
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 24 MAY 2011

Language policy actors

(Goethe Institut)

The framework conditions governing early foreign language learning are determined to a significant extent by educational and language policy decisions originating outside the learning and teaching institutions of nursery education, pre-primary education, primary education). Decisions as to when children should start learning a first or second foreign language and how such a learning programme should ultimately be structured are made by numerous country-specific institutions and interest groups. It is, of course, possible for language policy provisions by an internationally federated body like the EU to influence the prioritisation and the attractiveness of a foreign language as a curriculum subject within a national education system.

McDonnell inks ASL bill at VSDB

(Newsleader)...Megan Williams

Students at Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind raised their arms and shook their hands, signing clapping, as Gov. Bob McDonnell, signed a bill Monday validating their language in Virginia public schools. "American Sign Language is the language of our students," said VSDB superintendent Nancy Armstrong. "It's the language we believe in." McDonnell signed HB1435, proposed by Del. Richard P. "Dickie" Bell, R-Staunton, stating that ASL will be considered a foreign language and will have the same weight as any other foreign language course taught in schools.

Cedar Rapids Elementary Schools to Introduce Spanish Program

(Eastern Iowa Schools)

The Cedar Rapids Community School District will introduce an Elementary Spanish Program during the 2011-2012 school year in all kindergarten and first grade classrooms. One additional grade level will then be added each subsequent year, with grades K-5 all included in the program by the 2015-2016 school year. Students will participate in 30-minute Spanish language sessions every three days. Foreign language teachers will deliver the research-based curriculum to homerooms with the classroom teacher present.

Grand Valley alumna receives U.S. Department of State scholarship

(HollandSentinel)

Grand Valley State University graduate Sandra Braden has won a U.S. Department of State critical language scholarship issued by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Braden is among 575 American undergraduate and graduate students to receive a scholarship, from more than 5,200 applications from all 50 states and a wide range of academic disciplines. Braden will study the Arabic language and culture in Oman from June through August. Braden, from Big Rapids, graduated from Grand Valley in April with a bachelor's degree in international relations and a minor in Mid-East studies.

WWU student and Lake Stevens resident earns Critical Language Scholarship

(Lake Stevens Journal)

Western Washington University student and Lake Stevens resident Dana Rafter received a Critical Language Scholarship by the U.S. Department of State to study Arabic language and culture in Tunis, Tunisia from May 30- Aug 1. The Critical Language Scholarship will fund all expenses for Rafter's trip, including airfare, accommodation and language courses.

Language Learning Institute coming to Saratoga Springs

(The Saratogian)

The Language Learning Institute has opened a new educational center in Saratoga Springs to help adults and children learn French, Italian, Russian, Spanish and Portuguese. "We want to bring the love of language to as many people as possible," institute founder Nancy Scarselletta said. "While we have always been proud of our Albany base, we realize it is not convenient for everyone. With our arrival in Saratoga, we will be able to help many more people learn new languages and cultures."

PREVIOUS NEWS

Not the War Umesh Sharma Expected

(Harvard GSE)...Umesh Sharma

This is the story of a Harvard graduate who has taken the road less traveled. I came to the United States six years ago from Rajasthan, India, to attend Harvard. After obtaining my master's in the [International Education Policy Program](#), I decided not to return to India. I became a teacher in Washington, D.C. Then, in February 2009, the U.S. Army started a new program, MAVNI: Military Accession Vital to National Interest. I was able to join the Army despite being a legal immigrant and not having U.S. citizenship or permanent residency.

International and Foreign Language Education

(U.S. Department of Education)

International and Foreign Language Education (IFLE) advises the Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education on matters affecting postsecondary, international, and foreign language education. This office is responsible for encouraging and promoting the study of foreign languages and cultures of other countries at the elementary, secondary, and postsecondary levels in the United States. The Fiscal Year 2011 grant competitions for the following IFLE programs have been cancelled: American Overseas Research Centers; Business and International Education; Fulbright-Hays Training Grants--Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad; Fulbright-Hays Training Grants--Faculty Research Abroad; International Research and Studies; and Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program.

