

Columbus Day

ILE: A Personal  
Historical View

Breast Cancer  
Awareness Walk

An Unhappy Journey

Workshop for Teachers

## COVER PAGE



This picture was taken by professional photographer Ricardo Araya Rojas. The picture was taken last June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ana y Ruth are sisters and love to play in the river. They belong to one of our Costa Rican indigenous groups. Ricardo's love and interest in learning about indigenous culture comes from his childhood. He was always curious and wanted to know more about this topic than what the textbooks in school said. There are many stereotypes about them, where even the same school system does not give them the right place they deserve in the history of Costa Rica. Ricardo has had the chance to share with several indigenous groups, their traditions and customs, and it has been a very enriching experience culturally and spiritually. Throughout his pictures, Ricardo shares part of his experiences.

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# EDITORIAL

## *The Green-Eyed Monster*

### *Let's Keep Envy Out of the UTN*



*There was once a firefly who liked to fly among the trees in a jungle. One day, a snake came along and looked at the firefly flying around, working, eating, and shining with its great green light. The snake didn't have much to do, though, so he decided to chase the firefly around to eat him... First just keeping a watchful eye, then slithering softly along and lastly chasing rapidly around. The firefly flew as fast as those little wings could take him, but eventually grew tired and fell to the ground, where the snake was awaiting. Before the snake could eat him, he pleaded to ask a few questions, to which the snake replied: "Hmm... I don't usually give this privilege to my food, but go ahead". The firefly then asked "Am I in your food chain?", and the snake answered "No...". "Are you hungry?", mumbled the defenseless little firefly. "Not really, no" said the vicious snake. "Then why do you want to eat me?" cried the firefly, to which the snake stated clearly "BECAUSE I JUST CAN'T STAND TO SEE YOU SHINE!"*

*Author: Unknown*

Little by little in our four years of life, we have been building a great institution: the UTN. Old and new members of the university community work with the only objective to become the best university in Costa Rica. However, this goal is often affected by a feeling of discontent or jealousy with regard to success, position, and advantages that some members might have, ENVY.

Feelings of envy do not arouse because of hate or being an evil person, but by an inferiority feeling one may experience when someone else is doing better. People at all levels are vulnerable to envy, and some of them may not even know they are acting enviously. Envy affects employee moods, organizational morale and culture, and according to many experts, it is one of the causes of employee disengagement and productivity loss. Moreover, recent studies have shown that the area that controls envy is the same part that detects physical pain (Takahashi, 2010).

Even though it is impossible to eradicate this green-eyed-monster, there is much a

boss can do to promote an environment that reduces its occurrence. Some recommendations to undermine envy are: a) incorporating elements of team culture, b) encouraging open communication; c) implementing incentives that support cooperation, d) promoting an atmosphere of equality without showing unwitting behavior towards select people, and e) placing high performers (who often give rise to envy) in mentor roles (Vecchio, 2010). Individually speaking, we need to remember that no matter how 'successful' we think we are, there's always going to be someone who is more successful, so we need to focus on our own success and achievement without looking to the right or the left.

We people who work at the UTN love it; for most of us it is a second home, which means we identify and have a special bond with it. It was hard work to finally have this university, so we cannot forget the ultimate aim why we all together work for: TO BECOME THE BEST UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA.

*Eric Herrera*



## NEWS

### *From Theory to Practice:*

### *UTN's participation in Congreso Iberoamericano de Pedagogía*

by Maureen Guevara García



Given the demands of the information age and academic and socio-economic sectors both nationally and internationally, Universidad Técnica Nacional (UTN) has implemented a new program that responds to the needs and demands of today to ensure the quality of the institutional processes of foreign language teaching. For this reason, UTN established a specialized program in language teaching which aims to improve the teaching and learning processes and optimize teaching mediation through the training of facilitators.

Programa de Idioma para el Trabajo (PIT) implemented an English pilot program in 2012, which seeks not only the development of communication skills in English, but also effective teaching strategies that promote learning to learn. Moreover, since its inception, PIT has sought mechanisms to transform traditional language instruction through the development of innovative strategies that will encourage students' real language acquisition. PIT's commitment to learning focuses on meaningful and authentic experiences that promote real learning.

As part of the Academic Affairs Department' efforts, UTN representatives participated in the Congreso Iberoamericano de Pedagogía held by Universidad Nacional, on August 28th, 29th and 30th. In this event, international and national educators participated in a process of reflection and critical analysis looking for innovative and effective teaching approaches. During the congress two presentations were presented on behalf of the Academic Affairs Department; one presented by

Ph.D Jose Matarrita Sánchez regarding the Holistic Approach at UTN called "Escolios pedagógicos acerca de la educación holística en la Universidad", and one presented by Lic. Maureen Guevara Garcia called "De la concepción a la práctica: El modelo pedagógico del Programa de Idiomas para el Trabajo a través de la formación y mediación del docente y su inserción en la enseñanza-aprendizaje de idiomas en la Universidad Técnica Nacional".

This last presentation presented PIT's efforts regarding the implementation of the pilot plan, teaching training processes, hybrid English courses, authentic evaluation and material creation, and the development of a pedagogical model that responds to UTN's language learners' needs.



