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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 05 MAY 2011**

#### **Bin Laden killing leaves questions for Afghan scholars**

At the Defense Critical Language and Culture Training Program in Missoula, where select soldiers endure a six-month cultural dunk tank before Afghan deployment, bin Laden's slaying was a show-stopper. The U.S. has a complicated relationship with parties in both Pakistan and Afghanistan. It carries out drone strikes in parts of Pakistan where al-Qaida are known to be, but not in others where potential targets are also located. It fights the Taliban, in Afghanistan, but has never placed the Afghan group on its terrorism list. At the military immersion school hosted by the Mike and Maureen Mansfield Center, Owen, a former senior intelligence officer for the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C., will be unpacking those questions for some time.

#### **ANALYSIS: Viewpoint Breaking Language Barriers**

Recruiting workers with strong foreign language skills, especially in national security roles, is an on-going struggle for federal agencies. But the National Security Education Program is providing some relief. Designed to build a broader and more qualified pool of candidates with foreign language and international skills, NSEP focuses on the cultures of Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. The program is administered by the Defense Department and a 13-member advisory board chaired by Samuel D. Kleinman, deputy assistant secretary for readiness. Other members include senior officials from the Homeland Security, State, Commerce, Education and Energy departments.

#### **Global Competence: The Knowledge and Skills Our Students Need**

These are necessary strategies for change, but insufficient to create the citizens, workers and leaders our nation needs in the 21st century. Missing in this formula for a world-class education is an urgent call for schools to produce students that actually know something about the world--its cultures, languages and how its economic, environmental and social systems work. The concept of global competence articulates the knowledge and skills students need in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### **Looking beyond English: MIT professor uses linguistics in an ESL classroom to teach scientific principles, empower a new generation of critical thinkers**

In fall 2008, Daniel Ginsberg, an English as a Second Language teacher at a [public high school](#) in Malden, Mass., approached MIT professor Wayne O'Neil asking about incorporating linguistics into his curriculum to allow students to compare and contrast English with their native languages. O'Neil's answer? Such a curriculum doesn't exist for ESL students — but he'd be happy to help design one. O'Neil, an MIT linguist who has been an advocate of linguistics education in secondary schools since the 1960s, has had plenty of experience developing curricula for both English and science classrooms. But he had never heard of an attempt to introduce linguistics to an ESL classroom — where students' language backgrounds can be highly varied — so as to help them develop an English vocabulary for talking about language.

#### **FET: Female Marines Build Relationships in Helmand**

Sergeant Kimberly Nalepka and the rest of her Female Engagement Team squad play an integral role in counterinsurgency operations here. "I have a passion for what I am doing," Nalepka said. "We're here to help the people, and it's exciting because being able to have a deeper impact on the Marine Corps' mission is something I have always wanted to do. Interacting with the people is an amazing opportunity, and being able to see the smiles on their faces makes everything worthwhile, because a smile is universal no matter what language you speak."

#### **Voices in Education: Jeanne Downey-Vanover**

We have a very strong language program; it is a little unusual compared to other schools. It is proficiency based in the five language skills: reading, writing, listening, speaking and culture. The thing that makes us very unusual is we have an immersion program. Once you cross the threshold, everything happens in the target language. We have about 630 girls in grades nine to 12 and about 400 in Spanish. [The school also teaches French and Latin.]

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **Military language training draws words of praise**

Since January, 64 paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division's 4th Brigade Combat Team have spent their days learning to read, write and speak basic Dari, the most common language among the people of Afghanistan, and delving into the country's culture and history. The Army has taught the same 16-week course at Fort Drum in New York, Fort Polk in Louisiana and Fort Campbell in Kentucky. Marine Corps base Camp Lejeune will graduate its first class this summer from a 52-week course in Dari, Pashtu and Urdu, two other languages of the region.

### **Want to learn Pashto? There's an app for that**

Language specialists in Indiana University's College of Arts and Sciences have developed a new application for the iPad that will help people working in strategic areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan to read and write in Pashto, one of the region's primary languages.

### **What Bilingualism Is NOT**

Among shared misunderstandings, one is that bilingualism is a rare phenomenon. In fact, it has been estimated that more than half of the world's population is bilingual, that is uses two or more languages in everyday life. Bilingualism is found in all parts of the world, at all levels of society, in all age groups. Another common misconception is that bilinguals have equal knowledge of their languages. In fact, bilinguals know their languages to the level that they need them and many are dominant in one of them.

