
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 21 APRIL 2011

Sailor's language skills key to Bulkeley VBSS team success

Operations Specialist 1st Class Christopher Kashou, a new member of the VBSS team aboard Bulkeley, is a Palestinian-American who grew up speaking Arabic. "OS1 has become our hero here! His first trip out with the VBSS team proved to be a huge success since we were able to use his language skills to our advantage," said Ensign Michael Seymour, Bulkeley's boarding officer. "It feels good to be contributing to the [U.S. Navy's] 'global force for good' with the skills I was taught as a child. Arabic is a skill I am lucky to have, and I am thrilled to be a part of the VBSS team, helping them communicate with people who speak Arabic," said Kashou.

DARPA initiates overarching language translation research Publishes Broad Agency Announcement for Broad Operational Language Translation (BOLT) program

BOLT seeks to accurately translate Mandarin Chinese and multiple dialects of Arabic into English from all types of media, specifically focused on the challenging task of informal conversational speech, email text and instant messaging. "BOLT also aims to allow users to conduct English-language queries that retrieve targeted information from multi-lingual sources. BOLT would give users the ability to conduct robust searches that yield the most relevant results," he said.

Marine makes a difference in Afghanistan

"FET does what we can't do," said Sgt. Mackenzie D. Atkins, a station team non-commissioned officer with the Police Embedded Team in Now Zad. "FET is a very underrated asset." Atkins went on to highlight the importance of gaining the trust of the women and children in the area, stating how children are typically more likely to approach the female Marines with information and updates. "There were no girls in school before the last FET team got here," Hogan said. "I love to see the kids in school. The children that are in school are the ones who are going to change Afghanistan in the long run," Hogan began. "You can't change the mind of most of the adults, but you can change the minds of the people who will one day run this country."

Universities may face up to 40 percent budget cuts in global studies

International studies centers nationwide — including seven at UNC — might lose almost half their funding, depending on how the U.S. Department of Education interprets a federal funding bill. If cuts that high are implemented, administrators said they might have to cut foreign language class offerings, research and outreach programs, and staff — at a time when the Obama administration has been focusing on promoting globalization and international issues.

U.S. State Department Reaches Out To The World Online

Last month, hoping to elicit a condemnation after news that Iranian opposition leaders Mir Hossein Musavi and Mehdi Karrubi had been placed under house arrest, Iranian democracy activist Amir Hossein Etemadi signed in to Twitter and sent a message to the U.S. State Department's newly launched Persian-language account, @USAadarFarsi. Since then, Etemadi has sent more messages to the State Department through its [Persian-language Facebook page](#). One recent note said he hoped that as the U.S. government expands its foreign-language presence on social-media sites, it takes Iranian voices increasingly into account.

Bilingual Babies Learn Language in the Womb

Researchers tested one group of newborns who only heard English in the womb and the others who heard English and Tagalog. The infants exposed to two languages during pregnancy showed an equal preference for each one.

[New polyglot translator app arrives on the iPhone: Worldictionary Instant Translator](#)

Though it doesn't offer the smooth, built-into-camera-view augmented reality experience of the [Word Lens app](#), we found it easy to use; a cross-hair in the middle of the camera viewer means you can zero in on what you need translating- good if you have a pass knowledge of a foreign language but you've come unstuck on one word. The app offers more than the Word Lens' limited Spanish to English option, with functionality in traditional Chinese, simplified Chinese, English, Japanese, Korean, French, Germany, Italian, and Spanish. Keep on "view and translate" and words will appear above the cross-hair, with a translation displayed for the currently selected. (We found our results were powered by Google translate, so be prepared for the not-so-occasional funny answer.)

[PREVIOUS NEWS](#)

[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.

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.