## *UTN Commemorated the 25th Anniversary of the Signing of the Esquipulas II Agreement*

With the presence of the former President of the Republic and Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. Oscar Arias Sánchez, Universidad Técnica Nacional commemorated, on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Esquipulas Agreement that became known as the Peace Plan for Central America.



During the activity, the 40-minute documentary, entitled

"Una Hora por la Paz", was shown. This documentary outlines the background, obstacles and the results of the Peace Plan for Central America. For Dr. Oscar Arias, former President of the Republic and of the Nobel Peace Prize, the ceasefire of the warring groups, was the clause that determined the success of the peace plan.

UTN felt honored by the opportunity to commemorate the anniversary of this transcendental event with the presence of Dr. Oscar Arias Sánchez in sede central campus.

## *Workshop for Professors*

Last Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, English professors had the opportunity to attend the interesting workshop: Life, Long, Deep, Lasting Learning for Teachers given by international instructor



Mary Scholl. This workshop was organized by Program de Idiomas para el Trabajo (PIT). A good number of teachers from Alajuela, San Carlos and Puntarenas shared opinions and ideas about the different topics Mary Scholl exposed.

Mary Scholl, a graduate of SIT's Master of Arts in Teaching program, has been teaching for 15 years. She has taught in both public and private settings in Asia, North America and South America.

Attendants were happy and thankful to have this kind of opportunities and hope there could be more soon.

Sometimes people say teachers should do this and that in order to improve classes, but few trainings and workshops are offered by institutions. Last year the UTN began a process in order to fulfill this need, and most of teachers are excited about it and willing to support the initiative. Improving the quality of classes can only be reached by working together—teachers and authorities—. This kind of efforts make the community think of a bright future for the UTN.



As part of the activities included in the course Tourism III Professor Greivin Umaña took his students to the Guayabo National Monument in Turrialba, Cartago. Students enjoyed the trip and learned in a more meaningful way about the responsibilities of a tour guide. Two students wrote the following lines to describe the experience

### *ILE Students at Guayabo National Monument*

by Arleen Monge (ILE student)



I had always heard about Guayabo's Monument, but I had not had the chance to visit it. In the past, I imagined that in Guayabo there were many stone spheres; however, those spheres were not stones, they were painted on the land as a huge technical line drawing.

I enjoyed the trip very much because I adore nature, anthropology, and archeology. During this trip, I realized that the natives had an indispensable connection with nature as we do too, but sometimes due to the stressful life, materialism, studies and many other things we have, we do not pay attention to our surroundings, or maybe we adapt ourselves too much to the city, buildings, cement areas, roads that we do not give the importance that nature deserves because we are part of nature, and without it, we cannot breathe or even live. In my particular case, I am a "green person" for that reason that I pay so much attention to nature manifestations, I know when it is going to rain just by looking at the sky, ants and also just by feeling the wind, and also I know when it is going to be sunny just by looking at the stars at night. In addition, I can also notice when the day is weird and when it is going to tremble.

With the explanation Rosita gave us, I could understand that our ancestors were guided by nature too, and that means that there is a relationship between them and us; not only in their connection to nature, but also in their understanding of religious concepts like: God, Evil, and Eternal life. In addition, they had hierarchical orders as our current government and political powers, in the trip I could have a better comprehension of the history books I read before, as in other course as in this course, it was as an affirmation of my previous knowledge. The trip was an amazing experience because Guayabo is a magical place where I will go again. It was like the experience of discovering a treasure that you want to continue exploring.

### *Our Educational Trip to Guayabo National Monument*

By Johan Carballo (ILE student)



It was proposed during a Tourism II class that it would be very educative and attractive for any tourism course to bring the opportunity to students to have a real interaction with the hospitality industry. Our piece of advice was heard, and we, the Tourism III class, had the chance to visit Guayabo National Monument located in Turrialba. There, we learnt many interesting facts about the natives' customs and beliefs while recognizing how important it is for the tourism industry to promote a sustainable development.

It was Sunday 7:00 a.m. when we headed to our destination. We all were excited about the trip. Some of our classmates were getting down with a cold, but even so, that was not enough to ruin our adventurous spirit. It was a long way to get there. When we got to Turrialba downtown, we stopped for a while to get some refreshments since it was scorching. Then, we went for a walk and got to the central park. It was beautiful, so we decided to take some pictures. Everybody was staring at us in such a strange way. It should have been not only because of our amusing interest for taking pictures of the park, but also because of our unfamiliar language. Once we finished admiring the place, we continued with our way to

Guayabo. We had to be there by 9:30, so that we could start out our tour. The tour guide was already waiting for us, but as good Ticos, we arrived slightly later than expected.

