

Síntesis de actividades.

APRIR 2012: A year in review.

Comisión Directiva APRIR.

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Asociación de Profesores de Inglés de Rosario

Summary 2012

December 29th, 2012

Dear colleagues,

Mixed feelings have characterised **2012**, and as the year draws to a close we would like to recount the **main events** that have involved our Association.



Happy 100th.
Birthday!

Around one year ago we embarked on a fund raiser to better celebrate the **100th birthday of Miss Delia Redoano** on January 9th. Teachers of several generations wrote cards which we were happy to forward to Miss Redoano and through the donations we were able to purchase some gifts to brighten her day. As we said then, we feel that in honouring Miss Redoano, **one of the Founding Teachers** who came from Buenos Aires in the 1930's to start the programme of Profesorado en Inglés, we have honoured the whole of the teaching profession. Miss Redoano will be turning 101 on **January 9th**. In a recent visit at the nursing home where she lives, she mentioned that she treasured the folder with our letters, notes and photographs. Should anyone like to write to her, please contact APrIR for her address.



February surprised us with the passing of **Prof. Ana María Armendáriz** after a long period of declining health. The ELT community in Argentina joined to say goodbye to one of its leading figures.



March brought us together for the first academic event of the year, **Prof. Florencia Viale's** talk *Weaving paintings and language in the EFL kindergarten classroom*.

This was followed in **April** by a workshop by **Prof. Ma. Cristina Thomson de Grondona White** centred upon the art and craft of storytelling, *Sit down and tell them a story!*, which was held twice since the audience outnumbered the limitations of a workshop.



Then APrIR held its **Annual General Meeting**, with the presentation of the **Annual Report** (available from <http://www.aprir.org.ar/estatuto-y-memorias>) and the audited **Financial Statement**. This was followed by the election of the **Executive Committee 2012-2014**: **Prof. Graciela Castelli** was re-elected as President, and we were happy to welcome new members **Prof. Carina Strappa** and **Prof. María del Carmen Bonilla**. Our **gratitude and recognition** goes to **Prof. Leda Siburu** and **Prof. María Rosario Di Monaco** for their many years' supportive work as members of the EC, which they decided to leave as they embraced other personal projects.

Also in **April** President Graciela Castelli and member Prof. Beatriz Solina participated in **FAAPI's Annual General Meeting**, where new members were elected for some of the positions in the FAAPI Executive Committee. The authorities also presented the Federation's renewed website www.faapi.org.ar, and **APrIR received congratulations** on the communication maintained with its members and sister associations.



In **May** Prof. Mariel Amez offered the talk *Writing in the digital classroom*, inspired by the British Council Summer School 2012 for which she had been selected last February.

But then **our hearts sank** with the news of the untimely demise of **Prof. Dr. Daniel Fernández**, recently re-elected as **FAAPI EC President**. Renowned lecturer, researcher and teacher, Daniel was also a close friend, former teacher or work colleague to many teachers all over the country. APrIR's public tribute was published at <http://www.aprir.org.ar/anuncios/inmemoriamdrdanielfernandez>

June and July were hectic months. Academically, Prof. Patricia Zorio offered the workshop *Drama Activities to prepare students for the oral component in international exams*.

On a more practical note, this was the time when **our office moved house**. It was not an easy decision to make,



and definitely not one we made lightly but appraising the best

interests of our members. We would like to express our heartfelt **thanks to UCEL authorities (particularly Patricia Hernández)** for welcoming us on their premises.

At the new headquarters **Mariana Zárate** (selected from a group of Profesorado students who applied) began her **internship** helping with administrative issues. We would

also like to **thank Celina Burguener** for her collaboration over several years.



In **August** we became acquainted with the Green Paper regarding access to tenure and substitutions in State education (**Proyecto de Sistema único de ponderación de antecedentes y Reglamentos de concursos**) and bearing in mind the comments received from members concerning earlier tenure legislation and its application we produced a set of considerations we shared with our members and followers during the period of union deliberations at schools, and **handed to AMSAFE's Committee members**. Parallely, we contacted **ASPI Santa Fe**, who welcomed our suggestion of making a **joint presentation** to the Ministry of Education. In what we believe was an all-time first, the two Teacher Associations in the province submitted our thoughts on the government's project to the **Ministry of Education**.

In addition, we organised two events in Spanish: the workshop *Calidad vocal del docente como profesional de la voz. Estrategias para una voz sana y plena*, by **Fga. Bibiana Sánchez**,



and the introductory talk *Conozca su personalidad y mejore sus vínculos desde el Eneagrama* by **Ps. Claudio R. Pereyra**, which later developed into a series of workshops for a reduced number of participants.



September was the time to celebrate **Teacher's Day and APRI's anniversary**. Following **Prof. Julieta de Zavalía's** talk *La democracia en el aula*, members and friends shared lunch at St. Patrick's canteen. Entertainment was provided by the band Riordan and some senior teachers were paid homage to: **Prof. Nora Séculi**, our Honorary President, **Prof. Mary de la Vega**, one of APRI's founders, and **Prof. Martha Benetti**, who would soon be settling in Perú to join her family.



