
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 08 FEBRUARY 2011

Face of Defense: Uganda-born Army Officer Pursues Dreams

The 13th of 14 children raised by an Indian father and an African mother, D'costa was exiled to Austria at age 7 following Idi Amin's 1971 rise to power in Uganda. Two years later, he came to the United States and ultimately got into West Point on a third and final attempt, earning his commission in 1989. Now a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve, D'costa just completed a 10-month mobilization here as commander of 1st Battalion, 378th Infantry Regiment, a Lafayette, La.-based unit activated to augment basic combat training for the 192nd Infantry Brigade on Sand Hill.

Language Education: Preparing Chicago Public School Students for a Global Community

Chicago Public Schools convened a commission to better understand bilingual education and world language programs and to formulate strategies for closing the achievement gap between English language learners and other students. This is a link to the findings of this commission and its recommendations for the implementation of the Bilingual Education and World Language Initiative.

Cantonese: a Dialect in Peril?

Two people speaking different, mutually incomprehensible dialects are likely to fall back on China's lingua franca, Mandarin. But one Cantonese-American in New York has made it her mission to save her dialect. Every Thursday night you can find Kim Mui at a noisy café in the heart of Manhattan's Chinatown. Mui teaches Cantonese to adults. Her students pay no tuition, just donations. There are no fancy flashcards, just a book she has put together over nearly a decade of teaching. Chinese shares a common writing system. But when spoken, each dialect is mutually unintelligible.

Egyptian crisis unlikely to affect UW programs

Despite turmoil in Egypt, University of Wisconsin experts said demand for study abroad programs in the region is not predicted to decline. Late last month, six UW students studying abroad in Egypt's second largest city, Alexandria, were evacuated because of increasingly violent protests in Cairo. Two students slated to study in Cairo had their trips to the country canceled, and the study abroad program in Egypt was indefinitely suspended. "UW students are studying all over the world and are very interested in studying abroad in greater numbers," he said. "So the suspension of programs in Egypt is not expected to negatively affect our future study abroad programs."

Chinese classes helping SC students keep up with global economy

The ever-changing global economy is directly affecting South Carolina schools. To meet the demand statewide, 11 public schools offer Chinese as a foreign language. Three of those schools are in Columbia. While most of us took french or Spanish, the future of foreign language in the classroom is now reaching even further. In Chinese class at Hand Middle School, students learn both the language and the culture. Eighth-grader Amber Sutton is working on her future one Chinese phrase at a time. "There's a job you take and most colleges want you to have also a certain amount of specific language," said Sutton.

National Museum of Language – upcoming events

A list and description of upcoming events that will be held at the National Museum of Language in College Park, Maryland.

PREVIOUS NEWS

International Affairs Specialist program implements language improvement initiatives

International Affairs Specialist program has revamped its training, testing and maintenance policies to better prepare regional affairs strategists to meet mission demands, officials said here Feb. 4. RAS officers serve as attachés and security cooperation officers. They also serve in other positions that require sustained personal interaction with partner nations and require professional foreign language speaking proficiency to be effective, said Lt. Col. Keli Bedics, International Affairs Specialist program chief. "The IAS program office worked closely with our sister services, the Defense Language Office and the Defense Language Institute to tailor DLI's crypto-linguist-focused curriculum to meet RAS and foreign area officer mission demands," Colonel Bedics said.

U.S. College Students Return from Egypt

Jordan Bellquist had just finished studying with a couple of friends in a small Egyptian cafe when an Egyptian man approached them, speaking to them in English. "Take care of yourselves tonight. Something like a revolution is coming," he said. Bellquist, a senior at the University of Texas in Austin, was one of 57 students studying abroad at the University of Alexandria as part of her school's Arabic Flagship Program, a language-intensive immersion program for students studying Arabic language and culture. The next day, she watched as the country erupted. Protesters poured onto the streets denouncing President Hosni Mubarak.

Teaching culture through language

Language can play a huge role in culture. People communicate verbally to share their thoughts, invite friends to dinner, ask someone on a date, tell someone how to make a recipe and so many other things. Marine Corps Community Services offers a way to combat this potential communication gap by offering several courses designed to teach Status of Forces Agreement personnel the basics of the Japanese language.

