

## UPCOMING EVENTS

24-28 March  
GI Film Festival

24-29 March  
Graffiti of War Exhibit

April-June  
“Fanning the Fires of  
Hate” Exhibit, Jeffer-  
son Hall

April 3-4  
WP Negotiation Work-  
shop

April 7-11  
Cyber Defense Exer-  
cise

May 1  
Projects Day and WP  
Bridge Design Compe-  
tition

May 27  
Awards Convocation

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# To the Point:

## Academic Excellence at USMA

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### West Point Writing Center Opens

On 16 September 2013, the Department of English and Philosophy hosted the Grand Opening of the West Point Writing Center in Jefferson Hall 423. The Writing Center is staffed by cadets who have distinguished themselves as superior writers and offers one-on-one consultations to other developing writers in USMA writing courses. Cadet feedback has suggested that the Center has had an immediate impact. One cadet noted that her writing fellow, “really helped me to generate and sort my ideas, despite how flustered I felt initially. She also helped me come up with various strategies to take with me as I wrote the drafts of my essays and refined my argument and thesis. This appointment definitely provided me with valuable skills that I will take with me into future assignments.”



In this picture, COL Scott Krawczyk and Dr. Jason Hoppe, the Director of the Writing Fellows Program and the WPWC, conduct the ceremonial ribbon cutting, flanked by the Center's Cadet Writing Fellows.

# Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Robert Goldstein, D/Law

Dr. Robert J. Goldstein, Professor of Law and Director of the Center for the Rule of Law, was very busy in the fall of 2013. He was a panelist at the 92nd Annual Meeting of the American Branch of the International Law Association. The panel was held during International Law Weekend at Fordham University School of Law in New York City. The panel topic was Teaching International Law Outside Law Schools, and Dr. Goldstein spoke about his experience in teaching Comparative Law (LW 410) at West Point, covering the substantive content of the course and the pedagogical methods that were used to engage non-law students in this highly specialized topic. Discussion focused on the rule-of-law, and the importance of teaching cadets both comparative and international law in support of the mission of the United States Military Academy. Dr. Goldstein's article based on his presentation, entitled *Over There: Teaching International and Comparative Law at West Point*, will be published by the [ILSA Journal of International & Comparative Law](#).



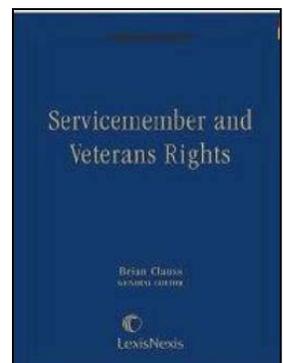
Dr. Goldstein is also one of several scholars invited to participate in the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) 2014 Summer Institute at Marist College. The Institute will examine the meaning of property. Some of the most important legal scholars of property rights have been invited to participate, including Dr. Goldstein. Professor Goldstein will use his theory of property law, from his book entitled *Green Wood in the Bundle of Sticks* to explore the relationship of social values and the science of ecology to changing concepts of property in contemporary domestic and international law. Additionally he will discuss how domestic and international environmental laws have been used to protect human rights in places like Myanmar (Burma) and Nigeria.

In addition, Dr. Goldstein, LTC Mark A. Visger and CPT Steven P. Vargo, co-authored the introductory chapter on the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) of *Servicemember and Veterans Rights*, published by LexisNexis. The chapter highlights “the contrasts between the military justice system and civilian justice systems” and provides “insight into the unique tools that have been created to provide due process to servicemembers, while ensuring the functioning of the military as a potent mechanism.”

Meanwhile, Dr. Goldstein is busily planning for the second West Point Civil Rights Staff Ride that will trace the events of 1964's Freedom Summer in a repeat of last year's interdisciplinary AIAD crafted to teach law, history and diversity to cadets.



Dr. Robert J. Goldstein with MAJ Andrew Forney and USMA Cadets visiting Civil Rights Movement Veteran Dr. Gwen Patton in Montgomery, AL





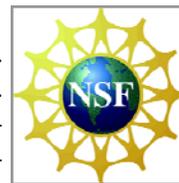
## Department Spotlight: Chemistry and Life Sciences

The Department of Chemistry and Life Science hosted the 14th Annual Microbiology Symposium on November 14, 2013. The intent of the symposium was to bring renowned researchers to West Point to share their work with faculty and cadets. This year's speakers included: Dr. Daniel V. Zurawski, Ph.D., from the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR); Dr. Julie Huber, Ph.D., from the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, MA; Dwight D. Bowan, Ph.D., from Cornell University, Department of Microbiology and Immunology; and MAJ Vanessa Melanson, Ph.D., WRAIR.

