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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 20 APRIL 2011**

#### **NC A&T Cuts French, Spanish Majors**

Dozens of NC A&T students protested on Tuesday after university officials decided to cut some foreign language majors. Students were informed last month that French and Spanish degree programs would be phased out over the next three years. Students with more than 60 credits will be allowed to continue, but others will have to change majors or go to a different school. Classes will still be offered at Bennett College and UNCG. Provost Dr. Linda Adams said the decision to cut the programs came after a review from the [North Carolina](#) General Administration. Fewer than 20 students graduated with a foreign language degree in the past two years, Adams said. However, that did not stop a group of students from protesting and trying to save the programs.

#### **Inland students' interest increases in foreign languages, mostly Spanish**

Arlington High School students in Riverside say they're taking Spanish, or French, because knowing another language will be helpful in a global economy. "I want to be a doctor, and many doctors have to learn Spanish," said 11th-grader Heather Wilson in a Spanish 3 Honors class. "Many jobs require you to be bilingual." Ninth-grader Gerson Sandoval said he's taking French 1 because "most continents have French as a primary language or a secondary language." Some of his classmates said they already know Spanish and English and want to learn a third language.

#### **IPS is meeting the challenge of teaching kids who don't speak English**

In Indianapolis Public Schools, there are nearly 3,900 -- about 12 percent of the total -- who show up for school speaking 46 languages, but little or no English. They speak Chinese, Yoruba, Dinka, Urdu, Swahili or Gujarati. Sometimes they speak French, Russian or German.

#### **Preserving Indigenous Languages Via Twitter**

[Twitter](#)'s robust community of non-English speakers just got another boost with the launch of a new site called [Indigenous Tweets](#). The site, created by St. Louis-based computational linguistics professor Kevin Patrick Scannell, collects tweets from more than 70 languages. These range from better-known tongues such as Haitian Creole and Basque to the downright esoteric Gamilaraay, an Australian indigenous language with approximately three living speakers.

#### **Na'vi Linguist Speaks at CSUF**

The creator of Na'vi, the language of the fictional people of Pandora in Avatar, spoke at the 20th annual Linguistics Symposium Monday. Frommer defined linguistics as the "scientific study of language." "It helps you when learning other languages. It helps you appreciate languages more," Frommer said. But more than anything, Frommer finds the study of language fascinating. That fascination is what drove him to create a language that is similar to many other languages in that it is 30 to 40 percent wordier than English.

### **PREVIOUS NEWS**

#### **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.

### **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."

### **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.