

## Section 1

### Young American Scholars

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### Introductory word

Students at Seton Hall University are pleased to write for the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of The Young Scholars Grinchenko-Seton International Journal. The students are from several different departments and programs at the university. Represented are the Educational Studies Department of the College of Human Development, Culture and Media; The School of Diplomacy; The History Department and the Philosophy Department of the College of Arts and Sciences; and the College of Nursing.

The papers submitted by these students are a mixture of academic research papers and reflection pieces exploring topics of interest and importance. The intention is to provide readers with a broad examination of personal and current issues and an analysis of historical influences on the present day.

These papers and this 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Journal continue the partnership of over 17 years between the Borys Grinchenko Kyiv Metropolitan University and Seton Hall University. Our collaboration began with a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The project, *Deliberating in a Democracy*, sought to increase effective participation in deliberations of controversial issues. In this project, New Jersey was paired with Ukraine. Teachers from both countries visited one another for three years, and students from both worked with one another. After the program, an independent evaluation conducted by the University of Minnesota in 2009 revealed that the *Deliberating in a Democracy* project was surprisingly effective in multiple cultural and educational contexts.

Based on this exceptionally positive assessment and our anecdotal experience, Dr. Tarasenko and I committed to finding ways to bring this collaborative examination of critical topics to the university level. That decision has benefited students in our institutions for over 17 years. Over these many years, the focus of our video sessions each semester has varied. Historians from both universities led conversations focused on historiography. One project was a two-year collaboration titled *Visualizing the Ukrainian Diaspora*. This was an oral history and a scholarly research project. Students and faculty from each institution met several times to build an interactive website displaying the research. This work was presented at the International Assembly conference, a part of the National Council for the Social Studies, held in Chicago, Illinois, in 2018.

This electronic Journal was created to seek additional ways to support students from both universities collaborating. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> edition, the second since the brutal Russian invasion began in 2022. The Journal is a student-centered publication. As such, it seeks to provide an arena for student research and scholarly writing. It is also a forum to promote and support student voice and cross-cultural engagement. It has been beneficial for students in both of our institutions.

*Madeline S. Kruszczyński* is a sophomore double majoring in International Relations and Economics with a minor in Arabic. She is a member of the university's Honors Program and the Buccino Leadership Institute.

In her paper "*Russia's tactics in suppressing Ukraine's sovereignty*" Madeline explores how Russia's suppression of Ukrainian sovereignty has evolved, threatening not only Ukraine but the foundations of modern democratic statehood. She writes about the agreements promising Ukraine security and independence in return for dismantling its nuclear weapons.

*Clare Dueweke* is a sophomore in the School of Diplomacy and International Relations. She majors in International Economics, International Relations, and Philosophy with minors in Spanish and Environmental Studies. Clare seeks to use the knowledge and skills she develops to work in Global Health, focusing on the connection between health and environmental issues.

In her paper "*A geopolitical puzzle: the rise of Ukrainian nationalism*," Clare analyzes the progression of Ukrainian nationalism, focusing on the pivotal role of historical context, geopolitical location, former Soviet influence, and modern politics.

*Avery Kachmarsky* of Pasadena, California, is an undergraduate in the School of Diplomacy and International Relations. He is currently a staff writer for The Diplomatic Envoy, the foreign affairs news section of the School. Avery is also a member of the Honors and Buccino Leadership programs and an active member of the Slavic Club.

In his paper "*Resilience in Crimea: the history of the Crimean Tatars*," Avery explores the history of the Crimean Tatars. The impact of Russian imperialism, Soviet repression, forced deportation in 1944, and struggles faced upon their return to Crimea after the collapse of the Soviet Union are examined. Avery cites the ongoing persecution following Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014.

*Allison Bodaken* is a rising senior studying Diplomacy and International Relations, with minors in Spanish and Journalism. She is passionate about the political and economic state of the world right now, hoping one day, she will see a world less aggressive. In her professional life, she hopes to be a broadcast journalist.

In her paper "*Religion and the Russian – Ukraine War*" Allison explores the religious dimensions of the ongoing war in Ukraine, explaining how faith has been used for political influence and national identity.

*Allison Devitt* is an elementary and special education major at the College of Human Development, Culture and Media. She is also majoring in Environmental Education. As the daughter of two teachers, she continues the family commitment to service and helping build a stronger community.

In her essay "*How it feels to be American*", Allison shares a powerful reflection illustrating the challenges of living in a divisive time in American history. Her reflection piece begins, "I was born free. Nevertheless, I never earned it". She explores with honesty the issues confronting her generation.

*Raquel Cunha* envisions her future as one focused on service and care. She is a nursing major in the College of Nursing. Raquel is a first-year student excited to build the skills and knowledge needed to assist those in times of vulnerability.

In her essay "*Reflections on the first of the University CORE courses: A journey of transformation and my intended career in nursing*," Raquel cites the need for those in her chosen profession to be personal, resilient, and strong. She examines how her vision of nursing is reflected in a range of readings drawn from across time and continents.

*Novilette Jones* is an adult student who has embraced the challenge of working towards her college degree while being a mother to three children. She is a Philosophy major in the College of Arts and Sciences.

In her essay “*Potholes and possibilities: a mom’s rough road to success*,” he writes, “I must attend lectures and make meals, read late into the night, and drop off my children at school; my days are filled with chaos”. In her piece, she answers the question of her decision to seek a college degree – ‘why now’? A philosophy that she hopes will help her complete her goals is that challenges can strengthen, not restrict us.

*Слава Україні!*