Once we got to Guayabo, we met Rosa. She has been working there as a tourist guide for quite a while. Rosa explained to us that she understood how important it was to learn English since Guayabo is visited by many foreigners during the year. She mentioned that her little contact with the language did not represent any obstacle. Actually, it encouraged her to study even harder since she is always striving to improve. After Rosa introduced herself, we hit the trail. Guayabo is a beautiful place, and it holds a lot of history and knowledge from our ancestors. Through the paths, we were able to come across many species of plants and animals. After walking for a while, we found some amazing works done by the inhabitant of this land. There were stones with animal-like carvings, and it was unbelievable how the indigenous cut rocks to make flat lids for their tombs. What caught my attention the most is that Guayabo National Monument was declared as “International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark” by the American Society of Civil Engineers in 2009. As a matter of fact, if you visit Guayabo, you will have the opportunity to admire two stunning structures. The first one is an underground drainage which still works, and the second is a road which is perfectly aligned to Turrialba’s volcano crater. Both of them are stone-made structures, and how they were built is still a mystery. It is remarkable that there are just two places in America that have been granted this recognition. We have the pleasure to have one of those, and the other one is Machu Picchu located in Peru. It was very useful to have Rosa as our tour guide since she shared all this information with us.

All throughout the trip, we witnessed why Guayabo is considered a green attraction. Based on what we studied in class, we categorized it as an eco-friendly landmark since it complies with the environmental, economic and socio-cultural characteristics of environmental sustainable development. Tourism in this place does not interfere with nature, and it brings employment to people from the surroundings. Thanks to Guayabo, people with business ideas are able to open their own restaurants or souvenir shops to attract tourists.

After going all over the place, we were exhausted and starving. We said goodbye to Rosa and looked for a place to buy some food. We walked for a while to realize that all restaurants were closed that day. In the mean time, while we were waiting for the shuttle, we had some guayaba to appease our hunger. It was named Guayabo since there are plenty of these trees. It turned out to be very funny because Professor Buckner really liked it until he found out that wild guayabas have little grubs inside. He was stupefied how people eat fruit with some living insects inside. In our way back home, we stopped in a typical restaurant. There we met an old man who happened to be very flirtatious with the girls of the group. Then we continued our way back home.

I really enjoyed the whole trip. It was very educational because we were able to see how the sustainable development theory learnt in the classroom is applied to “the real world.” Moreover, we went over some history of our ancestors who lived in Guayabo so that we had a prior knowledge before visiting the place. I hope that many other English major students have the same opportunity in the future. We are really grateful that our professors are putting their backs on making an improvement for this major. On behalf of my classmates and myself, I would really like to thank you!



## *“This is Cancer, No doubt”*

### *Breast Cancer Awareness Walk*

*By Jose Soto (ILE Director)*



*I have a new found respect for women who have been through breast cancer and this surgery.*

*Giuliana Rancic*

On October 12, UTN Sede Central organized a Breast Cancer Awareness Walk with the purpose of making everyone aware of prevention and early detection of symptoms. Xinia Castillo, Academic director at Sede Central, offers her personal experience in a massive email for everyone to support the events. There are lectures by Fundeso, the Awareness Walk and other activities to promote the early breast cancer detection. They take place at UTN Sede Central in October, the International month of the fight against breast cancer.

She explains that cancer has not been a stranger in her family. Her personal experience starts with her mother who had been diagnosed with skin cancer which later developed metastases to the skull. To her surprise, after her mother's passing away, she discovered a hard lump in left breast. A mammography, ultrasound and biopsia process confirmed that she had cancer. Fortunately it was removed completely and chemotherapy was not necessary. She had a quick recovery and came back to work in a month. Even though she is under a long term treatment with side effects, she is very thankful to God.

She reminds everyone that not everybody reacts in the same way, and that both men and women must go under regular check-ups for detecting lumps.

Cancer does not hurt while it is growing, it does when it has metastised, she says.

She invites everyone to take an active role in this campaign since this is a vital issue in today's world and Costa Rican society.

We know cases of people with cancer or have known famous and important women or men who have suffered from breast cancer. It is certainly not a stranger to any of us, and the best thing we can do is stay alert for the lumps! Needless to say, lead a very healthy life with healthy habits.

The following are important international websites with relevant information about breast cancer.

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

<http://www.pinkribbon.org/>

<http://www.breastcancercare.org.uk/>

<http://www.breastcancer.org/>

Here are some of the images captured that day.



(Pictures taken by Mario Acuña—ILE Lab Assistant)

# THE ILE ETHOS

## *Second Language Acquisition (SLA) theories and Successful Language Learners*



It seems like theories and approaches that explain acquisition of second or foreign language skills from different points of view abound. Neurolinguistic theories describe how language learning is possible thanks to the specialization of our brain's hemispheres and our capacity to process information. Besides, based on psychological theories, important similarities among the order of acquisition and individual experiences in the learning of a second language (L2) can be established through the way information is acquired and connections with first language (L1) systems are made. These theories help understand the similarities that we humans share in terms of language learning. However, it is also important to identify the differences among us which make some language learners linguistically more successful than others.

### **Success**

Success in acquiring an L2 is usually associated with higher oral proficiency (near to a native speaker's proficiency). However, who can determine how successful an individual is in this matter but the individual her/himself? If what a person has acquired serves the purpose s/he wants it for, then this person should be considered successful. Many a language learner is able to interact with native speakers of the target language (TL), do business at the international level, travel and use the TL as a means to move around and fulfill her/his needs while away from home, without possessing native speakers' proficiency. Someone I know, for example, has lived in the US for over 40 years now, and although she never acquired good proficiency in grammar,

*By Xinia Nagygyeller (ILE Professor)*

pronunciation and other English speaking-related skills, she uses the language confidently enough to make herself understood and run a business in which she has been quite successful. This example shows how it is the individual's notion of success what matters the most in terms of language learning. Now, if besides being able to communicate our ideas, wants, and needs in the L2 we are able to do it with a good level of proficiency and accuracy, surely enough our self confidence and self image will be even more positive and we will be prepared for higher achievements.

