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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 5 NOVEMBER 2010**

#### **LANGUAGE UNDERSTANDING FOUND TO BE TIED TO MUSICAL**

According to recent studies published in Contemporary Music Review, listening to music, lyrical or not, can help develop the skills needed to learn and comprehend a new language, including the development of the proper accent rather than one carried over from a native tongue. The research showed routine increases in the neural pathways necessary to improve the skills involved with learning the new language such as understanding syllabic emphasis and the rhythm of unfamiliar speech patterns. Researchers believe that this phenomenon, used in some forms for over a century by musicians to learn their art and known as 'ear training,' is due to the skill set provided by constant exposure to new patterns and rhythms in the music itself.

#### **VCU, International Partners to Create Transatlantic Degree in Cinema and Language**

Virginia Commonwealth University and two of its international partners, the University of Cordoba and the University of Messina, have received nearly \$1 million to develop a transatlantic degree that allows students to study cinema and language. Called the Atlantis Project, the four-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education's International and Foreign Language Education Programs and the European Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture provides students with an opportunity to study in three countries.

#### **Language Intervention Provides Educational Benefits for Pre-School Children**

Findings of a new study revealed that a preschool language intervention program can significantly improve the educational lives of children with poorly developed speech and language skills.

#### **Education Ministry looks to do away with dubbing**

Showing foreign-language films in their original versions with subtitles rather than in a dubbed form - standard practice in Scandinavian countries - is said to have a positive effect on the language skills of viewers, and the Education Ministry is urging television stations in the Czech Republic to show more films in their native language.

#### **Delegation of Japanese educators visits Upper Dublin schools**

Concerning in-classroom learning, one topic of interest was foreign language study. Robinson noted Upper Dublin students begin foreign language study in the middle school and have choices, such as French or Spanish. In Japan, foreign language study starts in fifth grade, and for the most part, only English is offered. Chinese and Korean have recently started to be offered at some schools.

#### **Reading with children 'makes them better communicators'**

Wendy Lee, a professional speech language therapist working with the trust, urged parents to read stories with their little ones regularly, suggesting that their listening and language skills would benefit.

### **PREVIOUS NEWS**

#### **Fewer bilingual students pass TAKS**

Fewer bilingual students than ever are passing their reading TAKS test. In 2010 fewer than half the students passed the test, compared with 93 percent of students who passed two years before. Instead of students coming into the school system speaking two languages, many students are exposed to two

languages, but they don't speak either one very well. They also often can't read or write well in either language.

### **Japan's ambassador to U.S. stresses languages during stop at Lincoln High**

Ichiro Fujisaki, Japan's ambassador to the United States, spent the day in Manitowoc and Sheboygan counties, and his schedule included a stop at Lincoln High School. Fujisaki said he has tried to learn the language in the countries in which he has lived. He thinks it's important to speak the same language rather than use an interpreter

### **Robot Teachers Are the Latest E-Learning Tool**

Robots now build cars, defuse bombs, and explore distant planets, but can they teach? Researchers at the Korea Institute of Science and Technology think so and are building an army of robots to deliver English instruction to schoolchildren. It might be the most elaborate online-learning effort yet. The unusual project here is supported by more than \$100-million in grants, mostly from the South Korean government, and involves more than 300 researchers, says Mun Sang Kim, director of the institute's Center for Intelligent Robotics.

### **Foreign language classes turn hi-tech at valley middle schools**

"We were unable to keep the teachers of foreign languages at the middle level, but we thought we should continue," Chief Kanim technology teacher Theresa Frank said. Enter Rosetta Stone, a computer program that has allowed middle schools to offer a foreign language curriculum. The program is the only way, Chief Kanim Principal Kirk Dunckel said, the school could continue offering a language program. "Since it's a computer program, there was no need to hire a full-blown foreign language teacher," Dunckel said. Children love the program, Frank said. They also love the looks they get around the dinner table. "I'll say things like, 'Pass the whatever,' in Spanish," said eighth-grader Dylan Miller. "Like, the other day I said, 'I have to go to bed' in Spanish and my mom had to ask me what I had said. It's pretty cool."

### **60 selected for English language skills training**

HSBC and the Education City Human Rights Student Organisation (HRSO) announced their partnership to support the development of an English enrichment programme for 60 Qatari 11th graders. The partnership was formed after Raghda Elmeligy, a junior student at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, campaigned for the support of English language development among Qatari pupils. The objective was to help them make a smoother transition to studying English language curricula after the recent changes made to instruction in independent schools.

