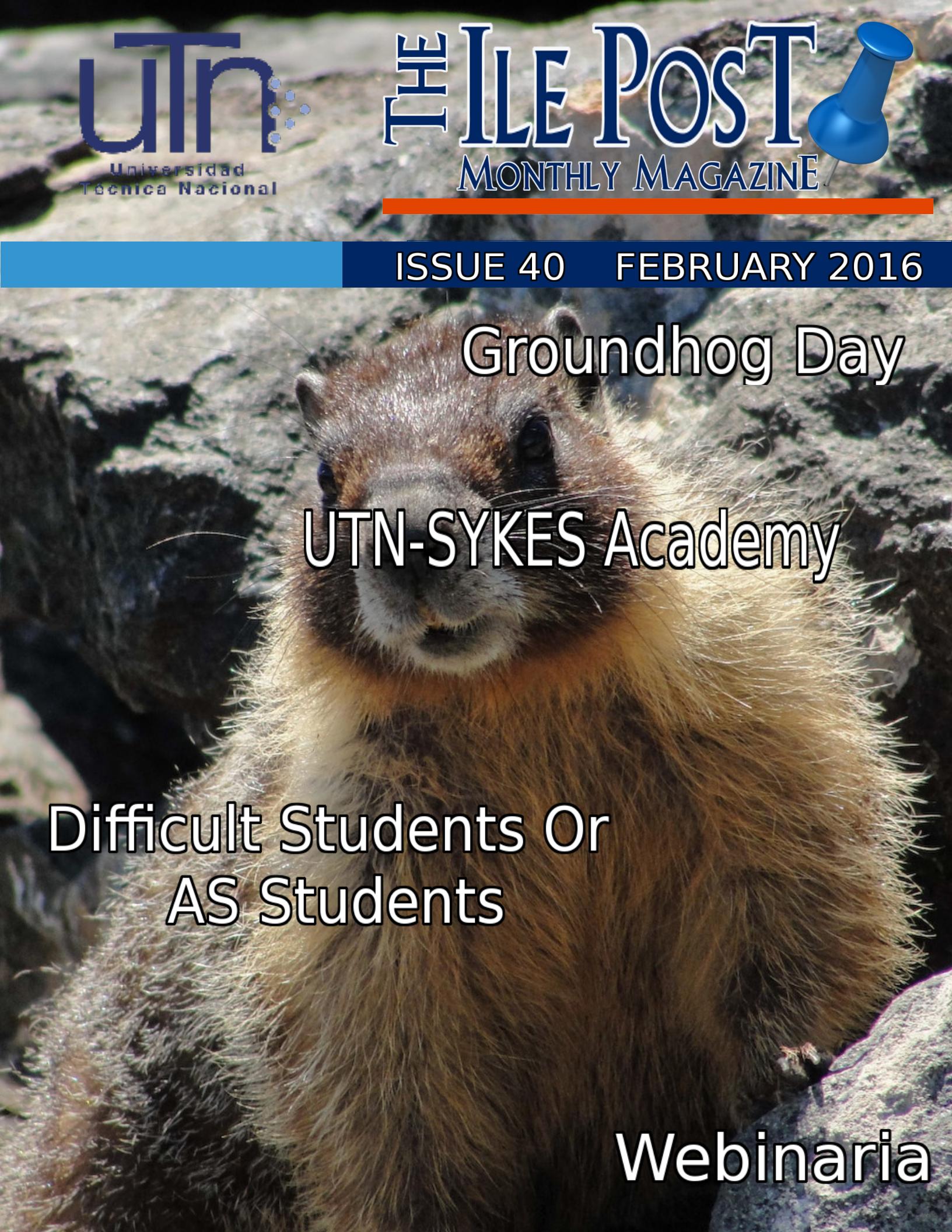


ISSUE 40 FEBRUARY 2016



A close-up photograph of a groundhog's head and upper body. The groundhog has dense, brownish-orange fur. Its head is turned slightly to the left, showing its dark eyes and whiskers. The background is a blurred, rocky or earthy surface.

Groundhog Day

UTN-SYKES Academy

Difficult Students Or
AS Students

Webinaria

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



Traditions are a way to learn about a culture. One interesting tradition is the one of trusting a groundhog to predict how long spring will take to arrive. In the month where Groundhog Day is celebrated in the US , we selected this beautiful picture of the most famous forecaster of all: Phil. 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.

Picture taken from: <https://flic.kr/p/8rShjU>



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EDITORIAL

The Pachamama Train

by Jose Soto (ILE Director)



Dreaming of a short and comfy commute to work or back home? Not precisely a bus seat in Tuasa is what you have in mind, never mind! Just wait for a few months and Alajuelenses will cherish once again the virtues of the track and whistle. And the best of it all is that it will reduce long waits, traffic jams, and minimize pollution.

The government, by means of a reborn and revived INCOFER, the Costa Rican Institute of Trains, has started out a project to install a train system for the GAM, Greater Metropolitan Area. This as well will connect other railways for an electric train that will serve transportation to other places such as the Pacific coast.

For Alajuela, the service will have stations in Rio Segundo, San Joaquin de Flores and San Francisco, Heredia. But what is coming to be a breakthrough in the advance of transportation will be the train stop at Hospital de Alajuela. The sky is the limit, but in this case the government budgets, bureaucracy and the usual delays in works have set a lengthy toll line for this dream to come true.

2016 has been declared the year of Pachamama, Gaia, Mother Earth, and there must be efforts to bring forward functional and real changes to make it up to Her. Transportation was called in 2013 the "Achilles' heel" of Costa Rica's carbon-neutrality ambitions. Little has been done, and efforts have failed to curb the pollution caused by fuel transportation. (Lindsay Fendt, Tico Times, 2015) Having a more rapid means of transportation to and from Alajuela and reducing pol-

lution are the two main elements at issue here. If running back on the train will effectively solve these problems, so then we all hope this occurs soon. If the actual experience with the trains inside the GAM is a foretelling of what will happen, we would literally better stay off the tracks for safety measures, and not only literal. The INCOFER will have to take on the hard-earned learning with the trains nowadays. There have been long traffic jams, and even injured car drivers for not properly watching or hearing if the train is coming or not. So this maybe means that the urban Costa Rican mindset is not ready yet for a train. However, all changes for the best require a big proportional change in attitudes to challenge old habits.

