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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 24 MARCH 2011**

#### **Four-month-olds can detect grammatical rules in new language**

Infants are able to learn grammatical regularities in a novel language surprisingly early and at a remarkable speed. In a study at the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences in Leipzig, researchers working with Angela Friederici showed that the brains of babies were able to learn grammatical relationships between sentence elements in less than 15 minutes and reacted to errors that broke these rules. This was investigated by playing recordings of sentences in Italian to four month old German babies and taking EEG measurements.

#### **Language immersion school aids earthquake victims in Japan**

Fox Mill Elementary School in Herndon has a special connection to Japan. Students at the school, which is one of 12 language immersion schools in the county, receive half their instruction each day in Japanese. So when the Asian nation was hit with a tsunami and earthquakes on March 11, Fox Mill's community of students and parents mobilized to help.

#### **Common Sense Advisory Predictions for 2010: How Did We Do?**

Big buyers of language services will centralize their processes. We predict that large businesses would streamline operations and push for centralization of translation and localization in 2010. Machine translation and translation memory buyers will assess shared data. Language service providers specialize and fragment. The web becomes more worldwide with support for emerging languages. Demand for interpreting services in Europe will grow. The US government demand for linguists will continue to surge.

#### **Addressing Language Barriers Through New Media**

A [recent blog post](#) talked about [AIDSinfo](#), the National Library of Medicine's online resource recently released as a [mobile app](#). At the Department of Health and Human Services' [Office of Minority Health](#) (OMH) we have another useful new media tool—a [translation widget](#) (English-Spanish) of common HIV/AIDS-related terminology. Limited English language skills can hamper an individual's access to health information and services. But the language barrier can also be a burden for some English-speaking health professionals who provide care and resources to speakers of other languages. The [HIV/AIDS Prevention Bilingual Glossary \(HPBG\)](#) was designed with this idea in mind—to provide linguistic support to people and organizations working with the [Latino/Hispanic](#) community in the US, a [group that experiences higher rates of HIV/AIDS](#) compared to the general population.

#### **EDUCATION: Chinese Rising in Language Popularity**

In this melting pot of a city, different dialects are thrown left and right, and as politics and business get concentrated overseas, Americans are picking up these languages. One way they learn to do it is at one of the dozens of schools specializing in foreign language studies, from the ever-popular Spanish to French to Japanese. Though Arabic too has recently come on strong, nothing appears to trump the latest language craze: Chinese. "It's become a buzz word, kind of like Japan was in the '80s when America concentrated on it and its growth," said Jon Hills, director of Hills Learning, a language school in Manhattan. "Then, we thought we would be speaking Japanese soon, but now, Chinese has taken its place."

#### **Meet Maria Jose Aveiga, Scholarship Winner**

After applying for the Modern Foreign Language Scholarship offered by Manhattan College, Maria Aveiga was one of fifteen winners chosen from a pool of 90 applicants. She was awarded a four-year scholarship that includes tuition, room and board, to attend the Roman Catholic, liberal arts college located in

Riverdale, NY. The criteria for the scholarship, according to Marlene Gottlieb, chairperson of the department, is that the applicant be a high school senior with a solid GPA, who has plans to major or minor in language and who excels on an essay exam that is administered by the Department of Modern Languages & Literatures.

### **Foreign Language, Other Areas Still Up for Cuts in Williamsville**

Tuesday night, parents and teachers had a chance to weigh in on the proposed budget cuts at a public work session, but school board members decided to move forward with Superintendent Howard Smith's proposed cuts. They include cutting fifth grade foreign language from the middle school program, as well as reducing art classes and cutting back on home and career education classes. However, fifteen minutes of instruction time will be added to foreign language classes at the sixth grade level.

### **Language Day fest celebrates cultures**

Students filled Gorton Quad on March 9 for the 17th annual Language Day Festival to celebrate and promote linguistic and cultural diversity. "A phenomenal amount of people have been participating all day," Associated Students President Beto Vasquez said. The entertainment was a non-stop whirlwind of dancing, singing and fashion shows displaying the dress of many different cultures.

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **Stanford, Middlebury Strain to Shield Their Study-Abroad Students in Japan**

U.S. colleges are scrambling to assure the safety of their students on study-abroad programs in the wake of the Japanese earthquake and revolutions and violence in the Middle East. While [Europe](#) remains the most common study-abroad destination, accounting for 55 percent of students in the 2008-09 school year, the share going to [Asia](#) has almost doubled to 11 percent from nine years earlier, according to the institute. About 5,800 American students took courses in Japan, and 1,780 in [Egypt](#).

### **Peace Corps hits big 5-0**

"The Peace Corps is a blend of physical, intellectual and emotional challenges," he said. "Imagine going weeks without seeing another American or speaking English." Despite the challenges, Grolle said that he credits the Peace Corps for giving him the opportunity to travel the world and help others. "I am glad to have been part of the Peace Corps and served my country," he said. "I was able to help provide education to students in the Congo, but I feel as though I got more benefits than those I was helping including language skills, job skills and cross-cultural experience."

