
USMA LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 1

Fall 2007

Striving To Be Best

The Center for Enhanced Performance

Maybe you aced your classes in high school, but you're not getting the same top grades here.

Maybe you won state competitions in a sport in high school, but here, another cadet just came out and easily broke your record.

Maybe you're one of those all-round athletes who expected to be one of the Sandhurst front runners, but you seem to be just slightly off-the-mark all the time.

What's the common element? Focus.

How do you attain it? Seek out the help of those who specialize in performance excellence.

It's a no-brainer; visit the CEP.

According to Col. James Knowlton, "The CEP's mission is to help cadets develop to their full academic, physical, and military potential. They will face many challenges; here they learn the basic tools and skills which will serve them the rest of their life."

(Cont. on p. 4)



Cadets from Company E4's Sandhurst Team worked with Mr. Bernie Holliday. The group sought out the CEP to assist them in creating a team creed and a unified vision for the Sandhurst Competition.

The Scholarly Tradition Holds: The Class of 2011

It is a stalwart tradition that each class at West Point asserts that it is the best. It is also the custom that each group of incoming Plebes has to prove itself repeatedly over the first year to demonstrate its worthiness to stand on equal footing with the upperclassmen. The first hurdle is cleared when the candidates prove that their academic background is sufficiently rigorous.

Does the Class of 2011 live up to the standards of the three upper classes? See for yourself, on page 6.

More Inside:

✚ Joe Barth on The Digital Library.....	2
✚ Top 10 DVDs of 2006 -2007 at USMA.....	2
✚ Article Searches Now Easier.....	3
✚ Center For Enhanced Performance.....	4
✚ Troubled Times.....	5
✚ Scholarly Tradition.....	6
✚ What Is a Primary Source.....	7
✚ Library Map.....	8

Troubled Times Parallel Cadet Classes

By Alan C. Aimone, Humanities Librarian, USMA

Cadets graduating 150 years ago engaged in lively discussions and debates about national interests, much as today's cadets keep up on current events via the Internet and television. However, news didn't circulate as quickly in the pre-Civil War era. The Class of 1861 studied and conducted military exercises with the shadow of the Civil War on the horizon and limited outside news. Many discussions revolved around moral values, and choices regarding an uncertain future were weighed with limited information available.

(Cont. on p. 5)

The Digital Library

By Joseph Barth
Librarian, USMA

Not too long ago a traditional measure of library service would be the number of books on the shelf and the number of periodical titles available for browsing in the periodical reading room. The goal of acquiring an ever larger number of books in hopes of proving the comparative value of a library is gone.

Today, the USMA Library has approximately 350,000 books on the shelf but every cadet and faculty member has over 5 million books available at the click of a button thanks to the Library's participation in the Connect NY consortium. At one time the Library was proud to say that over 2,000 periodical titles were on order and available in the periodical reading room, now we can offer over 20,000 full text periodical titles on-line. Thousands of government documents in paper and micro-

“...now we can offer over 20,000 full text periodical titles on-line.”



Jefferson Hall progress, as of September 2007.

fiche are now replaced with on line equivalents. There are over 30,000 electronic books available in the Library catalog. Many items that were sequestered in our Special Collections and Archives are available on the Library web site.

By most measures, the USMA Library has become a digital library and the consequences of that are immense. The change occurred over a relatively short period of time and cadets today would find it difficult to visualize the way it used to be only 10 years ago. With this change in the mix of material format comes more demand for library assistance to navigate in the digital library to locate authoritative sources. Complex electronic systems need to be maintained and librarians need to be inventive to provide service when some parts of the system fail. With this shift in information format, librarians are needed more today than ever.

Top Ten DVDs at USMA, 2006-07

1. The Last of the Mohicans (70)
2. Scent of a Woman (64)
3. Apocalypse Now (59)
4. Wall Street (56)
5. Adaptation (55)
6. Captain Corelli's Mandolin (55)
7. Courage Under Fire (55)
8. William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet (55)
9. Bowling for Columbine (54)
10. Saviour (53)

Over the past three-year period, *Scent of a Woman* (1992) has been the top film checked out from the USMA Library.