Costa Rica has a long and proud history of trains to the Atlantic conveying the progress of an early and rich country that exported goods to Europe. Nonetheless, times have changed and resorting to old solutions may not be the most logical answer. The railway experience has proven to be successful around the worlds for being the means of transportation, the best and only way out. My opinion is that we are going in the right direction even when fighting against the winds of years of limited vision and convoluted political forces.

I am eagerly yearning to hop on the train and make my way to Heredia, connect academic efforts again with peers at UNA, visit friends such as Niki more often and see the Fortin more regularly. And all this will be possible without thinking about driving all the way or taking an old Tuasa with a grungy and sweaty driver.

UTN-SYKES Academy

On January 29th, the first thirteen students graduated from the UTN-SYKES Academy Program. This kind of collaboration between public institutions and the private sector undoubtedly helps to strengthen efforts and initiatives for opportunities for job creation and opportunities.

The agreement, signed in November 2015, establishes a commitment to take this program to urban areas in which there is UTN presence (Alajuela, Ciudad Quesada, Liberia y Cañas, Puntarenas y Atenas).

SYKES provides business process outsourcing services, IT consulting and IT-enabled services, such as technical support and customer service. Sykes has about 47,000 employees in 20 countries operating in 30 languages. "Costa Rica needs more examples of this kind where the private sector shows its corporate social responsibility working together with the university extension and community action programs to improve job options and technical education," said UTN Chancellor Marcelo Prieto. For eight weeks, these thirteen students took classes that implemented a structured approach to reading and writing, listening and conversational skills to ensure that the students will maximize their learning opportunities. During this eight week period, students were paid, and most of them got a contract to work for SYKES.

During 2016, it is expected that UTN-SYKES Academy will receive and graduate at least 150 more students. To get more information about how to be part of UTN-SYKES Academy, you can write to: infosecentral@utn.ac.cr.



UTN To Evaluate Its Study Programs

Information provided by José Rugama

UTN has begun a pilot program of academic program self-evaluation. The first academic programs to evaluate are: customs administration, human resources management, international trade management, accounting and finance, graphic design, food technology engineering, information technology engineering, and software engineering. The UTN Commission of Academic Evaluation a process of spreading awareness and informing the UTN community about the importance and all the work that such a task undergoes. The main broad aspects to be evaluated are not only related to programs of study but also to the management of the institution, the human resources, and the physical resources UTN offers. Since the University is responsible for developing and promoting academic programs of quality, the goal of this system of program evaluation is to improve the quality and ef-



fectiveness of the University's graduate and undergraduate offerings. In addition, the evaluation process provides an opportunity to obtain insights regarding the level of excellence of the programs. Because of these aspects, UTN is looking forward to implementing a quality management system. All the evaluation is based on the standards set by the National System of Accreditation and Quality of Higher Education (SINAES by its Spanish initials).

UTN-UNED Cooperation Framework



On February 10th, UTN and UNED signed a collaboration agreement for the construction of a university campus in Atenas. The agreement provides that UTN would cede a 20.000-m² piece of land and will provide all necessary support to develop an industrial engineering lab. In turn, UNED will allow UTN to use classrooms and facilities according to terms and conditions to be agreed and will provide all necessary support for the design, purchase and implementation of a multimedia and education resources department at UTN.

Twitter Freezes 125,000 Accounts For 'Terror Content'

Twitter has suspended more than 125,000 accounts, most of them linked to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) group, as part of a stepped-up effort to eradicate "terrorist content" on the popular messaging platform. The social network has said the accounts were frozen since mid-2015 "for threatening or promoting terrorist acts".

"We condemn the use of Twitter to promote terrorism and the Twitter rules make it clear that this type of behaviour, or any violent threat, is not permitted on our service."

The announcement comes after the US and other governments urged social networks to take more aggressive steps to root out activity aimed at recruiting and planning violent acts.

Twitter said it already has rules to discourage this activity but that it was driving up enforcement by boosting staff and using technology to filter violence-promoting content. But it warned there was no easy technological solution.

"As many experts and other companies have noted, there is no 'magic algorithm' for identifying terrorist content on the internet, so global online platforms are forced to make challenging judgement calls based on very limited information and guidance," Twitter said.

"In spite of these challenges we will continue to aggressively enforce our rules in this area and engage with authorities and other relevant organisations to find viable solutions to eradicate terrorist content from the internet and promote powerful counter-speech narratives."

Last March, Facebook updated its "community standards", saying this would curb the use of the social network giant for promoting "terrorism" or hate speech.

The update said Facebook will not allow a presence from groups advocating "terrorist activity, organised criminal activity or promoting hate".

The move came after videos of gruesome executions appeared on Facebook and other social media as part of ISIL propaganda efforts.

Information taken from: <http://mwcnews.net/news/americas/57103-twitter-freezes-accounts.html>

Photo credit: Christopher Michel via Foter.com / CC BY



Zika Outbreak Forces India's Tata Motors To Rename Car

Indian car manufacturer Tata Motors has confirmed it will rename its new small car Zica given the name's similarity to the Zika virus spreading across the globe.

The car was presented at the Auto Expo 2016 in Greater Noida, outside New Delhi, as the World Health Organization declared a global health emergency following the latest Zika virus outbreak.

Zica - an abbreviation for Zippy Car - has been endorsed by Argentina and Barcelona football star Lionel Messi, who was named world player of the year 2015 at a FIFA gala in Zurich last month and claimed the Ballon d'Or trophy for the fifth time overall.

"Empathising with the hardships being caused by the recent Zika virus outbreak across many countries, Tata Motors, as a socially responsible company, has decided to re-brand the car," the company said in a statement.

"The new hatchback has been showcased publicly for the first time at the Auto Expo 2016. While it carries the 'ZICA' label for the duration of the event, the new name will be announced after a few weeks, ensuring all necessary consumer/branding and regulatory aspects are addressed, and the launch will take place thereafter."

Zika virus is a mosquito-transmitted infection related to dengue, yellow fever and West Nile virus.

The virus, which may be connected to thousands of birth defects in the Americas, is primarily spread through mosquito bites, but investigators are exploring the possibility that it could be sexually transmitted.

India's largest vehicles company with revenues of \$42.04bn in 2014-15, Tata Motors revealed the car's name last November.

