

The High School View



The High School View is staffed and prepared entirely by students from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, and published on their behalf by The Martha's Vineyard Times, with the generous assistance of the sponsors whose names appear below.

War in Ukraine sparks classroom conversations

BY LILA MIKOS

As the war continues in Ukraine, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) students and staff are increasingly spending time discussing the Russian invasion in their classes. The tragic and horrifying events occurring are unlike any conflict most students have observed in their lifetimes, due to the fact that the news and images from the battlefield are so readily accessible via newsfeeds. In response, teachers are working to provide additional educational context to the unfolding events, resulting in an increased opportunity to integrate history and current events.

History department chair Olsen Houghton has aimed

to implement conversations about the war in all of his classes, including his senior history elective, Civics and Current Issues (CCI). "CCI is designed to talk about current issues, so it fits in there perfectly. In a way, it's been an opportunity to teach the history of Europe," he said.

In his Advanced Placement U.S. History class, incorporating discussion about the invasion of Ukraine has been more challenging. "In AP U.S., we can easily talk about Ukraine for days and not touch the material we're supposed to be looking at. The realness of these issues is definitely more interesting for kids because it's happening right in front of them," he said, "whereas the stuff we are actually supposed to be learning is from 300 years ago, and it's



HARDY EVILLE

History teacher Leigh Fairchild-Coppoletti discusses the geopolitical implications of war in Ukraine in her 9th grade Global History class.

much less interesting [now]."

Senior Jessie Dlabaj said, "I think this is a huge learning moment for everyone, especially our generation. It has taught us the importance of being educated on current events and pushed me to reflect on what I think we

should do as a country."

History teacher Leigh Fairchild-Coppoletti is currently leading the CCI unit on globalization. "The war in Ukraine is all about globalization and alliance-forming. And so in that sense, it's a great topic for

civics," she said.

Ms. Fairchild-Coppoletti wants to make sure that her students are gaining a clear understanding of the topic in order to form educated opinions. "We all have a responsibility to understand it as best as we can and navigate it as best we can, so that we can shape [the world] in a way that's better and healthier and happier for all people. Civics is a fantastic course to grapple with so many of these issues. I hope we can do it justice," she said.

She is excited to see that conversations are happening in other classes, not just in history. "I think there's relevance in every single course and we need to be [talking about it], because otherwise we risk isolating some sort of academic material to one

discipline," she said. "Thinking of history as something that's a study of the past, as opposed to the study of what it means to be human and to build civilization, is alienating. We need to involve young people as much as we can in the process of understanding our world in order to build a better world."

In addition to looking at Ukraine, Mr. Houghton is interested in exploring the unexpected ways that the conflict impacts the entire world.

"The world had seemed to be drifting apart. America had been becoming more insular, and it seems that the fragmented world is what emboldened Putin to think that there would be no resistance. The fact that the world has come together with such unbelievable unity is amazing, and a positive aspect of this whole situation," he said. **HSV**

Women's History Month prompts appreciation

BY NIKEYA TANKARD

March is Women's History Month, an international time of recognition and celebration of women of the past and present, and during this time, students and faculty at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) are reflecting on inspiring and influential women.

For history department chair Olsen Houghton, the women in his life have had a stronger impact on him than those in any history textbook. "Being a history teacher, I can list off hundreds of women throughout history that have inspired me," he said. "But I think having people close to you that you respect and admire is much more powerful."

Mr. Houghton's grandmother Phoebe Houghton, who lived to be 102, was the most important woman in

his life. "She was the matriarch of the family," he said. "She was an incredibly stable, secure person, and gave off this sense that everything was going to be OK."

Librarian Kevin McGrath spoke of his mother and the wisdom she passed on to him. "She would say to me that the most important thing is to follow what makes you happy, and that being happy with your choices in life is the most important thing," he said. "She's responsible for a big, big part of who I am."

English teacher Jessica Russell spoke about her mother who, at age 50 and after spending three decades working in her family's business in Falmouth, moved across the state to start a new job and a nonprofit. "I really admire her for that. She wanted to try new things and have new experiences, learn new skills and meet



ILLUSTRATION BY MADELEINE BENGTTSSON

new people. Seeing it as an adult, I want to always follow that model and always be pushing myself and embracing that curiosity I got from her," she said. "I remember saying to her, 'Mom, you're going to be one of those old people who's always trying new crazy things', and she

laughed, but it's true. She's one of those people who's genuinely curious."

Ms. Russell also mentioned her third grade teacher Mrs. Goodman, who inspired her to become a teacher. "I loved her. She was really challenging and really hard, but also really, really sup-

portive," she said. "I think all of us had a sense that she knew who we were and she truly cared about us."

She hopes to influence her own students in a similar way: "I hope I make my students feel seen as people, and not just as names in a gradebook."

Sophomore Huck Moore chose his older sister, Maddie, as the most inspirational woman in his life. "She started off as a small campaign manager and then she rose up to working on the federal level for senators," he said. "She's an inspirational success story for me."

Junior Lora Nikolova is inspired by her mother, who came to the U.S. from her home country of Bulgaria and established herself in a new world and community. "My mom's one of the most influential people I have in my life. She has a really strong sense of community, and works for Island Grown Initiative, and she helps package soups and organizes that whole thing," she said. "I think that to her it is really important to be a part of something and help other people."

Lora added, "She's the perfect example of who I want to be. I'm biased because I love her — she's my mom. I try to be as good of a person as she is." **HSV**

EDITORS IN CHIEF: Hardy Eville ('22), Sara Creato ('22) • ASSISTANT EDITORS: Julia Sayre ('23), Theodore Fairchild-Coppoletti ('22) • PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR: Parker Bradlee ('24)
ART EDITOR: Madeleine Bengtsson ('23) • MASTHEAD ART: Olivia MacPherson ('24) • FACULTY ADVISERS: Kate Hennigan, Rachel Schubert



Island Proofreading
Irene E. Ziebarth
3 Tennis Lane
Chilmark, MA 02535
202-680-8076
ireneziebarth@gmail.com

SUPPORT
The High School View
...and local news
MVTimes
Ads start at just \$50 per issue!
Email adsales@mvtimes.com
to learn more