Al Pacino, with a performance that earned him his only Academy Award (Best Actor), plays a blind, cantankerous, medically retired Army Officer. Chris O'Donnell plays Charlie Simms, a student from a financially challenged family attending an elite private prep school, who assists the Colonel. The Colonel plans to take a trip to New York City to wine, dine, and dance with a beautiful woman one last time.

Simms faces an ethical dilemma at his prep school. He must decide whether to follow the Hierarchy of Loyalty, or ensure his admission to Harvard.

The film portrays the quiet desperation of a once-dynamic military officer, now a disabled veteran dependent on others for many of his needs.

By Mike Fielder, Reference Librarian, USMA

Article Searches Now Easier

By Laura Mosher, Reference Librarian, USMA

Just as ‘the city never sleeps,’ the library never stops trying to improve its services. Cadets and faculty will now find it easier to get to the full-text versions of articles offered in our databases.

Some databases include full-text versions of article, while some include only an abstract or citation. When a search returns an abstract only, more searching is required to find the full-text version. There are one or two steps to finding articles, depending on whether the database includes full-text articles:

- 1) Search a database (if it has the full-text articles, the search is complete)
- 2) If the database contains only an abstract or citation for the article, check the library catalog to determine if the Library subscribes to the journal, and in what format (paper, microform, or digital in another database)

With our new feature, **Article Linker**, the library software performs that second search for you.

Here’s an example of how Article Linker works:

[The View from the Top of the Knoll: Capt. John C. Tidball's Memoir of the First Battle at *Bull Run*](#). By: Tidball, Eugene C.. *Civil War History*, Sep98, Vol. 44 Issue 3, p175, 19p; (AN 1171439)

[Search the USMA WebPac for title availability](#)  [Check Article Linker](#)

If you search the USMA WebPac (the catalog) for a listing of journals that start with the words “Civil War,” it will take a few minutes longer.

Instead, click on the Article Linker logo, and you’ll see this:

Content is available via the following links

Coverage Range	Links to content	Resource
03/01/1997 - present	Journal	Expanded Academic ASAP
09/01/1997 - present	Article Journal	ProQuest Research Library
06/01/1998 - present	Article	Wilson Select Plus

Click on the first “[Article](#)” hotlink. Unfortunately, in this example (below), ProQuest didn’t have the article.

No documents found for: issn(0009-8078) and ti(The View from the Top of the Knoll Capt John C Tidball s Memoir

Next, select the second “[Article](#)” hotlink. You’ll see the following. Follow the preferred link (PDF/HTML) to obtain the article. [Select a source for the full text](#)

-  [PDF Full text available \(WilsonSelectPlus Full Text\)](#)
-  [HTML Full text available \(WilsonSelectPlus Full Text\)](#)

You can also click on “[Journal](#)” and browse the issue’s Table of Contents. It is possible the Library has the full text and it is linked from the Table of Contents.

The library will continue to make improvements in coming months. Stay tuned.

The CEP, cont.

Academic Excellence Program (AEP)

Most cadets take CEP classes, not because they are failing, but because they have heard from classmates that they can raise their grades to a higher level. The skills taught are applicable to classes in all disciplines.

RS 101, the Student Success Course, teaches time management and organization, skills that even generals will take time out to master. Many Corps Squad coaches recommend cadets take this because it maximizes performance outside of class, too. This class teaches how to prepare a mindset for success, set goals, control attention, and manage stress and energy, while preparing for and mastering exams.

The Reading Efficiency class, RS 102, has proven popular with cadets, faculty, and staff. It is designed to change the way one reads, increasing both comprehension and speed. Over a 10-year period, the average students' reading speed tripled with no loss in comprehension.

West Point looks after its own by offering a robust tutor program made up of cadet volunteers. Cadets can always obtain tutoring from the more than 850 cadets who volunteer annually through the CEP.