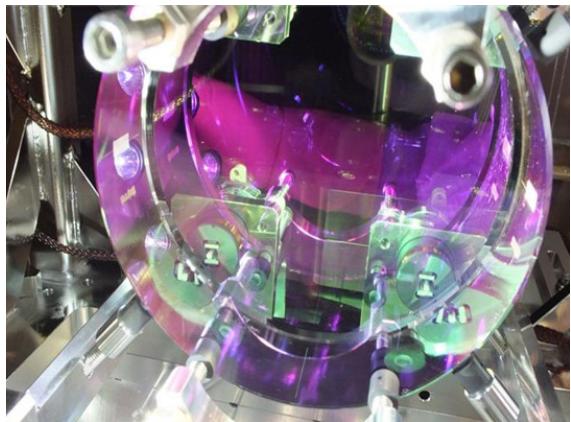


Information and image taken from: <http://mwcnews.net/news/business/57056-tata-motors-to-rename-car.html>



WORLDNEWS

Einstein's Gravitational Waves Detected



Scientists have made a breakthrough announcement confirming the existence of gravitational waves, in a landmark finding for physics that opens a new window for studying the cosmos.

Researchers at the \$620M Advanced Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) in the United States said on Thursday, February 11th that they had detected minute ripples in the structure of space-time for the first time. The researchers said they detected gravitational waves coming from two black holes - extraordinarily dense objects whose existence also was foreseen by Einstein - that orbited one another, spiralled inward and smashed together.

They said the waves were the product of a collision between two black holes 30 times as big as the sun, located 1.3 billion light years from earth.

The scientific milestone, announced at a news conference in Washington on Thursday, was achieved using a pair of giant laser detectors in the US, located in Louisiana and Washington state, capping a long quest to confirm the existence of these waves.

Einstein first predicted the existence of gravitational waves 100 years ago in his theory of general relativity, suggesting that some of the most powerful processes in the universe, such as colliding black holes or exploding stars, would cause disruption to the fabric of the universe.

He thought their extraordinary energy would radiate out in waves at the speed of light, causing ripples and distortions in what he called space-time.

The problem was these gravitational waves were thought to be very weak and almost impossible to detect, until now.

Scientists say the detection of gravitational waves will open a new window on the universe.

In the same way that radio waves and X-ray telescopes have vastly increased what we are able to see, they say gravitational waves could do the same, revealing new details about the formation and structure of galaxies, the behaviour of black holes and the evolution of the universe.

Information and images taken from: <http://mwcnews.net/news/americas/57203-einstens-gravitational-waves.html>



Mexico Prison Riot: 49 Killed In Rival Gang Battle

At least 49 people were killed and 12 people wounded in a prison riot in the Mexican city of Monterrey, the governor of the northeastern state of Nuevo Leon has said.

Governor Jaime Rodriguez said that fighting broke out before midnight on Wednesday, February 10th night in two areas of the Topo Chico prison, between a faction of the infamous Zetas gang and another group.

Images broadcast by Milenio TV showed police vehicles patrolling the streets near the prison after unrest broke out in the early hours of Thursday local time.

Milenio TV reported that relatives who visited prisoners in the jail had heard gunshots and said a blaze had broken out. They also said they had seen inmates with burns and that authorities were hunting for escapees. Families of the inmates rushed to the prison after reports of deaths. Some shook and kicked at the prison gates, demanding to be allowed in.



Information and images taken from: <http://mwcnews.net/news/americas/57189-mexico-prison.html>



ESL Activities + Background Music = Enhancement Of Multiple Intelligences

By Gabriela Calvo (ILE Professor)

"Whether your students have musical talents of their own or simply admire the talents of others, they will enjoy your class when it is filled with [these] musical activities!"

- Andrei Zakhareuski



As ESL professors, we are constantly trying to find new ways and implementing different activities that will give variety and innovation to our lessons. For this reason, incorporating an aspect such as music might prove to be innovative and attractive for our students.

We might think that an activity which includes music will be appealing only for students whose musical intelligence is a plus; however, this should not always be the case. Have you ever thought about using background music for writing activities in composition courses, for instance? This type of activity strengthens pupil's productivity, thinking, concentration and, of course, relaxation.

In a study conducted by the Stanford University School of Medicine, researchers found that: "[M]usic engages the areas of the brain involved with paying attention, making predictions and updating the event in memory."¹ Therefore, let's ask Mozart, Vivaldi,

Bach, or Beethoven for a little help the next time our students seem to wander off while trying to write a short composition or paper.

Another activity in which music can be used is when reviewing vocabulary or certain concepts in our lessons. There is an unlimited number of activities professors normally use in order to accomplish this objective; however, why not implementing something a little different. For instance, when reviewing or stimulating interest in some specific content or vocabulary, the instructor can turn on some background music while showing slides which illustrate the topic or slides with the vocabulary that the group needs to reinforce. This type of activity will catch the attention of not only those students with a high visual and musical intelligence, but also of those with verbal, logical, and intrapersonal intelligences.

Being original and innovative does not take much, just a little bit of adaptation and creativity.

Give it a try!

¹ Music moves brain to pay attention, Stanford study finds. (2007, August 1). Retrieved from

<https://med.stanford.edu/news/all-news/2007/07/music-moves-brain-to-pay-attention-stanford-study-finds.html>

Difficult Students Or AS Students?

By Marlin Pérez (ILE Professor)



Have you ever heard about Asperger Syndrome? Do you have students struggling in the acquisition of English as a foreign language because of this syndrome? If so let me give you some tips to recognise students with spectrum disorders.

Nowadays, the amount of Asperger Students teachers have in their classrooms is increasing, and most of those teachers are not prepared to deal with all the implications of AS (Asperger Syndrome). Sometimes the very name seems unknown or strange to some teachers because they graduated a long time ago and this syndrome was not acknowledged back then or because today the universities are not preparing teachers in this area. Moreover teaching them a new language turns out to be a difficult task especially if they take into account how difficult it is for them to have social interaction or at least to know what to say and how to say it. That is why teaching them the basic social skills needed to succeed in the learning of a new language such as English becomes fundamental.

