



# The ILE Post

Monthly Magazine



ISSUE # 12

JULY 2013

# ONE YEAR

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# COVER PAGE

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This picture speaks by itself. The ILE Post is one year old, and we are so happy and proud of our monthly publication. In the cover page you can see pieces of the eleven previous publications. It is difficult to explain all the hard work and love we give to The ILE Post. For our second year we promise to do everything we can to improve the magazine and bring you more stories, articles, reports, pictures and new sections. For your support during our first year, **THANK YOU** very much.

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Due to Institution Instructions, all FACEBOOK pages have been closed

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**ILE UTN**



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# EDITORIAL

## *Cheers to The ILE Post*



The arrival of July at our doorstep brings news of a wish come true. The ILE Post has reached its first year, and it is a reason to celebrate. A year ago, we came up with the first idea and wrote the document that gave birth to The ILE Post. We were sure of what we wanted, and how to do it, but honestly we did not expect that readers were going to appeal to this magazine so quickly. A lot has been achieved during this year

Keeping in mind the key principles of the UTN mission and vision that commit to creativity, innovation, excellence, and the use of technology as a tool for accomplishing institutional goals, the teaching staff of the ILE major came up with the innovative idea of a monthly publication in English, delivered electronically.

This publication has encouraged teachers, students and others in the university who speak English to participate actively as writers. We are very proud to be the first group of university members that innovate with the compilation of articles, reports, news and entertainment in one single publication.

The fact that it is written in English has also given us the chance to have a presence outside the UTN. Many teachers from UNA, UNED and MEP receive The ILE Post and are currently using it for class activities with their students. This particular aspect has projected the agenda of UTN and the ILE major, and shows the high quality of education we pursue.

One of the most important goals we have soon achieved is the involvement of students in the writing of different texts. It is very rewarding for them to see their work published. When in class, teachers can hardly perceive the need to express feelings to show people what their students can do. As a matter of example, one of the stories issued in one of our posts from an ILE student was published in the AtenasToday digital Magazine as requested by its editor.

With no experience in the publishing field, but with a clear and serious goal in mind, The ILE Post has earned a place within the life of our university. We never imagined that when walking around the campus we were going to be asked about the next publication, or comment on something related to an article in the edition just issued.

Furthermore, The ILE Post has given the chance to honor the work of those who people rarely know about; the teachers. A variety of institutional leisure activities are usually advertised, but teachers' work is rarely known. The ILE Post has shown the academic efforts that professional teachers fulfill to improve the education standards of UTN.

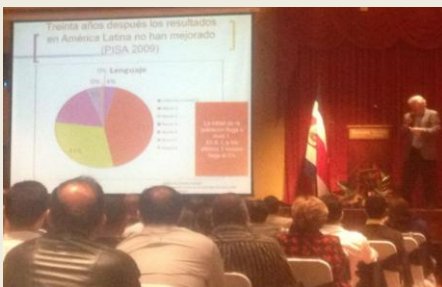
We honestly believe this magazine has come to fulfill a need in the university by giving a voice to a community of highly valuable people. In addition, The ILE Post has also brought the UTN a new flavor with its many colorful pictures and dozens of writers and collaborators. The success of this experience, which is a great source of pride for the ILE Major, would not have been possible without the help of UTN authorities who have always believed we could do it. In the name of all who love what we do at The ILE Post, we want to thank them for their support and companion. As editor and person in charge of The ILE Post, and in the name of all who have collaborated with the production of this magazine for one year now, we want to thank you all.



## NEWS

### *Higher Education Competency Building Seminar*

UTN held on June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> the first Higher Education Competency Building Seminar at San José Palacio Hotel. National and international speakers offered a variety of conferences about the importance of competencies and how to improve them. There are several definitions of what a competency is, but most of them agree on the following aspect "A measurable pattern of knowledge, skills, abilities, behaviors, and other characteristics that an individual needs to perform work roles or occupational functions successfully." (1)



Among many other several aspects, speakers underlined a link between quality teaching and competencies in the use of pedagogical techniques to produce learning outcomes for students. This work involves several dimensions, including the effective design of curriculum and course content, a variety of learning contexts (including guided independent study, project-based learning, collaborative learning, experimentation, etc.), soliciting and using feedback, and effective assessment

of learning outcomes, as well as, well-adapted learning environments and student support services.

UTN needs to ensure that the education it offers meets the expectations of students and the requirements of employers. Developing UTN as an effective learning community where excellent pedagogical practices are developed and shared requires leadership, collaboration and ways to address tensions between innovators and those reluctant to change. The university community is required to update knowledge and skills on continuing basis to face the challenges of change as well as to reap the emerging opportunities.



