

## DFL Weekly SITREP (16 FEB 11)

### Current Week **HIGHLIGHTS:**

1. Hosting visitors: From 6-9 February, DFL's Chinese section hosted Major General (retired) Loeffke, his longtime Chinese friend Mr. LIU, Director of China State Construction & Engineering Corporation, and Mr. John Mumford, CEO - America Future Watch Foundation and Managing Director - The Washington Group. The purpose of the group's official visit was to speak to cadets about Beijing's modern engineering construction programs and perceptions from Major General Loeffke's recent trip throughout China. The group conducted briefs and question and answer exchanges with cadets from Civil and Mechanical Engineering and DFL's capstone course.



**Major Chen pauses during International Cadet Night to take a photo with Mr. LIU, Mr. LIU's daughter, and Cadet O'Hearn; in the photo from left to right are: Melissa LIU, Major Richard Chen, Mr. LIU, Lixin, and Cadet Briana O'Hearn)**

2. Faculty News: Professor Steven Verolla of DFL's French section devised a curriculum for two French-Spanish double language majors to pursue while on Semester Abroad in Mexico in cooperation with fellow instructors in the Spanish section. Professor Verolla's plan will enable the cadets to continue pursuit of their double language major while on semester abroad making innovative use of the new introductory French textbook and its outstanding CENTRO electronic workbook. His plan is to ensure that the cadets not only receive full USMA credit for their work in French while in Mexico, but also so that cadets can move on to their intermediate French courses without falling behind.

### 3. Upcoming Key Events:

- a. On 18 February, the French Club will depart for the annual Quebec City (Canada) winter carnival. Major Jeff Van Sickle will escort a group of 16 cadets to Quebec City to experience authentic French language and cultural immersion. The trip, which includes visits to the old colonial city and an authentic dinner, affords the cadets an excellent opportunity to reinforce and apply their language and cultural knowledge (from the classroom) in real-life contexts.
- b. From 22-25 February, DFL will host the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Saldívar/Ackerlin Mentorship Colloquium. The Saldívar/Ackerlin mentorship colloquium was instituted in 2004 to provide a forum for new scholarship in the Department of Foreign Languages. The colloquium pairs new scholars with more experienced researchers in the Department as an integral part of DFL's robust Faculty Development program. The success of the Colloquium has been demonstrated by the many rotating faculty members who have taken their papers on to national and international symposia.
- c. The DFL sponsored Model Arab League team will travel to Miami (Ohio) University from 24-26 February to participate in the Midwestern Regional Model Arab League Competition. This competition, which takes place during 100th Night Weekend, will prepare our underclassmen for the National Model League that will take place in Washington, DC, in April. The team is coming off of a strong Northeastern Regional competition where it garnered an "outstanding delegation" recognition. Sponsored by the National Council for US-Arab Relations, the Model Arab League provides a forum for students to learn about the politics and history of the Arab world along with the arts of diplomacy and public speech. The delegation will debate current, pressing issues of the Arab world with students from all over the United States.