

# ESSENTIALLY PALS

## The Program in American Language Studies Newsletter

<http://pals.rutgers.edu>

Session VI • 2008-2009

### Greetings from the Director

Dear Students,

It's hard to believe that we are already nearing the close of this summer session and it's time again for "EsSentialLly PALS" – your own newsletter. There is something to be said about the summer session with its long shiny days filling us all with the spirit of the joy. This summer was even more special because our friends from ChungBuk University joined us. It is such a pleasure having them with us. The only sad part of the summer session is that it's the time when the most number of our students leave us either to return home or join a degree-bearing program. Whatever your plans, make sure that you discuss them with Mary Ellen and have your documentation taken care of.

I hope you enjoyed the PALS Summer Sports event! Congratulations to all the winners of *The Best Journal Entry* contest.

Good luck and best wishes for the rest of 2009.

Dr. Veena Kumar



### Mary Ellen's Corner

It's hard to believe that the summer is coming to an end! I hope everybody is enjoying their summer at PALS. Before the session ends, please keep a few things in mind:

- If you are **transferring** to another school after Session VI, please make sure you submit your transfer papers to the PALS office **before September 1, 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 have any questions about the transfer process, please stop by the PALS office to see me.

- 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!***

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 again in September!



### From Denise and Joanna's Desk

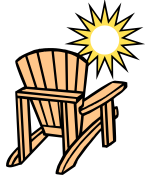


We hope everyone had a wonderful summer! Please don't forget these important dates:

- **Session VI** ends on **August 18, 2009**.
- The payment deadline for **Fall I** is **August 18, 2009**. Please pay by this date in order to avoid being charged a late fee!
- **Fall I** begins on **Tuesday, September 1, 2009**. Returning students may pick up textbooks and schedules in the PALS Office between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. that day.

## **My First Vacation in America in this Coming Summer**

Mamoru Yamashita



It is always more than fun to plan on what I can do in my summer vacation. In Japan, you usually have a forty-day off in summer if you are a student. I know it is much shorter than it is in America, but it is much longer than other offs in Japan, such as the two-week spring break and the two-week winter break. Therefore, my summer vacation usually started way before it officially started when I began to think about what to do during the vacation. As I became a student again here in America about two months ago, I suddenly started to realize that I would have this fun feeling on planning summer again and now I cannot stop thinking about it. I have countless plans in my mind and here are three of the things that are listed on the top of my to-do list.

First, there are many books in my bookshelf which I have bought to read but have not had a chance to even open the cover page of. There are at least twenty hardcover books and additional twenty paperback books. Some of them are Japanese and the others are English. I could not have time and energy to read them and I think this is something I can do during my twenty-day off in this coming summer.

Second, I would love to visit New York City this summer because I have been there only few times in my life. As a matter of fact, one of the benefits that I receive by living in this area in New Jersey is that I can go to New York City easily. It takes only sixty minutes to go to the Penn Station, a station located in the middle of Manhattan, from the New Brunswick Station, a nearby station from my house. However, I have never taken advantage of it up to now. There are several restaurants I would like to go to. There are some museums I would like to visit. There are friends of mine I would like to meet. Even if I had no places or no people to visit, it would be fun to take a walk in New York City because it is an exciting and energetic city.

Last but not least, I am planning to redo the floor in my room. Currently, the concrete-made floor is painted. I painted it right after I came to America. I liked it at first, but now it makes me

feel blue. Therefore, I have started to think about redoing the floor and already bought a set of wood flooring. Based on my estimate, it will take me two days to finish redoing the floor. This three-week vacation would be the perfect timing for me to redo the floor and other small chores as well.

To sum, I am looking forward to this summer vacation because of the books I love to read, New York City I want to visit, and the floor I need to redo. I would like to spend my free time this summer as wisely as possible since I will have a tight schedule when I start my college life in September. I need to not only heal myself after the ten weeks of intensive ESL courses but also recreate myself for the next sixteen weeks of college classes. Well, honestly speaking, I just would like to have fun this summer.



## **Fast Food vs. Eating at Home**

Omer Kara



Going outside for dinner or lunch is not just an eating activity but also a kind of hobby and having fun for some people. Counter to general tendency, I am not the one who prefers to eat at food stands or restaurants. In comparison to eating at home, eating at a restaurant has two main cons, such as health related issues and taste of food.

First of all, if you have some concerns about your health, I would advise you not to eat at restaurants even if they are reliable. The ingredients used at the fast food restaurants are very cheap and produced for making more money over our health. For example, these restaurants sell hormone injected chicken meat and reproduced vegetable oil which is absolutely harmful for our health. Moreover, in spite of the fact that the foreparts of restaurant give impression of being hygienic, sometimes, their kitchen might be extremely dirty. In addition, it is impossible to know if the waiter who serves your dish washes his hands after using the restroom. Can anyone assure that the waiters are very clean and follow the instructions about cleaning precisely?

Second, the fast food isn't as delicious as the food which you prepare at home. Although it is advertised that the fast food is very delicious and tastes as homemade food, it is absolutely a marketing technique that goals to make more money. For instance, every culture has a different kind of perception for palate. Therefore, the fast food with the same taste around the world doesn't meet the need of every taste.

