

DFL Weekly SITREP (6 APR 11)

Current Week **HIGHLIGHTS:**

1. Faculty News:

- a. On 2 April, Dr. Rajaa Chouairi, DFL's Arabic Language Program Director, presented at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL) in Baltimore, Maryland. He led a session entitled, "We Don't Teach Arabic Dialect, but a Spoken Variety," challenging the norm among curriculum formulators and teachers to call the spoken varieties of Arabic "dialects." This usage is misleading, giving the impression that a "street" vernacular language void of literary implications is being taught.
- b. On 2 April, COL Rickie McPeak took over as Chief of the civil-military joint (Air Force, Army, and Navy), and combined National Military Academy of Afghanistan (NMAA) Advisor Team.



COL Rickie McPeak and the combined National Military Academy of Afghanistan (NMAA) Advisor Team. (not pictured: our 14 coalition colleagues, NCOs and officers from Turkey)

2. Cadet Events and Academic Trips:

- a. From 1-3 April, Major Richard Chen led the Chinese language and culture club on its trip to Washington DC as part of the Department of Foreign Languages clubs' annual trip where they received briefings at the Pentagon and the Department of State. The cadets also visited Chinatown, the National Mall, and Arlington National Cemetery.



Chinese language and culture club cadets pause after their briefing for a photo at the Department of State during the Department of Foreign Languages' sponsored club trip to Washington DC from 1-3 April. In the photo from left to right are: Cadets Mark Courey, Jay Trexler, Andrew Wei, John Lee, and Jacky Kwan.

- b. From 1-3 April, DFL's National Council for US-Arab Relations Model Arab League team competed in the annual National competition at Georgetown University, Washington, DC. The 13 cadet squad, under the leadership of Cadet Catie Beal '11 and faculty advisor LTC Mike Trotter, took home "Honorable Mention Distinction" in the Palestinian Affairs (CDTs Katy Tartala '11/Ryan Schubert '11), Political Affairs (CDTs Danny Moriarty '13/Seth Harbol '14), and the Environmental Affairs (CDTs Mike Niemiec '11/Andy Oswald '14) councils. Our cadets displayed great skill in the art of diplomacy and displayed a keen sense of the current unrest facing many regimes in the Middle East today.
- c. On 30 March, DFL's LTC Mark Gagnon, presented a lecture on German Foreign Films at Cornwall Public Library's Foreign Film Evening. Cadets from LTC Gagnon's 20th and 21st Century Germany course and residents of Cornwall learned about the impact of German films on the international film industry in the last century. The cadets also enjoyed a private tour of Costume Armor Inc. and Bill Diamond Productions in Cornwall, NY.



Cadets and Cornwall Public Library Foreign Film Evening participants enjoy LTC Gagnon's presentation on the German film "North Face" prior to viewing the featured movie for the library's Foreign Film Night.



Mr. Warren Miller from Cornwall's Costume Armor Inc. explains how he creates the West Point class crest molds for Crest Hall in Eisenhower Hall every year.

- d. On 2 April, three cadets participated in the 2nd "Chinese Bridge" Eastern America Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students at the New York Service Center for Chinese Study Fellows in New York City (also known as the 10th Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College

Students). The competition provided a well-established stage for American college students to show their talent in Chinese language and Chinese culture.

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漢語橋 紐約初賽 高手雲集

參賽者程度遠勝往屆 展示才藝豐富多元 優勝者將前往中國參加總決賽



記者黃靖雯

紐約報導
第二屆「漢語橋」美東地區大學生中文比賽暨第十屆「漢語橋」世界大學生中文比賽大紐約區預賽2日在紐約大學登場，共有38名學生分為初級組和高級組參加比賽，參賽者的中文水平優秀，令主辦單位驚喜不已，積分排名在前30%的參賽者入圍決賽，決賽將於23日在紐約佩斯大學舉行，優勝者將前往中國參加總決賽。

