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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 28 APRIL 2011**

#### **Faculty considers offering language certificates**

Though discussions of a proposal to offer foreign language and culture certificates for undergraduates will continue next semester, faculty have questioned the rationale behind offering such programs and the ability of language departments to accommodate the increased enrollment the certificates could bring. The University does not offer minors, but the proposed certificates would essentially function as minors in a foreign language. To receive certification, a student would be required to take six language and culture courses focusing on a specific language, work or study abroad in a country where the language is spoken and maintain an online portfolio of work, wrote Katherine Bergeron, dean of the College, in an email to The Herald.

#### **Turkey To Prepare Diplomats With Armenian Language Skills**

An Istanbul university's language academy is organizing the only courses in Armenian at the post-secondary level as part of an effort to enhance regional dialogue between businesspeople and academics. "Turkey has become a major player in the region, socially, culturally, economically and politically. Thus we decided to teach regional languages rather than the classic foreign languages such as English or French," said Serdar Dinler, director of Kadir Has University's Center for Lifelong Learning, which will start teaching the courses in May at its Neighboring Languages Academy.

#### **Learning to live in a globalized world**

Globalization is important to us because our economy is global. To survive and thrive we need to market goods and services beyond our borders. Products are, Thomas Friedman reminds us, created in component parts in various areas, assembled elsewhere and marketed from yet another location. We are globally interdependent in production and globally dependent for successful marketing and distribution.

#### **Queens assemblywoman's multilingual pamphlet aims to help new immigrants navigate Flushing**

A Flushing lawmaker wants to break down the language barrier between newcomers from overseas and the neighborhood's old guard, one key phrase at a time. Assemblywoman [Grace Meng \(D-Flushing\)](#) is creating a multilingual and multicultural pamphlet providing immigrants with a crash course in English and locals with a way to communicate. "It's important to bring different cultures together. We don't want people to feel excluded," said Meng.

#### **Whiz Kid: Ana Carolina Hoff is Rhode Island's Top Language Student**

Hoffman was recently named student of the year by the Rhode Island Foreign Language Association, according to a news release from Bay View. As part of the application, she wrote essays in both English and Italian. "Ana is an exemplary student and possess a true love of language, culture and heritage," World Language teacher Graziella Grampaoli said in the release. "We and the entire Bay View community are so proud of this well-deserved recognition."

### **PREVIOUS NEWS**

#### **First Group of Deployed ACPAK Hands Returns From Afghanistan**

The first group of ACPAK Hands returned from Afghanistan on 19 APR. This marks a unique point in a program billed as a personnel priority. The Pentagon's ACPAK Hands program trains military and civilian personnel from all services to serve as a cadre of subject matter experts in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The ACPAK Hands are part of the military's transition strategy, building enduring relationships between

US services and local populations in theater. Hands develop expertise and insight into the complexities, internal dynamics, and challenges facing these countries through language, culture, and counter-insurgency training, graduate education, and experience working directly with Afghan and Pakistani officials.

### **DARPA Launches Translation Software Initiative**

The research arm of the Department of Defense (DoD) is working on new technology that will allow U.S. military to translate face-to-face conversations in real time, as well as accurately decipher intelligence and communications data in voice, video, and print. The Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA) is seeking proposals for its Broad Operational Language Translation (BOLT) program, which aims to build software specifically to translate various dialects of Arabic as well as Mandarin Chinese.

### **Challenging language's universality**

A recent analysis of humanity's major language families has cast doubt on the long-held notion of language's universality, which was said to be dictated by common linguistic structures in human brains. Michael Dunn, an evolutionary linguist at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in the Netherlands, teamed up with Russell Gray, a computational linguist at the University of Auckland, to test the universality of language. They used powerful computational tools to calculate the most likely relationships among sets of data. Dunn and Gray treated features of language such as subject-verb order as traits, analyzing Austronesian, Indo-European, Bantu and Uto-Aztecan language groups. These groups span thousands of years and contain more than 2,400 of about 7,000 human languages.

### **High school consider AP foreign language option**

Higher-level foreign-language courses - known as Level 5 and Level 6 now - would be converted into a two-year Advanced Placement test preparation program, giving students a better chance of doing well on the AP test and receiving college credit. "We've been doing a really pretty good job with rigor and a demanding curriculum, but this just adds an extra layer and provides ... a lot more options for our students in terms of getting credit for what they've studied in high school," said Eva Tuinstra, a German teacher at Wauwatosa East High School.

