

**Dean's Weekly**  
**16 February 2011**  
**English and Philosophy**

**Past Events**

1. EN102, the Department of English and Philosophy's plebe literature Course—in collaboration with the USMA Library's Special Collections and Archives Division and with the Departments of Geography and Environmental Engineering, History, Mathematical Sciences, and Social Sciences—sponsored an interactive rare book exhibit on 15 and 16 February in Jefferson Hall. Featuring an exciting selection of West Point's holdings, the exhibit enabled various faculty members to introduce cadets to foundational books and artifacts in their respective disciplines. The event, conceived and curated by the course XO, MAJ Damon Durall, and the library's Ms. Suzanne Christoff and her staff, supported the course's focus on the pursuit of knowledge by fostering an awareness of West Point's archival resources, an appreciation of the written word, and an understanding that college is not the end but the beginning of a project of lifelong learning. In addition to the exhibit, cadets screened a documentary film, produced by MAJ Durall, that chronicles the history of writing and the ways in which ideas and technology interact to produce knowledge.

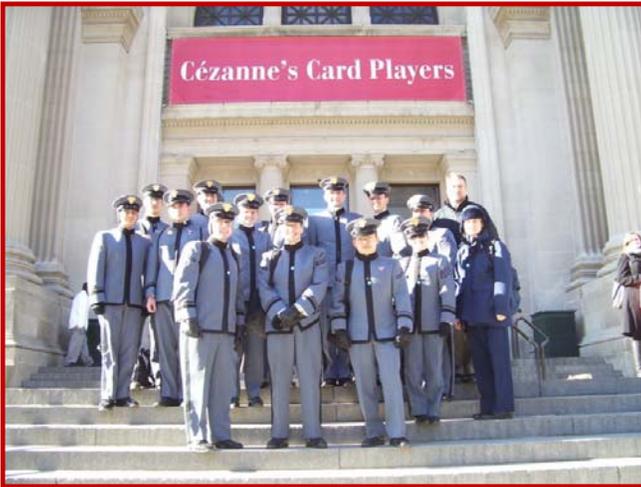


*Reference Librarian Edward Dacey explains to cadets how a sixteenth-century liturgical text was constructed using specially prepared animal skins (vellum) and then filled with elaborately decorated, hand written text by scribes, rubricators, and illuminators.*



*Dr. Tony McGowan, Associate Professor of English, talks to cadets about Edgar Allan Poe's military career and literary works. On display were rare illustrated volumes of the tales and poems, as well as the Academy record of Cadet Poe's court martial. The record dispels myths—like the story that Poe appeared naked at parade. Also on display was the letter former Cadet Poe wrote to Sylvanus Thayer requesting an introduction to the Marquis de Lafayette.*

2. On 10 February, Dr. Tony McGowan and students from EP360 (Eastern Art) traveled to New York City to visit the Asian Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. They concluded their day with dinner at a sushi restaurant.



### **Future Event**

LTC Chris Mayer will attend the 2011 Assessment in the Humanities Symposium 23-24 February at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. The symposium will explore the theoretical and practical questions associated with assessing humanities programs. Additional information on the conference can be found at the following website: <http://www.units.muohio.edu/aihc/>.