在紐約大學的比賽中，參賽選手分別自編題目演講並展示了中華文化藝術技能。紐約中國留學服務中心副總裁孔令凱表示，今年參賽選手高手雲集，中文水平非常優秀。紐約漢語考試中心項目經理陳亮指出，除選手的中文水平大幅提高之外，參賽者在才藝表演的部分以演唱流行歌曲取代朗誦詩歌，使表演內容更豐富多元。參賽者在台上字正腔圓、有板有眼的演講，更不少不少人特地穿著唐裝登場，可見中文熟練有多奇。

「學中文很有意思」現就讀普林斯頓大學電腦科學系的學生馬雷說，他在大一的暑假到中國教英文，完全不懂中文的他結識了許多中國朋友，只會說「你好」、「多少錢」等簡單的辭彙，半年前開始學習中文，平常喜歡和朋友一起練唱歌，才藝表演時便是演唱「當你孤單你會想起誰」一曲。

第二年參加漢語橋的吳敏已從美國西點軍校畢業，說得一口字正腔圓的中文，她認為隨著中美關係逐漸改善，兩國之間的交流與互動更加頻繁，身為軍官，期待未來雙方能有訓練合作的機會，「屆時會說漢語就顯得很重要」，他才藝表演唱了兩首歌曲，其中還把老風采大米的歌詞改成當下最紅的虎媽愛孩子，令人不禁莞爾。

「漢語橋」美東決賽時間為23日上午9時至下午6時，地點在佩斯大學Michael Schimmel Center for the Art，地址1 Pace Place。

西點軍校共有三人參加漢語橋的初賽。賽後開心地與陳亮（右三）和指導老師們合影。（記者黃靖雯/攝影）

上圖為參賽者自彈自唱中文歌曲。下圖為馬雷開心地演唱自己最喜歡歌手的歌曲。（記者黃靖雯/攝影）

Chinese speaking West Point cadet competitors and their Chinese professors take a group photo after the Chinese Bridge Speech competition's award ceremony. See below links for a news video from the performance and a link to an article printed in the largest Chinese published newspaper in North America.

http://gb.worldjournal.com/view/full_news/12609802/article--ifbase4-base160-JUUzJGwJThDJUU2JUJDJUEyJUU4JUFBJTIFJUU2JUE5JThCJUJzJTGwJThEJUJ3JUJ0JTKwJU U3JUJ0JTG0JUJ1JTg4JTIEJUJ4JUJzJUJELSVFOSVBQIU5OCVFNiU4OSU4QiVFOSU5QiVCMi VFOSU5QiU4Ng~~?instance=iNews

<http://video.sinovision.net/?id=1676>

3. Hosting Visitors:

On 4 April, DFL's Chinese section hosted the President of Beijing University, ZHOU, Qifeng, and his delegation. They conducted office calls with the Superintendent, Dean, and the Acting Department of Foreign Languages Department Head.



Lieutenant General Huntoon, the Superintendent of the United States Military Academy meets with his counterpart, ZHOU, Qifeng, the President of Beijing University and his delegation during their official visit to West Point on 4 April. Pictured in the photo from left to right are: Dr. Martha Gallagher, Dr. Yuning Li, Dr. Hongwei Xia, Dr. Yuanman Liu, Beijing University President Qifeng Zhou, Lieutenant General Huntoon, Dr. Xiaoying Zheng, and Ms. Ying Zhang.

4. Upcoming Key Events:
 - a. On 9 April, the Chinese Literature class will travel to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City to experience the exhibition on “The Emperor’s Private Paradise: Treasures from the Forbidden City” and the “Tibetan Arms and Armor from the Permanent Collection.”
 - b. On 15 April, The International Cadet Club will travel to the US Naval Academy for the International Ball, an annual event in which international cadets from Navy, West Point, and Coast Guard come together for an end of year celebration and farewell to fourth year cadets who are finishing their last year of study in the US and will soon return to their home countries. The ball is a black tie event which will feature exhibition dances performed by midshipmen, the Trident Brass Midshipmen Jazz Ensemble, a DJ from WRNV, and the Naval Academy Band’s “Electric Brigade.”
 - c. From 14-18 April, DFL’s Chinese section will host the Superintendent of the Taiwan Military Academy during the Sandhurst competition.