

THE HERALD

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Through the Looking Glass: An Insider's Perspective on the Ukrainian Crisis and Its Future

Marlena Brown, news editor

The past few months for Ukraine have been tumultuous and unpredictable, to say the least. From contended annexations to predictions of civil war, Ukraine has not been portrayed in the most positive light in the media. Recently, Ukrainian President Oleksandr V. Turchynov enacted a military operation, which according to the New York Times, is an anti-terrorist operation in the northern region of Donetsk. The purpose is to ensure the safety of Ukrainian citizens during the warfare and bloodshed in the region. Yet, this action, as well as many others, has been questioned by both the media and Ukrainian citizens in terms of legitimizing the effort to keep people safe.

While the media has had their say on the issue, Meredith College's Associate Professor of Political Science, Dr. Jeffrey Martinson, gave his view on the matter, and the reasons behind the contention: "The current imbroglio over Ukraine is both serious and largely to be anticipated. It has its roots in several contradictory trends developing over decades and in some cases centuries in terms of political, economic and social factors; as a result various entities have claimed title over parts of present day Ukraine over its history...The current crisis of Crimea and other parts of Ukraine can be seen as the continuation of a long standing process of identitive and jurisdictional contention."

"More immediately, the conflict is over resources and control of [resources] in both Europe and Russia. [Russia] has been losing in the symbolic tussle over spheres of influence, with NATO, the European Union and other institutions representing European interests encroaching on areas that had

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once been the exclusive purview of Russia. [Meanwhile], Russian sensibilities became heightened or even paranoid...From this lens of suspicion, the violent overthrow of the Ukrainian regime was a provocation that warranted a response. Crimea was the

place to affect that response."

From a native's perspective, this issue is conflicting, as loyalties towards the government are questionable for citizens at this time. Staff writer Alah Aykivea received an insider's opinion, Anastasia Mityayeva, on the matter. Mityayeva's statement on the tensions in Ukraine was telling of the attitudes of many citizens in the region: "I would like to share that people here are afraid of war and occupation by Russian forces, also, there is a group of pro-Russian protesters. I hope that our government and militia will do enough to stop Russian aggression. It's a pity that people are scared to express their opinion if they do not support Russian help because they do not have guns, but pro-Russian ones have been seizing it recently from local armories. I hope it will end peacefully soon, but Putin's statements don't presage that."

To continue this conversation, the History and Political Science Department will be hosting an informational session for students to discuss their thoughts and opinions on the situation in Ukraine, Crimea and Russia. This event will take place during the final two weeks of class, with more details soon to come. Students from all disciplines are invited to partake in this interesting and complex conversation to become better acquainted with world news and learn how these events often hit home for students.

As for the Ukrainian crisis, a major question remains: what will be the outcome of this national tumult? Dr. Martinson stated that, "Whether [this] will be the entirety of the Russian response and what the Ukrainians will do in counter-response are matters of utter speculation at this point." It seems that educated predictions are the only indicators of potential resolution that exist at this point.

Students' Summer Plans: From Research at UNC to Tutoring in Vietnam

Julia Dent, managing editor

The spring semester is coming to a close, and students are getting ready for their summer plans, from exciting research to travelling across the world. Lindsay Palberg will be staying in the area and will be conducting research at the Carolina Population Center with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She found this research through her advisor Dr. Carolina Perez, and she will be working with the faculty fellows on ongoing research projects. "It will be along the lines of research that emphasize the intersection of the population, and health sciences that incorporates health behaviors and/or health education," said Palberg.

Kate Marshall will be interning for the Alliance of Baptists in New York City for 10 weeks and

will be working with the Metro Baptist Church. "The first two weeks I'll be there, I'll be working with different programs from AIDS outreach to kid's ministries and ESL to food pantries and rooftop gardens," said Marshall. "The rest of the time, I'll help direct a kids' camp for children that live in Hell's Kitchen. I'm excited to participate in cultural events and explore outside of my comfort zone with my internship."

Leanna Pai will be spending three weeks in Australia's outback for a study abroad program through GlobaLinks and LaTrobe University in Melbourne. The program focuses on photography, which interested Pai because she is a photography minor at Meredith. "It's a really great opportunity," said Pai. "I'll be learning a lot of photo skills and I'll be able to display my work in a gallery and sell it. When we go to the outback, we'll have a native Aboriginal guide

showing us around, and we'll be taking photographs of the environment."

Ellyn Elder will also be travelling across the world, and she will be staying in Vietnam for a month. "I will be traveling to a small, rural area outside Hanoi to work in an orphanage run in a Buddhist monastery," said Elder. "I will be caring for the children in the morning and tutoring the older children in the afternoon." She first became interested in Vietnam while learning about Vietnam in a class on the Vietnam Conflict in high school and took that into consideration when deciding on summer plans. "Vietnam seemed like the perfect place to open myself to a new culture and completely step outside my comfort zone."

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