_keywords=discovering+pura+vida&prefix=discovering+pura%2Caps&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Adiscovering+pura+vida)

To buy one of these wonderful titles go to [DISCOVERING PURA VIDA](#)

PROGRAMA DE IDIOMAS



Description

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

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

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

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

Academic program

Our program consists of the following academic offerings:

English Introductory Level (INGLES NIVELATORIO)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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

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

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

Regular English Program (INGLES REGULAR)

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

Intensive English Program (INGLES INTENSIVO)

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

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

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

Portuguese

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

Italian

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