We international students who are taking the Business English class held a social for some professors of the School of Business on November 11. We prepared sushi and Brazilian cake, and practiced our small talk while playing an ice breaker. This event was a very good opportunity for those of us planning to major in business to ask the professors about the atmosphere of their classes and other advice to keep studying in this university. For example, Dean Hadi gave us a valuable suggestion that international students should spend their time with American people as much as possible to know each other’s culture. I believe that this experience will be very useful for us to improve our university lives at New Paltz.
I am thankful for my family, my friends and my teachers for always supporting me. – Yuki Ueno

I'm thankful to live for all the values that teach me every day: love, respect, security, friendship, compassion, responsibility, and generosity.
- Clara Brotons

I am thankful for my classmates who are friendly and try patiently to understand my English.
- Thitima Eannazzo

I am thankful for those who with me have prepared a suitcase. Looked at me and said "You run and do not feel alone because I will be always be next to you.” - Ogerta Lala

Photos by Norbert Hellmann
Dean of International Programs Bruce Sillner read out the proclamation of International Education Week in the State of New York, signed by Governor Andrew Cuomo.
What does Santa Claus give you? A pile of presents underneath a Christmas tree? In my memory, he gave me love and happiness. I like the Christmas season and I always hum Christmas songs in all seasons. All of my Christmases have been very memorable and filled with happiness. For me as a child, Christmas was a more exciting amusement than any other things found in an amusement park. It was an annual big event which I could enjoy present-hunting game with my siblings and spend time with my whole family.

When I was a young child, I had a meeting with my brother and sister on the day before every Christmas. In the meeting, we made a plan to hunt our treasures because they were hidden somewhere in our house by Santa Clause while we were sleeping. It was very difficult for us to find them and sometimes it took a whole day.

Our adventure began early in the morning. We woke up with the noisy sound of an alarm and got out of our beds earlier than any other mornings in that year. First, we searched the first floor, every nook and cranny. With our voice and sound, our grandparents woke up and smiled at us. I felt sorry for waking them up but they always looked happy to see our present-hunting. That made me feel their great love for us.

After looking around the first floor, we went up the stairs and started to hunt for our treasures on the second floor. Although we always tried not to wake up our parents, it had never worked because we needed to report our results of hunting to each other loudly enough to make ourselves understood by each other in other rooms. Our parents also smiled with their gentle eyes, and it was enough for me to feel their great love for us. I was very happy to be filled with their love.

Of course I liked the moment of finding the presents but the reason why Christmas is so important for me is that I could feel love and happiness with all of my family. No one looks sad, angry or depressed on Christmas Day. I was very happy to see everyone smiling on the day. That’s why Christmas is the most memorable event in my life.
Some Favorite Recipes by the Level 1 Reading/Writing Class

“SOBA” (Japanese noodles)
by Yusuke Shinobe (Japan)

1. Put flour, egg, and Soba Flour in a bowl.
2. Knead them with your hands until it is like a ball.
3. Roll the stick on a ball until it is flat on the plate.
5. Cutting dough is boil.
6. When noodle is soft, put it into cold water.
7. Put out noodle in the water, and put it on the dish.

*Eat it dipped in soup.
*And add "wasabi." It is good. Delicious!

Fried Rice with Eggs
by Liyazi JIA (China)

First, beat eggs.
Then add rice, and then cut carrots into small blocks.
Secondly, heat the oil, pour in rice and vegetables and stir fry, about 2 minutes.
Then add salt and pepper, and continue to stir fry about 1 minute.
Finally, you must serve hot and add a little green onion. Then it's finished.

I think this side dish is yummy, so you will like it.

Getting a Canadian Visa
by Wei Carmen Deng

As the second largest country in the world, Canada is very beautiful and a country worth visiting. It has beaches and sunshine in the summer as well as beautiful snow in winter; it is nice to visit Canada anytime of the year. However, many people think it is difficult and complicated to get a Canadian visa; however, it is not that hard to get a Temporary Resident Visa for visiting Canada.

