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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 10 NOVEMBER 2010**

#### **Afghanistan-Pakistan Hands program builds relationships**

The Afghanistan-Pakistan Hands program is designed to help coalition forces build lasting relationships with locals by providing each member with the skills to communicate and understand the people they are around. The members of the program go through language and cultural training before deploying, giving them the ability to speak the language and understand the cultural differences in the region. "We train the Afghan national security forces in a variety of subjects," said Lt. Col. Marcus Williams, the director of Joint Security Academy Southwest and a member of the AF PAK Hands program.

#### **Language shapes our attitudes**

For years, psychologists have explored the surprising ways in which people's attitudes about race and gender are shaped by unconscious biases. New research suggests that the language people speak may influence what they think, too. Using positive and negative words in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic, Harvard researchers tested bilingual people's implicit preferences for people of different nationalities. What they found is that much is lost in translation: people's attitudes about a given ethnic group shift depending on what language they take the test in. Putting feelings into words, it seems, may actually influence the feelings. One possibility is that "attitudes aren't stable things we have over time," said Oludamini Ogunnaike, a graduate student at Harvard who led the work. "Attitudes are constructed on the spot in response to a given stimuli... One of the factors that goes into generating this response is language."

#### **Even with voter approval, SQ 751 remains controversial**

International students and non-English speakers soon could see a drop in bilingual services offered by Oklahoma's government following the move to make English the state's official language. "When all these services are suddenly not available, I think it will come as a bit of a shock to (non-English) speakers," said Tony Terry, director of The Language Company's Shawnee location, which offers English-as-a-second-language classes. "And abroad, people who hear about this might see Oklahoma as a backward place that is not interested in the general international community."

#### **Confucius Institute of KU to expand teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language**

For the 2010-2011 school year the Confucius Institute of The University of Kansas (CIKU) will offer K-12 foreign language instruction in Chinese in 19 high school classes and 30 elementary school classes in Kansas, Missouri, and Ohio via interactive distance learning (IDL) videoconferencing. Students at remote sites will connect to CIKU instructors in Overland Park, KS, to interact and learn Chinese. Students and teachers see and hear each other to interact as if they were in the same classroom. One teacher can provide instruction to students in many different schools throughout the school day, and IDL instruction allows the local schools to schedule Chinese foreign language classes within their normal school day schedules.

#### **Aligning Language and Culture Learning with Non-Language Majors through Study Abroad**

One of the challenges in the field of second language education is making foreign languages and intercultural knowledge and skills relevant to all parts of a student's academic and postgraduate life. Many institutions approach this challenge from a "seat time" or "cafeteria" perspective -- trying to ensure basic global competency by either (1) establishing minimum foreign language requirements, or (2) encouraging students to study abroad. While these efforts may play a part in fostering intercultural competence, they tend to fall short unless second-language knowledge is woven into the rest of a student's academic and pre-professional career. Students derive global competence from a variety of disparate experiences. As educators it is our responsibility to help them connect the dots of this global education puzzle because

without a sense of the interrelationships within the larger educational context, student learning in a global sense is compromised. The Cultures and Languages Across the Curriculum (CLAC) consortium ([clacconsortium.org](http://clacconsortium.org)) advances a comprehensive dialogue as well as provides specific strategies for addressing these issues.

### **Foreign Language Classes for Adults Grow in Popularity**

Dozens of adults in our area are going back to school -- not to learn a new trade or job but a new language. It's a growing trend among local businesses to have their employees become bilingual for work. "Bano, bano, crenotare, crenotare," a class recites. It's an Italian class -- basic Italian -- for adults offered at St. Norbert College in De Pere. Nearly 100 people are learning a dozen different languages right now -- some for fun or to learn family heritage, but a growing number of students, like Andrew Bomstad, are doing it for work. "A lot of times people I work with through Georgia Pacific don't always speak English as their first language. Sometimes when we travel, it's to a country where English isn't the primary language," Bomstad said.

### **Budget cuts to schools hurt health, business**

Cuts in school funding and pressure to boost standardized test scores are changing K-12 education in ways that could eventually undermine the nation's health and economic well-being. School districts across the country have been cutting back physical education programs to allow more time for core academic subjects for many years. More recently, foreign language programs have fallen victim to the budget axe. These are worrisome trends, and they are accelerating.

### **Performed Culture and Overseas Study: Beyond the Obligatory Temple Visit**

Individuals aspiring to achieve expertise in any field must be practitioners of that field : football players must play football for years before they can play professionally; football coaches do not need to have played football themselves, but they must have coached for years if they hope to be successful. Students of foreign languages and cultures are no different. In order for someone to say they "know" Chinese language or culture, they must be able to demonstrate that knowledge through action, and action is learned through participation in the target culture. During the summer of 2010, 32 students from five US universities participated in the Chinese community through an Ohio State University-managed overseas study program.

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **Paktika PRT meets with new women's affairs director**

The Paktika Provincial Reconstruction Team's female engagement team conducted their first meeting with Hala Hushawa, Paktika's new director of women's affairs, here Sunday, Nov, 7. Through questions, explanations and laughter, members of the FET established a relationship with Hushawa and learned how the PRT can assist her in meeting the needs of Paktika's females. "At first it will be hard to do work here," Hushawa said. "I need your help. You came from a foreign country to help us, and we will do everything we can."

