
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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'Women, War & Peace' Highlights Changing Females' Roles in Global Conflicts

(PBS.org)

That's the subject of a five-part series produced by our PBS colleagues at WNET New York. This excerpt tells the story of an all-female Army team reaching out to women in rural parts of Afghanistan. The U.S. military in Afghanistan realized it had made a crucial mistake. It was failing to connect with half the country's population. Rural Afghan women, though rarely seen by outsiders, hold the key to understanding life in the villages. By not fully engaging them, the military was missing out on a vital source of information and an opportunity to win hearts and minds. In tribal Pashtun areas, women are often forbidden from interacting with men unless bonded by marriage or blood. The all-female units give the military new access to a world that was formerly out of reach.

Chinese classes booming at Pasadena City College

(Los Angeles Times)...Joe Piasecki

A Pasadena City College program that teaches Chinese language and culture is growing in popularity and prestige. Once consisting of only four classes, the college's Chinese Language Program now offers 18. The school plans to further expand the program next semester to include study abroad opportunities and a special course on doing business in [China](#). PCC is also the only school in Southern California authorized to administer the Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi, an international Mandarin [Chinese](#) proficiency exam required by the People's Republic of China for those who wish to work or study there.

Upper Saddle River parents push for foreign language program improvements

(NorthJersey.com)...Rebecca Greene

Spanish, the one language the district has picked as a focus for the last 10 years since the state mandated the teaching of a world language on the elementary and middle school level, is offered at all grade levels in the district. And though Spanish meets state requirements, Browne said she didn't think the current curriculum met the expectations of the community. Spanish must be taught at least once for a minimum of 20 minutes every six to 12 days in the lower grades, through art, music and video instruction. Middle school students in grades 6-8 receive language everyday for a full class period, and this has not changed, even after funding was reduced. "A reduction in our workforce reduced our world language program in 2009," Browne said. Board trustee Jill Stollar asked Browne to remind parents that while the district is willing to review reasonable alternatives to make the world language program more effective, staff and budget concerns are paramount.

Bilingual voting ballots ordered in Va., 24 other states

(The Associated Press)...Hope Yen

In the run-up to the 2012 elections, the federal government is ordering that 248 counties and other political jurisdictions provide bilingual ballots to Hispanics and other minorities who speak little or no English. That number is down from a decade ago following the 2000 census, which covered 296 counties in 30 states. In all, more than 1 in 18 jurisdictions must now provide foreign-language assistance in pre-election publicity, voter registration, early voting and absentee applications as well as Election Day balloting.

Sacramento County must provide ballots in Chinese, US says

(Sacramento Bee)...Phillip Reese & Anita Creamer

The mandate was triggered by new census figures and the US Voting Rights Act. The change is the latest indication of phenomenal growth in the county's Chinese community, which added about 75 residents a month during the last decade.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Hearing Bilingual: How Babies Sort Out Language

(New York Times)...Perris Klass, M.D.

Once, experts feared that young children exposed to more than one language would suffer “language confusion,” which might delay their speech development. Today, parents often are urged to capitalize on that early knack for acquiring language. Upscale schools market themselves with promises of deep immersion in Spanish — or Mandarin — for everyone, starting in kindergarten or even before. As the relatively new science of bilingualism pushes back to the origins of speech and language, scientists are teasing out the earliest differences between brains exposed to one language and brains exposed to two.

Global Competence: The Knowledge and Skills Our Students Need

(Asia Society)...Anthony Jackson

In matters of national security, environmental sustainability, and economic development, what we do as a nation and in our everyday lives is inextricably intertwined with what governments, businesses, and individuals do beyond our borders. This new reality helps us more clearly define the role that education must play in preparing all students for success in an interconnected world. The United States have invested unprecedented resources in education, betting that our outmoded, factory-age system can be fundamentally transformed to prepare students for the rigors of a global economy. They have challenged states and school districts to set clearer, higher standards and assess student progress in more creative ways, prepare more productive teachers, and provide effective intervention in failing schools.

Raytheon Shows the Army a universal Translator App

(Wired)...Spencer Ackerman

Raytheon believes it has created technology the U.S. Army has long sought: an app that will allow its soldiers to communicate with locals. TransTalk knows about 80,000 words in Iraqi Arabic and 30,000 more in Afghanistan's languages, such as Dari and Pashto. Users speak English into the device, and the app speaks back in the desired language.

