

# ESSENTIALLY PALS

## The Program in American Language Studies Newsletter

<http://pals.rutgers.edu>

Session III - 2007-2008

### *Greetings from the Director*

Dear Students,

Here's your copy of this session's "EsSentialLy PALS". Thanks to your active contribution, the newsletter is getting better with every issue. This session was a bit special not only because you all worked really hard and learned a great deal but also because it was full of fun. That's really my personal philosophy - "Work Hard - Play Hard!"

I think both major events of this session: the field trip to the *NBC Studios* and the cultural event, *Around the World in 120 Minutes*, were rather special and brought us a great deal of joy and experiential learning. *The Best Journal Entry* contest was a great success too.

This session was special for another reason: we had a wonderful group of students from Chung Buk University in South Korea. It is always such a pleasure to have them with us. They will soon be returning to their university and I would like to wish them good luck and 'Bon Voyage!'.

If you are graduating or leaving PALS, please do not forget to sign up for our alumni club - *PALS PLUS*. This will help us keep in touch.

Dr. Veena Kumar



### *From Denise's Desk*

I hope everyone is having a wonderful session! Please don't forget:



**Session III** ends on **March 11, 2008**.

The payment deadline for **Session IV** is **March 17, 2008**. Please pay by this date in order to avoid being charged a late fee!

**Session IV** begins on **Monday, March 31, 2008**. Returning student orientation will be in the Yorba Lounge at 11:30 am. All schedules and books will be issued at that time.



### *Mary Ellen's Corner*

I can't believe the end of Session III is approaching! Time flies when you're having fun! Here are a few things you should remember to maintain your F-1 status:

- If you plan on *traveling outside the US* for vacation, please bring your I-20 to me for a travel signature *before* you leave. You must pay a deposit for Session IV before I can sign your I-20 (this way I'll be sure you will return to PALS). Please do not leave the US without a travel signature on your I-20!

- If Session III will be your *final session*, please make an appointment with me to discuss your plans *before* the session ends.
- If you will plan on *transferring* to another school after Session III, you must submit all of your transfer forms *before* the last day of class. If you have any questions about the transfer process, please feel free to make an appointment with me.

I hope you enjoy Spring Break and I look forward to seeing you again for Session IV!

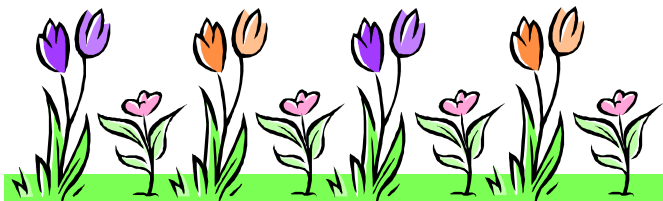


### EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

For campus status information, visit:

<http://campusstatus.rutgers.edu/>

or call 732-932-7799 for a recorded message



### A POEM

Alejandro Navarro

#### The Way You Are

You are as distant and mysterious as the moon in the dark  
 You illuminate me with your splendor  
 When I feel alone  
 You fill that hole  
 Embellishing everything you are around

### "Luisa Alvarez" Her Life in the United States

Adriana Nava

In order to do my grammar homework I

interviewed "Luisa Alvarez". I organized my interview with some questions relating to her

experiences living in the United States since her parents decided to immigrate to this country. The objective was to find out the difficulties and joys of being a part of two cultures.



Luisa is from Colombia, and she has been living with her family in the United States for two years. She used to live in Tampa, Florida. She lived there for seven months, and then she moved to New Jersey because her father found another job in this state.

She said that it was difficult for her to begin a new life in the United States. When she arrived she was 16 years old, and she was very depressed because she did not want to live in country other different than Colombia because she had her friends and her family there. In addition, she enjoyed her life there with the different Colombian traditions.

Based on the interview, the difficulties of being a part of two cultures for her are related basically to the English language because she does not speak English well. For that reason, she is taking classes to improve her speaking skills; however, when she comes home she speaks Spanish with her parents all the time.

In addition, she mentioned other difficulties such as the differences between the American and Colombian culture, the food, music and clothes. For her, being a part of a "new country" where the people's behavior is generally very different than her home country "Colombia", has been very hard for her. In her native country, people, in her opinion are more amicable and warm than people in the United States.

Finally, she mentioned the impact of the winter weather to her, in contrast with her native country's weather, that is in her own words "muy rico" this means "very nice". She still can not accustomed to winter weather; she doesn't like it.



