

ISSUE # 3

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Civic Week 2012

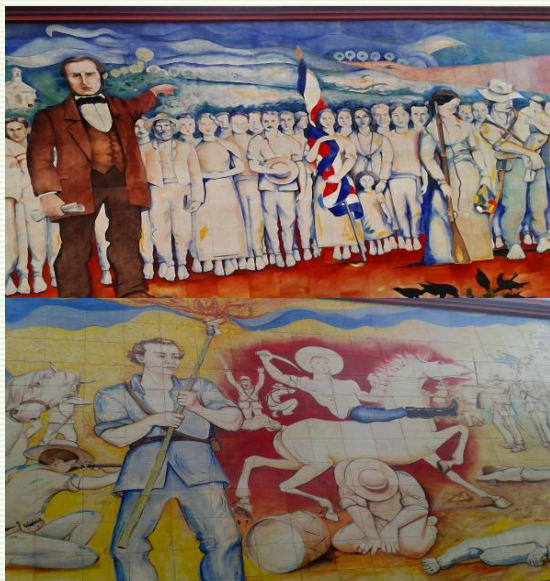
**The Attic of
Bertha Mason**

Englishtips

Independence Day



COVER PAGE



Last July 19th, the Municipality of Alajuela inaugurated Juan Santamaria Park mural called "Cuando Ardió la Patria", made by the artist Carlos Aguilar, the mural alludes to the historic feat of 1856, with a brief to over the 6 meters of mural. The mural is located in the Parque Juan Santamaria and is a great work that left all present admired.

It took 2000 pieces of pottery that are now filled with color and history this park.



Carlos Aguilar is a famous Alajuelense artist. His work includes 122 works on the campaign 1856-1857.



ILE UTN

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EDITORIAL

ENGLISH IN TODAY'S WORLD



The frequent question "Is it necessary to be able to speak English in today's world?" it usually receives a prompt and resounding "Yes!" as answer. Of course it isn't 'necessary' as there are well paid jobs where English is not required. There always will be. But being able to speak English well in today's job market is most definitely an advantage. And anyone who opts for a job where English is a prime factor must be able to speak it well.

Open any newspaper at the 'job opportunities section' and you will be bombarded by an array of advertisements, all written in English, offering jobs for people who have an 'excellent command of English.' The lure of receiving a high salary, medical benefits and a chance to achieve a high position in a renowned company is tempting. It is hard not to succumb. It is the main reason why people all around the world strive to have English as their second language.

An 'excellent command of English' all comes down to one thing - the ability to communicate freely in English. An applicant will not be asked about typology and universals, or contextual or stylistic identity or prescriptive tradition. The interviewer's only concern will be if the applicant is able to communicate freely in English. Communication refers to the

operative word. And this is how it should be. This is what language is. It is a means of communication. Why English has become the No.1 language in today's world, be it through political or economic reasons, or some wild fluke, is of no real importance. Where you learned English and whether your teachers were native or non-native speakers, what accent you adopt, is not critical. Speaking English correctly is. It's an undeniable fact, and the multitude of educational centers focused on the teaching of English as a second language attests to this.

The UTN monthly magazine, 'The ILE Post' is a great means of communication. It is informative, it counsels, it encourages you to delve into your mind and think, to ponder, to learn. To learn about cultures other than your own, which may surprise, interest and maybe even shock you, is to open your mind. To have full command of the language you are learning and to be totally at ease, free of constant flinching and hesitation is of the utmost importance. The UTN magazine can help you in so many ways to achieve your goal - for example by way of conversation classes, offering interesting articles and videos, giving suggestions regarding the constant switch and shift from your native tongue into English. The magazine has been designed for you. It is for you. It is an added asset. Use it and enjoy it.

Martin Pérez



Back to School

By Eric Herrera

Last September 3rd last quarter classes began at the UTN. This is the shortest term, only 13 weeks, but it is the one most teachers and students enjoy the most because at this moment students can perceive how much they have learned, and teachers become happy to see all their students' improvement.

The registration process for this quarter was well organized and fast. The ILE major in its central campus, Alajuela, has a population of about 300 students, dropouts have been less, and little by little everybody can see and listen to more people speaking English around. We wish you all a wonderful and fruitful quarter.



"The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn... and change."

