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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 9 DECEMBER 2010**

#### **CIA Director Calls for a National Commitment to Language Proficiency at Foreign Language Summit**

Speakers at the summit included Central Intelligence Agency Director Leon Panetta, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, Under Secretary of State for Management Patrick Kennedy, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Clifford Stanley, and U.S. Representative Rush Holt of New Jersey. The event, which was held at the University of Maryland/University College Marriott Inn and Conference Center in Hyattsville, was cosponsored by the CIA and the University of Maryland's Center for Advanced Study of Language. More than 300 foreign language experts and educators from the public and private sectors attended.

#### **Secretary Clinton to Address 2010 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants on Thursday, December 9**

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will address the 2010 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTA) on Thursday, December 9th at 3:00 p.m. in the Dean Acheson Auditorium of the Department of State. The FLTA Program brings young English teachers to the United States to serve as native language teaching resources in American classrooms, and is a key element in the U.S. government's effort to strengthen both English language teaching abroad and foreign language instruction at U.S. colleges and universities. This academic year, 418 Fulbright FLTA participants from 49 countries are teaching a total of 31 languages on U.S. campuses in 48 states and the District of Columbia.

#### **What do employers value when hiring new graduates?**

In the Commission's view, understanding better what employers need will help to shape European education and employment policies. The new initiatives put forward by the European Commission, Youth on the Move and New Skills and Jobs, are focused on this objective and aim at helping Europeans to identify and gain the qualifications and skills required in the job market. Almost 50% of companies with considerable international business identified knowledge of foreign languages as the most important skill for the future. Besides, the survey also found that over a quarter (28%) of employers have recruited graduates from other European countries and 18% has done so from outside Europe. 41% of respondents said that they hired employees from abroad because they wanted the best talent available. Among companies with considerable international dealings, 48% stated that foreign language skills are the most important skills for the future.

#### **'Language is a major stimulant in grooming better scientists'**

It is the sheer feeling power of language, acquired through writing poetry which is among the major factors in grooming a better scientist since concentration plays a key role in making one a better thinker, said Nobel laureate in chemistry Prof Roald Hoffmann. He spoke to TOI during his visit to the Science Conclave which began at the Indian Institute of Information Technology on Wednesday.

#### **Female Engagement Teams Winning Hearts and Minds in Afghanistan**

The many cultures in Afghanistan have one thing in common: They shelter their women from the outside world. In order to reach the "hidden" 50 percent of the Afghan population, NATO and U.S. forces in that country have adopted a strategy used successfully in Iraq, the female engagement team (FET). The Marine version of the program was called "Lioness" training. The concept is simple: Use women from the allied militaries to interact with Afghan women, search them, provide medical treatment and just listen to their problems. I was part of an interview held Dec. 7, 2010, with U.S. Army Col. Chadwick W. Clark, director of the COIN Training Center - Afghanistan, NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan (NTM-A) /

Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan (CSTC-A) on the topic of the FET. Joining him was Marine Colonel Sheila Scanlon as the subject matter expert.

### **[Bridging the Language Gap: Thematic Study Abroad](#)**

Today's shrinking world and emerging global village indicate that really clear international communication has become one of our most pressing needs. Foreign languages seem to be the barriers for communication that really ought to be broken. The only way to break them is to learn them, and then they are no longer barriers, but bridges. Today those who settle for the knowledge of only one language tend to be left behind in a kind of darkness. It is rather like closing windows or losing the senses of sight or hearing as far as your knowledge of others outside your own circle is concerned.

## **[PREVIOUS NEWS](#)**

### **[Foreign language courses growing on US college campuses despite threats of budget cuts](#)**

The latest figures from the Modern Language Association, released Wednesday, show that enrolment in foreign language courses grew 6.6 per cent between 2006 and 2009, achieving a high mark since the study began in 1960. While advocates of language study say any growth is good, things have slowed down since the group's previous report, which showed 12.9 per cent growth between 2002 and 2006. "This is a vulnerable time for language study," said Rosemary Feal, the association's executive director and a Spanish professor at the University of Buffalo. "While interest in language study remains strong and students are increasingly interested in studying a wide range of languages, opportunities to study languages may be threatened by program cuts at many colleges and universities."

### **[More Oregon college students study foreign language; more choose non-European tongues](#)**

More American college students, including those in Oregon, are studying foreign languages, especially non-European tongues such as Arabic, Chinese and Japanese, according to a national survey released Wednesday. The number of college students nationwide enrolled in non-English language courses climbed to a record 1,682,627 in the fall of 2009, up 20 percent from 2002, the [Modern Language Association](#) reported Wednesday. The association's report was based on a survey of 2,514 public and private colleges and universities, about a third of them two-year colleges. The survey, which included 99 percent of U.S. higher education institutions offering foreign languages, found the number of students on Oregon campuses studying languages other than English jumped 35 percent to 31,595, outpacing overall enrollment increases between 2002 and 2009.

### **[Sign language No. 4 most studied foreign language](#)**

American Sign Language is close to surpassing German as the third-most-studied foreign language at America's colleges and universities. Only 4,500 more students study German than study ASL, and enrollment in classes for the gesture-based language used by the deaf increased 16% since the last survey three years ago. The top language studied in U.S. colleges in 2009 was Spanish, followed by French. Arabic saw the biggest increase, up 46%, but is still studied by just 2% of all students enrolled in language courses.

