
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 11 JULY 2011

Rwanda's first lady calls for preservation of culture

(Sunday Vision)

RWANDA'S First Lady Mrs. Jeannette Kagame has said culture is one of the things that can salvage a people and urged Africans to ensure they embrace and preserve their cultures. She said an example of how culture can salvage a people is the many Rwandans, including herself, who grew up in exile and all they had as a unifying factor was their language and culture.

DLIFLC Korean students compete for honors

(DLIFLC)

Since 2003 the faculty of the Korean department at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center has given students an opportunity to compete for the prestige of being the "top dog" in Korean speaking skills. This speech contest, which was conducted on the anniversary of the Korean War, was in remembrance of the conflict that freed millions of people and solidified the partnership between the United States and South Korea. The contest opened with guest speaker, Vice Korean Consul General Mr. Sung Wook Hong. During his opening remarks, Hong expressed his amazement and gratitude to DLIFLC. "Despite my life-long Korean background, I find Korean to be a difficult language. DLI has my sincere gratitude for providing excellent education to these students," Hong said.

Female engagement team

(Army.mil)

Innovative Female Engagement Team training materials added recently on the Army Training Network (<https://atn.army.mil>) are designed to help deploying female Soldiers adapt to local customs and improve their interactions with Afghan women.

Professor nabs knighthood teaching French with social media

*(Reuters)...*Harriet McLeod

A University of South Carolina professor will be knighted by the French government for using social media to connect her students with their peers studying English in France. This fall, the French consul will knight Lara Lomicka Anderson as a member of the academic order that was founded in the early 1800s by Napoleon and honors contributions to French language and culture.

Youth gear up for trip to Washington, D.C

*(AustinTalks)...*Michael Sandler

Nicole Anthony's Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) class snaps to attention as she explains how to write a policy recommendation. The attention is for good reason: the Austin-based chapter of YEP will be in Washington, D.C., July 11 to 16 to advocate for changes in education changes, including updated textbooks, more foreign language and technology classes for elementary school students, and a benchmark test that 11th graders would take once a year. In D.C., the teens will meet with congressional members from their area – including [Bobby Rush](#) (1st), [Jesse Jackson, Jr.](#) (2nd) and [Danny Davis](#) (7th) – and share their policy ideas.

The importance of foreign languages

(Irish Times – Letter)

Sir, – We write in response to the recent report ("Foreign language for college may be ended", Home News, May 26th) on Minister for Education Ruairí Quinn's comments on foreign languages in the Leaving Certificate curriculum. Since taking office, the Minister is to be commended for his recognition that the Points system has led to a superficial school leaving exam that encourages rote learning at the expense

of critical thinking. However, it is deeply disappointing that his approach to the learning of European languages is less insightful. Indeed, the Minister indicates that he is considering the possibility of dispensing with the compulsory requirement for what we might call “core” European languages. (Signed by approximately 25 professors).

Expert: China's 130 national languages still thriving

(People's Daily Online)

China's 130 national languages have still been inherited and continue to develop among 1.3 billion people despite the impact of globalization and regional economic development, said a linguist from an authoritative dialect research agency on July 10, 2011. According to statistics, there are more than 6,000 languages in the world, of which more than 2,500 languages are in an extremely critical state, while in China, 130 languages, including Mandarin Chinese, are used by 1.3 billion people. In terms of global influence, Mandarin Chinese ranks sixth in the world.

PREVIOUS NEWS

State Pushes World Languages in Schools

(Global Atlanta)...Trevor Williams

Nearly 380,000 students in grades 6-12, about 23 percent of all students enrolled in public schools, were taking world language courses in 2010. The total increased by 39 percent from 272,613 during the previous year, according to Jon Valentine, program specialist for world languages and international education at the Georgia Department of Education. The fact that the passionate 38-year-old's position even exists is a testimony to how forward-looking the state has been on the subject, he said. Though the state requires no foreign-language instruction for high school graduation, students at public universities need two years of credit to get a degree. The fact that colleges consider language proficiency in their admissions decisions has driven interest in high schools, Mr. Valentine said.

Around the world: Honduras helps me see home

(Camp Lejeune Globe)...Amy Binkley Carolina

I recently had the opportunity to bunker down in an orphanage in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, to do missions work and serve the people in the city and the surrounding villages for almost two weeks. Everything was foreign to me – the language, the culture and especially the intensity of the equator sun. Many of my friends in the Marine Corps have told stories of the culture shock they experienced while deployed overseas, but there's nothing like seeing suffering with your own eyes to put things in perspective.