Carl Rogers

Job Fair

By Eric Herrera

During the last week of August Dirección de Programas Técnicos y Acción Social organized a job fair in the central campus in Alajuela. Some of the participant companies were: Pollo Rey, Pricemart, Qualfon Convergys, Multivex among others. Some vacancies offered by these companies included: industrial mechanics, quality staff and administrative area, Quality inspectors and supervisors, sales agents and B2, B3, B4 drivers, customer service representatives, etc. The activity took place in modules 2 and 3 and there was a large attendance.



Civic Week 2012

By Eric Herrera

The UTN Central Campus in Alajuela held, with all teachers and administrative staff, students and the community, the Civic Cultural Week 2012. Students enjoyed and danced to the music of a *Cimarrona*. At night the school community enjoyed the presentation of the Danza Folklórica Group, Taller Experimental de Música and Taller de Teatro. In addition the talk: Influence of historical events of the Costa Rican Narrative was given.

As the closing event of the Civic Week, the Cantata de 1856 was presented 1856, by Dionisio Cabal, this activity involved students, staff and members of the Alajuelense community.

One of the most colorful activities was a patriotic symbol decorating contest. Here you have some images of how the UTN looked like during this important week.



Happy 125th Anniversary Instituto de Alajuela!

By Cindy Rodríguez



On August 5th, Alajuela was celebrating an important party. The Instituto de Alajuela (I de A for its Spanish abbreviation) is one of the three oldest educational institutions of Costa Rica (next to Colegio Superior de Señoritas [1888] and the Liceo de Costa Rica [1887]).

Declared "Outstanding and Centenary Institution of the Motherland", this high school was founded in 1887, thanks to the efforts of President Bernardo Soto, and the then Minister of Education Mauro Fernandez. The first headmaster that IdeA had was Miguel Obregón Lizano. At first, IdeA was located in front of Alajuela's Central Park, the building that is now used as Municipal Theater.

"Viva el Instituto de Alajuela!"

The celebration began early morning. At 5:00am a typical "Diana" (a car full of drums, trumpets, cymbals, and singing people) lived up the town. After that, the crowd started gathering in our Central Park. There, former students and teachers were nostalgic and remembering old times while waiting for the Thanksgiving Service to begin. When the church's clock hit 10:00am the parade began: history walked through the streets. The parade included the different groups of organized former students who wore shirts reading their graduation year, so generation after generation passed by. The oldest generation in the parade was that of 1958, even though we were acknowledged of former students from back to 1950 celebrating at home. The parade also included IdeA's band, the students from generation 2012, and a sample of every uniform that the institution has had, plus the presentation of many other bands and collaborators.

Scream-like greetings, hugs, and laughs filled the parade which ended up in the well decorated building of IdeA. There, the picture taking and the music began. There was live music, a lunch for honorable members, and typical food for everyone. Many walked around aisles, visited the gym, and took pictures of the famous "Media Luna", a long curved bench where only senior grades were allowed to sit. Nowadays, IdeA has around 2000 students and more than 100 teachers. It is located in front of Plaza Acosta, and it keeps educating young minds. I am a former student from IdeA as well, and I am very proud of it. Now, I am looking forward to the 200 anniversary.



Teachers at Work

By Eric Herrera

The last week of September the ILE teachers took advantage to organize two workshop sessions. They were in charge of professors Veronica Oguilve and Cindy Rodríguez.

The topic of these sessions was assessment. These two teachers shared with the rest knowledge and experiences related to the elaboration of tests, what to do, what not to do.

"We try to improve the quality of education we offer to our students. We have implemented some new books for certain courses, and it is good to review some concepts. In addition, part of the culture that we are trying to have in the major is sharing material and knowledge. Veronica and Cindy have had the chance to attend workshops organized by CONARE and UNED. We really appreciate their willingness to participate in this activity," said the ILE major Director Jose Soto.

This kind of activities has been a constant throughout the present year.



We are going to miss him

By Eric Herrera

Five days before this third quarter began the ILE family received some sad news. Our dear colleague Jacobo González became retired. In the previous issue, we included an article about this wonderful teacher. He was one of the few survivors of the original ILE (previously known as DICSEL) staff. Professor Jacobo was a hundred per cent dedicated to his classes and students. For this reason, he leaves an empty space in our major and in the heart of those who had the chance to work with him.

