
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 01 JUNE 2011

The Bilingual Advantage

(The New York Times)...Claudia Driefus

Q. One of your most startling recent findings is that bilingualism helps forestall the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. How did you come to learn this? A. We did two kinds of studies. In the first, published in 2004, we found that [normally aging bilinguals had better cognitive functioning than normally aging monolinguals](#). Bilingual older adults performed better than monolingual older adults on executive control tasks. That was very impressive because it didn't have to be that way. It could have turned out that everybody just lost function equally as they got older. That evidence made us look at people who didn't have normal cognitive function. In [our next studies](#), we looked at the medical records of 400 Alzheimer's patients. On average, [the bilinguals showed Alzheimer's symptoms five or six years later than those who spoke only one language](#). This didn't mean that the bilinguals didn't have Alzheimer's. It meant that as the disease took root in their brains, they were able to continue functioning at a higher level. They could cope with the disease for longer.

Interpreter completes three-year tour

(DVIDS)...Tech. Sgt. Adrienne Brammer

After almost three years in Afghanistan, an American is returning home. Interpreter Sabour Raouf works as the cultural adviser and command linguist with the Regional Support Command-South at Kandahar Air Field. Looking back on his time here, the name of the unit hasn't always been the same, but the job was always important. "Sabour Raouf is without question the best linguist with whom I have worked in five countries and through five deployments," said RSC-S commander, Col. Greg Baine. "Through his expertise, maturity, and understanding of the environment, he has developed relationships among senior ANA and ANP officials that have facilitated extremely smooth communications and significantly enhanced our operations. Sabour consistently demonstrated his expert knowledge of the tactical situation.

A Step Back for Learning Languages

(The New York Times)...Jim Dwyer

New York is filled with people who either cannot speak English or who can speak nothing but. Next week, students across the state will take [Regents](#) exams in foreign languages for the last time, as the state is dropping its tests in Spanish, French and Italian. [This will save \\$700,000 a year](#), or to put it another way, roughly the cost of policing a homestand at one of the baseball stadiums.

NJ Lawmakers Support World Languages K-12

(LivingstonPatch)...Marilyn Joyce Lehren

New Jersey lawmakers on Thursday introduced legislation to create "more aggressive language programs," U.S. Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) announced in a press statement. "The best way for our young people to master a foreign language is to start at an early age and continue learning throughout their education. This legislation seeks to create more aggressive language programs that will help close the language gap for American students," Lautenberg said in the press release.

How France Lost Africa to the U.S.

(the Atlantic)...G. Pascal Zachary

The drive for economic opportunity explains much of America's attraction of African immigrants, but there's a political element as well, best illustrated by the recent history of Rwanda. A Francophone country, it added English as its third official language after the trauma of the 1994 genocide, signaling a shift in linguistic allegiance. On the surface, the change was an accident of history. Paul Kagame, the

leader of the Tutsi rebel forces, had lived for years in English-speaking Uganda. He didn't even speak French. Because he knew English, he chose to receive military training in the U.S., at Fort Benning, Georgia. When he took power, he favored English, setting up a new national media network and criteria for government posts, all in English.

[U.S. spies want computers to analyze metaphors](#)

(cnet News)...Tim Hornyak

The Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity ([IARPA](#)), a spy version of DARPA under the director of National Intelligence, is working on something called [The Metaphor Program](#). The program is meant to "exploit the fact that metaphors are pervasive in everyday talk and reveal the underlying beliefs and worldviews of members of a culture."

[Socrates in Spanish](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)...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](#).

[Educator seeks to open O.C. bilingual school](#)

(The Orange County Register)...Scott Martindale

In fall 2012, Brownson hopes to turn his vision into reality by opening the Orange County Bilingual Academy, a K-5 public charter school that gives students an opportunity to learn either English and Spanish, or English and Mandarin Chinese. Brownson also wants to give students an option to learn a third language after school. "Students are going to need a second language to survive in the world. It's critical for cultural understanding and jobs." Brownson's school would be the first in the county to offer the three-language model.

[PREVIOUS NEWS](#)

[Study finds small language gaps in children adopted from abroad](#)

(The Canadian Press)...Eric Danek

A new study suggests babies adopted from abroad may not be able to master language to the same level as Canadian-born babies. The study followed adopted Chinese-born babies and found that when they are compared against Canadian-born peers from similar households, the adopted children fared worse in language development. In different tests, between one-third and half of the adopted children had slightly more trouble expressing themselves, and about one-quarter had a bit more trouble understanding language than their Canadian-born peers.

