

# Crowley shares expertise with diverse audiences as Omar Bradley Chair

By Lt. Col. Mark McCann

## Crowley shares expertise with diverse audiences as Omar Bradley Chair



*P.J. Crowley, the current Omar Bradley Chair of Strategic Leadership, speaks to students during a class at Dickinson College. The Bradley Chair is an initiative between the Army War College, Dickinson College and the Penn State University School of Law and School of International Affairs. Photo by Carl Socolow, Dickinson College.*

Dec. 27, 2011 -- The U.S. Army War College, a leader in military education and interagency cooperation, is part of a unique partnership with a local college and law school.

Started in 2001 between the Army War College and Dickinson College, with the Penn State University School of Law and School of International Affairs joining two years ago, the Omar Bradley Chair of Strategic Leadership was created to promote the exploration of leadership issues and military-civilian interaction.

**Philip J. “PJ” Crowley**, former assistant secretary of state for public affairs holds the chair at the three schools this year.

“The commandant [of the War College] and deans recognize this is a unique opportunity to draw the institutions together and promote greater interaction,” said Crowley. “What is unique about Carlisle is it hosts three distinct educational institutions that share a common sense of community.”

Through classes on national security-related subjects and faculty exchange, the Bradley Chair uses an academic setting to foster interaction between military and civilian students.

“Even with our professional military, which is the most capable in our history, we still have a gap

between the military and broader society,” said Crowley. “The military can get blinders on and lose sight of the larger picture of how it supports broader national objectives and not just military operations.”

“On the civilian side, we must continue to develop national leaders who know how to deploy the military to support strategic objectives and how to support the military long-term,” he continued. We need to bring this relationship closer, more into balance, especially in the context of our educational institutions. “

In a joint academic setting, military and civilian students develop an appreciation of the others’ role in national security and international affairs. This leads to a better understanding of the value of working together to address complex future security challenges.

“There are opportunities for joint sessions between soldiers and students,” said **Prof. Chuck Allen**, director of the Bradley Chair at the Army War College from 2005 to 2008. “Exchanges are important because of the ‘insular’ nature of the military according to Allen. “Students bring perspectives that we might not be aware of, and we bring new perspectives to the students. This helps us re-create the link between the military and the society it serves.”

“Society appreciates the military, but doesn’t understand what’s going on in the military,” said **Neil Weissman**, provost and dean at Dickinson College. “This is not healthy for American democracy, and we can use higher education to create better understanding.”

The Bradley Chair is described as a distinguished individual recognized as a subject matter expert in the areas of national security and international affairs. All nine past chairs, both military and civilian, were leaders in their respective fields whose unique perspective asked students to examine national security issues in ways they might not have considered.

“It is our job to challenge students to think beyond their own experiences, beyond their assumptions and provide them with the tools to talk about them,” said **Prof. Amy Gaudion**, assistant dean for academic affairs at Penn State University’s School of Law and School of International Affairs. “It is important that we have someone in the chair who really pushes them outside their comfort zones.”

“This provides Army War College students with another venue to reach out to students, focusing especially younger students,” said **Col. Michael McCrea**, Ph.D., director of the Bradley Chair. “I think it gives them a greater understanding of the strategic role War College students play, and an understanding of the role our military plays on a world stage.”

This year, Crowley will teach a course on media in the 21st Century global environment, tailored to

each unique academic audience. He recently concluded the fall semester at Dickinson, and will teach at both Penn State University School of Law and School of International Affairs and the Army War College this spring

U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 29 December 2011