Federal Hill House To Launch Language Learning Curriculum

(Providence Business News – press release)

The Federal Hill House Association (FHHA), which enjoys a four-star rating from BrightStars for its Early Learning and School Age programs—the highest of all community centers in RI—will introduce a new curriculum in September that will explore a revolutionary concept in educating young children—multilingual learning. The first of its kind in Rhode Island, this exclusive trilingual immersion curriculum will teach students English, Spanish, and Chinese (Mandarin), is tailored specifically for young children, and will be combined with enhanced childcare services from FHHA. Training for FHHA employees delivering the new curriculum begins in July.

Sgt. Hendricks returning from overseas deployment

(Morris Daily Herald)

Army Reserve Sgt. 1st Class John D. Hendricks is returning to the U.S. after a deployment to Iraq serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom/New Dawn, or Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations. Hendricks served in support of Operation New Dawn. The sergeant, a cryptologic linguist, is regularly assigned to the 325th Military Intelligence Battalion, at Fort Devens, Mass.

Foreign police help summer tourists in Croatia

*(Reuters)...*Zoran Radosavljevic

For many tourists, a dreamy summer holiday abroad can turn into a nightmare if they run into problems and don't speak the local language. Using rudimentary language skills and body language to describe the details of a theft, a car accident or worse can be challenging, particularly after a traumatic experience. In order to help overcome the language barrier between local authorities and the tourists who pack Croatia's Adriatic coast every summer, Croatian police have invited dozens of fellow officers from around Europe to take part in their "Safe Tourist Season" project.

Atlanta Startup's App Helps Troops Speak With Afghans

*(Global Atlanta – press release)...*Trevor Williams

An Atlanta startup celebrated the Fourth of July by releasing an iPhone app that aims to help U.S. soldiers communicate in Afghanistan. TripLingo develops and sells apps that help businesspeople, students and now troops bridge the language gap while traveling, making trips more effective. The apps provide useful phrases for standard situations like eating and transportation, allowing the traveler to use a "slang slider" to select anything from formal, polished statements to "crazy" phrases only locals are likely to know. Each phrase includes audio pronunciation guide, and each version of the app includes a dictionary. The July 4 release is a free app in the Dari language, a Persian tongue spoken by half of Afghanistan's population, according to the CIA World Factbook. Dari is a strategic language for the Department of Defense.

Lango, a Foreign Language Program for Kids, Expands with New School Partnerships

(San Francisco Chronicle - press release)

Schools across the country are adding foreign language classes for kids to their after-school enrichment options, fueled by demand from parents who increasingly understand the benefits of learning a second language at a young age.

Fresno State Iranian studies receives endowment

(The Business Journal)

The PARSA Community Foundation has contributed \$200,000 toward an endowment at California State University, Fresno as part of a series of grants promoting Iranian studies programs throughout North America. Part of a total of \$2.4 million in grants to various universities in the U.S. and Canada, the Fresno State grant will help establish the "PARSA Community Foundation Visiting Scholar in Persian and Cultural Studies" position. The PARSA grant is also matched dollar-for-dollar by the [Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute](#), and is pooled with a previous \$500,000 Roshan grant for a total \$900,000 endowment.

English can be very confusing language to learn

*(Leavenworth Times)...*John Reichley

The new class of international military students (IMS) is at the fort and off and running in preparatory classes and getting to know each other. And those from non-English speaking countries are hard at work perfecting their skills in their new language. We sponsored the first student from a country that was part of the former Soviet Union, and he had to spend a year at the Defense Language Institute in San Antonio learning English. By the time he arrived here I thought he spoke it pretty well.

The changing face of America's youth

*(CNN)...*John D. Sutter

For the first time in national history, the majority of young people in two states -- California and New Mexico -- now identify as Hispanic, according to census data released this year. In eight additional states -- Nevada, Arizona, Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, Maryland and Hawaii -- white children are in the minority compared with peers from other racial and ethnic groups combined, according to data analyzed by William Frey at the Brookings Institution. The number of white children in the United States actually shrank by 4.3 million kids from 2000 to 2010, according to the analysis. A greater percentage of young Hispanics were born in the United States than their older counterparts, which may explain the language gap between younger Hispanics and the previous generation.