[Western Graduates Head To China for Internships](#)

(The Wall Street Journal)...Javier Espinoza

In a crowded job market, having work experience in China on your résumé can make a big difference. Recent graduates in industries from engineering to finance in both Europe and the U.S. are making their way to the country, hoping to land their first jobs faster and more easily than their competitors. Lesmes Gutiérrez, a 23-year-old engineering graduate of Loughborough University in the U.K., who had a two-week placement with Baoshang Bank in Beijing late last year, says potential employers are more impressed with those who can demonstrate a willingness to move out of their comfort zone. "It's quite a big step to go somewhere not knowing what to expect. The idea of going to China calls for awareness and the willingness to relocate," which could be appealing to employers, he says.

UK slashes number of trusted English language testers

(Guardian)...Max de Lotbiniere

UK immigration authorities have drastically cut the number of language assessment providers they deem suitable to offer tests to demonstrate the English skills of visa applicants. Last month the [UK Border Agency](#), which controls visa processing, unveiled its revised list of English language tests that will be accepted as part of visa applications to come to the UK to live, work and study.

Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center releases Spring 2011 Globe Magazine

(DLIFLC)

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Globe. In this edition we feature the strong leadership from the top as Dr. Clifford Stanley, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, clearly articulates the need for a holistic approach to growing foreign language and culture competency in the United States.

Anger Over Protesters' Deaths Leads to Intensified Demonstrations by Mongolians

(New York Times)...Andrew Jacobs

Ethnic Mongolians seething over the killings of two Mongolians by Han Chinese drivers took their anger to the streets of this capital of Inner Mongolia on Monday in a rare expression of antigovernment sentiment here. Until now, the authorities have met the protests with a heavy-handed police response and highly publicized efforts to appease ethnic Mongolians, who make up less than 20 percent of the region's population of 24 million and have long complained that migration of Han Chinese is diluting their language and culture.

Qatar: Innovative Education Methods Bridging Relations

(Global Arab Network)...Ammar Shikhani

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Qatar Foundation International's (QFI) Executive Director Maggie Mitchell Salem said, "Learning other languages can help bridge communities when two critical components are included – culture and youth exchanges, both real and virtual." Linking language to people, history and society of the region, and having exchange programmes between young people in the West and those in Middle East would help in clearing misconceptions and build bridges, she said. Founded in 2007 and Washington-based the QFI is a non-profit organization which promotes education as a force that facilitates collaboration across geographical, social and cultural boundaries.

Lautenberg, Holt introduce foreign language education legislation

(Newsworks)...Shannon McDonald

With the intention to "improve U.S. competitiveness and national security, U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg and U.S. Rep. Rush Holt of New Jersey have introduced legislation to create a program of foreign language classes for K to 12 students. The Foreign Language Education Partnership Program Act would provide up to \$50 million in annual funding for model programs of sequenced foreign language instruction from K-12, with the goal of graduating high school students with an advanced level of proficiency, according to a joint statement released by Lautenberg's office. All languages are eligible for consideration, but the Secretary of Education would have the authority to prioritize languages based on national needs.

Pashto linguist awarded Bronze Star for selflessness

(DVIDS)...Sgt. Marcy Sanchez

Cpl. Zachary D. Byron, a Pashto linguist currently assigned to 1st Radio Battalion, was presented the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for actions while serving with 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment in November 2010. Byron's squad was caught in an enemy ambush in the vicinity Durzay, Afghanistan located in southern Helmand province. Byron, 23, was shot in the wrist and thigh as he tried to render aid on the injured Marine in front of him. As he fell in and out of consciousness from blood loss, he continued to translate enemy communications, allowing the squad to avert another assault. "I had a sense of loyalty to my job and my troops to make sure I didn't fail them," Byron said.

Foreign attachés experience modern language learning at DLIFLC

(DLIFLC)

Approximately 25 foreign attachés from all around the world toured the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) on Tuesday, May 17. The visit was part of the attachés' annual spring tour that this year focused on Navy-Marine Corps and Joint Commands in the western United States. The senior foreign military officers, most of who work in their respective embassies in Washington, were exposed to major cultural, industrial, governmental, and historical aspects of the United States during their travels.

State eliminates some Regents examinations

(Times Beacon Record)...Elana Glowatz

To save the state money, high school students will no longer take foreign language Regents examinations nor any Regents examinations in January, the Board of Regents decided recently. According to the New York State Education Department, cutting out Regents exams in January will save \$1.4 million and eliminating foreign language exams for Italian, French and Spanish will save \$700,000 — exams in German, Hebrew and Latin have already been cut.

District looks into expanding languages

(phillyBurbs)...Amanda Cregan

The school board is hoping to begin Spanish language classes for kindergarten through fifth-grade students, but there are not enough funds to start the program. Parents and school officials want to give young students an early jump on learning a foreign language, said board President Larry Fieber. But with testing standards, it can be difficult to build another class into an already full day, he said. The elementary schools once had a foreign language offering, but with only one class a week, students were not immersed in the new language. "We found the effectiveness is not what it could have been," he said. "For an elementary program, it's got to be offered multiple times a week."