

EsSENTIALLY PALS

The Program in American Language Studies Newsletter

<http://pals.rutgers.edu>

Session V - 2005

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Students,

You have this session's issue of "EsSentialLy PALS" in your hand. I am sure you are going to enjoy reading all your interesting contributions.

Our sincere efforts continue to strengthen our academic programs. Recently, the program went through a special evaluation by the nation's most important governing body - University and College Intensive English Programs and PALS has been awarded the affiliation to this body for the next five years. Some other programs have shown interest in adopting our academic program. The feedback on most courses is very positive. If you have any suggestions to further improve the courses and the Focused Study, please feel free to share them with me.

Our **TOEFL Prep Program** is becoming rather popular. There is a strong possibility that PALS will be selected to become a Testing Center for the new TOEFL test. This means that you can take the final TOEFL test right here on Livingston Campus. On the basis of the faculty feedback over the past two sessions, we have revised PALS entrance test criteria. The courses that must be completed before taking the entrance test have been changed. Please make sure to check the details on the bulletin board. If you have any questions,

please ask Denise. The entrance test for joining TOEFL Prep Stream in Session I 2005-2006 will be on **Wednesday, July 20 at 10:30 am in LSH A 139. You are expected to register by July 10.**

Please do not forget to sign up for PALS-PLUS (PALS Alumni Association. It is free.) Forms are available at the front desk. 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 V and a very enjoyable summer!

Dr. Veena Kumar



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Session I September 1 - October 20, 2005

- Tuition Payment Deadline: August 18
- New Student Testing: August 29
- Academic Orientation: Sept 1

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Let's Make New Friends at PALS!

By Dong Soo Lee, Kanae Tanaka, and Cigem Elmaci in DCS I-5

Are you a new student at PALS? Is this session your first time at PALS? If you feel strange or unfamiliar, it's good for you to make new friends at PALS. If you don't know how you can make new friends at PALS, there are two basic ways to find friends.

You can make new friends at PALS when you attend orientation before beginning classes the first week of the session. If you want to make new friends at orientation, you can first look for a familiar face to you. Many students come together at PALS from each other's countries, so you can find some students who have an appearance like you. Next, if you find them, you can approach them and ask where they come from. Then introduce yourself and tell them where you come from. Make small talk and keep on smiling. That will give them a good impression of you. Finally, you can check each other's schedules and share information about classes. Checking schedules is very important because some of the students who have totally different classes are very hard to see during the session. At orientation, you can make friends who have friends from other countries and so you get to meet many others. Now if you want to improve relationships with them and want to make new friends in the same class, the first week of the session is very important. First, you can ask them about your homework and do homework together. You and your friend are just students to learn English, so if you don't understand about the homework, share information with each other. If you live in the dormitory, it's easy to do homework.

You can make appointments for lunch next. If you have someone you want to have lunch with, ask them like this, "Would you like to have lunch together?" Probably they will welcome you and want to join you. Finally, share your feelings or information about your classes. Talk about how your class was or what you learned. It will offer a chance to make conversation with your friends. It is an important thing that you have to make them feel comfortable and cooperate during the first week.

Most new students at PALS feel strange or unfamiliar before beginning classes. Therefore don't be afraid to approach them. Just enjoy to make friends from each other's countries. It will give you confidence and a comfortable feeling during your session. It is time to be a good person to your international friends. Good luck.

Interview

By Emma Cheng and Ji Nah Lee

Q: How was your life at PALS?

Rebecca (Taiwan): PALS life is mostly busy, and we do a lot of homework everyday.

Ivan (Taiwan): It's good, and we have a good environment to learn English.

Paul (Korea): I like all classes, but after classes there is no chance to join other activity clubs.

Q: Do you think your English skills have improved?

Dorota (Poland): My English skills improved a lot, especially speaking and writing.

Isil (Turkey): My listening skills improved a lot and now I can understand news easily.

Jinny (Korea): I learned many writing skills and English grammar.

Q: What is your unforgettable memory in PALS or the USA?

Jhonny (Korea): I had a girlfriend here; she was a PALS student, too.

Leo (Czech Republic): There are many big supermarkets here. It is amazing. I like them.

Paul (Korea): One of my teachers, Pat, invited her students to her home. We had a party and great food. I feel thanks to her.

Q: What do you want to tell new PAKS students or returning students about PALS?

Rebecca (Taiwan): PALS program needs to give the students contact with native speakers more.

Oliver (Switzerland): Students try to be close to every people in PALS.

