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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 16 SEPTEMBER 2011**

#### **A decade after 9/11, Monterey County historian, military leaders reflect on terrifying day**

*(The Californian)*...Jeff Mitchell

In the anti-terrorism warfare the U.S. finds itself fighting, having the ability to speak the native languages of both friendly non-combatants and those of the enemy can sometimes mean the difference between life and death, said Col. Danial Pick, the commandant of the Defense Language Institute in Monterey.

#### **'OMG Meiyu,' a breakout hit Web show, schools Chinese in American slang**

*(Washington Post)*...Tara Bahrapour

A young Chinese woman wanted to know: What is the English word for that gunky yellowish stuff in the corner of her eyes when she wakes up in the morning? She turned to Jessica Beinecke, the 24-year-old host of an online travel video program aimed at young Chinese viewers, and Beinecke responded with a humorous segment for her show, explaining in fluent Mandarin and exaggerated gestures all the icky stuff that comes from the face. The popularity of the show, called "[OMG! Meiyu](#)" and produced by Voice of America, has not escaped the notice of the agency's executives, who recognize that hip and eccentric programming is vital to connecting with youths, many of whom prefer to go online than follow the stiffer, more traditional news and cultural programs the agency transmits through satellite TV and short-wave radio.

#### **Learning multiple languages benefits career, life**

*(College Media Network)*...Ashley Seering

As the melting pot that is America becomes even more ethnically diverse, the importance of learning multiple languages is becoming even more important. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 19.6 percent of American families speak a primary language other than English in their homes. As the demand for diversity increases, educational institutions should step up to the plate and offer a variety of foreign language classes.

#### **Spanish government says Mendon's Clough Elementary is 'numero uno'**

*(Milford Daily News)*...Morgan Rousseau

Learning a foreign language opens the door to new friendships, business opportunities and a greater understanding of other cultures. The Spanish government recognized Clough Elementary School's efforts in opening those doors yesterday, honoring Clough as the top elementary school in North America in its academic excellence competition. For being named Elementary School of the Year by the Spanish Ministry of Education, Clough received a \$5,000 award that will buy new books and teaching materials. Spanish Ministry Education Adviser Francisco de Asis Garcia Diez, who presented the award, praised the program. "The results are amazing, especially if you visit the classrooms and see how happy the students are there. They speak Spanish and understand it perfectly," Diez said.

#### **Study program helps American students learn Chinese**

*(Kansas State Collegian)*...Andy Rao

Last night, the K-State Chinese Language Study Program collaborated to share their experiences with the cultural exchange program. It was an evening that highlighted the combination of traditional Chinese dresses and jeans, and the differences in clothing were not the only way that participants shared their differences. "Being able to communicate and form friendships with more students on campus who are from a different background is my favorite thing about being in the Chinese Language Study Program," said sophomore English major Rachel Smith.

## PREVIOUS NEWS

### SOF LEADER: A Salute to Special Operators, with Concern for Fraying of the Forces

*(Special Operations Technology)*...Dave Ahearn (Interviewing ADM Eric Olson)

**Q: Understanding local cultures and languages is vital in conflicts of the 21st century. What are the major initiatives required to generate operators skilled in the languages and cultural skills for the AORs?**

**A:** To facilitate this understanding, SOF units strive to establish and maintain effective working relationships with our allies and key partner nations. This cooperation enables SOF to discreetly access regions where overt U.S. military presence may not be possible, train with indigenous forces, and ultimately shape the environment well ahead of the sound of guns and the start of major combat operations. On a practical level, the initiatives in this area all require the thorough review many of our military personnel policies with a focus on areas for innovation. For example, the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) program is an illustration of how much capability can be recruited within the United States if we open our aperture to innovative personnel solutions. This concept should be broadened and institutionalized across DoD. The Afghanistan-Pakistan (AFPAK) Hands Program is another example.

### Worldview: Many Iraqis who helped the U.S. still awaiting visas

*(The Inquirer Digital)*...Trudy Rubin

In July, I wrote about the plight of Iraqis who worked with U.S. soldiers and civilians but face death as "collaborators" when we leave. Their situation remains unresolved. Congress set up a special program in 2008 to grant these Iraqis 25,000 special immigrant visas (SIVs) over five years. Only 3,629 have been issued thus far; at least 1,500 are pending. "Ma'am: I am writing to tell you about the situation of the Iraqis who helped Americans here in Iraq. I have worked with the U.S. Army as a linguist [translator] for 17 months in Mosul, which is one of the most dangerous places in Iraq. I have been threatened by terrorists many times because of my job and I lost three members of my family as a result. I'm waiting to get the visa since March 2011. "It's very dangerous for me to stay in Iraq; now I can't see my family, I can't finish my school, and I can't have normal life as a human because too much people in Iraq think that everyone who helped the Americans is a traitor and should be killed. Please, if you can tell anyone to find a solution for us, because if the U.S. Army leaves Iraq by end of this year, we are all going to get killed by the militias."

