
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 11 MAY 2011

Emily Jirles receives a prestigious federal Boren Scholarship

(University of Dayton)

It's not every day a college student receives a job offer with the federal government after her second year of school. But, that's exactly what University of Dayton student Emily Jirles has by earning a prestigious federal scholarship. Jirles, a sophomore international studies major and Asian studies minor from Lore City, Ohio, is the recipient of a David L. Boren Scholarship. As a Boren Scholar, she must work at least one year after graduation for the federal government in a position with national security responsibilities.

INNOVATIVE TEACHING METHOD REPLACES TEXTBOOKS

(Skagit Valley Herald)...Aaron Burkhalter

The teacher flaps his hands by his cheeks, pushes his hands down like he's pounding on a piano, grabs and shakes his shirt and sticks his forefinger underneath his nose like a mustache — without saying a word. Then they speak French back to him. He's using a language curriculum called Accelerative Integrated Methodology (AIM) that emphasizes the use of common words everyone needs to communicate. AIM was developed in British Columbia to teach French, and the company is producing Spanish curriculum soon. Slabodnik is leading a workshop at Seattle University this weekend on the method, which he hopes will be used more widely in the United States as the Spanish curriculum becomes available. The method pulls the students out of their textbooks — students have none in this class — and gets them talking. "My job is to use these gestures to prompt them to speak," Slabodnik said.

Language lessons on the menu at Café Rouge in York

(The Press, York)

A YORK café is aiming to allow people wanting to brush up on their French the chance to hone their language skills. Café Rouge, in Low Petergate, is teaming up with the Alliance Francaise de York, which provides classes led by French tutors as well as talks, concerts, dances and social events, to launch weekly conversation sessions for those aiming to keep up with the language in an informal, Parisian-style setting.

Spanish department assesses future cuts

(The State Hornet)...Sean Keister

The Spanish program at Sacramento State faces the possibility of further cutbacks to courses and sections during the fall 2011 semester. Corral said the department will not have enough members of the faculty for the fall semester to run the Spanish program as effective as it should, which will lead to fewer courses being offered. Daniela Cardenas, sophomore Spanish major, has had to extend her graduation date because one of her courses will not be available when she needs it.

Fifth-graders teach Spanish to second-graders via teleconference

(Killeen Daily Herald)...Todd Martin

Seven fifth-grade bilingual students who have been teaching second-graders Spanish through video teleconferencing met their young students in person Thursday for a Cinco de Mayo party.

OPINION

America's International-Education Programs Need a 21st-Century Makeover

(The Chronicle of Higher Education)...Mark Montgomery

I'm not sure why Title VI ended up on the chopping block. But after years of living on the federal dole, I came to believe that most of the Title VI money is frittered away on programs that do little to serve the

public good. I continue to believe in Title VI's core mission: supporting instruction in less-commonly taught languages, researching issues important to our national security, and ensuring that we have an electorate that is globally literate.

PREVIOUS NEWS

U.S. military engages soldiers with smartphone as training tool

"Budgets are always an issue," said Frank C. DiGiovanni, director for training readiness and strategy at the Defense Department. "What I'm trying to do is demonstrate these are extremely effective." DiGiovanni made his remarks at GameTech, a 5-year-old convention that was held in Orlando in March. It showcases the military's expanding use of simulators, video games, virtual worlds and smartphones. Besides the video games that allow soldiers to rehearse for combat, vendors were offering devices that provide cultural and language lessons, medical training and shooting practice.

Whitefish student nears end of West Point years

Danczyk also has visited eight countries during her four years at the academy. In Japan, Danczyk job-shadowed with a small military unit that flies Black Hawk helicopters for VIPs. She was part of a cultural immersion in Ecuador, practiced winter warfare tactics with cadets in Chile and studied Spanish and socioeconomics in Costa Rica.

A Teaching Network Brings Arabic to the Heartland

As a student at Montana State University more than 10 years ago, Jeremy Fowler decided to take Arabic, a language he was only dimly aware of and was surprised to learn was available to him. Today he is a doctor, using his Arabic to treat impoverished Bedouins with tuberculosis at a small clinic near Irbid, Jordan. "I never imagined myself working somewhere like this," he says. "But the language studies prepared me to start helping out immediately." (Requires subscription). Dr. Fowler took his courses through the U.S. Arabic Distance Learning Network, which blends videoconference instruction and in-person teaching to provide classes at eight universities in Missouri, Montana, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina. About 2,500 students have completed the network's courses, making it one of the country's largest Arabic programs.

