

Dean's Weekly Significant Activities Report

12 September 2012

The Dean's Weekly Significant Activities Report is an internal report on all activities conducted within the Departments, Centers & Staff. The Report is provided to the Dean for situation awareness, throughout the organization for shared situation awareness, and to select external organizations for outreach and communication. Portions of the Dean's Weekly Significant Activities Report are further staffed in a report to the Superintendent. POC for the report is MS Lesley Beckstrom at 938-5105.

Picture of the Week



Ecological Research:

Cadets Colin Wittmayer (2015) and Karina Quezada use a soil probe to evaluate the soil profile in the Wilkins Pond area.

Department of Social Sciences

Faculty Member Honored as One of the Top 99 Young Professional Foreign Policy Leaders

The Global Affairs Magazine, Diplomatic Courier, named MAJ Keith Benedict, Department of Social Sciences, as one of their top 99 Young Professional Foreign Policy Leaders. The magazine selected those under 33 years old who demonstrate, creativity, determination, and passion and are already tackling the world's critical global challenges. More is available at: <http://www.diplomaticcourier.com/special-features/top-99-under-33>, and MAJ Benedict is appropriately highlighted under the category of "influencers."

Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science

New Faculty Member Featured as Texas A&M Accomplished Student

Newly arrived EECS Assistant Professor Suzanne Matthews will be featured as a "Texas A&M Accomplished Student" during the annual Grace Hopper Conference on Women in Computing in Baltimore during October. The recognition is for her distinguished achievements while pursuing her recently completed PhD in Computer Science. Her dissertation was in the field of computational biology.



Air Force Gen. (Ret.) Carns Visits IT105

Air Force Gen. (ret) Michael P. C. Carns spent an hour in CPT(P) Ryan Tate's IT105 class as part of his service on the West Point External Review Panel looking at the core curriculum and had dinner with the EECS Department Head, COL Gene Ressler that evening. Gen. Carns repeated to COL Ressler his report to the Panel that the Plebes already knew more about IT at lesson 7 than nearly all of his 4-star colleagues. He stated that he was impressed with the way CPT(P) Tate skillfully challenged all cadets at the right level and especially the way he quietly encouraged and guided those who were struggling. COL Ressler told the department that he could not invent a better example of the Department value of Consideration at work, driving excellent teaching. The Vice Dean, Dr. Jean Blair, stopped by personally to present to CPT(P) Tate a 4-star note from Gen. Carnes.



Dr. Blair Presents 4-Star Note to CPT(P) Tate



From left, Dr. Blair, CPT(P) Tate, COL Ressler

Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering

1. Ecological Research: On Wednesday, 5 Sep 12, 19 Firsties of EV471 (Ecology) traveled to Wilkins Pond on the USMA reservation to take ecological samples as part of their term project research. During the morning, students sampled organisms, soils, water, herbs, shrubs, saplings, and trees in wetland and upland ecosystems. During the afternoon, students were assigned another ecological area for which they will be responsible to collect data and statistically, compare this data to the control. Students will be required to write a scientific report, give an oral presentation, and create a poster as part of their term project research. The techniques and scientific methods learned provide the students the tools to evaluate ecological change and human impacts on the environment, and skills to present this information to an audience. The POC is LTC Mark Smith at mark.smith@usma.edu.



Cadet Philip Knoetgen (2015) samples herbaceous vegetation.



Cadets Colin Wittmayer (2015) and Karina Quezada use a soil probe to evaluate the soil profile.

2. Guest Lecture – EV485. On Friday 7 September, Mr. Robert Rasmussen, Minerva Initiative intern, presented a talk to EV485, Special Topics in Geography and the Environment, on Chinese Geo-Strategy in Africa. He focused on where the Chinese are investing and which countries are most actively engaged in trade with China. Mr. Rasmussen is moving on from the Academy to be an intern for the New York State Senate. POC is DR Makame Muhajir at Makame.muhajir@usma.edu.



Picture: Mr. Rasmussen talks to cadets about Chinese Geo-Strategy in Africa.