This event has been one of the biggest organized by UTN. All attendants were greatly satisfied with every single aspect: speakers, facilities, organization, food, and above all the academic environment.



(1) <http://apps.opm.gov/ADT/Content.aspx?page=1-03&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1&JScript=1>

## ESP Workshop at UTN

Programa Institucional de Idiomas para el Trabajo (PIT) organized a workshop about English for Specific Purposes (ESP) on Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. The UTN was honored by the visit of English Language ESP Specialist Kay Westfield from the University of Oregon. She has published reading textbooks and numerous articles on language teaching. Her work as an international ESP consultant and teacher trainer has taken her to Europe, Latin America, Northern Africa, the Middle East, and South East Asia. Ms. Westfield was the founding chair of the English for Specific Purposes Interest Section within the international organization for Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). She now co-chairs the TESOL Task Force to develop standards documents for Best Practices in Workplace Language Training. About fifty teachers from the different UTN campuses shared for three hours with Mrs. Westfield and learned about this topic which is one of the most important ones today taking into account globalization. More and more multinational companies are investing in Costa Rica, so the demand for English in the work place has become urgent.



Some of the topics she shared with UTN teachers were:

- ✓ differences between ESP and general English teaching
- ✓ types of language learning strategies
- ✓ best practices in ESP
- ✓ ESP challenges
- ✓ importance of what is appropriate versus what is achievable in class.



With this activity, once more UTN authorities show their compromise to train teachers in order to improve the learning and teaching process.

## Franz Kafka's Birthday Anniversary



Franz Kafka was born in Prague on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1883. According to Kafka biographer Frederick R. Karl, Franz Kafka is the only 20th century author whose name has become part of the English speaking lexicon, "...in a way no other writer's has," with the term "Kafkaesque" often used to define surreal or unexplainable complexities and hardships, not only literature, but in life. Kafka's literary style is said to have influenced many well known 20th century authors, including Albert Camus, J.M. Coetzee and Jean-Paul Sartre, and his work continues to be studied around the world. Kafka died from starvation a month before his 41st birthday on June 3, 1924 when his laryngeal tuberculosis caused his throat to become too painful for him to eat. His work includes stories, novels and articles, some of the most popular ones are: *The Stoker*, *The Missing Man*, *The Trial*, *Description of a Struggle*, *Before the Law*, and, of course, his masterpiece *The Metamorphosis*. In *The Metamorphosis*, one day, a traveling salesman, wakes up to find himself transformed into a giant insect. He becomes an object of disgrace to his family, an outsider in his own home. The story goes around this topic showing everything the travelling salesman has to face now that he is different on his outside. This particular story is used in many university courses, and for many experts, it reflects a lot of today's reality.



## Comic-Con

The Comic-Con is a multigenre convention held annually in San Diego, California, United States. It is a comics and popular arts convention with special guests, themes and anniversaries, and programming. The first official San Diego Comic-Con was a three-day event held from August 1 to 3, 1970. Comics come in many different formats such as: Comic strips, comic books, graphic novels, webcomics, manga, trade paperbacks. This convention catches the attention of children, teenagers and adults who love all fiction characters present in comics. With the popularity of box office movie productions based on comics, the Comic-Con is considered one of the most popular conventions around the world and maybe organizers would have to reproduce it in different places around the world.



This year's Comic-Con took place from July 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> and special guests included among others: Writer Brian Michael Bendis currently writing Ultimate Spider-Man, All New X-Men, Uncanny X-Men, Guardians of the Galaxy, Daredevil; artist Jon Bogdanove who worked on Superman: RetroActive 1990s, X-Factor, X-Terminators, Superman vs. Savage Dragon 2, Superman vs. Aliens 2, and issues of Batman, and The Hulk; artist Jeromy Cox currently working on Detective Comics for DC.

Among the surprised visits to the famous pop culture convention, this year cast members from The Big Bang Theory Johnny Galecki (Leonard) and Melissa Rauch (Bernadette) showed up in disguise what made fans crazy. Furthermore, Andrew Garfield (Spiderman) was also present to enjoy with fans and talk about The Amazing Spiderman II movie.

If you are a fan do not forget to visit the official Comic-Con website.

(Information taken from: <http://www.comic-con.org/cci> )

These are some comments we have received during this year.

Some of them are in Spanish just like people wrote them.

