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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 22 SEPTEMBER 2011**

#### **Education Officials Seek Feedback to Shape Way Ahead**

*(American Forces Press Service)...*Elaine Sanchez

Military students who take Japanese while living overseas may return to a public school without that offering. However, it's possible that the education activity's virtual courses can help to fill that gap for students, even if they're enrolled in a public school. "We're interested in knowing from parents what they might like to see from the DoDEA school system, and DOD generally, to help students continue, for example, with a language when they come back," she said. "Can they stay connected in some way to the DoDEA virtual learning program so their educational plan and aspirations are not interrupted by that move back?"

#### **Foreign Language Classes Get Cut**

*(WDTV.com)...*Whitney Wetzel

Many schools across the U.S. and the state are cutting back on the number of foreign language classes they offer. Board of Education officials in Marion County say some of their high schools and middle schools have cut down their number of foreign language classes because of a lack of interest. They say the number one language spoken in the world today is Mandarin Chinese, the second is Spanish, and the third is English. Because of that, some foreign language classes like French are getting less student interest. "The graduation requirements have increased and because of that, students have less opportunity actually for elective courses, because if there in a professional pathway or in a skilled pathway they have to get a concentration in what they want in their career or technical skills," said Randall Farley, Marion County Administrative Assistant for Curriculum. But if students still want to take a foreign language class that has been cut, they can still take it from a distance learning lab at Fairmont State.

#### **A case for French**

*(Deccan Herald)...*Kevin Muller

The world today stands at the threshold of a global economy. Most companies have either expanded beyond their territorial borders or are willing to do so in the near future. This approach of looking out for business opportunities not only expands the company's horizons but also gives them access to potential markets in a foreign land, and enables them to provide their services to their client base. In order to foray into foreign lands, a company must be linguistically well equipped. In that sense, French, being the second most spoken language after English enjoys a "popular choice" status. It is spoken in almost 82 countries, with 77 million first language speakers and another 51 million second language speakers.

#### **Go away: Study abroad programs showcased**

*(Kaleidoscope/News)...*

UAB alum Adam Smith has studied abroad in Morocco and Jordan. "In total I spent almost two years studying abroad and it was all free! Worthwhile? Most definitely," said Smith. "I studied in Morocco with the State Department's Critical Language Scholarship. In Jordan, I was funded by the Gilman Scholarship," he added. Smith believes his experiences were not only worthwhile, but life changing.

#### **Celebrating Foreign Languages**

*(Duke University)...* Camille Jackson

Fellows, both undergraduate and graduate, have chosen to study less common languages such as Turkish, Creole, Japanese, Persian and Arabic, to complement research in history, the environment, global health and other disciplines. A couple dozen fellows, all new Duke students, gathered with program directors in the university's area studies departments and others for a reception to acknowledge the importance of learning a foreign language in an increasingly global curriculum.

## PREVIOUS NEWS

### National Security Education Program Celebrates 20th Anniversary

*(Boren Awards)*

On September 8, 2011, Senator David L. Boren, President of the University of Oklahoma and author of the David L. Boren National Security Education Act of 1991, and Dr. Clifford Stanley, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, addressed Boren Fellows, Scholars, members of the National Security Education Board, and esteemed colleagues in the international education arena at a gathering in Washington celebrating 20 years of the National Security Education Program (NSEP). Both speakers highlighted the importance of language skills and cultural understanding to developing international partnerships and improving U.S. national security, praising NSEP for its commitment to provide linguistic and cultural training for American students through the Boren Scholarships and Fellowships. In conjunction with the 20th anniversary, NSEP has also released a video that highlights Boren Fellows and Scholars, and includes comments from Dr. Stanley and Senator Boren.

### Fighting is cultural, criminal for Afghan policewomen

*(USA Today)*...Lianne Gutcher

The women in this town where strict Islamic customs pervade all aspects of daily life call the policewomen "whores" for working alongside Americans and men to whom they are not married, she says. The women get phone calls telling them they will be beheaded if they don't quit the force. Rodriguez, Female Engagement Team leader and provost marshal of the 1st [Stryker Brigade Combat Team](#), 25th Infantry Division, acknowledges the death threats and that a bomb had been placed in a teacher's home. But she asks the women to persevere. The Afghan government and NATO see the female officers corps as crucial to achieving those goals. There now are about 1,150 women in the [Afghan National Police](#), less than 1% of the force. The [Ministry of Interior](#) wants 5,000 police women on the job by 2014. Women are needed to perform duties that men are forbidden from doing in this tribal society in which ancient Islamic customs were strictly enforced long before radical, militant Taliban clerics took over the country in the 1990s.

