
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 23 SEPTEMBER 2011

The long road to 09 Lima

*(DLIFLC)...*Natela Cutter

The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center has supported the training for native and heritage speakers of designated strategic languages of interest for the Army since the program's inception in July 2003. More than 1,200 Soldiers have graduated from the program supporting the need for various dialects of Arabic, Dari, Pashto, Kurdish, and Persian Farsi. On the ground in Jalalabad, in the eastern part of the country, Acheson and his colleague Spc. Hafiz Sekandari, a native of Afghanistan, spend their days interpreting for their commanders, working with local hire translators to ensure the quality of work, and interacting with the Afghan border patrol, Afghan National Army Soldiers, and locals. "I like my job because I feel productive here and I feel that I am making a difference," said Sekandari, who is from the Afghan capital of Kabul and has been living in the United States for 20 years.

To smooch or shake?

*(The Oklahoma Daily)...*Coco Courtouis

Meeting strangers is part of any exchange program. But when greeting a new student for the first time, differences show up and it's time to kiss and tell. "It's definitely one of my major culture shocks," said Alexandre Decoene, a French graduate student studying Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering. "I do two kisses to a girl, shake hands to guys I don't know well; otherwise, I do two kisses, too," Decoene said. But Decoene quickly found out it doesn't work this way in the United States. Even among exchange students, how to approach others can be confusing. "I spent the first day with a Taiwanese girl and the day after, when I saw her, I wanted to kiss her on the cheeks, but she thought I was trying to kiss her," Decoene said. Sidonie Monier, a French foreign language student had the same problem. "The first week, an American guy held out his arms so I came to him and kissed him on the cheeks. He stopped me and looked at me funny," Monier said. "I thought about it the whole day." Here I try to adapt to the people I greet. I do kisses to Europeans, I bow to Koreans and I shake hands of Americans," Cho said.

Senate Panel Votes to Freeze Funding for Key K-12 Programs

*(Education Week)...*Alyson Klein

The bill also included nearly \$150 million for the Investing in Innovation grant program, which provides grants to scale up promising practices at the district level. And a handful of programs would be eliminated, including Voluntary Public School Choice, which got \$25 million in fiscal year 2011, and the Foreign Language Assistance program, which got \$26 million in fiscal year 2011.

New Head at Fieldston School Is an Unconventional Choice

*(New York Times)...*Rachel Ohm & Jenny Anderson

Sitting amid unpacked boxes in his office overlooking Central Park this month, Damian J. Fernandez, the new head at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School, took a moment to reflect on Felix Adler, the educator and social reformer who founded Fieldston in 1878 as a tuition-free school for workingmen's children. Academically, he hopes to strengthen the foreign-language program, to start students earlier and require fluency. He wants to strengthen the high school science and math programs, he said, "in a way that enhances creativity and problem solving," and bring ethics — a core Fieldston subject — "back to its right fullness."

Translating language skills to career paths

*(TribeLocal)...*Kimberly Brehm

More than 30 Foreign Language students at Lockport Township High School are vying for two spots in a one-day workshop at the University of Illinois to learn more about career opportunities in translation and

interpretation. Interested students took part in a foreign language translation competition on Sept. 20 where they were given a selection in the foreign language (French, German, and Spanish) to translate into English. The top two translations chosen by the World Language and Cultures faculty at LTTHS will be able to take advantage of this program. "People now understand the importance of language skills," said World Languages and Cultures Department Chairperson Sharon Gerdes. "A lot of our students in our upper division courses will pursue careers involving languages and this is a great way to learn more about those opportunities."

Super Simple Learning YouTube Channel Reaches a Quarter of a Billion Views

(PRweb – Press Release)

It was September 8, 2006 when the staff at Super Simple Learning created the [SuperSimpleSongs YouTube Channel](#) and posted their first video. [The Bath Song](#) didn't go viral and become an overnight mega-hit, but five years later, videos on the channel have received over 250,000,000 views and become favorites of children, parents, and teachers around the world. Take for example, their most viewed video, a stop motion rendition of [The Alphabet Song](#). Simple in concept, the video has enough action to keep kids' attention and enough quirky little kicks to keep parents amused, like the very helpful 'p' or the 'y' that has to take a run around the block before getting in line. This one minute video is closing in on 70,000,000 views, and is one of three videos from the SuperSimpleSongs channel to rank in the top 10 educational videos of all time.

PREVIOUS NEWS

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.

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. Zellem 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 Zellem, who worked with Marefat High School students to illustrate the book of 151 Dari proverbs collected and translated over the past 18 months.