<p>THE ILE POST está realmente preciosa, y cuando la vi me sentí de verdad muy orgulloso de ustedes, de su esfuerzo, de su iniciativa, de su capacidad de innovación y creatividad. Es un esfuerzo y un logro que quisiéramos que pudieran hacer todas las carreras.</p> <p><i>Marcelo Prieto</i> <i>UTN Chancellor</i></p>	<p>Realmente es muy satisfactorio, conocer de proyectos tan importantes como la edición del primer número de la revista publicada por las carreras que ustedes dirigen y del cual ustedes además forman parte del personal docente, los felicito de corazón y que sea extensivo a quienes forman parte de esta iniciativa.</p> <p><i>Emanuel González</i> <i>UTN Dean</i></p>
<p>THE ILE POST es un ejemplo de una metodología educativa que promueve la creatividad y genera espacios de participación para estudiantes, docentes y administrativos de la comunidad universitaria.</p> <p><i>Katalina Perera</i> <i>UTN Teaching Vice-Chancellor</i></p>	
<p>No más que quitarme el sombrero ante la edición de su revista. Aunque confieso que no me la voy a leer toda porque mis herramientas lingüísticas en inglés son muy pobres respecto al tiempo disponible, es fácil reconocer la calidad de la producción: temática variada y pertinente para docentes y estudiantes y muy atractiva visualmente. Transmitan mis felicitaciones a todos los que de una u otra forma participan en este esfuerzo y por favor y de corazón, sigan adelante. ¡Así hacemos Universidad!</p> <p><i>Ana Ligia Guillén</i> <i>UTN Student Wellbeing and Development Vice-Chancellor</i></p>	
<p>From the variety of articles presented in the ILE Post, readers can get glimpses into people's lives, have some fun while reading, know about activities that have taken place at UTN, and much more. All the articles published so far, and the rest that there are to come in future issues, make ILE Post a great magazine. Congratulations on your first anniversary ILE Post.</p> <p><i>Gabriela Calvo</i> <i>PIT Coordinator</i></p>	<p>Que buen trabajo, cada día está mejor. Muy interesantes y actuales los temas desarrollados, me agrada mucho ver la gran participación de los compañeros de la carrera.</p> <p><i>Marvin Torres</i> <i>UTN Research Department</i></p>
<p>The ILE post is a great tool for students of our language program and for just about anybody who wants to improve his or her knowledge of the English language, as well as for those who want to share all sorts of different experiences and information with the rest of the virtual community.</p> <p><i>Andrés Bejarano</i> <i>ILE Professor</i></p>	<p>Congratulations on your first anniversary! I really want to express my satisfaction by being part of this project that has given the possibility to teachers and students from the ILE major to read, research and write about different topics... Good work!</p> <p><i>Euyenia González</i> <i>ILE Professor</i></p>

<p>Let's celebrate a happy first year anniversary of ILE POST: a magazine that certainly satisfies reader's expectations in its quality and content. Each monthly edition represents a great source of inspiration for those who enjoy the blessing habit of reading. Interesting and updated topics are its components. Editors, writers and designers, receive my recognition and congratulations on this first year of an intensive and well-elaborated job. It is definitely a substantial contribution to any English program at a university level.</p> <p><i>Marco Araya PIT Program</i></p>	<p>Excellent work ILE Post. I really enjoy reading your monthly issues and I strongly recommend it to my students and colleagues. Thanks for sharing it. Keep up with the good work! Congratulations!</p> <p><i>Ana Laura Escobar UTN-Atenas Teacher</i></p>
<p>La primera vez que leí The ILE Post quedé maravillada frente a un producto del esfuerzo, del compromiso y la dedicación. Este tipo de iniciativas, que promueven la participación y la integración de la comunidad universitaria, merecen un reconocimiento especial. Felicidades compañeros y compañeras, por liderar este proyecto formativo y de desarrollo académico-cultural.</p> <p><i>Eufemia Salazar R. Directora Carrera Asistencia Administrativa</i></p>	<p><i>I would like to congratulate you for the enormous effort you are making to get The ILE Post out monthly! Thank you so much for sharing!! I hope that in the future other groups will also start up initiatives like yours!</i></p> <p><i>Sherry Gaper UNA Professor</i></p>
<p>The ILE Post is the voice of a growing institution and it shows the eager of its people to reach professionalism on every aspect.</p> <p><i>Max Elizondo ILE Student</i></p>	<p>The I.L.E post has worked for students. Finally, we have the chance to see our work published. I know some of us fantasize with the idea of becoming professional writers, and the I.L.E post has helped a great deal for forging self esteem and value our work as young prospect writers. It also keeps you inform of what's going on around. Moreover, it looks great! It's a great thing that happened in the major and that should continue for a long time. Keep up the good job!</p> <p><i>Fernando Céspedes ILE Student</i></p>
<p>Being contributor to ILE Post has been a very rewarding experience. This breaking implementation in U.T.N is an excellent example of the changes the University is taking in order to get aligned with new worldwide trends and demands. Hopefully, we will read The ILE Post for many years more.</p> <p><i>José Andres Solano ILE Student</i></p>	<p>As an English student who has written for The ILE Post, I can say the magazine is an outstanding opportunity to improve your writing skills. The text you write has a high probability to be read by people who can give you feedback about the way you express your ideas. Because your text is revised by an editor, you gain knowledge of grammar when you read the final version in the magazine. Moreover, your text publicized in the magazine stimulates you to continue writing and giving your best. In a sentence, to write for The ILE Post Magazine is an excellent way to improve your English.</p> <p><i>Michael Arroyo ILE Student</i></p>



