

ESSENTIALLY PALS

The Program in American Language Studies Newsletter

<http://pals.rutgers.edu>

Session IV ▪ 2008-2009

Greetings from the Director

Dear Students,

Here's this session's newsletter, "EsSentialLly PALS", announcing the near completion of another session. Session IV is always very special because of the 'live' transformation of the landscape around us. We saw the trees flower and then get their green coat. We are indeed lucky to be on the Livingston Campus!

As you were told during the orientation and you may have also seen on PALS' website, starting this year, we will have two summer sessions (Summer I & Summer II equivalent to Sessions V & V1). Each session will be a little shorter in length but will have an additional course so that the total hours of instruction remain the same. The new set of courses will fall under "Language Arts" and we will be studying English through short stories, drama, novels and Business English.

This session's cultural event was amazing. This is the first time that we had three classes win the 'Best Class performance' party. Congratulations to all the participants! Of course, a big *Bravo* to the winners of *The Best Journal Entry* contest.

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

Here's wishing everyone a great summer!!

Dr. Veena Kumar



Mary Ellen's Corner

Spring is in the air! I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful weather and are looking forward to a break. Before the session ends, please keep a few things in mind:

- If you are **transferring** to another school after Session IV, please make sure to submit your transfer forms to the PALS office **before June 2, 2009**. Once you have been transferred, you must 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 to the US.
- If you would like to **travel outside the US** for vacation, please bring your I-20 or DS-2019 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 your next session before I can sign your I-20 or DS-2019. **Please do not leave the US without a travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019!**
- If you were an F-1 student in the US in 2008, you must show the government that you *did not earn any income in the US* and you **DO NOT** owe taxes. You must complete Form 8843 and send it to the US government by **June 15, 2009**. The form is available with instructions at the PALS office. Please see me if you have any questions.

As always, if you have any questions, please stop by the PALS office. I hope you have a wonderful break and I look forward to seeing you soon!



From Denise and Joanna's Desk



I hope everyone's session has been wonderful! Please don't forget:

- **Session IV** ends on **May 18, 2009**.
- The payment deadline for **Session V** is **May 22, 2009**. Please pay by this date in order to avoid being charged a late fee!
- **Session V** begins on **Friday, May 29, 2009**. Returning students may pick up textbooks and schedules in the PALS Office between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. that day.



Coaches

Khalid Abdulsalam



Through my personal experience, I completely support that coaches are the best teachers. Many people misunderstand the word “coach” to be only a sport’s instructor. However, that is not completely true. A coach can be a guide or an instructor in any field who gives you direction, points out your mistakes, and teaches you the qualities of discipline and honesty.

First of all, they give a direction to your work. Instead of starting any activity randomly, or without being organized, they teach you how to be well organized in approaching the problem. For example, if a problem is given to solve in Mathematics, a student may just scribble something to arrive at the solution, but an instructor will instruct you to do the following steps. Like, first write down the formula, substitute the values, do the calculation, write the units, and then write the final answer. So the whole process or arriving to the solution of a problem is simply a group of steps. Therefore, a coach gives a systematic approach and direction to the work.

Second, since coaches have the experience of instructing many others through their experiences, they know the common mistakes and errors that a person will make. Therefore, by having those coaches as our guide, we can learn from our mistakes, not fall in them again, also we will improve our skills too. For example, consider a group of students painting in their drawing book. They may just use simple colors, or simple tools or method. However, if they have an instructor, they can get an idea on how to use a combination of colors, or a mixture of colors that will increase their quality of work. As a result, by having coaches, we can increase the quality of work.

Third, when we work under the command of a coach, the basic qualities of discipline and honesty are inspired. For example, if the coach gives an assignment, we know we are responsible for it, and we listen to the instructions. As a result, we tend to finish the assignment during the due date that is required. This will make us to be aware of the time and more responsible since we know we have to finish our work and submit it to the instructor. Consequently, basic qualities of honesty, discipline, respect for the words of the coach, and responsibility for the work are instilled in us.

In conclusion, based on the above reasons, it can be positively confirmed that the coaches are the best teachers and guides. They give a direction to our work, show us common mistakes that we might make, and make us feel more confident and skilled by teaching is discipline and honesty.