3. Faculty Scholarship – Publication. Dr. Peter Siska published a peer-reviewed article entitled: "The Mapping of Composite Pollen from Point Sampled Data and Cartographic Generalization." Which was published in "The Papers of the Applied Geography Conferences, Volume 35(2012), pgs: 192-201." The manuscript discusses precision of four interpolation methods: inverse distance method, ordinary kriging, co-kriging and splines in mapping composite pollen (asteraceae) in Big Bend, in Texas. The research also evaluates the role of cartographic generalization in providing optimal aesthetic representation of surface while preserving the most accurate spatial information. POC is DR Peter Siska at peter.siska@usma.edu.

Department of Physics and Nuclear Engineering

Future Events

Class Visit: On 14 September, Mr. Ken Brockman will be visiting from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Mr. Brockman is a West Point Grad (1972) and also a member of our ABET Advisory Board. He will be giving a presentation to COL Bryndol Sones' NE495 class. The two topics of discussion will be Fukushima and Vogtle nuclear power station under construction in Georgia.

Department Major's Meeting: On 13 September, a welcome back meeting will be held for cadets majoring in physics, nuclear engineering, and interdisciplinary science. The majors will be presented with a quick overview of their majors program, and see and hear about the research available from the three Centers of Excellence and individual researchers.

Research Collaboration: During 13-14 September, LTC Lou Florence and LTC Kraig Sheetz will travel to MIT Lincoln Laboratory in Lexington, MA to meet with Dr. Dan Ripin to collaborate on research opportunities.

Class Visit: On 17 September, Mr. Juan Ochoa from MIT Lincoln Labs will be visiting Dr. Paula Fekete's PH361 class and will give a presentation.

Briefing: During 17-18 September, Mr. Rob Beimler, the proponent manager for FA52 will be visiting the Department of Physics and Nuclear Engineering. Mr. Beimler will present a FA52 briefing and provide the opportunity for one-on-one visits.

Department of Chemistry and Life Science

1. USMA Chemical Engineer Wins 2012 AIChE Freshman Recognition Award!

CDT Nijel Rogers is the proud recipient of this year's AIChE Freshman Recognition Award for his volunteer efforts with our Chemical Engineering Club last year. This award is given to the freshman from each chapter that becomes the most involved with AIChE.



Cadet Rogers demonstrates how to run a Fuel Cell Car to high school students from O'Neil High School during West Point Projects Day, Thursday 3 May 2012.

2. C&LS and CIT Colleagues Represent USMA to OEWG Meeting at Fort Belvoir, VA!



MAJ Nick Talbot (CLS), LTC Chip Elliott (CLS), Dr. Frank Wattenberg (Math), and LTC Dave Barnes (DEP and CIE) participated in the 7th Operational Energy Working Group (OEWG) on 6 September at PM Mobile Electric Power (PM-MEP), in Ft. Belvoir, VA. The OEWG's focus on power generation for deployed forces and on soldier power correspond directly with the Core Interdisciplinary Team's Energy on the FOB and Energy in the Squad themes for the plebe core courses. While in Fort Belvoir, the group signed for a platoon set of soldier power equipment including: 6 Soldier Worn Integrated Power Systems (SWIPES), 6 Squad Power Manager Kits (SPMs), 12 Conformal Batteries, and 10 Leader Portable Solar Chargers with a total value of \$80K. The equipment has been donated by Mr. Steve Mapes, the Director of Soldier Power for PM Soldier Warrior and will be used in the Plebe Capstone Project in the spring. A team from PM Soldier Power will travel to West Point to conduct training on the equipment on 25 September.

Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership

Completed Events

Follow BS&L on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/West-Point-NY/Department-of-Behavioral-Sciences-Leadership/44253274507>

Faculty Publication

A report co-authored by Dr. Morten Ender and others titled, "One Year Out: An Assessment of DADT Repeal's Impact on Military Readiness" and featured in the Huffington Post on September 10th has also been reported on by other media outlets including the following:

Politico: <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0912/80986.html>

NBC News: http://usnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/09/10/13782623-no-negative-impacts-from-repeal-of-dont-ask-dont-tell-study-reveals?lite

Rachel Maddow: http://maddowblog.msnbc.com/_news/2012/09/10/13785582-dadt-an-accountability-moment-and-a-look-ahead

