
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 15 APRIL 2011

Navy AFPAC Hands Ready to Deploy

The Navy's second cohort of officers in the Afghanistan Pakistan Hands Program (AFPAC Hands) completed pre-deployment training at the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC) at Camp McCready Friday. The Afghanistan Pakistan Hands program trains military and civilian personnel from all services, mostly mid-career officers, to serve as a core cadre to build trust between the U.S. military and local populations in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Joining the program requires a 45-month commitment, including two deployments of 12 and 10 months respectively.

Language and International-Studies Programs Face 'Devastating' Cuts Under Budget Deal

International-education advocates are raising objections to reductions in programs authorized under two federal laws, Title VI of the Higher Education Act and the Fulbright-Hays Act. The budget deal, which would finance federal agencies until the end of September, would slash funds for these Department of Education programs by 40 percent, or \$50-million, reducing their allocation to \$76-million. "A cut of that magnitude to such small programs really has a huge impact," says Miriam A. Kazanjian, a consultant with the Coalition for International Education. "It would be devastating."

Phonetic Clues Hint Language Is Africa-Born

A researcher analyzing the sounds in languages spoken around the world has detected an ancient signal that points to southern Africa as the place where modern human language originated. The detection of such an ancient signal in language is surprising. Because words change so rapidly, many linguists think that languages cannot be traced very far back in time. The oldest language tree so far reconstructed, that of the Indo-European family, which includes English, goes back 9,000 years at most.

Military kid of the year

"There are three things that I am proud to be," said Chris-Shanti. "I am proud to be a Christian, an American, and I am proud to be a Soldier's child." Chris-Shanti said that when she grows up she would like to be a linguist and work for the United Nations.

Students explore world at Foreign Language Day

Students from 11 area high schools descended Thursday on North Georgia College & State University to take part in the 36th annual Foreign Language Day and to compete for the coveted Language Bowl. Chinese, French, Spanish and German could be heard throughout the hallways of Memorial Hall as groups rehearsed lines and practiced skits. Some 300 students sat in the audience to watch the show and wait for their turn on stage.

Foreign languages get competitive

The department of languages and communication invited high school students with an interest in the Spanish and French languages from across the state of Louisiana to compete in the 29 Annual Foreign Language Festival. Out of the hundreds of students that attended and competed, 84 students were recognized.

New law marks sign of the times in county high schools

There's a lot of commotion and communication happening in Catherine Burns' class, but no one is talking. Between signs and signals, Oakton High School students enrolled in Burns' American Sign Language class giggle. "I don't see hands moving," Burns says, motivating students back to work. American Sign Language classes in Fairfax County public high schools enjoy consistent levels of interest each year, she

said. The school system has allowed students to take American Sign Language as a foreign language since the 1990s. Still enrollment numbers could be better, Burns said.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Official Swedish in Danger in Finland: Report

According to a report on minority languages, the position of Swedish is threatened by officials' poor language skills and the lack of opportunities to study the language. The report commends Finnish legislation on minority languages, but asks for corrections to deficiencies in its implementation. Despite the legal position, speakers of Swedish and the three indigenous Sami dialects of Lapland find it difficult to get services in their own languages in public services, police or health care.

Language degree opens international doors

As students enter Washburn looking to earn a bachelor's of arts, they will eventually need to take at least one course in a foreign language. The thought of attempting a new language can be very daunting, but there are numerous students who attack the languages with vigor, deciding to complete a major emphasizing on a foreign language.

Va family helps others bridge language gap

Baraka Kasongo remembers the day in 2001 his family arrived in Roanoke from Zambia wearing their USRP-stamped clothes — to distinguish them as participants of the U.S. Refugee Program. In just 10 years, the 25-year-old has more than shed his outsider status by filling that language gap — for himself and many other immigrants. With the help of his parents and his older brother, Amour, the Congolese man launched a Roanoke County-based interpreting business called Volatia that employs the services of 75 interpreters locally, many of them freelance part-timers.

