
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 23 AUGUST 2011

Biden Tells Chinese of Stuttering

(ABC News)...Devin Dwyer

The thing that I'm most embarrassed about in my career of 38 years of having an opportunity to literally meet every major world leader in the last 38 years ... is -- and in the back of my head, I'm embarrassed in front of you -- I'm embarrassed I can't speak to you in Chinese," Biden confessed to his audience. "I would -- seriously -- I would rather be able to honor you and show my respect for you by speaking your language, as you honor me by speaking mine," he said. Biden said Chinese and American students who are studying to become bilingual will help bridge the language gap between the two countries and build continued goodwill.

Gen. Cone visits DLI

(Army.mil)...TRADOC Public Affairs

General Robert Cone, commanding general of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), visited the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Aug 17. "DLI has exceeded my expectations. What I saw was a sound and rigorous program that is fully taking advantage of technology and the imagination of the young generation of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines in the classroom and I think that the digital applications in technology and learning is what captivates the minds of these young 'millennials'," Cone said.

Students dive into language, culture

(Know - University of Texas)...Jessica Sinn

Drinking tea in Russia symbolizes understanding and sharing with each other," said Cotey, a graduate teaching assistant and a native of Kazakhstan, a country in Central Asia. "Those who sit down at the dinner table must show appreciation and respect." This is one of the many cultural lessons students learned in the [Texas Language Center's](#) inaugural [Summer Language Institute](#), an intensive language immersion experience that allowed students to cover the equivalent of two years of language study. For 10 weeks, 18 students powered through two semesters of language courses taught by native-speaking lecturers and graduate teaching assistants. The program, which lasted from June 1 to Aug. 15, offered courses in Russian and Vietnamese. "These students have the wonderful opportunity to immerse themselves into a new culture on American soil," said Nadya Clayton, a lecturer in the [Department of Slavic and Eurasian](#) studies who taught second-year Russian during the first summer session of the program. "It's the next best thing to living abroad because they're taught by native speakers who often visit their homeland and keep up with the culture and language."

Vivat Latinitas!

(Slate)...Ted Scheinman

At the beginning of the last century, A.E. Housman, that cantankerous giant of classical scholarship, was already complaining about "an age which is out of touch with Latinity." Around that time, philistines were excising classics from the popular curriculum, and the subsequent 100 years have hardly improved Latin's apparent relevance in Western society. Classicists may tout the fact that Advanced Placement enrollment in Latin [doubled](#) between 1997 and 2007, but this mini-surge brought the number of upper-level high school Latinists to a minuscule 8,654—[literally 1 percent of the number of secondary school Latinists in the mid-1930s](#). Like its nouns, Latin continues to decline. In the face of these grim prospects, I boarded a plane to Rome this summer to join the small network of scholars dedicated to preserving the language by actually speaking it. I found myself in the company of 16 other twenty somethings, puttering about the center of the ancient world chattering not in English or in Italian but —*ecce!*—in Latin.

[A Virtual Trip to China Allows Middle Schoolers to Study Chinese](#)

(Patch.com)...Maureen Rossi

The future has officially arrived and Kings Park students are fully immersed. Last year a select group of middle school students from the gifted and talented program participated in a virtual learning program called MyChinese360. Piloted and paid for by Eastern Suffolk B.O.C.E.S., the program taught Kings Park children the fundamentals of Mandarin. "It was an interactive program with an instructor who was fluent in Mandarin and was located in China," said Dr. Ralph Cartisano, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Personnel.

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[Congressional Staffers Taste Soldier Life](#)

(Military.com)... Rob McIlvaine

"One of the things we try to do here is to train culture and language. Those are really the core skills when it comes to combat advisors, but at the same time we also have to teach combat skills, and you experienced some of that today. We train our guys how to drive MRAPs and medical skills. But the key thing is, out of the 157 tasks we have to train, we try to keep a balance between culture and language, and combat skills," he said. The model used for the advisors coming in, he said, is a 10-week course where they get language and culture training for a couple of weeks. This is followed by combat lifesaver, drivers training, weapons training, urban ops, and mounted combat patrol.

[English the lingua franca in China](#)

(The National)...Daniel Bardsley

In a speech two years ago, the Chinese premier, Wen Jiabao, said there were 300 million people in the world's most populous nation studying English. Teaching English is a big business in China because, although all schoolchildren are supposed to take lessons in the subject from the age of six or seven, many parents believe it is worth paying for extra classes. Concerns are often raised that English is taught in schools with a view to just passing exams, so without additional training, children may lack the ability to communicate properly. According to figures reported in state media, the English-teaching industry was worth 15 billion yuan (Dh8.61bn) in 2009, and total revenues are increasing as much as 15 per cent annually. Estimates suggest 30,000 institutions in China offer English training, some online.

