

Dean's Weekly

Department of English and Philosophy

25 April 2012

Past Events

1. On 11 April, Dr. Tony McGowan and students in EP348: American Literature II traveled to the Barrymore Theater in New York City to watch the revival of *Death of a Salesman*, the 1949 Arthur Miller play starring Phillip Seymour Hoffman.
2. On Friday, 13 April, the Department of English and Philosophy and the Cadet Fine Arts Forum hosted Night of the Arts 2012, the forum's culminating event for the year. With approximately 60 cadets, 20 faculty members, and 20 members of the larger West Point community attending, Dr. Vivian Shipley, Connecticut State University Distinguished Professor and editor of the *Connecticut Review*, opened the evening with remarks about her life as a poet and professor. COL James R. Kerin, Jr., then presented awards to 18 cadets in six categories: Poetry, Prose, Studio Art, Photography, Film, and Spoken Word. The audience was also treated to the musical talents of two cadet singers. Cadet Kelley Duke sang the Italian aria "Caro Mio Ben" accompanied on piano by Cadet Alyssa Sohn, and Cadet Daniel Trainor sang "Why God Why," a song from *Miss Saigon*, accompanied by Cadet Elliot Hughes.



Cadet Daniel Trainor sings "Why God Why" accompanied by Cadet Elliot Hughes.



Cadet Kelley Duke sings "Caro Mio Ben" accompanied by Cadet Alyssa Sohn.



Dr. Vivian Shipley presenting remarks on her life as a poet.

3. On 14 April 2012, Dr. Marc Napolitano and MAJ Alexandre Weis led the Opera Forum on a trip section to Broadway to experience the stage musical *Mamma Mia!* and better understand its status as a cultural artifact. The trip introduced cadets to the conventions of the "juke-box" musical: a show featuring pop songs written earlier but then systematically composed together to create a narrative. Cadets also learned that while the conventions of this type of musical diverge from traditional musical theatre and classical opera, all three media use music in similar ways to tell stories and celebrate emotions.

4. From 19-21 April 2012, scholars from around the world gathered at Jefferson Hall and the Hotel Thayer for the Department of English and Philosophy's academic conference "Faulkner & West Point at 50: The Writer in Public." The gathering, which took place 50 years to the day after William Faulkner's historic visit to the United States Military Academy, featured papers by noted scholars such as Thadious Davis, Richard Godden, Peter Lurie, and John Matthews, as well as by department alumnus Robert Moore. Also in attendance were scholars from Canada, Korea, Sweden and—via video teleconference—Germany. Cadets, faculty, and scholars discussed Faulkner's public and private personas, cinematic portrays of his texts, and the Academy's role in producing the Faulkner Concordance, among other topics. Featured below is an image from Thadious Davis' plenary address, "The Other Faulkner: Public Spheres and Celebrity Status."



5. COL John Nelson co-authored an interdisciplinary paper entitled "Confronting Automated Law Enforcement." Collaborating with Professor Woodrow Hartzog of Samford University and COL Lisa Shay, COL Greg Conti, and MAJ Dominic Larkin of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, COL Nelson authored the section of the paper on the social cost of automated law enforcement. The paper was presented on 21 April at "We Robot," a "conference on legal and policy issues relating to robotics" sponsored by the University of Miami School of Law.

6. On 23 April, author Dr. Zoë Brân spoke to the cadets and faculty of EN302: Advanced Composition. She traveled throughout Cuba from 2000-2001 and wrote about her experiences in negotiating an unfamiliar culture in her book *Enduring Cuba*. Dr. Brân's presentation allowed cadets to better understand the contemporary challenges and opportunities of Cuba as they continue to hone their own abilities to confront and comprehend unfamiliar cultures. Through reading and writing about the island nation, cadets have been able to consider the implications of globalization and historical change on one of the world's last socialist countries.

