

THE CONGRESS

Escenario *Un atril, un poster del congreso, mesa, sillas, teclado, presentación Power Point, pantalla cañón, CD con aplausos y música ambiental).*

(Sólo luces superiores escenario)

HOSTESS MARINA: Your attention, please, your attention, please: The lecture “Holograms to teach Interculturality” is taking place in the Conference Hall within 5 minutes. We beg punctuality to all the members of the congress.

(Iluminar parte delantera del escenario) Marina, una de las azafatas, coloca el atril, el poster, revisa las conexiones, micrófonos...hace señales para que cierren las puertas, para que conecten el foco. Foco al atril)

HOSTESS MARTA: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. First of all, welcome to the 16th Congress on Information and Technology. We have just enjoyed the Opening Ceremony and now the first lecture is about an experiment carried out in the south of Spain by the well-known Professor Galveston and Dr. Warwick. *(Las científicas están junto al atril, mientras se oyen aplausos enlatados en un CD. Helen más cerca, a su lado Patricia)*

HOSTESS: This is Professor Helen Galveston from Harvard University. She is a computer engineer and is well-known for her work on education programmes. And this is Doctor Patricia Warwick from Yale University. She is a telecommunications engineer and an expert in the field of computer networks and in the use of holography. They have been working together for five years on the experiment they are presenting us today. Doctor Warwick, Professor Galveston, as you please.

HELEN: Good morning. It’s a pleasure for us to take part in this congress every year. We thank the organizers for inviting us to come. This year our lecture is about an education experiment using new technology.

Well, let me tell you how this experiment started: Five years ago the Education Delegate of the local Government in Cordoba contacted me to develop a computer programme on cultural aspects of the town. The education programme consists of a series of recordings about famous Cordovan people from different cultures and religions. These contents explain the historical and cultural splendor of the city in Roman, Visigoth, Arab and Christian times. From the X to the XIII centuries Córdoba was the biggest city in the world. There was no separation between wisdom and faith, between East and West. Special emphasis is made on how three different cultures (Muslim, Jew and Christian) coexisted in peace from the eighth to the twelfth centuries. This project is launched on the year when Córdoba has been named as European City of Culture 2016. These recordings are played on an interactive screen, but the innovation is that the images can be produced by means of holography. But I think my colleague Patricia can explain this part better than me.

PATRICIA: A hologram is a recorded image that appears three dimensional. Holography was invented in 1947 by Hungarian physicist Dennis Gabor, for which he received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1971. I think the best way to understand this concept is by watching a hologram. *(dirigiéndose a la persona encargada de la iluminación).* Switch on the light, please. *(Se ilumina la parte trasera del escenario. Se ve a un grupo de estudiantes alrededor de una mesa inmóviles delante de un ordenador; la azafata le entrega a Patricia el mando a distancia).* The children you can see behind us are not real people, they are a hologram, it’s a 3D image produced by laser lights and using different types of waves. For example, if I press the fast forward button, you can realize that this is just a recording. *(Los estudiantes se mueven rápidamente).* Let’s pause it for a second *(Los estudiantes se quedan quietos nuevamente)* in order to explain what you are watching.

HELEN: This group of students are from Blas Infante Secondary School in Córdoba, in the south of Spain. They were invited to take part in the experiment of this interactive programme and they were recorded while they were doing their homework at school.

PATRICIA: In these homework sessions students had the possibility of using the interactive screen to get extra information about topics related to their town. All they had to do was to type a word and the screen projected a hologram of the character involved in the topic, so they’d understand it better.

HELEN: As the monitor is opposite the children and you cannot see what is on it, we will display the images on the big screen above us. *(Se enciende la pantalla y se ve: Córdoba: a history of peaceful coexistence).* Notice that

now what children are viewing on the screen is just the name of the programme. But let's watch how it works (*le hace una seña a Patricia para que le dé al play*)
(Los estudiantes (CARMEN, LUCIA, CLAUDIA, TAMARA) están haciendo los deberes menos Lucía, que está pensando en las musarañas)

CARMEN: What are you doing, Lucía? We have to start this machine.

LUCÍA: I know, I know... I was just thinking about what kind of words we can type on this machine.

TAMARA: We were told to write anything we wanted.

LUCÍA: Anything?? Let's test it. Tell me a word, Claudia (*Claudia está limpiando las gafas*)

CLAUDIA: A word... OK. Glasses.

LUCÍA: Type "glasses", Claudia.

MANU: Do you think glasses has something to do with Cordova?