Therefore, having practical strategies that help teachers to understand their needs and to assist them in order to improve their social abilities will indeed facilitate the development of classes with AS students. At the end, those skills will allow them to be able to communicate in their own language and in the target language (English in this case) as well. As being part of an ASD, the symptoms, or at least the degree in which they appear vary from one person to another. This means that two children with the same diagnosis may share similar traits as they can have totally

opposite patterns of behaviour. It can be mentioned that AS children have two main characteristics, they have difficulties with social skills, and they have specific fixations. Within the first one, Asperger students have difficulties understanding conversations because they lack the ability to interpret non-verbal communication (gestures, facial expressions or tone of voice). They also have difficulties to start a conversation, to change topics, or to ask other people's opinions. They tend to have one-way conversations in which they talk for a long time of a specific topic without caring if the other person is interested, bored, or not understanding, due to their inability to "read" other people. They are very literal as well, so they have trouble understanding jokes, metaphors, or sarcasm. For example if someone says "Don't let the cat out of the bag" they will search for a cat and a bag, rather than understanding its symbolic meaning (don't spoil a surprise). Now, since AS is recognized as a spectrum autistic disorder, a lot of people have a tendency to confuse it with autism. Nonetheless, as stated by Louis Freisleben-Cook (cited by Barbara L. Kirby Founder of the OASIS Web site, 2009), "Asperger's Syndrome is a term used when a child or adult has some features of autism but may not have the full blown clinical picture". If you can detect some of the characteristics explained above it is an urgent need for you to learn about Asperger Syndrome If you are interested in understanding the way they think, they talk and their huge amount of honesty. Asperger syndrome students are normal but they need to be understood and also they have the right to be treated taking into considerations their particularities.

Bilingual Education In Costa Rican Public Schools

By Eugenia González (ILE Professor)



Learning English as a foreign language is a necessity for many professionals in the country nowadays. Globalization and the abrupt advances in technology have provoked that more and more people want to acquire the abilities to communicate effectively in English.

If we take a look at the first origins of bilingual education in Costa Rica, it goes back to the independence period when in 1825 some efforts were made to teach English to students from high class families in the country (Bonilla & Rojas, 2007). Today national and international companies require trained manpower to deal with their business partners effectively. Knowing this, governments have made big efforts to offer a bilingual education for our students. Plans such as "Programa de Lenguas Extranjeras" was created in 1994 with the purpose of giving primary school students the necessary skills to communicate in different languages, especially in English. As a matter of fact, the Ministry of Education promotes the use of appropriate methodologies to improve the students' level of English. Among the most common methodologies promoted by the educational authorities we can find: the Communicative, Ludic and Task based Approaches with their different strategies to obtain the communicative competence in the primary school students.

The Ministry of Public Education (MEP) suggests the use of the Communicative Approach in the English classrooms. This method helps students to acquire an efficient communicative competence promoting the oral and listening strategies in the classroom. Córdoba, Coto & Ramírez (2005) state that there is not a specific textbook for students. All

teachers follow the plans set by the "Oficina de Lenguas Extranjeras", so they have to look for the authentic material to develop the skills in the students. The teacher is a guide in the process and creates the appropriate stimulus for the students to learn. The learning process is presented as an integral education where students discover their capacities and show what they really are able to do.

Besides, the communicative approach, The Ludic Approach is also important in the learning process of primary school students. Alcedo & Chacón (2011) explain how this method is composed by pleasant activities that can entertain and at the same time teach students. Thus, there is a significant learning that is developed through games. The Ludic Approach must incorporate didactic games, puppets to narrate stories and tales, children songs, and handcrafts where they have to glue and paste, for instance. In this way, using these strategies teachers may lead students to research, discover, organize and get to know their student environment by using English as a foreign language.

Finally, the Task Based Learning is another methodology reinforced in the English classrooms. In this method there are three important moments in the process. They are called presentation, practice and production. This model is very versatile and can be used with students of all ages. Also, this model allows the teacher to apply a variety of activities such as songs, videos, games to catch the students' attention in the presentation. Then, the practice comes with different pre tasks and finally the students have to show with a final task what they learned through a specific contextualized task. Córdoba (2011) establishes that this model is essential to make students identify their strengths and weaknesses since the teacher is a guide in the pro-

THE ILE ETHOS

cess monitoring the students' performance and giving them appropriate feedback. Summarizing, learning English as a foreign language is really a necessity nowadays. The educational authorities in the country should guide this learning and teaching process. It is a must for teachers to know and understand different methods that can be applied

in the classroom. The ludic, communicative and task based approach must be applied effectively in the classrooms of public schools in Costa Rica. Doing so, the outcome profile of the students may greatly improve and a lot the opportunities of finding a better job for our students will increase in the future.

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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. This month we asked students:

What has been the best advice they have received?

The best advice came from my parents when they advised me to go to the university.

Gustavo Chavarría

My father has reminds me everyday to be polite and respectful because in that way I can expect politeness and respect from them.

Andrea Coetés

My grandmother always tells me not to give up. Fight for your dreams, and try to be the best person possible.

Jocelyn Vásquez

Do not compare yourself to others because you do not know someone else's problems and struggles.

Jennifer Sánchez

My mother once told me that a person must appreciate and take the opportunities that life gives.

Ricardo Rodríguez

My father once told me that to be successful in life, you must give your best effort. That is the only way in which you can see the fruit of your work.

Ratol Venegas

My mother always says that I need to be organized and pay attention to priorities in life.

Sofía Soto

My aunt told me to look on the bright side and be positive. People who get angry easily, do not enjoy life.

Karen Monteiro



PLACES AND FACES

Goodlight Books Alajuela Downtown



This great little bookstore is jammed full of used books, most in the English language but a small number in several other languages, as well. The books are organized by genre, alphabetized by author. Goodlight Books buys and sells and accepts both colones and the US dollar. The owner, Rosa Carballo, is friendly and always offers to help find a particular book or something special. She has excellent coffee and usually some delicious homemade baked goods available. The store is located on a relatively quiet street so it is nice to enjoy a coffee while reading on the patio.

It is a few blocks north of the Cathedral. Greenery drapes over the walls and gates as a single sign hangs above the street. It is unassuming, unpretentious. It is a bookstore. Yet it is more. Goodlight Books is an English-language bookstore in a Spanish-speaking world. A respite for the weary traveler. It reminds travelers of home, yet does so in a subdued way. Every tourist guide and peasant in Alajuela recommends travelers to go there. More than anything else, it makes people want to open up a bookstore of their own. For bibliophiles, this must be a special kind of paradise.