# THE ILE ETHOS

## *Humans are Inherently Learning Beings*

by Andrés Bejarano (ILE Professor)



Five years ago, on may 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the government of Costa Rica approved the creation of the fifth state University, UTN and one of its main objectives as an institution of higher education is to provide technical education of the utmost quality thus preparing professionals who are competent enough to exceed not only in their area of expertise but also in aspects such as language skills, critical thinking, team work and communication skills. The authorities of the University such as the president, the dean and the Vice-chancellor of Education among many others are trying to put together a course of action to ensure that this goal is attained. More specifically, there are two examples of this commendable undertaking. First the current training course that all teachers are taking in Pedagogical Mediation that is giving us the chance to explore concepts such as Biopedagogy, and Eco- Formación. These new proposals basically highlight the fact that all learners are part of what we might call a “learning ecosystem” that resembles the one you and I learned about in Science Class back in High School. Humans are related to each other at many levels and these connections that we have with other fellow men both in and out of school are part of the learning process of each individual. The other element is the recent seminar on Education by Competences held at the San José Palacio the past June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The exciting element of this seminar is that it triggers the initial stages

of a plan for making our lessons even more productive than they have ever been. Some of the most outstanding ideas in this seminar that were intended to become “food for thought” and would hopefully move us into action for improving our teaching approaches are the following: “The brain was not meant to store information but to think and solve new problems. “We did not come to this world only to do some work”. (PHD. Julián de Zubria Samper). He also emphasized that the objective of education is not the learning per se but the development of the individual and the society as a whole. On the other hand, Salvador Malo Álvarez of the Instituto Conocer, México reminded us that the three main categories of competences that all people need to develop in order to function well in this world are cognitive, interpersonal and intrapersonal. (A nice summary of Gardner’s Theory of Multiple Intelligences).The first two being relatively obvious but the third being a good reminder of the importance of knowing yourself in order to relate better with others and maximize your ongoing learning capacities.

To make a long story short, the idea that this University has is to embrace the innovative learning and teaching approaches of other Universities inside and outside the country in order to succeed in our goal to prepare professionals that as professor Julián De Zubria would say, do not only know what a fish tastes like (knowledge/information) but also know how to create and use their own fishing rods to catch as many fish as they want.

## *Tribal Fusion Belly Dance Rocks!*

*By Melissa Gonzalez (ILE Professor)*



All of my friends and every person who has watched my computer screen can easily realize that three of the things that I love the most are fitness, yoga and of course belly dance. I took my first class in 2007, and I remember that the very first day, the teacher told us to watch videos of the Belly Dance Superstars, so I got home and I did it. I won't forget that first video; there was this incredible dancer, her performance was full of mystery, her costumes were totally different to the rest of the belly dance dancers and her body movement were so precise and perfect that she seemed to be from another planet. I was speechless.

In my next class, I talked to my teacher about that dancer and her beautiful performance. She told me that it was Tribal Fusion Belly Dance and the dancer was the amazing Rachel Brice. Since that moment I just fell in love with it.

Tribal Fusion is a contemporary form of belly dance that it is characterized by strong body isolations and different fusions. This means that although it has its own rules, you have the opportunity to develop your personal style. For that reason, it is so common to see dancers who incorporate elements from Hip Hop, Indian dances, Balkan, Punk, Rock, Metal or Gothic music. There are even people who include short theater performances. It is just beautiful!!

Although this style is brand new for many people, its history started in the 60's with Jamila Salimpour, an amazing teacher and dancer who first studied the movements of the Middle East dancers and developed the first belly dance instructional DVDS in the United States. Then, in the 70's, one of Jamila's students, Masha Archer, introduced the idea that the belly dancers are a troupe that

supports each other while performing. Her motto was "we are the troupe and we are talking". Then, we have Carolena Nericcio. She took ideas from Indian dances and flamenco to embellish her dance style and that is how American Tribal Style, the mother of Tribal Fusion Belly Dance, was born. Carolena also founded her own troupe "Fat Chance Belly Dance". I just love this name because of its meaning. Since that time, many men considered belly dance as a sexual dance, which is by the way a totally wrong idea, so with that name Carolena sent them a simple message "fat chance a man will get a private show".

