
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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More foreign students studying in USA

(USA Today)...Mary Beth Marklein

International students and their dependents contributed more than \$20 billion to the U.S. economy last year as record numbers of foreigners enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities, reports to be released today show. The numbers of U.S. students earning college credit abroad also is on the rise. The number of international students at U.S. colleges and universities rose 4.7% to 723,277 during the 2010-11 academic year, says an annual report by the Institute of International Education (IIE), which has tracked data since 1949.

Air Force launches cutting-edge culture & language website

(Af.mil)

The Air Force Culture and Language Center, part of Air University's Spaatz Center here, recently launched a new public website to provide information on the Air Force's efforts to increase cross-cultural competence -- a critical warfighting skill cited by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta in an August memorandum to all Defense Department personnel. "Both military and civilian personnel should have cross-cultural training to successfully work in DOD's richly diverse organization and to better understand the global environment in which we operate," the secretary wrote. The site, www.culture.af.mil, highlights all AFCLC departments and programs, including free courses that provide Community College of the Air Force credit for Airmen and other cross-cultural competence media resources. Additional training and educational resources are offered to DOD members through the AFCLC's private site, at <https://wwwmil.maxwell.af.mil/afclc/>, which requires users to have a Common Access Card and be on a .mil or .gov server

Former World Bank chief calls for stiffer foreign language requirements in Wyoming

(Billings Gazette)...Jeremy Pelzer

Wyoming's foreign language requirements are insufficient to prepare students for an increasingly globalized world, former World Bank president James Wolfensohn said during the Wyoming Business Alliance's annual forum Tuesday. Wolfensohn, who lives in Jackson Hole, said as China and India are becoming major economic powers, future generations need to know Mandarin and other languages to be successful in the coming decades. China and India have each sent more than 100,000 students to the United States to learn about American culture and language, he said. But only 13,000 American students are studying in China, he said, and only 3,000 have gone to India.

Foreign languages 'essential for our children's future'

(The Financial)

As International Education Week 2011 gets underway, the British Council is highlighting the vital role of foreign languages in preparing children in the UK for life in a global society and work in a global economy. The UK's cultural relations body -- which builds relationships for the UK through education, English and the arts -- is underlining the important role played by languages in improving understanding of other cultures, which is essential if our children are to be able to compete in an increasingly internationalised world of work. Foreign languages also make a valuable contribution to children's intellectual development.

Younger Estonians' Language Skills Declining, Specialists Say

(ERR News)

Language specialists are worried that the quality of the Estonian language is deteriorating among the youth, including those with higher education, and say that grade schools should enforce stricter standards. At a conference organized by the University of Tartu and the Mother Tongue Society,

professor of the Estonian language Martin Ehala presented his study, which concluded that language skills have fallen significantly among even grade school teachers, reported ERR radio. "The results indicated that around 40 percent of first-year university students have a fairly modest functional command of the language," said Ehala.

[Fun, educational Web sites for kids](#)

(Washington Post)...Tracy Grant

We know there are lots of fun Web sites for kids: [Poptropica](#), [Club Penguin](#) and [FunBrain](#), to name a few. But every now and then, KidsPost highlights a few Web sites that are fun for kids and might also teach you a few things while you're playing, downloading and searching. The National Security Agency's Web site for kids wants to find "future codemakers and codebreakers." **Our favorites:** Language Barriers, a matching game where you have to find "hello" in 10 languages, and Makeit@Home! which has home or school projects, including a cipher wheel using a soda bottle.

[Namibia, Agreement On Portuguese Language Signed](#)

(All Africa)...Catherine Sasman

DEPUTY Minister of Foreign Affairs Peya Mushelenga and Portuguese Secretary of State and Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Luis Brites Pereira yesterday signed an agreement on the introduction of Portuguese in Namibian schools. Portuguese will be offered as a foreign language at secondary schools as early as January. Pereira said Portugal would assist Namibia with the implementation of the agreement by training teachers at Unam and the provision of scholarships for Namibian citizens to be trained as teachers of Portuguese as a foreign language. "Both countries recognise the growing importance of Portuguese as an official and working language of regional and international organisations," said Pereira.

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[Gaming Technology Puts Soldiers' Boots on Ground](#)

(National Defense)...Eric Beidel

A recent Army solicitation for the games initiative seeks technologies that allow users to generate custom battle scenarios that cover necessary skills and run the gamut of full-spectrum operations, from cultural awareness and language to recognition and defeat of improvised explosive devices. The service could spend as much as \$25 million over five years on software and licensing for one or more commercial games, according to the solicitation.

[Chinese teaching minor offered Spring 2012](#)

(The Utah Statesman)...Amber Murdoch

A new Chinese teaching minor is one of the newest curricula made available to USU students, which according to a recent survey will accommodate the growing interest in learning how to speak and teach Chinese. The program, proposed by the department of languages, philosophy and speech communication, was approved by the USU Board of Trustees on Monday, Nov. 7 and will become available for declaration next semester. "This minor will develop students' knowledge of Chinese language and culture and skills in teaching Chinese," the LPSC department's proposal states. "This minor aligns clearly with the department's philosophy of training students for fulfilling careers in their field by providing a strong Chinese teacher training program."

