

Dean's Weekly

Department of English and Philosophy

8 February 2012

Past Events

1. During the period 24-27 January, MAJ Chris Case, MAJ Bob Underwood, Professor Melissa Bergeron, and Professor Richard Schoonhoven—all of the Philosophy faculty of the Department of English and Philosophy—as well as MAJ Ian Fishback, who will be joining the faculty this summer, participated in the International Symposium for Military Ethics (ISME) at the University of San Diego. ISME is the foremost military ethics conference in the world. MAJs Case and Underwood participated in a panel discussion with representatives of CAPE; Professor Bergeron and MAJ Fishback presented papers. Professor Schoonhoven was the program chair and organizer for the conference.
2. On 31 January 2012, the eighteen cadets of EP395 journeyed to Bard College, where they joined a similar number of Bard undergraduates for the first joint session on the nature of a just war. The cadets, who represent several academic majors and departments, were accompanied by COL Wallace from the Department of Law and LTC Imiola, MAJ Underwood and Professor Tully from the Department of English and Philosophy. The two-hour session was led by Professor Roger Berkowitz, Director of the Hannah Arendt Center at Bard, whose presentation emphasized the importance of distinguishing war as a moral phenomenon from whatever political and legal reasons are routinely offered to justify it. The next two joint sessions in this academic collaboration between West Point and Bard will be evening events in the Haig Room.
3. Six cadets of the Cadet Fine Arts Forum's Film Forum journeyed to Park City, UT for the annual Sundance Film Festival, the largest independent cinema festival in the United States. The festival is the premier showcase of new films from independent American and international filmmakers. The Film Forum's mission is to provide cadets an opportunity to view, critique, and discuss films from diverse genres to gain a better appreciation and understanding of the artistic nature of film and filmmaking. The group collectively watched over twenty films in three days.



West Pointers at the Sundance Film Festival 2012. Pictured (L-R): CDT Blake Neitzke '12, Diane Bracey '80, MAJ Jackie Escobar '02, The Invisible War Director Kirby Dick, Author Donna McAleer '87, MAJ David Escobar '01.

Future Event

On 15-16 February, cadets and faculty from EN302 (Advanced Composition) will visit a USMA Special Collections exhibit in the Haig Room of Jefferson Hall. This exhibit will contain archived letters, memoirs, and photographs from the Spanish-American War, including such items as Andrew Rowan's wartime account *How I Carried the Message to Garcia* (USMA 1881), personal correspondence from Theodore Roosevelt, and the journals of John "Gatling Gun" Parker (USMA 1892). This exhibit will allow the cadets to witness the myriad ways in which West Point graduates have characterized their combat experience as well as gain an appreciation for the longstanding tradition of wartime corresponding and journalizing. The exhibit will be open during B, C, D, E, I, J, and L hours.