Jinny (Korea): Thanks to the teachers.

A Volunteer Walk for AIDS

By Lucia Appleby

Why do some people walk together for charity? In the world, in the United States, or in New Jersey, people like to help other people that have different illnesses, such as cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and others. A few weeks ago I was walking for help people who have AIDS. I enjoyed it very much.

The walk was organized by Hyacinth AIDS Foundation on Sunday, June 12, 2005. I had sponsors who gave me money for walking. They are my friends and family. Through this note I want to say thanks to them. I walked ten kilometers on this day. I saw 400 people walking with me. I was surprised when I saw

many children and families walk together. Also, when I was walking, in different points along the way some people offered water bottles and coffee. I am glad for this and also for one word they said to me,

"Thanks." I walked for two hours. We started and ended on the Cook/Douglass College Campus of Rutgers University in New Brunswick. When I walked, I was memorizing many words. Likewise, sometimes I spoke with American people. This experience was gratifying for me. When I finished walking, I was very tired, but satisfied when I completed the walk. I promise to walk again next year.

Longwood Gardens

By Gabriela Pawelec

The place that I saw was incredible and amazing! I felt like the little girl Mary from A. Holland's movie "Secret Garden." Of course, I didn't find the key to open a secret garden like Mary did, but it was very exciting to see Longwood Gardens.

First, I came to a building which had a special construction with many windows that helped keep plants in good condition. Then I could see many different kinds of blooming flowers. I couldn't take my eyes off of it. Next, I crossed this building and I saw a lot of blossom trees, roses, and other unidentified plants. I walked and watched and I was admiring what Mother Nature could create. However, the most amazing things still waited for me in the other building.

My second step in the unearthly world was when I went to the gardens which were inside the other building. The building had a square shape and in the middle of it was something like a swimming pool with shallow

water surrounded by flowers and trees. Then there were four corridors.

Each of those corridors led into some kind of flower temple. I could see different types of orchids from different parts of the world. I saw not only orchids but also so many other varieties it is impossible for me to know and memorize all their names.

The final step in the amazing nature's world was at night about 9:00 when fountains, lights, and fireworks danced to music. It was curious and new for me because the water and lights and colors were synchronized beautifully with the music. I was impressed.

In the movie "Secret Garden," Mary could stay in her secret garden forever, but I couldn't stay that long in Longwood "secret" garden, but part of Longwood garden is with me in my camera and my memory forever.

It's Time to Say Good-Bye

By Barbora Vicenikova

My year at Rutgers PALS has come to an end. I have made huge efforts in my English skills, have wonderful memories, and many more friends. I knew only a few words in English when I got to my first class here. I know it wasn't only me who "pushed" me to do my best in studying English. I got enthusiasm from "my" teachers, so Barbara, Todd, and Pat and many others, **thank you for everything!**

In the future, I'm going to recommend PALS to everybody. I am confident in my speaking and writing and am going to use my knowledge when I go back to my country.

I also had the opportunity to make many friendships with people from countries all over the world. There is no doubt that I became a little bit Korean, a little bit Polish, a little bit Chinese, and a little bit Spanish while learning at PALS. It was truly a pleasure to meet all these people. I really enjoyed being with all of you. I'll never forget my "family" at PALS.

ENDNOTES...

From Barbara Inerfeld

The heat may be on in Central New Jersey, but members of the PALS family kept their cool on Thursday, June 30 in LSH B117 when "Grease was the word."

Students were dancing in their seats as John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John, stars of the vintage film "Grease" brought everyone back to the days of summer love and high school hops. Originally released in 1978, many students noted that the clothing styles of the 50's, Capri pants and high heels, are currently in fashion. PALS student Sun Wook Kim thought that the men's hairstyles and manner of walk were funny. "Their actions overflowed."

Another PALS student Selena Sun loves Broadway musicals. She knew that the film was based on the Broadway production. "I like the songs. I love musicals, and this one was a lot of fun." Selena has seen "Beauty and the Beast" and will soon see "Phantom of the Opera."

Rebecca Lin also enjoyed the afternoon. "I liked the music, but it was a big problem to understand what they were talking about. However, I liked the big feeling of the film."

Min Jung Song asked if a film could be shown each week to learn more about American culture both past and present.

Thanks to everyone who attended and a special thanks to those who helped carry the refreshments. Stay cool!

From Pat Dougherty

How cool? I will be attending a poetry workshop at the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck, New York where I will have the opportunity to listen to, meet, and write with Paul Muldoon and Sharon Olds. Bye!