
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 01 DECEMBER 2011

Uncle Sam is looking for educators

(Washington Post)...Derrick T. Dortch

The federal government may offer opportunities for some unemployed educators. The Department of Defense Education Activity is a fully operating school system that provides education to the children of military personnel and Department of Defense civilian personnel. It operates 194 schools in 14 districts in 12 foreign countries, seven states, Guam and Puerto Rico. Among the states are Alabama, Georgia, New York, North Carolina and South Carolina; the foreign countries include England, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Japan and South Korea. Under the Army's Training and Doctrine Command there is the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, which focuses on foreign language training for the military, select DoD civilians and other government agencies. It has more than 1,700 instructors, and the center is hiring.

Hiring in the Humanities Is Expected to Increase, MLA Says

(The Chronicle of Higher Education)

The Modern Language Association projects that job seekers in the humanities will have more jobs to apply to in 2011-12 than the year before. The number of ads placed for jobs in English and foreign-language instruction rose 5 percent, according to the association's Job Information List. Positions in English are expected to rise to 1,250 from 1,190, while the number of foreign-language jobs is expected to increase to 1,150 from 1,095. The improvement in the job market, which mirrors information recently reported by the MLA, obviously isn't enough to ease the angst of many scholars who are looking for work. The number of projected faculty positions is still about one-third below the peak they reached in 2007-8.

Program seeks to boost U. language offerings

(Brown Daily Herald)...Hannah Kerman

Interested in Swahili? Armenian? Well, the Brown Language Society is interested in you. Next semester, the society will be piloting the Brown Student Language Exchange program, which is designed to support and foster student interest in languages outside those offered by the University. The new exchange program, an entirely student-run initiative, will allow participants to experience languages and cultures in informal 90-minute crash courses led by student discussion leaders. "We really want to pique student interest in other languages and cultures," Friedman said. The University already offers about 30 languages to the student body, but the exchange will allow students to interact with languages farther off the beaten path by both informing students about available resources and creating new programming.

Study Finds Rosetta Stone TOTALe Effective for Elementary-School-Age Children

(Market Watch)...Press Release

Rosetta Stone Inc., a leading provider of technology-based language-learning solutions, today unveiled a study of the pedagogical implications and learning outcomes for elementary-school-age children who use the Rosetta Stone(R) TOTALe(R) software solution. The study examined the effects of TOTALe as a stand-alone system on the second-language development of third, fourth, fifth and sixth graders learning Mandarin Chinese and Spanish. The scientific research was commissioned to address the effectiveness of educational technology on children learning a second language.

English Lessons for China Airline After Unauthorized Take Off

(Wall Street Journal)...Brian Spegele

How do you say "Oops" in Chinese? China Eastern Airlines is pledging to improve the English-language skills of its crew following an incident in the Japanese city of Osaka where a Shanghai-bound China Eastern flight took off apparently without permission from the tower, in what may have been a simple

case of broken communication between the pilot and controllers. Exact details of what happened at Osaka's airport on Monday remain unclear, but Shanghai-based China Eastern is already promising to improve pilots' English, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported. China's civil aviation authority said in 2007 that [less than one-tenth](#) of its pilots met international standards for English proficiency.

PREVIOUS NEWS

'Language Gene' May Influence Learning Too

(Discovery News)...Marianne English

The [FOXP2 gene](#), a front-runner to explain the evolution of language in humans, may have rewired the brain to allow more advanced learning, according to [preliminary research](#) presented at the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting this month. Science writer [Ed Yong points out](#) that FOXP2's place in human evolution may have more to do with building basic neural connections in the brain rather than regulating language alone. Overall, it seems that FOXP2 acts as one piece to the larger puzzle of language development. In fact, the gene is thought to control other genes that shape an organism's ability to learn certain motor skills.

Labour backs English baccaureate to boost languages study

(Guardian)...Jeevan Vasagar & Jessica Shepherd

Stephen Twigg, who was appointed shadow education secretary last month, gave qualified praise to the measure, which he said might reverse the decline in children studying languages. In 2003 the Labour government decided to make languages optional after 14, a change that was introduced from September 2004. Language study has waned steadily since then. This year there were 154,000 entries for GCSE French, compared with more than 300,000 in 2004.