Books are piled neatly from floor to ceiling. Wall to wall bookcases line the narrow rooms. Shelves are arranged by topic, and encourage long bouts of aimless browsing. The tomes seem to have propagated organically, covering all available space. Crossing the threshold is not for the claustrophobic, since there is little room for two people to cross side by side. During busier times there is lots of pardoning and elbow rubbing. Too much to see, and not enough space to see it.

Fiction occupies the majority of the space. Used books for travelers on the road, to pass the time in between points A and B. A large collection of travel guides for Costa Rica, and other neighboring countries, occupy the large bookcase directly across from the entrance. Language guides and dictionaries are plentiful. On your left, coffee and snacks are displayed in a small kitchenette. Crumbs wedge in between pages, a pick-me-up for the road.

People streamed steadily in and out, never in a hurry, but grateful for the break in the day. Just outside the door a loaded cart full of books are offered for free, a popular stop on the way in and out of the shop.

The free book cart could be considered a summation of Goodlight as a whole. This is the kind of place that they are operating here. It is obvious that nobody is getting rich from the storefront, but nobody seems to care.



VALUE OF THE MONTH

UTN continues with its Value of the Month campaign, but for the month of February, we want to take some time and talk about something necessary for the wellbeing of an institution: empowerment.

Employee Empowerment at the Workplace

Employee empowerment means the process of allowing employees to have input and control over their work, and the ability to openly share suggestions and ideas about their work and the organization as a whole. Empowered employees are committed, loyal and conscientious. They are eager to share ideas and can serve as strong ambassadors for their organizations.

Advantages to Employee Empowerment

Employee empowerment provides some distinct advantages. Employee empowerment should lead to increased organizational responsiveness to issues and problems. Another advantage of employee empowerment should be an increase in productivity. It should also lead to a greater degree of employee commitment to organizational goals since employees can take some degree of ownership in the decisions made toward goal achievement.

The most important factor in effective employee empowerment is bilateral communication. Employee surveys and evaluations show repeatedly that empowerment and communication rate highest in regard to employee satisfaction in an organization. Companies committed to employee empowerment provide more information in greater detail than the average company.

Empowering employees to increase their satisfaction and the organization's performance will require a greater amount of communication than ever thought possible. This will require management to invest in increased amounts of time communicating to employees and allowing for feedback. In addition, it will require that management honestly evaluate the communication styles and methods that are being used in the institution to ensure the most efficient processes possible.



LANGUAGE BITS

SITUATION	FORMAL	RELAXED	INFORMAL
A colleague has just found out that you took his stapler without permission. He isn't happy about it.	He is most displeased at the situation.	He isn't happy.	He's not a happy bunny.
A stranger challenges you to a chess tournament. You tell him that you could beat him easily.	I am confident that my mental ability is sufficient to defeat you.	I'd win easily.	I could have you any day.
You bought a diamond necklace, but a friend tells you that it's a fake.	You have been deceived into believing that it was genuine.	They tricked you.	You've been ripped off.

Information taken from: Hot English Online Magazine #110, p.35

“ENGLISH FOR YOU CR” PRESENTS, FIRST CONDITIONAL

We use the First Conditional to talk about events that can happen in the future. So, we can say we are talking about a possible future, or, about causes and effects.

For example *If I eat a lot, I will get fat.*

This could happen in the future, and we have a cause (*If I eat a lot*) and an effect (*I will get fat*).

As with other structures, you can invert the order of events and keep the same meaning as long as you don't change the grammar,

She will graduate if she passes all her exams.
(Effect: she will graduate; cause: if she passes all her exams).

This is the same as If she passes all her exams, she will graduate.

Keep in mind that the structure for the First Conditional is,

If + Subject + verb, Subject + will + verb



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 is an important element of the university. However, people hardly have the chance to meet them. In this section, we will try give you a glance of the other side of all those people who are behind UTN organization and functioning. In this issue, let's meet:

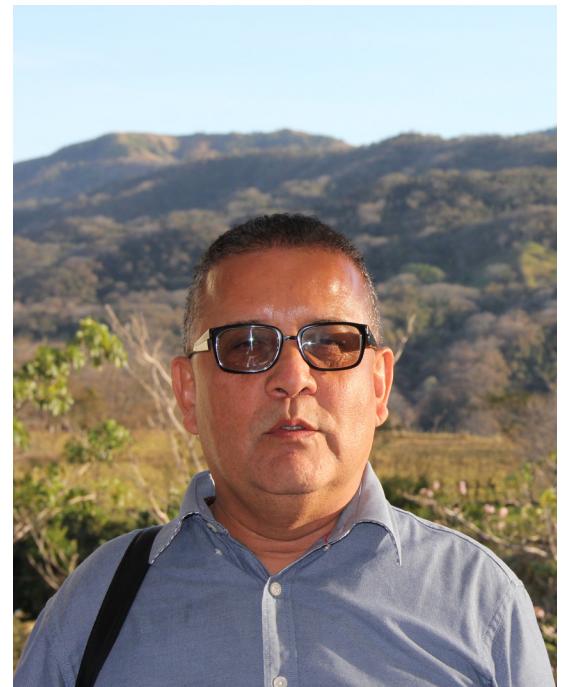
José Rugama Hernández, Chorus Singer, Nature Lover, Mexican Music Lover, Devotee of the Virgin Mary, and UTN Academic Assessment Department Director.

Where do you live?

I was born and raised in Filadelfia, Guanacaste, and now I have lived in Barrio México, San José for 34 years.

Best childhood memory?

When I played with my friends in the banks of the Tempisque River, we used to swim in the ponds and fish too. Also, there was a landing strip near my home, and one day, one of the worst mischief, a couple of friends and I saw a light aircraft (avioneta), and nobody was paying attention, so we got into it and turn the engine on. The light aircraft began moving, and it stopped when it hit a tree.



Favorite food

As a good Guanacasteco, my favorite food is the corn tortilla; corn tamal, Olla de carne soup and I love to drink horchata.

What is always in your fridge?

I admit it; there is always a beer in my refrigerator. I do not drink everyday, but once in a while I like to accompany some meals.

Favorite Music?

My favorite music is Mexican music, rancheras. Some of my favorite singer are Javier Solís, Pedro Infante, Jorge Negrette and Vicente Fernández.

90 SECONDS WITH...

Would you class yourself as a day or night person?