On the other hand, Professor Jacobo was very happy when he got the news. He had been looking forward to it for a long time. Being a university teacher absorbs lots of family time and dedication. Now he will have more time to enjoy and share with his family.



*Goodbyes are not forever.
Goodbyes are not the end.
They simply mean I'll miss you
Until we meet again!*

-Author Unknown

THE ILE ETHOS

New Man Aboard

By Professor MSc. Greivin Buckner



Have you ever wondered the meaning of real teaching? Have you ever wanted to experience the meaningful feeling of personal success? The answers to these two previous questions could perfectly define the way I feel as part of the English Department at Universidad Técnica Nacional. I am a new language instructor who is currently working for the English major, and I am still startled by the commitment that not only professors but also students have shown me towards this wonderful Language Teaching – Learning Process. Every single person in this world has been given an incredible number of blessings which are sometimes not visible to our fleshy and human eyes, but they are still there. We need to learn how to identify and count those heavenly gifts, so that we can use them in order to help others. Talking in both directions, – for students and for professors – being a member of UTN should be considered a present given to us straight from Heaven as it has been to me. Sometimes, we think of “Blessings” as a means through which people may be lead to wealth, but in my personal case, I have always referred to “Blessings” as those little things which have provided me with inner peace and a feeling of comfort, and to me that is what UTN has meant.

Moreover, professionalism is a factor that I have seen in my co-workers, and that fills me up with satisfaction and emotion. The way in which professors work together to provide students with the best material, the intrinsic motivation that learners project in class time, and the big daily efforts made by the whole staff from the

university are clear examples of this professionalism that I was referring to in the previous lines. In addition, during the last three weeks, I have felt such a warm feeling of welcome and acceptance which does not only come from students but also from the great team that I am part of now. Besides, I really want to congratulate all of you guys who have chosen this wonderful major as an option as I do know that someday, you will see how rewarding teaching is and what it really means. Teaching goes beyond transmitting linguistic knowledge; indeed, being an educator should represent a reason to ignite this sort of internal light that all of us possess in the deepest corners of our souls, and I do know and testify of it that our students` path could be lit by this awesome feeling that all educators should develop in their hearts. Talking to students now, all I can say is, “We are here for you”, I am pretty sure that my colleagues and I myself are really willing to be your right hand during this transitional educational period. Count on us and excuse us if we make mistakes, and do not forget that there is a reason for all of us to be here; we all have a goal, an objective, something we are expected to do; we need to know that looking for it is a difficult task, but once we have gotten it, our life becomes more significant. I want to invite you to think about it and reflect on it... Whenever you feel blue or down, just think there is something else you are expected to do; something else to be reached; something else which will help you grow as a person and as a professional as well. My request for you all is to ask yourselves if you have found yours, and if your answer is negative; then ask yourself the following question: “What am I doing to get it?”

The “God’s Roadblock”

By José Andres Solano, ILE student



Anyone learning about Tiquicia, I am confident, will not take long to understand how privileged our nation is. Viewed from a regional perspective, Costa Rica shows several strengths: solid social security schemes, good political stability, acceptable economic conditions, clearly a green country (I hold big doubts here, this is a different topic though), and the one aspect I love above all others: High-quality education.

Historically, by the time many of our Central-American brothers and sisters were being forced to deal with war horrors as part of their daily lives, here in our Costa Rica, destiny would show a different face. A lot of effort was put to build a brighter future, and our education system was one of these huge achievements. As far back as I can recall, many political characters and ministers have made, or tried to make, their contributions to our education programs; some of them are remembered, some of them are not. Nonetheless, whether people like them or not, Leonardo Garnier and his team have definitely had a significant impact in our present: *The Integral Affective and Sexual Education Program* (Programa de Educación para la Afectividad y la Sexualidad Integral), designed, created and soon-to-be implemented by M.E.P in Costa Rica. The implications drawn from this are so considerable, that closing the eyes to them is not morally, nor ethically, appropriate.

For starters, here’s a quick summary of the facts up to now: Garnier and his team announced the creation and implementation (starting next year) of the program mentioned above, scoping 7th, 8th and 9th high-school graders. The immediate reaction of some sectors of the population is perceived, and a number of

religious organizations file thousands of legal complaints against M.E.P’s initiative, putting the Sala IV to work; later the Sala states a resolution, and authorizes parents to decide whether their kids will be in the new classes, or not. In a public act, Bishop Francisco Ulloa issues a verbal warning to parents, saying they should not allow their kids to attend the classes in question. Basically, a secular ¹ sexual-education proposal is challenged by a specific group and their fundamental argument: M.E.P did not include any religious ideas, or principles in the program. (All these facts have been informed by Costa Rican media in the last 8-10 weeks).

