

# LANGUAGE & CULTURE WEEKLY

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## Study abroad and broaden your mind

(Guardian)...Lu-Hai Liang

Continental Europe has a lot to offer the traveler and tourist, but the appeal for students is even more attractive. Think of Italian sunshine, the cafes of the Netherlands and the cool style of Denmark. The benefits of language and cultural awareness are enormous, and studying abroad could even be a bargain in terms of how much you pay for.

Studying in Scandinavia is free, with Denmark offering free Danish lessons to every foreign student, while the Netherlands is an increasingly popular choice for its

quality of teaching and low tuition fees.

And there are options further afield. Sinead Neville, 21, is studying for a BA in Anthropology at the University of Melbourne. Despite getting ABB at A-level, Neville felt the heat of the competition for places at "any decent university". "I've found the teaching at Melbourne to be quite in-

credible, with personable tutors. Australia is now my home and I've learned so much from simply being in Melbourne with its cultural diversity and endless things to do", she says.

So what is the added value of studying abroad? Carl Gilleard, chief executive of the Association of Graduate Recruiters, says: "The ability to speak a second language is a real CV

boost. Plus, undergraduates who study abroad are likely to return with an appreciation of diverse societies and political systems, and an ability to stand on their own two feet.



## NORTHWESTERN STATE MILITARY SCIENCE PROFESSOR VOLUNTEERS IN TANZANIA

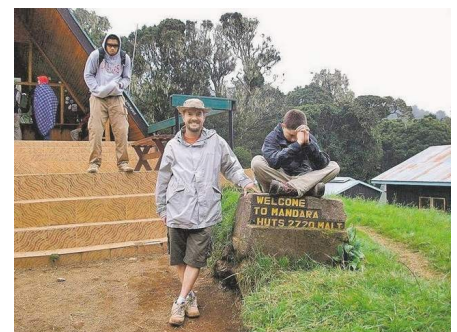
(The Town Talk)

Lt. Col. William Macky Underwood, professor of military science at NSU, supervised 12 ROTC cadets in the U.S. Army's Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) program in

Moshi, Tanzania.

The U.S. Army wants its officer corps to be culturally astute, he explained, and CULP is the military's language and culture immersion program designed to offer cadets

experiences with indigenous people outside the United States.



**A-LEVEL FOREIGN LANGUAGES DECLINE ALARMS EXAMINERS**

(Guardian)...Jeevan Vasagar

The numbers of British teenagers learning European languages fell again in this year's A-levels, prompting examiners to speak of a crisis in the subjects.

Entries in French declined to about 12,500 this year, and the number of candidates taking German dropped below 5,000. The

number of entries for Spanish declined slightly, at 7,351 this year compared with 7,610 in 2011, although the trend over the last five years is up.

There was a modest rise in the take-up of other languages. Entries for A-level Polish rose from 844 last year to 923, and there were 3,425 entries for Mandarin,

compared with 3,237 in 2011. Arabic, Japanese and Russian entries also climbed.

Hall welcomed the government's move this year to introduce modern languages in primary schools.



**SOUTHERN EUROPEANS FLOCK TO GERMAN CLASSES**

German is often considered a difficult language with very confusing rules of grammar. But the European debt crisis seems to help German to some sort of a renaissance. Language courses are in high demand.

In comparison to 2010, the number of applications for German classes

has increased by 30 percent at the center in Hamburg. Neves said people from southern European euro crisis countries, in particular, are now coming to learn



German.

"Many come to us from the Spanish-speaking world, from Spain itself or from South America, who reside in Spain," Neves said, adding that Portuguese and Greeks didn't come at all in the past while now their number is also on the rise.

The numbers of British teenagers learning European languages fell again in this year's A-levels, prompting examiners to speak of a crisis in the subjects—though some languages did increase.

**CRITICAL LANGUAGES ENTER CAMPUS DIALECT**

(Alestle)...Roger Starkey

The Foreign Languages and Literature Department introduced courses in Russian, Turkish and Brazilian Portuguese — three languages classified as critical — this fall.

A foreign language is deemed critical when the

need for trained speakers in these languages exceeds the number of speakers available in a country. Sedycias said the Critical Languages Program is part of a goal for the College of Arts and Sciences to internationalize.

Shortly after Sedycias arrived on campus in July

2011, he met with the ROTC program and learned there was a need to train the cadets in languages that were not available at SIUE. Some may use their language skills in business or diplomacy, or to peacefully engage the locals while on a military mission and others to combat terrorism.

## **CULTURE, IDENTITY, AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY: IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY**

While it is impossible to predict the values and beliefs of future generations, a modest forecast is made by tracing global trends in the use of language and media, as well as in the use of information and communication technologies. The potential implications of these culture and identity trends for the strength

of the U.S. "signal" in the global info-communication sphere are analyzed. The author suggests that the information that will dominate the 21st century, particularly the beliefs and values of foreign societies, may increasingly and more directly impact our own national security, making it ever more critical for poli-

cymakers to understand issues of cultural change and identity formation from a strategic perspective.



## **ANA AWARDS \$13.8 MILLION IN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE PRESERVATION GRANTS**

*(Red Lake Net News)*

The Administration for Native Americans (ANA) is awarding approximately \$13.8 million in grants to preserve Native American language and culture. The recipients include 13 projects (\$2.8 million) funded through the Preservation and Maintenance program, which provides grants for curricu-

lum development, teacher training, and technology used to disseminate and preserve Native American languages. Another five grants (\$1.1 million) will be awarded through the Esther Martinez Initiative, which provides funds for immersion-based language training, survival schools, and restoration programs. In addition to these 18 new language grants,

more than \$9.8 million will be awarded to 42 previously approved grantees to continue multi-year projects.

"Language revitalization and continuation should be two of the first steps taken in preserving a community's culture and strengthening a sense of community," said ANA Commissioner Lillian Sparks.

DLIFLC received nine commendations, mainly focused on student learning outcomes. Out of nine schools due for the self study and evaluation visit this past spring, DLIFLC was one of only three schools to be reaffirmed.

## **DLIFLC'S ACCREDITATION IS REAFFIRMED**

(dvids)...Devon Swanson

In mid-July, a few months after their March evaluation visit to the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges reaf-

firmed DLIFLC's accreditation for the next six years. "When we pass these very thorough inspections that have very high standards, we are showing that not only are we meeting the requirements as a military training institution, but also those that even academic institutions don't meet," said the Provost, Dr.

Donald C. Fischer, Ph.D.

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