
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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More Students Study Foreign Languages

(GPB News)...Maura Walz

More Georgia students are now studying foreign languages. Two years ago, 17 percent of public high school students were enrolled in language classes. Last year that number jumped to nearly a quarter of all high school students studying global languages. Jon Valentine, who heads the state education department's international education programs, says the jump in numbers of students enrolled in language classes was a surprise because the state abandoned its foreign language graduation requirement two years ago when it switched to a single diploma program. Valentine says that part of the increase can be traced to Georgia's public universities, which now require two years foreign language study for admittance. But he also says high schools are starting to promote language study to a broader range of students.

Your Foreign Language Skills Aren't Perfect? Lighten Up.

(HuffingtonPost.com)...Lev Raphael

Preparing to go to Germany last fall on a book tour, I took an on-line grammar test from a language school. Big mistake. I've never been good at grammar even in English, and I bombed, despite having studied some basic German. I told this to a friend who teaches German and he said, "Forgot it. Nobody's going to test you over there. The key thing is, can you communicate? If you make mistakes, so what? Don't let yourself be paralyzed by grammar. It'll stop you having fun." It was terrific advice.

IUPUI center helps foreign doctors make their English better

(Indystar.com)...Shari Rudavsky

The first year of practicing medicine isn't easy. The hours are long and the expectations are high. But Dr. Diana Morales Zelaya, a family medicine resident at the Indiana University School of Medicine, had another challenge: She had just moved to the United States. Like many in IU's family medicine residency program, Morales Zelaya not only had to adjust to her new role as a doctor, she also had to master a new culture and language. Fortunately for Morales Zelaya, before she saw her first patient in July 2010, she received help from the Indiana Center for Intercultural Communication at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Such training is required in orientation for IU's family medicine residents, who spend three years perfecting clinical skills after receiving their medical degrees.

East Meets West

(Patch.com)...Sue Rogers

Pick up a newspaper, read a book about the global economy, stop and think about the next 100 years. Clearly, China will have a significant influence on pretty much every facet of our lives, our children's lives and our grandchildren's lives. With its booming industry and rapidly expanding cities, it has been predicted by many that China will soon become the world's biggest economy, surpassing the U.S. There are various dialects of Chinese already being spoken by billions worldwide, but according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, there are only 60,000 K-12 students in the United States that are studying Chinese. Compare this with the 300 million students in China currently studying English. According to the The American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages, "Language and communication are at the heart of the human experience. The United States must educate students who are linguistically and culturally equipped to communicate successfully in a pluralistic American society and abroad. This imperative envisions a future in which ALL students will develop and maintain proficiency in English and at least one other language, modern or classical."

University of Hawaii Hosts Arabic Immersion Camp

(Honolulu Civil Beat)...Ambassador (ret) Michael Lemmon & Mahmoud Al-Batal

This month, 24 young men and women from high schools, L.A., Seattle and throughout the Hawaiian Islands, did something extraordinary. Rather than spending their summer playing Xbox or hanging out at the mall, they spent 2 weeks in an intensive Arabic language immersion camp with the goal of gaining exposure to Arabic language and culture. The summer camp, a One World Now (OWN) program sponsored by Qatar Foundation International (QFI), was held at the University of Hawaii-Manoa with local partner, the Pacific Asian Affairs Council. The language list is not limited to Arabic. A glance at the headlines shows why our country needs more professionals in business, national security and academia who can communicate effectively in Chinese, Russian, Pashto, among others. There are various programs that try to meet this pressing need, but ultimately a national challenge of this magnitude needs a national strategy. Sadly, foreign language instruction has suffered in school systems across the nation as educators place extra emphasis on meeting the requirements of "No Child Left Behind". And in constrained economic times, budget cuts rarely spare foreign language programs.

Using apps and the net to learn a new language

(The Hindu)

Many online classes and apps promise to turn learning a foreign language into child's play. But none of them work unless they mesh well with the pupil's personal knowledge and individual learning curve. Thus, the new Web 2.0 language courses, which offer more excitement and entertainment. There are also online courses that individualise themselves for each student. At Busuu — the name is derived from a Cameroonian language threatened with extinction — there are nine different languages people can learn online: English; Spanish; Portuguese; Italian; German; Russian; French; Polish and Turkish. More languages are expected to be added this year, like Japanese and Mandarin.

PREVIOUS NEWS

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 Ruairi 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.

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.