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TWO SECTIONS - 75 CENTS

CHS students interact with peers from across globe

By Philip Sean Curran
Staff Writer

Kimberly Pinzino did not need a passport or luggage to come face-to-face Friday with high school students in Ukraine.

The freshman at Columbia High School joined other high school students at Seton Hall University for a real-time tele-conference with their European peers.

The Ukrainian students, coming from four high schools, appeared from the American embassy in Kiev. The Americans came from Columbia, Nutley, Cranford and Summit high schools. For 90 minutes, they talked about the economy, recycling, politics and even soccer.

"Glad to see you, hear you and be here with you," said a Ukrainian teacher helping to moderate the discussion.

The language barrier did not pose a problem. A high school teacher from Montclair High School helped to translate, although the Ukrainian students understood English.

Kate, neatly dressed and her hair in a pony tail, told her American counterparts that she studies English seven hours a week — talking in perfect English, no less.

The conference began with the two groups discussing the environment.

"I think that recycling is very important, not only for me, but for other people," said Roman, a Ukrainian student.

The Ukrainian students came dressed as if they were going to a job interview, their English good enough to carry a conversation. Matt Borkowski, a history teacher at Columbia, brought five students with him, including freshman Shaina Bellamy.

The only black student in either group, she said she wondered afterward if the Ukrainians had ever seen a black student before.

Deliberating in Democracy, the program Bellamy and the other students participated in, is run through the Center for Global Education at

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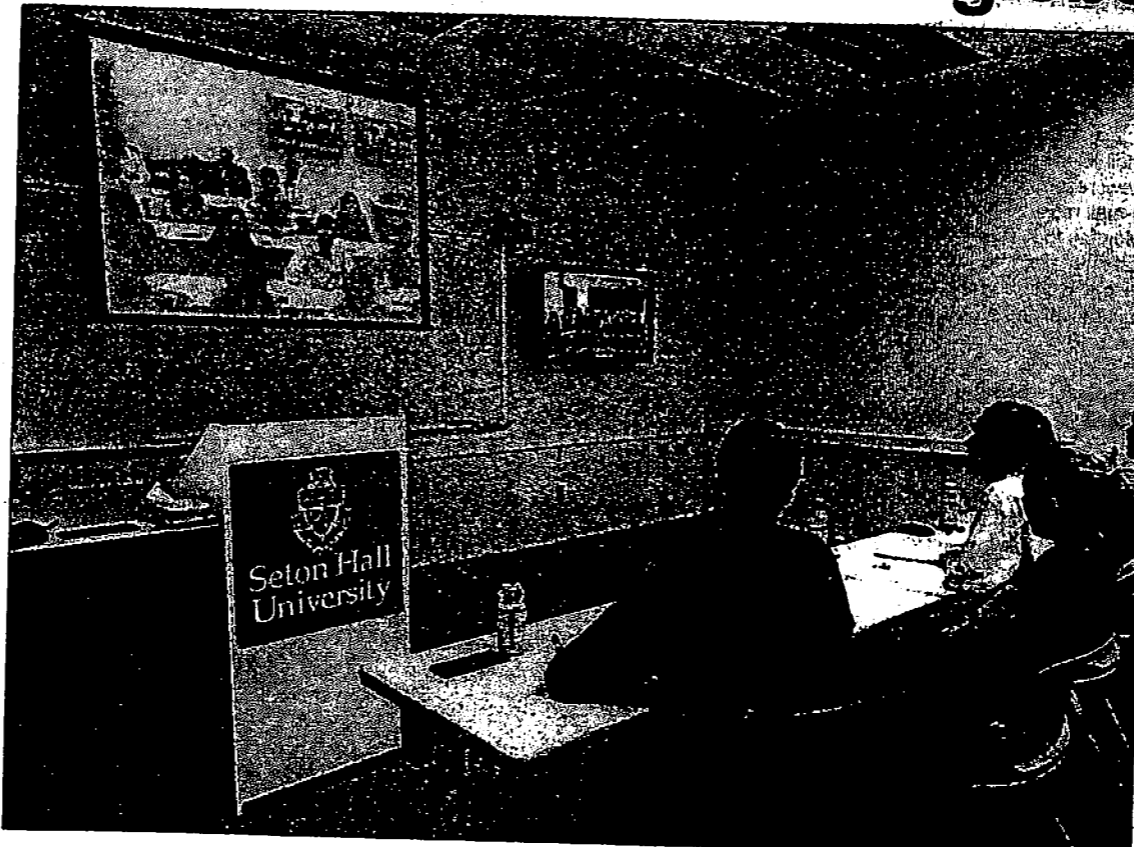


Photo By Barbara Kokkalis

Students from high schools across Essex and Union counties, including several from Columbia High School, interact with students from the Ukraine during Friday's global teleconference program at Seton Hall University.

Students go global

ry teacher at Montclair High School.

"America is so present in their lives."

She knows about life in Eastern Europe, having lived in Moldova before immigrating to the United States in 1991.

For her part, Pinzino said the Ukrainian students appeared light-hearted to her. She said the experience made her want to learn the language and visit the country.

For that, she will need a passport and some luggage.

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Seton Hall. Friday marked the second conference this year between American and Ukrainian students, said Greer Burroughs, a professor in the school of education. A third is planned in February.

A former high school teacher, Burroughs said there is a movement to make global education more current, so that students are cross-culturally literate.

"Those kids know so much more about us than we know about them," said Liliya Panayev, a histo-