
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 15 NOVEMBER 2011

Gaming Technology Puts Soldiers' Boots on Ground

(National Defense)...Eric Beidel

A recent Army solicitation for the games initiative seeks technologies that allow users to generate custom battle scenarios that cover necessary skills and run the gamut of full-spectrum operations, from cultural awareness and language to recognition and defeat of improvised explosive devices. The service could spend as much as \$25 million over five years on software and licensing for one or more commercial games, according to the solicitation.

Chinese teaching minor offered Spring 2012

(The Utah Statesman)...Amber Murdoch

A new Chinese teaching minor is one of the newest curricula made available to USU students, which according to a recent survey will accommodate the growing interest in learning how to speak and teach Chinese. The program, proposed by the department of languages, philosophy and speech communication, was approved by the USU Board of Trustees on Monday, Nov. 7 and will become available for declaration next semester. "This minor will develop students' knowledge of Chinese language and culture and skills in teaching Chinese," the LPSC department's proposal states. "This minor aligns clearly with the department's philosophy of training students for fulfilling careers in their field by providing a strong Chinese teacher training program."

Skills warning over foreign language assistant cuts

(BBC)

The number of foreign language assistants in Scottish schools has fallen by 80% in the past six years. Figures from British Council Scotland revealed the total had dropped to 59, down from 284 in 2005/06. Only seven out of 32 local authorities employed native speakers of French, German, Italian, Spanish or Chinese. The British Council warned that Scotland could miss out on future international investment as a result of poor foreign language skills.

Korean school teaches language and culture

(Savannah Now)...Jenel Few

Seven-year-old Rachael Kim carefully wrote out Korean letters in a workbook, when she was done she had spelled Ostrich, rabbit and flag. Middle grades students were practicing their lines for an upcoming play. Their scripts were written entirely in Korean. Across the hall high school-age students were translating Korean words and phrases written on a dry erase board. "Most of them are second or third generation Korean Americans," said Korean School Principal Hyounkyun Oh. "They grow up speaking English and sometimes relatives who mainly speak Korean have trouble understanding and communicating with them."

Russian School of Tampa teaching students Russian language

(13 News)...Robert Hahn

Students at a Bay area school are keeping a tradition alive by learning their family's second language. The students are learning Russian at the new [Russian School of Tampa](#). The school is the only one of its kind in the Tampa Bay area. "It helps me with my grammar in Russian, and to speak Russian, and talk to my grandma," said student Alexander Austin. "She's from Russia and I can communicate with her." Most of the students at the school have parents or relatives who have lived in Russia or still live in the motherland. The language skills being taught are through the efforts of teacher Irina Stuart.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Humanities and the military

(Know – UT at Austin)...Eileen Flynn

Sgt. Jeremy Couch and two fellow Texas Army National Guard soldiers enter the home of an Afghan family looking for information about escaped prisoners. Thieves, the men of the house tell them, have been stealing their livestock. Couch, a stocky soldier with bright blue eyes, attempts to assuage the family's fears while also trying to suss out information on the criminals at large. A spontaneous burst of applause jolts everyone back to reality: a low-slung cinder block building at Camp Mabry in Austin where the soldiers are participating in a training exercise for their upcoming deployment. The "Afghans" are Middle Eastern Studies students at The University of Texas at Austin. Members of the audience — faculty and staff members and several other soldiers — offer a critique of the soldiers' behavior. The role-playing sessions came at the end of an intensive weekend-long language and culture workshop conducted by the College of Liberal Arts' [Department of Middle Eastern Studies](#) and [Center for Middle Eastern Studies](#) for soldiers who will soon be deployed to Afghanistan.

NGCSU's ROTC Language Institute Ups the Ante

(The Saint)...Ben Helton

North Georgia's on-campus language institute has garnered national attention since it was introduced in 2008, thanks to federal grant funding. NGCSU has become one of only three universities to be awarded flagship status for Cadet instruction in foreign language. Along with Georgia Tech and Arizona State, North Georgia has been awarded \$720,000 in federal funds as part of this designation for Chinese instruction for Cadets. Now offering foreign language training in Chinese, Russian, Arabic, Korean and Spanish, the institute hopes to continue expansion in order to be a benchmark for foreign language training, which is something the United States military has taken notice of.

