

Department of English and Philosophy

Past Events

1. Five cadets from the department's Cadet Fine Arts Forum's Native American Heritage Club, LTC Mark Smith, and MAJ John Hermesch attended the New York Native American Powwow on 24 September at Franklin Delano Roosevelt State Park. Dancers, drummers, singers, and food and craft vendors provided many cultural venues for the cadets to observe. Cadets witnessed Native American dancing, drumming, and singing and enjoyed Native American foods and traditional crafts. They also distributed fliers to advertise the West Point "Keepers of the Peace" Powwow, to be held at Trophy Point on 6 May 2012. The cadets gained a greater appreciation for our cultural heritage while also conducting outreach to the local Native American community to create awareness of West Point and the Army.



West Point cadets celebrate indigenous cultures at the New York Native American Powwow at Franklin Delano Roosevelt State Park.

2. On 30 September, the department recognized the services of Associate Professors Tony McGowan and Richard Schoonhoven. Both received Civilian Service Recognition Certificates for having recently completed ten years of service as USMA faculty members.



Dr. Tony McGowan and Dr. Richard Schoonhoven receive Civilian Service Recognition Certificates for their ten years of service as USMA faculty members.

3. On 30 September, Dr. Michael Edwards gave a talk to the department titled "When the Language of Global Capitalism is Not Its Own: English-Only and World-English Instruction in Afghanistan." The talk was based on Dr. Edwards's experience during his recent deployment to the National Military Academy of Afghanistan (NMAA) from January until June of 2011. Presented as an academic paper, his talk not only served to inform the faculty of progress at NMAA and to provide cultural insights on Afghanistan, but also provided junior faculty an example of a well-polished, professional presentation of the kind expected at an academic conference.



Michael Edwards presents his impressions of his recent deployment to the National Military Academy of Afghanistan.

4. On 2 October, Dr Terri Sabatos accompanied four cadets (Patrick Benevento, Elizabeth Schmitt, Anderson Kim, and Lisa Warner) from her art history course (EP361: Western Art I, Ancient to Medieval) to New York City to visit the Cloisters Museum in Fort Tryon Park and to attend the 27th annual Medieval Festival.

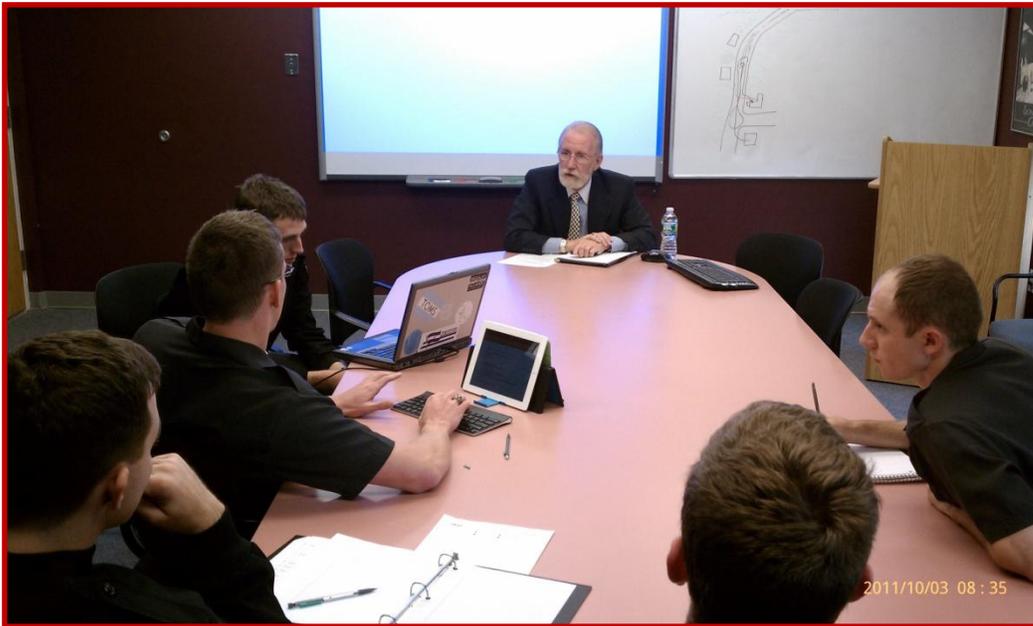


Cadet Patrick Benevento contemplates two reliquary busts at the Cloisters Museum.



West Point cadets with several of the Medieval knights, Friar Tuck, and a fair maiden at the Medieval Festival.

5. On 3 October, Mr. Robert Mahoney guest-lectured in LTC Imiola's section of our multidisciplinary senior seminar (EP433), which is built around the archetype of "The Investigator." Mr. Mahoney served as an agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation for twenty-five years. He has also served as a legal attaché on terrorism with the U.S embassy in London, a Director of Security Operations for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and on the Master Planning Security Staff for the new World Trade Center. Mr. Mahoney led cadets in an investigative exercise that followed a kidnapping case for which he served as the lead case agent. After being presented the basic facts of the case, cadets used their investigative skills to develop theories about the case and then to pursue those theories in an attempt to solve the crime. Mr. Mahoney played the role of a number of different people involved in the case and provided cadets with the information available to the actual investigators at the time. He stressed the point that theories evolve based on answers and the process of elimination. The class ended with a discussion of how an investigative method call "Link Analysis" is currently used in Afghanistan to identify insurgents and others involved in IED attacks.



Mr. Robert Mahoney, former FBI Agent, answers EP433 cadets' questions about methods of criminal investigation.

Future Event

On 7-8 October, Lieutenant Colonel Justin Gage will attend an interdisciplinary colloquium of sixteen scholars in Portland, Maine. Sponsored by the Liberty Fund, the colloquium—titled "Freedom, Empire, and Conflict in Two Greek Wars"—will discuss the cultural constructions of liberty, tyranny, and war in the histories of Herodotus and Thucydides.