

## Dean's Weekly 1 October 2010

### English and Philosophy

#### Past Event:

1. On 18 September, MAJ Resch and the Film Forum took a short trip to the Downing Film Center in Newburgh to see the movie *Get Low* starring Robert Duvall. The Downing Film Center is a non-profit corporation with the mission of showing worldwide quality films while providing other important cinematic programming for members of the community. The center often hosts special events, including Q&A sessions with local film critics.
2. Caroline Alexander delivered a lecture on "Exploration and Crisis" to an audience of cadets and faculty from various departments in the Haig Room last Thursday, 23 September. Using the British figures R. F. Scott, Ernest Shackleton, and William Bligh as examples, Alexander explored the roles of charisma, competence, and discipline in leadership. She also asked the audience to think about what leaders retain and what they surrender in times of crisis. Alexander is the bestselling author of numerous books including *The Bounty: The True Story of the Mutiny on the Bounty*, *Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition*, and *The War that Killed Achilles*. Her essays have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *National Geographic*, *Granta*, and elsewhere. A recent article on traumatic brain injury in Iraq appears in this month's issue of *Smithsonian*: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/The-Shock-of-War.html> <<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/The-Shock-of-War.html>>.



Caroline Alexander in conversation with CDT Grant Matthews



Caroline Alexander talks with CDT Taylor Castelli

3. On 29 September, MAJ Chris Case and MAJ Bob Underwood participated in the Training and Doctrine Command Senior Leader Conference in Kansas City, MO. They served as representatives of the Center for the Army Profession and Ethic (CAPE) to conference breakout group sessions on the “Army Profession.” MAJs Case and Underwood are philosophy instructors in the Department of English and Philosophy and, as Research Fellows with CAPE, have co-authored a section of the Army Chief of Staff White Paper “The Army Profession of Arms, Its Culture, and Ethic.” This White Paper served as a topic of discussion for the conference breakout groups.

### **Future Events**

1. The Virginia Military Institute has invited LTC Brian Imiola to participate in the Virginia Military Institute’s inaugural leadership conference 4-5 October. This year’s conference is titled “Answering the Nation’s Call for Character.” LTC Imiola will give a presentation on “Dissent, Disobedience, and Duty” and then, along with LTG (R) Newbold, serve as the round-table discussion leader for the topic of “The Role and Place of Dissent in Leadership.” This is one of the six special topic sessions for the conference. More information on the conference can be found at: [www.vmi.edu/cle](http://www.vmi.edu/cle).
2. MAJ Case and MAJ Underwood will travel to England to participate in the Oxford War Group Conference from 4-11 October. Their participation in this conference is part of the department’s ongoing relationship with and support to the Center for the Army Profession and Ethic (CAPE). While at the conference, they will brief their work on a section of the CSA’s White Paper on the Army Profession and present an original paper of their own.