
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 09 DECEMBER 2011

Airman Helps Troops With Language Skills

(Military.com)...Master Sgt. Chance Babin

A deployed supply Airman here is not only ensuring Airmen at the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing have the protective equipment they need; he is using his rich heritage to equip them with language skills as well. Airman 1st Class Miad Maleki, a native of Tehran, Iran, is a material management journeyman for the 380th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron. He issues, stores and maintains individual protective equipment and is volunteering in his off time to teach a free Farsi class for the deployed troops here. "I'm teaching a class of 18 students here," he said. "My students are really interested and all have plans to test for the language and either cross train or bring their new skill to the plate."

Chinese state TV unveils global expansion plan

(The Guardian)...Tania Branigan

"Global competition nowadays is not just political and economic, but cultural ... Countries that take the dominant position in cultural development and own strong cultural soft power are the ones that gain the initiative in fierce international competition," argued an essay in Chinese journal [Leadership Decision-Making Information](#) last month. Beijing has created almost 300 Confucius institutes around the world, teaching Chinese language and culture, and spent a reported £4bn on expanding state media. It has created a new English language newspaper, Russian and Arabic TV channels and a 24-hour [English news station](#) run by the Xinhua state news agency.

Utah's Dual Immersion Program Builds Bilingual Utah Youth

(Utah Pulse)

Utah's Dual Immersion program offers a rich bilingual experience for young learners when their minds are developmentally best able to acquire a second language. Instruction is divided between two high quality, creative classrooms: one English and one in the Second Language (Chinese, German, French, Portuguese or Spanish). Proven benefits: second language skills, improved performance on standardized tests, enhanced cognitive skills, increased cultural sensitivity, and long term benefits.

Colorado College wins \$509,000 grant for language projects

(Colorado Springs Gazette)...Kristina Iodice

Colorado College plans to build on success. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation recently awarded the college a two-year, \$509,000 grant to encourage the language faculty to create new approaches for teaching languages and to develop placement and proficiency tests. The grant also will support faculty members from across the disciplines who want to achieve greater proficiency and incorporate language study into their courses.

Students favor Japanese as second foreign language

(China Post)

The Japanese language emerged as the most popular choice of local high school students studying a second foreign language, according to enrollment data compiled by the Ministry of Education (MOE) yesterday. Out of all the languages offered, local high school students showed an overwhelming preference for Japanese, followed by French. Other options include German, Spanish, Korean, Latin, Italian, Russian, Vietnamese and Indonesian.

PREVIOUS NEWS

“Pleasure reading” key to second language learning

(Scoop)...Press Release

Victoria University of Wellington PhD graduate Gillian Claridge says the task of learning to read in another language could be made a lot easier. Dr Claridge’s research investigated the perceptions of learners, teachers and publishers involved in second language learner reading, and found that learners often try to read at an inappropriately difficult level. “Learners, teachers and publishers tend to believe that the harder the text, the greater the learning benefits will be. However, the evidence from this study suggests that devoting time to reading easy texts for pleasure, alongside the traditional approach of examining difficult texts, would benefit learners in developing fluency.”

Students armed with language skills speak out

(City Times)...Brennan Maclean

A classroom on the City College campus houses young, vibrant students striving to obtain a well rounded education. The City foreign languages department encompasses Arabic, Latin, Chinese, French, German, Vietnamese, Japanese, Russian, Tagalog, and Spanish. With many options to choose from, students take language courses for many different reasons. “I believe communication is the key to reducing tension among countries and cultures. I have taken Spanish and Arabic classes. When I meet people from countries that speak these languages, I feel the tension dissipate,” said Laura Tate a Russian 101 student.

NSU offers Cherokee language program

(CherokeePhoenix.org)...Tesina Jackson

In a cooperative effort between Northeastern State University and the Cherokee Nation, the Cherokee Education Degree Program allows students to major in the Cherokee language and give them the capability to teach how to speak, read and write Cherokee. “This cultural understanding opens all sorts of doors to careers, not jobs,” said Dr. Leslie Hannah, director of the Cherokee studies and language programs at NSU. “I make a distinct difference between jobs and careers. A job is something one does for a check. A career is something one does for life and these Cherokee language and culture courses change lives and create lifelong learners who in turn become life changers.”