Degrees of separation: UNC's foreign language consortium needs a classroom environment

(Daily Tarheel)...Editorial Board

At first glance, offering popular language courses such as French, German and Spanish online may sound like just another desperate attempt to cut back on expenses. But executive committee chairwoman of the UNC Faculty Assembly Sandie Gravett, who works closely with the UNC Foreign Language Assembly, said the move to online courses is about "enhancing language instruction throughout the UNC system," not finding another way to save money.

Bilingual education key to Australia's future in Asian century

(Radio Australia)

The learning of foreign languages has been an issue of much debate in Australia.

Some people argue that Australia in the Asian century may be disadvantaged because future generations are not picking up regional languages, particularly Mandarin and Indonesian. Now it seems that more and more Australian parents are placing importance on their children speaking a second language. And bilingual immersion programs could be the key.

Bilingual Ed Starts Early in St. Louis

(CBS St. Louis)...Stephanie Ebbs

Almost every aspect of these students' school day is in Spanish. Only one flight of stairs away, another class is doing the same thing in French. Everything from class work to art class is in a foreign language to completely immerse children in a bilingual environment. Interest in charter schools has gone up in recent years because of the poor quality of public schools in the Kansas City and St. Louis areas.

Translating Afghanistan

(Wall Street Journal)...Anne Jolis

On Friday night, about 12 miles west of Kandahar City, roughly 40 men sit facing each other in a low-ceilinged hall on the Afghan side of the military base. Meet the interpreters of the U.S. Third Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the 10th Mountain Division. All are Afghan natives, though some are now U.S. citizens as well. For the moment, they all call the base home. And in the past month, three of them have

gotten engaged—an occasion to celebrate. Once business started to dwindle in California in 2008, Sharif—now a U.S. citizen—went to work as a military interpreter. "The salary is good, a lot of my friends are doing it," he tells me outside over cigarettes and cola. But the country is "not safe," he adds, "even this place we're sitting now." In the past year the base has been the target of semi-regular rocket attacks.

Will English kill off India's languages?

(BBC)...Mark Tully

English is one of the advantages India has which are said to be propelling it to economic superpower status. There are all those Indians who speak excellent English. It's the mother tongue of the elite and effectively the official language of the central government. Then there is the growing number of parents who now aspire to give their children an education through the medium of that language. But is the craze for English an unmixed blessing?

Raising bilingual children

(Bangkok Post)

It all began five years ago when Pongrapee Tachapahapong, Peipei's father, found an inspiring passage in a Japanese book authored by Masaru Ibuka and translated into Thai under the title *Kwa Ja Ruu Kor Sai Sia Laew*, or "kindergarten is too late". The book completely changed his perspective towards learning English as a second language. In the book the author had noted the most suitable period for linguistic and cognitive development of a child were from the time they were nine months to three years old. And Pongrapee set himself the goal to raise Peipei to be bilingual in Thai and English. The family chose the One Parent One Language (OPOL) system, one of the most practical and well-recognised strategies for raising bilingual children in which each parent speaks one language to their child - Pongrapee speaks English to Peipei, while his wife speaks Thai to her at all times.

Be bicultural, not just bilingual

(AsiaOne Business)...Reico Wong

Singapore needs to step up its efforts to groom more bicultural individuals - not just bilingual ones - to ensure that it has a real advantage when engaging with China, said Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean yesterday. "Yet, while being bilingual opens doors to new opportunities, it is by being bicultural that we can reach deeper inside China to fully understand its growth story and ride on its tremendous potential."

Celebrities fluent in a foreign language

(TheCelebrityCafe.com)...Jacklyn Rose

Bradley Cooper's fluency in French helped him become the 2011 "Sexiest Man Alive" in *People* but he is not the only one with bilingual talents. Many Hollywood stars are just as hot speaking in German or Russian as they are in English. Here are a few: Sandra Bullock, Michael Fassbender, Mila Kunis, Viggo Mortensen, Charlize Theron, and others.

Report: Fix Corps' foreign language program

(Marine Corps Times)...Gidget Fuentes & Joe Gould

The Marine Corps and Army do a poor job tracking how much language and cultural training troops have received, leaving commanders in the dark when it comes time to assign troops with these skills, according to a congressional watchdog agency. The two services also spend millions during pre-deployment training to teach troops to speak foreign languages, but they lack plans to sustain these skills and use them for ongoing operations, the Government Accountability Office found. Without programs to ensure these skills don't lapse, the "Army and Marine Corps may not fully maximize the return on investment already made for pre-deployment language training for current operations," GAO analysts wrote.