### Army's Talking Technology

*(SIGNAL)*...George I. Seffers

The U.S. Army is advancing language translation software. Military officials in Afghanistan cite the language barrier as one of the most vexing communications obstacles in the battlefield environment. It is a challenge, for example, for U.S. warfighters to communicate effectively with their coalition partners or with the Afghanistan National Security Forces, especially if they are talking over tactical radios during combat chaos. More critical still is the need for warfighters to communicate effectively with Afghan citizens and leaders at all levels. The U.S. Defense Department recognizes the vital role language translation plays in counterinsurgency operations. Robert Gates, former secretary of defense, issued a memo in May 2010 naming language as one of the seven pillars of the counterinsurgency strategy in Afghanistan, according to Michael Beaulieu, U.S. Army product director for the Machine Foreign Language Translation System (MFLTS). To meet the need, the Army hopes to begin initial fielding of a do-it-all language translation software by January 2015.

### Huntsman Urges Students to 'Change the World'

*(Patch.com)*...Carolyn Dube

It isn't everyday that presidential hopeful Jon Huntsman is welcomed by a marching band playing for his arrival, but Wednesday morning wasn't a typical morning for the former Utah governor. Huntsman's arrival in Merrimack marked his first campaign stop at a high school, where instead of speaking politics, he spoke Mandarin and instead of urging students to vote for him, he urged them to go out and change the world. Huntsman urged the students to stick with the language or any foreign language they decide to pursue, impressing upon them the value it will hold as they get older and experiences it will open up in their lives.

### **UNC language courses studied**

*(dailytarheel.com)*

UNC-system administrators are working to expand foreign language learning opportunities for students as part of an initiative they hope will save money in the long run. Representatives from 12 system schools participated in a teleconference Friday and discussed expanding the system's established language study consortia and creating new ways to collaborate, said Ruth Gross, head of N.C. State University's department of foreign languages and literatures, in an email.

### **Creole Program Gains Foothold**

*(Duke Today)*...Eric Ferreri

Created in 2009, the Creole course gained steam early last year when Duke faculty members created a much-publicized quickie version of it for medical personnel heading to Haiti following the devastating earthquake there. The program has since gained a foothold. Starting this semester, Creole satisfies Duke's foreign language requirement. Eventually, faculty in Romance Studies, where the course is based, would like to see it become a core piece of the Romance Studies curriculum and perhaps integrated into a Caribbean Studies concentration.

### **Belgium edges closer to forming government**

*(Financial Times)*...Stanley Pignal

Belgium edged towards a resolution of its [political stalemate](#) late on Wednesday, resolving a long-running dispute that has prevented the formation of a government since elections in June 2010. Negotiators from the eight political parties in talks to form a governing coalition reached an agreement on the linguistic status of Brussels suburbs, a highly-charged political issue that epitomizes the depth of divisions between the Dutch-speaking north and Francophone south of the country.

### **French FM attends language year launch**

*(China Daily)*...Zhang Yunbi & Zhao Shengnan

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe attended the opening ceremony of the French Language Year in China at Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU) on Tuesday with Chinese State Councilor Liu Yandong. BLCU started cooperating with Alliance Francaise, an international organization that aims to promote French language and culture around the world in 1998, with the construction of a French teaching center at the university.

### **Stanford researcher launches national K-12 English Language Learning initiative**

*(Stanford University News)*...Robin Migdol

Schoolchildren struggling to learn English in American public schools, and the educators responsible for teaching the language to them, will soon have resources to help ensure they meet the nationwide Common Core State Standards, in an initiative led by Stanford education Professor Kenji Hakuta. "This initiative is really to give access to the standards to a growing group of the student population which are English Language Learners – usually what happens is they're sort of an afterthought," said Hakuta, the Lee L. Jacks Professor of Education. "Let's try to better understand what the language needs are that are foundational to these content standards and try to be much more explicitly systematic in making that available to English Language Learners."