



2017

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APRIL

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With UTN Stamp

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In The XXI Century?

William Shakespeare

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

# COVER PAGE



This month we dedicate our coverage to one of the greatest writers of all times, William Shakespeare. Even though nobody knows when he was born or died, he was baptised on April 26<sup>th</sup>,1564, and that is the day people use to honor every year. 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](mailto: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 FACEBOOK.  
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# EDITORIAL

## Let's Look On The Bright Side

by Eric Herrera (ILE Professor)

**“When you come to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on.”**

~ Franklin D. Roosevelt



Time flies and there is just one more year ahead for Costa Rica to elect a new president. So far, what for many was going to be a terrible government turned into a successful one for several aspects.

Luis Guillermo Solís's win in 2014 broke with the traditional two-party system which had dominated Costa Rica for decades. As any other government in office, President Luis Guillermo Solís found a deplorable economic situation that had been inherited by the two previous terms of the National Liberation Party. President Luis Guillermo Solís rapidly found out that there was not enough money in the budget to fund his campaign promises of more social spending on education, health care and housing. In addition, there were also social pressures to enhance law enforcement funding, which has not kept up with modern crime, and to address a national epidemic of potholes in the dilapidated highway system. The traditional Latin American way of trying to fix this is to raise taxes; however, one of his campaign promises was not to do that. Taking into consideration all this, the panorama looked ghastly.

If that is not enough, Hurricane Otto's path across northern Costa Rica left more than 270 houses with significant or total damage during the worst hurricane ever to hit the country in November 2016.

Three years have passed and statistics show that Costa Rica's economy has been improving. The gross domestic product (GDP) grew 3.7 percent in 2015 and near another 4 percent in 2016. An increase in the average in-

come of the population reduced poverty levels by 1.2 percent in Costa Rica. That is one of the main findings from the 2016 National Household Survey conducted by the National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC) results of the 2016 National Household Survey conducted by the INEC also showed that an increase in the average income of the population reduced poverty levels by 1.2 percent last year. This institution attribute the decrease in poverty to two variables: a reduction in the country's inflation rates and benefits granted by government subsidies. In 2015, Costa Rica also reported negative inflation for the first time in 50 years. Furthermore, in 2015 renewable energy sources accounted for 99 per cent of the country's electricity and 285 days were powered completely by renewable sources.

Another or maybe one of the most wanted achievements of President Luis Guillermo Solís has been the reconstruction of “La Platina” bridge over the Virilla River. The previous two administrations wasted millions of dollars on inadequate repairs that gave a temporary solutions to this problematic and iconic symbol of how things should not be done.

In brief, it is easy to pay attention to the negative aspects on any person or situations, but people should also praise and point out the success of this administration in aspects that usually the press does not communicate or scandalize about.



## Good News For Systems Engineering Licenciatura Degree



After a serious effort done by the systems engineering licenciatura degree professors and director, UTN titles are now recognized by the Costa Rican Association of Professionals in Information and Computer Science. The agreement of January 16th becomes a big step for UTN since this recognition is one of the requirements for this major to be accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Higher Education of Costa Rica

(SINAES).

UTN Systems Engineering program provides in-depth knowledge and technical skills in the field of systems engineering and systems of systems, and prepares students for sectors in private and public fields. This program addresses the needs of engineers and scientists engaged in all aspects of analysis, design, integration, production, and operation of modern systems.

## UTN Environmental Compromise

Since October 2016, UTN through its sub program of Integrated Water Resource Management (SubGIRH) has been participating in the project Sustainable Protection of Drinking Water Resources in Alajuela.

This project takes place within the framework of the "brotherhood" that exists between Alajuela

and the city of Larh, in Germany. One of the goals of this project is to ensure provision of safe water to the people of Alajuela by giving special care to the protection and revaluation of Chayotera, Rohmoser, Los Herrera and Rio Segundo water sources.

The current phase of the project includes the specification and

design of learning objectives for an environmental education campaign. The project ends up in 2018 in which several training workshops will be given to people from the different communities that surround the water sources previously mentioned.



## First Student Association At UTN Main Campus

March 23<sup>rd</sup> will be remembered as the day in which the UTN main campus in Alajuela elected its first student association. The purpose of a student organization is to represent students both within the institution and externally, including on local and national issues.

The UTN main campus dean, 212 students, members of the Univer-

sity Student Federation and the Electoral Tribunal were present during this historic event.

Elected President Alejandro Sánchez said that it was very important to create a sense of belonging to UTN. Students are proud of being part of this university, so we need to show it collaborating in different initiatives to make UTN better.



## Livestock And Greenhouse Gas Emissions Research At UTN

UTN together with the National Institute of Agricultural Innovation and Technology Transfer (INTA) and the National Meteorological Institute (IMN) is carrying out a research project to measure the emission of greenhouse gas from ruminant livestock.

Estimates of global greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions attributable to livestock range from 8 to 51%. This variability creates confusion among policy makers and the public as it suggests that there is a lack of consensus among scientists with regard to the contribution of livestock to

global GHG emissions.

In the interest of advancing towards Costa Rica's goal to achieve carbon neutrality, the objective of this research is to diagnose for the first time in Costa Rica the extent of greenhouse emissions provoked by dairy cattle farming.

During the first step of this project, researchers identify and classify cattle according to age, precedence (high altitude or plains), and type of production (diary or meat products). Once this is done, researchers will analyze livestock food to determine the effects of different cat-



tle fodder in the production of methane levels.

This research is of high importance for the implementation of measures to deal with greenhouse gas emissions.

