

EsSENTIALLY PALS

The Program in American Language Studies Newsletter

<http://pals.rutgers.edu>

Session I - 2006-2007

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Students,

Here is this session's issue of "EsSentialLly PALS". Our little newsletter is becoming more interesting with each edition, thanks to your wonderful contributions.

From my end, the most interesting news to share is my recent trip to Korea. It was my first visit to Korea and a very valuable one. I was invited by Pukyong National University, Busan, to speak at an international conference which was organized by their Dept. of Humanities & Social Sciences. After spending three days at the Conference, I went to Seoul where I visited and discussed collaborative projects with Seoul National University and the EWHA Women's University.

The trip was extremely rewarding and gave me a better insight into the history, education system, gastronomy and the culture of a country from where so many of our students come. The thing that impressed me most was the politeness of the Korean people. Every time I asked for directions, either on the road or in the subway, the person not only tried his/her best to explain in English but actually walked all the way to the crucial point and physically pointed the way to me.

Well, we will soon be at the end of our session I and will have to start thinking of sweaters, coats and boots! Are you ready? Have a very enjoyable break, short as it is!

Dr. Veena Kumar



FROM DENISE'S DESK

Welcome to PALS! I hope everybody had a wonderful summer and you're enjoying the first session of another great year!

Please don't forget these very important dates:

Session I ends on October 23, 2006

The payment deadline for Session II is October 17, 2006. Please pay by this date in order to avoid being charged a late fee!

Session II begins on Monday, October 30, 2006.

Please submit your requests for transcripts, certificates and letters before you leave PALS!

PALS Lost and Found

PALS is starting a "Lost and Found" for items that students have "lost" and "found". If you leave something in your classroom, or if you find something that does not belong to you, please stop by the PALS office. If you have any questions, please ask at the PALS office.





MARY ELLEN'S CORNER

I hope you all had a great summer! I, for one, am glad it's over and I'm back at PALS. I missed you all very much and I am thrilled to see some familiar faces and welcome some new ones! As this session ends, there are a few things you should keep in mind.

-If you are transferring to another school at the end of this session, please make sure you have submitted all of your transfer forms to me **BEFORE** October 24, 2006. I will be transferring your SEVIS records shortly after that date. Be sure to contact your new school to pick up your new I-20. If you are traveling home for the break, I suggest that you pick up the I-20 from your new school *before* you leave. You will need the new I-20 to return. ***Please be sure that the transfer forms you hand to me are from the school you wish to attend. Once I have transferred you to a new school, I cannot access your SEVIS record to transfer you somewhere else.***

-If you would like to travel outside the US for vacation, please bring your I-20 to me for a travel signature *before* you leave. The signature ensures that you will be returning to PALS when you return from vacation. You must pay a deposit for Session II 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. You will not be able to enter the United States without it!***

MEET THE NEW FACULTY: Sally Freedman

Where did you work before you joined PALS?
Before joining PALS, I taught in the summer program at the English Language Intensive at the University of Delaware. I had two classes of English for Academic Purposes at advanced levels, with a wonderful group of students from Korea, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Turkey and South

America.



What is your educational background?

In college and graduate school, I studied the language and literature of the ancient Near East. This involved a number of different languages and writing systems, which I found fascinating. I continued to do research and teach part-time in this academic field while working as a writer and editor at Princeton University and raising three children. Later my husband and I moved to Vermont, where I earned an MA in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. I'm glad to be back in New Jersey!

What are your hobbies?

Indoors, I like reading and writing; I also enjoy movies. Outdoors, I like taking long walks in natural settings such as in the woods or by the sea. And I love traveling. A couple of years ago I spent two weeks in Jamaica as a volunteer in a village creating a coffee plantation, and last winter I spent two months in Mexico teaching English at a university-level art school.

Where have you traveled?

I grew up traveling around the world, because my father was a diplomat. As a child I lived in Switzerland and Senegal. I came back to the US for college, but I continued to visit my parents wherever they were living - which included Cameroon, Pakistan, Belgium, Panama and South Africa. I always have a list of places I want to go next; at the moment, Costa Rica and Alaska are high on that list.

Do you have any helpful tips for students learning English?

The most valuable thing I've learned about language learning is that anxiety and self-consciousness are the biggest barriers to progress. Everyone trying to learn a new language deserves respect and encouragement. I admire them all!



The Ellis Island and Statue of Liberty

Yu Ting Karen Cheng

Last week I went to the Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty with my classmates. I had a wonderful time on the trip. Five years ago, I also went to there, but I didn't understand anything about the Statue of Liberty or the Ellis Island. After Miss Klein gave us the opportunity to know the Liberty, I am more interested in this magnificent statue.