As usual, September was also the time for the **FAAPI Conference**. Organised by **APIZALS** in the idyllic San Martín de los Andes, it brought together teachers and specialists from Argentina and English-speaking countries under the theme **"Engaging, Inspiring, Empowering: Research on Motivation and Autonomy in ELT"**. The following APRI members delivered papers and/or workshops at the Conference: **Mariel Amez, Carla Raguseo, Viviana Valenti and Florencia Viale**. Carla Raguseo did so under the newly established **"First-Time FAAPI Speaker Scholarship"**, a new APRI initiative inspired by **APIBA's** model, which went some way to covering travelling expenses.



Under the terms of the Scholarship, **Prof. Raguseo** presented her paper *Using Blogs and Wikis to teach Writing as a Process* in Rosario in **October** and produced a **report** we shared in our newsletter, and which can also be found in our website <http://www.aprir.org.ar/anuncios/conferencereports>.



In **October** (IES "O. Cossetini) and **November** (ISP "B. Houssay) APriR was pleased to award **a medal and membership for 2012** to graduates who achieved the highest total average in their teaching education programme. This year, the awards were received by:

Prof. de Inglés, Nivel Inicial y Primario: **Nerina Gobbi**

Prof. de Inglés, Nivel Secundario: **Gabriela Racca** and **Constanza Ramos**

We **welcome** them and all the other **teachers** who have **joined** our Association this year!



In **November**, the closing academic activity of the year was the session by **Prof. Nora Séculi**, our Honorary President, about "*Female Characters in Dickens's World*", which, at our request, was **featured in the international website** <http://www.dickens2012.org/event/female-characters-dickenss-world> that celebrates the bicentenary of Dickens's birth. Previous to the talk, members old and new shared a **tea-tasting gathering** where anecdotes enjoyed pride of place. On that occasion we started distributing the long awaited issue of **The APriR Journal**, published without any

advertisements. On detecting a number of inaccuracies, however, we had to interrupt distribution momentarily but it **will soon be in your hands**.

Throughout the year, **APriR members** have had **free access** to most of the activities we organized and have benefited from **discounts** when attending professional development events organized by **E-dutrainig** <http://www.e-dutrainig.com/>, **Move Up** <http://www.moveup.com.ar/> and the **Anglia Ascantis International Congress** <http://www.angliaexams.com/international-congress.php>. **PRO-T Conference organizers** <http://www.pro-t.com.ar/> offered a free pass to a member of APriR for each of the three conferences held in February, in Buenos Aires, Córdoba and Mendoza, though unfortunately no colleague applied. **Buenos Aires Players** has recently awarded a free pass for their **Conference on Applied Drama next February** <http://congress.baplayers.com/>, which was claimed by **Florencia Viale**

Members of the **APriR EC** were invited to participate in the **anniversary celebrations** organised by **ISPI "San Bartolomé"** and to talk to teachers-to-be about the importance of becoming a member of the Association. We also received invitations to attend the performances of **Buenos Aires Players** in Rosario and to publicise our activities during the *Teaching Grown Ups V: Beyond the Traditional Class* seminar organised by **Move Up**.



We would like to **thank** all the above mentioned **institutions** for their **consideration** and **support**.

We have issued **seven newsletters** (downloadable from <http://aprir.org.ar/newsletters-2012>) and **forwarded** details of conferences, calls for papers, news from the Ministry of Education, and useful materials to our members and the ELT community through our online **Info Services** (see archive at <https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#!forum/aprir>), **Facebook page** <http://www.facebook.com/pages/APriR/127774673899632> and **Twitter account** <http://twitter.com/aprir>. Because we believe in the power of **networking**, we have made a point of sharing news involving **Teachers' Associations** who are **FAAPI affiliates**, as well as, of course, **FAAPI** itself.



We have also tried to spread the word about the many **achievements** of our **members**, though we fear we may have missed some. We encourage you once again to fill in this form <http://tinyurl.com/events-aprir-members> or drop us a line at info@aprir.org.ar so we can all rejoice in your success. We would like to remind you of some:

- ✚ **Prof. Cecilia Acquarone** achieved her **PhD in English Philology Summa Cum Laude** from UNED (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia – Spain).
- ✚ **Prof. Florencia Viale** presented *Storytelling and storymaking: paving the way for literacy at kindergarten* at **IATEFL's 46th Conference in Glasgow**.
- ✚ **Prof. Verónica de la Encina** was appointed **Principal at Instituto Superior “San Bartolomé”**
- ✚ **Prof. Mariel Amez** took part in the panel *English and New Technologies: Teacher Development* at the **Cartagena Policy Dialogues by invitation of the British Council Colombia**
- ✚ **Prof. Rita Zeinstejer** was **invited** to present *Honing EFL Students' Skills for Cultural Trips using GOOGLE APPS* in the first annual **Google Apps for Education Latin America Summit** at the American School Foundation, **Mexico City**.

We started by saying **2012 has been a year of mixed feelings**. On the same note, as we summarise our achievements, we remain aware of how much more we could have offered if only there were more hours to the day, if only there were more hands to make work lighter...

Remember **any organization is only as strong as its membership**, so if you are not yet a member, why don't you consider **joining in 2013**? If you already are, bear in mind the EC is just a group of volunteers who try to take the lead for the betterment of our professional community, but **all members are welcome to put forward ideas and projects and to engage actively in carrying them out**. As you make your New Year resolutions, stop to consider **how YOU can make APriR grow!**



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

Take pride in belonging.

**Please note our office will remain closed during January,
but we will be keeping in touch online.**

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