[The benefits of e-learning a foreign language](#)

(The Financial Express)...Kevin Muller

Today, all of us dwell in a highly competitive world where "survival of the fittest" is the mantra, whether it's social, economic, political, biological or professional context we take into consideration. The need analysis reveals that apart from having a highly competent and efficient human resource, today's companies also have to have linguistically well equipped and culturally adapted mind sets in their workforce. A foreign language serves the purpose and also adds a flavour to the curriculum vitae.

[Students step out of the classroom, into foreign country for intense language study](#)

(Red and Black)...Lindsey Cook

For students who studied abroad during the summer, hearing and speaking English also requires another adjustment from the last two months. This summer, university students traveled the globe to practice languages, discover new customs and live the foreign life. Back in America, with words of a different tongue in their heads, they're recommending study abroad to any student eager to improve his own language skills – and have an unforgettable time doing it.

[Making the LEAP to a new culture](#)

(Western News)...Paul Mayne

Continuing Studies at Western, however, is working on making that changeover as seamless as possible through Language Enhancement Academic Program (LEAP), a mix of academic, cultural and social activities designed to help the students become comfortable with their new learning and living

environment before the official start of classes. In its second year, LEAP is a 17-day program (52 hours) that includes classes, as well as social and cultural activities that will help students enhance their English language skills, make them more aware of the Canadian academic world as well as increase their social network.

Remarks by the President of the US in a Town Hall Meeting in Atkinson, Illinois

(White House – Press Release)

I will tell you, though, just in case there are any French teachers here or foreign language teachers, having a foreign language, that's important, too. That makes you so much more employable -- (applause) -- because if you go to a company and they're doing business in France or Belgium or Switzerland or Europe somewhere, and they find out you've got that language skill, that's going to be important as well. And we don't do that as much as we should; we don't emphasize that as much as we should here in the United States. So congratulations -- proud of you.

Gen. Cone calls DLIFLC crown jewel of DoD language effort

(DLIFLC)

"DLI is the crown jewel of our Department of Defense's language and culture effort." These were the words of Gen. Robert Cone, commanding general of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), after visiting with students attending Dari classes at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Aug 17. During Cone's visit, he met with DLIFLC leadership, received mission briefings and toured several classroom sites at the Presidio of Monterey. "It was an honor to have Gen. Cone here to show him how much time and effort that these servicemembers put into their training and how seriously we take our mission," said Col. Danial D. Pick, the Commandant of DLIFLC.

Female Marines launch first Musa Qal'eh woman's school

(Camp Lejeune Globe) ...Lance Cpl. Clayton Vonderahe

The Marines with Female Engagement Teams 10 and 12 held their first literacy class for Afghan women in the Musa Qal'eh District, Aug. 2. The class, held in the district's women's center, is intended to teach local women basic principles of reading, writing and arithmetic. "We had about 26 girls show up for reading and writing classes," said Pfc. Brandie Hogan, a FET member and Spavanaw, Okla., native. "They're learning their letters, how to count right and how to identify their numbers."

English Too Easy for Hungarians

(Wall Street Journal) ...Gergo Racz

Hungary's government wants to dethrone English as the most common foreign language taught in Hungarian schools. The reason: It's just too easy to learn. "It is fortunate if the first foreign language learned is not English. The initial, very quick and spectacular successes of English learning may evoke the false image in students that learning any foreign language is that simple," reads a draft bill obtained by news website Origo.hu that would amend Hungary's education laws. Besides giving a deceptive sense of achievement, English learning also makes acquiring other languages more difficult, the ministry argues. Reversing the order, on the other hand, makes learning English essentially effortless, it added.

Watch: China's Presumptive Premier-to-Be Busts Out English Skills

(Wall Street Journal) ...Jason Dean and Chester Yung

Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang, widely expected to replace Wen Jiabao as premier in 18 months, showed off his English-language skills at a speech Thursday morning on a high-profile trip to Hong Kong. In the final moments of an 11-minute address at The University of Hong Kong, Mr. Li surprised an audience of top political and business leaders when he switched to speak in English, expressing confidently his praise for the accomplishments of Hong Kong's oldest university. Unlike most universities in China and Hong Kong, English is HKU's main language of instruction. "HKU...has become a key higher education institution in China, playing an increasingly important role in China's development and integration with the world," Mr. Li said, at times pausing to ensure that each word was spoken clearly.

Arabic linguist establishes business back home

(Wicked Local Hingham) ...Sheila Pietrzak

An Arabic linguist and light armored vehicle (LAV) commander for the U.S. Marine Corps from 1995 to 2003, Hurley also worked for two consulting firms in Washington, D.C., helping them to expand their product offering and build their businesses before hanging his own shingle in Hingham over one year ago. Hurley's company, Aegens, provides U.S. clients with language capabilities, as well as intelligence analysis including background checks, among other services.