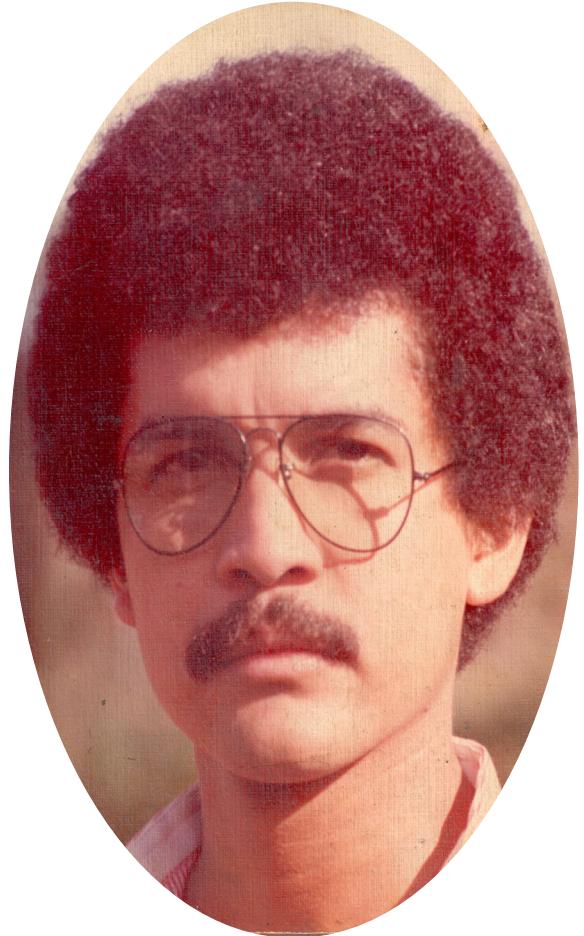
Definitely I am an early bird. I prefer to start work early in the morning. I usually wake up at 5 am.

First job

When I was 15 during the vacation between the 9th and 10th high-school grade, I went to Puntarenas and worked in the pier. It was hard work; I had to shovel grain all day long.

A good book

Even though I have read many books, the book that has definitely marked my life is the Bible. The Bible has an everlasting message; no matter the time, the age, the person or the situation, you will always find the spiritual word you need and when you need it in the Bible. I have read the Bible since I was a child.



One of your favorite place

Taking into consideration the close spiritual relationship I feel for nature, I love to visit museums and indigenous areas in México and Ecuador. Besides I enjoy studying history and architecture, and there are many places in these two countries that inspire anyone.

What is your greatest fear?

Believe it or not, I have no fears. I believe in God, and I understand that there is a purpose on everything that happens, so I tried to live my life one day at a time, enjoying every moment.

Any proverb or idiomatic expression?

It is funny because even though people from Guanacaste are famous for proverbs, idiomatic expressions and bombas, I do not use any of them. I laugh a lot with many things people say, but I do not catch them. From the Bible, I really like **Ephesians 6:10-14**: be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

THE ATTIC OF BERTHA MASON

The Nun

By María José López (ILE Student)

Once upon a time there was a girl who had lived all her entire life in the city of Heredia; in fact, her whole family had lived there for many generations, so she was completely accustomed to the parades and “mascaradas” that happened there every year. She was also used to the weird traditions there, and she used to enjoy them as much as everyone else, and even participate in them, but she was also scared of the masquerades, she liked to dance around them and everything but she still felt anxious when she was too near them. She never really cared about this feeling, since she thought all children felt the same way about it. But as she grew up, she realized that everyone else kept participating in these traditions, and that she still felt afraid of the masquerades, so without telling everyone about this fear she decided to stay as far as possible from these traditions, and in that way she started to see everything in a different way. Her family had always been very religious, and she was not the exception, she considered herself an angel, and she said several times that she wanted to be a nun once she finished high school. So she started to consider all this situation as if she was God and started to guess in which way God would react if He was in this situation. But even though she tried to convince herself that all these activities were from the devil she never really could stop herself from going to the window and watch the whole parade from there. She knew it was bad, but she couldn't help it.

One year during one of this masquerade parties, she decided to stay home, with her full nun dress on, praying and complaining about how people believe in this stupid celebration, her brothers, who knew very well that she wasn't a fan of this type of celebrations, were very malicious, and they wanted to play a prank on her. So they borrowed a mask from the parade and took it home with them to surprise her, but what happened next was completely unexpected.

They went into the room and caught her staring at the window; she was completely still, as if she was focused on something, once she turned to see them, her eyes were completely darkened; in that moment, they got very scared, so the oldest brother took the mask off and put it on her. She started to pray out loud when she notice she wasn't capable of taking it off, but the more she prayed, the more the mask stuck to her face. Her brothers told her that they were going to take her to someone who would be able to take it off, but in reality they took her to the street and left her there by herself.

Since then she has attended every masquerade parade to scare children, and to try to find her brothers and take them with her to the house of the owner of the mask, the devil.

THE ATTIC OF BERTHA MASON

Life Is Just a Breath

By Silvia Vargas (ILE Student)

*Life is an air balloon scrolling freely
And not knowing what is about to happen.
Not knowing where the wind will take it,
With a different way every day.*

*Life is as fragile as a soap bubble,
Bright and beautiful,
bold and peaceful,
But at the end: fragile as a soap bubble.*

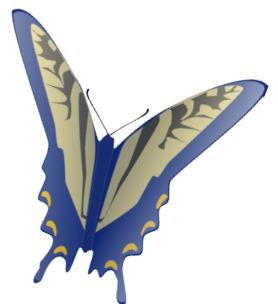
*Life is also intense as the blazing sun,
So don't waste even a precious second of your life.
Live as if it were the last day of all
With passion, joy and happiness.*

Love

By Natalia Salas (ILE Students)

*Love is like a little bee
That is looking for something sweet,
Love always makes people fly
Even if you are not a butterfly.*

*Love can complicate your daily life
But at the end of the day will make you smile,
No matter what you do,
Love will always be chasing you.*



HUMOR

SOME SILLY JOKES

Customer walks into a pet shop.



Customer: "Can I buy a goldfish?"

Clerk: "Do you want an aquarium?"

Customer: "I don't care what star sign it is, I just want a gold fish."

A termite walks into a bar and says, "Is the bar tender here?"

