
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 25 MARCH 2011

Grant will enhance language offerings to the professions

Christopher Lupke, associate professor of Chinese, and W. Puck Brecher, assistant professor of Japanese, will use a two-year, \$200,000 grant to expand offerings in Chinese and Japanese at Washington State University. The grant is from the U.S. Department of Education's Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program (UISFLP). It will allow WSU's Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures to create Chinese and Japanese language courses for the professions.

Growing Diversity Fuels Chinese School

San Francisco's Chinese American International School has long had a reputation for strong academics, but it has grown more popular as a rising number of non-Chinese parents bank on Chinese-language skills for their children's future.

Turkey May Hire 40,000 Native English Speakers, Vatan Reports

Turkey's Education Minister may hire 40,000 native English-speakers over the next four years as part of a bid to improve language skills, Vatan newspaper reported. Prime Minister [Recep Tayyip Erdogan](#) has complained that English is poorly taught in many schools and ordered a review, the Istanbul-based newspaper said. The ministry is considering supplementing its 48,000 English teachers with 40,000 foreigners who'll teach and hold weekend and summer English courses, as well as run conversational "English Cafe" classes, the newspaper said.

Possible budget cuts opposed

At a public hearing on the 2011-12 school budget last week, parents, teachers and other community members asked the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education not to make proposed cuts to foreign language, media assistants and areas that would directly affect the classroom.

PREVIOUS NEWS

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.

[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.