

Dean's Weekly
9 March 2011
English and Philosophy

Past Events

1. On 2-3 March 2011, Cadets in EN102 (Literature) had the opportunity to work with professional actors from the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival. More than a dozen actors conducted over thirty workshops to prepare cadets to memorize and perform a soliloquy from Shakespeare later this semester. Those performances will constitute the first round of a semester-long competition that will culminate on Projects Day with several finalists competing in the second annual "Academy Idol." The Shakespearean Workshop and Performance Gift Fund, which was established by the family of the late Major General Herbert G. Sparrow, provided funding for the workshops.



Cadets conduct a tableau exercise under the supervision of Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival performance artists Vicki Murdik and Neil Hellegers.

2. The Opera Forum conducted a weekend trip section to New York City. Cadets visited the Frick Collection, housed in the stately mansion of Henry Clay Frick. There they toured a special collection on Rembrandt and his contemporaries. The trip section culminated with a visit to the Metropolitan Opera House to watch Christoph Willibald Gluck's *Iphigenie en Tauride*, an operatic adaptation of Euripides' revisionist retelling of the tragedy of Agamemnon, in which the doomed Iphigenia is spared being sacrificed and is eventually reunited with her brother Orestes. Cadets had the privilege of seeing operatic legend Placido Domingo in the role of Orestes.

3. On 7 March, former Army Captain Matt Gallagher visited the Creative Writing Forum and spoke to cadets about his book *Kaboom*, which details his experiences in Iraq during the surge. He introduced *Kaboom* by discussing the circumstances leading to the shutdown and deletion of his blog that received national attention through an article in the *Washington Post*. Mr. Gallagher spoke to cadets about the repercussions and challenges



Mr. Gallagher read from his book Kaboom and spoke to cadets about the repercussions and challenges of overcoming a professional misstep.

of overcoming a professional faux pas. Matt read excerpts from his book and answered questions from cadets about his experiences as a platoon leader.

Future Events

1. During the period 12-20 March 2011, Major Crystal Hills and seven cadets will visit Madrid to develop a greater artistic and cultural understanding of Spain. The group will visit Spain's famous art museums, consider the relationship between Spanish architecture and history, and take day trips to the cities of Toledo and Segovia. The Department of English and Philosophy's Elsie Sannes Pinnell Art Appreciation Forum is sponsoring the trip.
2. LTC Chris Mayer will attend a Teagle Assessment Scholar Development Workshop at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana during the period 10-12 March 2011. These workshops, which are part of the Teagle Assessment Scholar Development Program, provide opportunities for participants to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to implement effective assessment programs and processes. Information about the program can be found at <http://www.liberalarts.wabash.edu/assessment-scholars/>.