
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 27 JULY 2011

Foreign Service Essential, Report Argues

(Executive Gov)...Ross Wilkers

The State Department must expand its Foreign Service ranks despite pressure for spending cuts, [a Foreign Affairs Council report says](#). The report, released Wednesday, evaluated Secretary [Hillary Clinton](#)'s leadership over the past two years. The State Department's diplomatic staff [grew by 17 percent](#) in fiscal 2009 and 2010, and Foreign Service had 13,000 employees as of December 2010. "Yet, with most of the new employees being sent out just to fill existing vacant positions, Foreign Service staffing levels still fell far short of that needed to fully restore America's diplomatic and development capacity," the report says.

Programs in Conn., nation spur teens to teaching

(cftpost.com/Associated Press)...Stephanie Reitz

While many of their friends are hanging out at the mall or beach, about 20 Connecticut high school students are spending much of their summer vacation in the classroom. It's an increasingly common scene nationwide as educators, seeking new ways to recruit teachers in critical shortage areas, are embracing a "grow your own" approach by introducing the profession to teens as early as middle school. The most critical areas nationwide include bilingual education, special education, science and technology, math and urban teaching jobs.

American Councils Research Fellowships

(American Councils for International Education)

With funds from the [U.S. Department of State \(Title VIII\)](#), American Councils administers several major grants for independent, overseas policy relevant research in the humanities and social sciences as well as language training. In recent years, American Councils scholars have conducted independent research in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine.

Hendrix Students Spend Summer in Italy

(Hendrix College News)

Eight Hendrix College students are completing a month-long study program in Florence, Italy. The Hendrix-in-Florence program is funded by the Hendrix-Murphy Foundation Programs in Literature and Language. Students study Italian language and visit the region's significant artistic, cultural, and historical attractions. "Italian grammar is very complex, and since our professor at the Università di Firenze didn't speak much English, class was quite challenging at times, but we did gain a basic level of Italian skills," she said. "Bridging the language gap with Professor Alessandro was a very rewarding process as well."

PREVIOUS NEWS

AFPAK Hands make bonds stronger than steel, begin phase III

(DLIFLC)

Army Lt. Col. Michael King could have imagined that his military career would take many unexpected turns, but he never expected to become an Afghan village elder's marriage counselor, a former Mujahedin freedom fighter's best friend, or create such strong bonds with his Afghan "brothers in arms" that he would put his life in their hands with ease. This scenario, seemingly straight from a Hollywood

movie script, became reality when King joined the Pentagon-sponsored Afghanistan/Pakistan Hands (AFPAK) program in September of 2009, designed to teach language and culture to officers and senior enlisted, with the intent of redeploying these individuals to the same region twice to maintain established local relationships.

[Monroe, Washington, Marine reaches out to Afghan women](#)

(Regional Command Southwest Press Room)...Cpl. Katherine Kelcher

Lance Cpl. Chandra Francisco, 22, a Marine with Female Engagement Team 15 in Sangin District, Helmand province, and a native of Monroe, Wash., enlisted into the Marine Corps in September 2009 as a supply administration Marine. As a member of the FET, Francisco helps build relationships with the local populace by reaching out to Afghan women and children. "At first I really had no idea what I was getting into," said Francisco. "Once I started training I loved it. This is by far one of the greatest experiences I've ever had."

[Federal contract awards for the week of July 25](#)

(Washington Post)

Language Associates of Arlington; **ICA Language Services** of Arlington; **General Dynamics Information Technology** of Fairfax; **JTG** of Vienna; **International Center For Language Studies** of the District; and **Dictyon** of Greenbelt will share a \$20.8 million contract from the Army for the procurement of foreign language training support services and instruction.

[The Norway bombing, foreign languages and real time search](#)

(Pandia News)...Per & Susanne Koch

The Norway bombing and shooting shows us that there is a need for search solutions that let you follow foreign language news and social web streams in real time. The last point brings us to the main message of this post. There is a need for tools that can provide real time translation of foreign language news sources in times of crisis. What we are missing is a way of searching the native language news and social media streams during a crisis. To turn such a feature on permanently would result in too much noise and too much information, but it would be extremely useful when your local media is lagging behind due to language differences.

