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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 01 SEPTEMBER 2010**

#### **Linguistic grads study in Bengali through a scholarship**

Two U students traveled abroad this summer with the Critical Language Scholarship, a program of the U.S. State Department, in order to learn strategic languages. The scholarship—a highly competitive endeavor—permits students to travel abroad, as long as the strategic language is studied intensively.

#### **SFUSD awarded foreign language grant**

San Francisco – The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) has been awarded a Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) grant by the US Department of Education for Russian and Japanese heritage non-native English speakers enrolled in schools within the District. The \$300,000 grant, spread over a five-year period, will be used for curriculum development, assessment development, and heritage development for teachers administering the program. SFSUD will partner with Stanford University, San Francisco State University, UCLA, and the University of Oregon to develop the program. The program will begin at schools with existing Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools (FLES) in Japanese and Russian within a few school years.

#### **Conversation Partners: Ready for 2010!**

The foreign language Conversation Partners program ran a successful pilot during the 2009/2010 academic year, and returns for the 2010/2011 year! Approximately 44 students participated in the program last year, which pairs native language speakers with language learners for informal conversation and language practice. Participants who completed a survey at the end of the year indicated they felt the additional practice helped them not only feel more confident in their speaking skills, but also helped them in their language courses.

#### **LSU to cut four languages**

LSU is planning to eliminate its foreign language course offerings in Russian, Japanese, Portuguese and Swahili, the department chairwoman confirmed Tuesday.

#### **Interested in the culture and history of Afghanistan from 1842 to the present day?**

Too little is known in the US about the history of Afghanistan. History is something Americans tend to ignore, often to our detriment. We forget our history and ignore the history of others. Precedence is, in the American mind, reserved only for the law and not to the shaping perceptions or forming public opinion. This is a defect in our approach to global affairs. Such is the case with Afghanistan, where we failed to grasp (and ignored sage advice on) the impact of history on modern events. Enter [The Great Game: Afghanistan](#), an epic 3-part play (nine hours total) from the UK's Tricycle Theatre, which explores the "culture and history of Afghanistan since Western involvement in 1842 to the present day."

#### **In the '90s - Computer Chronicles report on DLI**

The Computer Chronicles was a television series, broadcast between 1981-2002, which documented the rise of the personal computer from its infancy to the immense market at the turn of the century.

#### **A Message to America's Youth**

I did wish I could send one message to America's youth: no matter how deathly boring your teachers get, pay attention in your foreign language classes. If you ever plan to travel overseas, it will be worth it. Sure, I could have survived this summer without using Spanish or Portuguese. English speakers are almost

everywhere these days, and when they're not, communicating through gestures and drawings still works (which is why we have charades and Pictionary). But my trip has been made immeasurably more enjoyable, and measurably cheaper, because I'm multilingual.

## PREVIOUS NEWS

### Youngsters heading back to globe-trotting classrooms

At Cumberland County's newest elementary school, the classroom rugs are adorned with world maps. A first-grade teacher from New Zealand is decorating her room with koala and kangaroo pictures. Another teacher plans to use tai chi to blend math lessons with Asian culture. And all 650 children at the west Fayetteville school will learn Mandarin Chinese.

### Lushootseed spoken at Tulalip summer camp

Stan Jones, 84, remembers only a smattering of words and phrases of the language he heard his grandmother speak many years ago. One of those phrases is a prayer that Jones, a longtime Tulalip tribal leader, offers at ceremonial events. "I pray our language will come back," he said, half-kidding. That prayer is slowly coming true. Jones looked around the Kenny Moses Building on Tulalip Bay on Thursday and saw dozens of tribal children learning words and phrases in Lushootseed, the original language spoken by Salish tribes in the Puget Sound basin.

### Cleveland school district, Cleveland State University team up to open new school

A new Cleveland school opened Thursday, easing its first students into a program that will supplement the basics with Mandarin Chinese. The Campus International School, a joint venture between the **school district** and **Cleveland State University**, welcomed 60 first- and second-graders a week before most other city students resume classes. Sixty kindergartners will arrive Wednesday, bringing the school to capacity.

### Auditing Mission Essential

In September 2007 the U.S. Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) awarded Mission Essential Personnel (MEP) a five-year-contract worth up to \$414 million to provide 1,691 translators in Afghanistan. MEP was a start-up company created by three men, including Chad Monnin, a U.S. Army Special Forces reservist who was injured in a parachute accident. (Procurement rules give preference to companies owned by injured veterans, even if they have no prior experience.) When the Obama administration decided to expand the war in Afghanistan last year, MEP quickly hit the ceiling of what it could bill. On May 10, INSCOM gave MEP a \$679 million extension without bothering to put it up for competitive bid. MEP will also get a share of the Intelligence Support Services Omnibus III contract, a five-year contract, with a ceiling of \$492 million, announced on August 10, 2010.

### Grant slam: \$5.6 million to fund GU academic centers

In August, Georgetown received more than \$5.6 million from the Department of Education through the National Resource Centers and Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship program. The Title VI grant, issued by both programs, supports foreign language, area, and international studies programs in U.S. colleges and universities. Three centers in the SFS were awarded funding to establish or enhance their respective NRCs, including the National Resource Center on Asian Studies. The Center for Latin American Studies also applied for a grant but did not receive one, according to Director of Asian Studies Victor Cha.