## Dairy Product With UTN Stamp

UTN Atenas Campus has a plant specialized in the production of dairy products (cow and goat). There is a variety of products such as: Buda Cheese, Cheddar Cheese, Mozzarella Cheese, sour cream, yogurt, and Caprino Cheese which is made with 60% goat milk and 40% goat milk. Currently, about 300 kilos of cheese are produced weekly. These products can be bought at Auto Mercado, CoopeAtenas, UTN Atenas Campus and once a week at UTN Main Campus in Alajuela.



## New Innovation Agents

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, 21 students became innovation agents. This is the ninth generation that graduated from UTN.

The program intends to improve the quality, and innovation dimension of vocational training systems and practices through cooperation and through the following goals: to strengthen the aptitudes and competences, to promote and reinforce vocational training contribution

to the innovation process, and to improve the quality of continuous vocational training and of life long aptitudes and competences acquisition.

The tenth edition of this program will begin in August with a group of 25 students. If you are interested in participating, you can visit: [Programa de Formación Práctica en Innovación Orientada al Mercado.](#)



## Mob Kills Muslim Man Transporting Cows In India

A Muslim man has died after being attacked by a mob while transporting cows in India, police said on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, as tensions continue to rise over the slaughter of what is considered a holy animal in the Hindu-majority country.

No arrests have been made, but police said they registered a murder case over the death of 55-year-old Pehlu Khan, whose truck carrying cattle was attacked by hundreds of vigilantes on Sunday while travelling in Alwar in the western state of Rajasthan.

At least six more people were wounded in the attack.

The men had bought the dairy cows at a cattle fair and were taking them home to neighbouring Haryana state when the mob stopped the trucks.

Video of the incident has been

widely circulated online. It shows the men being beaten with sticks and iron rods. Police said they are still trying to identify those involved.

**Hindus, who form 80 percent of India's 1.3 billion populations, consider cows to be sacred.** In many Indian states, the slaughtering of cows and selling of beef is either restricted or banned.

Rajasthan Home Minister Gulab Chand Kataria told reporters that both sides were to blame for the incident.

**"It is illegal to transport cows,** but people ignore it and cow protectors are trying to stop such people from trafficking them," he said.

At least 10 Muslim men have been killed in similar incidents across the country by Hindu mobs on suspicion of eating beef or smuggling cows in the last two years.



In 2015, a Muslim man was lynched by his neighbours near New Delhi over rumours he had slaughtered a cow. Police later said the meat was mutton.

Under the stiffened penalties, anyone caught transporting cows for slaughter could also face up to 10 years in jail. The amendment still needs the approval of the state governor before becoming law.



Information and image taken from: <http://mwcnews.net/news/centrals-asia/64678-cows-in-india.html>

## Trump Is Dropping Climate Change Help

According to reports, the Trump administration is preparing to enact an executive order to reduce the role and consideration of climate change in policy decisions. This move will rescind much of the environmental progress made by the Obama administration. The order would affect policy in a variety of fields, impacting drilling, coal mining, pipeline construction, and even appliance stan-

dards. Ultimately, the order would set back climate change progress in a major way.

The executive order would drop the metric of climate change from official environment reviews. It would also remove the "social cost of carbon" from these same reviews. This metric was used to evaluate the potential damage that climate change could have on the economy.

This order is also likely to be just the beginning of the administration's regulation rollback. The source of the information regarding this order mentioned that the new rules could set new requirements for the EPA to determine if current regulations are harmful to energy production.

One of the many promises that helped propel the current POTUS to victory in the Electoral College

was his promise to coal miners. He seems intent on attempting to keep that promise. These new rules will make it easier for the industry to mine coal, and incentivize coal more as a more attractive energy resource. Regardless of who sits in the Oval Office, climate change is real. And regardless of who is the head of the EPA, carbon dioxide is causing the planet to warm. There is no debating the science of these claims. In fact, the debate is largely subsiding since the majority of people now all agree on the legitimacy of climate change, and that human activity is causing it. Hopefully, these orders will not be a sign of future action, because no matter what is happening in politics, the effects of climate change are becoming more real and more drastic each and every day.



## The Conflict Of Syria

More than 4 years have passed since the Syrian people took to the streets demanding freedom, dignity, and social justice- simply their basic human rights. The regime's response towards the uprising has been incomprehensible and horrific, and to date has resulted in the **killing of more than 200 thousand human lives, the displacement of more than 8 million, and the destruction of the country's history and infrastructure.**

It is undeniable that the conflict in Syria has escalated to a war; a war, however, that is not a civil war nor one driven by the Syrians. The conflict in Syria is a multi-proxy **war in which international, competing interests carry out their battles in Syria**, demolishing the country's hope of establishing a democratic state free of dictatorship.

Months after the revolution sparked, the government's only reaction was to kill and detain protesters, promoting the motto of "Assad forever". The rebel population, along with defectors from the government forces, managed to create small armed groups to protect themselves.

As a result of the regime violence and ongoing conflict in Syria, several regional and international powers were compelled to intervene, directly and indirectly. The international community's response, however, failed to demonstrate clear intention nor unified strategy.

### Iran-Hezbollah vs GCC, US

The Assad regime managed to survive this country's internal conflict by aligning itself with a strong power- Iran. Iran has been able to stand against Western pressure, and could offer the Assad regime the support needed to maintain its position in Syria, despite national and international threats.

Iran has also aided Assad by way of neighboring militants from Leb-

anon and Iraq such as Hezbollah, a terrorist organization based in Lebanon and funded primarily by Iran, and considered to be **the most highly-trained and strongest armed Shia power outside of Iran.**

On the other hand, the United States played a role in supporting rebel groups and the opposition political body as well, along with Saudi and Qatar. The support to armed rebels has been insufficient throughout the entirety of war, given that the moderate rebels are fighting **three fronts**: Assad, Al-Qaeda, and ISIS. Moreover, the US strategy has been unclear and noncommittal, causing more harm to help at times.