### **Learner variables**

Going back to the concept of differences in language learners, a look into researchers' identified SLA variables (age, sex or gender, aptitude, and motivation), may show important data to understand the ultimate question of why some learners may be more successful than others. Saville-Troike (2012) states that the study of those variables is part of a humanistic approach to SLA which takes affective factors into account. To begin with, it has been widely argued that age is a very important variable to explain why younger learners are more successful than older ones. However, this is a disputable claim, for both groups of learners have advantages and disadvantages when it comes to SLA (Saville-Troike, 2012). As an EFL educator in an institution of higher learning, it is always interesting to see how my adult students progress in the use and understanding of English, reaching levels that can be considered "successful." Moreover, many times the best students in the class are the older ones, and I do not know if it is because they have more aptitude or if it is because they have more

analytic and learning capacity, or even if it is because of their motivation for learning. On the other hand, Saville-Troike (2012) mentions that “The concept of language-learning aptitude is essentially a hypothesis that possessing various degrees of ... abilities [phonemic coding ability, inductive language learning ability, grammatical sensitivity and associative memory capacity] predicts correlated degrees of success in L2 acquisition” (p.91). I do believe that some individuals have more aptitude than others for language learning, in the same way that some people have more aptitude for dancing, singing, drawing, acting, and so forth. Nevertheless, if a person really has the desire to learn a language and enjoys doing it, s/he will learn, no matter if her/his ultimate achievement in all language skills is not the best. Related to this idea is Skenan’s (1998, cited in Saville-Troike, 2012) conclusion that “individual ability may vary by factor” (p.93) meaning that a person does not have to be fully talented in all the abilities that compose the concept of aptitude to be successful in learning another language. A language learner could be highly proficient in listening, reading, and writing but not in speaking, for example, but probably the mix of her/his abilities will produce good results when s/he communicates in the L2. Hence, although it may be a very influential factor in language learning success, aptitude should not be accounted for as the determinant feature in this case. The last individual variable that I would like to take into account for this discussion is motivation. For me, motivation means a desire, an internal force that moves us towards taking action in order to obtain some kind of goal, internal satisfaction, or external reward. An interesting idea by Gardner and Lambert (1972, cited in Dörnyei, 2010) is that “although language aptitude accounts for a considerable

portion of individual variability in language learning achievement, motivational factors can override the aptitude effect” (p.65). Whether motivation is ruled by internal or external forces, whether it is of integrative or instrumental origin, as I see it, if an individual is motivated towards learning a language, s/he will be moved to take action to achieve the desired outcome. It is important to mention that people have different kinds and degrees of motivation and also that motivation is not an ecstatic force, so it may be strengthened or lost for different reasons. Dörnyei (2010) states that “learners’ level of self-determination [a component of motivation] is affected by various classroom practices” (p.77), hence the importance of the school environment, the pedagogical strategies used in the classroom, and the affective relationships educators can establish with their students in the teaching-learning process. A few weeks ago I was speaking to one of my adult students about these matters, and interestingly enough, he was telling me how after one quarter in the EFL diploma program his motivation has changed from being a purely instrumental one (for job-related purposes) to a kind of motivation that deals more with understanding the other culture and a kind of love for the sake of the English language as he has been influenced by his teachers who, he says, have infected him with their enthusiasm for the subject matter and everything that is related to it. It is a very interesting thing, indeed, how we teachers exert such an influence over our students and have the power to motivate them for higher achievement. Finally, the SLA is a complex matter and we will probably never be able to identify all factors involved in successful L2 acquisition, for it is a matter of individual variables, a mix of individual characteristics, perhaps.

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## Struck by Sgt. Pepper

By Jose Soto (ILE Director)



I was a kid who had just discovered that Christmas gifts were not brought by “el niño”, and that babies were not conceived by giving a kiss. I was still thinking about those newly realizations of life while driving down some country roads with my grandfather to visit old friends of him. Arriving at an old house, old wooden floors and potpourri smell, I knew the place was not very much of an 80’s typical place at the moment. It seemed like it had been stuck into a space of unfamiliar times. The lady, clearly surprised by my astonishment, thought it was a good chance to show this kid around. Among all the “hippy” items she could show me, I was particularly drawn to a box of LPs. My allure to music had come with us that day as well, as it had been present with me since I was much younger, or so they say. While I was browsing through the large black vinyl scented discs, I found one weird looking LP. This one had many of different, yet strange but supposedly famous characters on the cover. Other four distinctive figures dressed in funny military outfits stood out among the colorful crowd of psychedelic images. “Watch out! That’s the Sgt. Pepper, and if he catches you, you will never leave”, or so the lady said. She played the first tunes of the LP with the green apple in the middle, and from then on, I had to submit to the Sgt. Pepper’s lonely hearts Club Band. It was 1985 when I was first officially introduced to The Beatles. I believe that everyone has a particular story of the first time we did something for the first time. In my case, meeting The Beatles during one of those *paseos* with my grandfather on a sunny day, to a place where we had not actually been heading to, was in much a matter of destiny, and one day to remember in my box of memories. My grandfather had always hated the Beatles from the moment John Lennon claimed that they were more popular than

Jesus. At the time, old USSR banned Christianity, but The Beatles music was being smuggled into the strict severe Soviet Union. I learned to forgive Lennon for his words later on, though I had not cared much about that either. I just love their music, as it touched my soul.