Performance Enhancement Program (PEP)

Cadets who want a superior performance in any endeavor are seeking the mental training that has become standard for Olympic athletes. The CEP's Performance Enhancement Program addresses the development of confidence, concentration, and composure under pressure. Cadets in all fields learn to apply the skills of cognitive control, with techniques that include imagery, stress and energy management, and goal



Lori Houlihan, CEP's Student-Athlete Advisor, explains the biofeedback equipment to Cadet Jamaal Robinson.



A Cadet negotiates an obstacle during Cadet Field Training. The CEP frequently works with Cadets who have difficulty overcoming obstacles involving heights.

setting, and may use biofeedback training and simulations.

Many of the corps and club squad teams have a dedicated CEP instructor working with the team to train them on mental and emotional toughness skills. Sandhurst teams frequent the CEP to prepare for their competition and to build and strengthen their teamwork and communication skills. Many cadets request assistance with Survival Swimming, the IOCT and the APFT, along with specific skills to overcome a fear of heights.

Military Enhancement Program (MEP)

The Military Enhancement Program teaches mental skills for warriorship, with a special emphasis on a systematic cultivation of the Warrior Ethos throughout the cadets' four years.

During the first two years, training focuses on individual performance; during the last two years, training focuses on organizational techniques to improve the performance of platoons and companies along with individual skills.

The Army has recognized the CEP's potential to be a combat multiplier, and it has mandated the establishment of satellite CEP's, called Army Centers for Enhanced Performance, or ACEPs, at nine Army posts. The CEP opened an ACEP at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in February 2007, and has been funded and is in the process of opening ACEP's at Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Fort Lewis, Washington; and Walter Reed Army Medical Center within the next 90 days, followed by ACEP's at Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Gordon, South Carolina; Fort Hood, Texas; and Fort Knox, Kentucky in the next year.

Cadets can make inquiries about their specific needs by calling the CEP at (845) 938-2871, or requesting an appointment via yb6847@usma.edu.

Troubled Times, cont.

The Class of June 1861 numbered 108 when they arrived as Plebes in 1857. Fifty-six lasted until January 1861, but 22 resigned in those last few months, many to join the Confederate service. The cadets' original five year program was reduced to four years, as the Civil War escalated the need for more officers for the expanding Union Army. Thirty-four were left to graduate on June 24, 1861, but only 33 of the 34 received commissions that day.

Cadet life included tenting on the plains for summer basic training and then to the "new" barracks (1850) for the academic season. Barracks were spacious compared to the tents; however, accommodations were still spartan. Each cadet had an iron bedstead and mattress, which were placed in separate, curtained sleeping alcoves. The one chair, iron table, washstand, and looking glass had to be shared by roommates. Gas light, added to rooms in 1857, was an improvement. The modern central steam heat system, though, proved to be inadequate as it overheated rooms on the lower floors while it left those on upper levels too cold. Bath rooms and latrines were behind the barracks. Cadets were expected to bathe regularly, once or twice a week.

The method of instruction allowed little laxity on the part of cadets. Classes, called "sections," were small, with only 10 to 12 cadets. Section rooms in the academic buildings were lined with blackboards, a West Point innovation. Each cadet was expected to recite almost daily. Grading was done with mathematical precision, each core recorded to "the tenth." The fortunate, conscientious, and smart cadet could "max" his recitation and receive a 3.0, the highest possible score. On the other extreme, a cadet who knew absolutely nothing of his assigned recitation was expected to 'fess' (confess) and received a zero.

Though the professors were always an important force in the Military Academy, they became even more of an influence during the Civil War years.

"Cadets were expected to bathe regularly, once or twice a week."



Cadets Patrick H. O'Rourke and George A. Custer ranked first and last, respectively, in the June Class of 1861.

Cadet Oswald H. Ernst (an Ohioan admitted in 1860, who later became Superintendent from 1893-98), believed: "The efficiency of the Academy as an institution of learning was more dependent upon its permanent professors during this period than at any time before or since."

