
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 15 MARCH 2011

Does the United States Need a Language Policy?

Some nations include a language policy in their constitution. For example, France declared French as its official language in amending its constitution before it joined the European Community in 1992, and many Arab countries combine a statement about Arabic as their national language alongside their proclamation of Islam as their official religion. More than half of national constitutions include one or more language clauses establishing national or official languages (Jones, 2001). Sixty-three countries name one official language; in addition, there are seven former Soviet republics that establish a single state language and another eight states with one official language and one or more national languages.

Bilinguals See the World in a Different Way, Study Suggests

Learning a foreign language literally changes the way we see the world, according to new research. Panos Athanasopoulos, of Newcastle University, has found that bilingual speakers think differently to those who only use one language. "As well as learning vocabulary and grammar you're also unconsciously learning a whole new way of seeing the world," said Dr Athanasopoulos. "There's an inextricable link between language, culture and cognition."

Cherokee language classes help keep tradition alive

Preserving native languages and evolutionary knowledge are intertwined. The work of preservation is pursued on Tuesday nights in Lybarger's church in East Peoria with a little flute music, storytelling and word repetition. Lybarger teaches Tsalagi, Cherokee language classes. He learned the language as a child from his great uncle. Because first languages were oral, without a written record, thousands of years of knowledge depended on a rich storytelling tradition passed from one generation to the next.

Foreign doctors bridge language gap

Going to the doctor can be hard enough as is. So imagine how difficult it would be if a visit to the doctor's office was as much about jumping language barriers as it was about receiving medical care. That's the problem that a student-run program at the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) is trying to fix. As part of the medical school's certificate program for students interested in serving Latino communities, future doctors are practicing mock patient visits entirely in Spanish.

Language Expert Publishes 'Think and Grow Fluent'

"This small [language learning book](#) will help anyone to shave thousands of hours of tedious learning time from whatever language they choose to learn," says Frobose, "I highly recommend reading it before beginning your study of any language." According to Frobose, once you've programmed your mind to enjoy the [language learning process](#), you will grow to love language learning so much that a language learner's new problem won't be finding the discipline to study a new language.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Where Minds Meet: FET bridges gap between Western, Afghan culture

The FET Marines aren't meant to be interchangeable with infantry regulars; rather, they complement the coalition counterinsurgency strategy by reaching out to Afghan communities in a culturally sensitive way. They help amplify the voice of Afghan women.

Soldiers learn Afghan culture, language through Indiana University-National Guard partnership

Army National Guard soldiers are learning the languages and culture of Afghanistan at a program in southern Indiana. The Second Lieutenant Afghan Language Program immerses recent ROTC college graduates in Pashto and Dari, the official languages of Afghanistan.

ITALY MAKES IMMIGRANTS SPEAK ITALIAN FOR WORK VISA

Italy is the latest Western European country turning the screws on an expanding immigrant population by demanding language skills in exchange for work permits, or in some cases, citizenship. While enacted last year in the name of integration, these requirements also reflect anxiety that foreigners might dilute fiercely-prized national identity or even, especially in Britain's case, pose terror risks.

President Obama Nominates Howard for NSEB

President Barack Obama has nominated Dr. Christopher B. Howard, President of Hampden-Sydney College, as a member of the National Security Education Board. Dr. Howard will continue to serve as President of Hampden-Sydney College. The National Security Education Program (NSEP) was established by the National Security Education Act (NSEA) signed into law by President George H. W. Bush on December 4, 1991.

Tennessee Flagship Finds a Way to Keep Threatened Majors in Italian and Russian

At a time when foreign-language programs are being proposed for elimination at a number of [cash-strapped public universities](#), the University of Tennessee at Knoxville has come up with a plan that will allow it to keep threatened majors in Russian, Italian, and other low-enrollment languages, *The Knoxville News Sentinel* reported. The university's provost approved last week a plan under which the department of modern foreign languages and literatures will combine all eight foreign languages it teaches into one degree and offer concentrations in each language.