Telling this story about the first times my ears and my eyes connected to the fab four, rode on Penny Lane and wandered on the *StrawberryFieldsForever* is very important to me. My love for the English language grew mostly out of listening to the *white album* and *Rubber Soul*. Then I used to love the British accent when the American influence was inevitably stronger in my environment. My anxieties of the younger youth were eased by grabbing the guitar and learning to play *Yesterday*, *Black Bird* and *Mother Nature’s son*. Those after high school afternoons were filled with music from the *Magical Mystery Tour*, *Abby Road* and *With the Beatles*. Usually I drove people crazy, but someone thought that a pair of headphones was going to save their day, and so it did.

On Friday October 5 in 1965, fifty years ago; instead of, The Beatles got to have their first hit playing on the radio, *Love Me Do*. This article is about the all-time famous Liverpool band that has now reached half a century of history with their music.

The world indulged in their melodies for 7 years, a time when Paul McCartney, John Lennon, George Harrison and Ringo Starr created unforgettable music in 13 albums. Their music has inspired generations and has been the main influence of important bands and composers. Even though their music production lasted for only a few years, today even the younger generations start to feel the magic of the sound of Love. *Just let it be because yesterday is still diving in the yellow submarine, where we all come together to go across the universe.*

## *ILE: A Personal Historical View*

By Jacob González (ILE Retired Professor)



Hi everybody! I never thought that being a retired teacher would feel so good. It is true that I eagerly expected my retirement after working for more than forty years. However, it is also true that my experience at CUNA and UTN has left a mark in my life forever. I'll be missing the students, my friends, my colleagues and the place. Of course, to compensate for that, now I have lots of time to do the things I like most: to read a lot and gain more knowledge, see all kinds of documentaries on TV, and investigate different topics on the Internet. In addition, now I can go swimming at least three times a week.

It still seems like a dream to me when thirteen years ago, on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1999, I came invited by my dear friend Lorein Powell, founder of the English major, to visit and work at the Colegio Universitario de Alajuela or CUNA. My friend and I had a previous deal: I would come to work with her in the prospective English major, opening the following year, if I liked the place after I had seen it.

It was love at first sight. The moment I stepped in the building, I fell in love with it. Needless to say, I immediately made up mind. I would give up a full time job I already had with MEP in Heredia and would accept my friend's invitation to work at CUNA even though my salary would be considerably lower and the place a lot farther from home. I was hired on the very same day.

On Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2000, our English major opened its Diplomado with six groups, totaling 144 students registered. The group of teachers I can still remember are my friend Lorein Powell; Katalina Perera, the first colleague I became acquainted with, and my dearest and most loyal friend ever, and also my boss, who would wisely lead the program for

more than ten years; Enrique Rosales, whose death we all still regret; Gabriela Calvo, Rocío Zamora, Rocío Varela, Guillermo Arce, Isabel Porras, Eric Herrera, Gerardo Molina and some others whose names I cannot quite recall now. All of them made up a very professional team that would provide the major with a lot of quality and prestige in those early years.

In 2002, our first group of students graduated. It was so rewarding for the career to have the first graduation act with guests from other state universities! These guests declared to be amazed by the level our graduate students showed in the written and oral presentations of their graduation projects. It was also very satisfactory for the career to know that most of our graduates had already found a job before graduating. This turned out to be a common element in subsequent graduations, and the prestige of our diplomado started to grow in the labor market.

The original academic plan of the diplomado had, from the very beginning, been designed for four years. So, in 2004 and 2005, a revision of the original plan was promoted by the Dirección Académica and the Director of the major Katalina Perera. It was implemented by the board of teachers with the cooperation of students. The idea was to update the programs making different changes. Fortunately, up to this time new colleagues had come to the career; Marco Araya, María Gaitán, Andrés Bejarano, Christian Harrison, Marie Dall'Anesse, Jose Soto, Grace Zúñiga and some others. This new council of teachers would team up and carry out changes like, for example, the inclusion of a course in Spanish composition to reinforce the writing courses. Also, the Graduation Project was changed to Opción de Graduación, and a course in morphology and syntax was included.