Consequently, the fast food neither has quality ingredients nor taste delicious. Because of that eating fast food doesn't make sense for me. If you want to be healthy, just stay away from fast food as I always do.



### Emotional Experiences (Things that make you angry, afraid, proud, joyful)

Tara Khodabandeloie



When I came to the United States, my country was so quiet, and the people were living safely. But when I decided to go back to my country, my mom said "DO NOT CAME BACK HOME, YOU ARE NOT SAFE HERE!!" I came to the United States to get my permanent residence card. I was thinking that the process of getting the card would take at most two weeks!! But I was wrong!!! I wasn't planning on staying here for too long at the time. Therefore, on my flight I carried only one suitcase with my clothes and money. I remember when I wanted to leave my country, all my friends, colleagues and Iranians were thinking about who will be the next president of Iran. They prepared everything for the 10th presidential election after the 1979 revolution which would be held on July 12<sup>th</sup>. I couldn't wait till the election date since the expiration date of my U.S. visa was July 10<sup>th</sup>. That was the reason why I left my country and decided to vote in the Hyatt Hotel in NYC. My friends and I went to NYC to vote, but when we put our votes into the box, the official Tehran news announced that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was elected. He won the election with 63% of the vote. That was so strange since the box of votes was still in the Hyatt Hotel and could not be counted! How was

it possible to finalize the result before collecting them!! Most Iranians voted for Mr. Mir Hossein Mousavi. The day after the election, people walked on the streets, and the protest started. The Green Movement started. I really wanted to go back home. I really wanted to be on the street and yield "Where Is My Vote?", "Get My Vote Back for Me." One of the biggest demonstrations was the "Silent Protest". Millions of people came to streets to show their anger in a peaceful way. They did not say a word and wanted nothing but to get their votes back. I am proud of my people. My Brave Countryman!

From that day on, demonstrations continue although most of the young students were injured, arrested, and killed by the revolutionary guard. The government had shut down the media. We Iranians who were out of the country had to try to find a way to let the world know what a dictatorial government we have, and asked people all over the world and United Nations to help Iran! Today is the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, and I received my US. Permanent resident card! I called my Mom to say I want to come back to my country and join my people.... But she said, "I don't want you to come back here to be killed... Please do not make me worried if you love me! Stay there and start a new life! And when your

country becomes safe, come and visit us!!" My heart beats for my home, and everyday I try to think of what I can do for my country.



### A Small Town or a Big City

Fatma Betul Durak



I grew up a small town and then my family moved in a big city. Therefore, I have some experiences about living in a small town and a big city. If someone asks me which one I prefer to live, I exactly choose to live in a big city. From my point of view, big cities have more advantages than small town, such as transportation, recreation, and social life. I'll try to explain these reasons below.

At first, if someone wants to improve his/herself, s/he should live in a big city. For instance, big cities could have universities, public training centers, museums, malls, or big opportunities about work life which are considerably significant for education or social life. Therefore, there is a wide assortment of people who can meet and share your opinion or feeling. When you are bored because of busy work life, you can spend your time by going to movies, theatre, or opera if you like. Even if you don't live in a countryside or a village, you can have a picnic with your family or friends wherever you want.

Part from the point I made above, a child growing up in a big city is luckier than someone growing up in a small town because the former has a great number of opportunities about education or social life. Even though the latter grows up by eating fresh or organic fruits, vegetables or smelling fresh air throughout his/her life, when s/he wants to be social, to meet more people, to have different experiences, s/he may not find all of these opportunities. Maybe, they cannot be successful their work or cannot find a good job. If all of the factors are contemplated, we can easily reach a conclusion that living in a big city gives us more opportunities than living in a small town. Therefore, I would prefer to live in a big city without doubt.



## Technology and Relationships

Tevfik Ertugrul Ozdemir



I think technology is the best way to kill our relationships. Technology is improving day by day, but while we are profiting by it, unfortunately we are killing our relationships. We don't know to profit by the technology efficiently even though we don't accept it for the most part of time. For example, after coming home, fathers turn on the tv and watch it the whole evening. Children are not different from their fathers about technology and relationships. They spend all of their time either at their computers or at their playstations. Mothers are more sensible than the fathers and the children, but also they are addicted to technology, too. They also spend most of their time by watching tv or talking on the phone. In the years when the technology was not improved as today, people spent most of their time by talking to each other. Relationships between the children and the parents were much better than today. People were more sensible to each other. Today, most people prefer to watch a movie or a match rather than to spend time with their children. As I said above, children also prefer to play a computer game or chat on the internet instead of talking to their parents. This current state can cause the children to be rebellious or to be addicted to drugs. As a summary, if we don't begin to profit by the technology wisely, family lives and friend relationships can come to a bad end.

## Our Country Symbol, Tiger

Dawun Jeong



I love tigers of most animals, because they look ambitious and attractive. When I was young, I went to the zoo with my parents. There were many tigers in the cage. I thought that the animal is very fierce, but is very brave. Like this, the tiger doesn't eat dead prey. They only eat live animals. In this way, I felt that the tiger is the best animal. Tigers have stripes. Their color is mixed with ochre mud yellow and black. They are a symbol of Korea.



### EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

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

or call 732-932-7799 for a recorded message