
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 29 APRIL 2011

Petraeus' war legacy befits his future post at CIA

Petraeus will bring to the CIA an appreciation of human intelligence and the need to understand culture, history and language. "He's very astute about intelligence matters," Crane said.

Face of Defense: Lance Corporal Provides Leadership

Mullin, who attended Clio Area High School, helped to develop pattern analysis for E Company's area of operations during the unit's deployment. He also was effective in gathering intelligence because of his ability to successfully communicate with Afghans, sometimes without the help of an interpreter.

Interpreters sought to bridge language gap with storm victims

A week and a half after deadly storms hit North Carolina, the destruction is still evident at Stony Brook. That's the development where four children died as a result of the storm. Many of the residents there are Hispanic and don't speak much English, and that's created even more difficulties. David Marshall is one of a handful of interpreters helping to bridge the language gap. "If I'm just speaking something you don't understand, how can I connect with you," Marshall said. "I'm not saying it's impossible, but we have a huge challenge here."

College campuses add language immersion programs

Colleges and universities nationwide are creating and expanding existing language immersion programs, under which students live together while learning a language around the clock. Dustin Cowell, who teaches Arabic at Wisconsin-Madison and is chair of the Department of African Languages and Literature, says foreign-language immersion programs are effective because the language becomes a part of the students when they use it to express their feelings or to talk about ordinary, everyday activities.

Cuts Threaten Fellowships, Foreign Language Tutorials

Unless the Education Department acts to spread out painful federal cuts among a broad set of programs, UCLA may be forced to eliminate some foreign languages with small enrollments, such as Czech, that are offered in advanced tutorials as well as to reduce staff and training programs in international education. "These programs are essential for ensuring U.S. global competitiveness and national security, and for our knowledge about the world beyond the United States," said Randal Johnson, vice provost for international studies at UCLA, a Brazilian film scholar and fluent Portuguese speaker who began learning the language under the fellowship programs that would be affected.

109 state programs terminated: Four University degrees eliminated

The Board of Regents unanimously approved the Academic Program Review results determined by the Regents' Academic and Student Affairs Committee on Wednesday, with a recommendation to terminate 109 programs statewide. Of the University's 31 programs under review, four will be terminated entirely and three will be consolidated. The terminated programs include the master's degree program in geography, the bachelor's degree in Latin, the bachelor's degree in German and the master's degree in educational technology and leadership. The University is projected to save about \$357,800 by terminating Latin and about \$143,000 for German, according to the Regents' report.

Optimus keyboard speaks your language, whatever it is

The Optimus' big specialty lies in its keys. Each and every key cap is actually a small colour display screen. That means that the included software is able to configure what is being displayed on every key at any given moment. Typing in another language? The characters for that language are what will be displayed on every key cap. They can display Cyrillic, ancient Greek, Georgian, Arabic and many more

character sets.

PREVIOUS NEWS

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 possesses 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."

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."