

SUNY New Paltz gets Long Island ACCENT



L.I. well-represented on New Paltz campus

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New Paltz - Somewhere, 257 new kids from the Hudson Valley are hiding on the SUNY New Paltz campus.

A full 27 percent of the incoming 950 members of the freshman class are supposed to be from the Hudson Valley, which stretches well beyond Orange, Ulster and Sullivan counties. But they were hard to find yesterday. A 45-minute search yielded not a single one of them.

But finding "Little Long Island" - a home away from home for 30 percent of the incoming freshmen - was easy.

One such outpost was nestled on the north side of Gage Hall's first floor.

There was Hillary Lindeman of Smithtown. She's rooming with a girl - from Smithtown - who was a best buddy in pre-K. They lost track of each other when one girl moved across town, but found themselves both headed to college years later at New Paltz.

Down the hall, Jasmyne McPherson and her family rested from the ordeal of unpacking. She graduated from Riverhead High, a short hop east of Smithtown on Long Island. Parents William and Elaine McPherson said the easy trip from New Paltz to their home was a consider-

ation in picking the college.

"My sister went to New Paltz," Elaine said. "There's always lots of kids from Long Island."

A lot of students at New Paltz hail from New York City, too. In this year's freshman class, 23 percent come from the city. The Capital District accounts for 6 percent, and the rest of the state 8 percent.

Out-of-staters number about 5 percent and international students 1 percent.

The overall number of students at the college remains about 8,000, including part-time students. The college also accepted about 725 new transfer students this year.

But the college is getting pickier about whom it accepts. Out of almost 12,545

applications, only 32 percent of first-year students got in. Transfer students found it only a little easier - 36 percent made it.

The mix of students is important to students' families, as well as college officials. "That's the whole point of going away - meeting other people," said Bill Lindeman, Hillary's dad. "It's part of growing up."

(cont'd.)