Professors (such as Dennis H. Mahan, Military and Civil Engineering, and William H.C. Bartlett, Natural and Experimental Philosophy), remained at the Academy and provided a stabilizing force during those difficult years, although some instructors were relieved from duty in the Spring of 1861.

Living and study conditions 150 years ago differed substantially, and modern communications have changed the landscape considerably, but today's cadets still face the same timeless questions about the future that their predecessors faced, and will likely engage in similar debates and discussions.

Walking the tightrope of Academy regulations to the end, **George Custer was put under arrest shortly before graduation because he had allowed a fight between cadets to take place.**

However, Custer made it to the front in time for the Battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861. Although last in his class, he catapulted in two years to a brigadier general of volunteers.

The Scholarly Tradition Holds

National Honor Society

These 785 students were recognized for their demonstrated excellence in scholarship, leadership, service and character.

National Merit® Scholarship Program

Among the 50,000 students with the highest PSAT/NMSQT® Selection Index Scores (in critical reading, math, and writing skills), recognition was awarded to 199 of the new cadets.

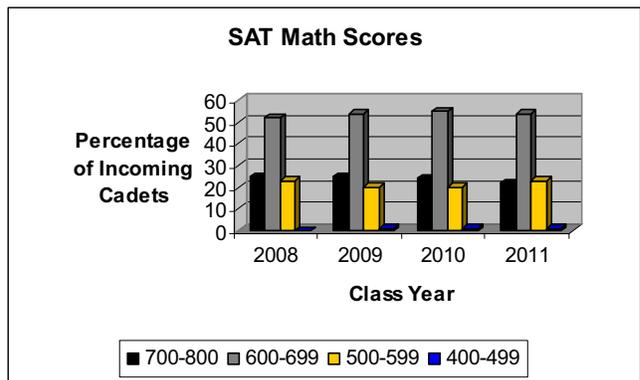
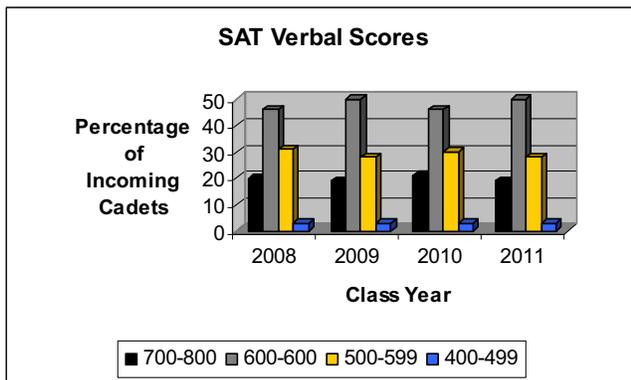
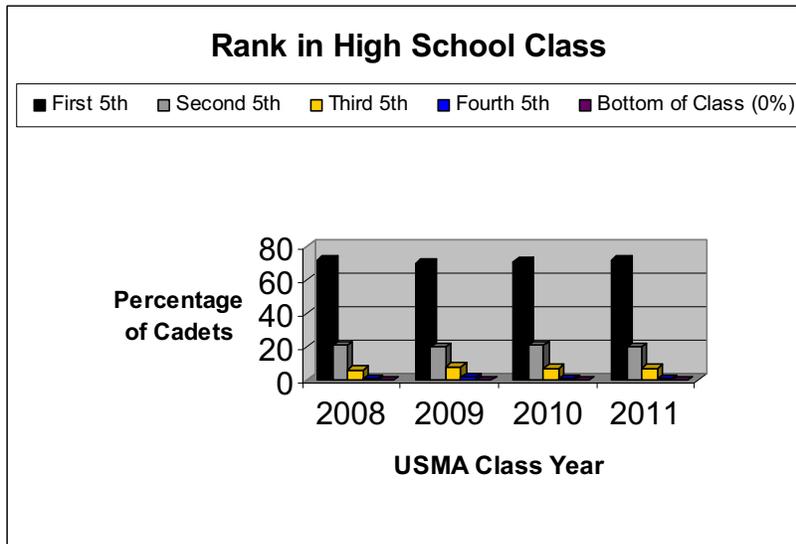
High School Activities Class of 2011

