

NEWS

MLS Faculty & Students Meet to Discuss the Future of the BA in English

On September 4th, some professors and students attended a meeting held by the Oficina de Planificación Universitaria (OPLAU), at the Roberto Murillo Auditorium, LE, as part of the process to re-accredit the BA in English.

During this session, professors and students contributed to the definition of three pillars: the vision, mission and values. These three constants may endure throughout the next five years so that the major of English can turn its weaknesses into strengths and make wiser use of its strengths.

Among the opinions that agitat-

ed the most were the voices of students requesting for a degree that notes their chosen field of emphasis. With this, they consider they could have a competitive edge over other graduates from private institutions, who undergo study programs that demand less than 3 years in college and earn a BA in English Translation, for example.

They, also, suggested to open an apprenticeship program so that future students find a route that helps them to land a more solid occupation upon graduating. Many other majors at the UCR already offer similar programs such as BA of Science -Mass Communication, BA in Agronomy, BA in

Odontology, and others.

On the other hand, professors were concerned about the need for technological input and infrastructure. To which many considerations unfold after. Prior investing in high-tech, the school must plan having proper workshops for the use of these resources and impelling those Luddite ones to action-taking.

Also, many professors strongly agreed, the academic level of excellency the School of Modern Languages counts on today results from the in-depth study in literature as a mean that help students for the fully understanding of a foreign culture and language. "We prepare future

humanists, not only prepare people to become bilingual," said professor Patricia Barquero.

To date, more meetings will be held in order to discuss the future of the MLS and most importantly, to accomplish the re-accreditation of the BA in English. Students and faculty are highly encouraged to participate and expose their interests and suggestions.

For more information about coming meetings contact professor Alonso Canales, Accreditation's project manager, or visit the Acreditación BA Inglés UCR facebook page.

By G.Cocozza.

North Carolina Children Learn Folk Stories in Spanish

Many children at the Frank Porter Graham Elementary School, North Carolina, soon, will find within their Spanish booklets a collection of short stories written by Maria Leach, and translated into Spanish by undergraduate students of the B.A of English, currently enrolled at the University of Costa Rica.

The translated pieces resulted from the course of Translation II, which was taught during the second term, 2013. Professor Geanette Soto, member of the Translation Studies Department, explains that the idea emerged from the particular fact that despite Leach had found in the Latin American lands an inspiration for her writing, a Spanish version had never been issued before. "I thought that it would be interesting to have them available in our mother tongue," she adds.

Maria Leach was raised in Brooklyn, New York, and later she became a Barrington, Nova Sco-

tia based folklorist and editor. Her most distinguished work includes a large number of childrens' stories, which usually discuss themes about the traditional life aspects of the descendent Latin American and American tribes. Also, her role as an editor in the creation of a dictionary, named *Funk & Wagnalls Standard Dictionary of Folklore, Mythology, and Legend*, greatly contributed to her fame. This book first published on September, 1984 compiles a valuable source for all those interested to deepen beneath a folk story.

Professor Soto has led this initiative, together

with an ESL instructor established in this bilingual and public institution. Both have coordinated from distance in order to include those readings within the Arts & Language Program.

Yet the project is on the way, the most important task is complete. During class time, the professor assigned the short stories as a portion of the final grade. Considering that after two months of translating texts with similar length, the main challenge this time for students was that they were required to contemplate actual readers.

In this instance, the short stories were trans-



The past November 2013, the FGPB held a Book Fair. The Spanish staff welcomed the little ones to its books stand.



Children gathered at the Frank Porter Graham Bilingüe School library for some reading time during a book fair.

lated into Spanish for children who learn it as a second language. The folk stories portray the innocence of children, and the parents' methods to instill values and beliefs, through the telling of scary and charming narratives of mythological creatures and supernatural events.

Just like the popular local myths and legends of La Llorona and La Cegua, most of them were practiced orally, and their continuing existence depended upon the tellers. However, having the opportunity to read a story set in a Guatemalan aboriginal context, and told by the perceptions of a foreigner represent a fascinating experience. It is not only an input to

the work of literature or the preservation of their traditions, but also an example of an individual who has discovered distinct, but particularly appealing forms of life.

So far, Frank Porter Graham instructors have encouraged their students to read in Spanish, but this will be the first experience reading translated Latin American folklore literature. Meanwhile the teaching body moves forward to the arrangement of syllabus, Prof. Soto has shown her interest in publishing this work in the *Letras* magazine. As for a long-term goal, she aims to seek for an editorial so that the stories will be available at stores.

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