
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 17 NOVEMBER 2010

Ganbei!! China Embraces English Language

In an effort to promote internationalism, China is learning [English](#). In the next five years, all state employees younger than 40 will be required to master at least 1,000 English phrases, and all schools will begin teaching English in [kindergarten](#). The government also is funding extensive teacher training programs to find new models for language learning and develop new textbooks.

Science and Teacher Training Are On ELL Chief's Agenda

Rosalinda B. Barrera, the new director of the U.S. Department of Education's office of English-language acquisition, plans to use the "bully pulpit" of her office to draw national attention to the need for English-learners to receive high-quality science instruction.

Mobiles ring changes for oral Irish exam

STUDENTS could be allowed to use mobile phones as part of the Junior Certificate Irish test to how well they can speak the language. Instead of sitting down formally with an examiner, they would instead speak Irish into the phones and be marked on what they said. A pilot study called FON found that students were much more relaxed recording conversation into phones than facing adult examiners.

Chinese language classes for Danish kids

Danish children need to start learning Chinese, since China could soon become one of Denmark's biggest export markets, according to education minister Tina Nedergaard. The minister's views are supported by companies, councils and even the opposition, who all agree that Chinese should become an official school subject at the same level as French and German.

UAlbany faculty senate blasts language cuts

The University at Albany faculty senate voted on three resolutions that condemned the school's decision to phase out five majors. The senate vote does not have any binding authority, but it will be considered by UAlbany President [George Philip](#) before the final decision to suspend admissions to the French, Russian, Italian, classics and theater departments, spokesman [Karl Luntta](#) said. "The vote is advisory to the president," he said. "All comments are important to us."

Foreign Language Classes for Adults Grow in Popularity

Dozens of adults in our area are going back to school -- not to learn a new trade or job but a new language. It's a growing trend among local businesses to have their employees become bilingual for work. "Bano, bano, crenotare, crenotare," a class recites. It's an Italian class -- basic Italian -- for adults offered at St. Norbert College in De Pere. Nearly 100 people are learning a dozen different languages right now -- some for fun or to learn family heritage, but a growing number of students, like Andrew Bomstad, are doing it for work.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Your brain on culture

When an American thinks about whether he is honest, his brain activity looks very different than when he thinks about whether another person is honest, even a close relative. That's not true for Chinese people. When a Chinese man evaluates whether he is honest, his brain activity looks almost identical to when he is thinking about whether his mother is honest. That finding — that American and Chinese brains function

differently when considering traits of themselves versus traits of others (*Neuroimage*, Vol. 34, No. 3) — supports behavioral studies that have found that people from collectivist cultures, such as China, think of themselves as deeply connected to other people in their lives, while Americans adhere to a strong sense of individuality.

College Board to revive its AP test in Italian

The College Board announced on Wednesday the revival of the Advanced Placement test in Italian, setting the stage for a renaissance in the study of the language of Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci in U.S. high schools. The program will be reinstated in fall 2011; the first tests will be given in spring 2012. The [College Board](#) eliminated AP Italian in a broader purge of four poorly enrolled AP tests in 2008 and 2009, the first substantial retrenchment in AP's five decades. Tests in Italian, Latin literature, French literature and computer science AB each attracted only a few thousand students a year, compared with hundreds of thousands in such popular subjects as U.S. history and English literature.

Campuses Report Early Indication That Study Abroad is Rising

A new survey by the Institute of International Education (IIE) and the Forum on Education Abroad has found that study abroad by U.S. college students was on the rise in 2009/10, after experiencing a slight downturn the previous year. After reporting decades of steady growth, reaching a high of 262,416 students studying abroad in 2007/08, IIE's *Open Doors* report showed that study abroad by U.S. students had decreased by just less than 1 percent for the 2008/09 academic year, when 260,327 students studied abroad for academic credit at their home institution.

The World Beyond Reach

Throughout my career, I have observed that the advanced study of languages is not universally valued in the American educational system. Even so, I was stunned by the announcement this fall that the State University of New York at Albany will eliminate major, minor, and graduate programs in French, Italian, Russian, and the classics (the German program was already reduced), along with theater. When financial exigencies hit, decisions to cut services and programs (and not just academic ones) must be made, but the Albany plan is astoundingly draconian: No European languages except Spanish will be taught beyond the early semesters, and 10 tenure-line faculty members will be let go.

Cuts To University's Humanities Program Draw Outcry

Public colleges and universities across the country are under the gun as state budgets face huge shortfalls. Universities are now ending low-enrollment programs and increasing class size. The State University of New York has had to cut \$640 million from its budget, and the president of its Albany campus recently announced the suspension of five humanities programs, including French, Italian, Russian, classics and theater. "None of us accepted that it was something that a university could do and still call itself a university," Wills said. "This is not a university if you only have one non-English European language program left standing."

Central students walk to raise money for Language Lab

At Central Catholic High School, students take French and Spanish classes, but the language lab is so small it makes recording and listening inefficient. On Friday, the 1,340 students and 100 faculty members will walk 2.5 miles through downtown Lawrence with the goal of raising the \$120,000 needed to build a digital language learning laboratory.

New women's affairs director sets goals for Paktika

The Paktika Provincial Reconstruction Team's female engagement team conducted their first meeting with Hala Hushawa, Paktika's new director of women's affairs, here Nov. 7. Through questions, explanations and laughter, members of the FET established a relationship with Hushawa and learned how the PRT can assist her in meeting the needs of Paktika's females.

Brig. Gen. Belinda Pinckney: Why Diversity Is Critical to Engagement

Nine years after 9/11 and nearly as many years into simultaneous wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the battlefields the United States faces today are "in our backyard," leading to significant security challenges

for the country. Pinckney said there are three major issues that endanger the nation's ability to meet those challenges: shortages in language and cultural skills, poor education levels and inadequate health and healthcare, particularly mental healthcare.

Excellence and Innovation in Language Learning Act (H.R. 6036)

The Asia Society and the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages is inviting school district superintendents to support the *Excellence and Innovation in Language Learning Act (H.R. 6036)*. This legislation would allow every young American student to become proficient in a second language, in addition to English, within a generation. A sample copy of a letter of support is available by clicking [here](#). In addition, a summary of H.R. 6036 is available [here](#).

Language politics and policy in the United States: implications for the immigration debate

Is there a role for language policy in immigration policy? This article examines recent attempts to legislate language in light of historical and contemporary debates about immigration and immigrant assimilation. It chronicles U.S. language politics and policy, and then appraises national language and official English bills recently introduced in Congress in view of data on language usage and preferences, suggesting ways that the current resurgence of a national debate about language could and should impact the larger debate about immigration. Abstract Is there a role for language policy in immigration policy? This article examines recent attempts to legislate language in light of historical and contemporary debates about immigration and immigrant assimilation. It chronicles U.S. language politics and policy, and then appraises national language and official English bills recently introduced in Congress in view of data on language usage and preferences, suggesting ways that the current resurgence of a national debate about language could and should impact the larger debate about immigration.

First US Sikh soldier completes training with faith intact

Thanks to his Punjabi and Hindi language skills, 26-year old Simran Preet Singh Lamba has become the first Sikh soldier in the US army in two decades to complete basic training without giving up articles of his faith. Recruited in 2009 through the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) programme for his language skills, Lamba Wednesday completed basic training keeping his turban and unshorn hair at Fort Jackson outside Columbia. "I am thrilled to serve with my fellow soldiers and serve the United States of America," said Lamba, who has become a US citizen.