CLAUDIA: Let's see . G- L- A- S-S- E -S (*Aparece la palabra en pantalla e inmediatamente Al-Gafequi*)

1. AL-GAFEQUI: I am Mohamed Al-Gafequi, I was an Arab ophthalmologist. I was born in Córdoba. I lived in the 12th century. At that age I was able to operate eye cataract and to treat eye illnesses. People say the Spanish word "gafas" meaning "glasses" comes from my name but I never knew any kind of glasses.

CLAUDIA: Wowwwwww! That's amazing!!!

LUCÍA: Awesome!

TAMARA: I just can't believe it!

CARMEN: Why don't we start with the History project now?

TAMARA: Yes, that's a good idea! Lucía, take out the outline! Lucía!!!!

(Lucía está embobada mirando una foto de ella con un chico)

LUCÍA: ...Eh? Look girls, this is me with Jesús, isn't he handsome?

CLAUDIA: What are you doing, Lucía? You know we are being recorded, don't you?

LUCÍA: Never mind. He is gorgeous, so cool!

CARMEN: Let me see, oh yes, he is very good-looking indeed, which class is he in?

LUCÍA: No, Jesús is not at Blas Infante, he studies at Séneca Secondary School.

TAMARA: (pensando en alto) Séneca Secondary School..., Séneca..., who was Séneca?

CARMEN: I don't know really. He might have been some relevant person.

TAMARA: Oh yeah... and the project outline says we should look for an interesting biography in our city. Let's try if this machine works out something useful for us!

CLAUDIA: That's a good idea! I am going to type this name and see what happens.

EVERYBODY: Yes, type Séneca.

CLAUDIA: S-E-N-E-C-A

(*Aparece la palabra en pantalla e inmediatamente Séneca.*)

2. SÉNECA: I am Lucius Anneus Seneca. I was born in Córdoba 4 years before Christ. The Roman Empire ruled The Iberian Peninsula at that time. I was a famous Stoic philosopher. I had a very varied, rich and open education. I studied in Rome, Egypt, and Greece. I had an open and tolerant character. I had to exile to Corsica because some people envied me. I was Nero's tutor, counselor and minister. When I lost Nero's favour, I was forced to commit suicide. As an Stoic, I was a calm and strong person facing misfortune.

CARMEN: Wowwwwww! That man looked real!!!

LUCÍA: This is better than I thought!!

TAMARA: How an interesting person Séneca was!

CLAUDIA: There is another Secondary School in Córdoba with a famous person's name.

LUCÍA: Yes, Averroes. Wasn't he a Roman philosopher, too?

CLAUDIA: I don't think so. I am searching the programme: A-V-E-R-R-O-E-S

TAMARA: This is incredible!

3. AVERROES: I am Averroes. I was born in Córdoba in 1126. I was a judge and a doctor at Al-Manzur's court. I was best known as a philosopher. I interpreted and spread Aristotle within the Jewish and Christian world. My enemies forced me into exile.

CLAUDIA: Well, they had similar lives but he was a Muslim and he lived 11 centuries later.

LUCÍA: What about Maimonides, Jesús' friend studies at Maimonides Secondary School.

TAMARA: I don't think we can find this name in the programme.

CLAUDIA: Come on. We don't have anything to lose. Let me type: M-...

CARMEN: No, Claudia. You are always typing! Let me type it now.

CLAUDIA: OK

CARMEN: **M-A-I-M-O-N-I-D-E-S**

4. MAIMONIDES: I am Maimonides. I was born in Córdoba in 1135. I was the most famous Jewish doctor, rabbi and theologian from the Middle Ages. I adapted Aristotle's philosophy to the Jewish religion. I lived happily in a Córdoba of religious tolerance under Muslim rule. Jews and Muslims had very good relationships at that time. Córdoba was the world centre for Judaism. But when the Almohades came to Córdoba I had to negate my faith and emigrate until I settled in Egypt, where I became Saladin's doctor.

CARMEN: Oh, another philosopher! Very similar lives!

TAMARA: Yes, and he lived in the same century as Averroes.

LUCÍA: But he was a Jewish. How interesting! People from many cultures and religions coexisted in our city so many centuries ago!

CLAUDIA: (suena el timbre) What a pity!

CARMEN: No more holograms for today!!

(Patricia pausa la grabación y los estudiantes se quedan quietos. Se oscurece la mesa de los alumnos y se aprovecha para cambiar el grupo de estudiantes. Se enfoca a las ponentes)

HELEN: Let's see another group of students (el grupo de alumnos ya ha cambiado)

Jose: It is time for the Drama project.