Iran has provided many reasons to explain its alignment with the Ba'athist regime in Syria. The country's disputes with Saudi Arabia have made for a history of struggle for domination and influence in the region, particularly in Lebanon, Bahrain, and Yemen. **For Iran, Syria is an important strategic location for its interest in the Arab world.** Consequently, Saudi Arabia has supported the downfall of the Assad regime and put its support behind Islamists rebel groups.

On a strategic level, **Iran has used the war in Syria as an instrument to advance its nuclear negotiations with the US and the West.** The US has engaged in a long and complex diplomacy process with Iran over its nuclear programs; the process has been further complicated by the US desire for retracted Iranian involvement in Syria, an in-

terest that would protect its Israeli ally.

### Russia vs US

Russia has its own unique role as an ally of the Assad regime. Since the 1950s, Russia has managed to maintain a strong relationship with the Ba'ath party in the region. In recent decades, ties with the regime of Bashar al-Assad have strengthened, as **Russia became Syria's main source of arms and ammunition.**

Russia has also provided significant support for Assad during the current war. It has used its right to veto in the UN Security Council, along with China, on four consecutive occasions to protect the Assad government from international intervention. The flow of arms and ammunition from Russia to Syria has remained entirely uninterrupted, despite significant international pressure on Moscow to disengage.

Russia also has an interest to weaken Islamist groups in Syria, particularly ones with ties groups Russia has battled in Chechnya, for example.

Tense relations between the US and Russia have played out in the arena of the Syrian war, and the US has been clear that it is determined to prevent Russia from determining the fate of such an important region.

The international community must promote a solution that quickly and effectively puts an end to the war. In order to a smooth transition of power, the solution must support the moderate rebels to be able to fight terrorism, and maintain and govern territory. This condition is essential to create an environment in which Syrians can form and shape their policies and implement a Geneva-Communique-based agreement that ensures stability and sustainability of post-war Syria.



## Warner v Disney: Comics War

By Alonso Salazar (ILE Professor)



In the New York Times' article called Disney v. Warner: How Captain America Beat Batman and Superman written by James B. Stewart in 2016, the author confronts these two entertainment companies and their most recent blockbusters. According to

Stewart, both movies share the same checklist of elements such as **superhero battles, destruction, huge budgets**, and most important, their central theme: **two good guys fighting against each other**. However, Stewart claims that, even though Warner's production had several advantages (like enough A-list Hollywood talent and the fact that it was released first), *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* was beaten by Disney in the box office. The author continues by questioning Warner's picture's ability to reboot the entire DC Comics universe as it was meant to do it. The article also quotes the senior media and entertainment analyst for Cowen & Company, who calls the movie **a misstep for the brand and damage for Warner's credibility**. Stewart sustains the superiority of Marvel's production over DC's by saying the later relies too much on the flaws of both characters leaving the superhero movie with no heroes at all. The New York Times's writer finishes his article claiming that two of the reasons "*Batman v Superman*" did not work was Zack Snyder's direction and trying to deal with several superheroes in one movie. He praises Disney's formula of having separate releases for each character and finally a tie-in film.

While I must admit Warner's blockbuster was not what I expected as a die-hard DC fan, I totally disagree with Stewart's discrediting of the movie.

First, he obviously knows very little about the DC heroes' mythos. When he states that Cap-

tain America: Civil War managed their superheroes' confrontation better, he is leaving aside a very important fact: Batman's persona. The Dark Knight, as he is called in the graphic novel written by Frank Miller in 1986, is not a good guy like Marvel's Iron Man or Captain America. Batman is a vigilante. He is constantly haunted by his past and his rules, which completely differ from Superman's. The fact that they battle is totally justified, because they see each other as a threat to mankind. This movie could not be addressed the same way *Civil War* was. Tony Stark (a.k.a. Iron Man) and Steve Rogers' (a.k.a. Captain America) issue was not themselves. Then, they could work it out differently. Snyder's intention was to show, not only the best part of Bruce Wayne and Clark Kent, but also their flaws. Hence, there could be a justification for their antagonism. In doing that, he succeeded in relating the audience to the characters. He exposed the human side of the heroes and left to the viewers take a stand. Compared with these two gladiator's dispute, *Civil War*'s central theme seemed childish and lame.

Second, the fact that Warner is trying to make things different is refreshing. Honestly, when you go and watch a Marvel's movie, you know exactly what to expect. Their cinematic universe is so well structured that it could be taken as a drawback. If one takes every Disney's superhero's film made so far and analyzes it, there is a pattern that can be found. This formula leaves no space for surprise and speculation. What is the point of going to the cinema if you already know what is going to happen? The introduction of the characters, their motif, the climax, and the resolution is all the same in every movie. DC Comics, on the other hand, it is unexpected and variant. **The complexity of their characters and their stories is what enriches this universe**. Keeping this in mind, Stewart's claim that Warner

stick to Disney's method for introducing their movies lacks justification. DC Comics is developing their cinematic universe at their own pace and following a different set of rules. Starting with a tie-in movie and then giving each superhero their own film is a very smart and refreshing move.

