
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 13 JULY 2011

Fury Brigade graduates from first Dari language class

(DLIFLC)

Sixty paratroopers of the Fury Brigade 4th Combat Team (BCT), 82nd Airborne Division, graduated from a 16-week Dari language program June 27, becoming the first group of Soldiers to have completed training at the newly established Afghanistan/Pakistan (AFPAK) General Purpose Force (GPF) Language Training Detachment (LTD). The course, administered by the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC), is designed to teach basic language and culture skills to predeploying Soldiers and provide language-enabled servicemembers who will be key to successful combined operations with Afghan coalition partners.

U.S. Government Turns to Basis Technology for Arabic & Afghan Name Translation

(U.S. Politics Today – Press Release)

Basis Technology today announced that the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency has licensed its Highlight Language Analysis Suite for use throughout the defense and intelligence community. This multi-year license allows hundreds of analysts to quickly and consistently translate names of people and places from Arabic, Pashto and Dari into English within familiar Microsoft Office applications. Future enhancements will include support for additional languages that meet the requirements of the U.S. Government.

Pacific Partnership 2011 Shares Culture, Stories with Micronesian Children

(Navy.mil) ...Airman 1st Class Haleigh Greer

Members of the Pacific Partnership 2011 (PP11) team from USS Cleveland (LPD 7) participated in Pohnpei Public Library's Library Camp, in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), July 12. "School is out for the summer, but some parents want their kids to stay active and continue learning. So they send them to library camp," said Lt. Phillip Ridley, Pacific Partnership 2011 chaplain. "Here they are learning library skills, playing sports with each other, and learning about different parts of the world. Each child gets a 'passport,' and when they finish learning about a new country, they get a sticker to show they have completed that country."

Could you spell that? In Spanish

(Fox 59/Reuters)

Evelyn Juarez repeated to the panel of six judges and then flawlessly spelled it to win the first national Spanish-language spelling bee in the United States. The 13-year-old Juarez, a seventh grader from Santa Cruz, New Mexico, won the two-hour contest on Saturday by battling with 11 contestants assembled from across the country at Albuquerque's National Hispanic Cultural Center. "Our spelling contest was incredibly rigorous," David Briseno, the executive director of New Mexico's Association for Bilingual Education, the group who arranged the contest, said on Sunday.

Degree program in Mandarin Chinese approved at University of Rhode Island

(projo.com) ...Gina Macris

When Mandarin Chinese 101 first appeared in the course catalog at the University of Rhode Island in the fall of 2004, 30 students immediately filled all the available seats. In the fall of 2010, about 170 students enrolled, almost all of them taking a second semester in the spring. On June 27, while some of those students continued their studies in China, the Board of Governors for Higher Education gave the language program official sanction, approving a bachelor's degree in Mandarin Chinese.

AZ school to host teacher from Egypt

(Kvoa.com)

According to a press release, Mohamed El-Dwiny from Egypt has been awarded a fellowship from the U.S. Department of State to participate in the 2011 Teachers of Critical Languages Program. Mr. El-Dwiny is one of a total of 25 teachers who have been selected from China and Egypt for participation. He will teach Arabic for a full academic year at Safford Engineering/Technology Magnet School in Tucson, AZ. The Teachers of Critical Languages Program is designed to increase the study and acquisition of important world languages in U.S. schools. This program enables primary and secondary schools to strengthen their teaching of Arabic and Mandarin by bringing Egyptian and Chinese teachers of English as a Foreign Language to the U.S. to teach Arabic and Chinese language and culture for an academic year. In addition, Arabic and Chinese teachers have the opportunity to learn more about U.S. teaching methodologies, culture, and society, as well as to improve their English language proficiency.

PREVIOUS NEWS

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.

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.