Foreign-Language Instruction, Digitally Speaking

(The Chronicle of Higher Education)...Marc Parry

Wylder Fondaw struggled with an online Latin class in high school. So when he arrived at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this year, he hesitated at studying a language online. But the freshman had no choice: At his skill level, if he wanted to take introductory Spanish, an online class was the only option. Instead of showing up in class four times a week, Mr. Fondaw conjugates verbs on a computer program in his sparsely furnished dorm room. He attends a live class every Tuesday afternoon—but it, too, is virtual. The class convenes via Web-conferencing software. If students want to answer a question, they click an icon that depicts a raised hand.

Internet sites go global with free language translations

(KPTV.com)...Elaine Zimmerman

Gerri: I do business in several foreign countries. I would like to have my Internet site appeal to foreign buyers. I would also like to sharpen my foreign language skills in my correspondence and on the phone. Do you have any suggestions?

Elaine: Many sites that wish to appeal to customers worldwide have added translation capabilities to their sites. It is relatively inexpensive to add. It changes the content from one language to another with merely a click of a mouse on the foreign flag icon for which language you wish to view the site.

Chinese students arrive at UW-Madison with dreams and fears for their future

(Wisconsin State Journal)...Deborah Ziff

Eighteen-year-old Xinyi Wang's bus rolled up to Memorial Union on an August night. After a 14-hour plane ride from her home in Eastern China, then a 3-hour bus trip from Chicago, she stepped onto the UW-Madison campus for the first time. She plans to spend at least the next four years here. "It is my dream, when I was young, to study in the U.S.," said Wang, a UW-Madison freshman. Now that she's settled into her dorm room in Witte Hall, she said the hardest things to get used to are the language and culture.

Helping Welsh children explore the Chinese world

(Wales.com)

Welsh schoolchildren are growing up in a world where China is an increasingly influential player. A Cardiff University-led project aims to equip pupils with language skills and cultural awareness which will help them to work with Chinese partners in the future. Last year, the pan-[Wales China Schools Project](#)[\[External link\]](#) delivered more than 100 different Chinese courses across the country. The [University's Confucius Institute](#)[\[External link\]](#), which runs the Project, has just been successful in its bid to create three new Confucius Classrooms to act as hubs for the delivery of Chinese language.

In Afghanistan, Special Units Do The Dirty Work

*(USA Today)...*Carmen Gentile

At their hillside base, made up of a cluster of old Soviet barracks and newer wooden huts, there are about a dozen Green Berets as well as a squad of conventional forces. The Green Berets here spend much of their time recruiting men for the Afghan Local Police (ALP) and training them to defend their village. The efforts require an understanding of tribal customs and village politics that exceeds that of typical forces. Green Berets blend in by growing beards and wearing local clothing. Several in the Chamkani unit speak Pashto, the predominant language in this part of Afghanistan and neighboring western Pakistan.

Cal State Long Beach Receives \$250,000 Department of Defense Grant to Create Pilot Language Training Program, Teach Arabic and Persian

*(Media Newswire)...*Press Release

California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) has received a \$250,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Defense's (DoD) National Security Education Program (NSEP) to create a pilot Language Training Program to help meet the language and cultural needs of military units in California. The intent of this initiative is to accelerate the development of foundational or higher-level expertise in critical and strategic languages and regional studies for DoD personnel by leveraging U.S. institutions of higher education to meet the existing needs of DoD units, offices or agencies.

Team aims to unlock the mysteries of language

(Cambridge News)

A team of linguists are embarking on a five-year project in an attempt to decode how languages are created, and how we pick them up as a child. The ambitious research, led by Prof Ian Roberts from Cambridge University, will work on a suggestion made by American linguist Noam Chomsky in the 50s that children are born with the ability to learn any language on the planet, with their brain hardwired to a set of universal rules. The group have secured 2.5 million euro in funding for the project from the European Research Council. "The main aim of the research is to increase our understanding of how languages vary, and how the brain works to pick up a language."

Students experience overseas education, culture

*(Point Park Globe)...*Kelli Murphy

As Leah Fiore sits sipping her coffee in a café close to her school, she could not think of a better place to be. However long it took to go through the stacks of time-consuming paperwork and sit through all of the long Visa meetings, it had to of been worth it. Every day, she wakes up to the busy-bodied, lively streets of the city to begin a new day in a new home – in Paris. Fiore, along with a handful of other Point Park University students, chose to take part in a number of different study abroad programs offered through the university and take their studies far and wide to other countries of the globe.