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[Two U.Va. Students to Go Overseas with Boren Scholarships](#)

(UVa)

Two University of Virginia students will study overseas next year with support from Boren Scholarships, which provide up to \$20,000 to U.S. students to study abroad in areas of the world that are critical to U.S. interests and underrepresented in study abroad. The Boren Awards are very competitive, with only 20 percent of this year's applicants selected for the fellowship and fewer than 16 percent for the scholarship," said Katherine Walters, assistant director of U.Va.'s Center for Undergraduate Excellence. "I'm very excited that Michael and Derek are recipients. These are wonderful opportunities to study and fully engage with a host community for up to year." Boren Scholarships are funded by the National Security Education Program.

[DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE](#)

[Afghan proverbs resonate across cultural divide](#)

(Tampa Tribune)...Howard Altman

Q attra qattra daryaa mey-sha . A river is made drop by drop. Zellem was in Afghanistan as a member of the AfPak Hands program, created in September 2009 to develop military and senior civilian experts specializing in the language, culture, processes and challenges of Afghanistan and Pakistan. One of the things Zellem learned about Afghanistan — which has a rich history of colorful verbal communication, though 70 percent of the population can't read — is that proverbs speak volumes. So Zellem broke out one of the 20 or so Dari proverbs he had collected. The Afghans, Zellem said, "smiled and laughed and nodded. 'I get it; you get it; we get it together. You are speaking to me in my own language, my own culture. We understand each other.' "

[West Point cadets greet Liang in Mandarin](#)

(China Daily)...Tan Yingzi

Connie Chen had been expecting a meeting with Defense Minister Liang Guanglie for two weeks. The senior at the United States Military Academy at West Point was among two dozen Mandarin-

speaking cadets chosen to greet the visiting Chinese military leader on Thursday morning at the campus' Jefferson Hall Library. "I am pretty



excited," Chen told China Daily. "It's very rare." Liang is the first Chinese defense minister to visit the US in nine years. A trip planned for 2011 was postponed after Washington announced it would sell weapons to Taiwan, a move Beijing strongly opposes.

[Utah Guard linguists bridge language gap for 'Beyond the Horizon Guatemala](#)

(U.S. Army)...Spc Anthony D. Jones

Utah National Guard members from the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade are deployed as linguists in support of Beyond the Horizon Guatemala 2012 and are bridging the communication gulf between U.S. military



personnel and the host nation's military and citizens.

[DLIFLC opens its doors to the public on Language Day](#)

(DLIFLC)...Natela Cutter



For the first time in more than a decade, the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language

Center opened its doors to the local community on May 11, bringing the number of visitors for language day up to 6,000. I haven't been here in a number of years. It's wonderful to be able to see all the performances," said Elizabeth Murray, a local resident, artist and writer.

STUDIES

Oprima dos for better cognition

(Economist)...Johnson

MANY people report feeling like different people when they speak a foreign language. I've been skeptical of these claims, since many of them seem to line up too neatly with national stereotypes: "I feel warmer and more relaxed in Spanish," "German makes me reason more carefully" and the like. But a new study seems to show that people really do think differently in a foreign language—any foreign language. Namely, people are less likely to fall into common cognitive traps when tested in a language other than their mother tongue. The study is "The Foreign-Language Effect: Thinking in a Foreign Tongue Reduces Decision Biases" by Boaz Keysar, Sayuri L. Hayakawa and Sun Gyu An in *Psychological Science* (unfortunately behind a paywall, but written up by *Wired* [here](#)).

NATIONAL

Census: Foreign-Born Population Reaches Record High

(Education Week)...Lesli A. Maxwell

The U.S. Census Bureau [reports today](#) that the population of foreign-born people living in the United States has reached 40 million, an all-time high. About half of all foreign-born residents either spoke only English at home or spoke a language other than English at home and spoke English "very well," according to the report, but there was considerable variation between the regions of origin.