### **KU grad donates \$1.6 million for students to study in Germany**

A Kansas University alumnus has donated \$1.6 million to KU to support scholarships for a German study abroad program. Carl Krehbiel, who graduated in 1970 with a degree in Germanic languages and international relations, established an endowed fund that will support an estimated 15 new scholarships, said William Keel, professor and chairman of KU's department of Germanic languages and literatures.

### **Translating the Web While You Learn**

A new website will offer free language lessons—and use the results to render Web pages in other tongues. The creators of a website called [Duolingo](#) want to translate the world's Web pages into new languages by harnessing the efforts of people who are learning those languages.

### **Flournoy: Asia Will be Heart of U.S. Security Policy**

While the United States is confronting terrorism and hostile regimes in places like Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Libya, leaders also are looking eastward to shape U.S. security policy for the long-term, the Pentagon's top policy official said last night. "When future historians look back at this era, I am convinced that the rise of Asia will be noted as the central geo-strategic fact of our time," Michèle Flournoy, undersecretary of defense for policy, told a packed room of policy experts at Johns Hopkins University's "Rethinking Seminar" here.

### **Brigade Leaders Cite Value of Intelligence**

McKim said the idea that "every soldier is a sensor" still holds true, and that a woman soldier on a female engagement team could be the person who learns a critical piece of information. "That one thing might be the key to opening up why people are fighting in a particular area," he said.

### **No Signal in Afghanistan? University's iPad Language App Will Still Work**

U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan frequently have trouble talking with local residents, who speak Pashto, which has 44 letters and its own unique calligraphy. Now there's a [free iPad app](#) that provides a tutorial, and it will work even in remote areas because the entire program resides on the tablet computer. "We assumed some users will be in the military, who will use it in areas without any data connection," says Sukhrob Karimov, an information and communication technology specialist at Indiana University's Center for Languages of the Central Asian Region. "So we decided to build it so all the sources are in the app. Once installed on the iPad you can use it anywhere."

### **[Contract Linguist Positions Available - Foreign Language Career Day](#)**

The Federal Bureau of Investigation invites residents of San Diego and Imperial County to attend a Foreign Language Career Day on Saturday, May 7, 2011, at 11000 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90024. Come any time between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. You must have a detailed resume. Full-time and part-time opportunities exist. No specific education or professional backgrounds are required. A high level of fluency in English and foreign language is required to perform translation, monitoring, and interpretation services. You will be undergoing a pre-application on-site language skills assessment.

### **[Vermont courts seek standards for interpreters](#)**

Linda Li often interpreted court proceedings for Chinese immigrants facing deportation or caught in family disputes.. She grew up in Hong Kong speaking Cantonese and English and later learned Mandarin. But when she started interpreting those languages in Vermont's courts seven years ago, she struggled to pick up another language spoken in the courtroom: legalese. These days, foreign-language interpreters working in Vermont's courts nearly always have some legal training, as well as a Black's Law Dictionary. But the judiciary has yet to standardize requirements for interpretation.

### **[Appalachian holds Russian language institute for high school students in July](#)**

High school students who have been studying Russian online through the N.C. Virtual High School have an opportunity to attend a two-week institute at Appalachian State University focusing on the Russian language and culture. Appalachian's 2011 StarTalk North Carolina Student Summer Institute in Russian will be a two-week, residential immersion Russian language and culture program held on campus July 18-31. The residential immersion program will help students further develop their oral, reading and writing skills. In-class and out-of-class activities will center on the theme of Discover the World of Russian Fairy Tales and connect it with the art and music of Russian culture.

### **[The Role of Language Centers in CLAC](#)**

The Cultures and Languages Across the Curriculum (CLAC) discussion blog has comments from Cindy Evans, Director of Foreign Language Resource Center at Skidmore College. She provides her thoughts on the potential role for language centers in support of CLAC initiatives.

### **[Vanderbilt Army ROTC Cadets are Selected for CULP](#)**

Five Vanderbilt Army ROTC Cadets will travel abroad this summer to participate in the Army's Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) Program.

### **['Mission possible' to teach the police English](#)**

Teaching a foreign language in India was an uphill task as a majority of trainers came from states with very heavy accents and some just detested the language because they found it tough to speak. After five days of training in the language at Delhi's Police Training College, the trainers were correcting their seniors while speaking in English.

### **[English adopted as a world language](#)**

49 countries have English as an official language and that does not count the United States or Great Britain. Learning English is serious business in nearly all nations.