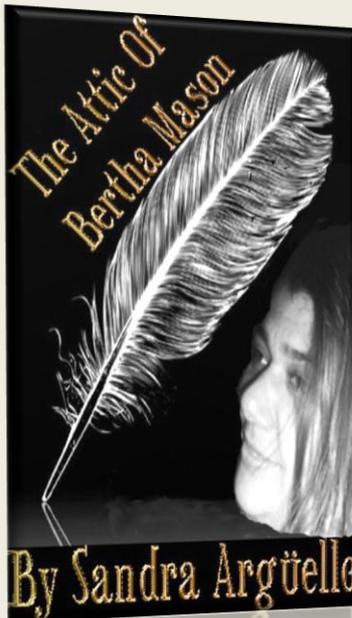
The above mentioned changes started to be applied in the second period of 2005 and would be effective for about one year until the third period of 2006. At this point, five public community colleges, including CUNA, were grouped together to create the fifth state university in Costa Rica: Universidad Técnica Nacional. All the credits should be given to Marcelo Prieto Jiménez. He was the father and founder of this institution.

Obviously, a total change in the existing major was mandatory, and it was the combined effort of teachers and students which gave origin to the new and current programs. Also, hiring new professors was necessary. This new generation is nicely represented by professors Merlin Pérez, Aarón Torres, Xinia Nagygeller, Alonso Vega, Alonso Salazar, Izabella Sepúlveda,

Sandra Argüello, Cindy Rodríguez and Verónica Ogilve. Kindly forgive me for those whose names I have forgotten.

No doubt, with such a good team in the English major, under the leadership of a professional like Jose Soto, it will surely enlarge the prestige and success it already has. I want to wish you all, colleagues and students, good luck and great success. I'll be coming back to UTN, from time to time, to visit my friends, specially the person who continues to inspire my life with her inexhaustible energy, creativity, intelligence and wisdom: "mi jefecita", who is now UTN vice-chancellor, Katalina Perera Hernández.

### *Literature, Why Bother?*



This is a question I have heard from several people, including some students. Why do we read and write literature? The easiest answer is that it is a form of entertainment. Of course, as such it has lost a lot of following due to advances in technology as a form of entertainment. Western societies specially want and need instant gratification, which can be provided by TV, games, etc. To sit down with a book, especially something like *War and Peace*, with its 1200 pages, might seem daunting and time-consuming. Next then, let's say that literature provides an aesthetic experience through the use, play, and arrangement of words. A good reader allows the work of literature to transport him to other lands, times, places, ideas, which becomes a source of aesthetic pleasure. That's the moment when you stare at the horizon after reading and particularly exciting passage and the only thing that comes out of your mind is Wow! Aside from pleasure, reading literature can provide a way of learning more about humanity and profound ideas like notions of love, friendship, courage, passion, etc. They say that there are only a handful of themes that are developed by writers from all sorts of different and exciting angles. Reading will make you grow as a person if you are willing to go beyond the sports section on the Sunday newspaper.

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*In this edition we have the participation of some students who are taking creative writing class with Professor Sandra Argüello. One of them wrote a very nice and interesting story which is divided into three chapters. In October edition you can read the first chapter of his wonderful story.*



## *“An Unhappy Journey”*

By: Carlos Daniel González Alvarado (ILE student)

### I. A MAN WHO NEVER RETURNED

For no apparent reason, James wanted to leave his home. Since his father disappeared, tragedies were common in his life; darkness was always over him. There was only one purpose in life for James: to find his father, one of the most important anthropologists in Liverpool. James' father had traveled to South America in order to explore an unknown uncanny and cave. Through the years, many scientists, from different countries in the world, had been trying to reach it, however; no one was able to accomplish it. They were not able because of a thick forest around the cave. This forest was called “The House of Shadows”.

Every scientist who tried to go across the forest, returned to their country. But there was a man who never came back, James' father, Dr Ken Evans.

Dr. Ken was reported as lost during two years, after that, police reported him as dead. Nevertheless, James was sure that his father was alive, and he was decided to find him. James had been saving money for a long time, and then money was no object to get away, even though his mother was not on his side. But he would need backup, so he decided to ask Robert for help, a childhood friend.

-Common Robert! I need your help! - James said.

-It is the same old story James, you know I won't travel with you; it is extremely dangerous - Robert said.

-My father is alive, and I'll find him! You should know I am a man of my word -James replied.

-Do it by yourself - Robert completed.

James, very disappointed about friendship, left Robert's house. Now, he was alone, or that was what he thought.

TO BE CONTINUED...

## *Finding Happiness*

By Vanessa Alvarado Arroyo (ILE student)



Once upon a time, in a faraway place, there was a little house painted the color of hope. One morning when the door opened, a small squirrel whose name was Miracle, appeared with a group of blank papers in her hands; she wrote in all of them: "If you have faith all things are possible". Then she took the papers and put them under the door of all its neighbors and she went to her house. Later when all the animals got up and discovered that message, they did not understand what had happened, but they began their day with positive energy and forgot all their problems. The next day, the squirrel did the same thing, but this time she wrote: "If you want to fly, you can do it because you are the only owner of your dreams". That day the rest of the animals danced, sang, and ran around the forest to celebrate their freedom. One month later, Miracle was preparing her sheets of paper to write her daily message when suddenly she heard the voice of a little frog shouting: "I knew it, I knew it, only you have the correct words to show us that a better world is possible!" Then all the other neighbors came out of their homes to see what was going on. The tiny frog said: "Listen everybody; she is the one responsible for our perfect life." She replied: "No my dear boy, you are living that way because you made the decision to change the way that you saw the world. Now you enjoy more the smell of fresh air in the morning, a flavor of peace in every breath, you play lottery with each clover that you find in the forest because you are glad to be here. You decided to follow the way of love and this is the real reason for our happiness".

