
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 21 DECEMBER 2010

IU establishes Swahili Flagship program for undergraduate education

The College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University Bloomington today announced the establishment of an undergraduate Swahili Flagship program, to be led by Alwiya Omar, clinical associate professor in the Department of Linguistics. The Swahili Flagship, with a three-year grant of \$600,000, will be IU's second such advanced language program, joining the [Chinese Flagship](#) that was begun in 2008. It will be only the second African Languages Flagship in the nation.

Top Countries for Expat Families

According to a recent survey by **HSBC Bank International**, children living abroad [benefit from better education, higher safety levels and improved health and well-being](#). These little ones are also more likely to learn a foreign language (84%), play more sports (47%) and spend additional time with their families (53%). The downside for families is that the cost of childcare and expense of raising kids is likely to increase with a move to another country.

New Russian Flagship Center: University of Wisconsin-Madison

UW-Madison Russian Flagship Program is an innovative new undergraduate program that offers highly motivated students in any major the opportunity to reach a professional level of competence ([ACTFL Superior/ILR 3](#)) in Russian. The Russian Flagship Program increases students' opportunities to delve into Russian language and culture through intensive courses, more advanced courses, and more individual time with instructors and native speakers.

Female Engagement Team in Helmand Province

Video of life as part of a Female Engagement Team within the Helmand province.

After 4 Decades, Harvard Opens Door To ROTC

(Boston Globe)...Tracy Jan

Harvard University will welcome ROTC back to campus now that Congress has repealed a ban on gays and lesbians serving openly in the military, university president Drew Faust said.

Cherry Hill principal breaks down language barrier

When Joyce Kilmer Elementary School Principal Kwame Morton tried to help a new family adjust on the first day of school this year, it made him think back to when he was playing professional basketball for a team on Venezuela's Margarita Island. "I felt really out of place," he recalled. "I could not get the words right and communicate. I went to a fast-food restaurant and couldn't even explain that I needed ketchup." The memory came rushing back in September, when he discovered the new family -- who spoke only Spanish -- sitting outside his office after the first day of school had ended. "They were there seeking help in filling out all the paperwork we sent home," he said. "It made me reflect on my time in Venezuela and I thought, "Wow. Maybe we need to do something to make school more inclusive for our diverse families."

Science Fiction Meets Multicultural Communications

Video of Word Lens in use. Word Lens is a real-time translating app for the iPhone.

Word Lens iPhone app allows instant translation of foreign languages

A new [iPhone](#) app called Word Lens has been developed that instantly translates printed words from one language to another with a built-in video camera, in real time! Just by pointing the phone's camera at signs in foreign languages the [iPhone](#) app instantly translates text right in front of you. The app works

without an internet connection. The free-to-download app, which uses optical character recognition technology to translate words on the fly, gives you translation on the go: results appear immediately on your video screen when you need it, anywhere in the world.

Jibbigo Voice Translators Now Available for Android Devices

Mobile Technologies, LLC, developers of "Jibbigo," the leading iPhone apps for speech-to-speech foreign language translation, today announced that the top-selling voice translators are now available for Android devices through the Android Market. Users of Android devices now have access to the world's only voice translation app that functions without an internet or phone connection. Android users can now utilize Jibbigo translators to translate spoken language between English and any of the following languages: Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, German, French, Korean, Iraqi Arabic and Filipino (Tagalog).

PREVIOUS NEWS

Spanish classes thriving in U.S. colleges

Good news for those of us who want increasingly closer U.S. ties with Spanish-speaking countries: a new study shows that more U.S. college students are enrolling in Spanish classes than in any other foreign language. About 850,000 college students are taking Spanish, followed by 210,000 enrolled in French, 198,000 in German, 92,000 in American Sign Language, 74,000 in Japanese and 61,000 in Chinese. "Spanish continues to be the No. 1 language," MLA executive director Rosemary G. Feal said. "Almost 50 percent of all college enrollments in foreign languages are in Spanish."

Press Release: InCultureParent Magazine– for Parents Raising Little Global Citizens– Adds Two New Columns on Raising Bilingual Children

InCultureParent Magazine, for parents raising little global citizens, added two new language columns in December: Language Matters, explores language issues in bilingual and multilingual children and Ask a Linguist, is an advice column on raising bilingual children. Founder and CEO of the magazine, Stephanie Meade, explains, "Because there's no blueprint for bilingual families, much less information is available to them on how to raise bilingual children. These new columns will help support our readers on their language journey."

