
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Monterey alumni reach out in friendship, support Operation Tomodachi

(DLIFLC)...Lt. Scott Ghiringhelli

After disaster struck, graduates of the Japanese course at the Presidio of Monterey's Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center put their language training to good use in support of Operation Tomodachi.

Message Updates Status of Foreign Language Testing Delivery, Policy

(Navy.mil)...Lt.Cmdr. Walter Rogers

Naval administration message (NAVADMIN) 161/11, released May 10, and provides updates to the status of foreign language testing delivery and information on the policy regarding the testing. The message includes basic information to keep Sailors informed on policies, including possible bonuses for language skills. The Navy's Foreign Language Testing Program allows the Navy to capture and measure the language capabilities and determine the readiness of its forces.

Marines share their knowledge, experience with congressional staffers at Marine Day 2011

(Marines.mil)

In addition to foreign weapons training, MCTAG Marines also instruct security cooperation teams in non-lethal weapons, individual force protection, small unit tactics, patrolling, basic urban skills, and language and cultural skills.

Boren Scholarship Winner to Study in Middle East

(Canisius College)

Sophomore Sean Santiago will study the Arabic language, politics, religion, and history in the Middle East. "When considering U.S. national security, it is necessary to recognize the significance played by the Middle East, in particular the Arab world," says Santiago. "I have a passionate desire to serve my country, potentially in the intelligence community, and by studying Arabic, I will become more capable to do so by familiarizing myself with one of the languages most central to U.S. national security."

93% of Maltese internet surfers use foreign language online

(Gozo News)

While 90% of Internet surfers in the EU prefer to access websites in their own language, 55% at least occasionally use a language other than their own when online according to a pan-EU Eurobarometer survey released today. However, 44% of European Internet users feel they are missing interesting information because web pages are not in a language that they understand and only 18% buy products online in a foreign language. On average one out of two Internet users in twenty three Member States uses a language other than their own to read online. However this figure hides great variations as between 90 and 93% of Greeks, Slovenes, Luxembourgers, Maltese and Cypriots indicated they would use other languages when online, but only 9% of UK citizens, 11% of Irish, 23% of Czechs and 25% of Italians said they would do so.

Overcoming language barriers at the hospital

(TimesUnion)...Cathleen F. Crowley

Capital Region hospitals overcome language barriers by using special telephones to connect patients and their medical providers with an off-site language interpreter. In 2009, local hospitals called on telephone interpreters more than 5,500 times. Soon, there will be a new option in town. A nonprofit group that trains interpreters opened an office in Albany last month and hopes to build a cadre of medical interpreters who will be available for on-site and in-person language interpretation.

A champion of Creole

(MIT news)...Peter Dizikes

Linguist Michel DeGraff is on a quest to give Haitian Creole its due as a respected language — and to help Haitian schoolchildren learn in their native tongue.

PREVIOUS NEWS

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.

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.

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.