Dual-language immersion programs growing in popularity

Dual-language immersion programs are the new face of bilingual education — without the stigma. They offer the chance to learn a second language not just to immigrant children, but to native-born American students as well.

Bilingualism is no advantage when studying foreign languages at upper secondary school

Today, in Sweden a large proportion of school pupils have a foreign background and switch between their home language and Swedish on a daily basis. However, bilingualism in itself does not bring any advantages when it comes to learning a foreign language. A new thesis in German from the University of Gothenburg shows that bilingual upper secondary school pupils perform somewhat below average in language tests, compared with those who only speak one language. Research into how bilingual pupils learn foreign languages at school is not unequivocal. Many results show that bilingual pupils have advantages, but this applies primarily in countries where the pupils being studied speak two national languages, such as in Spain (Spanish and Catalan/Basque).

Md.-Based Intelligence Agencies Helped Track Bin Laden

(Baltimore Sun)...Scott Calvert

One day last year, a trusted courier for Osama bin Laden answered a phone call that might have been wholly unremarkable except for one thing — the National Security Agency was apparently listening in. That intercepted call helped American intelligence officials track the courier all the way to the walled compound in Pakistan where bin Laden was hiding. The discovery eventually led to last week's midnight assault by Navy SEALs who killed the al-Qaida leader, ending a pursuit that began in the mid-1990s.

The Military's quest for a universal translator

(Public Radio International)...Alex Gallafent

The US military has been producing specialist interpreters for decades -- people who spend years learning Arabic, Chinese and other challenging languages. They're the kind of people Rye Barcott depended on. He's a former Marine captain who served in Iraq. For Barcott, there's no substitute for having a flesh-and-blood interpreter by your side when you're gathering intelligence, specifically, a trusted linguist who can translate all aspects of a conversation -- the verbal and the non-verbal. But as Barcott points out, few units, especially in the infantry, have access to human interpreters. Machine translation could help, with basic information at least.

India turns to sports, economics and culture to try to stop renewal of Kashmir protests

(The Associated Press)...Ajiaz Hussain

After facing three summers of violent separatist protests in Kashmir, the Indian government is trying to prevent another outburst of rage with a new approach: charm. It's starting cricket and soccer clubs, holding out the hope of new jobs, and teaching troops to speak the local language as it changes tactics in this Muslim-majority region where residents have long demanded either independence or a merger with neighbouring Pakistan.

Poor language skills 'leave Britons out of EU jobs'

(BBC)...Gillian Hargreaves

Only 5% of the jobs in the European Parliament and Commission are taken by British workers - although the UK contains 12% of the EU's population. The government is aiming to reverse a decline in language study in schools.

Spain's job seekers flock back to class

(Daily Nation)

Spain's economic downturn is sending jobless workers flocking back to school to learn other languages — mainly English — to boost their appeal to employers, providing a boon for language academies. Nearly one in two Spaniards, or 46.6 per cent, cannot speak a foreign language, the fourth highest level in the European Union after Romania, Hungary and Portugal, according to European Union statistics agency Eurostat.

Translating and interpreting is a growing, but uneven, industry

(Philly Inquirer)

Dale Eggett, who will finish a master's degree in less than three weeks, will go to work the week after, having had no problem landing a job. "I did have multiple, multiple job offers," said Eggett, whose Spanish and computer skills put him in the forefront of a burgeoning field. The global marketplace for interpreting, translating, and other language services was estimated at \$26.3 billion in 2010 and is projected to reach \$38.1 billion by 2013.

DLIFLC alumni support Operation Tomodachi

Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) graduates put their language training to good use in support of Operation Tomodachi after the recent disaster in Japan. Marine Lt. Col. James Kendall, a Foreign Area Officer (FAO) and Japanese linguist, was called to Camp Sendai only days after the disaster struck. He was soon working alongside Japanese Soldiers and officials to provide aid to victims of the disaster in the areas hardest hit by the tsunami.