### **Campaigners argue for German to be adopted as the official language**

A petition is being taken to the German Parliament on Tuesday to try to persuade the government to adopt German as the official language of Germany. However migrant groups are following the debate with unease.

### **Foreign language day speaks to students**

More than 500 students, teachers and parents were on campus last Thursday, Nov. 4, for the 35th annual Foreign Language Day. This year's theme was "Opening Minds through Languages," and SVSU's Department of Modern Foreign Languages hosted the event for mid- Michigan high school students to show off their language skills. "We wanted to get high school students who have been studying foreign

languages to perform and show off their language skills," she said. "We are hoping that they might want to consider studying foreign language in college."

### **[New portal launches that breaks down language](#)**

A new property portal has launched that enables estate agents to advertise properties in front of a worldwide audience in 20 languages. Agents can input information about a property in any language, and this information is automatically translated into the other 19.

### **[Sprague school's Italian course a rare breed](#)**

While his students cut out pictures of a chicken — "la gallina" in Italian — Claudio Scarpelli ran around his classroom at Sayles School like a chicken with its head cut off. "I'm the only one who is allowed to touch the glue," a hand-waving Scarpelli said in a thick accent. "If I let them have it, they'd all be sticking together." His second-graders pasted cutouts of animals, learned their Italian names and sang in Italian to keep the language in their heads. The Italian program, for 350 kindergarten through eighth-grade students at Sayles, is one of the few of its kind in the state. Since Connecticut does not mandate the study of a foreign language and budgets are tight, foreign language programs for younger students slowly are becoming extinct.

### **[Entrepreneur Launches Vocabulary-Driven Learning Program, "LanguageTutor"](#)**

LanguageTutor, a highly flexible foreign language program, was launched today by moreVocabulary, LLC. The application concentrates on real-life vocabulary organized in more than 50 lessons and focuses on difficult words until the student is familiar with them. LanguageTutor is available in three combinations (English/Spanish, French/English and Spanish/French) and provides nearly 10,000 words and short expressions in multiple contexts. The interactive program utilizes spaced repetition, a learning technique that takes advantage of the brain's ability to remember facts better when they are repeatedly presented in intervals.

### **[DEFENSE.GOV NEWS ARTICLE: DEPSECDEF LYNN HONORS DOD'S BEST EMPLOYEES](#)**

On November 4, 2010, Deputy Defense Secretary William J. Lynn III paid tribute to eight people who distinguished themselves among more than 700,000 others in winning the Defense Department's annual top civilian employee awards. The Distinguished Civilian Service Award was created 55 years ago to recognize a small number of employees whose careers reflect exceptional devotion to duty and extremely significant contributions in policy, science, technology and administrative fields. Congratulations to:

Mr. Glenn H. Nordin

Foreign Language and Foreign Area Advisor

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence

### **[ROSETTA STONE CEO WANTS TO TEACH THE WORLD TO TALK - USATODAY.COM](#)**

Rosetta Stone's approach to learning a second or even third language is simple: Instead of having students stare at a blackboard and memorize grammar, it uses images of real-life situations to convey meaning and trigger understanding, the natural method that helped most of us pick up our first language. The idea for Rosetta Stone's interactive language program didn't begin with Adams, who's been CEO there since 2003. But his life experience and leadership have helped propel the company from \$10 million in revenue to nearly \$300 million in less than a decade.

### **[MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT AT CARNEGIE MELLON TO OFFER A NEW MASTER'S DEGREE](#)**

The department of modern languages announced a new master's degree in applied second language acquisition. As one of only two graduate degrees offered by the department of modern languages, according to its website, the master's in applied second language acquisition (MA in applied SLA) "draws on strengths of the department of modern languages at Carnegie Mellon." The year-long program is

oriented towards preparing students for careers teaching second languages. According to the website, the program is aimed towards both U.S. and international students and highlights "second-language acquisition, cultural studies, pedagogy, and technology-enhanced learning." The MA in applied SLA is a professionally oriented degree, which will allow graduates to pursue employment at the secondary or university level. Candidates should intend to teach one of the five languages that the program offers: English as a second language, French, German, Chinese, or Japanese.

### **NORTH GEORGIA COLLEGE LANGUAGE PROGRAMS FEATURED ON NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO**

North Georgia College and State University is the place to be in Georgia if you want to become fluent in Chinese or Arabic. You can also learn Korean or Russian. The language training there is made in part by the Department of Defense. North Georgia commissions 75 officers a year and the U.S. Army is looking for more Soldiers fluent in languages that are considered strategic.

### **ARABIC LANGUAGE TOOLS FROM EHOW.COM**

Arabic is renowned as a difficult language to learn. According to "Learning Arabic," the U.S. State Department schedules 3,040 hours of full-time training over two years for new Foreign Service Officers to become fluent in Arabic. Arabic language tools are widely available on the web. Keep in mind that the colloquial versions of Arabic spoken in countries and regions around the world differ dramatically from Modern Standard Arabic, which is used in mainstream media and is the universal language of the Arab world.

### **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.

### **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."

### **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 Dbllsubs.com**

Dbllsubs.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.

### **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."

### **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.