Scholarly

National Honor Society	785
Nat'l Merit Scholarship Recognition	199
Class Valedictorian or Salutatorian	124

Citizenship

Scouting Participants	530
Class or Student Body President	244
Boys/Girls State Delegates	202
Debating	182
School Publications	258



ACT Scores (Average of Four Test Scores)					
Score Ranges	31-36	26-30	21-25	16-20	11-15
% of Class of 2011	30%	47%	23%	4%	0%

What Is A Primary Source?

By Wendy Swik, Reference Librarian, USMA

A primary source is a book, person or document supplying original or firsthand information. Diaries, memoirs, personal papers and autobiographies are primary sources. Eyewitness accounts to events are primary sources. The USMA Library [Government Documents Collection](#) is another place rich in primary source material. Also, many items in the [Special Collections and Archives](#) division of the library are primary sources.

- To find primary source materials in the library's book and manuscript collections, use the Catalog.
- To find primary sources in the database collection, try the databases listed below.

As always, your course instructor has the last word on what qualifies as a primary source - so always check if you have any doubt.

USMA Catalog

Search using the name of your person of interest as the **Author**, or search an event or topic using **Keyword** combined with one of the following:

autobiograph* correspondence diar* memoir* personal narrative*

See also [Digital Collections](#) from the USMA Library Special Collections and Archives homepage.

Databases

Diaries, Memoirs, Personal Papers, and Autobiographies)

[British and Irish Women's Letters and Diaries](#): Primary materials spanning 300 years

[Civil War Letters and Diaries](#): Over 2000 authors, includes unpublished manuscripts

[Dolley Madison Digital Edition](#): Correspondence of the nineteenth century First Lady, 1788 to 1836

[Early Encounters in North America](#): Full-text letters, diaries, memoirs, and accounts of early encounters

[North American Immigrant Letters, Diaries and Oral Histories](#): Personal narratives, pamphlets, autobiographies, oral histories, & previously unpublished accounts

[North American Indian Biographical Database](#): Text and images: biographies, autobiographies, personal narratives, speeches, diaries, letters and oral histories

[North American Women's Letters and Diaries, Colonial to 1950](#): Experiences of over 1300 women

[Oral History Online](#): Index to collections of oral history in English from around the world including those available on the web; includes bibliographic records, audio and video

[Original Sources in Their Own Words](#): Contains original books, source documents and illustrations

Government Documents

[Congressional Universe \(Lexis-Nexis\)](#): Congressional publications 1789 to present; recent ones full-text

[Declassified Documents](#): Access to previously classified documents from the Cold War to the Vietnam War and beyond; scroll down and select the database

[U.S. Congressional Serial Set 1870-1980](#): Full-text reports, documents, and journals of the US Senate & House of Representatives, originally published in approximately 13,800 bound volumes

Newspapers (Historic and Current)

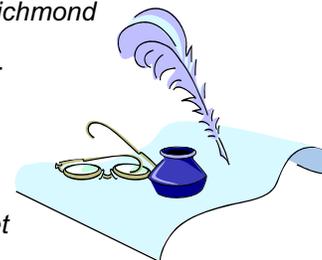
[America's Historical Newspapers 1690-1922](#): Over 1000 historical newspapers from all 50 states.

