

Chris Lese '92 selected for prestigious program

Social studies teacher **Chris Lese '92** is one of only 18 middle- and high-school educators selected to participate in Understanding Sacrifice, a partnership between National History Day, the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), and the National Cemetery Administration (NCA).

As part of the program, Lese will conduct in-depth research about Navy sailor Donald Lewis Yecke, a well-known baker from Sheboygan, Wis., who was killed in a kamikaze attack during the invasion of Okinawa. Yecke is listed as missing in action at the Honolulu Memorial Cemetery, which Lese will visit in July 2017 as part of the program. Additionally, Lese, along with more than 20 of his U.S. History and World History students, are also researching seven MUHS alumni who are buried or listed as MIA in the Pacific.

“I am excited to see first hand where our veterans served and died in the Pacific Theater of World War II,” says Lese. “I hope to gain concrete ideas about how to improve my teaching of this era of history in my classroom.”

During his visit, Lese will present a eulogy at the memorial of Yecke, as well as read the student-written eulogies and place student-created memorials at each MUHS alumnus grave site.

Lese will develop a lesson plan based on his research and background that will be added to ABMCEducation.org in November 2017.

“National History Day strives to connect students to the past and one of the best points of contact with any student is their teacher,” says National History Day Executive Director Dr. Cathy Gorn. “This program is highly competitive and Mr. Lese should be proud to be accepted. I know he will use this once-in-a-lifetime journey to create a superb lesson plan.”

A service for peace

By Evan Bingham '17

Last summer, Milwaukee's Sherman Park neighborhood became emblematic of the civil unrest in the city, as riots broke out after an African-American man was shot and killed by a police officer.

Eli Borg '17 lives in Sherman Park and witnessed the violence first hand. He says he realized within a day of the shooting that his neighborhood had changed, and that the repercussions would be felt beyond his neighborhood. “I wanted people to know that this wasn't just about Sherman Park; it affected everyone in Milwaukee,” he says. “It's easy to look at it from the outside.” He wanted to be able to share his perspective with his fellow students at Marquette High.

Borg and friend, **Ben Johnson '17** spoke to Principal **Jeff Monday '84** about having a service to pray for all those affected. Nearly 100 MUHS students and faculty members attended the service, during which many people in the Marquette High community spoke about their experiences living in Sherman Park and the greater Milwaukee area.

Dan Holahan, a Marquette High theology teacher who has lived in Sherman Park for nearly 30 years, spoke about his experiences; other speakers included **Glen Allen**, director of diversity, and Borg's and Johnson's fathers, both local pastors. After the service, the group walked around the MUHS campus singing songs and praying for unity and peace. A peace pole, created by art home-room students and representing the solidarity of Marquette High with the larger Milwaukee area, was planted outside next to the chapel to commemorate the event.

Seeing such a large turnout for the event, Holahan says he was “filled with hope” for the future of his neighborhood and the city beyond it. “We can definitely make change, it just takes a while,” says Borg.