In conclusion, James B. Stewart's article intends to compare Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice and Captain America: Civil War by stating the later beat the first in the box office and in its reception. Both points can be accepted, since it is obvious Disney's movie made more profits and its reviews, especially on the website Rotten Tomatoes,

were highly satisfactory. However, regarding plot, direction, and characters' management, Warner's production outsmarts Disney's. No one can deny that Disney defeated Warner at the box office. However, in the long run, the movie featuring the greatest battle between the bat of Gotham and the son of Krypton is destined to become a cult movie. How often can you have the two most iconic superheroes fighting each other to death? Compared to the thrill that it causes, while watching Captain America and Iron Man battling seems like the Times movie critic A. O. Scott put it "**a collegial misunderstanding.**"

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## Helping Learners Write

By Xinia Nagygyeller (ILE Professor)



Teaching language learners how to write properly following grammatical rules and writing conventions is not usually an easy task. One of the reasons for this is that sometimes students lack writing skills in their own native language; also, they may feel intimidated when asked to

put their ideas about a specific topic onto paper. Poor knowledge on the topic and reduced vocabulary may also be problematic. Consequently, it is important to keep in mind some principles when helping students to develop writing skills. As explained by Nation (2009), a set of principles should guide how writing is taught and evaluated in a given language course or class.

One of those principles which I totally agree with is the importance of providing students with meaningful tasks so that they can make use of their previous knowledge on a topic. When I teach composition courses, I usually tell my students to write about something that is related to their lives so that the task will be less overwhelming and they will have more to say. Moreover, it is a good idea to give them an example first, so that they have knowledge on the kind of presentation, genre, and discourse they are expected to use. This makes them feel more comfortable and confident on what they have to do.

A second principle is that not only the input but also the output expected from students should be meaningfully focused. Nation (2009) claims that learners need to write for a specific audience and have a purpose for their writing. Usually, in composition courses students write only for the teachers, but it is a good idea to have them write to their classmates too. This is a technique I have used in the past. Students write their paragraphs knowing that a classmate is going to read them and provide some feedback, including comments as to whether the writer's purpose (to entertain, inform, or convince) is clear, the ideas seem coherent and logically developed, and the grammar and writing conventions have been used effectively or not. Even though their

classmates are not experts on writing, beginning writers may like the idea of having an audience. Most importantly, when students check and pay attention to each others' work, they apply metacognitive skills to identify those elements they have been instructed on, and I would also expect that some learning will take place in this inductive way.

Another point to take into consideration in composition courses is related to using different kinds of tasks (experience, shared, and guided) for students to achieve a major development of writing skills. The importance of the teacher's support so that learners' gains in this area are more rapidly obtained is also an alluring statement made by Nation (2009). In my opinion, a variety of tasks helps learners realize their strengths and weaknesses, as they may be more prepared for some kind of writing activities than for others, or they may need extensive practice in certain types of texts before they can move on to freer and more independent writing. As with all language skills, teachers will need to try different strategies and take those that suit their students best. Once again, I also consider it important to give students plenty of examples of what they are expected to produce in a writing task. This may sound like the tasks are very controlled or guided, but I have seen that it works better than just leaving students alone to make all the guesswork about how they need to perform a task.

In general, I feel that as teachers we must realize the need to give language learners enough practice and support so that the development of their writing skills results in a smoother process. In addition, there are many different ways to help students learn to write, and teachers need to be more creative and motivate students to perform writing tasks without feeling intimidated. As stated above, writing and composition tasks are usually seen as too challenging by students. Thus, using different and attractive task types may be the answer to make them like writing more and help them develop a feeling of accomplishment in this skill.

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# ACADEMICS AND MORE

## Who Is The Effective Educator In The XXI Century?

by Sheila Krotz

There are many attributes that could be used to describe an effective educator for today's modern student. Research indicates that one of the most important characteristics of a 21st Century educator is the ability to engage students. Schlechty (2011) asserted that teachers need to be prepared to engage students. The state of California agreed, including student engagement as one of the Teaching Performance Expectations. All teacher candidates prepared in an accredited credentialing program in the state of California are expected to be able to ensure the active and equitable participation of all students.

When students are engaged as full participants in their learning, they are related to the tasks they are involved with in a different way than when they are ritually compliant. This leads to commitment to the work at hand and more investment in their success. If learning is to be retained and made transferable, the tasks must have meaning to the learner. Schlechty noted that planning for student engagement can be time-consuming, but he asserted that in today's world there is a demand for men and women who think, reason, and use their minds well, and a common complaint is that schools are not producing enough citizens who can do so.

### The Essential Attributes

So what are the outstanding attributes especially needed in this century. Three stand out.

**\*A Collaborator.** The 21st Century educator is an effective collaborator. The implementation of the Common Core State Standards presents a great opportunity for teacher collaboration, and by collaborating with each other, teachers can determine best methods

to help their students reach these higher expectations while still maintaining individual styles and flexibility. When teachers have opportunities to engage in professional discourse, they can build upon their unique content, pedagogical, and experiential knowledge to improve instruction. Teachers who work on teams are exposed to a breadth of knowledge and skills that can improve student outcomes. Collaboration raises the capacity of all educators to effectively engage and educate students. Effective collaboration can result in cross-curricular, interdisciplinary learning. Collaboration can help teachers solve educational problems, which in turn can benefit students academically. Furthermore, collaboration is instrumental in the establishment of professional learning communities where teachers are able to reflect, refine, and improve 21st Century skills and practices.

A collaborative, project-based approach ensures that students develop high order thinking skills, effective communication skills, and knowledge of technology that students will need for 21st Century careers and the global environment.

**\*A Visionary.** Effective educators need to be visionaries who can incorporate best practices to create highly engaged classrooms. They know how to make learning relevant and authentic. The P21 Framework describes the need for students to be able to navigate the complex life and work environments in the globally competitive information age (p21.org, 2014).