Foreign Language Policy and Petition: How to Meet the Foreign Language Requirement (Bachelor of Arts Degree)

(University of New Hampshire)

Proficiency in a foreign language at the level achieved by satisfactory work in a one-year, college-level course. This requirement may be fulfilled by taking a College Board foreign language achievement test or by completing the equivalent of a full-year elementary course in any foreign language (must be eight UNH credits or equivalent), or by completing the equivalent of a semester of a course in a foreign language beyond the elementary year (must be four UNH credits or equivalent), or by completing the equivalent of a one-year college-level course in American Sign Language (must be eight UNH credits or equivalent). Students should be aware that not all majors accept American Sign Language as a means to satisfy departmental foreign language proficiency requirements and should check with their advisers. No credit is awarded for elementary year college coursework if the student has had two or more years of that language in high school.

Boren Scholarship, WVU help freshman become world traveler

(West Virginia University)

Cody White's freshman year at [West Virginia University](#) included a Russian language course in each semester. The [engineering](#) major from Charleston had visited the country two summers ago and hoped to return someday. White's "someday" has turned into "soon" with the awarding of a National Security Education Program's David L. Boren Scholarship. "I didn't expect to get the scholarship," White said. "I applied but I knew I had three more years to try for it. Once I found out I got it, I started to get excited." White has plenty to be excited about. Along with the scholarship, he's leaving this month for a two-month trip to China as part of a [WVU nanotechnology](#) research initiative.

Everett wins UAB's first Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship

*(UAB News)...*Shannon Thomason

Junior Kimberly Everett of Semmes, Ala., is the first [University of Alabama at Birmingham](#) student to receive the [Thomas R. Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fell.](#) Everett is an economics major with a concentration in PPE – philosophy and political economy – a specific program offered by the [UAB School of Business](#) and the [UAB College of Arts and Sciences](#), and a minor in Chinese. She is a student in the [UAB University Honors Program](#) with a 3.82 grade-point average. Everett also is [UAB's 2011 Truman scholar](#).

Two thirds of Irish would 'work abroad'

*(Insidelreland)...*Suzanne Blair

According to the latest figures by a Eurobarometer survey, 67% of young Irish people would work abroad, stating the main reasons being; improved academic knowledge, improved foreign language skills and awareness of another culture. The survey was conducted with young people from each country across

China and Taiwan 'first joint dictionary'

*(BBC News)...*Cindy Sui

Taiwan and China may share the same linguistic heritage - like Britain and the United States - but more than six decades of separation and political tensions have led to the Chinese language evolving in very different ways on each side; sometimes causing confusion, frustration or embarrassment. Relations have been improving since 2008 and in the past year, the two former foes have been working on a first-ever joint dictionary that will encompass their different ways of writing and speaking Chinese.

GLOBISH: How the English Language Became The World's Language

*(Washington Post)...*Robert McCrum

Robert McCrum takes as his title a word coined a decade and a half ago by Jean-Paul Nerrière, "a French-speaking former IBM executive and amateur linguistic scholar" who "had noticed that non-native English speakers in the Far East communicated more successfully in English with their Korean and Japanese clients than competing British or American executives." He thought of what they spoke as "decaffeinated English" and called it "[Globish](#)." It "starts from a utilitarian vocabulary of some 1,500 words, is designed for use by non-native speakers . . . is now quite widely recognized across the European Union, and is often referred to by Europeans who use English in their everyday interactions."

Linguists Essential Part of Female Engagement Team Mission

*(ISAF)...*Lance Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

"Our linguist is everything to us," said Cpl. Vanessa Belcher, a Marine with FET 4, located in Marjah. "Without her we wouldn't get much accomplished." Belcher, a Tellico Plains, Tenn., native, said her linguist, Faria Jalala, is especially helpful when the Marines are in the villages and the Afghan women misconstrue her team for males. Jalala is able to wear her hair in a ponytail, which makes her more accessible to Afghan women, and in turn is able to expose them to the Marines.

Student Warrior Diplomats Take Professional Development Into Their Own Hands

*(NPS)...*MC1 Leonardo Carrillo

The Foreign Area Officer Association of Monterey (FAOAM) hosted the fifth annual Foreign Area Officer (FAO) Conference at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) early last month, exposing Monterey FAOs to a variety of diplomats and experts. The series of lectures, panels and keynote speakers were geared towards promoting the FAOAM mission of increasing professionalism, education, capabilities, communication and overall advancement of the FAO community.

2011 Command Language Program Managers' Seminar

(DLIFLC)

The presentations delivered at the seminar are posted at this location. They are posted with permission of the authors for the benefit of language program managers. This is not exhaustive. DLIFLC will add more presentations as they gain permissions.