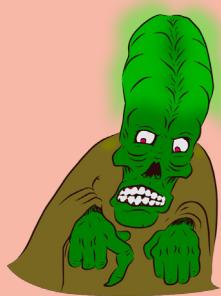


Q: Why did the tomato turn red?



A: Because it saw the salad dressing!

Q: What do you call the security guards who work at the Samsung store?



A: Guardians of the Galaxy.



Q: Why is there a gate around cemeteries?

A: Because people are dying to get in!



Q: What kind of shoes do all spies wear?

A: Sneakers

Q: What do you call a belt with a watch on it?

A: A waist of time

Q: What did the lawyer name his daughter?

A. Sue

Q: What kind of key opens a banana?



A: A monkey!

learn

WEBINARIA

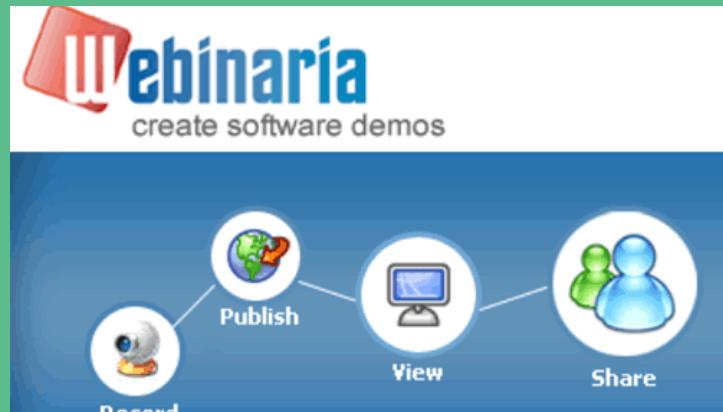
There are 3 important characteristics which you must look for in a screencast recording tool – output video quality, ability to convert video into widely used format, and audio narration support. If you want these attributes in a simple yet powerful screencast recorder, check out Webinaria. It is a distraction free open source utility which works from Windows system tray, and has the ability to convert recorded video into FLV format on-the-fly. It can capture full screen, only active application, or defined size of screen. Unlike other screencast recorders, you can get required output video FPS without having to use any third-party converter to align video FPS with audio narration.

The main screen shows hotkeys to quickly start, pause and stop recording. Before clicking Record button or using a hotkey combination, move to hardware and options tab to set it up according to your requirements.

Under hardware tab, choose the installed webcam and sound device. From options, you can toggle Record audio narration and Record webcam video options On/Off, define area of screen to be captured, and select video FPS. After all the settings are in place, minimize it to system tray and use the hotkey combination to start recording screencast. Besides using hotkeys, you can also pause and stop recording from its system tray menu.

When you're done recording the screencast, stop the recording to bring up Webinaria screencast editor. Here, you get options to tweak with recorded screencast. You can enter text at defined interval, check and move between each recorded frame, enable/disable sound, convert the screencast into FLV format, and, finally get a preview of edited screencast.

To learn more about this tool, go to: <http://www.webinaria.com/index.php>



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

IT HAPPENED IN FEBRUARY

February 2 nd , 1536	Buenos Aires, Argentina, is founded by Pedro de Mendoza of Spain.
February 4 th , 1738	In Calabria, Italy an earthquake caused 50,000 deaths. One of the world's most destructive earthquakes. A series of six strong earthquakes, occurring over a two-month period, caused massive destruction.
February 8 th , 1692	A doctor in Salem Village, Massachusetts Bay Colony suggests that two girls in the family of the village minister may be suffering from bewitchment, leading to the Salem witch trials.
February 10 th , 1940	Tom & Jerry created by Hanna & Barbera debut by MGM .
February 12 th , 1940	The Adventures of Superman serial premieres on the Mutual radio network, featuring Bud Collyer in the title role.
February 15 th , 1903	First Teddy Bear introduced in America, made by Morris & Rose Michtom.
February 17 th , 1753	February 17 is followed by March 1 as Sweden moves to the Gregorian from the Julian calendar.
February 20 th , 1994	Pope John Paul II demands juristic discrimination of homosexuals.
February 26 th , 1919	Grand Canyon National Park is established.
February 29 th , 1960	Playboy Club, featuring bunnies, opens in Chicago.

FAMOUS PEOPLE BORN THIS MONTH

PERSON	JOB	BIRTHDAY
Isabel Perón	President	January 4 th , 1931
Axl Rose	Musician	January 6 th , 1962
Charles Dickens	Writer	January 7 th , 1812
Burt Reynolds	Actor	January 11 th , 1936
Molly Ringwald	Actress	January 18 th , 1968
Gloria Vanderbilt	Modist	January 20 th , 1924
Drew Barrymore	Actress	January 22 nd , 1975

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Groundhog Day

Groundhog Day is a traditional holiday celebrated on February 2. According to folklore, if it is cloudy when a groundhog emerges from its burrow on this day, then the spring season will come early; if it is sunny, the groundhog will supposedly see its shadow and retreat back into its den, and winter weather will persist for six more weeks.

The celebration began as a Pennsylvania German custom in southeastern and central Pennsylvania in the 18th and 19th centuries. It has its origins in ancient European weather lore, in which a badger or a sacred bear is the prognosticator, as opposed to a groundhog. It also bears similarities to the Pagan festival of Imbolc (the seasonal turning point of the Celtic calendar, which is celebrated on February 2nd and also involves weather prognostication), and to St. Swithun's Day on July 15th.

The first documented American reference to Groundhog Day can be found in a diary entry, dated February 4th, 1841. The largest Groundhog Day celebration is held in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, where crowds as large as 40,000 have gathered to celebrate the holiday since at least 1886.

According to Groundhog Day organizers, the rodents' forecasts are accurate 75% to 90% of the time. However, a Canadian study for 13 cities in the past 30 to 40 years found that the weather patterns predicted on Groundhog Day were only 37% accurate over that time period.

Since the 1993 release of the film *Groundhog Day*, starring Bill Murray as a TV weatherman (who wakes up and it's Groundhog Day over and over again!) and Andie MacDowell as his puzzled producer, attendance at the real event has expanded. In 1997, there were 35,000 visitors in

Punxsutawney, five times the Jefferson County town's 6,700 population.