**\*Culturally Proficient.** In addition, the effective educator is culturally proficient, sensitive to equity and access issues within the classroom, the school site and the District, as well as being an advocate for equity and access in state and federal policies. Culturally proficient educators are mindful of each individual student, especially the poor and minority student, providing the support and resources needed in order for them to be successful. Effective educators acknowledge the need to use specific strategies to ensure equity. It is important for teachers to know how to accommodate student needs and differentiate instruction, including ELL strategies and resources for Special Education students.

### Number One Influence

Teachers are perhaps the single most influential person in improving student learning. The discussion of who is an effective educator emerges at a moment when policymakers, researchers, and educators have identified the high school years as the point of greatest need within the education system. Given that education often relies on the same approaches to persistent problems year after year, it is an important discussion that needs to lead to changes in the way that teachers are prepared and supported in the 21st Century.

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 is a movie that has really touched you?

*I liked God's Not Dead because it teaches us to remember that God is certainly alive and still active within our world today.*

*Daniela González*

*A movie that really touched me was Pay It Forward. In this movie I saw how each person can make a difference in the world by doing good*

*Daniela González*

*The Lord Of The Rings showed me that either fiction or non fiction, people are the same everywhere.*

*Roberto Vargas*

*I learned that chaos is necessary to establish order when I watched Fight Club. I had never thought about this before.*

*Handel Enríquez*

*I go with Harry Potter because it shows that no matter how many obstacles a person has to overcome, everything is possible when you do your best.*

*Jean Carlo Rodríguez*

*I recommend La Vita è Bella. This movie shows the incredible power of a father trying to protect his son from the horrible times of war by showing him you need to find something good in life.*

*Yessica González*

*In my case, I would say Saving Private Ryan. It helped me understand the atrocities of World War II.*

*Katherine Miranda*



*I recommend What Dreams May Come. This movie shows love in its clearest and even extreme way, and what someone in love would do to be with his/her beloved.*

*Melissa Villalobos*



## ***The Meaning Of Being An ILE Student***

*By Jojaidy González, Karolain Ugalde, Katherine Arias (ILE Student)*

When I decided to study English at UTN, I was thinking about my future because nowadays finding a good job not only involves a desire to do things right but also knowledge of the English language. However, I was very scared and insecure. The English that I had learned in high school was inadequate, so I just felt I was not prepared.

My advantage was that I really liked English, so I put all my effort into it. The first days were a challenge; it was to put aside bad habits in my mother tongue, to stop thinking in Spanish and start expressing myself in a very different one; besides that, meeting new people and professors has always been a hard task since I can recall. In addition, learning techniques are quite different; each teacher has a particular way to explain and teach classes.

In this major, you can find different kinds of teachers; for example, there are active, serious, funny, or theoretical. And as a student, you have to adapt to their styles, but for me, I saw it as something positive because I learned how to become a versatile person.

When you finally get used to the atmosphere of the major, new challenges appear such as expositions, presentations, role-plays, exams whether written or oral, challenges of improvisation, and group work. What really makes the difference is the effort and desire that you give to the major. I have had the opportunity to meet people who really had difficulties learning English, but “ILE”, as we call our major, gave them the chance to improve and to learn something new. The same thing happened to me; thanks to the ILE major, I grew up as a person, overcame barriers and fears, and made new friends. Now I feel ready for the future; English is part of my life. I can watch all day international programs on television, and I really understand them; also, I can listen to a song, and I understand its lyrics. That makes me happy and proud. These two years of my major have been worth it, and I would like to tell those who will be new students of English that they will not regret about their decision: they will enjoy it! The meaning of being an “ILE student” is the fact that even if you have difficulties with English, you will be surrounded by people that will give you a hand so that you can advance. And in the end, you will achieve your ultimate goal: to be ready to face the world in two different languages!

## Fashion

By Franklin Chaverri (ILE Student)

Fashion is something that all of us have to deal with it every day. It is not only about the most famous clothes in the world; in fact, this phenomenon involves more than that. For example, fashion helps people to show who they are, and to describe their personality since it depends on the way humans choose clothes; they will show their attitude to the world and other people.

Also, when people say that they do not care what they wear every morning, it says a lot about them, and how they feel that day, and it is something that they do not even notice. However, one certain point is that the fashion world is changing due to the fact we are constantly being bombarded with new fashion ideas from music, videos, books, and television.

Moreover, musicians and other cultural icons have always influenced what we are wearing, but so have political figures and royalty. Furthermore, fashion separates people into groups since it depends on the style of the clothes, they are in different groups. For instance, there are some groups in high school that have specific names such as goths, skaters, and hippies. Style can show who you are, but it also creates stereotypes and distance between humans. In addition, many countries make a fashion week that is an industry event, lasting approximately one week where fashion designers, brands or fashion houses display their latest collections on runways to show to the buyers and the media.

Most importantly, these events let the industry know what is “in” and what is “out” for the season. In conclusion, fashion can have both negative and positive impact on our society, and it is a phenomenon people cannot stop; as a result, we have to accept it without forgetting who we are.

## The Smiley Face



### History of the Smiley Face

Richard Ball, co-owner of an advertising and public relations firm in Worcester, designed the Smiley Face in 1963 to help ease the acrimonious aftermath following the merger of two insurance companies.

### Harvey Richard Ball

A vice president ordered a "friendship campaign" to ease tensions between the bickering workers and hired Richard Ball to come up with a suitable graphic for a button.

"I made a circle with a smile for a mouth on yellow paper, because it was sunny and bright," he recalled in a 1996 interview with The Associated Press. Turning the drawing upside down, the smile became a frown. Deciding that wouldn't do, Ball added two eyes and the Smiley Face was born.

