

Dean's Weekly

Department of English and Philosophy

4 April 2012

Past Events

1. On 19 March, LTC Peter Molin was the featured speaker at the West Point Ladies Reading Club's 118th Birthday Luncheon. LTC Molin's subject was "Fact, Fiction, or Somewhere in Between?: Historical Fiction and the Old South." His talk complemented the club's reading of *Sally Hemings: A Novel*, by Barbara Chase-Ribaud, which vividly reimagines the story of Thomas Jefferson's relationship with his slave mistress.



LTC Peter Molin speaking to the West Point Ladies Reading Club



LTC Molin with Ms. Trudy Pojman, co-organizer of the event and widow of the distinguished former Professor of Philosophy at West Point, Dr. Louis Pojman.



LTC Molin at lunch with department spouses Ms. Trudy Pojman, Ms. Jennifer Saxon, and Ms. Laura Mayer.

2. On 29 March, author Inverna Lockpez and illustrator Dean Haspiel spoke about their collaboration on the graphic novel *Cuba: My Revolution* with cadets and faculty of EN302 (Advanced Composition). Their story is based on Inverna Lockpez's personal experience living through the Cuban Revolution and serving in the Cuban military during the Bay of Pigs invasion. As the course nears the end of its characteristic two-year "cultural destination" cycle, cadets are studying and writing about the culture of Cuba and currently focusing on the Cuban Revolution.

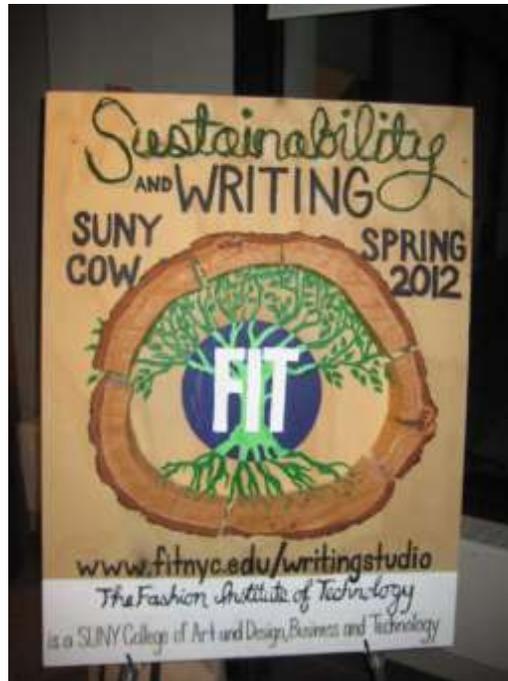


Inverna Lockpez and Dean Haspiel discuss their collaboration on the graphic novel Cuba: My Revolution



Inverna Lockpez and Dean Haspiel meet with cadets following their lecture

3. On 30 and 31 March, LTC Peter Molin, LTC Sean Cleveland, and Dr. Mary Newell presented papers at the State University of New York Council on Writing conference held at SUNY's Fashion Institute of Technology, New York City. Their papers were part of a panel titled "Sustaining EN101: English Composition at West Point"; the panel's title reflects the conference theme of Sustainability and Writing. LTCs Molin and Cleveland and Dr. Newell all explored aspects of EN101's participation in the Core Interdisciplinary Team's investigation of "energy" during Academic Year 2012-2013. LTC Molin's paper was titled "Energy 101: West Point's Core Interdisciplinary Energy Project." LTC Cleveland's paper was titled "Terrain as Text/Text as Terrain: Where Are You Right Now?" The title of Dr. Newell's paper was "Responding to a Volatile World: Teaching Adaptability and Accountability."



4. On 31 March, Dr. Marc Napolitano, whose scholarly specialty is the work of Charles Dickens, participated in the kickoff weekend of a seven-month series of events called “Dickens in Lowell” in Lowell, Massachusetts—all in commemoration of the Dickens Bicentennial, which is a matter of significant international interest. Dr. Napolitano, who complements his scholarly endeavors with performances of Dickens’s work, gave two dramatic presentations: one for children (using puppets), and the other for adults, in which he presented a speech written by Dickens during the author’s 1842 trip to Lowell. Dr. Napolitano also spoke at the Whistler House Museum, discussing the lives and careers of George Washington Whistler (a West Point graduate and distinguished Army engineer) and his son, the great artist James Abbott McNeill Whistler, who attended West Point but did not graduate.



Dr. Napolitano introduces a group of schoolchildren to Oliver Twist and Little Nell



Dr. Napolitano outside of the Whistler House Museum

5. On 31 March, the Cadet Fine Arts Forum's Jazz Forum attended "Generations in Vocal Jazz" at Dizzy's Club in Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City. The performance featured the vocals of Sachal Vasandani and 91-year-old Jon Hendricks; the latter is considered by many to be the greatest Jazz vocalist of the 20th century. This performance demonstrated to cadets the collaborative potential that exists among different and distant generations in jazz.



6. On 3 April, Professor Elizabeth Samet talked about her book *Soldier's Heart* at SUNY Adirondack in Queensbury, New York. Her talk was part of the university's Writers Project Spring Lecture Series. The event was cosponsored by the Military Club of SUNY Adirondack.