

Department of English and Philosophy

Past Events

1. On 15 October, MAJ Dave Escobar escorted ten cadets from the Cadet Fine Arts Forum's Film Forum to New York City to watch *Policeman: Ha-Shoter* as part of the New York Film Festival, held at the Lincoln Center. This celebrated Israeli film portrays the contrasting perspectives of a machismo Israeli anti-terrorist police unit and an ad-hoc group of Israeli bourgeois anarchists.
2. From 16-19 October, the department supported the Simon Center and the Class of 1970's National Conference on Ethics in America. LTC Brian Imiola and LTC Jeffrey Wilson, along with Mr. Gus Lee, led the training and preparation for the twenty-five mentors who served as the small-group leaders for the 190 students attending the conference. LTC Imiola's discussion focused on the various approaches to ethical decision-making and character development while LTC Wilson focused on tips and techniques for leading small-group discussions on ethics. LTC Imiola, LTC Wilson, and MAJ Chris Case also served as small-group mentors for the conference.



LTC Wilson with one of the three National Conference on Ethics in America student groups that Department of English and Philosophy faculty members facilitated. The department also provided training and assistance for the conference mentors who led student groups.

3. Dr. Tony McGowan participated in the planning and execution of West Point's 12th annual Diversity Leadership Conference, which was held from 19 to 21 October. Dr. McGowan chaired the Culture Track panel, which included Cadets Heather Newstrom, Brian Tsien, and Hanson Causbie; Chaplain (MAJ) Paul Berghaus; and distinguished diversity experts COL Gregory Gadson (Director of the U.S. Wounded Warrior Project), Mr. Jason Torpy (President of the Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers), Dr. Nathaniel Frank (author of *Unfriendly Fire* and internationally acclaimed expert on gays in the military), and Chaplain (CPT) (R) Lyman Smith.



4. On 21 October, Dr. Patrick Query delivered a guest presentation on the art of bullfighting to students in Professor Elizabeth Goldberg's course LS483, Spanish Civilization and Culture. Dr. Query has been a bullfighting aficionado for several years and writes and speaks frequently on the subject. His talk to LS483 students focused on the sequence of events in a bullfight, the values and ideals implicit in the art of bullfighting, and the cultural and political controversies surrounding the sport.



5. During the period October 21-22, Dr. Marc Napolitano attended the Victorian Institute Conference "Charles Dickens: Past, Present, and Future" at Coastal Carolina University, SC. Dr. Napolitano presented a paper titled "Dickensian Dialectics: Combining Dickensian Narrative with Brechtian Epic Theatre in the Royal Shakespeare Company's Nicholas Nickleby" during a panel on stage and film adaptations of Dickensian novels.

6. On 22 October 2011, three cadets from the Hudson Valley Culture Forum participated in the Moodna Creek Autumn Hike at the Storm King Art Center, a guided event led by educator Ron Romary. Mr. Romary provided commentary on the artistic elements of the works of art and the considerations for placement of specific sculptures to maximize the effectiveness of their visual impact. The trip section related the cultural aspect of art in relation to nature, and presented the cadets with broader perspectives in how to assess and apply more abstract theories to terrain.



Cadets Benjamin Clemente (2013), Alexander Teynor (2015), and Keenan Dillard (2013) interact with an exhibit at the Storm King Art Center; and then with educator Ron Romary at the Walking Wall at the conclusion of the Autumn Hike.

7. From 21 to 23 October, MAJ Bob Underwood, MAJ Chris Case, and Dr. Elizabeth Samet attended the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces & Society (IUS) Biennial International Conference in Chicago, IL. The three faculty members participated in a panel on the subject "War and Tragedy in the 21st Century."

8. Also during the period 21-23 October, MAJ Alex Weis participated in the International Conference on Ancient and Medieval Philosophy sponsored by Fordham University's Lincoln Center campus in New York City. MAJ Weis presented a paper titled "The Incomprehensibility of God in Calvin & Aquinas's Interpretation of the Divine *Quid Est*."



9. On 24 October, SSG Mark Tonelli and members of the USMA Band's jazz combo played for cadets in EP391, Poetry—taught by Dr. Elizabeth Samet and Dr. Marc Napolitano. The band members gave an interactive performance that illustrated the relationship of jazz and poetry.

10. On 24 October, LTC Chris Mayer served as a member of the West Point team that visited the Army War College to meet with former battalion commanders. During the visit, LTC Mayer co-facilitated a focus group charged with obtaining reports on the performance of West Point graduates on active duty in relation to the outcomes of the West Point Leader Development System (WPLDS).