

Between September 2022 and March 2023, a majority of the participants felt that the Lunch and Learn series of events put on by AAARCC taught them something new.

students stated that they learned something new during those events. Efficacy could be improved by increasing the amount of space, such as by providing a bigger and more encompassing facility; increasing the number of scholarships and awards, both national and campus-wide; and increasing the center’s visibility on campus. These results are significant because they can lead to better program efficacy in the future as well as enable the center to reach more students. These extra resources would not only aid AAARCC in providing better and more effective support for students, but also would allow for more community engagement, both on and off campus.

Research advisor Pamela Sari writes: “Michael Kuczajda’s research on the efficacy of AAARCC’s programming offers valuable insights into the importance of cultural centers in supporting students in journeys of identities and academic/professional excellence. His research offers reflective points to support cultural center efforts in the context of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging work on campus.”

American Foreign Policy and Public Opinion of the Crimean War (1853–1856)

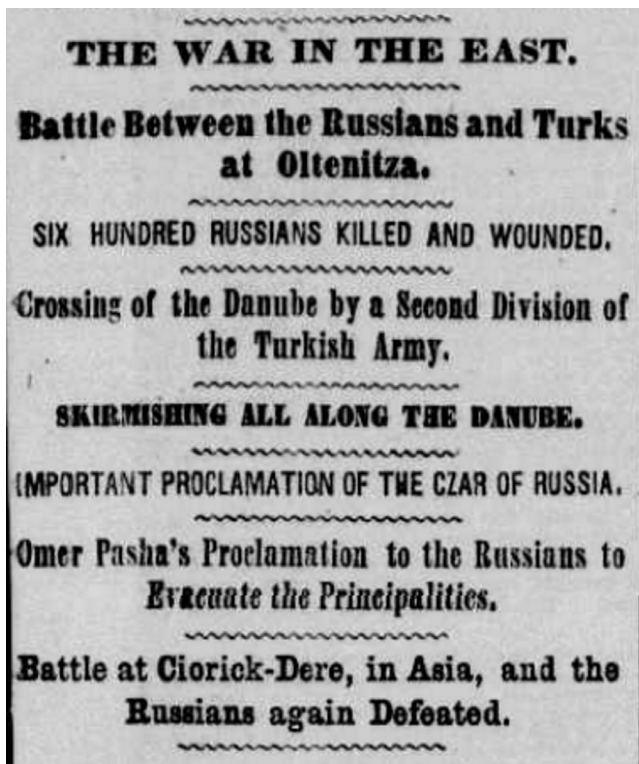
Student researcher: Anurag Shah, Senior

During the Crimean War (1853–1856), France and Britain sided with the Ottoman Empire to curb Russian

expansion. America, having friendly relations with Russia and a rivalry with the British, elected to maintain its longstanding policy of neutrality, but also be diplomatically aligned to the Russian cause. This work examines American foreign policy and public opinion (gauged through media representations) during the conflict and explores how the two are related and how they reflect wider trends in 19th-century America.

Strong Russo-American relations led to mutual benefit for both parties as the conflict progressed. Most significantly, the threat of American intervention helped ensure that the freedoms of navigation were respected by all parties, allowing trade to flow between Russia and America. British-American relations, on the other hand, remained poor and culminated in a major scandal during the Anglo-American Recruitment Crisis, a controversy about illegal British recruitment on American soil that generated anti-British sentiment throughout the country.

Newspaper reporting on the Crimean War in America showcased a diverse set of opinions, which were not always aligned to foreign policy. Among the trends in reporting, the most significant was the difference between North and South, reflecting the same tensions that would lead to the Civil War only five years later. The northern free states supported Britain and France throughout the conflict, primarily for ideological and moral reasons. The southern slave states veered toward a strong anti-British



Headline in the New York Herald from the onset of the Crimean War. This article encapsulated the views of the Northern US during 1853, denouncing the Russian invasion and hoping for a quick Ottoman victory; Citation: "The Turkish Question." The New York Herald, November 25, 1853.

sentiment by the midpoint of the conflict for a variety of political and economic reasons, especially the increasing Russian imports of southern cotton.

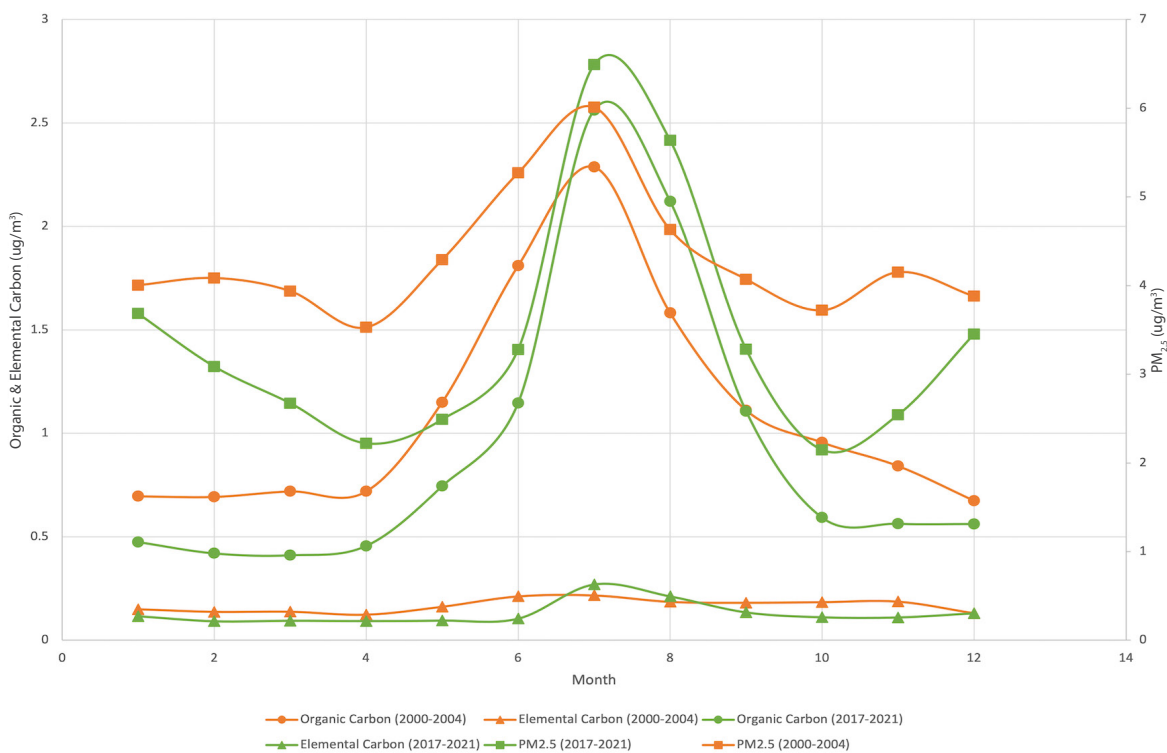
Research advisors Michael Smith and Jonathan Lande write: "Anurag's Honors thesis bridges his love for history and his chosen field of computer science, threading research of sources at the National Archives and leading historical and memoir works with a truly original database of American regional newspapers, coded and categorized for their varieties of views on the Crimean War."

SCIENCE

The Effects of Wildfire Aerosol Emissions on Air Quality

Student researchers: Emma Braun, Senior, and Audrey Shirley, Senior

After analyzing academic publications and additional sources, we found that the projected changes in temperature, precipitation, and extreme events across the world are likely to lengthen the wildfire season and increase the area burned. Wildfire damage continues to spread from



Monthly averages of measured aerosol concentrations in Voyageurs National Park, from the IMPROVE program.