

DFL Weekly SITREP (25 January 12)

Completed Events

Language Immersion events:

Semester Abroad Program (SAP) – The Russian section launched its 12-2 semester abroad to Voronezh, Russia and Kiev, Ukraine. Cadets Matthew Pierce, Nicholas Burton, and Timothy Stein will study at Voronezh State University in Russia and Cadets Richard Hansen and Steven Perry will study at the NovaMova Language Institute in Ukraine. All are members of the class of 2013.

The Portuguese section launched its 12-2 semester abroad to Brazil and Portugal. Cadets Jordan Ewonus, Patrick Finnegan, and Cody Waterman are currently at the Pontifical Catholic University in Sao Paulo. Cadets Christopher Miller and Kevin O'rear are departing on 30 January to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where they will be studying at the Military Engineering Institute. Cadets Daniel Dougherty, Naomi Fuhrman, Brian Jacobs, Scostia Peterson, and Tyler Woodhouse are departing on 4 February for Coimbra University in Portugal.

Faculty Visit abroad – From 15 – 19 January, MAJ Jordan Francis conducted a site visit to the Austrian Military Academy. The trip included oversight of 4 cadets who participated in the Viennese Officer's Ball at the invitation of the Austrian Ministry of Defense. Semester Abroad alumni, firsties Christian Bellavia, Seth Johnson, Jordan Sorrenti, and Lauren Ulmer participated in the opening ceremonies held at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna, Austria. The cadets represented the United States Military, the Army, and West Point as the first American cadets to perform in the official opening of the Officer's Ball. These cadets were also the first foreign cadets to complete an exchange at the Theresian Military Academy prior to participating in the ball ceremonies. Cadets interacted with many important international honorees, to include the US Ambassador to Austria, the Honorable William C. Eacho, III.



In this photo: Cadets Christian Ballavia, Seth Johnson, Jordan Sorrenti, and Lauren Ulmer during the opening ceremonies of the Officer's Ball held at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna, Austria.

Faculty Participation in hosting visitors:

From 9 - 19 January 2012, 10 Peking University (PKU) ROTC students made a historic visit to West Point. For 10 days they lived the life of a USMA cadet, participating in the same activities and events as our cadets. This visit was spearheaded by Dr. Yuanman Liu, our visiting professor from Peking University, and CDT Jacky Kwan (C2), the CIC of the Chinese Language and Culture Club. In order to maximize each individual experience, every PKU student spent a day 1 and day 2 class day with three different cadets. Our USMA host cadets represented all four classes and a variety of interests. Over the MLK week-end, the PKU students visited Washington D.C. and New York City. This was each student's first visit to the United States.



In this photo: Chinese Section faculty, cadet hosts, and Peking University students and staff attend an "Ice Breaker" at Grant Hall.

Faculty Participation in Cultural events:

On Sunday, 22 January, John Pendergast, Assistant Professor of Russian, performed with the Russian Chamber Chorus of New York in "Tchaikovsky and His Contemporaries" under the direction of Nikolai Kachanov at St. Joseph's Church in Greenwich Village. The concert was a repeat of its earlier performance as part of Carnegie Hall's Neighborhood Concert Series when the Russian Chamber Chorus of NY performed to the Richmondtown Library on Staten Island. Listeners enjoyed tracing the roots of Tchaikovsky's music in those he influenced, including Rachmaninoff and Arensky.



In this photo: John Pendergast, Assistant Professor of Russian sings tenor as part of the Russian Chamber Chorus of New York.

On Monday January 23, DFL faculty and staff celebrated the Year of the Dragon. 春節(chunjie), The Chinese or Lunar New Year is considered the most important holiday in China and by Chinese throughout the world. It is a time to spend with families celebrating the beginning of a new year. The Spring Festival is a 15 day long holiday that is steeped in tradition and symbolism. It begins with the reunion dinner on New Year's Eve, 除夕(chuxi), and ends with the Lantern Festival on the 15th day. This year, the DFL Family celebrated together during a luncheon hosted by the Chinese and Russian Language Sections on New Year's Day, 23 January. The Chinese Section consisting of Dr. Martha Gallagher, Dr. Qun Ao, Dr. Hongyu Huang, Dr. Yuanman Liu, Ms Can Wang, and MAJ Matthew Radik provided the "entertainment" (music and slides), and the food from a local Chinese Restaurant. The desserts and other logistical support were provided by the Russian Language Section consisting of LTC Michael Nerstheimer, MAJ Michael Tobias, Dr. Larry Mansour, Dr. Olga Dobrunoff, and Mr. John Pendergast. It was a wonderful way to celebrate another new beginning.



In this photo: DFL Staff and Faculty enjoy a traditional Chinese meal in celebration of the New Year.

Future Events:

On Saturday, 28 January, the German Language Club will attend the annual Germanistic Society of America Quadrille Ball in New York City. Each year, cadets are invited to represent the long-standing relationship of USMA's German Language Club and the Germanistic societies of New

York and America. MAJ Willig will lead a team of 4 cadet leaders of the German Language Club.

On Tuesday, 31 January, the French and International Clubs, in coordination with the Tunisian Community Center, will host a dinner and program titled, "Salute to the Tunisian Revolution" at Eisenhower Hall. The formal segment will begin at 1800 with welcoming remarks and video/audience participation. The entertainment segment will begin at 1845 and continue to 2030 with dinner and cultural performances by Tunisian Folklore Ensemble and a Tunisian dance performance.

From 29 January to 2 February, six Taiwan Military Academy (ROCMA) cadets and one faculty member will visit West Point to learn more about our West Point Leader Development System. The ROCMA cadets will live with Chinese speaking cadets and will meet with representatives from the Department of Military Instruction and the Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic. They will discuss USMA's military program and honor system.

On Saturday, 4 February, MAJ Matthew Radik will take a group of cadets from the Chinese Language and Culture Club to experience the annual Flushing Chinese New Year Parade. Chinese New Year is the most important holiday to many Chinese Americans. Cadets will practice their language skills, watch the 5000 year old tradition of lion dancing and firecrackers, and immerse themselves in Chinese culture in New York City.