First of all, there are two forms required for all applicants, the IMM-5257 and IMM-5645. The IMM-5257 is a four page form about the applicant’s basic personal information such as name, date of birth, nationality, education and contact information. The IMM-5645 is a form about the applicant’s family information. Be careful, this form can not be saved, so the applicant can’t fill out one part first and then save it to fill out another time. All applicants have to fill it out and print it at once.

Secondly, there are many travel documents that must be prepared. The Passport is a very important one. In addition, if the applicant is in the US and with a J-1 or F-1 visa, the I-94 and original I-20 form with the student advisor’s signature on it for re-entering the US is required as well as a certificate of current study to proof that the applicant is studying at school not doing something else.

Then, applicants need to show a proof of funds to indicate that they have enough money for traveling. It could be a bank statement. The next step is to pay a processing fee. The currency has to be in Canadian dollars or American dollars, 75.00 for one-time entering and 150.00 for multiple entering.

After that, write a letter to explain the purpose of the trip. If the applicant has family or friend in Canada, an invitation letter would be nice, however it is not necessary. In addition, each applicant has to have two passport photographs with the name and date of birth on the back.

Moreover, print out a check list which can be found on the official website of Canadian immigration: Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The check list has all the required documents for different statuses and applicants need to mark the few they have and are ready to send; it would help people who receive these documents to find out the applicant has done easily. Finally, sign all the documents and put them in an envelope and send to a Canadian visa office which is in the applicant’s area.

In conclusion, many people think getting a Canadian visa is a hard and complicated process to do; however, if the applicant follows these steps, it will be much easier and fun, and the applicant will have a great time in Canada.
ATTENTION- Important Information: I-20 Travel Signature
If you travel outside the US over the winter break, you might need a travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019. An international student advisor is available daily except Wednesday in VH 201 from 12:00pm-2:30pm. Our office will be closed from December 24 until January 3, 2012. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2012. Please call first to be sure someone is available to help you.

Please note that if your I-20 Certificate of Eligibility for F-1 Student Status expires on 12/31/2011 and if you plan on continuing your studies at SUNY New Paltz beyond this date, you must apply for an Extension of Stay of your I-20. To complete the extension, please contact Jennie Castro, Enrollment Coordinator in VHA 201F or email esl@newpaltz.edu for more information Students who are leaving and not coming back: Remember to check out of your dorm room with the RD / RA and hand in the key.

Residence halls will reopen for the Spring Semester on Sunday, January 22, 2012, at 10:00am. The first day of classes for Spring 2012 is Monday, January 23. ESL Convocation will be held on this day in the 4th floor gym of the VH Annex, from 10:30-11:30 am. It is mandatory for all HELP students.

Bus transportation to JFK Airport is available, $40, leaving Dec. 21 at 10:30 am. Sign up in advance by Dec. 9 online at http://www.newpaltz.edu/isco/ Important Reminder: Final Exams are REQUIRED for all classes. Do NOT make travel plans that would prevent you from taking your finals on the assigned dates and times. Instructors will not let you take exams on a different day. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.

Join New Paltz ESL on Facebook and @ESLnewpaltz on Twitter!
- Stay connected with friends
- Meet new friends
- Get current updates on events and announcements on campus.

Watch our ESL video online at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BjR5zvFR64

Monday, Dec. 12, 2011.: Michigan Test
10:00 am. Location: LC 104  This test is required for all level 1, 2 and 3 ESL students.

Tuesday, Dec. 13, End-of-Semester TOEFL
10:00 am. Location: HUM 201 Only for students who have signed up and paid.

Friday, Dec 9th, End-of-Semester Ceremony, 1:30-3:00pm. Certificates, awards, coffee, tea & dessert and student performances! Interested in performing? Contact Sarah Elia elias@newpaltz.edu

Check your New Paltz e-mail, ESL Facebook, and @ESLnewpaltz Twitter for additional event announcements.