## *Alajuela Central Market*

By Yendri Rojas (ILE student)



Alajuela's central Market is an old building, located just in the heart of Alajuela downtown; when you are near there the mystic fragrance of coffee invites you to come in. Once you are there you can be easily wrapped in a magical world of color, smells and sounds. When you go through the stands, the sweet aroma of chamomile and eucalyptus captivates your senses, and for a second you travel backwards to your grandmother garden. The sound of the pressure cooker in the little dinners announce the early preparation of "Today's special dish", and from some of them scape a delicious smell of fresh beans. Walking through the aisles you can observe colorful typical dresses hanging everywhere, hats, handkerchiefs, shoes, and leather articles. Everything is found there, from a pet to a Cuckoo clock, from your bicycle spare part to your engagement ring, it is like a mini Mall with very cheap prices and a variety of products. People there are very kind and gentle; everyone asks you if you need something or if they can help you with something. The typical "piropos" or flatteries like "Reina" "belleza" or "preciosa" are always used by men to catch the ladies attention and it really works! If fact they make you feel like the big cheese. With any doubt if you feel depressed or sad, walking around Alajuela's Central Market will help you raise your spirits up.

## LANGUAGE BITS

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

SITUATION	FORMAL	RELAXED	INFORMAL
<b>You're upset because you have to completely redo a project that took you an entire day to finish.</b>	I've been laboring vigorously only to find that my efforts were fruitless.	I worked all day and lost everything.	I did all that work for nothing; I guess it's back to square one.
<b>Someone is talking to you, but you can't understand them.</b>	I'm terribly sorry, but your manner of speaking is nothing short of puzzling.	I'm sorry, but I don't understand what you're saying.	You're talking gibberish.
<b>You have to give a presentation at work and you're really nervous about it.</b>	I'm incredibly anxious about the pending task.	I'm really nervous about doing this presentation.	I'm flipping out; I've got butterflies in my stomach.

## What is an Oxymoron?

An oxymoron is a combination of contradictory or incongruous words. An Oxymoron can be used for dramatic effect, for example: Hell's Angels and deafening silence. They can also be comical, such as in civil engineer. Clearly this is not an oxymoron in the true and strict sense, but the suggestion that it is oxymoronic is humorous. Some funny examples are:

open secret

act naturally

virtual reality

Hell's Angels

liquid gas

working holiday

(Information taken from: [http://www.fun-with-words.com/oxym\\_explain.html](http://www.fun-with-words.com/oxym_explain.html))

# HUMOR

**BOSS:** "Do you believe in life after Death?"

**EMPLOYEE:** "Certainly not! There's no proof of it", he replied.

**BOSS:** "Well, there is now. After you left early yesterday to go to your uncle's funeral, he came here looking for you."

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According to a research 87% of young people have back pain.  
The other 13% have no computer.



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**KID:** Why some of our hair are white dad?

**DAD:** Every time a son make his dad unhappy, one of his father's hair turns white .

**KID:** Now understand why grandpa's hairs are all white.

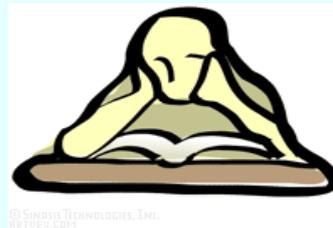


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(Images taken from: <http://www.artvex.com/>)

## life before computer

Window was a square hole in a room  
Application was something written in paper  
Mouse was an animal  
Keyboard was a piano  
File was an important office material  
Hard drive was an uncomfortable road trip  
Cut was done with knife and paste with glue.  
Web was a spider's home....  
But now.....



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## Top Answers Of Teachers

If They Don't Know The Answers:

- 1)I Think The Question Is Wrong..
- 2)I Will Tell You Tomorrow..
- 3)Don't Ask Foolish Questions..
- 4)You Will Study This In The Next Class..

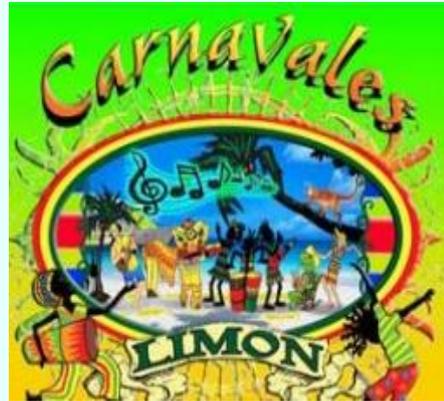
And The Most Important One Is:

5)Nice Question. Raise Your Hands Who Know The Answer

# ENTERTAINMENT

## *Carnaval in Limón*

Limón's pleasant Caribbean-ramshackle appearance will be transformed this October when the essence of the province's unique culture is boiled down into ten days of history, culture and celebration during Costa Rica's largest Carnaval. During Carnaval, throngs of revelers mix with the curious and line the streets, hoping to catch a glimpse of brightly attired comparsas, which are colorful, coordinated dance troupes specializing in Brazilian samba and other tropical rhythms. The penetrating percussive rhythms and daring dances are all Limón: colorful, sultry, flamboyant.



