Síntesis de actividades.

# **APRIR 2015: A year in review.**

# Comisión Directiva APRIR.

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Asociación de Profesores

de Inglés de Rosario

2015 – Summary

Dear Member,

We are **approaching the end** of the school year now, and **frantically rushing** from marking to concert or prom organising, while at the same time trying not to fall behind with personal duties.

Still, we would like to **invite you** to take a few minutes to **read on** for a summary of past activities and an update of forthcoming ones.

# February: How can we teach English and values at the same time? (Practical tips integrating the latest trends in Education)

On Thursday 26th February, Patricia Zorio delivered this lively workshop. Zorio started by inviting the attendees to leave their "comfort zone" and join in the many activities she presented during the talk. Patricia Zorio explained how the latest trends in Ontological



Coaching can be combined with drama techniques to help foster the learning of values in the EFL class. When the workshop finished, teachers felt that they could take home a number of tips to help not only in the acquisition of oral skills, but also in the development of learners' creativity, communication, cooperation and emotional management.

After the workshop, several publishers contributed with textbooks and dictionaries, which were rafled among the participants. Finally APrIR raffled the Falabella \$500 gift card among the attendees to the event who had paid their 2014 fee. The lucky teacher was Inés Dietrich.

# April: Motivation and Materials in ELT by Darío Banegas

On April 25th the ashcloud originating in the eruption of the Calbuco volcano prevented **Dr Banegas** from flying to Rosario, but our will was stronger and we got to enjoy his presentations via web-conferencing lent to us by e-duTraining.

Thanks to Darío, who made the most of difficult circumstances. and to EC Member and ISPI San Bartolome`s Head Verónica de la Encina, who generously loaned her time and expertise, the numerous attendees were able to profit from and enjoy two insightful and highly contextualised presentations: *Motivating people to motivate learners* and *Revisiting materials in ELT*.

We look forward to meeting Darío Banegas in the flesh in the not-toodistant future.



## May: Our Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting took place on May 16th, at 8.30 am. We invited all members to attend and learn about activities carried out during 2014 and about decision making processes. The meeting came off successfully and the EC received full support from the attendees, who also granted their approval to the annual financial report.

The EC is very grateful to those members who shared the morning, listened attentively to the readings and gave us their generous support and suggestions.

### Bloomsday - June 19th

**Bloomsday** is a commemoration observed annually in Dublin and elsewhere to celebrate the life of Irish writer James Joyce and relive the events in his novel Ulysses, all of which took place on the same day in Dublin in 1904.

It has already become a tradition for APrIR to join in the celebration organised by Asociación Católica San Patricio. This year the social gathering included a presentation by our member **Marcela** 



**Bloomsday 2015** 

**Mackey**, readings by members **Mónica Pérez** and **Sandra Moretti**, together with actors from *St Patrick's Drama Group*, and music by the Celtic group *Clan Dada Clan* and *Irish Hard Shoes* dancers.

A memorable evening indeed!

### June 27th: El conflicto, parte del programa oculto en el aula



This session was a success. Paula Coudannes Landa shared her expertise in avoiding and resolving conflict among the many members at school and in the classroom. She gave numerous examples of conflict and of language that may be used to prevent it. As this session was held in Spanish there were teachers and teachers-to-be of different areas and even school principals and psychologists. With the tools that Paula taught us and even demonstrated in her workshop we left the session with a better idea of how to make our colleagues and students' life happier and our own professional life easier.

#### August: One size doesn't fit all: views on accent and gender

On August 29th Ariel Olmedo presented *RP: past, present ...and future?* and *Vive la différence...or how boys and girls learn differently.* 

**Participants enjoyed reminders and scoops**, exemplified with updated materials including clips from TV shows.



**Thank you, Ariel** for your professional and memorable session! And **thank you, ARCI** for allowing us to use your wonderful premises!

# 40th FAAPI Conference



**APrIR** requested **official endorsement** from the Ministry of Education of our province, and was able to achieve "**Resolución 1669/15**: Declaración de Interés Educativo", available from <u>http://tinyurl.com/RMFAAPI2015</u>.

ACPI, the organising association, secured credits in Córdoba through this official statement <u>http://tinyurl.com/FAAPI15pjeCordoba</u>

As duly informed, **APrIR** received **no applications** for the **First-time Speaker Scholarship**.