### UN Human Rights Council: Preserving Indigenous languages

*(The NarcoSphere)*...Brenda Norrell

The UN Human Rights Council's session on the preservation and revitalization of Indigenous languages and cultures in Geneva today, Sept. 20, included testimony from around the world on both what is being done to preserve Indigenous languages, and the history of discrimination and colonization that thwarts the preservation of Indigenous languages and cultures. The priorities to preserve and promote Indigenous languages was described by the representative from Bolivia, who described the language and culture as the foundation for the protection of Mother Earth, including water. Further, Bolivia provides Indigenous language classes, at no cost, to public servants. In Paraguay, the Indigenous language there is one of two national languages.

### Foreign Languages Open Up New Worlds of Learning

*(Patch.com)*...Veronique Autphenne

*"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart"* - Nelson Mandela. For children, learning a foreign language expands their horizons, gives them a leg up later on in life, and improves their overall linguistic abilities, even in their own language. I love our schools but, unfortunately, they are falling short when it comes to foreign language instruction.

### ISAF Commander writes check to local high school

*(DLIFLC)*...Natela Cutter

The commanding general of International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) in Afghanistan, Gen. John R. Allen, visited an art exhibit and book signing Sept. 16, featuring artwork of young gifted students. The exhibit was organized in part by the local Marefat High School whose students had their artwork published in a book of Afghan proverbs under a project funded by a U.S. Embassy grant. Allen's attention had been drawn to the Marefat High School fundraiser by Navy Capt. Edward Zellem, an

Afghanistan/Pakistan (AFPAK) Hands program member and director of the ISAF Presidential Information Coordination Center detachment at the presidential palace in Kabul. Zelleem started to collect Dari proverbs while learning the language as a part of the program that was initiated by Adm. Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in 2009. "Proverbs are a very important part of the Afghan culture," said Zelleem, who worked with Marefat High School students to illustrate the book of 151 Dari proverbs collected and translated over the past 18 months.

### **Gen. Cone calls DLIFLC crown jewel of DoD language effort**

*(DLIFLC)*...Brian Lamar

"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.

### **US spy agencies 'struggle with post-9/11 languages'**

*(The Telegraph)*

The Sept. 11, 2001, attacks prompted a major push for foreign language skills to track militants and trends in parts of the world that were not a Cold War priority. But intelligence agencies have had to face the reality that the languages they need cannot be taught quickly, the street slang U.S. operatives and analysts require is not easy, and security concerns make the clearance process lengthy. As recently as 2008 and 2009, intelligence officials were still issuing new directives and programs in the hopes of ramping up language capability. "Language will continue to be a challenge for us," Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said at a congressional hearing last week.

### **DLIELC student becomes 'guardian angel' for Gateway Inn employee**

*(Air Education & Training Command)*...Spencer Berry

A Georgian army officer studying at the Defense Language Institute's English Language Center used his medical training to help save the life of a civilian employee recently at the DLI campus. On Aug. 2 at approximately 7:45 p.m., Georgian army Capt. Aliko Odilavadze stopped by the Gateway Lodge Sundry Store to purchase a snack and soft drink. When he went to the counter to pay for his purchases, Odilavadze notice the cashier, Linda Blount, appeared disoriented; her lips were pale. Blount needed immediate medical attention. The captain stayed alongside Blount asking her questions to keep her responsive and alert. He placed a cold, damp cloth on her forehead to keep her cool. After about 10 minutes, EMS personnel arrived and took over the medical emergency. Reunited Aug. 25 at the store where it all began, Blount told the captain, "God bless you for helping me; you were my guardian angel that day. You saved my life." A humble Odilavadze replied by saying he was just doing his job. He is just glad that as a medical physician, he was able to assist Blount during her medical crisis. Odilavadze remains at the DLIELC attending a specialized English course. In October, he will move on to Fort Sam Houston where he will attend the four-month-long Medical Captain Career Course in Radiology.

### **Language skills increasingly sought by employers**

*(Institute of Leadership & Management)*...Helen Mayson

According to a poll commissioned by Rosetta Stone, 80% of senior and upper [management](#) professionals believe it is either "very" or "extremely" important that employees have bilingual abilities. Nearly two thirds of respondents said language learning initiatives were likely to improve productivity and collaboration at their company, while 44% expected it to boost customer satisfaction and retention. Around 50% said the main reason for learning and [development](#) in this area was to help with expansion into new geographical regions, while 32% were eager to move staff overseas.