

Dean's Weekly
1 December 2010
English and Philosophy

Past Events

1. Led by Dr. Richard Schoonhoven and COL Scott Krawczyk, cadets in EP333 (Cultural Studies), who have been studying the art, philosophy, and literature of Ancient Greece, traveled to New York City on 23 November to tour the Metropolitan Museum of Art, visit the New York Public Library (including its Mid-Manhattan branch), and attend a production of Aeschylus's *Oresteia* at the Kirk Theater. Cadets received a guided tour of the Metropolitan's Greek and Roman galleries before heading south to the Mid-Manhattan Library, where they received an orientation on the most extensive picture collection in New York, including hundreds of pictures of life at West Point from the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries. Later, in the main building of the New York Public Library, cadets individually toured its exhibitions, including one on religious history: "Three Faiths: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam." Finally, after dinner at a Greek restaurant, the cadets enjoyed a performance of Aeschylus's famous trilogy and were invited onstage to meet the director and cast members, all of whom are from Greece or Cyprus. Pictured below are cadets at the Metropolitan Museum, in front of the New York Public Library, and in the Mid-Manhattan Library. Additionally pictured is COL Krawczyk talking with the play's director, Leonidas Loizides, and Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in America. Video of the cadets onstage with cast and crew, including comments by COL Krawczyk and Dr. Schoonhoven, is available here:
<http://www.thenationalherald.com/video/1595>





2. On Tuesday, 23 November, Professor Laura Vidler, from the Department of Foreign Languages, inspired the cadets in LTC Michael Stoneham's World Literature class to consider anew the significance of Gabriel García Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, the novel that some scholars term the true American epic. Providing a lecture that suggested the degree to which García Márquez's enigmatic narrative reflects the historical struggles of Latin American countries like Colombia, Dr. Vidler helped cadets understand how many of the scenes within the Nobel Prize-winning novel actually owe their genesis to the revolutionary struggles in both nineteenth-century Spain and nineteenth-century Colombia. Dr. Vidler is the second professor from DFL to guest lecture in EP351; three weeks ago, Dr. Larry Mansour helped students appreciate the tensions in Leo Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*, capitalizing on his expertise in both Russian history and literature.



3. On 27 November, Dr. Marc Napolitano delivered a dramatic reading of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* at the Class of 1949 Lodge for family and friends of the Department of English and Philosophy. Dr. Napolitano's performance, lasting approximately 45 minutes, was almost entirely from memory. Prior to that he read the Disney version for the children in attendance—though a number of those children were even more enthralled by the remarkable rendition of the original text.



Future Event(s)

Dr. Melissa Bergeron and MAJ Debbie Mann will coach two teams of five cadets each in the Rocky Mountain Regional Ethics Bowl at the University of Colorado at Boulder. The competition will take place 3-4 December. Top-scoring teams will compete in the national competition on 3 March 2011 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic is funding their travel expenses.