In September, Cadets enrolled in Advanced General Chemistry (CH151) attended a trip section to the US Army Research, Development, and Engineering Command Armament, Research, Development and Engineering Center (RDECOM, ARDEC) at Picatinny Arsenal, NJ. Cadets and faculty were welcomed by COL James P. Ross (USMA class of 1990) before touring the facilities. The tour included the Explosive Synthesis lab, Propellant Surveillance lab, and Explosive Characterization lab in addition to the Advanced Materials lab, Pyrotechnics Facility, and Propellant Processing and Rheology labs. Cadets got to see the chambers where newly designed and synthesized explosive materials are tested for energetics, kinetics, and function.

On Saturday, 9 November 2013, the American Chemical Society (ACS) club participated in the Scout Day put on for Boys Scouts from around the country. ACS cadets and C&LS faculty demonstrated 7 different STEM demos to teach the Scouts about some fun chemistry reactions. Many of the demos used common ingredients so that the Scouts could recreate the fun at home— such as the Non-Newtonian fluid, which was made of cornstarch and water, and the polymer Gak, which used glue and borax.

Faculty member J. Kenneth Wickiser, Ph.D. (C&LS) served on the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research



Fellowship Program (NSF-GRFP) Molecular and Developmental Biology review panel. The Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) awards Fellowships for graduate study leading to research-based master's and doctoral degrees in the fields of science and engineering within the mission of the National Science Foundation. As part of the department's effort in leveraging intellectual capital toward National-level service and research endeavors, Dr. Wickiser is part of the team of senior faculty members from across the US responsible for vetting academic research proposals from the Nation's top biology and biochemistry students seeking funding for graduate school. The panel members assess the proposals based on the intellectual merit of the applicant and the broader impact of the proposed scientific work.

On December 11, 2013, Life Science program director LTC John Burpo participated in the Army Science Planning and Strategy Meeting for Biological Sciences, hosted by Army Research Labs in Fairfax, VA. The topic areas included bio-



materials and interfaces, systems biology, synthetic biology, and emerging areas in biosciences looking at where the fields will be 10 to 30 years in the future. The session outcomes provide a basis for extra and intramural research funding efforts in the future. As the only active duty military officer present, LTC Burpo provided expertise across the topic areas and biomaterials in particular.



**CDT Samuel Brown '15, C2 and David Sundberg '17, G3 demonstrate the elephant toothpaste reaction to Scouts.**



**COL Ross, Dr. Dawn Riegner, and CH151 students outside the ARDEC Headquarters**

## Center Spotlight: Center for Language, Culture and Regional Studies

A primary goal for the Center for Languages, Cultures and Regional Studies (CLCRS) in AY2014 is fostering and facilitating partnerships across the Academy and local community. Of particular note is The Academy Culture Working Group, which had its kick-off meeting this fall. The group, with Senior Faculty representation from Social Sciences, History, Geography and Environmental Engineering, Behavioral Sciences and Leadership, the Center for Civil-Military Operations, Defense and Strategic Studies, Department of Military Instruction and International Intellectual Development Division, met to discuss applications of language, regional expertise and cross-cultural competence (LREC) in the Army, at the Academy, and the move toward integrating LREC into the USMA curriculum. CLCRS also initiated collaboration with the Department of Military Instruction to develop training scenarios for collective training events during

Cadet Summer Training for AY 2014; specifically Cadet Leader Development Training and Cadet Field Training's Small Unit Leader Development. These scenarios will leverage the Decisive Action Training Environment to appropriately nest USMA summer training with BOLC-A efforts, and complement larger TRADOC initiatives. The desired end state is to leverage Academy talent and subject matter expertise to afford realistic contexts to scenario development and subsequent training events that will prepare cadets for the complex security environment

while also enabling training, education, and orders development at the platoon level.

To supplement the Cultural and Regional Acculturation lecture series presented to all Cadets prior to participation in the Academy Semester Abroad Program (SAP), CLCRS spearheaded two additional initiatives to capture the impact of their SAP experience; a reflective essay and a photo contest. The reflective essays augmented the quantitative data CLCRS captured for SAP program assessment; which included pre and

post SAP testing in LREC proficiencies and competencies. Cadet submissions to the photo essay contest (38 in all), included a short narrative of what the photo represented to them, and illustrated the engaging, thought-provoking and memorable experiences from their semester abroad.