On the other hand, she mentioned some joys of being a part of two cultures. She enjoys the holidays in the United States, such as Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. She still celebrates some Holydays from Colombia with her parents in the United States. Another joy is to meet American people, and eat American food (hamburgers and shakes) and eating the traditional food of her country in her house. She also enjoys visiting interesting places in New Jersey and New York. She goes back to Colombia once in a year for a visit. In this way she can mix two cultures.

In conclusion, she has some difficulties and joys of being part of two cultures, but she knows that this is a great experience, and she has the opportunity to mix two cultures in one country.

### **New Years Day in My Country**

Luis Klaus Osorio

In my country in the new year day, the younger people leave at disco and video put, they are dancing drinking until early hours in the morning.

The older people, the mothers is cooking in the house usually turkey stuffed, and other food. 12 o'clock every people is ready fireworks, and they are very happy. So they drink to a New Year.



Other person go around at city block with bag, they believe that travel in New Year. Also someone are eating 12 raisin each is a wish, that to comply.

Too there are concert in every city with many people.

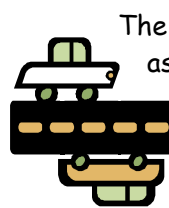
### **Types of excuses students make up for missing class**

Fiona (Yu-Chen Chiu)

Making excuses is a common occurrence for students. There is a ridiculous fallacy spread in college, "If one person has never skip a class, he is not a true college student." People are imperceptibly influenced by what one constantly sees and hears. Over a long period of time, almost every student firmly believe that they must at least skips one class during their college life. The accurate reasons that students miss class are various; for examples, they cannot get up because the class is too early, they just do not want to go to school, they think the class is boring or they do not like the lecturer. No matter which reason, students have to make up a "white lie" so that to reduce the guilty feeling. Generally, professors can frequently hear three types of excuses.



First, students have physical problems. In my opinion, this is the most common excuse made by students. For instance, females can say they suffer from their womanly trouble the day. I can always hear this excuse in swimming class because many girls hate swimming. Moreover, students would tell the professor they catch a cold, they have hemicranias or they get a stomachache. This kind of excuse may earn the sympathy and evade the blame.



The traffic excuse is exceedingly common as well. Students who drive to school would say their cars are out of work or they have a flat tire. The other students who have to take the public transportation may say that they meet a traffic jam while commuting.

There also have some preposterous pretexts that I have ever heard before. To illustrate, their shoes are hold away by dogs therefore they cannot go out; their mothers did not wash clothes

so they cannot go to school for the reason that they have no shirt to wear; their alarm clocks out of order every time.

To generalize, the main types of excuses students made are physical, traffic and ludicrous excuses. I think every professor is used to this situation but he just does not expose it. Comparing these three types of students' psychology, they have no differences but only have one common point, laziness.



### Who is an American Duyen Vu

An American is anyone who is very friendly. The first time I came to the US, I was helped by a lot of strangers. Almost all time I go out, I see some people smile at me, or say hi.

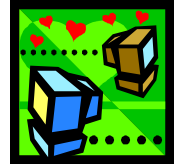
Americans are very fast. They think and make a decision very quickly. Even the way they walk is very fast. They also don't hesitate to say what they are thinking. An American who works very hard. They can stay at an office or library very late to finish their jobs. In addition, they know how to enjoy and relax after working.

American who love animals. They take care the pets like their friend. They walk with pets in park, take them to the hospital when it is necessary. Some people even sleep with dogs or cats.

An Americans knows to protect their environment. Even though they have a lot of big factories, and several big buildings, they still have a natural environment because they know how to protect it. American are not afraid of war. In history, they have been have a lot of wars with so many countries. Until now, they are still fighting with Iraq.

### Homesick Maria Napoli

These last days I have been a little bit sick (homesick!) because in this month almost all of my friends have their birthdays and we used to go out or just hang out in someone's home. It didn't matter, the point was to be all together.



I really miss my friends, but I'm happy here too. I have made many new good friends. Some of them have gone back home, but we still talk by MSN and Facebook. Well, I hope I can get over it soon. I don't like feeling like this!

### Why I Still Study English at PALS Lee Wong



As a matter of fact, English is hailed as an international language, meaning that this language is of great importance, therefore I want to improve my English, so I am still studying English at PALS. Furthermore, through this visit to America, I can not only boost my language skills, but also widen my horizons.

Undoubtedly, PALS is a good chance of a life-time. I think it can sharpen my competitive edge. It's because better English is of tremendous importance to apply for a good job in the future, so I must work hard now.







