

Section 1

Seton Hall University Young Scientists Researches

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Introductory word

This edition of the Young Scientists Grinchenko – Seton International Journal is unlike any of the prior editions. It is being published during the ongoing brutal and unprovoked attack on Ukraine by Russia. *February 24 will be long remembered as the day Vladimir Putin began a war that focused on the destruction of Ukrainian cities and innocent civilians of Ukraine.*

Many Americans have been shocked by the criminal acts unleashed by Russia since they began the war. We at Seton Hall University have been angered, saddened, and yet inspired by the heroic Ukrainian response. Throughout the University, there have been seminars and discussions designed to provide our students with historic context and authentic ‘real-time’ information about the war.

The History Department and the Educational Studies Department of Seton Hall University are the primary sponsors of the Memorandum of Understanding that exists between Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University and Seton Hall University. We have been partners for 14 years, and the Educational Studies Department has supported virtual meetings and activities throughout that time. The results of this partnership have been significant, with students from both institutions presenting at international conferences, and working on a variety of projects (including the website and oral history project The Ukrainian Diaspora). This close relationship makes the struggle of Ukrainians during this war personal. Слава Україні!

On Tuesday, **April 5, 2022**, the War in Ukraine was the topic of **an online meeting “Stand with Ukraine. Students in Wartime: A Virtual Bridge with Kyiv, Ukraine”**.

The session was organized by *Dr. Olha Tarasenko and colleagues and administrators from Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University, along with Dr. Maxim Matusevich, Dr. James Daly, and Dr. Nathaniel Knight from Seton Hall University.*

Well over 100 people attended the April 5th event. Present at the meeting were Seton Hall alumni from several high schools around the country. These former students brought classes of their own students to the session. There were high school students from the Collegiate Charter High School in Los Angeles and two classes of students from the American Art Academy in Chicago. There were also classes attending from the Somerset Hills Regional School District and classes from the Wayne Hills Regional High School, both in New Jersey. In addition, there were reporters present and audience members from as far away as Israel.

Images from the event can be found here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jsoT-9nqKP0OUNaYY9Op6X158ogGbovx?usp=sharing>

During the virtual, community-style meeting, four topics were addressed:

1. The real reasons for the Russian invasion of Ukraine;
2. Student life during the war, how re-opening virtually was accomplished, and how it has been working;
3. Testimony – students shared their experiences.

The audience heard from students who had fled their homes and were suddenly refugees, from those who had been sheltering in subways, and those who described the horrors of the shelling and bombing since the invasion began.

4. Students shared their hopes and their beliefs for the future of Ukraine.

The session ended with the playing of the Ukrainian national anthem.

Students from Ukraine shared their stories. These were stories of loss, fear, courage, and determination. Following the session, a common word used to describe reactions to the event was ‘inspiring’. Also inspiring is the determination of our Ukrainian partners to publish this fourth edition of our electronic magazine during this time.

There are non-traditional features in this edition.

Close to one hundred high school students were present at the April 5th, 2022, *virtual meeting “Stand with Ukraine. Students in Wartime: A Virtual Bridge with Kyiv, Ukraine”*.

One group of students was from the Collegiate Charter School of Los Angeles.

<https://www.collegiatecharterhighschooloflosangeles.org/>.

They were invited to submit their reflections. These reflections from high school students are a new feature for this journal, and they are presented in this issue.

Sue Ferrara, an independent writer, researcher, reporter shared her thoughts about a *virtual bridge “Stand with Ukraine. Students in Wartime: A Virtual Bridge with Kyiv, Ukraine”*. Sue wrote because she was moved by the testimony from the Ukrainian students, and her interest in learning how New Jersey schools are addressing the war. She is a member of her local School Board (a group responsible for school policy in each of New Jersey’s school districts). In her article she shares her reactions to the event. She also reports on her disappointment with school leaders. It had been her hope to interview the New Jersey teachers at the event, as well as their students. What she found was that many school leaders are fearful of anything that might be considered controversial or that might raise community corner. These are difficult times in public schools across the State, and indeed the country. Anecdotal evidence supports the concern of many that both self-censorship and censorship of what teachers do and say is significant and growing. Unfortunately, Sue was not able to share the work of New Jersey schools and students with her intended audience.

There are traditional features in this journal from the Seton Hall University students.

Mary Grace McNamara looks at Japan and the role of nationalism, specifically teaching the young to be loyal through education and propaganda in the World War II era.

Four Seton Hall students present papers that address historic issues revolving around the democratic revolutions leading to the fall of the former Soviet Union. The timeliness of these events is evident today.

Nathan Yost examines the fall of Communism in Hungary.

The revolution in Latvia is the focus of the paper by *Vivian Yeaman*.

Patryk Kurdyla presents research on Slovakian dissidents.

Brandon Rodriguez shared a paper exploring Russian and Ukrainian relations since the fall of the former Soviet Union.

Stand with Ukraine. Слава Україні!