

Department of English and Philosophy

Past Events

1. MAJ Maurice Wilson, an instructor in the Department of English and Philosophy, led a Department of Social Sciences-sponsored AIAD to China from 28 May to 18 June. The group of 11 cadets, including 7 USMA and 4 ROTC participants, immersed themselves in Chinese culture and consequently learned a great deal about a country that is of strategic importance to the United States. Cadets worked in a variety of placement assignments geared toward the skills of each individual. Most spent their mornings working at a local kindergarten while others worked afternoons at local universities. MAJ Wilson himself worked at one of the country's two national-history museums. At each of the placements, the participants' primary duty was to assist students, teachers, and tour guides with their English pronunciation in conversational and formal speech. When the participants were not working, they undertook various cultural activities including Mandarin, paper-cutting, and traditional musical instrument lessons; calligraphy and Tai Chi classes; and tours to various cultural destinations. Based in Xi'an in Shaanxi Province, the country's original capital city, the students sampled the local cuisine, studied local history, tackled the language barrier, and observed Chinese culture. The cadets also visited the Terra Cotta Warrior museum; biked the City Wall; and visited temples, shops and pagodas.



During their free time, the cadets traveled to Beijing and Guilin City to tour some of the country's greatest treasures. While in Beijing, they visited the Great Wall, the Ming Tombs, the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, the Temple of Heaven, and Olympic Village. In Guilin, they toured Shangri La River, Dragon River, the renowned 7 Bridges River, and a locally famous cave complex. They also attended an acrobatic ballet show.



During the 21-day visit, the cadets wrote about their experiences with the Chinese people and offered their insights on Chinese culture. The focus was to analyze how their experiences might impact their future as Army officers and to better understand how to work with those of another culture.

2. LTC Chris Mayer was selected to participate in the Teagle Assessment Scholar Development Program. The three-year program is funded by the Teagle Foundation and led by staff from Wabash College's Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts, located in Crawfordsville, Indiana. As a Teagle Assessment Scholar, LTC Mayer will attend numerous workshops hosted by the Center of Inquiry and other institutions. He will also design and implement a three-year project that uses evidence from the assessment process to improve student learning at West Point. Further information about the program can be found at the following site: <http://www.liberalarts.wabash.edu/scholar-development-program/>.