Jill Parker and Heather Stants are also two important characters. Jill was Carolenna's student and member of Fat Chance Belly Dance. She loved rock, punk, gothic music, fairy tales and mythology, so she decided to leave the group and create Ultra Gypsy. On the other hand, Heather was inspired by hip hop and contemporary dance, so she founded Urban Tribal. Both troupes had different styles, but they influenced each other and were the promoters for what we know nowadays as Tribal Fusion. Different sources such as YouTube and the Belly Dance Superstars have made this style really popular. There is even an event called Tribal Fest, which takes place on San Francisco every May since 2001. In this festival, it is possible to see the most incredible tribal dancers such as Rachel Brice, Zoe Jakes, Ariellah Aflalo, Kammi Liddle and Unmata, just to mention some of my favorites. There also three Costa Rican dancers who have been there, Caro Dumanni, Ana Fallas and Isela Madriz. I am happy to say that I have taken classes and workshops with the last two.

To all those people who have thought about taking belly dance or tribal fusion classes and have not done it for different reasons, let me just tell you that once you

start you can't stop. It becomes more than a hobby. It totally touches you. That is why, I am planning to go to Tribal Fest to take workshops with great dancers and

enjoy the three –days –shows. Maybe in the future I will dance there, who knows?? By the moment, I keep enjoy every single class. Happy drilling!

## *XIV Virtual EDUCA*

*By Gerardo A. Molina (ISW Teacher)*



Some months ago, I decided to take a Virtual Course Design and Tutoring training. I never imagined back then that this decision would make me win a scholarship to attend the XIV Virtual Educa Congress in Medellin, Colombia last June. Along with me, some other colleagues from the university were granted this opportunity, Mr. Fernando Varela, dean of the Puntarenas UTN seed, Mr. Nelson Vega, Software Engineering major pre-grade director, Mr. Eric Herrera, ILE teacher, and Mr. Victor Ugalde, education psychology teacher.

We left on Father's Day and made a short scale and connection in Bogota, and we got to Medellin an hour later.

The first day of the Congress consisted of a couple of activities, the inscription and an opening event. It did not go as we had expected because lines were endless. Colombian Ministry of Education gave a big number of Colombia teachers the opportunity to attend the Congress for free, and every event was crowded beyond reason.

The lines did not stop us, and we were able to attend several forums, workshops, and stands. There were a lot of things to see. First, we listened to experts discussing the concepts behind the virtual education,

which is very useful to know the fundamentals to justify future virtual projects. Equally important, we got to see how some tools such as augmented reality are used in the virtual classes. Last but not least, we went around the stands checking commercial products designed to make classes more attractive to students and teachers all age.

The Congress, despite the obvious inconveniences, helped me grow not only in terms of education technology, but also for project development and international event organization. At least, I noticed what situations should be avoided by a careful logistics planning.

Another view of this experience was the opportunity to know the city of Medellin. There are some nice things to do. If you are in Medellin, you may want to use the Metro to go around the city and even get into the cable car to see the city from high above. Besides, taking pictures at Botero Plaza is a simple yet memorable activity, and buying souvenirs at Pueblito Paisa will give you the chance to take a token of appreciation for your family and friends back home.

I really appreciate the effort of the university to provide us with a highly advantageous professional occasion in the most innovative city in the world.



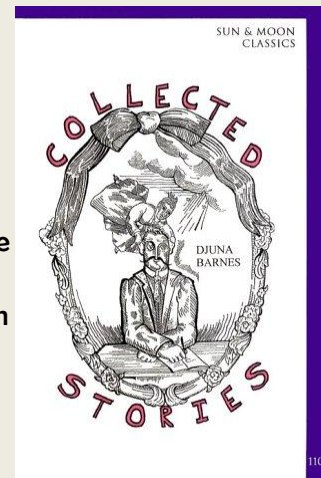
## *Books in Unexpected Places*

Tourist in general read what I will try to nicely call “colorful cover” books. That means all the books I would probably never read: romance, crime, action, and thrillers that sometimes make it to the bestseller list because of numbers, not necessarily quality.

Last week I was staying at a hotel going through the surprisingly big shelf for book exchange. Of course, there they were: the usual suspects. Pile after pile of thick books with gold letters and images of space ships, axes, and the cliché romance kiss....I was not very hopeful. About to give up, I came across a thick white book: *Collected Stories of Djuna Barnes*. My happiness and surprise were equal. I don't own that

book. Barnes is not a common author for travel reading. A bohemian in the 20's, Barnes legacy has been recognized only in recent times. Her writing is usually difficult, obscure, and very bizarre.

I had to take this book with me, which meant it was never a book exchange. As I sat down on the lobby to read, I began to wonder who the owner of the book could have been. Maybe it was a college graduate who had been assigned the reading in a Modernist Literature course. Possibly it was a university professor on her sabbatical. I imagine for *my* new book a life of adventure: from the corners of a bookstore in Cambridge to the tropics. Barnes would have loved the adventures of her stories; that I can say for sure.



