

THE LANGUAGE & CULTURE WEEKLY

25 JULY 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

TEACHING KIDS A SECOND LANGUAGE GIVES THEM A COGNITIVE ADVANTAGE 2

REUNITED, VET AND TRANSLATOR SHOW LANGUAGE OF FRIENDSHIP 2

NSEP CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2

ROTC CADETS TEACH ENGLISH IN KAZAKHSTAN 3

PARTNERSHIP LINKS GSU WITH UNIVERSITY OF BAGHDAD TO IMPROVE TEACHING IN IRAQ 3

SOUTH CAROLINA AND COLOMBIA ARE NOW PARTNERS 3

LEAP BOOSTS AF LANGUAGE CAPABILITY

Amid the darkness and the sputters of machine gunfire, service members hustle to assess and treat combat casualty victims. These victims have suffered injuries ranging from loss of limbs to sucking chest wounds.

Adding to an already disorienting environment is the hodgepodge of English, coming from the directions of the combat medic instructing the service members who only speak Polish.

While this combat environment and the casualties are simulated for training purposes, the Polish service members swiftly moved

through the exercise with the translating assistance of Capt. Dariusz Piszczek, a C-17 Globemaster III pilot with 14th Airlift Squadron out of Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., and a Polish-language participant in the Language Enabled Airman Program.

LEAP is a program that identifies and cultivates the existing foreign language skills of Air-

men for the life of their career. The goal of the program is to develop a core of Airmen from across career fields and ranks who are able to communicate in one



or more foreign languages.

WANTED: TEMP ATTORNEYS WITH FOREIGN-LANGUAGE SKILLS

Unemployed lawyers looking for work in a lousy job market might want to brush up on their Korean or Chinese.

As international business disputes proliferate, law firms are bringing in flocks of attorneys with a flair for languages, although the jobs are almost

always temporary.

This spring [Apple Inc.'s AAPL -0.48%](#) lawyers brought on dozens of Korean-speaking contract attorneys and document reviewers to help grind through a last-minute document dump from [Samsung Electronics Co., 005930.SE -1.03%](#) the Korean

manufacturer with which it is locked in an epic patent battle over smartphones.

In fact, law firms and corporations that used to hire translators fluent in languages such as Japanese, Hebrew or Spanish now figure they can get legal skills in the bargain.



TEACHING KIDS A SECOND LANGUAGE GIVES THEM A COGNITIVE ADVANTAGE

There's a rule in Ingrid Prueher's house: when at home, speak only in Spanish. Why? This Fairfield mom wants to preserve her two sons' Guatemalan heritage so that they are always in touch with their culture and ancestry.

But she also wants to help them become smarter and more diverse. Increasingly,

studies are showing that being bilingual improves cognitive skills, such as problem solving and multi-tasking. For



Prueher, who moved to the United States when she was an infant, this desire

can parents who don't have strong cultural ties encourage their children to appreciate languages and become at least somewhat proficient in French, Italian or German?

REUNITED, VET AND TRANSLATOR SHOW LANGUAGE OF FRIENDSHIP

On the drive from his home in Anoka to MSP airport, William Wilder rehearsed his Arabic. "As salamu alaykum, as salamu alaykum..." It's been almost 21/2 years since he used the language, but he wanted to greet his Iraqi friend properly when he arrived in the United States.

Wilder met Basim Al Hassan in 2009 when he was stationed at the Basra military

base in southern Iraq for a one-year tour with the National Guard. The two worked together at the entry control point to the military base. Al Hassan -- nicknamed "Coy" -- was a translator and spoke good English, making it easy for them to shoot the breeze for 10 to 12 hours while they worked.

"You can learn a lot about someone when you have

time to talk -- and I talk a lot," said Wilder, 42.

"STUDIES ARE SHOWING THAT BEING BILINGUAL IMPROVES COGNITIVE SKILLS, SUCH AS PROBLEM SOLVING AND MULTI-TASKING."

NSEP CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: BAKER AND LINOWITZ AWARDS

The [National Security Education Program \(NSEP\)](#), the federal agency which administers the Boren awards, is now accepting applications for the 2012 Howard Baker, Jr. and Sol Linowitz Awards. NSEP encourages you to self-nominate or to nominate other Boren Fellows or Scholars who have completed or are in the process of completing their

service requirements. Each year, NSEP honors one Boren Scholar and one Boren Fellow with awards for their outstanding federal service and academic achievement. The Sol Linowitz Award, given to former Boren Graduate Fellows, was named in honor of Ambassador Sol Linowitz, a former diplomat and major supporter of international edu-

cation and NSEP. The Howard Baker, Jr. Award, given to former Boren Undergraduate Scholars, was named in honor of Ambassador Howard Baker, Jr., is regarded as one of the most successful Senators in terms of brokering compromises, enacting legislation, and maintaining civility.

PARTNERSHIP LINKS GSU WITH UNIVERSITY OF BAGHDAD TO IMPROVE TEACHING IN IRAQ

Nineteen faculty members from the University of Baghdad will complete a month of classes at Georgia State University this week focused on improving their country's universities and teaching methods.

The International Research and Exchanges Board paired GSU's Department of Applied Linguistics and English as a Second Language with English language teachers at the

University of Baghdad as a part of its University Linkage Program (ULP), coordinated through the U.S. State Department and the American embassy in Iraq.

"This program displays GSU's global commitment by helping to improve language teach-

ing and English poetry and literature teaching," said Eric Friginal, assistant professor of applied linguistics.



SOUTH CAROLINA AND COLOMBIA ARE NOW 'PARTNERS FOR LIFE'

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and Colombian Vice Minister of Defense Jorge Enrique Bedoya signed a partnership proclamation Monday formally establishing a bilateral relationship between South Carolina and the Republic of Colombia in the National Guard's State Partnership Program.

The National Guard's State Partnership Program links U.S. states with partner coun-

tries for the purposes of supporting the objectives and goals of the geographic combatant commander and the U.S. Ambassador. The SPP promotes national security objectives, country and regional stability, partner nation capacity, and improved understanding and trust throughout the world.

DLNSEO works with State Partnership Programs to strengthen ties and increase language capabilities between the state and country.



"DLNSEO WORKS WITH STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS TO STRENGTHEN TIES AND INCREASE LANGUAGE CAPABILITIES BETWEEN STATE AND COUNTRY."

ROTC CADETS TEACH ENGLISH IN KAZAKHSTAN

Eight U.S. Army ROTC cadets and their Cadre leader have recently toured Kazakhstan as participants in the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Program (CULP).

Their program began on June 26th and concluded on July 13th. The Public Affairs Section and Regional English Language Office at Embassy

Asana in collaboration with the Office of Military Cooperation programmed the cadets at English Access Micro scholarship Programs and American Corners in Astana, Pavlodar, Shymkent, and Ust-Kamenogorsk. The cadets, who hail from eight colleges and universities across the U.S., made presentations and

also participated in English language-immersion summer camps, the press service of the US Diplomatic Mission to Kazakhstan said.

