

Dean's Significant Activities Report 15-21 August 2020

If you are searching for a particular area of focus or accomplishment across the various departments, these are the hashtags to search by:

#teaching

#cadetdevelopment

#facultyscholarship

#facultydevelopment

#diversityandinclusion

#leadersofcharacter

#USCCsupport

#Armysupport

A historic week of teaching during a pandemic:



DEPARTMENT: G&EnE
POC Name: MAJ John Boyle
POC Email: john.boyle2@westpoint.edu
DATE: 20 August 2020

Top 3-5 events, activities, and newsworthy happenings UPCOMING in the next 30 days.

1. On 17 September, Dr. Baker (G&EnE) will present at the 18th Annual Symposium on the Conversation and Biology of Turtles and Freshwater Turtles. Dr Patrick Baker will be presenting research on attached algal growth in a turtle population at the Cragston Lakes. Due to the ongoing COVID19 pandemic, the conference is being conducted as a virtual experience for a global audience
2. On 26 August from 1530-1700, LTC Wallen (G&EnE + Dean's Fellow for Remote Teaching and Distance Learning Best Practices) and your Academy's planning committee will host the second All Academy Remote Teaching Collaboration Session at the following link:
<https://us.bbcollab.com/collab/ui/session/guest/c99082f621614dcca04264180a6f3554>
3. From 27-30 September, Dr. Jon Malinowski (G&EnE and USMA Self Study co-chair) with CPT Chris Gaulin (G&EnE), will prepare for and conduct the Academy's Middle States site visit for Academy accreditation.

Top events, activities, and newsworthy happenings in the last week.

1. On 19 August, LTC Wallen (G&EnE + Dean's Fellow for Remote Teaching and Distance Learning Best Practices) helped lead the remote teaching office hours, again addressing questions and concerns to promote academic excellence in these times of novel constraints, which can be turned into opportunities, to maximize learning opportunities for all academy cadets.
2. On 19 August, G&EnE conducted their annual SHARP training for all civilian and military personnel. Training was led by Ms. Stacey Rosenberg and Mr. Russell Strand with a maximum in person capacity of 30 in attendance with additional remote attendees.
3. On 17-18 August, G&EnE faculty and Cadets-in-charge supported club briefs for Plebes to broaden their academic excellence experience. Of note, the Society of American Military Engineers, Jewish Chapel Choir, Native American Heritage Forum, and the Green Team Environmental Club were opportunities shared with direct links to G&EnE.

DEPARTMENT: Chemistry and Life Science
POC Name: CPT Preston Dihle
POC Email: preston.dihle@westpoint.edu
DATE: 20 August 2020

Top 3-5 events, activities, and newsworthy happenings UPCOMING in the next 30 days:

N/A

Top 3 events, activities, and newsworthy happenings FROM THE PREVIOUS 7 days:

1. On 19 August 2020, Department of Chemistry and Life Science faculty, COL Chi Nguyen, CPT(P) Daniel DeNeve, CPT(P) Lam Nguyen, and Dr. Ryan Limbocker published an article titled "Impact of COVID-19 on General Chemistry Education at the United States Military Academy" in the Journal of Chemical Education. The article discusses lessons learned from the transition to remote instruction during the spring term due to COVID-19, with a focus on the advantages and disadvantages of the adopted teaching methodologies, and includes a discussion of course design and the corresponding adaptations to this new pedagogical environment.
2. On 13 August 2020, Dr. Ryan Limbocker and colleagues, to include Cadets Ryan Kreiser (Chemistry 2022) and Aidan Wright (Chemistry 2023), and 2LT Alex Albright (Life Science 2020), published their research titled "Trodsuquimine displaces protein misfolded oligomers from cell membranes and abrogates their cytotoxicity through a generic mechanism," in the journal Communications Biology. In their study, the authors characterized a unique, potentially therapeutically relevant small molecule called trodsuquimine. By investigating the biophysical properties of the oligomers and their ability to damage cells after their exposure to the small molecule, they were able to show that the predominant means by which the molecule prevents damage caused by toxins innate to Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and potentially other protein misfolding diseases is by displacing the oligomers from cell membranes.

DEPARTMENT: Social Sciences
POC Name: LTC Cole Spitzack
POC Email: cole.spitzack@westpoint.edu
DATE: Week of 21 August 2020

Top 3-5 events, activities, and newsworthy happenings UPCOMING in the next 30 days.

1. 26 August: The SOSH Research Lab will host a faculty workshop for MAJ AJ Glubzinski who will be presenting research on developmental assistance and stabilization in Afghanistan at the American Political Science Association's annual conference.
2. 31 August: The SOSH Research Lab will host a faculty workshop for MAJ Sally White who will be presenting research titled "*Organizational Subcultures: Creating*

Cybersecurity in the U.S. Military” at the American Political Science Association’s annual conference.

