
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 18 MARCH 2011

Afghan pilots graduate aviation English course

More than 80 Afghan Air Force pilots graduated from an aviation English course at a ceremony on the Afghan Air Force Base in here March 14. The course, split between varying levels of language proficiency ranging from elementary to intermediate, taught aviation-centric English meant to help the airmanship of Afghan pilots. English is the universal language for aviation, and by upgrading the understanding Afghan pilots have of English, the AAF will be able to improve safety measures and operability with regional and global partners, said Flight Lieutenant Henry Wilkinson, the air attaché for the British Embassy in Kabul.

Patz expands opportunities for people to build language skills

Patz works on two initiatives to increase training in critical languages: the **Boren Scholarships and Fellowships** program and **Project Global Officers**. Boren brings civilian students with regional experience and language skills into the federal government. Project Global Officer targets students with an interest in military service who may not have had language or study abroad experience. “Both are scholarship programs that provide funding for undergraduate and graduate students to study internationally; they focus on geographic areas, languages, and fields of study that are critical to U.S. national security, broadly defined, and underrepresented in study abroad,” Patz says.

Education and Training: The Foreign Service’s Challenge

The American Foreign Service has long been known for its resistance to and disdain for systematic training, with the single notable exception of language training, a skill universally recognized as essential to the success of a diplomatic career. In recent months the American Academy of Diplomacy with the support of the Stimson Center carried out a study of this problem and made substantial recommendations to improve the quality of training and to reverse this anti-training attitude.

Can America Lead Without Learning Other Languages?

It’s no secret that these are troubled times for foreign language programs in the United States. Despite the historic high number of students taking languages other than English, some institutions are making choices to curtail or close programs, to take away opportunities to major in certain languages and, in the most benign version, to fail to invest in the structure necessary to sustain and grow languages as a field of study. Even with all the recent public rhetoric about globalization, some leaders on and off campus think that as a nation we can participate or even lead without having to learn the languages or know about the cultures of the rest of the world. It’s enough, they say, to study the economics, politics and histories of other nations and peoples — all in English — to function well on the global stage.

MAKING LANGUAGE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE MEANINGFUL: THE NEED FOR A FEDERAL HEALTH CARE INTERPRETERS’ STATUTE

In Miami, Florida, the misinterpretation of a word delays treatment for Willie Ramirez and results in the eighteen-year-old-year old living the rest of his life as a quadriplegic. At a doctor’s office in Merced, California, Ker Moua’s son, acting as the communication conduit between the doctor and his non-English speaking mother, mistranslates the doctor’s instructions with respect to the prescription medication, and she overdoses. In Queens, New York, Moon Chul Sun, a Korean speaking patient, is unable to communicate with doctors for three days until an interpreter that “spoke little Korean” tells him, while he is being discharged, that the only course of treatment was to take Tylenol. He dies a month later. These cases illustrate a significant challenge facing a health care system that is unable to comply with federal regulations designed to address the needs of patients who are unable to communicate proficiently in English.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Government of Canada Invests in Research on Official Languages

Researchers at the University of Ottawa will compile a comprehensive history of the French language in North America by chronicling the accounts of families over the last 400 years and looking at how French has shaped Canadian communities, culture and our country. Royal Galipeau, Member of Parliament (Ottawa Orleans), on behalf of the Honourable Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology), made the announcement of funding today at the University of Ottawa. "Our government is investing in science and technology to create jobs, improve the quality of life of Canadians and strengthen our economy," said MP Galipeau. "This investment will help ensure that Canadians in francophone communities have the tools they need to prosper and develop their language and culture for future generations."

Push language choice? Nyet, nein, non, nope

For parents determined to convince their middle school student to study a particular foreign language, linguistics expert Nancy Rhodes offers a bit of advice: First, be grateful your child's middle school even offers a foreign language program. Then back off and let your child decide. "Frankly, it doesn't matter what foreign language a child selects, because once they go through the learning process, it makes it much easier to learn a second, third or even a fourth language," said Rhodes, director of foreign language education at the [Washington, D.C.](#)-based Center for Applied Linguistics.