[Skills warning over foreign language assistant cuts](#)

(BBC)

The number of foreign language assistants in Scottish schools has fallen by 80% in the past six years. Figures from British Council Scotland revealed the total had dropped to 59, down from 284 in 2005/06. Only seven out of 32 local authorities employed native speakers of French, German, Italian, Spanish or Chinese. The British Council warned that Scotland could miss out on future international investment as a result of poor foreign language skills.

Korean school teaches language and culture

(Savannah Now)...Jenel Few

Seven-year-old Rachael Kim carefully wrote out Korean letters in a workbook, when she was done she had spelled Ostrich, rabbit and flag. Middle grades students were practicing their lines for an upcoming play. Their scripts were written entirely in Korean. Across the hall high school-age students were translating Korean words and phrases written on a dry erase board. "Most of them are second or third generation Korean Americans," said Korean School Principal Hyounkyun Oh. "They grow up speaking English and sometimes relatives who mainly speak Korean have trouble understanding and communicating with them."

Russian School of Tampa teaching students Russian language

(13 News)...Robert Hahn

Students at a Bay area school are keeping a tradition alive by learning their family's second language. The students are learning Russian at the new [Russian School of Tampa](#). The school is the only one of its kind in the Tampa Bay area. "It helps me with my grammar in Russian, and to speak Russian, and talk to my grandma," said student Alexander Austin. "She's from Russia and I can communicate with her." Most of the students at the school have parents or relatives who have lived in Russia or still live in the motherland. The language skills being taught are through the efforts of teacher Irina Stuart.

Humanities and the military

(Know – UT at Austin)...Eileen Flynn

Sgt. Jeremy Couch and two fellow Texas Army National Guard soldiers enter the home of an Afghan family looking for information about escaped prisoners. Thieves, the men of the house tell them, have been stealing their livestock. Couch, a stocky soldier with bright blue eyes, attempts to assuage the family's fears while also trying to suss out information on the criminals at large. A spontaneous burst of applause jolts everyone back to reality: a low-slung cinder block building at Camp Mabry in Austin where the soldiers are participating in a training exercise for their upcoming deployment. The "Afghans" are Middle Eastern Studies students at The University of Texas at Austin. Members of the audience — faculty and staff members and several other soldiers — offer a critique of the soldiers' behavior. The role-playing sessions came at the end of an intensive weekend-long language and culture workshop conducted by the College of Liberal Arts' [Department of Middle Eastern Studies](#) and [Center for Middle Eastern Studies](#) for soldiers who will soon be deployed to Afghanistan.

NGCSU's ROTC Language Institute Ups the Ante

(The Saint)...Ben Helton

North Georgia's on-campus language institute has garnered national attention since it was introduced in 2008, thanks to federal grant funding. NGCSU has become one of only three universities to be awarded flagship status for Cadet instruction in foreign language. Along with Georgia Tech and Arizona State, North Georgia has been awarded \$720,000 in federal funds as part of this designation for Chinese instruction for Cadets. Now offering foreign language training in Chinese, Russian, Arabic, Korean and Spanish, the institute hopes to continue expansion in order to be a benchmark for foreign language training, which is something the United States military has taken notice of.

Foreign-Language Instruction, Digitally Speaking

(The Chronicle of Higher Education)...Marc Parry

Wylder Fondaw struggled with an online Latin class in high school. So when he arrived at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this year, he hesitated at studying a language online. But the freshman had no choice: At his skill level, if he wanted to take introductory Spanish, an online class was the only option. Instead of showing up in class four times a week, Mr. Fondaw conjugates verbs on a computer program in his sparsely furnished dorm room. He attends a live class every Tuesday afternoon—but it, too, is virtual. The class convenes via Web-conferencing software. If students want to answer a question, they click an icon that depicts a raised hand.

Internet sites go global with free language translations

(KPTV.com)...Elaine Zimmerman

Gerri: I do business in several foreign countries. I would like to have my Internet site appeal to foreign buyers. I would also like to sharpen my foreign language skills in my correspondence and on the phone. Do you have any suggestions?

Elaine: Many sites that wish to appeal to customers worldwide have added translation capabilities to their sites. It is relatively inexpensive to add. It changes the content from one language to another with merely a click of a mouse on the foreign flag icon for which language you wish to view the site.

Chinese students arrive at UW-Madison with dreams and fears for their future

(Wisconsin State Journal)...Deborah Ziff

Eighteen-year-old Xinyi Wang's bus rolled up to Memorial Union on an August night. After a 14-hour plane ride from her home in Eastern China, then a 3-hour bus trip from Chicago, she stepped onto the UW-Madison campus for the first time. She plans to spend at least the next four years here. "It is my dream, when I was young, to study in the U.S.," said Wang, a UW-Madison freshman. Now that she's settled into her dorm room in Witte Hall, she said the hardest things to get used to are the language and culture.