3. 3-6 September: The Graduate Scholarship Program (XH407) is hosting their annual writing retreat at various venues on West Point for approximately 40 cadets to help finalize their applications for the Rhodes, Marshall, Gates, Fulbright, and other prestigious scholarships.
4. 17 September: MAJ Clyde Daines will participate in a virtual meeting with Dr. Alina Polyakova from the Center for European Policy Analysis and hosted by Arizona State University’s Alexander Hamilton Society. The event will focus on Russian disinformation in elections (both in the US and elsewhere).

Top 3 events, activities, and newsworthy happenings FROM THE PREVIOUS 7 days.

1. July: The Combating Terrorism Center released a report that examines Islamic State operations across Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines between 2014 and 2019. Entitled *Rising in the East: A Regional Overview of the Islamic State's Operations in Southeast Asia*, the report was co-authored by the CTC’s Amira Jadoon and Nakissa Jahanbani, as well as Charmaine Willis, a Ph.D. candidate at SUNY Albany. This is the first in a series of four reports that will examine the Islamic State’s operations across Southeast Asia.
2. 13-14 August: The SOSH Department conducted our annual State of the Department and SOSH Activities update briefs covering important operating guidance in AY21, the department’s strategic plan, and the many clubs and activities that the department administers.
3. 18 August: The SOSH department received an instructive virtual brief on the West Point Honor program from COL Virgil, LTC Arbogast, and CPT Fitzgerald from SCPME.

DEPARTMENT: Chemical and Mechanical Engineering

POC: MAJ Briana Fisk

POC Email: briana.fisk@westpoint.edu

DATE: 21 August 2020

Top 3-5 events, activities, and newsworthy happenings UPCOMING in the next 30 days.

1. ASCE Committee on Faculty Development (ASCE CFD) will host three future sessions on 1 September, 1 October, and 4 November, covering topics of “Reimagining exams and assessments”, “Models for the physical and virtual worlds”, and “Debrief the semester: Lessons learned from the term”, respectively. Dr. Brock Barry will serve as a key presenter, and COL Aaron Hill will serve as the moderator for the 1 October exchange. Sessions were originally going to cost \$50/participant; however, thanks to

generous donors providing over \$9,000 for the program, all six sessions are free. For more information, please contact COL Aaron Hill at aaron.hill@westpoint.edu.
#facultydevelopment #teaching

Top 3 events, activities, and newsworthy happenings FROM THE PREVIOUS 7 days.

1. ASCE ExCEED Community Exchange - As a result of COVID-19 leading to the cancellation of all three 2020 American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Excellence in Civil Engineering Education (ExCEED) Teaching Workshops, ASCE's Committee on Faculty Development (CFD) developed ASCE ExCEED Community Exchange. This program was designed to keep participants, mentors, assistant mentors, and everyone both in and out of the ExCEED family engaged and to provide everyone with an opportunity to share lessons learned and best practices from recent virtual environment experiences. On 3, 5, and 6 August, ASCE CFD led three 90-minute sessions covering "Maintaining high student engagement in an online environment", "Strategies for building interpersonal rapport with students in different learning environments", and "Projects, Labs, and Experiential Learning in an online environment". The sessions were well-received with over 200 participants registered from across the country for each session. POC is COL Aaron Hill at aaron.hill@westpoint.edu.
#facultydevelopment #teaching



Photo Caption: COL Aaron Hill serves as the moderator from one of the Zoom calls on 5 Aug.

2. Montana State University Biomechanical Collaboration: A new cooperative agreement between Dr. Scott Monfort, Director of the Montana State University Neuromuscular Biomechanics Lab, has been established with the Center of Innovation and Engineering to develop novel biomechanical measures focused on evaluating service member cognitive and physical function. Dr. Monfort will be working with faculty in the Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering Department to evaluate performance during CCDC Soldier Center testing using postural control metrics. This collaborative research agreement will supplement current capability and provide enhanced biomechanical expertise and capability to the Army research enterprise. POC is Dr. Greg Freisinger, CME/CIE, gregory.freisinger@westpoint.edu. #facultyscholarship



DEPARTMENT: Law
POC: LTC Ed Berg
POC Email: edward.berg@westpoint.edu
DATE: 21 August 2020

Top 3-5 events, activities, and newsworthy happenings UPCOMING in the next 30 days:

1. Promotion of Acting Deputy Department Head LTC(P) Winston Williams on 03 SEP at 1500 in Arnold Auditorium with LTG Williams presiding

Top 3 events, activities, and newsworthy happenings FROM THE PREVIOUS 7 days.

1. "Deepfakes and the Law of Armed Conflict: Are they Legal?" by Eric Talbot Jensen, Summer Crockett, published Aug 19, 2020 (<https://lieber.westpoint.edu/deepfakes/>)