[Civil War Newspapers](#): *The Charleston Mercury*, the *New York Herald* and the *Richmond Enquirer*

[Harper's Weekly 1857-1912](#): America's leading 19th century illustrated newspaper

[ProQuest](#): current coverage of national newspapers

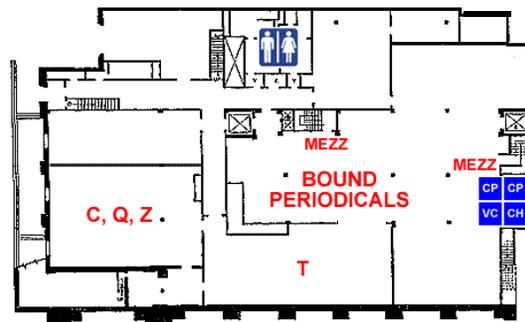
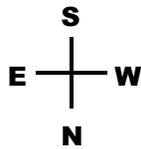
[ProQuest](#) (selected historical newspapers): In the database box, select a newspaper; *Atlanta Constitution* (1868-1925), *Boston Globe* (1872-1922), *Chicago Tribune* (1849-1985), *Christian Science Monitor* (1908-1992), *Los Angeles Times* 1881-1985), *New York Times* (1851-2002), *Wall Street Journal* (1889-1987), & the *Washington Post* (1877- 1988)



USMA Library Floor Plans

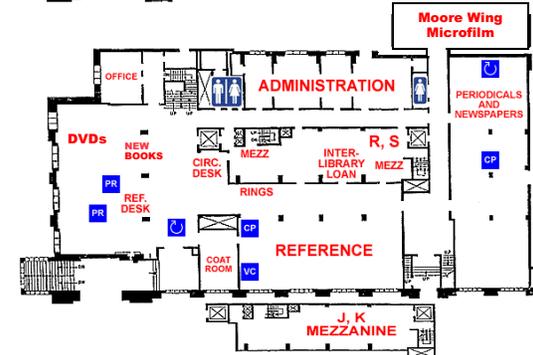
Basement

- C, Q, T, Z
- Bound Periodicals
- Photocopier



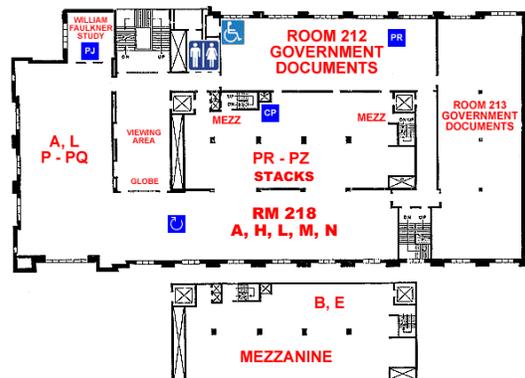
First Floor & Mezzanine

- J, K, R, S
- Circulation & Reference Desks
- Reference Room
- Moore Wing Microfilm, Newspapers
- Current Periodicals, DVDs
- Interlibrary Loan
- Photocopiers/Printers/Vendacoder



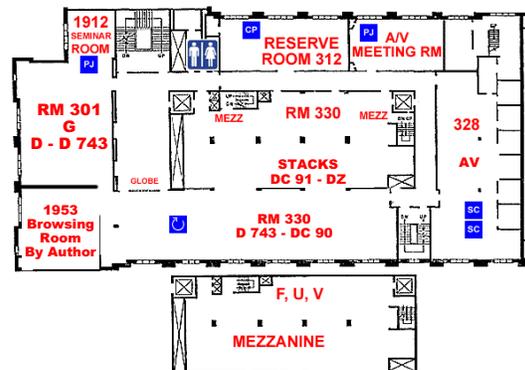
Second Floor & Mezzanine

- A, B, E, H, L, M, N, P
- Government Documents
- William Faulkner Study Room
- Room 212, 213, 218
- Study Carrels
- Plasma Screen Viewing Area
- Photocopier/Printer
- Handicap Access Restroom



Third Floor & Mezzanine

- D, F, G, U, V
- 1912 Seminar Room
- Reserve Room (Scanner, Copier)
- A/V Meeting Room (with Projector)
- Room 328 (Scanners)
- 1953 Browsing Room (Alphabetical by Author)
- Study Carrels
- Globe in Foyer
- Photocopier



Fourth Floor

- West Point Room
- Special Collections and Archives
- Rooms 411, 412, 415, 418
- Omar N. Bradley Library
- Photocopier