## **Anger**

*By Silvia Acuña ILE Student*

Spreading throughout my veins

When each word and action

Burned my body

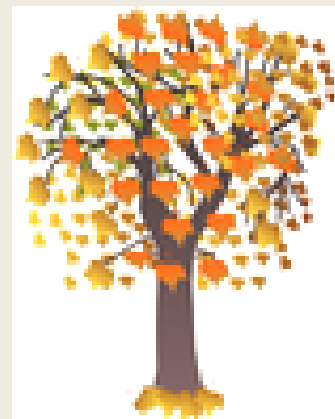
Breaking my spirit

When it runs into my heart

Destroying my whole life

When the angry soul visits

My home



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

## *Costa Rica's National Anthem*

*by David Chaves (ILE Student)*

I have to admit that history is one of the things that I truly enjoy reading about. I have always found it very easy to process things like dates, names, or important events. However, not too many people like to memorize that sort of information, most of which is not considered relevant to them. When I was in high school, my classmates were not that much into reading, so one of my social studies teachers managed to find a way for us to learn those things faster and easier. Instead of us reading the course books, she would describe the topics orally and include additional facts like stories related to the area under discussion.

One time, while she was talking about important politicians in Costa Rica, she told us about the creation of our national anthem. And just as she did with us back then, I want to tell that interesting story, as well. In 1853, the president of our country at that time, Mr. Juan Mora Porras, was informed that diplomatic personnel from England and the United States would arrive. Since Costa Rica did not have a national hymn, the authorities had to work as quickly as they could to fulfill the expectations of such a huge politic event. So, they requested Mr. Manuel Maria Gutierrez, who was in charge of the military band, to create the country's national anthem. He argued that the time frame was way too short, and that the task was a very difficult one. Because of that, the president himself ordered that Gutierrez be sent to prison until he got the job done. Yes, I know it sounds crazy, but at least he was given everything he needed to compose our hymn's music. He tried incredibly hard, and it was not until the next day at five o'clock in the morning that he could finish the song that has made this nation proud for over one hundred and sixty years.

Believe it or not, that is how it happened. I do think that the president went too far with the jail thing, but at the end it worked and gave a young man the opportunity to remain forever in Costa Rican memory.

## LANGUAGE BITS

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

SITUATION	FORMAL	RELAXED	INFORMAL
A friend is always nervous about things and can never relax.	He is of an anxious disposition.	He's always nervous about things.	He's really uptight.
You are commenting on a tragic accident in which a number of people died.	A number of people were slain.	A number of people were killed.	Some people got wasted.
A friend wants to ask a man out but is too shy. You tell her to stop being so pathetic.	Please desist from acting in such a pitiful manner.	Stop being so pathetic! .	Don't be such a wimp!

(Information taken from Hot English Online Magazine #83, p.54)

### *Uniquely Canuck, Eh!*

*By Clare Goodman (ILE Professor)*

What springs to mind when someone tells you that they are from Canada? I can tell you that most people always ask me if I ride around on dog sleds and snow mobiles. Also if I live in an igloo and assume that it is always snowing. They also believe that I speak fluent French and that every single person in Canada is bilingual. Well, I can begin by saying that a lot of these things are misconceptions. It is not always snowing and I do not speak French. In fact only 20% of the population speaks French, but there are some expressions that we use that are truly uniquely Canadian, Eh!!! We call these expressions Canadianisms, so read on hosers, and grab a Molson and let me educate you a little bit on what idiomatic expressions and vocabulary we use.

#### **EXPRESSIONS**

"Eh?"	Don't you think? Conversational device that allows an unconfrontational Canadian to turn a statement into an opinion poll.
Canuck	nickname for a Canadian
clicks	slang for kilometres or kilometres per hour
hoser	unsophisticated person
keener	boot-licker, brown-noser, suck-up
kerfuffle	commotion; flurry of agitation
Molson muscle	potbelly
lineup	line of people; queue
"for sure"	definitely
to be on pogeey	to be on welfare
mickey	375 ml. (13 oz.) bottle of liquor

two-four	case of beer containing 24 bottles
arse, bum	one's hind quarters. person who chooses to be without a job
give'em a shout	to call someone on the phone
to phone someone	to call someone on the phone
going on holiday	going on vacation

