
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 26 MAY 2011

Academy Graduates Put Air Force in Good Standing, Donley Says

(American Forces Press Service)...Lisa Daniel

The 1,021 graduates are among 3,300 newly commissioned Air Force officers, who add to about 28,000 new enlisted members, Donley said. It's important for officers and enlisted airmen to work together, he said. More than 20 percent of academy graduates minored in a foreign language.

Opinion: How and Why the Humanities Lost Touch

(The Chronicle of Higher Education)...Frank Donoghue

Let me start at the top. Higher education lost touch with the humanities in 1970, if not before. That was the last year in which a majority of U.S. college students graduated with majors in traditional liberal-arts subjects (of which the humanities form the core): philosophy, history, English, foreign languages, etc. So students have been fleeing the humanities as a discipline worth studying for at least two generations. Professor Nussbaum expresses the hope that we make students into "complete citizens" and not "little machines." But the overwhelming evidence is that more and more students *want* to become "little machines," or at least little money-making machines. This tendency is corroborated by the survey that UCLA has administered to an enormous number of incoming freshmen since 1966, asking them, among other things, what was most important to them. In the 1971 survey, the top three answers were "to help others who are in difficulty" (68.5%), to become an authority in my field (66%), and "to keep up to date on politics" (57.8%), all values consistent with being a good citizen. In 2001, the same survey found that "being very well off financially" (a distant fifth in 1971) topped the list at 73%. Help others in difficulty had slipped to 61.5%, while "keep up to date with political affairs" had dropped all the way to 28.1%.

US Intelligence Crunches Metaphors to Understand Foreign Language

(Gizmodo)...Andrew Tarantola

The Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity, a small arm of the US intelligence community, is distributing \$20 million grants to computer scientists who can parse a language and determine a culture's relationship with a certain concept. It's called, The Metaphor Program.

Foreign language for college may be ended

(Irish Times)...Sean Flynn

THE FOREIGN language requirement for students entering third-level colleges could be abolished, Minister for Education Ruairi Quinn has said. The Minister has said the language requirement "may need reconsideration in the light of the economic imperative to encourage more students to study the physical sciences in senior cycle." He has also hinted at radical changes in languages policies in second-level schools, with a stronger emphasis on languages such as Chinese and Russian which are seen as key to economic growth. At present, French accounts for about 70 per cent of all foreign-language teaching at second level.

Opinion: Taken in isolation

(Russia Beyond the Headlines)...Svetlana Babaeva

After decades of espousing a doctrine of multiculturalism and national diversity, Western societies are discovering that they have stifled themselves with their own ideals.

Pentagon Library

Pentagon Library now offers **Mango Languages** to all Library Patrons via the [Library Intranet](#). Mango offers web based training for 22 languages and ESL. A login profile is available to track your learning progress.

Mendon-Upton's Spanish immersion program graduates first class

(Milford Daily News)...Julie Balise

Ashley Hill says she has an edge when looking for a new job: her ability to speak both English and Spanish fluently. Hill was not raised bilingual, though. She learned her second language in Mendon-Upton Regional School District's Spanish immersion program, which will be graduating its first class next month. Hill's journey through learning Spanish actually began 13 years ago, when then-Spanish teacher Joan Scribner did a presentation for parents of the Class of 2011 as their children entered kindergarten. Scribner was co-founding the Spanish immersion program in Mendon-Upton after researching similar methods in Maryland and Holliston, where a French immersion program was already under way.

Studying abroad

(Cambridge-news)...Lydia Fallon

You may want the opportunity to experience a completely different culture and way of life or are simply getting bored of good old Blighty, but studying abroad is a big commitment. Lydia Fallon looks at the pros and cons that may affect your decision.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Liberal arts college teaching in a second language

(USA Today)...Dan Berrett

When parents are given a choice of primary and secondary schools for their children, schools with foreign language immersion programs can be some of the hottest draws. By learning not just literature and grammar, but also physics and philosophy in a foreign language, students are thought to develop a more expansive view of the world and be more intellectually and culturally nimble, as well as being able to speak fluently in two tongues. This thinking is a large part of what has driven the number of foreign language immersion programs at the K-12 level to nearly double in the past decade, according to the Center for Applied Linguistics.

Multiple Language Skills Could be Key to Career Growth

(StarTribune)...Matt Krumrie

As the demographics change across the state of Minnesota (and throughout the United States) and as technology continues to increase our ability to do more business at an international level, those with diverse language skills will position themselves for career success. That's what a number of Twin Cities business professionals say and what a recent University of Phoenix Research Institute study confirmed. That report said that 42 percent of employers expect the need for business proficiency in Chinese to increase over the next decade, while 70 percent indicated that the ability to speak Spanish will be a key skill set. For professionals looking to gain an edge, learning in-demand language skills could be the key to professional growth. "Adding a language skill and being fluent in your field of work is definitely an advantage in today's increasingly skilled and credentialed workforce," said Deb Bahr Helgen of the City of Minneapolis Workforce Council.

Team work, gender and the power of bonding

(CTV News)...Susan Pinker

Less than 24 hours after Osama bin Laden was killed by U.S. Navy Seals, I was driving through the gates of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, near San Diego, to meet members of the newly formed Female Engagement Team. The FET, a 40-member, all-female battalion, had recently returned from Afghanistan, where they were deployed on a special mission to forge bonds with Afghan citizens. When I set up interviews with some of the toughest women in the United States, no one knew about the clandestine strike against the al-Qaeda leader, of course. Yet the timing of my visit made me think about the U.S. military's strategic deployment of the sexes: the all-male Navy Seals for stealth and violence, the all-female FET for winning hearts and minds. Is there a lesson here for business?

Mais Oui! Learning a Language Helps Toddler's Brain Function

(fyi Living)...Susan Becker

Can learning a second language as a toddler give your child a cognitive edge over kids who wait until high school French class? The authors of a [recent study](#) believe the answer is "Oui." Among toddlers as young as two, bilingual youngsters outscored their monolingual counterparts in the area known as "[executive functioning](#)." To toddlers, this comes down to sorting shapes, but for older kids and adults, executive functioning includes important mental tasks such as planning, strategizing, organizing and goal-setting.

Slavic Written Language and Culture Day

(The Voice of Russia)

Today Russia and all Slavic countries mark the Day of Slavic Written Language and Culture. The holiday is inseparably linked to the honouring of Saints Cyril and Methodius, - the preachers of Christianity and authors of the Slavic alphabet. The written language, created by the two brothers, had an enormous effect on the development of Russian Literature. The date was first officially marked in 1863 due to the 1,000 years since the creation of the alphabet.

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."