Quote

Maribel Vales Castillo

“Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadow.” – Helen Keller

I do agree. If we don’t have a positive attitude things don’t turn easily. In my country we have a proverb “put nice face to the bad weather”. Even when the things are not going as we want or expect, we just have to let them go. Sometimes, we are really hard on ourselves, and we let things or people make us feel sad. We need to take things in stride. Thus, we need to have a positive attitude, even when the way looks dark; we always need to have matches in our pockets to light it up. Sometimes the choices that we have are not the ones we want, so we need to settle for some other things and not feel regrets.



Don’t Smoke in Front of the Entrance

Fatma Betul Durak



Despite the fact that people should not be allowed to smoke in closed places, some open places are also not suitable for smoking. The most beautiful example is the entrances to buildings. First, those people who smoke in front of entrances to buildings may disturb other people. For example, some people don’t want to see them smoking. When I go out of the building after class, I want to smell fresh air, but some people are waiting in front of entrances to buildings, and I have to smell smoke. Second, the sometimes may prevent people from entering the buildings. In front of the entrances the buildings are crowded, people can’t enter or go out quickly. Finally, if they speak loudly, people who have opened windows for fresh air are disturbed from the smoking and speaking. Therefore, smokers should not be allowed to smoke in front of the entrances to buildings.

My Feeling

Galymzhan Kozybagarov

First I will write a poem in the Russian language and after that in English.

Мое сердце страдает без вас,
Америка хорошая страна
Но дома лучше всегда
Сидя смотрю в окно
Вспоминаешь, как мы делали что-то одно
Вместе ели, вместе ходили в магазин
Вместе убирались, изредка ходили в кино
Все это делали вместе всегда

Потому что одна единая семья.
 Сейчас я один без вас
 И мне хочется поскорей крепко обнять
 И крепко поцеловать вас
 Я верю, что этот момент придет поскорей
 И будем вместе всегда
 Потому что вы единственная, ласковая
 Любимая, нежная моя семья.

This poem I wrote to my family. My family in my country now, so we miss each others so much. My feelings are presented in the poem that I'm so far from my family. My heart suffers without you. The U.S. is a good country, but home is always better. I was sitting and looking out to the window. I remembered how we did many things together such as eating, cleaning our apartment, and sometimes going to the cinema because we are a family. Now I am without you and I want to tightly embrace and strongly kiss you. I believe that this moment is coming, and we will be united, because you are the only my lovely, affectionate, tender family.



A Scary Experience to Remember

Trinity Wang

It was a nice day with sunshine and breeze. After one night star observation in the mountains with my high school friends in the Astronomy club, we decided to take a walk around the forests. We walked on the railroad tracks which were banned to walk on it because there were still some trains that rode on it. The weather was very nice. We could hear birds singing and the chirping of insects. Even though it was hard to walk on the tracks with a lot of gravel, the tiredness after a whole night of observation totally disappeared. The fragrance of the trees and flowers infused us with energy throughout our bodies.

We crossed some grass and many hills with vivid green bushes. By the time we saw a deep, dark tunnel in front of us, we became silent. It was the only path to go, but we could see there were no lights in the tunnel. It looked like a black hole that will absorb us into hell. However, we had no choice to go through the tunnel. We divided into two groups. I was in the second group, which meant I had to go through it after the first group was gone.



When the first group called us on the other side of the tunnel, it meant it was time for my group to start. The darkness in the tunnel made us scared. When we were walking in the tunnel, the darkness made us walk like our eyes were closed even though our eyes were actually wide open. The only way we could do to find

out the direction to get out is walking by kicking the rails. We kept talking to each other to cheer up everyone to avoid losing someone. My heart beats went so fast, my breath went up as well.

The first group started to yell at us noisily outside the tunnel such as "The train is coming! Hurry up!" At first we yelled back angrily and asked them to stop making this boring joke. But their shouting burst into screaming, we could also hear the train was coming from the back of the tunnel at the same time. At this moment, I was stunned, but all our group could do is still kept walking "slowly" because of the darkness. Now, the train was already driving into the tunnel and we were still in the tunnel as well. The glaring headlight of the train made the railroad very bright that we could see everything very clearly in the tunnel, but still, we couldn't have enough time to get out of the tunnel. Finally, we gave up trying to run out of the tunnel, we started to lean against the cold wall to wait for the train to pass us. The screech of the train was very shrill in the tunnel and we could feel the body of the train is really passed us because I could feel its movement on the back of my coat.