### WE CALL IT, THEY CALL IT (Americans)

<b>Food</b>	
backbacon	Canadian bacon
icing sugar	powdered sugar
whitener	powdered non-dairy creamer put in to coffee or tea
processed cheese	American cheese slices
chocolate bar	candy bar.
brown bread	whole wheat bread
homo milk	whole milk
rye & ginger	Canadian rye whiskey and gingerale
<b>Academic</b>	
write (a test)	take a test
invigilate (an exam)	to proctor an exam
tutorial	recitation
marking (a test)	grading a test
public school	elementary school, secondary or high school
supply teacher	substitute teacher
college	community college
<b>Other</b>	
zed (Z)	zee (Z)
chesterfield	couch
the bill	what Canadians ask for in a restaurant (Americans ask for the check)
eavestrough	rain gutter on the eaves (edge of the roof) of a house
elastic	rubber band
girl guides	girl scouts
highway	freeway
housecoat	robe or bathrobe
hydro	electricity
serviette	paper napkin
tap	faucet or spigot
washroom	bathroom
track pants	sweat pants
runners	tennis shoes
muskoka chair	large, usually wooden deck chair, on a porch
postal code	zip code

<b>Quirky Canadian Food</b>	
poutine	French fries covered with cheese curds and gravy
smoked meat	similar to corned beef, served hot on a bun
ketchup chips	believe it or not , chips flavoured with Ketchup
vinegar on fries	especially on fish & chips
butter tart	a small, pecan-pie-like tart
Nanaimo bar	a multilayer brownie with thick icing under chocolate top
tourtiere	a French-Canadian meat pie
milk in a bag	comes in a group of 3 bags
<b>Brands</b>	
Smarties	something like M&Ms
Crispy Crunch	chocolate bar
Coffee Crisp	chocolate bar
Caramilk	chocolate bar
Shreddies	cereal
Canadian Tire	a hardware and household goods chain
Canadian Tire Money	currency good only at Canadian Tire
<b>Other</b>	
5-pin bowling	a smaller ball, and only 5 pins---great for kids and drunks
mountie	member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (like the FBI)
toonie (or twoonie)	Canadian two-dollar coin (since 1996)
toque (or tuque)	woollen, usually pointed cap worn in the winter
civic holiday	a day off work because it is a public holiday eg. Christmas

Here are some other interesting facts about Canada.

- ✓ The Canadian 'accent' can be heard most easily in the following words: out, about, house, and others with 'ou'. For example, Canadian pronunciation of the word 'out' is like 'e' as in 'pet' followed by 'oot' as in 'boot', sounding like 'e'+oot'. American pronunciation of 'out' is more like 'ow' as in 'cow', sounding like 'ow'+t'. Other words often pronounced differently are 'pop', and 'roof'. Of course, the trademark 'eh' at the end of a statement is a dead giveaway.
- ✓ Canadian spellings can also cause confusion: colour vs color, cheque vs check, centre vs center, etc.
- ✓ Canada uses the metric system, although Canadians quote their height and weight in feet/inches and pounds. Industry, for the most part, still uses imperial units.
- ✓ For measuring temperature, Canada uses Celsius (rather than Fahrenheit).
- ✓ Canada does celebrate Thanksgiving, but in October (as opposed to the US thanksgiving in November). Is this to provide more shopping days for Christmas? Either way, the Canadian holiday does not at all revolve around football, or shopping.
- ✓ Although there are many differences in prices of things between US and Canada, two that stand out are the after-exchange lower prices of electronics in the US, and the far lower prices of CDs in Canada. Also, there is a pricing inversion for CDs such that in the US the older CDs are the cheapest, while in Canada it is the newest releases that are usually on sale.



- ✓ The drinking age in Canada is 19 in most provinces, and 18 in Alberta, Manitoba, and Quebec. Note that the provinces where it is 18 alternate as you go west to east. Coincidence?
- ✓ Soda/pop is made with corn syrup in the US, and sugar in Canada---this changes the taste significantly.
- ✓ It's been said that Canadians are simply disarmed Americans with health care.
- ✓ Some of these 'Canadianisms' are of British origin, and can be found there as well.
- ✓ Football rules: size of our footballs, football fields, and one less down
- ✓ Canadian inventions: ski-doo's, jet-skis, zippers, insulin, penicillin, the telephone, short wave radios, Robertson screws (square hole)

So I hope I was able to give you a better insight into what it means to be truly, uniquely Canadian. So please next time you meet a Canadian just say "How's it going, Eh? "

(Information taken from: <http://www.eecg.toronto.edu/~steffan/canadianisms.html>)

## TECHNOLOGY

### Weebly

Weebly is a web-hosting service that features a drag-and-drop website builder. A free service for teachers & students to easily build websites (used by over 100,000 teachers & students). Weebly is perfect for creating classroom websites, student e-portfolios, and websites for assigned projects. Its drag & drop website editor is stunningly simple to use, and appropriate for use with students of all ages. Weebly enables students to express themselves creatively using a variety of multimedia features, all within a protected environment that teachers can easily control. Weebly was named one of TIME's 50 Best Websites of the year because of:



- ✓ its easy, drag & drop website editor
- ✓ its Managed, protected environment for students
- ✓ its powerful multimedia features
- ✓ its flexible blogging features

For more information about this wonderful tool, visit <http://www.weebly.com/ed-features.php>

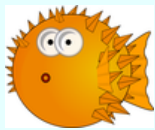
(information taken from: <http://www.weebly.com/ed-features.php>)

# HUMOR

*Sometimes celebrities show they are good at what they do, especially when they talk in a spontaneous interview:*

I've never really wanted to go to Japan. Simply because I don't like eating fish. And I know that's very popular out there in Africa.