This position is for most people this position goes against common sense. Being this a clear attempt to improve the quality, integrity and impact of the sexual education in C.R. , even incorporating affective considerations (which shows an evolved systemic approach), it is overwhelmingly sad to learn that once again such elaborated idea finds the upfront ferocious opposition of religious institutions in Costa Rica, mainly evangelic and catholic churches.

Regardless of my religious position, I show respect for everybody’s ideas of spirituality and superior forces, strongly believing these principles are as tied to subjectivity as any other personal choice; and it is within this subjectivity where some questions arise. Asking the following is a must: Are these people not concerned at all with over 14 000 teen pregnancies per year in Costa Rica ² , plus all the implications derived? Do they believe these serious problems will just go away by giving such hard-to-digest opposition? Are these religious authorities telling us that God is against realistic, integral, and

healthy sexual education? Should I then interpret their resistance, as “God’s Roadblock”? Because honestly, the position of these catholic and evangelic officials gives me the idea of “God placing a full-size roadblock” in our way to a better country, and a better world. I truly hesitate to accept this as his actual will.

Every generation is granted an opportunity to change the World, and this can be ours: Think of your future daughters and sons, sisters and brothers, nieces and nephews, grandsons and granddaughters think of all the children currently in your life: What kind of sexual

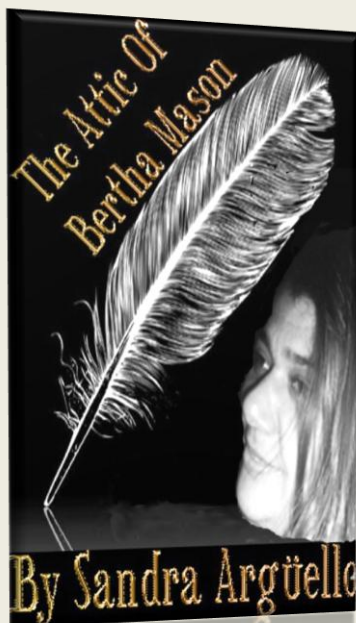
education would you like them to count on? If your answer is reasonable, integral and professionally-conceived information and instruction, as free of prejudice and stereotypes as possible, you might want to consult M.E.P’s *Integral Affective and Sexual Education Program* online. Perhaps you will confirm by yourself the program is the right decision, probably you will discard it as viable option; either way, it will be recorded as your personal, informed and critical decision. I did check the Program myself, and trust me, things would be way better. Visit M.E.P’s webpage at www.mep.go.cr

¹ According to online Cambridge dictionary. Secular: Not having any connection with religion

¹ Bone and The Edge (1983). *Sunday Bloody Sunday*. Album War. Island Records.

¹ Casas, X. (2012). *Embarazos en niñas y adolescentes, otro fracaso en el acceso a los derechos*. La Nación. Consult at: <http://www.nacion.com/2011-06-02/Opinion/Foro/Opinion2797374.aspx>

Literary criticism: A necessary evil?



It is a truth universally acknowledged that a person who wants to write but does not have what it takes becomes a critic. Or so many writers think, especially when they have been subjected to the demonic tongue of a book critic. Nevertheless, it is also a part of human nature to classify what surrounds us, often in terms of opposites: good or bad, easy or difficult, boring or interesting...you get it. Our evaluations are subjective and depend on a number of factors. When it comes to literature, one cannot escape judging a book by our context; that is, age, country, interests, reading background. The role of the critic is difficult because she is dealing with art, a very subjective activity where the feelings and ego of the creator are involved. Besides, the term *criticism* itself is problematic. It has too many negative connotations.

Good literary criticism is an art in itself; it requires a lot of reading, vocabulary, and thinking. Criticism has proved effective in creating the literary canon by which works or literature are granted the title of classics. The canon is what tells us that Shakespeare is, from a literary point of view, more valuable than, let’s say, Paulo Coelho (no offense, fans). What does valuable mean here? It takes into account technique as well as content. Criticism does not say anything about the reception of literature by readers, which is often more related to marketing than craft.