The **Daniel Fernández Scholarship** organised by **FAAPI** was **declared vacant** since the only application received was found by the FAAPI Committee not to meet the requirements.

We are **truly sorry** to see these opportunities go to waste, particularly when we are well acquainted with the talents and skills of our members.

We also offered our members a **free pass** to the **40th FAAPI Conference**, for which we drew lots at the end of Ariel Olmedo's presentation. The winner was **María Alejandrina Neirotti.** 

### Read María Alejandrina's report on the Conference

On September 24th, 25th and 26th hundreds of teachers from all over the country travelled to Córdoba to attend the **40th FAAPI Conference 'EFL Classrooms in the New Millennium: Local Developments and Global Concerns'**. The ideas presented by local and international educators in the different plenaries, workshops and papers seemed quite interesting and worth being shared with the APrIR community.

In her plenary **'Future Present? EFL Classrooms in the New Millennium' Nicky Hockly** made reference to the quotation by Michael Gibson, a Sci-Fi writer, "the future is now" to explain how different technologies have taken an important role in



the classroom. Some examples are avatars, which teachers can use to create their own space to

teach (sites such as 'Second Life' and the game 'Minecraft' can be used as well); **wearable technology**, such as smart watches and google glasses; and **robots**, which have already replaced teachers in South Korea.

She finished her presentation by mentioning the four visions of the future defined by the University of Hawaii, which are: grow, collapse, discipline and transform. At the same time, she pointed out that to determine what the future of schools will be like, we first need to determine the possible future scenarios.

In 'Reading with Screenagers', Claudia Ferradas stressed the fact that we live screen-mediated lives and when we read, we read hypertext, which is text that is linked electronically. First, she stated that hyperfiction became hypermedia and then transmedia - one media that takes you to all the other media (something similar to 'The Matrix'). She proposed different sites to use with our learners such as:

- \* <u>www.telescopic.org/text</u> (electronic poetry)
- \* <u>www.commafilm.co.uk</u> (video poems)
- \* <u>www.pottermore.com</u> (playing in Harry Potter's world)

During Jane Cadwallader's semi-plenary, she outlined that we are living a digital revolution and, as a consequence, the new technologies have brought a new mindset. Moreover, she listed the 21st century skills which are the 3Rs (reading, writing and arithmetic) and the 4Cs (creative thinking, critical thinking, communication and collaboration). Taking these skills into consideration the principles for teaching should be:

\*giving students time to think,

\*encouraging students to put themselves in other shoes,

\*encouraging global awareness,

\*encouraging students to take risks,

\*valuing the process even if the outcome is not what we had expected.

These were just some of the topics discussed during the conference. Needless to say that there were many other useful ideas, but I wanted to share those that I thought were the most innovative. Finally, I did not want to finish my review without thanking APrIR for giving me the opportunity to be part of the FAAPI Conference.

#### Prof. María Alejandrina Neirotti

The Conference was well attended by *Rosarinos*, as shown in this picture taken during the **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party** 



### APrIR members' presentations at the FAAPI Conference

- Mariel Amez Paper Cooperation across borders: designing an intercultural space for blended learning; workshop An online journey of self-awareness
- **4** Edita Saluzzo Discussion Panel Innovation in EFL Teacher Education Curriculum
- **4** Nerina Schuager What worked in my class Edmodo in the EFL High School Class
- Viviana Valenti (with Marisa Galimberti) Paper ESP From Grammar Translation Lessons to Learner-centred blended learning lessons
- Florencia Viale (also member of the Conference's Academic Committee) Workshop Storytelling and Storymaking: e(motional)-learning at kindergarten









Leonor Corradi (Ministry of Education – APIBA) and Flavia Bonadeo (ASPI Santa Fe) with APrIR members Florencia Viale, Edita Saluzzo and Mariel Amez. Visit **ACPI's website** to access the **slides and paper** by **Nicholas Burbules** (Director of the *Ubiquitous Learning Institute*) <u>http://www.acpi.org.ar/dr-burbules-presentation/</u>