IU Lands Graduate Flagship Program

The Language Flagship, an initiative of the National Security Education Program (NSEP) within the U.S. Department of Defense, has chosen Indiana University as the only location for its graduate level activities in Chinese. The federal grant, with a total value of \$560,000, recognizes IU as a national leader in Chinese language instruction, curricular innovation and teacher training.

School Board Squashes Last-Minute Attempt To Eliminate Foreign Language

The Fairfax County School Board unanimously rejected a budget amendment Thursday night which would have eliminated foreign language in elementary schools for the next school year. The amendment, proposed by school board member Martina Hone, would have shifted the \$3.1 million dollars that currently funds Foreign Language in Elementary Schools (FLES) to the staffing reserve. Currently 32 county elementary schools out of 139 offer FLES programs, which give half hour language instruction to students two to three times a week. The program, which includes seven languages, is separate from the school system's partial immersion program that operates in 12 county schools.

Confucius Institute Teaches Chinese Language, Culture

A wealth of information about China is available to St. Louisans through the Confucius Institute at Webster University, housed in the historic Old Post Office Building in downtown St. Louis. Confucius Institutes are in 66 different countries. They work in partnership with the Beijing Language and Culture University and The Office of Chinese Language Council International of the Chinese Ministry of Education (HANBAN). The Webster University institute was founded in 2008 through the efforts of former Missouri Governor Bob Holden. It is the only one of its kind in Missouri. The Confucius Institute uses outreach programs to help educate St. Louisans about China and Chinese culture. It offers teacher training workshops, language classes - even trips to China for students.

Eurasian Regional Language Program

The American Councils Eurasian Regional Language program provides graduate students, advanced undergraduates, scholars, and working professionals' intensive individualized instruction in the languages of Eurasia. Participants may enroll in **semester, academic year, or summer** programs. All courses are conducted by expert faculty from leading local universities and educational institutions. American Councils currently offers study abroad programs in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine. Participants can study Armenian, Azeri, Buryat, Chechen, Georgian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Persian (Dari, Farsi, Tajiki), Romanian, Tatar, Turkmen, Tuvan, Ukrainian, Uzbek or Yakut.

Crossing Borders Group Offers Bilingual Early Learning Programs

Crossing Borders Group, a cultural and language education company in Houston, TX, has just launched the city's first bilingual daycare centers to teach young children a second language using the immersion method.

AFPAK Hands: Developing trust in foreign lands takes sacrifice

Think about your current job responsibilities. Now, what would happen if your supervisor asked you to leave your current assignment, venture to another country, become completely immersed in Afghani and Pakistani culture and learn conversational Pashto and Dari. How long would you be able to survive? Lt. Cmdr. Derek Reeves, Resident Officer in Charge (OIC) - Afghanistan Engineering District North (AED-N), is one of an elite group who has been chosen for such an assignment - it's called AFPAK (Afghanistan/Pakistan) Hands. Reeves, is one of more than two dozen participants in the Naval District Washington AFPAK Hub.

Chinese Enrichment Program Expands Within CUSD

The International Exchange program at Chico State brings Chinese instructors to teach American children. And it's now expanding. Eight Chico Unified Schools offer the free program to interested students from kindergarten to high school. Inside a classroom in Chico, elementary students are learning about the Chinese New Year. But beyond that, they're singing a traditional New Year song in Chinese. Two days a week, these Shasta Elementary Students stay after school to learn the unique foreign language, from a teacher who's learning a lot herself.

Educators Move Beyond the Hype Over Skype

Educators are now using the videoconferencing tool to connect foreign-language students to native speakers, hold virtual field trips and host conversations with scientists and other experts.

Learning a different tongue

Learning a foreign language opens doors to a wealth of opportunities — both on a cultural level as well as on the work front. Today, it is commonplace to find French as part of a high school or college syllabus with other Indian second languages, not because of the need to help expat children or other international citizens to cope with the Indian syllabus better but because our global landscape is undergoing a paradigm shift. Our world is becoming a smaller place, and the need of the hour is to communicate efficiently.

Foreign Language: The solution to a better world for all

The fact that we, a nation where a mere nine percent of the population speaks at least two language fluently, govern a globe where fifty-two percent of the world speaks at least two languages represents the reality of the year 2011. European students learn at least two, sometimes three or four. And some people still find it strange that other nations are ahead of us academically.