

DFL Weekly SITREP (23 November 11)

Current Week **HIGHLIGHTS:**

1. Faculty and cadet participation in language and cultural immersion trips and activities:
 - a. From 18-20 November, Dr. Yuanman Liu, visiting professor from Peking University and Ms. Can Wang, visiting instructor from Jilin University, attended the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) 2011 Annual Convention in Denver, Colorado. On 19 November, Dr. Yuanman Liu presented the research entitled “A Study of Teacher-Learner Relationship in Native vs. L2 Environment.”



In this photo: Dr. Yuanman Liu and Ms Can Wang at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Annual Convention in Denver, Colorado. (From left to right: Ms Can Wang, Dr. Yuanman Liu.)



In this photo: Dr. Yuanman Liu on 19 November presenting her research entitled “A Study of Teacher-Learner Relationship in Native vs. L2 Environment.”

b. On 14-26 November, Dr. Johannes Vazulik is traveling to all three German SAP locations (Austria: Wiener-Neustadt, Germany: Munich and Hamburg) to conduct a maintenance visit and to meet with cadets, faculty and staff of our partner institutions. Dr. Vazulik is meeting with cadets specifically to conduct a review of their progress and performance in LN 491, their distance learning course. Dr. Vazulik will return after the Thanksgiving holiday.

c. On 19 November, seven cadet members of the Russian Language Club traveled to Brooklyn, NY to visit the Sandoony Banya (spa). The participants got the full Russian banya experience, enjoying various hot saunas followed by dips into an ice cold pool. Upon leaving the banya, the group headed to the Brighton Beach section of Brooklyn, an ethnic Russian enclave of NYC, where they enjoyed some cultural immersion by way of Russian cuisine and shopping.



In this photo: Russian language cadets and LTC Mike Nerstheimer at Sandoony Banya in Brooklyn, NY.

d. On 17-20 November, Dr. Dobrunoff of the Russian section attended the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Convention in Washington D.C. Dr. Dobrunoff participated in several sessions on Russian Language teaching. The most interesting presentations were dedicated to mastering Russian at the advanced level, teaching reading strategies to the students of Russian, and different approaches to teaching heritage speakers of Russian in North America and Europe. Dr. Dobrunoff also met with Professor Frank Miller and Dr. Anna Kudyma, the authors of the new LR203/LR204 text, “Beginner’s Russian.” They discussed teaching approaches, means of retention control, and assessment criteria. Professor Miller was interested in our cadets' achievement in Russian and expressed a desire to attend our Russian classes in January to evaluate the effectiveness of his textbook.

2. Language Immersion events:

a. From 13 - 21 November, Dr. Martha Gallagher conducted site visits to Peking University in Beijing, China and Jilin University in Changchun, China in conjunction with attending the 8th Model United Nations Conference held at China’s National University of Defense Technology in Changsha, China. Dr. Gallagher escorted four of our cadets who are currently studying at Jilin University as part of the semester abroad program. Our cadets who attended are: Carolina Espejo-Saenz, Mark Freeman, Gabrielle Perez, and Timothy Chen. Our cadets did a superb job representing the United States, West Point, and themselves during the conference. Conference attendees came from all over China, and competed with international representatives from Australia and New Zealand.



In this photo: Timothy Chen, Carolina Espejo-Saenz, Dr. Martha Gallagher, Gabrielle Perez, and Mark Freeman at the 8th Chinese Model United Nations Conference at China's National University of Defense Technology in Changsha, China. Our cadets were split into two teams of two, each playing the part of New Zealand during the conference.



In this photo: CDT Mark Freeman speaking at the 8th Chinese Model United Nations Conference at China's National University of Defense Technology in Changsha, China.

b. Semester Abroad Program (SAP) - SAP-Austria cadets enjoyed a trip to the Austrian museum of flight last week. In addition, all cadets (foreign and national) at the Austrian Academy take dance classes to learn the Viennese Waltz, with the culminating event being the Viennese Officers Ball in January.



In this photo: SAP Austria cadets get serious about the Waltz.