Some 100 kindergarten spots open at South Bay Language Academy

Those interested in enrolling their [kindergarten students](#) in the expanding Nestor Language Academy must attend an informational [meeting](#) in the coming weeks. Some 100 openings will be available in kindergarten. [Middle school](#) meetings, for 60 spaces in an expanded [eighth grade](#), were held earlier this month. The two-way Spanish immersion school, in which 90 percent of educational time is in Spanish and 10 percent in English, began 15 years ago as a program within a school. The South Bay Union School District campus became a full-fledged [charter school](#) this year and currently serves 787 students.

Teaching English overseas: Graduates with a foreign language have a huge edge in the job market

There are pros and cons about being a native speaker of English. One advantage, of course, is the ease with which English speakers can move around the world, on holiday or on business. But a disadvantage is that it breeds laziness. Far too many of us Brits, either consciously or unconsciously, don't really bother with learning a foreign language. "Languages give you so much more flexibility in terms of where you work and how quickly you get promotion," says Teresa Tinsley, director of communications at CILT, the Government-funded National Centre for Languages, which, among other things, provides support and career guidance to anyone who uses languages in their work. "Language graduates need to show that through learning a language they have gained international awareness and international business awareness," she argues. "[Language learning](#) gives you such a broad range of skills."

LANGUAGE OPENS WORLD

Azama, 42, was selected the Regional Foreign Language Teacher of the Year in a competition at the Southwest Conference on Language Teaching last weekend in Fort Worth, Texas. He represented California in the competition, and will go on to the national competition in November. It's not the first time Azama was recognized for his skills. Last year, he was one of five language teachers in California to receive an Outstanding Teacher Award from the California Language Teachers' Association.

Language under fire

Schools across the nation have been cutting traditional foreign language programs, while enrollment of students studying those languages has been climbing, according to two recent studies on the subject. Arabic, Chinese, Korean and American Sign Language have displayed a significantly increasing presence in higher education curricula, according to a report by the Modern Language Association. Despite growing numbers of interested students, the economic recession, which has left many institutions faced with budget concerns, might explain why many universities have decided to cut funding toward foreign language programs with lower student interest and fewer faculty, according to a study conducted by Steven Brint, sociology professor and associate dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at the University of California at Riverside.

Mayor Daley Announces Grants For Chinese Language, Culture Programs (VIDEO)

At a visit to a prominent architecture firm in downtown Chicago, Mayor Richard Daley announced Monday nearly half a million dollars in grants to support the school system's Chinese language and culture programs. "The world is getting smaller," the mayor said at Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. "We have to prepare our students for this global community. We cannot allow them to be left behind."

Law promoting American Sign Language okayed

Public high schools, colleges and universities in Virginia must accept American Sign Language toward fulfillment of foreign language requirements under a bill that received final approval by the General Assembly last week. House Bill 1435 says high schools must "count completion of an American Sign Language course toward the fulfillment of any foreign language requirement for graduation." Moreover, such courses "shall be counted toward satisfaction of the foreign language entrance requirements of a public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth."

Foreign Language Axed at NC A&T

The [North Carolina A&T State University](#) Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Goldie Byrd, announced that the foreign language Bachelor of Arts degree programs would no longer be offered in Spanish and French, and that the department would be completely phased out in two years.

Ready for English?

Fifth- and sixth-grade teachers will have one new worry starting this month — teaching English. All elementary schools must introduce compulsory foreign language lessons. Despite the difficulties of implementing this national strategy for English education, it is high time Japan took its English level more seriously. Only North Korea scores lower than Japan on the TOEFL exam in the Asian region.

Mandarin squeezed in tight school curriculum

Prime Minister John Key last year complained that the number of secondary school students learning Mandarin had only just overtaken the number learning Latin. Mr Key urged young New Zealanders to improve their general understanding of Chinese culture and suggested a campaign was needed to have Mandarin taught in schools. Only 101 of the country's 2500 schools offer Chinese language classes, many after school hours. While the number learning Mandarin has quadrupled in the past decade, to 10,230, progress has come from a very low base.

Students fight McGill language course changes

As Michael Beauvais was scanning McGill's course catalogue last week deciding what courses to take next year, he made a troubling discovery. "The classes I needed to complete my Russian translation program were no longer being offered," said Beauvais, who is winding up the second year of a joint honours in Russian and Italian studies. "I find it absolutely disturbing that the administration can just pull funding away and force students to change their programs."