### CULTURAL CONUNDRUMS / Teasing out cross-cultural teasing

A short while ago, my daughters and I had dinner with a good friend and her elderly father, who I'll call Satomi and Mr. Sasaki. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, and at the end of it, my daughters and I agreed that it had been a long time since we had laughed that much. Thinking back to the conversation during the evening meal, I realized the basis of the mirth was the banter between father and daughter. And yet, at the same time, I realized that if their repartee were translated into English as a written document, many Americans unfamiliar with Japan would probably simply come to the conclusion that

Satomi and her father felt a lot of antagonism toward each other that they had inappropriately vented in front of guests. Nothing could be further from the truth. It was good-natured and very amusing--but somehow different from typical teasing among English speakers.

### **Dari Class Gives ISAF Partners Cultural Insight**

"We must strive to contribute to the 'Team of Teams' at work in Afghanistan and to achieve unity of effort with our diplomatic, international civilian, and Afghan partners as we carry out a comprehensive, civil-military counterinsurgency campaign." — U.S. Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, International Security Assistance Force Commander. A dedicated group of coalition troops and civilian members of the ISAF community are doing their part to contribute to the "Team of Teams" by enhancing their cultural awareness and improving their Afghan language skills during an eight-week language class here. The class is hosted every Wednesday evening by the ISAF Morale and Welfare Activities Office. Each session allows the participants to learn the basics of one of the two main Afghanistan languages, Dari, and everyday phrases used by the Afghans.

### **SAIC Wins Contract to Support Army Intelligence Operations**

The [U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command](#) is the [Army's](#) operational intelligence force. INSCOM conducts multi-disciplined (signals intelligence, counterintelligence, human intelligence, geospatial intelligence, measurement and signature Intelligence, biometrics) and all-source intelligence operations to include collection, analysis, production, and dissemination; network warfare operations; information operations; knowledge management for the [Army](#) intelligence enterprise; and delivers specialized quick reaction capabilities, advanced skills training, and linguist support for deployed forces to enable battle command in support of full-spectrum [Army](#), Joint, Coalition, and Interagency world-wide operations.

### **Does Your Language Shape How You Think?**

Seventy years ago, in 1940, a popular science magazine published a short article that set in motion one of the trendiest intellectual fads of the 20th century. Benjamin Lee Whorf let loose an alluring idea about language's power over the mind, and his stirring prose seduced a whole generation into believing that our mother tongue restricts what we are able to think. In particular, Whorf announced, Native American languages impose on their speakers a picture of reality that is totally different from ours, so their speakers would simply not be able to understand some of our most basic concepts, like the flow of time or the distinction between objects (like "stone") and actions (like "fall"). For decades, Whorf's theory dazzled both academics and the general public alike.

### **The Language Buddy iPhone app makes remembering Foreign Languages easy**

Independent developer Buddy Bergman today released version 1.0 of a new app called The Language Buddy that provides a simple interface to enter in a word or short phrase in your native language along with a Romanized "sounds like" spelling for another language. Add that you can also assign photos and audio clips The Language Buddy provides an easy way for you to manage new words and phrases as you make your travels to far off or local lands. If you find yourself taking a vacation to a far off land and you don't have time to learn their language by heart then this app does the next best thing. You can enter in words in your native language, typically English, but it can be any language, and you also enter in the foreign language Romanized "sounds like" spelling. Now you have an easy way to reference that word again in the future. Plus, you can assign pictures and audio clips to those entries!

### **iPods Enhance Foreign Language Lessons For Middle Schoolers**

Catherine Brooks, chairwoman of Clarke's Foreign Language Department, came up with the idea to use iPod technology to enhance oral and aural achievement in foreign language. She applied for a grant from the [Lexington Education Foundation](#) in 2008, requesting \$26,000 for equipment and training and was awarded \$10,486 to partially fund her request. This allowed Brooks to purchase 30 iPod Touches, headphones, microphones and a Bretford PowerSync cart, where the units are stored, charged and can be linked to a laptop computer to simultaneously download content.

### **Distance learning programs increasingly popular**

The programs, now in the fourth year, offer middle and high school students expanded class offerings and the chance to earn college credit. The two programs, called N.C. Virtual Public School and Learn and

Earn, work individually or hand-in-hand, said Tonya Gent, the district's distance learning coordinator. Angela McCoy, a guidance counselor at Havelock High School, said the classes are popular among students who want additional class offerings that are not available in the traditional course schedule. Several foreign language classes are among the most popular, she said.

#### **Language program application deadline nears**

Air Force officials are accepting application packages through Sept. 13 for officers interested in participating in the Language Enabled Airman Program, which offers an opportunity to develop a foreign language skill throughout an Airman's career. Launched earlier this year by Air Force Culture and Language Center officials, LEAP is the first career-long program designed to offer language-sustainment training for Airmen in diverse career fields. A September selection board will consider applications from active-duty officers as well as U.S. Air Force Academy and ROTC cadets. Participation in LEAP offers a wide array of opportunities to develop and use one's foreign language ability while providing the Air Force a greatly expanded core competency from which to draw individuals to meet critical mission needs, said Lt. Col. Brian Smith, the deputy director of the Air Force Culture and Language Center Language Department at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

#### **Catching up with a few tales from home**

Kingsman Moorland's main role is as an infantry soldier but he has also spent 10 months learning Pashto, the local language spoken in Helmand. He managed to pass the Army's language exams, qualifying as a Pashto linguist. His language skills mean he can communicate with the local people. He said: "When I'm out on patrol I talk to the local people. "I always end up with crowds of people round me. A lot of the local people know my name now and the relationship we have with them is a lot friendlier than at the start of the tour."