Some think the custom could have been a folk embodiment of the confusion created by the collision of two calendar systems. Some ancient traditions marked the change of season at cross-quarter days such as Imbolc when daylight first makes significant progress against the night. Other traditions held that spring did not begin until the length of daylight overtook night at the Vernal Equinox.



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. People have been attempting to forecast the weather since the beginning of recorded history. In this month, we dedicate our proverb a weather belief:

*“The higher the clouds
the better the weather.”*

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.

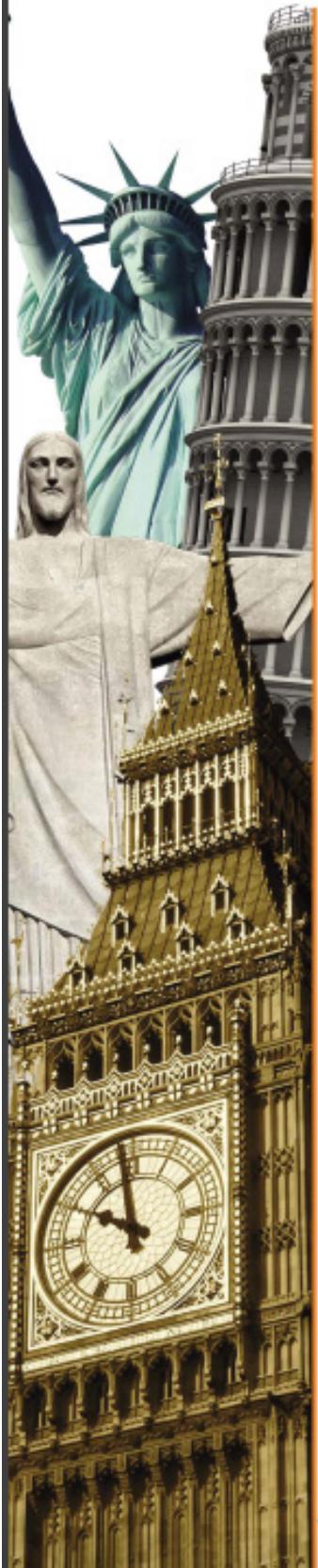


To buy the books and learn more about Discovering Pura Vida go to: [PURA VIDA](#)

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)

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.

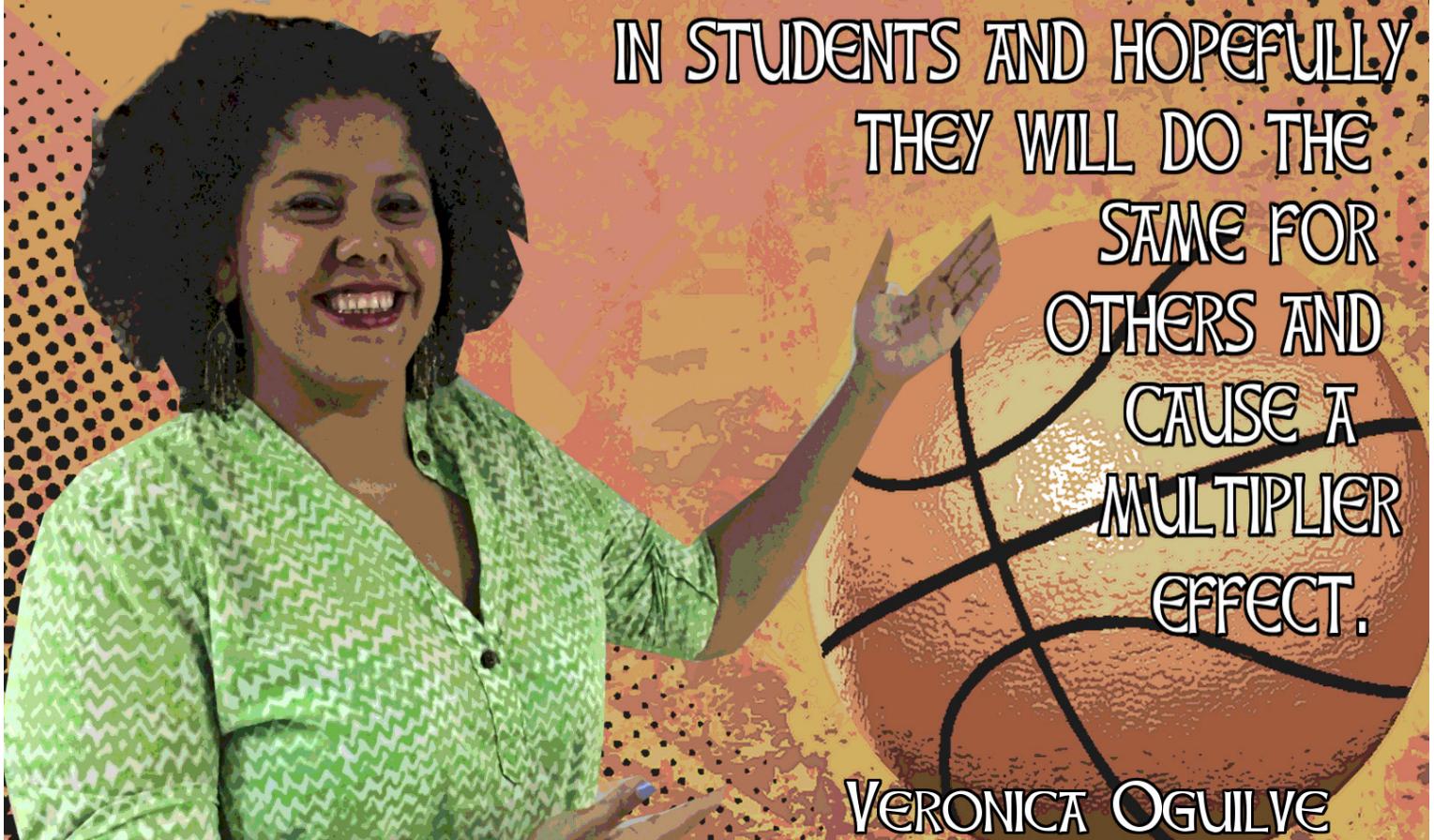
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- 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

WHY DO I TEACH?

I TEACH BECAUSE I WANT TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE. I WANT TO BRING OUT THE BEST IN STUDENTS AND HOPEFULLY THEY WILL DO THE SAME FOR OTHERS AND CAUSE A MULTIPLIER EFFECT.



VERONICA OGUILVE