In a nutshell, what I want to say is that literary criticism is a necessary evil. Whether writers like it or not, their work is going to be judged, evaluated, compared, discarded or loved. The role of the critic is to help readers choose what to read and, hopefully, become more critical when reading.

Grasping Life

By Professor Andrés José Bejarano Leitón



Seize the day, enjoy the moment, or the famous Latin equivalent Carpe Diem is one of the most beautiful things that a human being can wish for, and that is precisely achievable at this very moment. Jesus once said that the Kingdom of heaven is near but he said it more than two thousand years ago, so don't you ever wonder if part of what he meant was to enjoy the blessings that God gives us every single day of our lives. Things like going to work, spending time with family and friends or if you prefer just singing, dancing, running or any other activity in which you are so absorbed that as one of my favorite mystics would say, you disappear and become the action itself, almost as if God himself were singing, dancing or running through you. In other words, to be enthusiastic about everything you do which would honor the origin of the word enthusiasm (en- theus), that literally means to be filled with God's presence. Therefore, regardless of our religious background, many of us believe in the possibility of eternal life, so why not start enjoying today?

Friendship

By Professor Eric Herrera



Someone said nothing lasts forever; however, he was not too clever.
 Two hearts joined by a word. Even though, they belong to different worlds.
 Someone to share with good and bad times, and even to dedicate these silly rhymes.
 A yellow ribbon made of esteem and affection makes everyone doubt of the first assertion.
 A thousand people you meet, but few of them share something like this to keep.
 I was lucky and found mine to which I will never say goodbye.
 Nothing lasts forever was someone's point of view, unfortunate soul did not know a person like you.

LANGUAGE BITS

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

SITUATION	FORMAL	RELAXED	INFORMAL
You tell a friend that he is stupid.	You nincompoop.	You idiot.	You muppet./ You calf.
A friend has a new car. You like it.	Your newly acquired mode of transport is most adorable.	I like your new car.	Nice motor.
You tell a friend to be quick because you are late.	Please make haste.	Hurry up.	Get a move on.

What are Anagrams?

An anagram is a rearrangement of the letters in either a word or a phrase (using each letter exactly once in the word or phrase created). Someone who creates anagrams is called an anagrammatist. Any word or phrase that exactly reproduces the letters in another order is an anagram. However, the goal of serious or skilled **anagrammatists** is to produce anagrams that in some way reflect or comment on the subject. Some funny examples are:

Mother-in-law = Woman Hitler

William Shakespeare: I'll make a wise phrase

Belgium = Big mule

goodbye = Obey god

Funeral = Real Fun

(Definition taken from: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anagram>)
(Examples taken from: <http://www.anagramsite.com/>)



HUMOR

An elderly woman went into the doctor's office. When the doctor asked why she was there, she replied: "I'd like to have some birth-control pills."

Taken aback, the doctor thought for a minute and then said: "Excuse me, Mrs. Smith, but you're 72 years old. What possible use could you have for birth control pills?"

The woman responded: "They help me sleep."

The doctor thought some more and continued: "How in the world do birth control pills help you to sleep?"

The woman said: "I put them in my granddaughter's orange juice every morning and I sleep better at night!"



Our language is called the mother tongue because the father never gets a chance to speak..!

The Work Week

Always give 100% at work.....

12% on Monday

23% on Tuesday

40% on Wednesday

20% on Thursday

5% on Fridays



A blonde is in her car, driving around the countryside, when she passes a field. She looks out, and sees another blonde in a rowboat in the middle of the field, rowing away. The first blonde pulls her car over and runs to the edge of the field, and yells out to the second blonde, "Hey you! It's stupid chicks like you that give us blondes a bad name! And if I could swim, I'd come out there and kick your ass!"



(Images taken from <http://openclipart.org/>)



ENTERTAINMENT

The Little Theatre Group of Costa Rica



Founded in 1949 by Bert Williams, the Little Theatre Group is the oldest continuously running English-language theatre in Central or South America. Currently, the group puts on a minimum of four productions a year, offering the English-speaking community, audience and actors alike, a choice of modern, classical, serious and farcical plays. Continuing in the tradition of its founders, the LTG today strives to contribute to the entire Costa Rican community. The group regularly donates to charity, sponsors school drama festivals, trains new directors, and takes productions on the road to the more remote areas of the country. Check out our Guardian Angel programme under Membership to see how you can help financially. Auditions for LTG productions are announced in the membership newsletter and the Tico Times, and new members are always welcome on both sides of the footlights. Auditions are open to all. You are welcome to attend the group's monthly social meetings, Open Houses, which are held at the Shakespeare Bar downstairs at the Teatro Laurence Olivier on the first Monday of the month from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (except January).

