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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 29 MARCH 2011**

#### **FOIA Fridays: Army Audit Report on the Army's Foreign Language Program**

The Project on Government Oversight posted a U.S. Army Audit Agency document obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. The website states there's ample room for improvement in the Army's foreign language program.

#### **Fighting the Propaganda War in Afghanistan with New and Old Media**

The war of words or an Information War is on in Afghanistan. In a nation where people get their news via old media outlets – tv and radio – the U.S. is turning up its mixed approach to fighting the Taliban.

#### **Can you speak a foreign language?**

An individual who is fluent in foreign languages always has a niche above the rest. Read an interview with Umita Melwanit, Co-Founder and Director of Institute of Foreign Language and Culture to know more about this growing culture.

#### **Heritage speakers enroll in language classes**

A constantly evolving group of students called heritage language learners are more often choosing to formally study their native language. Impending UNC-system budget cuts threaten foreign language course offerings but heritage speakers are driving up enrollment numbers and making the decision more difficult.

#### **Fabio Capello's 100-word excuse**

Just for you sports lovers out there --- The Head football (soccer) coach for England says he only needs a maximum of 100 words of English to speak with his players. His native language is Latin but he also claims to speak Spanish and French in addition to English.

### **PREVIOUS NEWS**

#### **DLIFLC produces Japanese LSKs in record time**

Just three days after the devastating March 11 Japanese earthquake and tsunami, the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) made available Japanese Language Survival Kits, small pocket sized guides with audio recordings, covering three topics: Japanese Basic, Japanese Aircrew, and Japanese Medical.

#### **CHINA: Overseas education - Changes and policies**

Overseas education in China has also become more diversified. International students enrolled in non-formal programmes usually take Chinese-language training or short-term study, not for the purpose of earning a degree. The proportion of international students enrolled in formal programmes has increased yearly, while the proportion enrolled in non-formal programmes has declined.

#### **Students seeking flexibility find it in cyber schools**

Matt Arkin, head of school, said parents are attracted to GCA because their kids can work at their own pace. This fall, Advanced Placement courses and classes in foreign language, music and art will be added to the curriculum.

### **Chinese class producing trilingual students**

Nà shì shénme?" means "what is that?" in Chinese. The students eagerly raise their hands to answer Childers' questions, and patiently wait to hear his or Abers' pronunciation and willingly give the difficult words a try. Childers said the students are like "sponges" and love learning. He learned Chinese when he was a Chinese linguist in the Air Force. He spent 57 weeks at the Defense Language Institute in California, learning the language. He said the young children pick up the language very fast. He and Abers have not found a suitable textbook, and are now considering developing one for future classes.

### **Senior finds love for Japanese culture after teaching herself the language**

While most high school students are struggling to wake up, senior Nikki Prenevost sits in her living room before school catching up on her favorite Japanese drama, Itazura Na Kiss. Later that day, when most students use Facebook as a way to procrastinate, Nikki flips through a Seventeen magazine in Japanese as a break between her studies. While most students rush to finish their homework before their favorite college team plays on ESPN, Nikki rushes to Johnson County Community College to spend three hours learning the Japanese language. What might seem foreign to some students seems perfectly at home to Nikki.

### **Pilot program gives Spokane eight-graders a jump-start on learning a foreign language – and on high school credits**

Bienvenidos, estudiantes. Esto es la clase de español para el grado ocho. Until this year, that phrase – "Welcome, students. This is eighth-grade Spanish" – was foreign to Spokane Public Schools' middle school students. But with the success of a pilot program at Sacajawea Middle School, it will likely become more commonplace. Spokane Public Schools plans to make Spanish available to the district's eighth-graders this fall, and those who successfully pass the yearlong course will receive high school credit.

### **Wallington schools may cut French**

Students might have to say "au revoir" to French class if the school board goes ahead with a budget that would make Spanish the only foreign language offering, Superintendent Albert Pecora said. The elimination of the high school French and elementary art programs is necessary to prevent spending for next school year from exceeding a state-imposed cap, he said.

### **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.

### **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.