Atlantic: <http://www.theatlanticwire.com/national/2012/09/letting-gays-and-lesbians-serve-openly-hasnt-ruined-military/56670/>

Salon: http://www.salon.com/2012/09/10/report_dadt_repeal_still_not_harming_the_military/

Mother Jones: <http://www.motherjones.com/mojo/2012/09/study-no-negative-impact-dadt-repeal>

And tweeted on by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand @SENGILLIBRAND
<<http://twitter.com/SenGillibrand>> 57M
<<https://twitter.com/SenGillibrand/status/245320540590592000>>

POC: Dr. Morten Ender, BSL, x5638

Cadet Development:

On 5 September the LMS faculty conducted an information briefing for all cadets who are management and leadership majors. This annual briefing covered such topics as planning an AIAD, the activities of ODK (the leadership and management honor society), the West Point Negotiations Project and individual academic planning. The purpose of this briefing is to ensure that all program majors are aware of the full range of LMS activities. **POC: Dr. Mike Hennelly, x5001.**

Faculty Community Support:

9/11 Tribute.

MAJ Adam Grim assisted in the planning and organizing of a 9/11 Climbing Tribute. On the morning of September 11th, approximately 75 cadets, faculty, and staff participated in a climbing tribute to those lost on 9-11-01. Each team completed 182 rope climbs to a height of 15 feet, with a total height climbed equal to the height of the Twin Towers (2,730 feet). This physical challenge gave participants time to reflect on the events of September 11th, remember those lost, and physically and mentally prepare themselves to respond to crisis situations in the future. **POC: MAJ Adam Grim, BSL, x5025.**

Pictured below: Cadets participating in the climbing tribute in memory of those lost in 9/11.



9/11 Tribute

On 8 September, 3 BS&L Faculty members and 1 ELDP member and their Families and numerous Cadets from PL100 and PL300 classes participated in the Remembrance 5k run put on by FMWR West Point and Team Red, White & Blue. The event was held to remember those who perished in the attacks on 9-11 and those who have been killed or injured in the war that started that day. Of special note, Elisabeth Hasselbeck, the co-host of the television program, *The View*, and her husband Tim came to West Point to run in the event along with Cadets, Families and staff and faculty from West Point. **POC: MAJ Lou Nemece, BSL, x0066.**

Pictured below: Cadets and BS&L Faculty following the 5K run.



Department of Foreign Languages

Completed Events

Arabic. Four Arabic SAP cadets completed registration and their first week of classes at Al Akhwayn University in Ifrane, Morocco.



In this photo: Cadet Cantrell interacts with a group of youngsters in Tarmilat, just outside of Ifrane, Morocco.

Four Arabic SAP cadets are currently in their class schedule at Al Qasid University in Amman, Jordan.



In this photo: CDT Marino and CDT Reeves visit the Citadel, a cultural and historic site (Roman ruins) in downtown Amman.

SAP CDT Zach Taylor arrived safely in Muscat, Oman and completed his first week of classes at the Center for International Learning. The Center will begin hosting weekend excursions starting on Thursday, 13 September around cultural and historical sites in the region.



In this photo: Cadet Zach Taylor and other Arabic students at the Center for International Learning practice the proper cultural procedures for a guest visiting a family home and partaking in a meal.

Chinese. At 0530 on 11 September 2012 in Arvin's Hayes Gym, Major Matthew Radik participated in the OPERATION VIGILANCE 9.11 Aspirational Rope Climb as "a tribute to the first responders, firemen, police, military, EMTs, and any other profession that separates itself by moving *towards* danger to preserve life and protect the innocent." The event was organized by Major Samuel Linn of the Social Sciences Department. Approximately 75 cadets and faculty participated in the event. The goal was for each team to complete a combined 182 ascents of a 15 foot rope symbolizing the combined height of the twin towers, 2,730. Each team that attempted this task completed it. As part of the tribute, Major Linn wrote: "The lesson we must never forget from the day is where necessity meets impossibility, the mentally and physically prepared can step forth and say 'follow me.' Let's stay ready, let's be vigilant." To quote a FDNY firefighter: "In terms of prep, Physical Preparation is the only variable you can influence. So you better be ready."



In this photo: West Point cadets and faculty climb ropes in remembrance of the 9.11 first responders.