"There are two ways to go about it," he said. "You can take a compass and draw a perfect circle and make two perfect eyes as neat as can be. "Or you can do it freehand and have some fun with it. Like I did," Ball said. "Give it character."

Harvey Ball died in April 2001, survived by his wife and 3 kids.

Harvey Ball: "Never in the history of mankind or art has any single piece of art gotten such widespread favor, pleasure, enjoyment, and nothing has ever been so simply done and so easily understood in art."



### The Peace Symbol

In September of 1970 (two Spanish brothers from Philly, Murray and Bernard Spain) were casting about for some peace-like symbol with general appeal, they recalled seeing the smiley faces floating around for years in the advertising business and thus created the Smiley Button. It was a huge hit. By the end of 1972 it was estimated that over 50 million buttons were sold.

### The Smiley Stamp

The U.S. Postal Service unveiled the first smiley face postage stamp in Worcester on WSD (World Smile Day) 1999. World Smile Day was started in 1999 by Harvey Ball. The WSD (World Smile Day) committee includes members from the Worcester Historical Museum, the City of Worcester, the Office of Congressman Jim McGovern and the Harvey Ball World Smile Foundation.

# VISITING LANDMARKS

## BOSTON

Boston is the Massachusetts's capital and the largest city in New England. The city was originally settled by Puritan Christians in 1630 and quickly grew into a major trading port. The city was instrumental in the events leading up to the American Revolution such as the Boston Massacre, when British soldiers fired into a mob of civilians in self defense, and the Boston Tea Party, when colonists destroyed tea owned by the East Indian Company in protest over favored status from Britain.

When traveling in Boston, make sure to catch a Boston Red Sox game at Fenway Park. The Prudential Center and reflection pool at the Christian Science Center are must sees. Go for some shopping at Newbury Street, promenade. See the Boston Commons, take a view from above at the Skywalk located at the top of the Prudential building. Head over to Cambridge (be sure to check out Harvard Square) via the MBTA subway with a quick and gorgeous view of the Charles River as you cross.



The best time to visit Boston is from June to October. Mild fall weather makes touring around on foot a joy. And even though summer brings in swarms of tourists and expensive hotel rates, the sidewalk cafes, baseball games and outdoor concerts make it worth a trip. Winter is chilly, so pack a warm coat and a pair of boots if you decide to see Beantown sprinkled (or immersed) with snow. Another incentive: you might catch a great deal on a hotel. If winter is too cold for you but summer and autumn's hotel rates fall outside your budget, try visiting at the start of the spring season.

Boston is easily, and perhaps best, enjoyed by foot! Downtown Boston is easier to navigate and enjoy at the natural human pace. Tourist staples like the Freedom Trail are built just for walkers, and each block has history and beauty to offer the interested tourist, so why not grab a map and hit the sidewalk, or just head off!

To learn more about what to do and where to go in Boston, visit:

<https://www.boston.gov/visiting-boston>



# DISCOVERING TECHNOLOGY



(CC BY-SA 3.0)

## Kubbu



Kubbu is an e-learning tool for teachers, instructors and homeschoolers designed to facilitate their work and enhance the learning process

With Kubbu you can easily make activities, cross-words or quizzes and make them accessible online. You don't need to have your own web page or server. Kubbu is the best way to:

- make teaching attractive and interactive
- help students revise and assimilate new material
- stimulate your students and improve their results
- check students' knowledge and track their progress

### 1. Create online activities, crosswords, tests and quizzes

**Dominoes** is an extended form of a classic matching exercise. It is an ideal tool for language practice.

**Slider** is a type of a dynamic quiz. It contains three types of activities, classic single and multiple choice questions with four answers, as well as a unique "climb up" quiz which leaves no place for mistakes.

**Composer** is a tool for teachers who want to introduce their own concept of a quiz.

**Crossword** - with a crossword generator you can create crosswords using your own list of words.

### 2. Easily create and manage students' and groups' accounts

Create as many groups as you want. Students can be treated individually or assigned to particular groups. Every student has its own password and personal account.

You can let students create accounts on their own  
Information taken from: <http://www.kubbu.com>

by giving them special group password.

### 3. Track students' and groups' progress using result database

Results are calculated automatically and stored in your database. You can:

- compare and sort results by different criteria
- check students' and activities' results history
- assess particular group's performance

### 4. Quickly prepare a paper version of activities and quizzes

Now you can:

- mix questions and answers for different groups
- randomize your quizzes' printouts
- generate convenient answer keys

### 5. Send individual and group e-mail messages to your students

Using build-in Kubbu Mail module, you can:

- invite students to visit your page
- send information about new quizzes and activities
- compose your own e-mail messages

### 6. Create online group space

Now you can:

- improve contact with you students,
- remind them about important events,
- share your files and materials with groups,
- talk on group forum.

To know more about Internet of Things, go to:  
<http://www.kubbu.com>

## “ENGLISH FOR YOU CR” PRESENTS, LISTENING STRATEGIES FOR THE TOEIC EXAM – PART II



As part of our series on preparation strategies for the ToEIC exam, we want to share these listening strategies with you for Parts 2-4 of the TOEIC:

- 1- **Brainstorm for vocabulary.** While you hear the recorded instructions, read the items and underline the key words in the questions and option answers.
- 2- **Take notes as you listen.** Write words or phrases next the items as you hear them. Move your pencil from the letter of each option to the next. If one of the options sounds correct, leave it there until you have heard the answer options.
- 3- **Eliminate wrong options.** As you read and listen, try to discard any options that seem wrong. Using the previous technique, discard options and mark an answer.
- 4- **Answer and move on!** Don't leave any questions unanswered. If you have missed an answer or an item, check one and move on (try to reduce your options to only two if possible: "bateo ilustrado").
- 5- **Practice as much as you can with similar audio tracks.** There are plenty that you can find in Internet.