Enjoy the Conference Summary video at https://youtu.be/22h\_pTEontM

The **Selected Papers** from the Conference can be downloaded from <u>http://www.faapi.org.ar/downloads/FAAPI2015.pdf</u>. We would like to **encourage you to read** these papers presented by **Argentinian colleagues**, which are bound to trigger your reflections. The **Selected Papers** from the Conferences held between **2007 and 2015** are all available from <u>http://www.faapi.org.ar/congreso-faapi/publications</u>

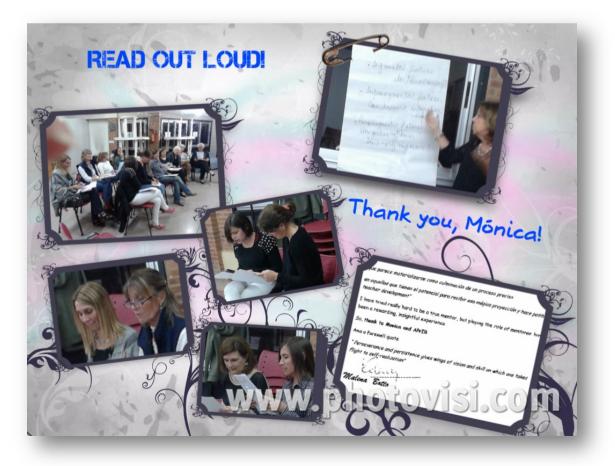
# June to October: For better comprehension and better pronunciation: Read out loud!

From June to October an enthusiastic bunch of APrIR members took part in this workshop masterfully coordinated by Mónica Pérez.

Ten meetings of conscientious work in an atmosphere of camaraderie and, why not, sheer fun, brought together novice and more experienced teachers with a common aim: improving their diction.

We would like to thank Mónica for designing this tailor-made development opportunity and to all participants for joining in, by borrowing the inspirational quote shared by attendee Malena Botto in the last meeting.

"Perseverance and persistence give wings of vision and skill on which one takes flight to self-realization"



### Award-giving

APrIR awarded **a medal** and a **one- year membership** to graduates who achieved the highest total average in their teaching education programme. This year, the awards were received by:

### ISPI "San Bartolomé"

*Prof. de Inglés, Nivel Inicial y Primario*: Celina López Marull *Prof. de Inglés, Nivel Secundario*: Agustina Accurso

### IES "Olga Cossettini"

*Profesorado de Educ. Inicial y Primaria:* Prof. Laura Font *Profesorado de Educ. Secundaria:* Prof. Rocío Simó

Our congratulations go to these new colleagues.

### New service

As you probably remember, as from this year we have published the **list of active members on our website**:



This list was last updated in October. If you would like to **add contact information for prospective clients or employers** to be included in our next update, please fill in this form <a href="http://tinyurl.com/lgtpqnq">http://tinyurl.com/lgtpqnq</a>

http://www.aprir.org.ar/socios-activos

# November: End of Year Party 2015



On November 26th, as from 8 pm we're having our traditional get-together.

We've booked the cozy Georgia Coffee Bar (Santa Fe 2018) only for us



### Do **join us** for some fun, some food, some music and a toast! And **bring your friends** along!

Members \$150

Non-members \$200

Get your **tickets in advance** from your colleagues in the Committee. Or buy them online <u>https://eventioz.com.ar/e/end-of-year-party-2015</u>

### New year, new home!

We are now settling into our **new premises**, generously granted to us by **ARCI**, **Asociación Rosarina de Cultura Inglesa**, and will be resuming our office hours in 2016.

We would like to express our **gratitude to ARCI** for being so accommodating to our needs and for giving us such a warm welcome.





APrIR is greatly indebted to UCEL for hosting our office and sharing its facilities and infrastructure over the past two years. Their hospitality will linger long in our minds and hearts.

## Keeping in touch

All our emails are stored in our **Google Group**, which can be accessed from a tab in the **APrIR website** <u>www.aprir.org.ar</u> If you have not yet subscribed to <u>http://groups.google.com/group/aprir</u> please request access asap! If you are not sure whether you are a member, check the link and see if you have missed any of our updates.



Are you a Director of Studies? Contact us to find out how your institution can also support APrIR. Write to <u>secretaria@aprir.org.ar</u>

### **Contact information**

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