French. SAP Cadets have successfully registered for and begun courses at their respective universities; St. Cyr (8), Université Catholique de Lyon (2), and Université Catholique de Lille (2). Cadets at St. Cyr participated in the Bazeille Festival, which included a local parade with the French 3rd Marine Infantry Regiment. Several cadets made trips to meet host families and the families of their sponsor cadets. Others have taken the opportunity to develop relationships with other international cadets by travelling around France. They will participate in field training from 15-16 September.

SAP Cadet Luke Hutchison is participating in the English honors program at St. Cyr. He is joined by ten French and 9 other international cadets in a developing program intended to enhance French cadet and officers' English skills as they more fully engage in multi-national and NATO operations. Those participating are required to have an advanced level of English proficiency

<p>SAINT CYR'S FALL HONOURS COURSE</p>	
	
<p>Saint-Cyr's military academy has developed two <i>honour's courses</i> in order to meet the growing challenges of the internationalisation of the officer's work. These two small classes gather ten French and ten foreign cadets in order to develop a new approach on peace and war. Benefiting from the expertise of an international team of Professors coming from France, Switzerland, the United States, and the United Kingdom, these classes develops innovative methods in order to introduce the cadets to the challenges of tomorrow. Alongside lectures and seminars, the cadets enlarge their autonomy and responsibility thanks to individual talks with the professors, oral presentations, readings and war games. The academic training insists on the importance of the political and cultural factor in order to understand today's changing international environment. These honour's classes are designed for the best students of military academies. As all lectures are given in English, the cadets must be fluent in this language. As the military training is carried out in French, they will have to learn French once arrived in Saint-Cyr.</p>	

In this photo: St. Cyr Fall English Honors course outline and CDT Luke Hutchison with a Polish and USNA classmate.



In this photo: CDTs Sweet and Fiorelli accompany Polish cadets to Mont St. Michel in Normandy.

St. Cyr Cadets at West Point. Seven French cadets from St. Cyr arrived at West Point on 10 September 2012. Their respective host cadets greeted them and escorted them to their rooms. They began in-processing on 11 September and were matched with their academic departments through whom they will complete their research studies.

French DCA event. On Tuesday, 4 September, French Club Cadets discussed some of the cultural differences between and social challenges found in American and French societies. The importance of the dining table as a center piece of French family and culture stimulated comparisons with American table etiquette and social norms.



In this photo: Dr. Steve Verolla and French language cadets engage discussion of cultural differences between the United States and France.

German. German SAP cadets continue their immersion experiences. The four SAP Austria cadets toured Austria this week, visiting Huttenberg, Villnach, Iselberg, Glocknerstrasse, Felbertal, Innsbruck, Salzburg, and Gmunden—some of Austria's most treasured cultural locations. The group will continue one more week of military language training and cultural orientation prior to moving into their rooms at the Austrian Academy. SAP Germany cadets in Dresden, participated in a German Army Officers School road race in which Cadets Austine Scales and David Twitchell won 2nd and 3rd in their gender age group for guests, respectively.



In this photo: CDT Scales receives an award for 2nd place in the 4k race.

Russian. CDTs Michael Friske and Jonathan Stamp arrived in Odessa, Ukraine, on 11 September to start a Russian Language SAP at the Odessa Language Study Centre. They will both live with Russian-speaking Ukrainian host families for the duration of the SAP. They took a language assessment test the very first day of classes.

The four CDTs in Voronezh, Russia spent their first full week of SAP getting to know their host families, getting familiar with the city of Voronezh, and settling into their classes.

Spanish. SAP Cadets David Poole and Leah Lang are spending their semester at Mexico's Tecnológico de Monterrey and recently visited Hierve el Agua (Spanish for "the water boils") during a cultural immersion trip with the University to the Mexican state of Oaxaca.

Future Events.

German Language Club cadets and German Section OICs will travel to New York City on Saturday, 15 September, to participate in the 55th Annual German-American Steuben Parade along Central Park. The participation of the German Language Club represents an over twenty-year relationship between the two groups. A small representation of 10 USMA cadets, 5 German exchange cadet/officers and 4 USMA officer staff will march at the front of the formation.