Lindblom Arabic-language students in Qatar

(Chicago Tribune)...Noreen S. Ahmed-Ullah

A high school trip to [Qatar](#) has become more than just a cultural exchange for a group of Lindblom Math and Science Academy students. The 19 high schoolers — freshmen through seniors who are studying Arabic — are also looking at water conservation issues in [Doha](#) and are putting together a short film about their experience with the help of Alexandra Cousteau, the grand-daughter of legendary environmentalist Jacques Cousteau. Paid for by [Washington, D.C.](#)-based the Qatar Foundation International, the Lindblom students have been paired with students in Doha as they've visited a desalination plant, cleaned a beach, explored Qatar's mangroves and conducted experiments looking at the dangers of ocean acidification.

A Balanced Approach to Bilingual Education

(Patch.com)...Jeffrey Ristine

Dual language immersion, sometimes called two-way immersion, was introduced in Canada more than 40 years ago and is widespread in the U.S. with at least 224 programs in California alone, according to the state [Department of Education](#). Spanish is the most popular second language statewide but other partner languages in California include Korean and Mandarin. In San Diego County, nine districts offer a two-way program in one or more schools; Chula Vista has a particularly active program.

Students who speak 145 languages pose diverse challenge for Palm Beach County schools

(Palm Beach Post News)...Jason Schultz

"De hond heeft mijn huiswerk opgegeten." That means "the dog ate my homework" to the 21 Palm Beach County School District students who speak Dutch as their primary language. "Tabestan madreseh ta'il ast." That means "school's out for summer" for the 49 students who speak Persian or Farsi, a language common in parts of Iran. Those are two of the 145 languages that district students from more than 200 countries reported as their primary language this year. Although about 96 percent of students speak one

of three languages - English, Spanish or Haitian Creole - the school district uses an array of volunteers, pictures and dictionaries to serve children in languages that district officials sometimes can't pronounce, let alone speak.

Say what?

(The Economist)

WHERE in the world is the largest number of different languages spoken? Most linguists would probably plump for New Guinea, an island that has 830 recognised tongues scattered around its isolated, jungle-covered valleys. But a place on the other side of the world runs it close. The five boroughs of New York City are reckoned to be home to speakers of around 800 languages, many of them close to extinction. New York is also home, of course, to a lot of academic linguists, and three of them have got together to create an organisation called the Endangered Language Alliance (ELA), which is ferreting out speakers of unusual tongues from the city's huddled immigrant masses.

Money talks - in many different languages

(CNN)...Tim Hume

As English has cemented its position as the default language of global business, Anglophone interest in foreign languages has steadily waned. "We have taken a perverse pride in the fact that we do not speak foreign languages, and we just need to speak louder in English," British education secretary Michael Gove lamented to a newspaper last week. His government hopes to reverse a decline in the number of British students sitting a language GCSE - a drop from 444,700 to 273,000 over 12 years - by teaching foreign languages from the age of five. "But if the question is: 'Is learning a second language an advantage, and is that advantage going to increase?' The answer's got to be yes," he said. "Almost certainly, as the balance of economic power shifts, and as supply chains, sales and deals start happening outside of traditionally the most influential markets."

Cuomo Orders New York to Serve Immigrants in Six Languages

(FoxNews)...Fox News Latino

For years, New York's Latino lawmakers had pushed for bills calling on state agencies to provide translations and interpreters in foreign languages. But governor after governor rejected the idea, saying it would be too expensive. Now, however, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has launched a \$1.5 million initiative, in which state agencies will translate documents and provide interpreters in six languages for immigrants seeking public services.

U.S. government broadcaster expands use of social media in Middle East

(Nextgov)...Joseph Marks

As social media becomes a primary tool for communication, organization and subversion across the Middle East, the U.S. government's foreign broadcasting arm is increasingly relying on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to communicate with its audience. The weekly program *Eye on Democracy*, which runs on the Arabic language [Alhurra station](#), has had a social media presence since it went on the air in 2006 and has done significant reporting on the Arab world's use of social media both before and after the Arab Spring uprisings in Egypt, Tunisia and elsewhere