Celebrating 50 Years of Peace Corps: Q & A with Madison and Chicago Peace Corps Representatives

The [Peace Corps](#) is a celebrated organization working to help people around the world, while promoting a better understanding of Americans and of other people on the part of American volunteers. UW-Madison is presently ranked as the number two, sending university with 2,906 returned volunteers and about 77 alumni currently serving. With the [African Studies Program](#) hosting "[Peace Corps and Africa: 50 Years](#)" on March 24-26, we took the opportunity to sit down with Kim Johnson, the Peace Corps campus representative, and Jeffery Rhodes, who works in the Chicago regional office, to discuss the unique experience that is the Peace Corps.

Educators from China to spend time in Munson, Concord townships

Three area Catholic schools are excited about a new collaboration on Chinese language and culture. Beginning with the 2011-12 academic year, the schools will host two teachers from China, who are expected to provide a comprehensive language and culture program for all grade levels. One teacher will be on staff at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin in Munson Township and will begin teaching Chinese 1 to freshmen this fall, Principal Joseph Waler said. Once the teacher becomes accustomed to living and teaching in a different country, additional classes will be offered.

Foreign Languages for Kids Company Filling Gap Left by Budget Cuts

"¡Hola Niños!", "¿Cómo están?" is what kids hear weekly in classes across metro Atlanta when they attend Spanish class at their school. They greet Cosmo, the class mascot, like a long-lost friend. These kids are part of the Lango Foreign Languages for Kids program which provides on-site classes in daycares, play spaces, and elementary schools. The classes are providing what some schools used to provide as part of their curriculum; foreign language classes. But with budget cuts, many schools are opting to have an outside company provide classes for children, and have parents pay themselves.

Middle school to offer beginning Mandarin

Seventh-grade students will now be able to choose Mandarin as a foreign language option in addition to Spanish and French. The middle school plans to offer both foreign language and reading courses to all seventh- and eighth-grade students. Mandarin II, III and IV will be offered at the high school, as they are now.

Schools cutting foreign language programs

Along with the possible consolidation of schools, Burke County Public Schools will more than likely see foreign language programs cut from middle and high schools. Rexanna Lowman, the director of secondary education, said the high schools would revert to two foreign languages, Spanish and French, while the middle schools would lose all foreign language programs. Freedom High School would retain one German class, Lowman said. But the remaining high schools would lose their German programs and East Burke and Draughn also will lose their Latin programs.

Japan earthquake appeal for skilled Merseysiders to offer help

A request has been circulated among the linguistics community for speakers of Chinese, Korean, Spanish and Portuguese as well as Japanese and English. An organisation called Translators Without Frontiers is coordinating the appeal.

2011 Critical Language Scholarships, USA

A program of United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program will offer intensive summer language institutes overseas in thirteen critical need foreign languages for summer 2011. The selection process will be administered by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) with awards approved by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The CLS Program will be administered by CAORC and American Councils for International Education. Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) institutes provide fully-funded group-based intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences for seven to ten weeks for U.S. citizen undergraduate, Master's and Ph.D. students.

IB Teacher Relies on Puppets, Immersion in Spanish Language | TheLedger.com

A teacher in the school's International Baccalaureate program, Ramirez teaches in language immersion fashion. The students hear the words from her before they see them written. That way, they learn proper pronunciation. The course not only immerses the students in Spanish, it accelerates the pace of learning. Her students get three years of instruction in their first two years. Then, as juniors, they are in fourth-year Spanish and by the time they are seniors, they are in their fifth year.

Czechs should learn several languages — even Mandarin

Experts from the government's National Economic Council (NERV) have submitted a proposal to Minister of Education Josef Dobeš (Public Affairs, VV) that only English should be compulsory for school children. According to NERV, Czech students should be able to get by in life if they are fluent in English. Instead of studying another compulsory foreign language, for example, German or French, they could concentrate on law, finance and IT. A second foreign language would be voluntary.

Through Charter School, English Language Learners In The Spotlight

In the city of Boston, nearly 30 percent of students don't speak English well. The government calls them English Language Learners. As a group, they are doing poorly in the city's public schools. Only about half of them graduate and they have poor test scores. The U.S. Department of Justice found the school system was not providing adequate services to thousands of these students. Alan Safran runs MATCH Public Charter School. It's considered one of the best schools in the city. When MATCH got permission to open a new school, it designed its entire program around children learning English as a second language. "We have Spanish, Cape Verdean Creole, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Somali, Vietnamese and Portuguese," Safran said.