

Dean's Weekly
23 March 2011
English and Philosophy

Past Events

1. On 7 March, Dr. McGowan's EP360 (Eastern Art) class met in the Cadet Fine Arts Forum Studio to practice calligraphy with DFL Professor Martha Gallagher.



CDTs Daniel Lehman and Dana Stepleton flank their teacher.



Dr. McGowan and CDTs Manta, Lowe, and Lee watch Dr. Gallagher write the character for "tree."

2. On 8 and 9 March, the fourth-class cadets enrolled in the Department of English and Philosophy's core literature course, EN102, visited an exhibit designed expressly for them in the Haig Room of Jefferson Hall. This exhibit, "The Literary Biography of Ulysses S. Grant," showcased material from the library's Special Collection and Archives Division as well as artifacts from the West Point Museum. Designed by the EN102 Executive Officer, MAJ Damon Durall, this exhibit was also enriched by the participation of faculty members from the Department of History. The various displays provided insight into Grant's cadet days, his experience in the Mexican and Civil Wars, his postwar military service and presidency, and finally his death and legacy. The cadets saw everything from a watercolor Grant painted as a cadet to the field glasses he used at the Battle of the Wilderness. Most important, they were introduced to Grant's *Personal Memoirs*: a book finished in the closing months of Grant's life, while he was trying to rescue his family from bankruptcy and also suffering from the inoperable cancer that would kill him in the summer of 1885, mere weeks after he completed the book. A masterpiece of style and a deeply insightful account of the Civil War, the book remains his most important legacy. Cadets will use what they learned at this exhibit as they prepare their own "literary autobiographies" later this semester.



USMA Library Manuscripts Curator Ms. Susan Lintelmann displays and explains nineteenth-century academy records regarding Ulysses S. Grant's cadet years.

3. On 9 March, LTC John Nelson visited the Department of Social Sciences and served as a guest lecturer in MAJ Shawnette Rochelle's class in SS384 (Politics and Government in Latin America). He spoke about the intersection of history, culture, and politics in contemporary Cuba—the “cultural destination” of this year’s EN302 (Advanced Composition), the core course directed by LTC Nelson.
4. MAJ Crystal Hills escorted six cadets (Michael Neimic '11, Grant Ward '12, Daniel Lehman '13, Derrick Hall '14, Christopher Farao '14, and Calla Galvin '14) from the Elsie Sannes-Pinnell Art Appreciation Forum to Madrid, Spain (12-20 March) to enhance their level of cultural and artistic understanding. The group's cultural development included attending a *novillada* (amateur bullfight) and exploring art in Spain's famous art museums (the Prado, Reina Sofia, and Thyssen-Bornemisza), where they viewed great works including Picasso's *Guernica*, Bosch's *Garden of Earthly Delights*, and Velazquez's *Las Meninas*. Cadets also experienced a historic range of architecture, from two-thousand-year-old Roman aqueducts and imposing Arab fortresses to towering Gothic cathedrals and ornate royal palaces. On day trips from Madrid, cadets visited Toledo, Segovia, and El Escorial.



5. LTC Pete Molin attended the State University of New York Council on Writing conference held at SUNY-Binghamton, 18-19 March. The theme of this year’s conference was “Building 21st Century Writing Programs: Literacy and Leadership in the New Millennium.”

Future Events

1. English faculty LTC Pete Molin, Dr. Margaret Downs-Gamble, and MAJ David Escobar will present papers at the 6th Annual Conference on the Teaching of Writing: Knowledge and Networks, sponsored by the Freshman English program at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, on Friday, 25 March. LTC Molin, Dr. Downs-Gamble, and MAJ Escobar will present as part of a panel titled “Swinging from the Chain-of-Command: Critical Reading and Academic Writing in West Point’s EN101.”
2. The African American Arts Forum will host its signature event, “Jazz and Poetry,” this Friday, 25 March, in the Haig Room. This event—open to cadets, faculty, and staff—allows poetry lovers to hear the verses come alive in spoken-word presentations.
3. During Dean's Hour on Monday, 28 March, Professor Aviva Chomsky will address the 560 cadets and faculty of EN302 (Advanced Composition). Professor Chomsky, a Professor of History and the Coordinator of Latin American, Latino and Caribbean Studies at Salem State University, will speak about the Cuban Revolution and its impact on contemporary Cuba. She is the author of several books on Latin America, including her recent work *The History of the Cuban Revolution*, published in 2011. The lecture will take place in Robinson Auditorium.
4. On 7-10 April, Professors Margaret Downs-Gamble, Tony McGowan, and Drew Moore will attend the Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) Conference at Rutgers University.