The train finally stopped right after it passed us, then we continued running quickly out of the tunnel. I couldn't open my eyes when I saw the yellow sunshine outside the tunnel. The first group hugged all of us after they saw us were safe and sound. That train passed us again, but not with the rhythm of death this time.

My Experience of my Third Trip to Honduras

Ingrid Quevedo

The House of Friendship is an organization which helps poor people in Honduras. Patricia King, who is a founder of the House of Friendship, receives donation, medicines, and supplies that she gives to Honduran people. People from Honduras receive medical care and medicine free.



We are from different parts of the United States such as New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Florida, and we have different religious beliefs. However, those doctors, nurses, aids, translators take vacation time to help people in Honduras. This makes us a common wonderful family.

This was my third trip, and I felt happy that I could have the possibility to help poor people with my profession. As a dentist, I saw a lot of people because those people have not seen any doctors since we saw them last year. When I saw those people, I thanked God for all my blessings. Those people walked four to seven hours to see us, and this makes me want to go every year.

Every year, we find a lot of surprises, but this year, we found unexpected things such as a man that fell out of a truck, and we assisted him on the road. The ear department found a cockroach inside the ear of one of her patients. Dr. Bruce took out a bullet from a patients' forearm. I extracted two teeth inside of a palate without radiographic film, and I felt so proud. Finally, I am always very tired when I come back because I work hard in Honduras. It does not matter the inconveniences that I faced, but I look forward to going back to work in Honduras again next year.

Friends I Made in the U.S.

Sangmee Park



Before I came to the U.S., I thought that it would be easy to meet and make friends with American people. However, as soon as I arrived here, I realized there was no opportunity to meet native speakers. Even though I saw a lot of Americans, to make friends with them was my own role and effort. Amid this hard situation, PALS introduced "Pals for PALS" which is a program for the students in PALS to meet Rutgers students who can speak our native languages. When we converse with each other, we alternate the language we speak. Fortunately I have two conversation partners. One of them likes talking to me. We meet two or three times every week. We would start talking about simple topics such as our daily lives and the differences between Korea and the U.S. After I read an article in the newspaper, I would tell him my opinions and ideas. Sometimes he makes movie soundtracks for me. The meetings with him have motivated me and given me inspiration to study English with more earnest. There is nothing special when I meet and talk to him, but it is a very good chance for me to keep speaking English and learn useful phrases. As far as circumstances permit, I want to meet him continuously and keep in touch with him.



My First Experience in Gambling

Shengyu Pan



In January 2009, I went to Las Vegas for a trip with some of my friends. Las Vegas is no doubt an amazing city with tons of exciting things to do. During our stay in this city, we

had watched some wonderful shows, tried different kinds of delicacies, visited many places of interest, and gambled in a casino.

The experience we had in Las Vegas was really exciting, but the most unique one I would like to mention is my gambling experience. I had never participated in gambling or visited a casino before I went to Las Vegas. Thus, I was very eager to pay a visit to a casino. We went to one of the best casinos in Las Vegas at the second night of our trip. Everyone believed in their luck and was ready to win some money, so was I. Since I was a new visitor to the casino, I knew little about the games there. I decided to try only the simplest games, because the rules were easier to understand, and the minimum stakes were lower. Most of the games I played in the casino had a possibility to win slightly lower than 50%, and the reward in those games equaled to the bet. I used a strategy while playing. At the beginning, I only bet a minimum stake. I would constantly double my previous stake until I won for the first time, then started betting a minimum stake again. By using this strategy, each time I won, I would make up for all I lost before, and in addition, earned an amount of money equaled to the minimum stake. I believed I would be earning money gradually this way. However, there was a flaw in my strategy. Even if I just lost for several turns in the game continuously, the stake I need to bet would increase exponentially. This flaw finally led to my failure. Although I started with \$200, and won \$500 in the following 4 hours, I lost all this \$700 in a couple of minutes. In the my last games, after I continuously lost for 7 times, I had to decided whether to bet all the stake I left in order to won back the money I lost, or keep the remaining stake and leave the casino. I had made a mistake just as most gambler would do, and decided to take the risk, then I lost all the money.



It was not surprising when I found most of my friends were suffering from the same fate as I was. Anyway, we were still having a great time in the casino. It was really an exciting experience, as long as you were thinking about enjoying the procedure rather than winning a handsome of money. I am looking forward to visiting Las Vegas another time in the future. At that time, I will improve my strategy, and try to use the same amount of money to play in the casino for a longer time.



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