The next Little Theatre Group performance of plays in English will be *Looking for the Pony* which opens October 12 at the Laurence Olivier Theatre Av 2, Calle 28 (Sala Garbo). The play will run for two weekends with performances Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 PM and Sunday matinees at 2:30 PM. Reservations may be made at 8858-1446 or www.littletheatregroup.org. Student discounts apply.

(Information taken from: http://www.littletheatregroup.org/who_are_we/about_the_ltg.html)

TECHNOLOGY

Englishtips

This month's recommendation is the fabulous website www.englishtips.org. Learning English Together: Educational Community with over 455.000 language learners and teachers! This resource is a repository of descriptions and links (URLs) to electronic versions of language learning and teaching materials that are freely available on the Internet, as well as a place for exchange of views, opinions and other user-generated information about these educational materials aimed at studying or teaching English. Here you can find all books you know and hundreds of resources.

All information contained on the site is of purely informational nature. The site contains no files and no information other than those that are publicly available on the Internet.

How to download a book from the site [englishtips.org](http://www.englishtips.org)?

You just need to sign in or register. Once the registration is completed you'll be able to download all the content you need. However, if you don't register you won't be able to access the database, hence, won't be able to download anything. If you see everything is in Russian just click on the British flag on top of the screen and that's it. If you have not tried it, go ahead and do it, you will not regret.



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Independence Day

The Independence Day of Costa Rica is celebrated on September 15th which commemorates independence of the entire Central America from Spanish rule in 1821. The news of the declaration of independence of Costa Rica had reached the people of the nation only a month later. Following the independence, the first constitution of the country was soon adopted. This further led to the celebration of the first elections held in December, 1821. The Independence Day of Costa Rica is declared an official national holiday in the country. The first elected Chief of state of independent Costa Rica was Juan Mora Fernández, who was in office from 1824 to 1833. He did much for the betterment of his country and people and also promoted industry and commerce.



The first absolutely free elections in Costa Rica were held on 7 November, 1889 which marked the beginning of a period of advancement towards a truly popular government.

The Independence Day of Costa Rica is celebrated with much fun and merriment. The national holiday is marked by hoisting of the National flag, patriotic parades and performances by students in the community. The National anthem is also sung on the Independence Day of Costa Rica.

It happened in September

IMPORTANT EVENTS

September 1, 1923	"Earthquake strikes Tokyo & Yokohama, kills 106,000"
September 2, 1945	Formal surrender of Japan is signed W.W. II.
September 3, 1752	This day never happened nor the next 10 as England adopts Gregorian Calendar. People riot thinking the govt stole 11 days of their lives.
September 4, 1885	The first cafeteria opens (NYC)
September 6, 1620	"The Pilgrims sail from Plymouth, England, on the Mayflower to settle in North America."
September 7, 1979	ESPN makes its cable-TV broadcast debut.
September 15, 1935	Nazi Germany adopts a new national flag with the swastika.
September 21, 1937	J. R. R. Tolkien's The Hobbit is published.
September 29, 1964	The Argentine comic strip Mafalda is published for the first time.

Famous people born in September

PERSON	BIRTHDAY
Charlie Cheen	September 3rd, 1965
Beyonce Knowles	September 4 th , 1981
Colonel Sanders	September 9 th , 1890
Agatha Christie	September, 15 th , 1890
Oliver Stone	September 15 th , 1946
Will Smith	September 25 th , 1968
T.S. Elliot	September 26 th , 1888

International Accreditations at UTN

by Marco Araya

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

Each year, more than half a million applicants in Latin America achieve are accredited by Trinity which is not only the oldest but also best- qualified European educational entity.

Examinations are based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. PIT (Programa Institucional de Idiomas para el Trabajo) office provides all the information you need to register for the next examination process. Representatives will be pleased to guide aspirants through this remarkable experience: registration requisites, pre-tests, tutoring, and assertive advice. **Contact us and become a Trinity certified member. Ph: 2435-5000 ext: 1233**

