
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 18 FEBRUARY 2011

Vienna brothers start language institute in China

Starting a successful business is a daunting task for anyone, especially for a 22-year-old American who wants to set up shop in China. But Vienna native Robbie Fried seems to have pulled it off. With moral support and financial guidance from parents, who helped gather investors, Robbie and Bradford Fried founded the Chinese Language Institute, an educational institution that offers short- and long-term intensive Mandarin training, as well as accredited study and research seminars throughout China. The institute serves anyone who wants to learn the Chinese language and culture.

Foreign language assistants blow for Scottish schools

More than half of all foreign language assistants in Scottish state schools are being axed following council budget cuts, BBC Scotland has learned. A survey of Scottish councils found at least 55 of the current 106 posts across the country are to go this year. The biggest reduction is in Glasgow, where the council is to cut all 35 of its assistants to save £300,000.

Chinese Lessons, Live From Beijing

A glimpse into the high school's foreign language department proves that the only thing moving faster than technology these days is the students' uncanny ability to adapt to it. Language students there have been videoconferencing with a Chinese instructor in Beijing, and also have the option of taking Regents level courses in Spanish, French, Latin, Italian, or American Sign Language. The Chinese 360 elective, a pass-fail course taken by a small but motivated group of students, is a pilot project that has pupils and teachers raving about the benefits.

When in Rome, Let Your Smartphone Do the Translating

You can use a smartphone to save a few dollars on an airline ticket, buy a [Starbucks](#) latte or gain the inside edge on draft news in fantasy sports leagues. With the Google Translate app for Android phones users speak English phrases into the phone and the app offers spoken translations. Or you can use it to save your skin in a place where no one speaks your language. It's fairly amazing stuff. Push a button, speak a query in one language and it displays a translation. Fifteen popular languages are covered by this feature. You must speak carefully for the app to recognize your query, but if Translate misconstrues a word, you can edit the query with the phone's keypad.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Two WVU students among first to participate in ROTC culture and language program

Anthony Jette volunteered at a health clinic in Peru; and James Godbout spent a few nights in the desert with the Moroccan military. Both West Virginia University juniors were among the first Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps students to participate in the Cadet Culture and Language Immersion Internship Program. The summer internship program, part of the Army ROTC's Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Strategy, is designed to help Army ROTC students become well-rounded officers in the military. "Culture and language immersion prepares these future leaders to make better decisions, not only in the best interest of the U.S. but also of the country they are operating in. The internships help eliminate stereotypes and build mutual respect," said Major Mark Hennigan, assistant professor of Military Science.

Soldier bridges language gap in Thailand

Amid the bustle of Thai and U.S. leadership speaking through interpreters, working to bridge the language gap, there is one soldier who stands out from all the rest. Born in Bangkok, Son is fluent in both Thai and English and has been assisting communication efforts between the leadership of the Thai and U.S. armies during Cobra Gold 2011. Son learned basics of the English language in a Thai grade school, but he didn't become fluent until he and his family made a permanent move to San Diego when he was 15.

Holloman Airman: Gateway for Iraqis to American training

For most foreigners traveling to the United States, this is all they would need, but for Iraqis seeking a seat inside an American school house, U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Fatema Tahan from Bronx, N.Y., and an English language proficiency exam are part of their checklists. "This test is the first step in getting them there," said Tahan, 49th Maintenance Squadron unit training manager, Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. "English language testing is a critical component of the out-of-country training program for Iraq," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Dawn Rodeschin, ISAM training and travel chief. "The English comprehension level exam must be administered to prospective training candidates within 105 days of their training start dates in the U.S."

GAO praises government for progress on human capital management

GAO cited specific areas that pose problems for human capital management, including: A lack of staff at the [State Department](#) with foreign language skills in areas of geographic interest.

Does the European Union have a strategic culture?