Japanese most popular optional foreign language in high schools: MOE

(Taiwan News)...Lin Szu-yu & Hanna Liu

Japanese is the most popular second foreign language among high school students in Taiwan, the Ministry of Education (MOE) said Wednesday. In Taiwan high schools, English is a required course, while Japanese is the most frequently chosen optional foreign language, followed by French, the MOE said. In this year's fall semester, nearly 38,000 high school students took Japanese from among 10 choices of second foreign languages, according to the ministry. It said Japan's close proximity to Taiwan and the easy accessibility of Japanese learning materials are two factors that have contributed to the growing popularity of the language.

MSU sees rise of less commonly taught languages

(The StateNews.com)...Stephen Brooks

Out of nearly 48,000 students at MSU, international relations senior Spencer Nordwick is the only one studying the Tajik language — a variation of Persian. “It’s really rare to find Tajik speakers,” Nordwick said. “Having such a rare language skill is attractive to both employers in the international development sector as well as with graduate schools.” Tajik is one of about 20 [less commonly taught languages](#), or LCTLs, offered at MSU, and LCTL coordinator Danielle Steider said [many of these languages](#) are becoming more popular among students in an increasingly globalized world. “Overall, the trend is (there are) more students in the LCTLs, and more of the languages being taught,” Steider said. Nordwick said his interest in the language was sparked by different cultural and political situations in Tajikistan throughout the past 20 years.

Design students immerse themselves in Gaelic

(Cape Breton Post)

Students from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design have been working on ways to help sustain and enhance Gaelic language and culture in Nova Scotia. During the final class of the term Thursday students will present their concepts to members of the Gaelic community and cap off their four-month immersion in all things Gaelic with a ceilidh. "I think it was an eye-opener for them — these are students coming not only from different cultures but different hemispheres," he said. "But it was an eye-opener for us too and a real opportunity for us to get messages out that are authentic. This will help the community to look at themselves in new ways and with greater confidence."

BRIEF OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDICIARY INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS AS AMICUS CURIAE IN SUPPORT OF PETITIONER

(KOUICHI TANIGUCHI v. KAN PACIFIC SAIPAN, LTD.)

NAJIT filed an Amicus Brief with the Supreme Court of the United States on the difference between an interpreter & translator.

Army Culture and Foreign Language Strategy

(Army.mil) ...Stand-To!

Army Culture and Foreign Language Strategy - Cultural competency moves to center stage within military strategy. The Army Culture & Foreign Language Management Office was established in 2010 to lead the implementation of the Army Culture and Foreign Language Strategy (ACFLS) across the Army and Training and Doctrine Command and to integrate these culture and foreign language efforts with Army agencies, joint agencies, and other services. The primary value of the program, as directed through the ACFLS, rests with the use of 15 Culture & Foreign Language Advisors (CFLAs). These cultural experts advise commanding generals and commandants at Centers of Excellence (CoEs) and schools across the continental U.S. Each CFLA is tasked with helping CoE leadership integrate culture and foreign language capability appropriate to each branch, military occupational specialty, and cohort.

Dist. 203 looks to expand foreign language offerings

(TribLocal) ...Melissa Jenco

Naperville Unit District 203 is bringing in an outside expert to explore the possibility of improving and expanding its foreign language programs. Superintendent Mark Mitrovich said he wants the district to look at foreign language at all grade levels and is bringing in Carl Falsgraf, director of the Center for Applied Second Language Studies at the University of Oregon.

School's curriculum connects students to global community

(Brookfield Now) ...Kathy Adamson

In today's era of instant communication and global access, it's more important than ever for children to be more than just competent in the core educational disciplines. They must also have an understanding of the world at large, and how our community fits into the global landscape. One way to add this extra dimension to students' education is through classes such as computer science, foreign language, art, music, and library. St. John Vianney School (SJV) offers an excellent array of these classes, taught by accomplished professionals in their fields, carefully designed to ignite student's imagination and interest in these areas.