- Britney Spears



So, where's the Cannes Film Festival being held this year?

- Christina Aguilera

If we don't succeed, we run the risk of failure.

- Dan Quayle, former U.S. Vice President

You should always go to other people's funerals, otherwise, they won't come to yours.

- Yogi Berra,  
former American Major  
League Baseball player



I get to go to lots of overseas places, like Canada

- Britney Spears



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

(Jokes taken from <http://www.buzzle.com/articles/stupid-quotes-by-famous-people.html>)

Better make it six, I can't eat eight.

- Dan Osinski, Baseball pitcher, when a waitress asked whether he wanted his pizza cut into six or eight slices



Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life.

- Brooke Shields, during an interview to become spokesperson for a federal anti-smoking campaign.



I can't really remember the names of the clubs that we went to.

- Shaquille O'Neal, basketball player, on whether he had visited the Parthenon during his visit to Greece



Question: If you could live forever, would you and why?

Answer: I would not live forever, because we should not live forever, because if we were supposed to live forever, then we would live forever, but we cannot live forever, which is why I would not live forever.

- Miss Alabama in the 1994 Miss Universe contest

# THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July

Independence Day is celebrated on July 4 in the United States. It is considered the birthday of the United States of America. The holiday commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Until then, the thirteen American colonies were ruled by England. The colonists had to obey laws they considered unfair and pay heavy taxes on items such as tea, spices, and cloth. They had no vote in the government. "No taxation without representation" became a common demand.



In 1774, the leaders of several colonies met in Philadelphia to solve their problems with England. The meeting was called the Continental Congress, and great political leaders such as John Adams and George Washington participated. Seven months later, in 1775, the Continental Congress met again and decided to fight for independence rather than accept British rule. In 1776 the Revolutionary War began. The British army was well trained and had ample supplies and weapons. The colonists were not trained soldiers. They lacked good weapons and clothing to keep them warm in the winter, but they fought hard because they believed in America's right to be a free country, independent from England.

On the Fourth of July, there are parades in most cities and towns. The first such parade took place in the 1820s in Washington; D.C. President John Quincy Adams led a group of dignitaries up the Potomac River on steamboats and barges. Today there are marching bands and floats with patriotic themes. Veterans' organizations march in uniform, and students march with school groups and other youth organizations. People have picnics with their families and friends. Children play games, run relay races, and dress up in colonial-style clothing. After dark, towns have huge fireworks displays, emphasizing the colors of the flag—red, white, and blue.

(Information taken from: Mohenm, H., (2000). World Holidays. P. 46)  
 (Images taken from: <http://www.wpclipart.com/>)

## It happened in July

July 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 1839	The first state normal school in US opens, Lexington, Mass, with 3 students.
July 5 <sup>th</sup> , 1811	Venezuela, first South American country to gain independence from Spain.
July 11 <sup>th</sup> , 1859	A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens is published.
July 15 <sup>th</sup> , 1799	Rosetta Stone is found in the Egyptian village of Rosetta, by French Captain Pierre-Francois Bouchard.
July 19 <sup>th</sup> , 1877	The first Wimbledon tennis championships held
July 25 <sup>th</sup> , 1824	Costa Rica annexes Guanacaste from Nicaragua.
July 26 <sup>th</sup> , 1920	Women in the US obtain the right to vote as the 19th Amendment to the Constitution is ratified.
July 27 <sup>th</sup> , 1940	Billboard magazine starts publishing bestseller charts
July 18 <sup>th</sup> , 1920	Pancho Villa, bandito and revolutionary, surrenders to the Mexican government.

## Famous People Born In July

PERSON	BIRTHDAY
Prince Diana	July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 1961
Tom Cruise	July 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 1962
Dalai Lama	July 6 <sup>th</sup> , 1935
Gerald Ford	July 14 <sup>th</sup> , 1913
Nelson Mandela	July 18 <sup>th</sup> , 1918
Ernest Hemingway	July 21 <sup>st</sup> , 1899
J.K. Rowling	July 31 <sup>st</sup> , 1965

### International Accreditations at UTN

*by Marco Araya*

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

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