
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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The Pentagon Enters the Social Web With a Call for Memetrackers

(The Atlantic)...Jared Keller

"The study of language offers a strategic opportunity for improved counterterrorist intelligence, in that it enables the possibility of understanding of the Other's perceptions and motivations, be he friend or foe," the two authors of *Computational Methods for Counterterrorism* wrote. "As we have seen, linguistic expressions have levels of meaning beyond the literal, which it is critical to address. This is true especially when dealing with texts from a high-context traditionalist culture such as those of Islamic terrorists and insurgents."

Study: Older Students May Learn Language Rules Faster

(Education Week)...Sarah D. Sparks

After years of sighing over reports touting the advantages of learning a second language as a toddler, it's always nice to see a study that gives hope to older second-language learners, like [this one](#) from Israel, presented at last week's [International Congress for the Study of Child Language](#) meeting in Montreal. There's a slew of research suggesting that children learn a second language most naturally and implicitly in infancy and toddlerhood. It's widely thought that the window for learning begins to close after age 7, when at least some schools might begin teaching foreign languages. Though [emerging research](#) suggests regular second-language exposure can help keep the window for learning open longer, evidence still stacks against someone like me—who, like many folks, took my first language classes in high school and college—becoming fluent in another language.

State Department Taps will.i.am for China Effort

(New York Times)...Larry Rohter – Subscription Required

The State Department is teaming up with the hip-hop artist [will.i.am](#), a founder of the Black Eyed Peas, to organize a concert in Beijing this year to encourage cultural and educational exchanges between the United States and China. The announcement came after Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton met on Friday in Washington with [will.i.am](#), above, a creator of the 2008 viral video "[Yes, We Can](#)" that boosted support for Barack Obama among the young, to discuss the Obama administration's "100,000 Strong Initiative," aimed at increasing the number and diversity of Americans studying in China. For the event [will.i.am](#) and other American and Chinese artists will perform; no date or location for the show has been specified.

Chinese teachers are on a U.S. mission

(Los Angeles Times)...Ricardo Lopez

In a few weeks, 176 Chinese teachers will head to kindergarten through 12th-grade classrooms across the country, from rural Kentucky towns to the tidy suburbs of Salt Lake City. Only two will remain in California, assigned to schools in Redding and Ojai.

Most had never before left China. They had come armed with hopes of succeeding in the classroom, with fears that American students would be difficult to manage and with impressions of U.S. culture based on a diet heavy in Hollywood films. The guest teacher program, started in 2007 and partly funded by the federal language initiative, Startalk, is an effort by the College Board and the Chinese government's Chinese Language Council International, also known as Hanban.

Chinese teachers open new doors in Bristol, Tenn.

(Bristol Herald Courier)...Roger Brown

Chinese school teacher Chen Xiaoqian laughed when asked what she and fellow countrywoman He Aiping hope students learn during the time the duo will spend as instructors in the Bristol school district. "Actually, we hope we can learn from our students as much as they learn from us," Chen Xiaoqian said

Monday, as her smiling compatriot, He Aiping, nodded in agreement. During the next two years, Chen Xiaoqian and He Aiping will teach Mandarin Chinese in the Bristol school district – which has some 4,000 students – through a partnership between the Bristol system and the Confucius Institute, a China-based organization that promotes the study of Chinese language and culture in the United States.

Oak Park schools budget adds \$2.1 million in new spending

(OakPark.com)...Terry Dean

Oak Park's elementary school district plans to spend roughly \$2 million for the 2011-12 school year on new staff, technology and an expansion of its foreign language program, among other proposed additions. The \$2.1 million was laid out by administration at the July 26 school board meeting, part of a discussion on the district's FY 2012 tentative budget. The final budget is slated for approval in September. Among the additions for the upcoming school year are two additional teachers for Holmes and Irving elementary schools. Two foreign language teachers will also be hired as the district expands its FLES (Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools) program. Among the new ticket items is \$30,000 budgeted for a backup network system in case the district suffers a power loss. That was the case two weeks ago when the district was virtually shut down during the rainstorm that knocked out power in the area.

PREVIOUS NEWS

To raise bilingual children, some families try 'one parent, one language' approach

(The Washington Post)...Associated Press

One-year-old Alice Di Giovanni asks for "banane," not banana, when she's in the mood for one. She'll bid you farewell with a "ciao." And if she wants more, she says "mas." The Miami toddler is one of an increasing number of Americans living in homes where a language other than English is spoken, and her parents want her to learn as many languages as she can. So her Polish-Canadian mother speaks to her in French, her father in Italian and her Honduran nanny in Spanish. "She kind of mixes these things but I know she understands all three languages," says mom Anna Manikowska. According to the U.S. Census, in 1980, just 11 percent of Americans lived in homes where languages other than English were spoken. By 2007, the percentage had nearly doubled to 20 percent.

