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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 19 APRIL 2011**

#### **Nazarbayev predicts Kazakh language breakthrough**

Kazakhstan's President, Nursultan Nazarbayev predicted on Monday that Kazakh would become widely spoken in the country in the next decade, replacing Russian as the main language. "The knowledge of Kazakh language is not just a sound bite, it means that the people will also know the history of our country, the history of the Kazakh people...This will help consolidate the people of Kazakhstan and boost mutual confidence day after day," Nazarbayev said.

#### **Virgin Islands Government Commits to Promote Foreign Languages**

The Government will use the observance of Library Week to promote the importance of foreign languages and to encourage citizens to learn more languages. "Language is knowledge, and in today's world knowledge is one of the key factors in competitiveness and development. We live in a world where multilingualism plays a significant part in the growth and advancement of a country's economy and the knowledge of other languages have become indispensable," Minister Fahie stated.

#### **Linguists find historical context and language development link**

We use language to communicate with each other. But while thousands of languages have emerged over the years, the intricacies of their development have remained a puzzle for many ... until now. A new study led by scientists at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in the Netherlands reveals that word orders in languages from diverse language families develop in varied ways. The findings, presented in the journal *Nature*, demonstrate that languages do not primarily follow innate rules of language processing in the brain. On the contrary, the historical context in which a language develops determines sentence structure.

#### **FET works with Now Zad District governor to improve, rebuild area**

The female engagement team in Now Zad, Helmand province, Afghanistan, is pushing for the speedy development of a women's center, new school and other community projects.

#### **First Certificate Program for Teaching Korean Language Opens in U.S.**

California State University, Los Angeles and the city's Korean Education Center have signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the first certificate program for teaching the Korean language in the U.S. Under the deal, CSULA will run a certificate program for secondary school Korean language teachers from 2015. It will also set up a Korean minor program from this coming fall semester and a Korean major from 2013. The ministry will offer around US\$900,000 in financial support to the program over the next six years.

#### **Why study languages (website)**

Provides resources to assist teachers, parents, and career advisors on the opportunities available to those with language capabilities.

### **PREVIOUS NEWS**

#### **U.S., Latino airmen build partnerships at IAFA**

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, IAFA 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."

#### **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.

#### **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.