### **Boomers and Seniors Learn Spanish Online with Live Instructors**

Boomers and seniors learning to speak Spanish are seeing real advantages in working one-to-one with personal Spanish tutors via the Internet. These adult students love the convenience, personalized curriculum, and fun of conversing with a native Spanish speaker in Central America using online videoconferencing. Students have used Speak Shop, a seven-year-old company, to take more than 20,000 lessons online from Spanish tutors in Guatemala. Using their personal computers, students reserve a 50-minute lesson that fits their schedule and then videoconference with their tutor using the free software application, Skype.

### **The New School Continuing Education**

The On the Go language immersion curriculum is designed for busy people who wish to acquire knowledge of a foreign language for professional or personal reasons, especially to increase their enjoyment of travel. In just one weekend, beginners master interactions in many common situations, such as ordering in restaurants, asking directions, handling currency, and shopping. At more advanced levels, participants hone and refresh their conversational skills.

### **Earmark ban puts University of Montana language and cultural program in jeopardy**

Earlier this year when Congress banned earmarking - direct spending for specific projects - Don Loranger became rightfully concerned. Loranger is director of the Defense Critical Language and Cultural Program, a program, established in 2007, that teaches soldiers Pashto, Dari, Arabic and Chinese languages and about Afghanistan and Iraq prior to deployment to those war zones. It is funded by an earmark. Now funding is in jeopardy for a program that Loranger says is critical preparation for United States soldiers deploying to war. U.S. Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., recently sent a letter to the Department of Defense urging the administration to include the program's \$2.25 million annual operating budget in the defense budget, saying the training is "the difference between life and death, and I am proud that UM is a part of making our troops and our country safer."

### **Russian students visit Huntsville schools as part of exchange program**

Some American and Russian teens recently discovered there are a lot of differences between them - and a lot of similarities. A group of 17 students and three adults from Sochi, Russia, visited Huntsville last week, staying with local families and attending classes at the Academy for Science and Foreign Language and Columbia High School.

### **Former Spanish teacher's foreign-language education business carves out job-training niche**

A former Spanish teacher in Atlantic County schools, Stacey Kammerman's business started from the concept of teaching simple phrases to help schools communicate with Spanish-speaking parents. From there, she saw an opportunity to expand the business to English-speakers who could benefit from learning functional Spanish as it related to their jobs, including bankers, construction workers and park rangers. "The thing that was the most desirable is that (the program) was specific to their particular needs. They didn't learn the whole language, which takes the average person five years," she said. "They learned what they needed for their job so they could use it immediately."

### **Philippine's DepEd holds summer program for foreign language teachers**

The Department of Education Bureau of Secondary Education is holding simultaneous summer training courses for high school teachers based on the Special Program in Foreign Language (SPFL). The training aims to capacitate the teachers on the diverse aspects involved in learning a second or a foreign language. SPFL is among the department's efforts in enhancing not only public school teachers' but also students' foreign language proficiency and global competencies.

### **Soldiers prep to pave new path in war**

The brigade's Schweinfurt-based elements-172nd Support Battalion, 9th Engineer Battalion and 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment-will provide most of the female personnel for the teams. They will be led by FET officer-in-charge 1st Lt. Jennifer Montgomery, who recently transferred from Schweinfurt's 12th Chemical Co. to the brigade staff, and still resides here. She will command the collection of several four-woman teams, circulating among them as they are dispersed throughout the brigade's region of responsibility during the deployment. "Their primary purpose is intelligence gathering from Afghan women," said Montgomery. "The women might tell the FET members 'our water is bad here, we have no sewage disposal, help us.' Or, they might say 'that guy over there, he's corrupt.'"

### **Plainfield School Board mulls Chinese language program**

For \$50 a student, Plainfield School Board is looking at offering Chinese immersion classes during summer school for students in grades 7-11. The two beginner Chinese classes will be offered through a federal grant which will pay for the teachers. Glenn Wood, director of high school curriculum, said STARTALK asked the district to participate in the program which purpose is to provide students exposure to Chinese language and culture. STARTALK is the newest of the component programs of the National Security Language Initiative, seeking to expand and improve the teaching and learning of important world languages that are not widely taught in the United States, including Persian, Arabic, Pakistani (Urdu), Indian (Hindi) and Chinese.