
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 20 JULY 2011

LA Marine learns more than local language

(dvids)...Cpl. Colby Brown

It looks like Sgt. Jose Hernandez is teaching an elementary level anatomy class, but he's actually learning the local language. He points to a local boy's arms, legs, ears and eyes -- naming each body part in Pashto. For the last month, Hernandez has been patrolling without an interpreter and has learned enough Pashto to hold a casual conversation. "If they see me taking an interest in learning their language, it shows I really care about what I talk to them about and they take it as a sign of respect," said Hernandez, the section leader of 2nd Section, Combined Anti-Armor Team 1, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment.

Funding Cuts Slash GU Language Programs in Half

(The Hoya)...Mariah Byrne

The recent \$50 million reduction in the funding for International Education and Foreign Language Studies has almost halved funding for some Georgetown language programs, forcing several heavy hitters on the Hilltop to speak out against the cuts. For Georgetown's National Resource Centers — the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, the Asian Studies program and the Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies — there has been a 47 percent cut in funding across the board for 2012. Primarily operations and programming budgets have been slashed, but some initiatives have lost all funding for this coming school year. The three centers grants for 2011 totaled \$1.4 million, according to Vice President of Federal Relations Scott Fleming, and the centers' directors say cutting this amount will be painful.

Summer program teaches foreign languages

(Gainesvilletimes.com)...Dallas Duncan

"I'm in the delayed entry program in the Navy," Ito said. "I wanted to get some languages under my belt ... and get more out of my travels." Ito is one of 96 students participating in the Foreign Service Foreign Language Academy program this summer at North Georgia College & State University. The college hosted the first academy session in June and the second began earlier this week. Students choose to study one language — Chinese, Arabic or Russian — and culture for eight hours a day, six days a week in the program, which is intended to be an intense immersion program for students planning careers in federal service.

Imam Arrests Show Shift In Muslim Outreach Effort

(NPR)...Dina Temple-Raston

Hafiz Khan is the leader of the Miami Mosque in west Miami — the oldest mosque in South Florida. His son runs the Masjid Jamaat al-Mumineen Mosque in Margate, Fla., just outside Miami. What makes these particular arrests unusual is the way the local Muslim community reacted to them: The arrests didn't spark outrage or demonstrations. Instead, the way they were handled is being lauded as a model for the way law enforcement and communities should work together. Once the prayers had finished, an agent and a translator approached the imam. "[The agent] came into the *masjid* with his shoes off. And he went straight to the imam. He grabbed his hand, and he said, 'You're coming with me,' in Pashto," Akhtar said. (Khan's native language is Pashto.)

Bilingual kids tune into right stuff

(Futurity)...Cornell

Young children who learn a second language have a heightened ability to pay attention to what's important and to ignore what's not. "Our study showed that bilingualism in young children strengthens what is known as executive attention, which helps orient individuals in the sea of information coming in,"

says Sujin Yang, formerly a postdoctoral research associate at Cornell University and currently professor at Tyndale University College in Canada. "It helps them know what to pay attention to, what to ignore, and what action to take." The study is published in the July issue of [*Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*](#).

Hampstead woman gets unique internship in China

(Eagle-Tribute)...Cara Hogan

Alissa McKechnie, 22, is leaving soon to spend a year in China working as an intern testing new toys for Hasbro. The East Hampstead native is a senior at the University of Rhode Island, majoring in mechanical engineering and Mandarin Chinese. McKechnie is one of 20 students in the federally funded URI Chinese Language Flagship Program.

A Far East movement: Chinese school launches online tutoring program

(Stamfordadvocate.com)...Nicole Narea

Seven-year-old [Madison Kung](#) barely looks up from the screen of his iMac computer when his mother, Terri, calls his name. The Looney Tunes-like sound effects coming from the laptop speakers would suggest that he is engrossed in a video game. On the contrary -- it is his Chinese homework. The [Chinese Language School of Connecticut](#) has taught Mandarin as a second language to non-native students ranging from toddlers to adults since its creation in 2002, but, as it enters its 10th year of operation, the Riverside-based school is launching a new online learning system called iVuChinese.

Three Girl Scouts earn their Gold

(The RidgefieldPress.com)...Alyssa Mancinelli

Alexis Grevers, Allison Perlman and Olivia Waite from Ridgefield have all earned their Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award a girl can earn in Girl Scouting. Alexis developed and implemented a virtual foreign exchange program between students in Ridgefield and students in San Rafael, Argentina. She believes it is important for children to develop an appreciation for other cultures, second language proficiency, and an understanding of the world beyond their immediate environment. Her Gold Award project helped to bridge cultural and linguistic gaps, foster diversity and international relationships, and enhance classroom learning. Alexis created presentations for the students, ran classroom discussions, and hosted live interactive video exchanges. The exchange helped benefit both Ridgefield and Argentinean students by instilling a sense of appreciation and respect for other cultures.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Air Force Culture and Language Center accepting applications for fall LEAP board

(Af.mil)

Active-duty officers, as well as graduating ROTC and Air Force Academy cadets, can apply now for the Air Force Culture and Language Center's Language Enabled Airman Program. The AFCLC, part of Air University's Spaatz Center for Officer Education here, is accepting applications for the fall 2011 LEAP board. Applications will be accepted now until Sept. 5, in preparation for the Sept. 14 and 15 LEAP selection board. LEAP is an Air Force-wide initiative designed to "grow the bench" of foreign-language capable Airmen to meet Air Force language requirements, said AFCLC Language Department director Jay Warwick. "LEAP is a career-long program designed to sustain and enhance language and cross-cultural skills, with the end goal of producing a language speaker who can perform their core job duties in their respective foreign language," Warwick said.

