

# *ESSENTIALLY PALS*

## The Program in American Language Studies Newsletter

<http://pals.rutgers.edu>

### Session II - 2005-2006

#### *GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR*

Dear Students,

Here's this session's issue of "EsSentially PALS" . I am sure you are going to enjoy reading some of your own contributions.

As we approach the end of this year, I am very happy and satisfied at our achievements. So much happened that it is hard to talk about everything. I will share with you just some of our key achievements. Our enrollments went up by nearly 35 % this year and the program benefited from the presence of so many more students. Our proposal to allow PALS students to have an advanced start on Rutgers University's credit courses was accepted. This was a big achievement and we had our first three students -Teng Da Huang (School of Engineering), Vivian Bastos (School of Social Welfare) and Grace Cheng (International Economics) join different programs. Our program went through a special evaluation by the nation's most important governing body - University and College Intensive English Programs and was awarded the affiliation to this body for the next five years. Based on the Program's progress, I have been nominated to the evaluation committee for the year 2006.

As you know, TOEFL test has been revised to become TOEFL IBT. You will be pleased to know that we have been selected to be a testing center - which means, you can take your

test right here on the Livingston Campus. The formal agreement document is being reviewed by Rutgers University's legal department. Once that's cleared, we will begin holding the tests here.

Please do not forget to sign up for PALS-PLUS (PALS Alumni Association). It is free and you will be able to access all information about your 'PALS-mates' on the website. Ask Denise or Mary Ellen for the form. Of course, your picture will make your information even more colorful. We want to keep you right at the center of all that is happening at PALS.

Wishing you all a very successful completion of Session II and a very enjoyable holiday season !

Dr. Veena Kumar



#### **EMERGENCY CLOSINGS**

For campus status Information Website:  
<http://campusstatus.rutgers.edu/>  
or call  
732-932-7799 for a recorded message



## MARY ELLEN'S CORNER

With Session II coming to an end, I'm sure we're all looking forward to a break! Remember, a break from classes does not mean a break from maintaining your F-1 status. Before winter vacation, please keep a few things in mind:

-If you are **transferring** to another school beginning in January, please make sure you have submitted all of your transfer forms to me **before** December 20, 2005. I will be transferring you 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.

-Speaking of travel, 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 3 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!

I would also like to thank all PALS students and faculty for welcoming me to the PALS family. My first two sessions here as the International Student Advisor have been great! It has been a pleasure meeting all of you and I look forward to working with you in the future.

As always, if you have any questions, please stop by the PALS office to make an appointment with me.

Have a wonderful break and I'll see you in 2006!

## FROM DENISE'S DESK



Hi, Don't forget these important dates:

- Session II ends on Monday, December 19
- Start of Session III January 17 - March 6, 2006
- Tuition Payment Deadline: January 5, 2006
- New Student Testing: January 10, 2006

Please submit your requests for certificates and transcripts before you leave PALS.

### DORMITORY RESIDENTS

The Quad II Dormitory will remain open during the winter break (December 21-January 17). Please remember that no one else can stay in your room. ***If you are leaving Rutgers at the end of Session II, you must move out by December 22.***

### RECREATION ON LIVINGSTON CAMPUS

Want to exercise, lift weights, play basketball, ping-pong, relax in a sauna and participate in other various healthy and fun activities? If the answer is "Yes," you need to buy a Livingston College Recreation membership. Stop by the PALS Office for more information



Have a safe and successful New Year !!

## STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS



### My First Thanksgiving in America

Joanna Kim

I spent Thanksgiving with my Uncle and his American family in Hoboken, NJ. There were nine people at the feast. My uncle's sister did the cooking. For an appetizer, we had mushrooms stuffed with meat and shrimp. For dinner, we ate a **very large** turkey, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, stuffing, gravy, and carrots. We drank wine with our dinner. During the meal everyone spoke so fast, I could hardly understand anything. But that really didn't matter because I spent most of my time eating. The meal lasted for 5 hours. Everybody was talking, eating, talking, eating, and eating more. After dinner, we had Pumpkin pie, chocolate cake, and coffee. I was stuffed. But the day didn't end there.

After the Thanksgiving meal, we decorated my Aunt's house for Christmas. We decorated the house with a big tree, garland on the fireplace, and ornaments in all the rooms. We also decorated the outside of the house with Christmas lights and ornaments. It was a very nice experience.

### My First Purchase in the United States

Gracie Cheng

When I was seven years old, I went to Disney Land here in the United States with my family. Before that, I had studied English for almost three months in Taiwan. Everything was exciting for me in the States, especially speaking English.

After a day at Disney Land, I was starving.

My parents gave me money. I thought that it's not a big deal to buy some food by myself because I "CAN" speak English.



I approached the counter and saw the cashier. He was big and scary looking. He asked me, "How u doin'? What can I get ya?" I was very nervous and I looked at the menu in a panic! I only recognized the word "burger," so I answered "burger." He asked me again. I didn't understand. Then he asked, "What **kind** of burger?" I felt extremely helpless because I really had no idea what **kind** of burger! I nervously looked at the menu again and mumbled "B-E-E-F burger" because I didn't know how to pronounce "beef" - I didn't even know what "beef" meant. He didn't understand me, so he said "WHAT?" loudly. I was stunned.

I was too shocked to say "B-E-E-F burger" again, so I said, "I want coke," because I just wanted to get away as soon as possible. Unfortunately, he asked me, "What size?" I was thinking desperately; however, I couldn't think of the word, but I knew it started with "M". He was waiting for my request and there were a lot of impatient people lined up behind me. Suddenly, I remembered the word. I proudly said "middle coke, please." He burst out laughing and gave me the "middle coke" I requested. I was so embarrassed that my face turned red and I ran back to my parents.

That was my first purchasing experience in the United State. I still remember the whole experience clearly!



### AIDS Quilt Exhibit Ophelia Johnson

Asli Sucu was not quite prepared for the experience of walking into the AIDS Quilt Project Exhibit.

"It was very emotional and moving," said Asli, a PALS student from Turkey. "Some people were crying. Others were reading the material about the people who have died."

Asli, a member of the "People, Places and Events" discussion class at PALS, attended the one-day exhibit held on the second floor of the Rutgers Student Center in observance in World AIDS Day on Dec. 1.

The AIDS Memory Quilt is a traveling exhibit that members of the discussion class attended the exhibit as part of a class discussion on various global issues, including AIDS, Avian Flu and other global health threats.

Instructor Ophelia Johnson explained that the outside assignment helps bring an international perspective to many of the discussion topics addressed during the seven-week course.

"We're living in a global village and we have to care about the issues that affect all six billion of us on the planet," she said. "PALS students have a unique experience here. They are learning a new language and they will inevitably become spokespersons who will speak on behalf of others."



### PALS PLUS! The Global Network

Is there life after PALS? Of course there is! And we want to hear about it!

You are invited to join the PALS *alumni* association. We call it PALS PLUS: The Global Network. The main objective of this association is to keep you in touch with the PALS family even after you leave PALS.

A new section is being created on the PALS website where you will be able to access the contact information for your classmates. The space will allow all of us to share news, achievements, and latest photos.

To become a member, please come to the PALS office to pick up a form. We would love for everybody to join so we can all keep in touch!



