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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 17 SEPTEMBER 2010**

#### **NGCSU receives \$2 million grant for language center**

North Georgia College & State University has been awarded federal funds totaling nearly \$2 million to support its foreign language programs, including a \$1.2 million federal contract to establish a strategic languages training center on the university's Dahlonega campus. The language training center is the culmination of more than two years of work by the university, beginning with a National Security Education Program grant in 2008 to start a Chinese program. Earlier this month, university officials learned that the NSEP grant was increased to \$417,204 -- nearly double what it had been in previous years. Soon after the Chinese program began, North Georgia officials recognized a need for instruction in strategic languages for ROTC cadets and Reservists. The growing need for soldiers with global and multicultural understanding also has been identified by the U.S. Army.

#### **Students pair up to improve language skills**

Seton Hall's Language Resource department is successfully running a co-curricular program, entitled "Conversation Partners," designed to aid non-native speakers in learning as well as conversing in their languages. "Conversation Partners" caters to the needs of the students by pairing non-native speakers with native speakers to converse in the languages of their choice. Dr. Lopez-Cortina, the advisor to "Conversation Partners," suggested the idea after having spent time in Europe. "Some years ago I spent two semesters studying at the University of Bochum, Germany, where their seminar for the teaching of foreign languages had developed a very successful language exchange program," Lopez-Cortina said. "We adapted some of their ideas."

#### **NYU alum uses improv to teach English**

A new language program in the East Village will be the first of its kind to put down the grammar books and use a more interactive approach to teaching English — improvisation. ImprovYourESL, which stands for Improvise Your English as a Second Language, will use an improv comedy-based curriculum to teach English to non-native speakers. Adam McLean, NYU alumnus and founder and CEO of the program, spoke about his inspiration for the idea.

#### **NJ Schools Weigh Approaches to Spending Federal Funds**

West Orange's superintendent, Anthony Cavanna, said he has begun meeting with his staff and others to determine where the greatest needs are after a summer that saw the district eliminate 90 full-time positions, including 39 teachers. He said foreign language programs were especially hard hit. He also explained that were equity issues to address in providing needed staffing for Title I programs for low-income students and those for limited-English and special-needs students.

#### **HarperCollins Launches Educational Apps for Preschoolers**

HarperCollins Children's Books has launched its first e-imprint with two fun and interactive educational apps for the iPhone and iPod touch, aimed at helping preschoolers learn their ABCs and 123s. With catchy music and colorful graphics, kids will identify letters and learn the sounds they make in the [ABC Song app](#), as well as develop language, pre-reading skills, and small motor functions. No reading is required--the app models each letter and the sounds they make in speech and song.

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **Congress Will Explore Charges Of Unqualified Translators In Afghanistan**

The chairman of the House Armed Services subcommittee that investigates the military told ABC News he is deeply concerned by recent allegations that Army units have been saddled with unskilled foreign language translators in Afghanistan. "This issue of language skills is a very, very significant one," said Rep. Victor F. Snyder, an Arkansas Democrat who chairs the subcommittee on oversight and investigations. "The Army is taking it seriously. Our committee is taking it seriously. We're going to follow up on this."

### **Afghanistan Pakistan Hands: The first year**

One year ago this month, Adm. Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, established the Afghanistan Pakistan Hands Program for long-term regional engagement of the Afghan and Pakistani people. Now, nearly 300 military and civilian personnel are deployed to Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan to build partnerships with the local populace as part of the greater counterinsurgency strategy employed by the International Security Assistance Force. They are part of a program that allows them to work shoulder-to-shoulder with Afghan partners.

### **The NCLRC Celebrates Refunding**

The National Capital Language Resource Center is pleased to announce that it has been refunded by the U.S. Department of Education as a Title VI Language Resource Center for an additional four years, from 2010 to 2014. There are currently 15 LRC's around the country whose mission is to improve language teaching and learning in the U.S. We are all delighted to be able to continue serving foreign language educators around the country.

### **FAMU Offers New Language Courses**

The FAMU Office of International Education is encouraging students to invest in an opportunity that will yield positive results and high rewards. The Mandarin Chinese, Arabic and Hausa courses are \$195, while the Portuguese course is equivalent to a regular four credit hour course taken at the university. FAMU acquired the courses from the State Department through their Fulbright Language Teaching Grant and the instructors are trained professionals with appropriate certifications. This marks the first time in history that FAMU has offered all of these courses simultaneously during a semester.

### **Rosetta Stone launches latest language-learning version**

Arlington-based Rosetta Stone has released the latest version of its language-learning technology. Version 4 TOTALe (pronounced tow-tally) adds an online immersion experience to Rosetta Stone's current language-learning software, featuring interactive coaching sessions with native speakers. Once users have participated in a series of lessons, they can practice online. Online opportunities include sessions led by native speakers that allow users to practice with other learners at their same level. The Rosetta World allows users to converse with native speakers and practice language skills in online games. The version also includes mobile applications for iPhone and iPod Touch devices that allow users to reinforce learning on the go. These can also be downloaded onto an audio CD.