## Good luck!

You can listen to our podcast including this section, music in English, news, and more in:  
<http://www.EnglishforYouCR.com> and [www.facebook.com/english.foryoucr](http://www.facebook.com/english.foryoucr)

## frenemy

a person or group that is friendly toward another because the relationship brings benefits, but harbors feelings of resentment or rivalry.

EXAMPLE:

*There seems to be a frenemy relationship between Google and other search engines.*

Dictionary.com

## Phonetics 101 – A Simple Guide On The IPA

By Irwin Céspedes (ILE Collaborator)

English, as any other language in the world, face many caveats in the process of being acquired by non-native speakers. There are many of these problems that seem to be more tangible than others, such as vocabulary, grammar and language knowledge; than other things that may surpass the realm of the “obscure” and “oc-cult”. Nevertheless, an important factor on how to be well understood in English is to have a good pronunciation or at least a decent one. Here is where it enters the pronunciation skill, and one tool to get the most out of it is to learn and understand the International Phonetic Alphabet or IPA.

The IPA is a system of sounds and codes that give a feasible resemblance of the sounds and movements done by the vocal system while pronouncing a word in English. The International Phonetic Association edits a guide for its usage, but the language inside of the book is quite technical. Here, we will comprise most of the information needed to give a glimpse of this topic and to motivate you to read a little more about this fascinating topic.

The Handbook of the International Phonetic Association written by International Phonetic Association (1999) states that this one is a “Manual” for using this alphabet and this is the major source in this paper. For further information, look online for this book and read it to enlarge your knowledge. However, here are the most important aspects to consider with the IPA:

- The IPA is a system for representing sounds of different languages and not only American or British English. This association is devoted to the study of the different way in which people use sound to communicate to others.
- The IPA for English is divided into 24 consonants, 11 vowels, and 3 diphthongs. These symbols are similar to the ones in the common alphabet, the one we learn from school, but the intonation of the sounds are particularly different.

### The Consonants are these:

	BILABIAL	LABIO DENTAL	DENTAL	ALVEOLAR	POSTAL VEOLAR	PALATAL	VELAR	GLOTTA
<b>Plosive</b>	p b			t d			k g	
<b>Affricate</b>								
<b>Nasal</b>	m			n			ŋ	
<b>Fricative</b>		f v	θ ð	sz				h
<b>Approximant</b>						j	w	
<b>Lateral Approximant</b>				l				

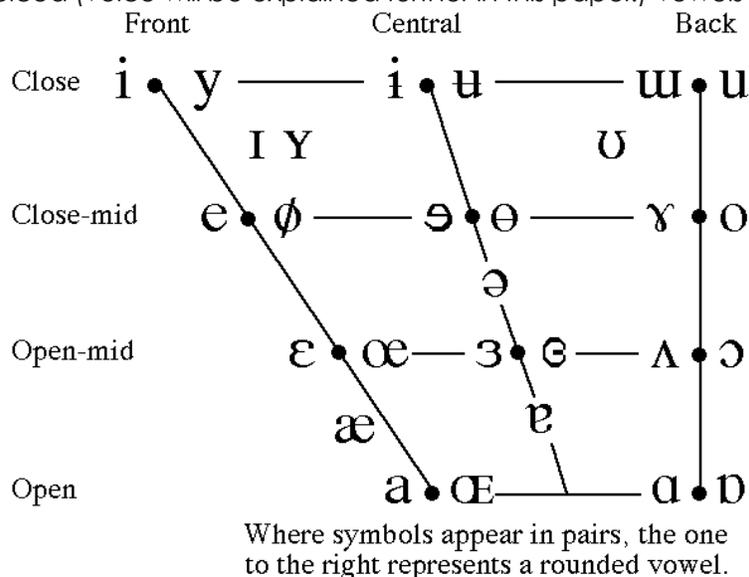
Based on the International Phonetic Association (1999, p. 41)

Each character resembles a sound in the actual English language. Altogether they represent the variations of sounds within a simple word. Students in the world always struggle with these sounds because they are considered as important but quite unused in real world – something like limits in mathematics – but at least by understanding them, you can reach a hidden path in the language. Here are some examples for these consonants.

# LANGUAGE CORNER

p	pie / pest	t	tie / trust / true	k	kite / cool
b	buy / bring	d	die / done	g	guy / girl
m	my / me	n	night / no	ŋ	hang / gang
f	fire / fist	θ	thight / this	h	high / hotel
v	vent / vapor	ð	there / these		chance / change
w	why / what	s	sight / soul		gin / education
		z	zoo		shy / short / shot
			rye / river		usual / treasure
		l	lie / least	j	you

**Vowels:** The vowels are the middle sounds into the articulation of the syllables. It is important to recognize that the vowels are merely sounds that bring space to the movement and give “sound” to the words. In general terms, a vowel is a sound that is generated by the movements of the vocal chords, the tongue, and the entire mouth. They are always voiced (voice will be explained further in this paper.) Vowels and examples are next:



**Chart 1 – Vowel chart** - Credits: Peter Ladefoged (<http://www.phonetics.ucla.edu/course/chapter1/vowels.html>) International