'Strategic culture can be defined as a set of beliefs, attitudes and norms towards the use of military force', often moulded according to historical experience (Chappell 2009, p. 419). For the European Union (EU) Cornish and Edwards see it as 'the institutional confidence and processes to manage and deploy military force as part of the accepted range of legitimate and effective policy instruments' (2001, p. 587).

However, can this be realised 'within the constraints of a liberal, democratic politics that 'speaks softly and carries a big carrot'?' (Matlary 2006, p. 106) This essay will posit that the EU does have a strategic culture, but one still in infancy, beset by weaknesses and potentially insurmountable obstacles. To demonstrate this, we shall explore key diplomatic efforts to enhance European strategic integration, responses to world events and operational deployments, how these have progressively shaped a common strategic culture, and how numerous issues undermine it.

U.C. Berkeley to spend \$500,000 boosting foreign language classes

The [University of California, Berkeley](#), plans to spend \$500,000 creating more foreign language classes in the next academic year. Ultimately, this push will result in 30 new language courses at Cal. Provost George Breslauer said the school is keen to spend some of the money it's getting from fee increases "to protect and enhance the quality of undergraduate instruction."

At a Loss for Language

THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES will no longer offer funding to Cornell's Modern Greek program, perpetuating the current trend of downsizing small departments to meet the demands of budget cuts. This most recent decision, which follows similar moves towards Russian, Swedish and Dutch programs, raises the question — as supporters of the Greek program pointed out in their petition — is Cornell still a place where any person can pursue any study?

N.J. Moves to Weaken Teacher Tenure

Teacher salaries would also be guided by evaluations instead of merely by the number of years a teacher has been employed and the type of post-graduate degrees earned. Better-rated teachers would get bigger pay raises, as would teachers in "high-need" schools or subjects in-demand, such as science and foreign language.

Parents Want Language Immersion in Nyack's Elementary Schools

A group of concerned parents are calling on district officials to put language studies back in Nyack School District elementary schools. ([Liberty](#), [Upper Nyack](#) and [Valley Cottage](#)). Heather Cornell, a Valley

Cottage parent, is spearheading the effort to bring a language immersion program to the schools. Language immersion teaches youngsters an unfamiliar language by carrying out classes—be they math, science or history—in a foreign language. English-speaking children would be taught primarily in Spanish, and Spanish-speaking children would be taught primarily in English.

Living Language

Sam has been teaching the Carrier language at Nak'albun school for 28 years. Her mother Mildred Martin taught at the school for nine years before she left and Sam was asked to step in to fill the position. In those days, there was no curriculum and no resources, so Sam had to develop her own curriculum over the years, and created her own resources, making flashcards from scratch. Sam had helped her mother with classes, but didn't have any teacher training, however she had been brought up in the Carrier language, as both of her parents spoke the language at home.

Marines Prepare For Battle With New Weapon At Disposal

Inside a classroom at Camp Pendleton, some 15 Marines are learning the words that could help win a war. "What are you shooting at?" asks an instructor. A Marine responds, "What are you shooting at" in Dari, the main language of Afghanistan, where the Marines will be deployed this summer. "Do you think this course could save your life or others' lives?" asked 10News' Michael Chen. "Definitely," said Sgt. Kenneth Johnson, who's been in two deployments to Iraq. In addition to the basic language classes, Marines now have the option of taking advanced Afghan language courses. In this six-week class, critical phrases are learned, along with 600 vocabulary words.

Female Engagement Team Brings Aid to School, Orphanage

Members of the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade's Female Engagement Team, stationed at Camp Marmal, Afghanistan, visited the Red Crescent Society's nearby orphanage and school Feb. 12, bringing with them school supplies and clothing items. "In the mission of aiding Afghanistan in getting back on its feet, governing itself, and securing itself, we want to make sure the women's needs are met as well," said U.S. Army 1st Lt. Rebecca Wagner, the officer in charge of 4th CAB's FET. "The FET is a way to get the Afghan women's voices heard."