[The phone-hacking scandal and the language of evasion](#)

(Guardian)...Michael Rosen

There's an irony at the heart of the [News International](#) crisis and it's do with language. I can't think of how many meetings I've sat through where people have explained that language has become less important because we now live in a visual age. While it's true that the present proceedings take place in front of cameras, the whole matter, right from the event of phone-hacking itself, through to the resignation speeches, Commons hearings, debates in the house, this newspaper's forensic investigations and the world media's analyses, is language-intensive.

[Charlotte Morse Earns Foreign Language Award](#)

(Patch.com)...Jeremy Bauer-Wolf

Winters Mill High School graduate Charlotte Morse is the recipient of the Angela A. Saxton Foreign Language award, a specialty award at Winters Mill honoring advancement and dedication to a particular foreign language. Morse talked with Patch about the multitude of Advanced Placement courses she took, as well as her desire to advance her French-language skills in college. English speakers are lucky in some ways because the rest of the world wants to know our language, but unlucky because since our language already dominates, a lot of the time we don't make the effort to understand other languages.

[Afghan women hope to break new ground in the sky](#)

(CNN)...Tracy Sabo

In a flower-filled courtyard near San Antonio, adult education students gather during a break, some celebrating the passage of final English exams and some discussing an upcoming social event. The scene resembles very little of a typical campus. Everyone here is in a military uniform, each representing one of 80 countries. Loudly competing voices are conversing in dozens of different languages, each conversation competing against thunderous U.S. Air Force C-5 cargo planes training overhead. Lackland

Air Force Base's Defense Language Institute English Language Center (DLIELC) has been teaching the English language to foreign military students for over 55 years. Approximately 10% of its enrollment at any given time is made of up females; however, this marks the first time the school has welcomed Afghan women to its student body.

The federal government's brain power is shrinking

(CNNMoney)...Shelley DuBois

The federal government -- our nation's largest employer -- is about to suffer a serious brain drain. And the Department of Defense, the biggest employer within the federal government, is not sitting pretty. Besides the 1.4 million active duty men and women employed by the Department of Defense, the agency also has a civilian workforce of over 700,000. One-third of those 700,000 employees will be eligible for retirement in 2015, as will 90% of civilian senior executives. Among these civilian employees are engineers, language specialists, and intelligence personnel.

Chinese official calls for more language, culture exchanges with foreign countries

(People's Daily Online)

Chinese State Councilor Liu Yandong has called for more communications in language and culture among the people in China and foreign countries. Liu made the remarks during a meeting with the contestants of the 10th "Chinese Bridge" competition, an international Chinese proficiency competition for foreign college students, which opened Saturday in Changsha, capital of central Hunan Province. The "Chinese Bridge" competition has attracted over 100,000 college students from more than 70 countries over the past ten years, and contestants have improved their Chinese language, experienced the Chinese culture and established deep friendship with others during the competition, Liu said.

Police Seeking Volunteers With Second-Language Skills

(Sun Gazette)

The Arlington County Police Department is seeking volunteers fluent in Spanish, French, Mongolian, Arabic and African dialects to participate in its "Bilingual Ride-a-Long" program. Volunteers are asked to commit 10 hours per month, with flexibility in scheduling. Volunteers will ride with a patrol officer assigned to neighborhoods where translation may be necessary, and may be called upon to assist with translation during investigations throughout the county.

The power of Creole

(Boston.com)...Leon Neyfakh

When Michel DeGraff was a young boy in Haiti, his older brother brought home a notice from school reminding students and parents of certain classroom rules. At the top of the list was "no weapons." And right below it, DeGraff still remembers: "No Creole." Students were supposed to use French, and French only. It was like this all over the country, and still is. Despite the fact that the vast majority of Haitian children grow up hearing and speaking exclusively Haitian Creole—the language used in their villages and homes, in their music, and in their proverbs, jokes, and jingles—the minute they start school they are forced to start all over in a language they don't know. French is the language of Haiti's tiny ruling class, and for children who come from that world, this poses no problem. But for all the others, being forced to use French makes it nearly impossible to learn.