### **Foreign languages lead to better wages?**

A new report shows that employees who know a number of languages other than Polish can expect higher wages and better career options. Knowledge of a foreign language can be boon for both employers and employees, who can expect to earn as much as 10,000 zloty (around 2,500 euro) more at a managerial level than colleagues who speak only Polish. A report drafted by Sedlak&Sedlak personnel consultancy, which is based on the firm's own salary report from 2009, shows that knowledge of Chinese, Swedish, Arabic and Dutch are of particular benefit.

### **ABC J'accuse MEP: There is no there there**

Last week ABC News Investigative Team, including its chief investigative correspondent Brian Ross, ran a story that seemingly confirmed much of the negative coverage one sees in the media about private military contractor issues. On Sep, 8 it [reported](#) that Paul Funk, a former employee of Mission Essential

Personnel (MEP), a major provider of translation service, interpreters and cultural advisors to the U.S. government, charged that more than one quarter, 28 percent to be precise, of the translators hired by the firm between November 2007 and June 2008 to work alongside American soldiers in Afghanistan failed language proficiency exams but were sent onto the battlefield anyway.

### **McNeil wins \$500M Special Ops contract**

A unit of Aecom Technology Corp. has received a \$500 million contract from the U.S. Special Operations Command to provide linguistic support services, the Defense Department said Tuesday. The five-year contract calls for McNeil Technologies Inc., of Springfield, Va., to supply all personnel, equipment, tools, materials and management needed to provide foreign language interpretation, transcription, reporting and translation services in support of overseas contingency operations.

### **Decode Your Future as a Cryptologic Linguist**

The United States Army operates in many different environments throughout the world. In order to make sure that the troops in the area are always safe, it is necessary to keep constant surveillance on all communication from the opposition. The information being captured will likely be in a foreign language seeing as they are communication with each other. Additionally, the language will be coded as to escape detection by the US Army Cryptologic Linguist.

### **Spicing Up Foreign Language Courses**

Language courses typically assign nightly pages of grammar exercises and class time often gets devoted to textbook activities. Surely, this teaches language fundamentals and is a means to a clearly necessary end. The repetition also eventually lessens the awkwardness of having to contemplate each conjugation. In the end, a basic justification of this repetition comes down to the fact that you can only really learn a language by using it, and textbook exercises do a pretty good job of getting us to use a language.

### **UAFS German Teacher Learns About America**

Joannis Kaliampos is sharing his passion for teaching while learning many things about Arkansas. The 23-year-old native of Giessen, Germany, is teaching German to more than 30 students at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith via the university's Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program. Kaliampos will teach in the program for one year before returning to Germany to continue his studies, and he's greeting each school day as an exciting challenge.

### **Rosetta Stone Survey Finds Americans Fear Lack of Multilingual Skills May Cost Them High-Paying U.S. Jobs**

In a May 2010 speech to the Council on Foreign Relations, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said, "An issue that affects our ability to compete and collaborate on the world stage (is) the need to increase the foreign-language fluency and cultural awareness of all our students." According to a national survey conducted by Wakefield Research and commissioned by Rosetta Stone Inc. (**RST 19.71**, +0.77, +4.07%), a leading provider of technology-based language-learning solutions, Americans share Secretary Duncan's concern. More than half (58 percent) of Americans fear that high-paying U.S. jobs will be filled by workers from abroad in the next two decades because of the country's lack of foreign-language skills.

### **Raising the Bar**

Leah Gilman's "job" this summer was to learn Arabic. A multimedia journalism major at the University of Texas at Austin, she took Arabic from 9:30 to 3:30 every day, for 10 weeks. She took time out for an interview during her lunch break midway through week 10. "Aside from one day out of the week, my whole days are spent on Arabic," said Gilman, a junior who started Arabic the fall of her sophomore year. "From when I get up in the morning to when I go to bed on the weekdays I'm completely immersed in Arabic, and at least one day on the weekend is spent completely at the coffee shop doing my homework. They give you about 10 hours of homework during the weekend and then it's about four during the weekdays."

### **Immersion Program Teaches Students Everything in Spanish**

Research has shown the best time to teach a foreign language is within a child's first 10 years of life. That's because the brain is still flexible, making the ability to retain information easier. Covenant Christian School, located on Fir Road in Mishawaka, is giving [parents](#) the choice to send their child through school on a regular school plan or through their new immersion program. The immersion program teaches children all subjects in Spanish, and begins in pre-kindergarten. "I think it's a great program and it's good for them to know and respect diversity," says immersion teacher, Migdalia Tamlin.

### **The culture of speech**

Does a person who grows up speaking Tamil or Occitan or Quechua see the world differently than a native English speaker? Or, as linguist Guy Deutscher puts it: "Does our mother tongue influence the way we think?" Among those who study language, this question has generated centuries of debate. Aristotle, for one, believed we all share concepts — say, the color blue — whose names change according to culture. But, as Deutscher notes in "Through the Language Glass," linguists have observed that concepts and categories do vary by language; for example, ancient Japanese used one word, *ao*, to cover the blue-green spectrum, while English employs two. So do we all see the same colors? More broadly, do distinctive languages reflect distinctive cognition rather than overlying universal ways of thinking?