### **China on their minds**

Last fall, Medfield High School freshman Katrina Simon and her family hosted an exchange student from China, immersing the young woman in American experiences ranging from apple picking to shopping at the Apple computer store. Now, Simon hopes Melody — the student's adopted American name — can return the favor and be her guide in China. "After talking to her and learning more about Chinese culture, I thought it was really interesting," Simon said. "I really wanted to go and see it for myself with my own eyes." Medfield's school district has partnered with a school in Bengbu, a city in China's Anhui province, for an extensive exchange program. Medfield hosted the school's principal two years ago, followed by a visit to China by Superintendent Robert Maguire.

### **Boulder Valley schools luckier than many with budget cuts**

Budget cuts originally necessitated a single large class. Stimulus money could have allowed the class to be split, but by the time it arrived, Shirai already had committed to teaching four periods of German, plus another of Japanese. She needed to schedule prep time for five different curricula. She could have capped enrollment at 35, but with German already disappearing from middle schools, and given the natural attrition from foreign language classes, Shirai thought the course should be open to as many kids as possible. Now, she's challenged, stretched to the limit — and grateful.

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE WEEK**

Foreign Language Week is designed to teach students about the different cultures of our world, as well as the advantages of taking a foreign language. "My hope is that students will learn more about the cultures of the countries in which each of the foreign languages we teach at Granby are spoken," said French teacher Jennifer Carson. Students around the school celebrated by creating posters endorsing the importance of taking a foreign language. Poster headlines included "Hit the ground running with a foreign language," "Languages are like flowers, beautiful and varied," and "Language is like music, it's everywhere."

### **186 District 95 Students Use English Language Learner Program**

There are currently 186 students who have accepted services from Community Unit School District 95's English Language Learner (ELL) program, according to Stacie Noisey, school administrator. Currently, ELL students are mostly serviced through a pull-out model at the elementary schools. At the middle schools and high school, students are serviced during regularly scheduled periods, and may be seen more than one period a day. "The program builds information in the students' native language, and then transitions students into English," explained Noisey.

### **Complex Mission Hampers U.S. Effort**

In one sign of the stress as the nuclear crisis unfolded, an American official helping to coordinate activities with the Japanese Self Defense Forces grew teary-eyed when discussing these cooperative efforts. To be sure, that official said the two militaries were largely on the same wavelength. But other U.S. and Japanese military sources said language, protocol and cultural barriers had proved more daunting than expected, especially for two close allies.

### **Ham makes first visit to Africa as new commander**

Ham also emphasized that he would like to see U.S. troops better trained in African cultures and languages. Ham is asking all AFRICOM personnel, himself included, to spend one hour each day studying a language. He said he would spend the long plane trips to and from the continent learning French with the help of the language-learning software Rosetta Stone. "That's my objective," he said. "We'll see how this plays out, to see if I am personally disciplined enough to do this."

### **UNC-system schools may be forced to cut foreign language programs**

The ever-present burden of budget cuts is forcing UNC-system schools to follow a national trend of bidding "adieu" to foreign language programs. A report published by the University of California, Riverside said the number of universities offering undergraduate degree programs in European languages and literatures — Romance, Germanic and Slavic — declined steeply from 1971 to 2006.

### **Family Vacation – Unique Learning Family Travel Program Offered**

New York City's highly regarded children's foreign language program, The Carousel of Languages, is currently accepting reservations for the 7th year of its popular Family Travel Program, a unique linguistic and cultural journey for children and their families. "Children participate in a week-long program exploring foreign language, culture, architecture, and art," explains Patrizia Saraceni Corman – who is a mother and the Founding Director of The Carousel of Languages (formerly known as Italian for Toddlers). "Each day children enjoy unique, fun-filled excursions and exciting customized adventures – while accompanied by trained teachers, professional tour guides."

### **STARTALK 2011 - Teacher Programs in DC**

The George Washington University will hold a one-week, 40 hour, intensive summer institute -- "Arabic for Teachers of Arabic" -- in Washington, DC to be led by Dr. Muhammad Eissa of the University of Chicago. The purpose of this institute is to raise the awareness of Arabic K-12 teachers about the structures, morphology, and cultural content of the Arabic language in the context of teaching Arabic as a second language. By the end of the institute, teachers will have a refreshed, explicit understanding of the most important linguistic features of Arabic, and an understanding of how to teach them in context in a standards-based, communication-oriented classroom. The institute will accommodate 24 teachers and instructors of Arabic, of all grades and levels, native and non-native speakers, and teachers with more and less formal education about the Arabic language.

### **Language Translation Software Market Shares and Forecasts, Worldwide, 2011-2017**

Hybrid machine translation is evolving more sophisticated software that actually works well enough to be useful; The hybrid systems provide dramatic improvement, creating the ability to use machine translation in a wide variety of situations. Hybrid machine translation combines the features of statistical and rules based approaches. Human language technology solution combines the strengths of rule-based and statistical systems. The term hybrid in this context means statistical MT (SMT) systems use examples and apply statistical techniques to a large body of language data to perform translations combined with rules based approaches.