Vowel	Description	Example
[i]	forward vowel	as in beet
[ɪ]	forward vowel	as in bit
[e]	forward vowel	as in chaotic
[eɪ]	diphthong	as in bait
[ɛ]	forward vowel	as in bet
[æ]	diphthong	as in bat
[ɑ]	forward vowel	as in Boston (as spoken by New Englanders)
[aɪ]	diphthong	as in by
[aʊ]	diphthong	as in house
[u]	back vowel	as in boot
[ju]	diphthong	as in abuse
[ʊ]	back vowel	as in book
[o]	back vowel	as in pillow
[oʊ]	diphthong	as in boat
[ɔ]	back vowel	as in awe
[ɔɪ]	diphthong	as in boy
[ɑ]	back vowel	as in father
[ʌ]	central vowel, stressed	as in bud
[ə]	central vowel, unstressed (schwa)	as in appeal
[ɜ]	central vowel with r, stressed	as in burr
[ɝ]	central vowel with r, unstressed (hooked schwa)	as in butter
[ɚ]	central vowel, r-less	as in bird

• **Voice:** sounds in the IPA may be voiced or voiceless. A cool trick to identify them is to perform them and with one hand on your throat feel if the sound is making any vibration. This act makes you easier to identify the sounds while doing a transcription. This because most of these sounds and articulations are natural to our vocal system, meaning that in most of the times one will reproduce the sound correctly. If you are not a master on this topics but a person who is barely learning this, try to read this while doing this technique:

**The early bird catches the worm.**

rɪm/

• Last but not least, most of the sounds are represented differently when they are written in plain words. So a /i/ is a ee or even a ea in script. Similar to /l/ which could be i, y, or e as well. The recommendation is to carry a dictionary around with a representation of the words in the IPA to keep practicing the sounds of the words.

Finally, this summary of the IPA is not a comprehensive one, but a reason to commence studying more on this topic. I recommend you to go online and look for these three websites to continue practicing more: <http://ipa.typeit.org/> - Type IPA Phonetic symbols: a keyboard for writing IPA symbols. Easy and straight forward compared to other options in the market.

## WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Since William Shakespeare lived more than 400 years ago, and many records from that time are lost or never existed in the first place, we don't know everything about his life. For example, we know that he was baptized in Stratford-upon-Avon, 100 miles northwest of London, on April 26, 1564. But we don't know his exact birthdate, which must have been a few days earlier.

William Shakespeare was probably born on about April 23, 1564, the date that is traditionally given for his birth. He was John and Mary Shakespeare's oldest surviving child; their first two children, both girls, did not live beyond infancy. Growing up as the big brother of the family, William had three younger brothers, Gilbert, Richard, and Edmund, and two younger sisters: Anne, who died at seven, and Joan.

Their father, John Shakespeare, was a leatherworker who specialized in the soft white leather used for gloves and similar items. A prosperous businessman, he married Mary Arden, of the prominent Arden family. John rose through local offices in Stratford, becoming an alderman and eventually, when William was five, the town bailiff—much like a mayor. Not long after that, however, John Shakespeare stepped back from public life; we don't know why. Shakespeare, as the son of a leading Stratford citizen, almost certainly attended Stratford's grammar school. Like all such schools, its curriculum consisted of an intense emphasis on the Latin classics, including memorization, writing, and acting classic Latin plays. Shakespeare most likely attended until about age 15.

A few years after he left school, in late 1582, William Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway. She was already expecting their first-born child, Susanna, which was a fairly common



situation at the time. When they married, Anne was 26 and William was 18. Anne grew up just outside Stratford in the village of Shottery. After marrying, she spent the rest of her life in Stratford.

In early 1585, the couple had twins, Judith and Hamnet, completing the family. In the years ahead, Anne and the children lived in Stratford while Shakespeare worked in London, although we don't know when he moved there. Some later observers have suggested that this separation, and the couple's relatively few children, were signs of a strained marriage, but we do not know that, either. Someone pursuing a theater career had no choice but to work in London, and many branches of the Shakespeares had small families.

Shakespeare prospered financially from his partnership in the Lord Chamberlain's Men (later the King's Men), as well as from his writing and acting. He invested much of his wealth in real-estate purchases in Stratford and bought the second-largest house in town, New Place, in 1597.

Among the last plays that Shakespeare worked on was *The Two No*

*ble Kinsmen*, which he wrote with a frequent collaborator, John Fletcher, most likely in 1613. He died on April 23, 1616—the traditional date of his birthday, though his precise birthdate is unknown. We also do not know the cause of his death. His brother-in-law had died a week earlier, which could imply infectious disease, but Shakespeare's health may have had a longer decline.

The memorial bust of Shakespeare at Holy Trinity Church in Stratford is considered one of two authentic likenesses, because it was approved by people who knew him. (The bust in the Folger's Paster Reading Room, shown at left, is a copy of this statue.) The other such likeness is the engraving by Martin Droeshout in the 1623 First Folio edition of Shakespeare's plays, produced seven years after his death by his friends and colleagues from the King's Men. To read William Shakespeare's work, go to:

<http://shakespeare.mit.>



## Good Friday Celebration

Good Friday observance in Barangay (barrio) San Pedro Cutud, in San Fernando, Pampanga, Philippines. During this annual tradition of faith of Kapampangan Catholic Devotees people remember the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Although the modern Catholic church now discourages this act of hurting themselves, many penitents called “magdarama” carry wooden crosses, crawl on rough pavement, and slash their backs before whipping themselves to draw blood. This is done to ask for forgiveness of sins, to fulfill vows (panata), or to express gratitude for favors granted.

The event also includes a reenactment of Christ's crucifixion. This part of the day featured 55-year-old Ruben “Mang Ben Kristo” Enaje, playing the role of Jesus Christ.

To know more about this zodiac sign, go to: <http://www.yourchineseastrology.com/zodiac/rooster.htm>

Information and picture taken via Flickr from: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/istoletv/5652959786>

