

DFL Weekly SITREP (9 May 12)

Completed Events

Faculty and Cadet Participation in Cultural and Academic Events:

On 3 May, 82 of DFL's majors, across seven languages, presented projects as part of West Point's Projects Day. The presentations took place on the fourth floor of Washington Hall and showcased the cadets' abilities to integrate their knowledge of language and culture with other aspects of the curriculum and their 47-month experience at the Academy. With topics ranging from U.S. efforts to partner with Central Asian allies to counter the narcotics trade in the region to U.S. options for political and military engagement in post-revolution Egypt, DFL's cadets analyzed complex real-world issues and used these briefs to lay out the complexity of the issues, discussing anticipated challenges and opportunities, and proposing viable responses. DFL welcomed the following visitors, who observed the projects and interacted with the cadets:

-German: LTC (R) Holger Bernhardt (German Army), Former German Army Liaison to the Superintendent

-Portuguese: GEN Ítalo Fortes Avena (Brazilian Army); COL Valdomiro Alves Fagundes (Brazilian Air Force); Both officers are part of the Brazilian permanent mission to the UN in New York City. 13 LN490 cadets, broken into 3 sections, presented 40 minute presentations to the VIPs, other LN490 cadets and any Portuguese majors or LP204/362 cadets who wished to attend.

-Russian: COL Gregory Wright, Chief, START/Nuclear Division, On-Site Inspection, Defense Threat Reduction Agency

-Spanish: Mr. Enrique Gil, Spanish Consular Official and International Security Expert



In this photo: CDT Ian Mathies presents the Arabic LN490 presentation titled, “Post-Revolution Egypt and Syria: What it Means for U.S.-Israeli Military Cooperation”

Faculty participation in language or International Club key events:

The Portuguese and Spanish Sections hosted the DFL Spring Social Event, the “Festa-Fiesta” on 4 MAY 2012. More than 125 DFL faculty members and their families celebrated the end of the semester with Brazilian and Mexican food and beverages, namely a *feijoada completa* (a Brazilian dish consisting of black beans and rice accompanied by fried manioc flour and sautéed collard greens) and assorted enchiladas and other traditional Mexican fare. The cultural demonstrations included a salsa demonstration and a *capoeira* presentation. (*Capoeira* is a form of Brazilian martial arts that is a mixture of a dance and a “fight” and is accompanied by songs and musical instruments.) Kids were treated to the traditional breaking of the *piñata* and spring-themed arts and crafts.

Faculty scholarship:

This week the Chinese Language Teachers Association of Greater New York released the 2012 edition of the “Journal of Chinese Teaching and Research in the U.S.” The journal published works from both Dr. Qun Ao and Dr. Yuanman Liu. Dr. Ao’s article is titled, “Awareness of Radicals and Retention of Chinese Characters in Long-Term Memory: The Factors that Influence American Students’ Learning Chinese Characters.” (汉字长期记忆与汉字部首认知: 影响美国学生学习汉字的因素) Dr. Liu’s article is titled, “Principles and Practices for Developing Intensive Chinese Textbooks for Short-term Programs: Examples from the Textbook ‘Meeting China.’” (短期教材使用状况及短期教材的针对性研究— 《走进中国》为例)



On 28 April, Dr. Yuanman Liu, visiting professor from Peking University, attended the 20th Princeton International Conference on Chinese Language Instruction in Princeton, New Jersey. Dr. Liu presented her research entitled ‘Studying the Applicability of Instructional Materials for Short-Term Chinese.’ (短期项目教材的适应性研究)



In this Photo: Dr. Yuanman Liu, visiting professor from Peking University, presented the research entitled ‘Studying the Applicability of Instructional Materials for Short-Term Chinese’ (短期项目教材的适应性研究) at the 20th Princeton International Conference on Chinese Language Instruction in Princeton, New Jersey.

Mr. António Igrejas, Portuguese, successfully defended his doctoral dissertation at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst on 25 APR 2012. He is currently working on filing the dissertation for an estimated 1 SEP 2012 graduation date.

Future Events

On 14 May, six DFL instructors will be officially recognized for successfully completing West Point's two-year Master Teaching Program conducted by the Center for Teaching Excellence. The following will be recognized: COL John Baskerville, MAJ David Fagergren, Dr. Xenia Harwell, Dr. Hongyu Huang, MAJ Mark Whiteman, and MAJ Douglas Willig.

On 24 May, The Department of Foreign Languages will host its annual award ceremony. Several distinguished visitors and supporters will present awards of excellence across the languages.

From 27 May to 16 June, the Arabic section, in conjunction with AMIDEAST will lead a group of four cadets on a summer academic individual advanced development trip to Jordan. The cadets will spend 4 days/week in the Jordan Intensive Arabic Program at Qasid Arabic Institute in Amman.

From 27 May to 17 June, the Portuguese section will lead a group of cadets on a summer academic individual advanced development trip to Brazil.