

Dean's Weekly

Department of English and Philosophy

09 May 2012

Past Events

1. On 19 April, fifteen Art, Philosophy and Literature and Social Sciences majors participated in a one-day visit to Vassar College as part of the Mellon Civilian-Military Initiative sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The initiative's purpose is to encourage collaboration between service academies and other institutions of higher education. The day's events included lunch with Vassar students and faculty, campus tours, class visits, and attendance at a reading by Benjamin Busch, a Vassar graduate and United States Marine Corps veteran of Iraq who has just published a book of memoirs entitled *Dust to Dust*. Also participating in the visit were Department of English and Philosophy Deputy Head COL Scott Krawczyk, LTC Peter Molin, also of the Department of English and Philosophy, and COL Suzanne Nielsen, Department of Social Sciences. The representatives from USMA were joined by COL Kathleen Harrington, the Head of the Department of English at the United States Air Force Academy, and LTC Martha Fontain, formerly of the Department of Physics and Nuclear Engineering at West Point and now stationed at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. The military faculty participated in a roundtable discussion with Vassar faculty and met separately with Vassar President Dr. Catherine Bond Hill and Vassar's Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Jon Chenette.

Subjects discussed during the day included Vassar's outreach to veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, historical ties connecting Vassar with the United States Military Academy, and future opportunities for collaboration.



COLs Suzanne Nielsen and Scott Krawczyk and LTC Peter Molin with author Benjamin Busch.



*APL major CDT Charlie Gerber has his copy of *Dust to Dust* signed by author Benjamin Busch.*

2. On 26 and 27 April, Professor Richard Schoonhoven attended the annual McCain Conference on military ethics and character development at the United States Naval Academy. This year's conference topic was "Warfare in a New Domain: The Ethics of Military Cyber Operations." Speakers included: Richard Clarke, former Special Advisor to the President for Cyber Security; Eric Rosenbach, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Cyber Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense; Sean Kanuck, National Intelligence Officer for Cyber Issues, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; and VADM Michael S. Rogers, Commander, Fleet Cyber Command, US Navy.

3. On 3 May, the Department of English and Philosophy hosted the opening exhibition and ceremony of the Creative Arts Project on Projects Day in Cullum Hall's Pershing Room. The purpose of the Creative Arts Project is to connect West Point cadets and faculty with wounded warriors, veterans, and the civilian community in the collaborative pursuit of artistic creativity. It builds on USMA's longstanding commitment to provide cadets resources and opportunities to pursue their interests and talents in the arts. Through this initiative, the Department seeks to develop in cadets understanding of the creative energies that infuse the profession of arms and ability to comprehend ambiguity and differing perspectives. The exhibition featured artwork by sculptor Ken Hruby (USMA 61); painter and veteran Michael Figueroa; multi-media artist and veteran Erin Byers; and photographer-veterans Benjamin Busch, Bill Putnam, and MAJ Alan Brown. The exhibit also included artwork by current and former cadets. An exhibit on the History of Art at West Point was also on display. The ceremony featured remarks by Ken Hruby; a reading by poet and veteran Paul Wasserman; music by SPC Zac Short; and performances by cadets Kelley Duke, Lamar Hawkins, and Alan Boesen.



Cadet Lamar Hawkins performs a soliloquy from Shakespeare



Students from the West Point Middle School observe paintings by Army veteran Michael Figueroa.



SPC Zac Short and CDT Kelley Duke performed a duet of James Taylor's "Carolina on My Mind."



Creative Arts Projects guest artists—SPC Zac Short, Ken Hruby, Paul Wasserman, Michael Figueroa, and Erin Byers--and COL Scott Krawczyk at the end of the opening ceremony.