Top Apps for Holiday Travel: Word Lens Translates in Real-Time

You know the feeling. You're in a foreign country, but you haven't mastered the foreign language, and you just want a quick, easy way to translate signs and menus. An iPhone app released to Apple's App store Thursday now has a solution. Taking translation tools to a whole new level, [Word Lens](#) uses the iPhone's built in video camera to translate printed words in real-time. Just pull up the application and look at the words you want to translate through the iPhone. Instantaneously, the words appear on the screen in the language you understand. The application itself is free, but the in-app dictionaries cost \$4.99 each. At the moment, the app offers only Spanish to English and English to Spanish. (It's compatible with the iPhone 3Gs, the iPhone 4 and the iPod Touch with video camera.)

Can Google break the computer language barrier?

Ever since computers were a reality, the possibility of using their logistical power to break down barriers of language has been something of a holy grail in machine learning. The initial – unsuccessful – attempts were based on the principle that all languages could be distilled into two components: a lexicon of words with specific meanings, and a set of rules of grammar and syntax by which those words were linked together. The cold war prompted ambitious efforts by American intelligence agencies to understand the "code" of the Russian language on an industrial scale. It produced mostly gibberish.

Preschool Education: Talking is Teaching

Fifteen years ago, Betty Hart and Todd Risley from the University of Kansas published the definitive study about the importance of talking to children (*Meaningful Differences in the Everyday Lives of Young American Children*, Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., 1995). Their study demonstrated in a powerful way to the education community in America that there are enormous gaps in the amounts of talk heard by

children in professional, working-class, and welfare families. Hart and Risley found that by the age of 4, "an average child in a professional family would have accumulated experience with almost 45 million words, an average child in a working-class family would have accumulated experience with 26 million words, and an average child in a welfare family would have accumulated experience with 13 million words."

GiftedSpeech Gives Your Child the Gift of a Lifetime

In today's globalized world, foreign language skills are becoming increasingly important. Children under the age of 10 have an innate ability to absorb the words, sounds and intonations of languages – an ability that diminishes with age. While there are many options available to parents who want their children to learn a new language, none offer a complete interactive teaching solution. Interactive learning, also known as eLearning, is a superior way of teaching children new languages but the options present on the market today use only traditional teaching methods and cannot offer all the benefits a web-based education tool can.

Language Buddy™ Speech Translator for iPhone Now Supports Portuguese and Russian

Sakhr Software, a global leader in advanced Arabic language and education software solutions, today announced the availability of six additional languages supported by Language Buddy™ for the iPhone. This speech-activated translator application enables live, interactive English to French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish translations that enhances language learning, cultural exchange and foreign travel assistance. Users can speak or type any English sentence and view the foreign language translation in text form. The six newly enabled languages follow the successful 2009 launch of the award-winning Arabic Language Buddy for iPhone and iPod Touch.

English language has doubled in size in the last century

Researchers at Harvard University and Google found that the language was expanding by 8,500 words a year in the new millennium and now stands at 1,022,000 words. The rate of increase over the years is shown by the fact the language has grown by more than 70 per cent since 1950, according to the study. The previous half century it only grew by a tenth. But nearly half of the new words are not included in any dictionary and are dubbed lexical "dark matter". They are either slang or invented jargon.

Wyoming bill to eliminate foreign language mandate fails in committee

A bill that would have repealed state-mandated early foreign language education failed to gain a critical committee endorsement Thursday. Since 2002, school districts have been required to teach foreign language according to state standards in kindergarten through second grade. The spirit of the bill was to introduce foreign language instruction at an early age, when research shows students acquire it best. The bill failed in a 7-7 tie vote in a meeting of the Legislature's Joint Education Committee on Thursday in Casper. All but two of the committee's House members voted in favor of the bill, which was sponsored by the committee's incoming chairman, Rep. Matt Teeters, R-Lingle.

Some side benefits of learning both a foreign language and a foreign culture

How to listen to other people's stories and perspectives; How to operate in an environment of constant uncertainty; How to communicate without a solid common language; Not to take yourself too seriously; The limits of cross-cultural "expertise"; The importance of local relationships; How to learn about culture and language; The nature and unique dangers of translation; and How to speak clearly and directly.

School Board Focuses On World Language

The focus was on the world language department at the Dec. 8th Garden City Board of Education work session as trustees and public listened to a presentation led by Peter J. Giacalone, the department's district coordinator. Giacalone expressed dismay that world language is often not considered to be a core subject, on par with math, English, social studies and science. He says oftentimes students are taking a rigorous course load of Regents-level or above classes, and the attitude exhibited toward world language is that "something has to give," and in many cases the world language is considered expendable. "That's what we're struggling with as a department, to make people realize that language is just as important as anything else," he said.