
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 18 APRIL 2011

U.S., Latino airmen build partnerships at IAAFA

Ask just about any American airman what the Inter-American Air Forces Academy is and chances are he doesn't know. Tucked away here and with a piece at nearby Kelly Field, IAAFA is — on its face — a place where the Air Force trains officers and enlisted service members from Central and South American countries. At any given time, about 240 students from 22 countries are enrolled in 37 professional military education and technical courses — all taught in Spanish. In a larger context, the school is fundamental to the service's push to establish relationships with foreign air forces. "Building partnerships, that's what we're all about. We get these countries together through education and training," said Lt. Col. Reyes Colon, commandant of IAAFA, which is funded by the Air Force and the foreign air forces.

Director reaches out to women of Urgun District

Paktika's director of women's affairs introduced herself to the women of Urgun District April 13 and 14 to promote an upcoming women's shura. The DoWA, Dr. Bibi Hawa, asked women from Urgun villages to choose female representatives for the shura, which is similar to a town hall meeting. The men's shura in Urgun meets on a regular basis and is a venue for them to voice their concerns and discuss major decisions. If the women of Urgun work together to form a female shura, it will be the first of its kind in Paktika.

Opportunity for high school students to learn foreign languages for free at Lewis University

In collaboration with the Will County Regional Office of Education, Lewis University is offering rising 11th and 12th grade high school students and incoming Lewis freshmen, sophomores and juniors the opportunity to participate in a STARTALK language program from June 19 – July 9 on the University's main campus in Romeoville. Those accepted into the program this summer are able to choose to study Chinese, Arabic or Russian. No tuition costs for the students and the ability to earn three university credits of foreign language are two main benefits of the STARTALK program at Lewis University.

Chinese Culture Contest Helps Students Interested in Studying Abroad

Students interested in studying abroad in China should start brushing up on their knowledge of Chinese culture. The Confucius Institute at UB (UBCI) is hosting its first Chinese Culture Contest and Scholarship Competition. This contest will be held on April 20 in the Natural Sciences Complex and will pit contestants against one another, testing their knowledge of Chinese culture. The winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship, which can be used toward travel expenses for studying abroad in China.

Culture trumps biology in language development, study argues

Leading linguistic thinkers have argued that our brains are hard-wired for languages to follow certain sets of rules. But a team of scientists is challenging that premise in a study published online Wednesday in the journal Nature.

Foreign language spelling bee winners go on to final

Nearly 100 local winners – who had won class and school rounds of the competition - took part in the regional final, learning 150 words in languages including German, French, and Spanish. Ms Driver said: "Having seen the difference the spelling bee has made to our pupils' confidence and language competence, we're really excited that it's now gone national."

OPINION

Create framework to protect culture

On the first day of the Chamorro Conference, April 7, luncheon speaker Robert Underwood told the attendees "how the people from Guam should be authentic and truthful of where they came from. He said Chamorro culture does not have to be re-invented or re-invigorated as long as people of Guam are authentic and hold to their heritage -- which will manifest in cultural tourism." I believe it's time to explore a framework for the protection of our traditional knowledge and cultural expressions to preserve our heritage for future generations. This framework is critical to the survival of the Chamorro language and everything Chamorro. The framework can be a useful tool to ensure that all government mandates, agencies and programs in the preservation and promotions of Chamorro language and culture are efficiently coordinated in a cohesive structure that is productive and cost effective.

PREVIOUS NEWS

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.

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.