

DFL Weekly SITREP (29 February 12)

Completed Events

Faculty Participation in Cultural Events:

20 Russian majors and two cadet visitors from Kazakhstan had the opportunity to attend a full dress rehearsal at the Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center in New York City. The cadets enjoyed a performance of the Russian opera Khovanshchina by Modest Musorgsky in conditions normally reserved for official patrons of the opera. This opportunity was made possible by the Met's Director of Audience Initiatives and Special Projects, Ms. Hilary Ley. Faculty who assisted in coordinating the visit are: Dr. Larry Mansour, Dr. Olga Dubrunoff, and Mr. John Pendergast.



In this photo: Russian majors and two Kazakhstan cadets attend a full dress rehearsal at the Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center in New York City.

On 21 Feb, DFL welcomed two cadets from Kazakhstan's Military Academy to USMA for two weeks, one half of an exchange that's part of CENTCOM's Engagement Plan. The other half of the exchange will take two USMA cadets to Kazakhstan for 10 days over Spring Leave. Cadets Yernar Kaliyev and Damir Timraliyev are both in their 4th year of study at the Kazakh Military Academy (a 5-year program), and they're experiencing every aspect of cadet life at USMA by rooming with and "shadowing" two USMA cadets who study Russian.



In this photo: Cadets Yernar Kaliyev and Dmair Timraliyev with Academy cadet escort in the Mess Hall.

On 22 February, the German Section conducted an academic trip section to the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Cadets from LN490 (German Capstone Seminar), LG484 (German Civilization II), and LG476 (Military Speaking and Reading through German) attended. In addition to the cadets and faculty who attended, the Austrian Exchange cadets augmented the group. Cadets received an orientation of the UN complex, heard from the German Mission to the UN, and shared a meal at the Deutsches Haus with the German Consul General Busso von Alvensleben and Austrian Brigadier General Franz Berndorfer.



In this photo: German language and international cadets visit the United Nations Headquarters building in NYC for a inside look at Germany’s military mission to the UN.

On 24 Feb, DFL said goodbye to the two Russian cadets from Voronezh State University who visited USMA for three weeks. Cadets Philipp Makarov and Olga Gorovaya returned to Russia with a slew of memories and a better understanding of cadet life at USMA. Their successful visit enhanced the cultural understanding of every cadet they met here at USMA and will further strengthen ties between our two institutions.

Faculty Publication

Dr. Christopher T. Lewis recently had an article published in *Ellipsis*, a journal of American Portuguese Studies. The abstract reads: In the poem *Dichtung und Wahrheit*, Anthony Hecht explores the limits of representative art in the attempt to transcend the dichotomy between life and fixture, citing the need for a “Faust” to animate representation. Through the prism of cyberneticist Gregory Bateson’s theories on advanced levels of learning and controlling paradigm shifts, this article explores how the Austrian composer Arnold Schoenberg and the Brazilian writer João Guimarães Rosa both exemplify Hecht’s concept of an animating Faust. It juxtaposes Schoenberg’s twelve-tone method with Guimarães Rosa’s transrealism in their respective contexts, culminating in a comparison of the latter’s novel *Grande sertão: veredas* with the former’s opera *Moses und Aron* in order to show how they break out of the paradigms of their respective periods, transporting the reader / listener to the unknowable place that Guimarães Rosa called the “third bank of the river.”

Cadet Achievement on Semester Abroad:

Cadet Brian Morenus ’13, an Arabic Semester Abroad participant currently studying at Al Akhawayn University in Morocco, has been selected as a member of the university’s cross country team. He recently participated in a regional meet in the nearby city of Meknes, where he

competed against a field of hundreds of Moroccan runners and finished in 9th place. More importantly, Brian embraced the unique cultural experience of hearing and understanding cheers of encouragement in French and Moroccan Arabic while negotiating the course, realizing that competition knows no borders, building bonds between peoples of diverse cultural backgrounds.



In this photo: CDT Brian Morenus participates in the Meknes, Morocco Cross Country Meet earning 9th overall.

Future Events

From 6 to 8 March, the German Section will host BG Weigt, the Commander of the German Officers School in Dresden, Germany. BG Weigt will visit the Academy for the first time, receiving briefings from multiple departments and centers of excellence. BG Weigt will brief the German language courses after lunch on Wednesday about the changes and challenges in Germany's officer development and recruitment. Afterward, the LN490G cadets will have a Q&A session with BG Weigt to have questions answered regarding their Capstone Projects.

From 9 to 21 March Major Matthew Radik and Dr. Martha Gallagher will conduct a site visit to both China and Taiwan. During the visit they will visit cadets who are currently studying at Peking University, Beijing, China, and at Fujen University, Taipei, Taiwan. They will also work on improving our current semester abroad and summer immersion programs as well as work on establishing new ones.