The winner of the contest, Cadet Aaron Pell, provided this photo and narrative illustrating the clash between the past and the present, as well as the cultural and religious tensions he experienced while in Chile.



**The most complicated aspect of Chile's culture is the clash between the old and the new. As demonstrated in this photo, one sees the front of an old fortress, but in the background, not only are there modern buildings, on one of the billboards one sees an advertisement for a movie from the USA translated into Spanish. The other billboard, atop the apartment building, is an advertisement for one of the most progressive politicians in Chile, whom they voted for president once and likely will again. Yet, at the same time, when talking with laypeople, military and civilian alike, there still exists a large preference for the traditions and beliefs of the past and of the Catholic Church. The tension brews under the surface and will surely be addressed in the coming years, and most likely not in the most peaceful fashion.**

# Dean's Teams: Model United Nations

The Model United Nations team has had a tremendously successful year so far at five intercollegiate conferences. The season started with the Security Conference Simulation at Yale University, which serves as the opening conference of the Model UN fall season. Next the team travelled to Bethesda, MD to compete in the National Collegiate Security Conference hosted by Georgetown University. The Firsties on the Model UN team then travelled to Oxford in the United Kingdom to compete in the Oxford University Model UN Conference and took the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Award as Best Small Delegation. To conclude the fall season, the team competed in the "fall championships" at the University of Penn-



**Model UN Firsties take 1<sup>st</sup> Place at Oxford University this past November**

sylvania Model UN Conference, where they also took 1<sup>st</sup> Place as the Best Small Delegation.

The team has already participated in one conference this semester. The McGill University Model UN Conference hosted in Montreal, Canada was where the team took 1<sup>st</sup> Place again as Best Small Delegation. The team has had overwhelmingly success, having competed against hundreds of other colleges and universities and earning 1<sup>st</sup> Place at 3 of the 5 conferences attended. Planned competitions include the University of California, Berkeley's conference in San Francisco this March and the World Championships in Brussels Belgium in April.

# Semester Abroad Program Highlights

**Below: Russian Study Aboard Cadets, Evan Caval, Andre Solomon, Peter Sienko, and Andrew Slade at a Ukrainian history museum in Kiev.**



**Above: German Study Abroad Cadets James O'Keefe, Kathryn Knapp, Benjamin Smith and Patrick Kneram, travelled to a Bundeswehr Air Defense Unit (FlaRakGr 61) on the Baltic Sea coast in order to familiarize themselves with the MANTIS Air Defence Protection System.**



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The purpose of the Academic Program is to provide our students the intellectual foundation for service as a well-educated commissioned officer who possesses the knowledge and skills necessary for continued growth as a U.S. Army officer. In coordination with the Military and Physical Programs, the Academic Program develops in cadets a professional self-concept as an officer and nurtures their competence, character, and confidence to act decisively on matters of concern to the nation. The structure, content, and process of education and development enables cadets to understand the interrelated roles of a commissioned officer: soldier, servant of the Nation, military professional and leader of character. The leader development process compels cadets to incorporate these roles into their own emerging professional identities.

Duty, Honor, Country

## From the Dean: BG Tim Trainor

I wanted to take a second to give you an update on my perspective on the semester from the academic program. We remain focused as ever on the USMA mission to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the Nation as an officer in the United States Army. All of the markers that we look for in excellence from our staff, faculty and cadets are being routinely achieved and surpassed. This year, our scholarship

class looks superb as we had not only 2 Rhodes scholars, but 2 Marshall scholars as well; and the scholarship offers continue to roll in. Our faculty was rated as the “Most accessible” by the Princeton Review and Forbes rated us as the best public college in the country. We have cadets and faculty making substantial contributions to the Army and Nation through education, research and service activities. Despite all of this success, we will not rest on our laurels. We are tackling the difficult but very important issue of curriculum review and change. We are also determining how to provide the best educational experience to our cadets within the constraints

of the Army’s reduced resource environment. We are implementing the West Point Leader Development System. Knowing that every interaction (with a cadet) is a developmental opportunity, the West Point Leader Development System better aligns us with Army doctrine and focuses us on developing officers who can serve in the ranks for a career spanning from 2LT to GEN. I’m very excited to see what the next 5-6 months brings to the Academy as I know you are! I want to thank you sincerely for your support and interest in the Academic program here at the United States Military Academy. GO ARMY!