Ellis Island opened on January 1, 1892. Ellis Island because the nation's premier federal immigration station. In operation until 1954, the station processed over 12 million immigrant steamship passengers. In the museum, I saw many pictures, statues, photos and suitcases, etc. Many kinds of artifacts. Really interesting.

The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World was a gift of friendship from the people of France to the people of the United States and is a universal symbol of freedom and democracy. The Statue of Liberty was dedicated on October 28, 1886, designated as a National Monument in 1924 and restored for her centennial on July 4, 1986.

Beside learned the history of the Ellis Island and Statue of Liberty, I took a lot of pictures with my friends. I was really fun. If next time I still have chance to go to the teaching outside of the school, I will go. This is a good way to help us to learn easier than study in the paper. Anyway I appreciate that the patience of Miss Klein.



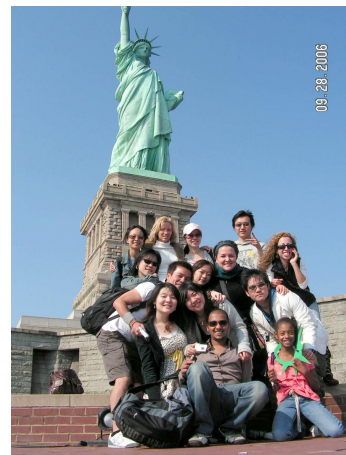
Excursion to Ellis Island

Hee Jung Sunny Kim

I have gone on an excursion to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty with my colleagues and my teacher. During this trip, I kept two things in my mind.

First of all, I thought who the American nation is. I saw many immigrants' pictures at the Ellis Island Museum. They came to the U.S.A. from all parts of the world. Although the immigrants were born in different countries, were different racial, and had different way of life, their descendants have been born in U.S.A. I think that these are the U.S.A.'s nations.

Second, I read a book "The Korean-American" at the Ellis Island Museum. The book introduced Korean life. I could easily understand the contents because of big pictures. However, I was very disappointed with the pictures. Most pictures did not show Korea. These were from Japan or South Asia. One of these pictures described Korean women. They were wearing Kimono. This is traditional Japan clothes. Korean has their traditional clothes, Hanbok. I think the reason why these errors happen to this book is Korean government's indifference. I hope that our government has more interest and attention in doing public relations.



Overcoming Obstacles

Hana Bae, Kang Heong Lee, Ji Man Ru, Kyung Mi Kim, Ingrid Tiuyol

Most people get into obstacles through their lives. Some people may overcome their obstacles, but other people may not. The people who have experiences of overcoming their obstacles have common characteristics. The first characteristic is a strong mind that makes you never give up. If you have some disabilities, the start line can be different from these that do not. Many students came to the U.S. for the first time in PALS. They can not communicate with Americans and nothing is familiar to them. However, in the end of session, most people can say what they want even if they can not speak fluently. It shows us they must have ways to overcome their obstacles. Second, you have to think positive way. This helps you feel better even though your circumstances are not changed. For instance, there are many Korean students in PALS. Some of them think they hardly can learn English in this situation because they hear Korean always, and they do not try to speak in English in class. However, If they have positive mind, they would realize there are lots of foreigners around them, and they can communicate with Korean by English as well. To sum up, some people's obstacles may be smaller than the others, and some people's obstacles may be larger than the others. However, the way to overcome is same. Do not lose your hope, and think positively because whenever you get into obstacle, you may find the door of overcoming unless you give up.



"How my life would be different if I were the opposite gender"



By Ju Ho Kang, father of two little girls

1. If I were a girl 4 years old, I would go out decorating my hair with a flowered hairpin.
2. If I were a girl in middle school, I would wear a swimsuit in front of many boyfriends.
3. If I were a girl in high school, I would chat with my friends about features appearing on a special part on my body.
4. If I were a young lady in high school, I would love my favorite teacher, even though it will end up to be puppy love.
5. If I were a young lady in a university, I would make a friend who likes to go shopping with me.
6. If I were a bride at the wedding ceremony, I would want to say the vow for wedding and husband first, before the future husband will say it.
7. If I were a woman in pregnancy, I would give birth to my baby from my body which is tortured by labor pains.
8. If I were a woman in pregnancy, I would suggest my husband to participate together in the hospital.
9. If I were to live until 60 years with my husband, I would travel abroad alone because I want to decide to travel without my husband's permission.
10. If I were to live until 80 years old, I would give my wedding ring to my daughter as the special mark of memory for my happy life as a woman.