### **Students speak the right language for careers success**

Year Nine students in Wales choosing their options are being encouraged to look at modern foreign languages in a new light. Students are being shown that language skills can help them get ahead in whatever field of work they are interested in. NVQ Business Languages, piloted in 17 schools in Wales last year, aims to prepare pupils for successful careers. Industries as diverse as engineering, law, marketing, the media and IT need candidates with practical language skills, especially at a time when the number of students taking GCSE languages is declining.

### [A Revolutionary Easy and Entertaining Way to Learn Foreign Languages Has Been Introduced by DbIsubs.com](#)

DbIsubs.com offers a unique and highly useful service that allows you to learn any foreign language while watching movies, tv series, educational programs, cartoons or any other video materials by showing two lines of subtitles - one in your native language and the other in the foreign language you want to study.

### [Face of Defense: Defense Department Teachers Deploy](#)

When Brenda Colom first heard news of the devastating earthquake in Haiti that affected as many as 3 million people, she felt compelled to do something. It was the earthquake that got Colom, an English teacher with the Department of Defense Education Activity's schools in Europe, to start thinking about ways to help others. When she received an e-mail from DoDEA headquarters a month later asking for volunteers for the **Civilian Expeditionary Workforce** to teach English to Afghan soldiers training with the U.S. military in Afghanistan, Colom said, she "jumped on the chance."

### [US Marines boost security in Marjah Afghanistan](#)

"Everybody that participated brought something special, some unique characteristic and combat-multiplier to the mission," said Quinn. "Everybody, from the female engagement team all the way to our non-kinetic fire teams, had something to offer."

### [Why 'Multi-Kulti' Is Failing in Europe](#)

Multiculturalism just doesn't work in [Germany](#), according to Chancellor Angela Merkel. Speaking to the youth association of her Christian Democrat Union party (CDU), she said that the "multi-kulti" concept that "we are now living side-by-side and are happy about it ... this approach has failed, utterly." Merkel described this as living in "parallel societies" similar to the Chinatowns of New York and San Francisco or the Little [Italy](#) in Philadelphia. Multiculturalism has never meant "separatism" in the U.S. It means pluralism where homeland ethnic, religious and cultural identity can be kept in the larger context of the American mainstream. One can be a hyphenated American - an Asian-American, Muslim-American, Italian-American, Irish-American or African-American. There is no need to give up one identity when both can be kept. This reflects America's roots in mass immigration from all over the world.

### [Science Grows on Acquiring New Language](#)

Recent studies on how language learning occurs are beginning to chip away at some long-held notions about second-language acquisition and point to potential learning benefits for students who speak more than one language. "We have this national psyche that we're not good at languages," said Marty Abbott, the director of education for the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in Alexandria, Va. "It's still perceived as something only smart people can do, and it's not true; we all learned our first language and we can learn a second one."

### [Grant supports research and outreach on foreign language teaching](#)

Government, business and community leaders agree that for the U.S. to remain competitive in a global economy, more Americans must be proficient in foreign languages and be knowledgeable about diverse cultures. Penn State's Center for Advanced Language Proficiency Education and Research (CALPER) in the College of the Liberal Arts has received a new four-year federal grant of more than \$1.2 million to continue to develop innovative approaches to language teaching, research and outreach that improves instruction in foreign languages in our nation's high schools and universities.

### [The Texas Language Technology Open-Access Initiative](#)

The newly formed Texas Language Technology Center (TLTC) at the University of Texas (UT), in collaboration with Liberal Arts Instructional Technology Services (LAITS), has developed an initiative that will focus on the development, production, dissemination, and evaluation of six "Open Access" (OA) foreign language instructional resources: Aswaat Arabiyya, Alkitaab Textbook, Deutsch im Blick, Persian Online, Radio Arlecchino, and Tá Falado. OA resources are digital scholarly works accessible online, free-of-charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. These resources will make large bodies of high-quality multimedia content widely available. The individual projects are currently at varying

stages of development, ranging from initial design, to expansion of content, to complete redesign driven by technological innovation.

### **The Army's future looks less special**

Lt. Gen. John Mulholland, chief of the Army's Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, believes his soldiers are "our nation's most relevant force" and said as much in a Raleigh press conference recently. Ordinarily this claim could be dismissed as the type of chest-thumping any commander does to boost morale back at the unit. The difference is that Mulholland is right - at least for now. The future, however, may be quite different. Gen. David Petraeus, our commander in Afghanistan, literally wrote the Pentagon's book on counterinsurgency, casting Army special operators in a lead role. He values units like Mulholland's because they add a handful of unique capabilities - civil affairs, psychological operations, intelligence, language skills and region-specific knowledge. These skills help them to train foreign security forces and interact with locals, the bread and butter of counter-insurgency.