### **[Costs of language training for federal bureaucrats spike](#)**

The cost of training federal bureaucrats to improve their language skills is spiking at the central department that is leading the charge in the Harper government's efforts to restrain spending, internal records reveal. Language-training expenses have jumped nearly five-fold at the Treasury Board Secretariat in the last five years, from \$428,490 to \$2.1 million in the 2009-10 fiscal year, according to documents obtained by Postmedia News. In that same time period, the department spent slightly less than \$6 million total on language training.

### **[Delightful New Speech Therapy App Released for the iPhone/iPad: "Speech With Milo- Verbs"](#)**

Created by a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist, Speech with Milo: Verbs offers a versatile and entertaining speech therapy tool for children. The app is for speech therapists working with children or parents who want to teach language skills to their children. Milo offers an enjoyable tool that is used in

therapy at an affordable price. Speech with Milo: Verbs is centered on an adorable and energetic mouse named Milo. Milo performs various actions, which provide an engaging way to build up an action word vocabulary. Flash cards are typically used for this type of exercise, but the animation that comes with Milo will keep any child focused and attentive. And most important- it is fun!

### **[DLIFLC's Afghan Languages Portal Survival Level Language Materials](#)**

Provides Dari, Pashto, and Urdu language instruction through various exercises.

### **[Improved Marine Corps Language Training](#)**

Marines at Camp Lejeune, N.C. and Camp Pendleton, Calif., now have the option of pursuing intermediate and advanced language study before deploying to Afghanistan. The bases recently added two new courses in Pashto and Dari which are Afghanistan's main languages. The new courses were added in answer to demand from operational forces, most now working to tame Helmand province in the country's south. The basic language course is unchanged. Marines will still complete about 40 hours of live instruction and 100 hours of computer-based self-study which will help them master about 50 words and phrases. But motivated Marines who have a knack for languages can now boost their communication skills with intermediate and advanced options.

### **[Foreign language skills come first: survey](#)**

The Eurobarometer survey Employers' perception of graduate employability released last Thursday reveals that foreign language skills come first among post-secondary graduate employers across Europe when it comes to the next generation of recruits. Although the graduate employers polled (from workplaces with 50 or more employees) were less likely to highlight the importance of foreign language skills with regard to current recruits (33% rated these skills as "very important" and 34% as "rather important"), 30% said that foreign language skills are the most important skills with regard to the future. In Hungary 59% said it was very important while 36% found it rather important. Overall this means that foreign language skills were ranked as a higher requirement for future graduates than the ability to adapt to new situations (27%) and planning and organisational skills (23%).

### **[Budget-Cutting Colleges Bid Some Languages Adieu](#)**

THE bad news was not unexpected: sweeping cutbacks at the [State University of New York at Albany](#), prompted by sweeping cutbacks in state aid. The reactions, too, had a whiff of the familiar: student rallies, faculty resolutions, an online petition. But then came an op-ed article in the French newspaper [Le Monde](#), calling the cuts Orwellian. And an open letter from the French philosopher [Jean-Luc Nancy](#), sarcastically suggesting that universities give up teaching the humanities altogether. The university announced this fall that it would stop letting new students major in French, Italian, Russian and the classics.

### **[America's Chinese Problem](#)**

Cutting-edge programs like those at the immersion charter school Yu Ying in Washington, D.C., and reports of Chinese-language courses popping up in heartland America would all seem to suggest that Americans are on the fast track to learning Chinese—and ultimately understanding China. But the sad fact is that Americans are not learning Mandarin, the main tongue spoken in mainland China, in droves. Just take a look at the numbers. According to the Center for Applied Linguistics, in 2008 only 4 percent of middle and high schools that offer foreign-language instruction included Mandarin. That's up from 1 percent in 1997. While that initially seems like respectable growth, the same survey reveals that 13 percent of schools still offer Latin and a full 10-fold more schools offer French than Mandarin. How is it that one a dead language and the other a language primarily used to impress your dinner companion can trounce one spoken by 1.3 billion natives and many millions more expats and immigrants abroad?

### **Students of Estonian Language Showing More Interest**

As more non-Estonian speakers show interest to learn the national tongue, the Ministry of Education promises to allocate extra money for compensating language tuition to those who successfully complete their exams. "The Estonian language is needed everywhere in all affairs [in Estonia]," said Minister of Education Tõnis Lukas. "This attitude has been confirmed by data from the last few years showing rising interest among people to improve their Estonian language skills. This year, to our delight, there is a large number of people taking and passing exams. To preserve interest, the state will continue compensating language courses for those who successfully complete the exams."

### **Port superintendent ready to fight for return of school programs**

Saying it's time for a turnaround, Superintendent Marc Kerble told the community last night that he's ready to fight for the return of foreign language at the middle school, a school chorale and band program, and numerous other lost programs he views as vital to creating an excellent school system.

### **Female Marines prepare for deployment, mission**

A dozen women sit huddled on the floor of a narrow carpeted room. Half are Afghans, their faces half-shrouded by scarves as they speak through an interpreter. Half are female Marines, who have shed their Kevlar helmets but remain armed with flak jackets and rifles. What had taken place wasn't a shura in an Afghan village, but it was just about as close as you can get without leaving North Carolina. This week, the Marine female engagement team attached to Regimental Combat Team 8 trained aboard Camp Lejeune in a military operations in urban terrain town, a simulated environment complete with native Afghan roleplayers, realistic city layout, and the threat of hidden explosive devices at every street corner.