Executive level jobs continue to be in high demand

(Channelnewsasia.com)

Jobs at the management and executive levels are expected to continue to be in demand. The report said employers are also taking their time to ensure they secure the right person with a number of companies conducting three rounds of interviews before making an offer of employment. Executives with additional language skills are most in demand, coupled with broad management experience and excellent communication skills. Demand is also strong for experienced Chief Financial Officers and Chief Executive Officers with strong interpersonal and language skills. Employers are continuing to look outside Asia, as well as within for quality candidates.

Notes on the Rise of China

(The Atlantic)...Anne-Marie Slaughter

I spent two days recently at the second annual [FutureChina](#) Global Forum in Singapore, a conference on major trends in China sponsored by [BusinessChina](#), itself an organization created by former Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Kwan Yew to help his country become "the leading bilingual and bi-cultural channel for closer collaboration with China" as well as to strengthen knowledge of Chinese language and culture in Singapore itself. The theme of the Forum this year was "China in the Next Phase: Marching to a New Drumbeat." Unlike many similar gatherings about China, the participants included many speakers and audience members from China who spoke only Mandarin; simultaneous translation was provided from Mandarin into English and English into Mandarin.

Summer program teaches critical languages

(Democrat and Chronicle.com)...Tiffany Lankes

Whenever 9-year-old Coryn Harris hears people speaking different languages, she thinks it would be fun to have that talent. So she signed up for a City School District summer program where students learn Chinese and Swahili, becoming part of a national push to get kids learning languages the government has deemed key to international relations. The school district is in its third year offering the STARTalk summer program, which is part of the federal government's National Security Language initiative. The goal of the federal program is to encourage schools to teach students languages — Arabic, Chinese, Dari, Hindi, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili, Turkish and Urdu — that are not typically taught in classrooms.

Learning foreign languages

(Republica)...Dinesh Karki

According to an article in Time Magazine, Sweden may “Add Mandarin to Primary School Curriculum.” With its education minister’s initiative, Sweden is looking forward to teaching Mandarin in all primary schools. In a country where English language is mandatory for the young and French and Spanish are on the list of third-language choices, people seem to understand the importance of learning foreign languages in a global context. “If you learn a foreign language, you have a plus point wherever you go,” says Prabin Bikram Rana, Deputy Director of Alliance Française de Kathmandu (AF), a French language and culture centre. Here in Nepal, too, the number of people learning to read, write and speak foreign languages has been growing. The increasing trend here shows that the wish to acquire the knowledge of a foreign language has been directly linked with academics, employment, and hobbies.

Afghan Pilot Trainees Test Cultural, Gender Barriers

(Chicago Tribune)...CNN

The school's four new female students -- each in their 20s and wearing Afghan military camouflage and burqas -- are turning heads. The women, along with hundreds of other foreign military officers, were sent to the United States to learn English, courtesy of the U.S. military.

Army-funded Headstart program to be revamped in Europe

(Stars and Stripes)...Kent Harris

An Army-funded program designed to teach newcomers posted overseas some language and cultural skills will be revamped and turned over to garrison communities to fund and run as they see fit in Europe, but will continue in Japan and South Korea for the time being, U.S. military officials said. In Europe, the Headstart program will be replaced starting next week by Culture College, a course run by local Army Community Service branches. The Headstart program included basic language skills, an overview of local culture and tips on making purchases and using public transportation off base. Headstart in Europe, which had been running for more than four decades, has been reduced in recent years from 10 to four days.

Spec ops chief warns of al-Qaida 2.0

(Associated Press)...Kimberly Dozier

Olson agreed with the White House's newly announced policy to strike terrorists through focused action rather than full-scale invasion, preferably by training and working with the host country's forces. He cautioned against thinking raids would solve all U.S. foreign policy problems. "This idea of being able to wait over the horizon and spring over and chop off heads doesn't really work," he said, describing the "yin and yang" of special operations as including capture-and-kill raids as well as long-term engagement with host countries' militaries. The latter involves U.S. troops "developing long-term relationships, learning languages, meeting people, studying histories, learning black markets."

Mobile language class makes impression

(Af.mil)...Kathryn Gustafson

With their clipboards and homework packets in hand, students at the Defense Language Institute English Language Center boarded the bus and headed for the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin, Texas. However, this is no ordinary field trip. It is a mobile classroom, and the students are expected to actively participate and meet objectives as if they were in a typical classroom environment. Every year, approximately 2,700 international military students filter through the doors of DLIELC.

Students from around the world travel to DLIELC for English language education and training, and to experience U.S. culture first hand. "DLIELC ... what a crown jewel for American diplomacy and global engagement," said Thomas Shubert, the deputy director of the Air Force's Language, Region and Culture Program Office.

Afghan police broaden horizons through local literacy program

(dvids)...Cpl. Marco Mancha

Among the biggest challenges the local government faces as the United States prepares to draw down thousands of troops from Afghanistan is its literacy rate. Only one in 10 recruits who sign up for Afghanistan's police and army can read and write according to a recent Reuters article. Many of the local residents find something as simple as spelling their own names a challenge. Qalamyar, who works as an aid for the District Chief of Police said he always has a busy day, and with that he knows the importance of being literate. "I like to learn new things and I want my friends to be able to read and write like me," he said. "As far as learning English, it helps me communicate better with the Marines when a linguist is not available."