

Síntesis de actividades.

APRIR 2010: A year in review.

Comisión Directiva APRIR.

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Asociación de Profesores de Inglés de Rosario

Summary 2010

December 15th, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

December is a good time for **self-appraisal**, and we would like to share the outcome with you.

When we took over in the month of **May** this year, we were keen to keep up with all the successful activities our Association had been organising for many years. We were clearly aware that under the chair of Prof. Nora Séculi the association had been an undeniable link among us teachers and had offered a number of priceless benefits. It was no easy task to step into the shoes of such dedicated colleagues as all the members of the **Executive Committee** and dear Nora as well.

When we were persuaded by the former EC members to step in and give a hand so that our Association could keep on working for fellow-teachers, we found there was a lot to learn so we asked some of the former EC members to stay and help us learn the ropes. We also asked **Prof. Séculi** to remain as our **Honorary President**, which she generously accepted.

Undoubtedly, people have different styles, so there were bound to be a few **changes** at the same time as we kept up with **traditions**, as far as our limitations allowed us.

Ever since May, one of our priorities has been to **keep you updated** about professional development opportunities. However, as we know how busy you are, we have avoided bombarding you with email. To that effect, we designed most **Info Services** to compile a number of events instead of sending individual emails for each of them – the latest was 38/10. Info Services have always been sent **exclusively by email**, and we have stuck to that policy.

We have also made a point of contacting you **monthly** through our **Newsletters**. Because of printing and distribution costs, we decided to make the newsletter **digital** – though members without email access received a paper version, sometimes with undue delay, it must be acknowledged. A digital newsletter also meant the opportunity to include a colourful design with clickable links and photographs.

As we noticed that some email providers were blocking our messages as spam, we created a **Google Group**. Through this we can send you all an email with only one click, and it has the added benefit that all **communications remain stored online** for ease of reference. Take a look at <https://groups.google.com/group/aprir>. You can also check out our **files** (including Newsletters and Info Services) at <http://www.slideshare.net/Aprir> and our **photos** at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/51320069@N06/> Please write to aprir.2009@yahoo.com.ar if you are having problems receiving our communications.

It cannot be denied that social media play a central role these days. We have therefore created a **Twitter** account (<http://twitter.com/aprir>) and a **Facebook** page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/APrIR/127774673899632>), while ensuring you can access both even if you don't have an account yourself. In case you haven't checked them out, here is a **summary of the posts**:

Facebook page (224 links since May 20th - also published via **Twitter**)

- APrIR's **newsletters**
- **Salutations** on "Día de los Jardines de Infantes" and Teacher's Day
- **Announcements** of activities organised by APrIR, photo albums and links to materials offered.
- Information from the **provincial authorities**: Convocatorias a inscripciones; publicación de escalafones; titularizaciones; traslados; calendario escolar
- Information from **fellow associations and FAAPI**: Lectures, conferences and seminars
- Information from Boletín "**Política Lingüística GCBA**", the **British Council**, the **US Embassy** in Argentina and the **Fulbright Commission**: Downloadable materials, activities, teacher development opportunities and scholarships
- Information from institutional members and other educational institutions in the country (eg **UNL, UTN, UNR, UCEL**): Lectures and conferences, many with special discounts for APrIR members

- Links to **international conferences** and **courses** available online for **free** (eg Virtual Round Table conference; British Council Spain Teachers Conference; EUROCALL 2010; 2010 Global Education Conference; Personal Learning Environments, Networks, and Knowledge at Athabasca University; ALISON's interactive multimedia training courses)
- **Videos, blog posts, surveys, discussions** and **slideshows** on language change, professional development, ICT, teaching tips and resources.

We would like to highlight that all the above was done taking advantage of services which are **free of charge**. We know it is sometimes not easy to pay your **membership fee**, and want to make it stretch as far as possible.

Another innovation introduced was **institutional membership**. A number of institutes have joined APriR, and in return for a small fee, they get a certificate to display on their premises, their logo in our newsletters and advertising of the activities they organise with a discount for our members. We hope to see more institutes join in 2011.

Our **traditional workshops** "Reading for Pleasure" and "Viewing and Reviewing Films", as well as the **CALL SIG** continued to be offered. In addition, the following activities were organised during 2010:

- *APriR's First Professional Development Meeting*, with a lecture by Prof. Graciela Castelli and a storytelling session by Prof. Cristina T. de Grondona White.
- *Celtic Evening* (a celebration of Teacher's Day), with entertainment provided by Saint Patrick's Singers, the Irish dancing group SIAMSA and the Scottish music group Clanavis.
- *La Importancia de Llamarse Ernesto*, by St Patrick's drama group, performance held in Spanish, after an introductory talk by Prof. Mónica Rapp.
- *Chalk and Screen: exploring online resources to enhance classroom work*, a presentation by Prof. Mariel Amez
- *APriR's End-of-the-Year Dinner Party*, with a choir recital by Coro de Fisherton

Our members enjoyed **important discounts** in events organised by other institutions as well. Of course, some of them may not have been appealing to you, your tight schedule may have prevented you from joining, or they may not have fit your budget, but if you had attended all of them plus all the activities APriR organised, you would have saved about \$1100. Hard to believe? Check this chart:

	Non-members	Members
Workshops and SIGs. Each meeting \$15 (assuming you attended only 4 meetings in the year)	60	0
La Importancia de Llamarse Ernesto	20	10
Chalk & Screen	20	0
FAAPI Conference	470	380
Teaching Grown Ups III (Move Up)	140	100
WELL (e-duTraining)	1000	900
9th International Congress for ELT Managers and DOS (ABS International)	250	187
Grammar Clinic (e-duTraining)	200	180
Storytelling in L2 (Kindergarten)	80	60
Phonology Clinic (e-duTraining)	280	250
Become a better translator (Move Up)	640	448
Professional Development Programme (e-duTraining)	3800	3420
Reaching Farther, Reading Wider III (San Bartolomé)	180	100
	7140	6035

But who's counting? Enjoy this **online presentation** with a summary of our work in 2010 and plans for the future: <http://www.slideshare.net/Aprir/aprir-actividades-2010-6186874>

The EC is now busy getting ready to celebrate **APrIR's 35th Anniversary**. We are already in the process of preparing a number of events to mark the occasion as well as some more benefits for old-time associates:

- Chatting Meals
- Birthday Dinner Party
- Cengage event
- APrIR's Annual Seminar
- Publication of our 2010 -2011 Journal
- A considerable reduction in the fee for members who have been active for many years
- Literary contest
- Special activities for retired teachers who want to join us in charity action
- Some other activities to surprise you

Thinking ahead to 2011, we would like to inform you that the **Annual "Asamblea Ordinaria"** will be held on **March 12th**. We do appeal to your participation and suggestions. The EC has only a few members, working pro bono and juggling with their daily duties to offer the best possible service. We all know many hands make light work: **what would you like to organise next year?** Let's do it **together**. What we do for APrIR we are doing for each other and for ourselves.

APrIR is an association of teachers, by teachers, for teachers.

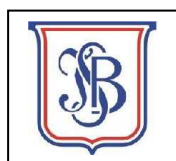
Take pride in belonging.

We wish you a **Very Merry Holiday Season** and **the best for 2011**. Thanks for your support!



APrIR Committee

These institutions are now APrIR members



Are you a Director of Studies? Contact us to find out how your institution can also become a member of APrIR. Write to aprir.cd@gmail.com