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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 13 MAY 2011**

#### **Blurring the Line between Language and Culture**

*(Language Magazine)...*Fatiha Guessabi

Language always carries meanings and references beyond itself: The meanings of a particular language represent the culture of a particular social group. To interact with a language means to do so with the culture which is its reference point. We could not understand a culture without having direct access to its language because of their intimate connection.

#### **Cadets Selected for International Study Scholarships**

*(Virginia Military Institute)*

Two Virginia Military Institute cadets have been selected to receive competitive U.S. government scholarships for study abroad. Cadet Baxter Blevins '13, an international studies and history major, will study Swahili in Zanzibar, Tanzania, during fall semester 2011 on a National Security Education Program David L. Boren Scholarship. He'll also study Swahili this summer at University of Florida under the scholarship. Cadet Jack Leetun '14 will study Arabic in VMI's Morocco program this summer on a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

#### **Students close culture gaps through new language skills**

*(Mukilteo Beacon)...*Sara Bruestle

Kelly Grace Richardson is only in second grade, but already she is learning a foreign language. Actually, make that three foreign languages. The non-profit Foreign Languages for Youth is partnering with several elementary and middle schools in the Mukilteo School District to teach students language classes before or after school. Kelly Grace is learning Spanish, French and Mandarin through FLY at Endeavour Elementary. This year's classes ended in April. "It's very complicated," Kelly Grace said of learning three languages at once, "but you have a lot of fun with the different languages." With FLY, students in grades 1-8 learn foreign languages through games, songs, skits and other fun activities.

#### **TripLingo offers insight into local language and culture for business travelers**

*(TechJournal South)...*Allan Maurer

For two years, Jessie Maddox, CEO of startup [TripLingo](#), lived worked and traveled through ten different Asian countries. He started after landing a job as a marketing manager for a Caterpillar dealer in Vietnam when he graduated from college. But a lack of knowledge of the local culture and language stymied him. "When I got started in Vietnam," Maddox says, "it didn't take long to learn that without any language skills it was going to be rough. I'm not sure if you've ever asked where the restroom is using only your hands, but it's just a tad bit embarrassing. That's why, when he returned to the U.S., he started [TripLingo](#), a new Web site with mobile apps that helps travelers get the most out of a trip by giving them insight into local language, culture and customs.

#### **KISS' Gene Simmons And Paul Stanley In Social Media Language Translator**

*(The Hollywood Reporter)...*Etan Vlessing

KISS co-founder **Paul Stanley** is joining fellow band member and reality TV star **Gene Simmons** to pitch the social media language translator Ortsbo at a May 20 Beverly Hills Hotel promotional event for the Canadian interactive content producer Intertainment Media. Stanley and Simmons will participate in *KISS Live & Global*, an interactive fan chat in 53 languages. Simmons, who speaks five languages, including English, Hebrew, Hungarian, and German, has become a business partner and official spokesman for Ortsbo.

### **Highland Park Resident Wins Foreign Language Fellowship**

*(Tribelocal) ... Brian Flood*

A University of Illinois at Chicago doctoral candidate in history has won a Foreign Language Areas Studies fellowship to study the South African language Xhosa. Jochen Arndt, of Highland Park, Ill., will attend the Summer Cooperative African Language Institute, hosted by the University of Florida, which provides intensive training equivalent to one year of African language instruction with cultural exposure.

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **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.

### **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.