SARA: I want to try this programme. Lucía and Tamara said this is wonderful.

ESTHER: Oh, yes. I heard we can see people as if they were real. What can we ask about?

MARINA: Well, our teacher told us to look for characters for our play. They should be famous people related to Córdoba.

SARA: Good idea. Let's look for important Christian people, let's type "bishop".

JOSE: OK, let me see. B-I-S-H-O-P. Oh my God!

5. OSSIUS: I am Bishop Osius. I was born in Córdoba in 257. I was a well-known and influential Christian bishop. I was tortured and exiled by Emperors Dioclecianus and Constancius. I influenced Emperor Constantine's conversion to Christianity. I made big efforts for the ecclesiastical unity and the harmony between Church and Empire.

SARA: This is absolutely great. He seems to be real!

ESTHER: Osius is interesting to be included in our play!

JOSE: Yes, of course. He will be one of our characters.

MARINA: Come on, I want to include a woman poet in the play. Can you think about anyone?

ESTHER: I think we can have a look at the computer programme.

SARA: I am excited. Let me type: W-O-M-A-N P-O-E-T

6. WALLADA: I am Wallada al-Mustakfi. I was born in Córdoba in 994. My father was an Omeyan Caliph. I taught literature to young girls. As you can see, I have blond fair, blue eyes and light skin. I dare to show my face freely in front of men. Many people were jealous of me for being intelligent, educated and proud. They thought I was a "bad" woman. I embroidered my verses in my dresses' sleeves and took part in men's competitions to finish poems. I had a quite turbulent relationship with the poet Ibn Zaydun. The Hands Monument in Córdoba was built in our honour.

SARA: This is unbelievable.

ESTHER: Wallada was such an interesting princess!

JOSE: Now let's forget about the play. We have to fill in this blank map for tomorrow.

MARINA: Yes, I know. Let's use the internet to place the American countries. *(todos sacan los mapas mudos de América)*

ESTHER: But Jose, turn the map up, don't you see it is upside down?

JOSE: I read Africa was represented to the north in some maps.

MARINA: This is nonsense.

SARA: Let's check if there is some information about this in this programme.

U-P-S-I-D-E D-O-W-N M-A-P-S

MARINA: I can't believe it!

7. AL-IDRISI: I am Muhammad Al-Idrisi. I was born in 1099. I was educated in Cordova. I was an important geographer and a cartographer. The Norman king of Palermo asked me to make a new world map. The world map I made contained Europe, Africa and Asia. It did not have America. It was not discovered until 300 years later. My map had Africa to the North and Europe to the south, it was "upside down". The compass did not exist, the reference to sail was the sun and it rises to the east. Despite the king of Palermo was considered an enemy of Islam, I tried to look for peace and understanding to be able to carry out my job as a cartographer. Some of my Muslim intellectuals did not understand me.

JOSE: I told you! I knew upside down maps existed. I was only doing it Al-Idrisi's way.

MARINA: Don't be cheeky!

ESTHER: That is enough. I want to know something about the Castilian king Alfonso the Wise. I saw him in the Calahorra Museum as a character from the Three Cultures that coexisted in Córdoba until the XIII century.

SARA: Yes, stop arguing you two. Type for Alfonso X.

ESTHER: **A-L-F-O-N-S-O X T-H-E W-I-S-E**

8. ALFONSO X, THE WISE. I am Alfonso X. I was known as Alfonso the Wise. I was born in 1221. I was not born in Córdoba but in my court I gathered the best investigators and translators from Christian, Muslim and Jewish religion. We translated into Spanish the Bible, the Koran and the Talmud among others. This helped the transmission of eastern culture to the Christian western world.

HELEN: To end the lecture I want to point out that if this coexistence and tolerance took place in a country and in a city in the past, although for a short time, we can also make it possible today.

PATRICIA: We hope you have enjoyed the experiment and have realized how many possibilities this new computer programme has in any field. We kindly ask you to give our emails (They're now on the screen) to all your colleagues and friends who may be interested in this education programme ...or in the use of holograms. Thank you

(Mientras se oyen los aplausos Helen y Patricia salen del escenario. La azafata sale a escena y los emails aparecen en pantalla)

HOSTESS: Thank you very much for your attention. Now ten minutes for a coffee break and next lecture is taking place here, in the Conference Hall, at 11:30. In case you are interested in the Internet workshops, they start at 12 in Brookling meeting room. Thank you.

(Se apaga el foco del atril, la azafata se va hacia atrás. Sólo queda iluminada la pantalla con el logo del congreso))