Engaging women on the frontline

(NATO)

Receiving two pigeons as a gift might sound unusual, even to those used to working in Afghanistan. But to Sergeant Jeanette Corrales and her Female Engagement Team (FET) colleagues, the two birds represent how well they have managed to bond with the local Afghan community. The pigeons can be seen most days wandering around side-by-side in the FET's sleeping area and camp. They were

presented to the FET as a “thank you” for the help they have given to Khwannen, a widow with eight children, two of whom are mentally disabled.

Sangin FET Marines reach out to local women during 1/5 operation

(Marines.mil)...Cpl. Katherine Keleher

“One-Five and the ANA’s mission was to disrupt the enemy of movement so they could try and catch some known Taliban fighters in the area. FET was to search local females and to do engagements with the women, to find out what was unusual in the area.” We’re the voices for these women. They are over 50 percent of the population here in Afghanistan,” Towns explained. “We try to decide what’s going to benefit them without disrespecting their culture, as far as education for the little girls, giving them schools, or as far as putting a woman in a government position here.”

PM urges more education reforms

(Viet Nam News)

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung last Sunday urged the educational sector to continue management and finance reforms to improve education quality. The PM also told local authorities to improve the quality of foreign language instruction and to continue investing in schools. In the 2011-2012 school year, high school education should provide basic knowledge as well as practical job skills to students, he added.

Multi-Lingual Children Take Over Upper Manhattan, As The Carousel Of Languages Opens Two New Locations

(PRWeb – Press Release)

The Carousel Of Languages LLC. , New York City's Premier Foreign Language Immersion Program For Infants, Toddlers and Young Children, Opens Upper East Side and Upper West Side Locations For Fall 2011.

OPINION: Albright, Hagel: Language cuts endanger U.S.

(USA Today)...Madeleine Albright & Chuck Hagel

Our years of work in diplomacy and national security have made very clear to both of us the critical need to maintain and expand the cadre of Americans who have studied the history and politics of countries who affect our well-being. Specifically, the United States' ability to both confront challenges and exploit opportunities relies heavily on Americans being able to understand and speak less commonly taught languages. We believe that a grievous last-minute mistake was made when funding for International Education and Foreign Language Studies was cut for this fiscal year. In the context of billions and even trillions of cuts being discussed, a \$50 million reduction sounds insignificant. But this particular \$50 million cut from the [Department of Education's](#) budget amounted to a 40% reduction in the relatively small account that supports these programs at higher education institutions across the U.S. This is a dramatic cut that will have long-lasting and serious consequences — it not only threatens the nation's diplomatic, intelligence, and national security capacities, but also our ability to maximize our competitiveness in global markets. This cut was a last-minute decision made with the specter of a government shutdown hanging over it.

Learning Another Language: Goals and Challenges

(MLA)

The Modern Language Association has supported the teaching and study of languages for more than a century. The MLA's 2007 report *Foreign Languages and Higher Education* called for a transformation of university language curricula. In 2009, the MLA issued a survey report on language enrollment, documenting continued increase in student enrollments in college language courses and testifying to strong student interest in all the top ten languages studied in the United States. Yet despite student demand for language courses and public recognition of the opportunities of globalization, many college language programs have been reduced, closed, or threatened with closure. The MLA is prepared to consult with colleges and universities on strategies to strengthen their language programs. We call on higher education leaders to demonstrate creativity in envisioning better language programs that reach ever more students. Instead of shutting language programs, let us keep the door of learning open to the languages and cultures of the world.

AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN HANDS PROGRAM BUILDS ON RELATIONSHIP WITH AFGHAN STUDENTS

(US Fed News)

Afghan students from Marefat High School (MHS) presented Army Gen. David Petraeus, outgoing International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) commander, with a farewell portrait in Kabul, Afghanistan, July 11 to thank him for supporting a book they are creating. The book is a collection of 151 Dari proverbs collected and translated over the past 18 months by Navy Capt. Edward Zellem, an intelligence officer assigned to ISAF at the Presidential Palace in Kabul, Afghanistan. Zellem is a participant in the Afghanistan/Pakistan (AFPAK) Hands program, a language and cultural immersion initiative stood up under the direction of Adm. Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The book and ongoing relationship with Marefat High School is a direct result of the AFPAK Hands program.

High schoolers taking immersion language classes at NGCSU

(AccessNorthGa.com)

While it's common to hear a variety of languages spoken by North Georgia College & State University students and faculty, nearly 100 high school students are on campus this summer to learn Arabic, Chinese or Russian this summer. Both sessions of the Foreign Service Foreign Language Academy (FSFLA) are full, as more than 350 applications were received for 96 slots, according to Dr. John Wilson, language education program developer and assistant director for the Center for Language Education at North Georgia. The students chosen hail from 17 different states across the nation, including Hawaii.