

Euro Challenge Team Competes in New York

A talented group of five sophomores comprised Trumbull High's first Euro Challenge team, which participated in the New York competition in March 2007.

At the invitation of sponsors The Federal Reserve Bank of New York, The Moody's Foundation, and the Delegation of the European Commission to the United States, the Trumbull team competed against 27 other high schools from the New York metropolitan area. Montclair High School (N.J.) emerged as the winner. They received an expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C. to meet the members of the European Delegation as well as the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve.

Working with advisors Gerry McCloghry and Laura Alford, team members Dan Connolly, Lauren Dahlin, Andrew Freeburg, Lisa Kasiewicz, and Emily Wu demonstrated mastery in both economics and current issues concerning the European Union. Of the 25 countries who belong to the EU, only 13 use the Euro as their common currency. Both individually and collectively, these nations face many fiscal, economic, and cultural conflicts.

It was the task of the team to bring these issues to light by preparing a 15-minute presentation and then field ten minutes of challenging questions from a panel of experts in European economic and political affairs. This exercise required the 5 students to rely on their communication, critical thinking, and cooperative team skills to build and defend their thesis. They role played a Board of Directors meeting of "Axiom," a hypothetical American biomedical research firm seeking to expand into the EU by choosing Ireland as its European headquarters.