Instructors Strive for Realism at Civilian Course

As an instructor for the Civilian Expeditionary Workforce's predeployment training here, it's Aylward's job to prepare civilians from varying backgrounds and levels of expertise for yearlong deployments to locations around the world, including Afghanistan and Iraq. The program formally stood up in January 2009 to supplement military forces in Iraq, and later on, Afghanistan.

Air Force Culture and Language Center announces upcoming LEAP selection board

The Air Force Culture and Language Center would like to announce the next Language Enabled Airman Program selection board. Application criteria will be released on July 5, 2011, and application packets will be accepted through Sept. 5. LEAP aims to create a cadre of general purpose force Airmen with the necessary language, region and cultural capabilities to influence mission success and meet current and future requirements. Throughout the career-long program, participants are provided structured language sustainment and enhancement opportunities in an effort to develop them as foreign language-enabled professionals and leaders.

Cave Creek Unified seeks to expand foreign language instruction

The Cave Creek Unified School District wants to expand its world language program to every K-8 student, including daily instruction for seventh- and eighth-graders. Currently, language instruction is a patchwork at the elementary schools, with middle-school students taking Spanish or French as an elective. The proposal, presented to the governing board Tuesday night, would have every K-6 student take 20 to 30 minutes of Mandarin or Spanish twice a week. Mandarin, Spanish or French would be a core subject at Sonoran Trails Middle School, along with math, reading, writing, social studies and science. The existing Spanish immersion programs at Desert Willow and Sonoran Trails would not be affected.

Register kids for free foreign language introduction at UW-Eau Claire

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire department of foreign languages will host a series of foreign language classes for elementary school students. The free language classes will be held on campus and taught by UW-Eau Claire students enrolled in the "Teaching Foreign Languages in Grades 1-9" course. Classes offered will include beginning French, beginning Spanish and continuing Spanish. "There is an interest in foreign languages for children, and at present there are not ongoing opportunities in the regular elementary school day," said Dr. Paul Hoff, UW-Eau Claire professor of Spanish and foreign language

education. "These classes will whet their appetite for further language study. They will spark interest in another language and culture."

Open House Thursday for Spanish Immersion kindergarten

Parents interested in Spanish immersion programs for their young children now have a kindergarten option. An open house will be held tonight for a new Spanish immersion kindergarten class to be offered in September by Su Escuela, a language academy currently based in Cohasset and Duxbury. The academy, which offers adult language lessons, young adult enrichment classes and popular preschool immersion programs, will offer the Hingham kindergarten class with a combination of Spanish and English instruction.

Foreign Language Students Skyping with Students in France

Typically students in Madame Carole Ogden's class come in to class, tend to the daily bellwork, and daily assignments, but today's class was much different. Students in French class were given the opportunity to Skype with an actual high school class in France. Despite some connection issues the video was clear in both image and sound. The French students were eager to hear our French, as the students here were to hear their English. The French students had prepared individual presentations over popular culture and themselves. Next time Madame Ogden's class will have the opportunity to give presentations.

Thornton mum flees Libya thanks to Arabic language skills of daughter

A Thornton mum who fled war-torn Libya with her two infants still in their pajamas has praised her six-year-old daughter's Arabic skills for saving her life. Alisha speaks the language as she has learned it for six months at school in Libya. She told the taxi driver where to go in Arabic - I couldn't have done it without her."

Senior Defense Personnel Join the Effort in Afghanistan

Senior Department of Defense civilian employees recently concluded training at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Ind., in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan later this year as part of the Ministry of Defense Advisor program. The program is a seven-week course designed to give these volunteers the tools necessary to help the Afghan Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior build their capacity to sustain a professional and accountable security apparatus, said Kelly Uribe, director of the Ministry of Defense Advisors program.

IU-National Guard partnership teaches officers Afghan languages, demonstrates winning approach

Last year a call went out to the brightest ROTC students across the nation -- and they answered. Recent graduates from Harvard, Indiana University, Virginia Tech and other universities traveled to a gritty urban-stylized National Guard facility in southeastern Indiana to immerse themselves in Afghan culture and language. The inaugural Second Lieutenant Afghan Language Program, offered through a burgeoning collaboration between the Indiana National Guard and Indiana University, was intense, effective and an encouraging sign of the potential for highly specialized training to prepare military service personnel from across the country for international deployments.