The late Alfred King first brought Carnaval to Costa Rica in 1949, starting with a couple of friends and a common idea. The celebration became a symbol of unity in Costa Rica, where relations were at times strained between the mainly black peoples of Limón and the chiefly Spanish descendants in San José.

Today, King's small celebration has become one of Central America's most recognized civic parties. While most Latin American countries celebrate October 12 as Columbus Day or Day of America's Discovery, Costa Rica celebrates not Europe's arrival in the New World but rather "Day of the Cultures." The Tico version of the holiday recognizes the contributions of the many different peoples who had an impact to Costa Rica's varied culture today.

(Information taken from: <http://www.costaricatraveler.com/english/article.php?id=100>)

(Picture taken from: <http://thejacoblog.com/costa-rica-events-for-october-november-2009/>)

## TECHNOLOGY

### *Dropbox*

Dropbox is a file hosting service operated by Dropbox, Inc. that offers cloud storage, file synchronization, and client software.

Dropbox allows users to create a special folder on each of their computers, which Dropbox then synchronises so that it appears

to be the same folder (with the same contents) regardless of the computer it is viewed on. Files placed in this folder are also accessible through a web site and mobile phone applications.

Dropbox is a free service that lets you bring all your photos, docs, and videos anywhere. This means that any file you save to your Dropbox will automatically save to all your computers, phones and even the Dropbox website. Dropbox also makes it super easy to share with others, whether you're a student or professional, parent or grandparent. Dropbox works hard to make sure that all your files are the same no matter where you're working from. This means that you can start working on a computer at school or the office, and finish from your home computer. Dropbox lets you work from any computer or phone with the confidence that you'll always have everything you need. People around the world rely on Dropbox to help them design buildings, compose music, run businesses, write books and even coordinate disaster relief.

(Information taken from: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dropbox\\_%28service%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dropbox_%28service%29))



# THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

## *Christopher Columbus Day (Día de las Culturas)*

October 12th is the official cultural day of Costa Rica. Today Costa Rican celebrates the ethnic diversity of this beautiful country.

The celebration is based on tolerance, recognizes the prevailing ethnic diversity in America and does not deny the heritage of Spain, the legacy of the indigenous and the African contribution, among others. When it was approved, Culture Day definitely clarified that the roots of Costa Rica, like those of other Latin American countries, as stemming from three interacting cultures since 1492.

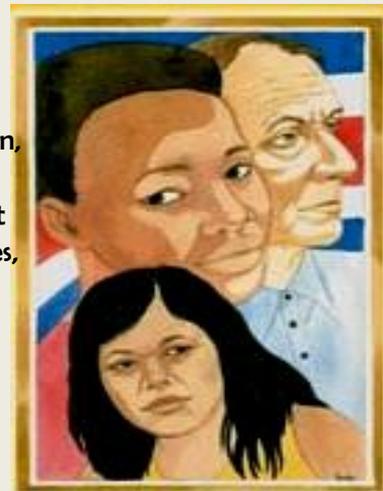
They are the Spanish, Indian and African-Caribbean cultures.

This celebration also serves to recognize that since the middle of the last century, Costa Rica has benefited from European, American, Asian, Hebrew and Arabic immigrations. While the voyage of Columbus was an incredible achievement and a legitimate source of pride for both Spaniards and Italians, Costa Rica's progressive take on the date makes room for all cultures to celebrate the diverse melting pot that is Costa Rica.

While the voyage of Columbus was an incredible achievement and a legitimate source of pride for both Spaniards and Italians, Costa Rica's progressive take on the date makes room for all cultures to celebrate the diverse melting pot that is Costa Rica.

(Information taken from: <http://www.docelunas.com/jaco-costa-rica/index.php/jaco/october-12th-is-culture-day-in-costa-rica-253.html>)

(Picture taken from: <http://www.nacion.com/zurqui/laminas/home9.html>)



## It happened in October

### IMPORTANT EVENTS

October 1st, 1869	The first postcards are issued (Vienna)
October 3rd, 1789	Washington proclaims the First national Thanksgiving Day on Nov 26
October 9th, 1967	Che Guevara executed in Bolivia
October 12th, 1492	Christopher Columbus's expedition makes landfall in the Caribbean, specifically in The Bahamas. The explorer believes he has reached East Asia
October 15th, 1940	"The Great Dictator", a satiric social commentary film by and starring Charlie Chaplin, is released.
October 18th, 1867	US takes formal possession of Alaska from Russia (\$7.2 million)
October 21st, 1945	Women in France allowed to vote for first time
October 24th, 1945	Founding of the United Nations
October 28th, 1538	The first university in the New World, the Universidad Santo Toms de Aquino, is established.

## Famous people born in October

PERSON	BIRTHDAY
Sting	October 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 1951
John Lennon	October 9 <sup>th</sup> , 1940
Margaret Thatcher	October 13 <sup>th</sup> , 1925
Michel Foucault	October , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 1926
Oscar Wilde	October 16 <sup>th</sup> , 1854
Pelé	October 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 1940
Bill Gates	October 28 <sup>th</sup> , 1955

## 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 guest 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 achieve 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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