

Chatting English at TNPU Seminar Analysis
By Sharece Michelle Bunn

On Wednesday, May 16th, 2012 Peace Corps Volunteer Sharece Michelle Bunn hosted a Chatting English at TNPU Seminar. The seminar was held in rooms 62 and 80 of the main building of TNPU.

The seminar lasted three hours.

There were six visiting foreign guests at the seminar. All six guests are Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) in Ternopil's Oblast. The volunteers were:

- Houston Wedding, TEFL PCV from Ternopil
- Laura Evans, TEFL PCV from Ternopil
- Audrey Baise, TEFL PCV from Zbarazh
- Brendan Keegan, TEFL PCV from Terebovlya
- Evan Kelly, TEFL PCV from Zalishniki and
- Morgan Roth, YD PCV from Kremenets

There were two separate sessions for the seminar.

The first session was held during the second line, from 9:35 to 10:55.

The second session was held during the third line, from 11:10 to 12:30.

The seminar was open to all students at TNPU, however several subgroups were invited to attend the seminar with their teachers. Subgroups 13.1, 14.1, and 13.2 were invited to the first session. Subgroups 33.2 and 22.1 were invited to the second session.

During the seminar, students were split into smaller discussion groups. During the first session, students were split into three groups. The volunteers paired up and rotated between the three groups. The volunteer pairs were: Houston Wedding & Laura Evans; Audrey Baise & Evan Kelly; and Brendan Keegan & Morgan Roth.

During the second session, the students were split into two groups. The PCVs split into two groups as well. The PCV groups were: Houston Wedding, Audrey Baise & Brendan Keegan; and Laura Evans, Evan Kelly, and Morgan Roth.

The discussion was determined by PCV and student interest. PCVs were given cards to prompt conversation in case students needed help to get started. The cards had the following topics:

- I'm from... (about where in the US or Ukraine people live)
- Peace Corps (and why PCVs decided to join)
- Free-time activities (what they do in the US and here in Ukraine)
- What do PCVs love or miss about the USA?
- What is awesome in Ukraine? What are challenges?
- Traveling and road trips...
- Relationships
- Student life
- Alcohol and drugs

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During the first session, there were forty-seven students and four teachers or faculty members in attendance. Four of the students were male. Forty-three of the students were female. All four of the faculty members were female.

During the second session, there were twenty-eight students in attendance. Twenty-seven of the students were female and one was male. Two faculty members were present, both of which were female.

Students were asked to complete a short assessment of the seminar at the end. The questionnaire consisted of the following parts:

1. Chatting English at TNPU was fabulous, good or horrible. (They were to circle their response.)
2. I wish we would have talked more about... (They were to fill-in-the-blank.)
3. I would like it if our English department would... (another fill-in-the-blank.)
4. Other comments:

Here are the results of the first session assessments.

Forty-three students and two teachers completed the assessment.

1. Chatting English at TNPU was:
 - Fabulous – 26
 - Good – 11
 - Horrible – 0
 - Nothing checked – 8
2. I wish we would have talked more about:
 - Culture
 - Education
 - Lifestyle
 - Culture
 - Activities
 - World's cuisines
 - Language
 - Ukrainian challenges of Americans
 - Ukrainian traditions
 - Dance
 - Different countries
 - Ukraine
 - Culture
 - Everything
 - Studying in the US
 - Students' life
 - Culture
 - Dance
3. I would like it if our English department would:
 - Be in Virginia
 - Do such meetings more often
 - Send us to the US
 - Come up with new ideas
 - Invite more volunteers
 - Have more volunteers

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- Be more talkative
- Be better
- 4. Other comments:
 - It was very interesting, fun, and cool. Thanks.
 - It was cool. Houston rules.
 - As for me, it was very interesting. Thank you!
 - Come again!
 - It was very cool to talk with you! Thanks!
 - Exciting! We have learned many new words.
 - Everything was very cool. I have gotten a lot of positive energy.
 - It was great.
 - Awesome.
 - It was cool!
 - It was very interesting to talk with American people.
 - I wish TNPU students would speak more...
 - You are amazing guys! You do a great job! Thank you!
 - I love you!
 - You have done a great job.
 - I really liked it!
 - You do a great job.
 - It was great!
 - I enjoyed it very much. I'll hope we'll meet again some day.
 - I like it!
 - I like. Great.
 - It was really good, but students are shy and didn't want to talk a lot.
 - Houston is awesome.
 - I loved it.
 - It is very interesting.
 - I wish we could have it more often.
 - I loved it.

Here are the results of the second session assessments.

Twenty-eight students completed the assessment.

- 5. Chatting English at TNPU was:
 - Fabulous – 24
 - Good – 4
 - Horrible – 0
- 6. I wish we would have talked more about:
 - How people live in the USA
 - Culture
 - Relationships
 - Education
 - English life
 - The education system
 - Education
 - Every person and their inner world, I wish the PCVs would have danced with us.
 - Funny situations
 - American life

- Studies
 - Habits of Americans
 - Our talk was good
 - Everything was nice
 - I think everything was ok.
 - Education system
 - Living in the USA
 - Fun in the USA
 - Culture in Ukraine
 - Traditions in the USA
 - Study in the USA
7. I would like it if our English department would:
- Be more interesting
 - Invite volunteers next year
 - Organize more such activities
 - Bring more volunteers
 - Change in the future
 - Have more such kind of conversations with volunteers
 - Have more conversations like these
 - If we have more meetings like that
 - Be more active
 - Do such meetings often
 - Be more active
 - Have some English club
 - Be more active
 - Be much better if all of the PCVs worked at TNPU
 - Invite volunteers next time
 - Have more such nice people as you are
 - Be more funny
 - Be in the USA
 - Invited volunteers next year
 - Be more creative
 - Have more experience with volunteers and improve our English speech
8. Other comments:
- I wonder that you know such a great number of our words.
 - It was ok.
 - It was great.
 - Guys were very pretty.
 - I like English (American) people.
 - Thank you.
 - Volunteers were really friendly.
 - Thanks you guys. It was awesome. We want you to come once again.
 - I really liked this meeting.
 - I like our conversation.
 - I liked it very, very much.
 - It was very nice and very interesting.
 - Thanks for coming.
 - I liked all.
 - I like all of the volunteers.

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- Thanks for good work in Ukraine.
- I want communication with native speakers.
- Thank you so much for a great forum! It was awesome!
- Thank you! Come to us again!
- It was very interesting. I would like to chat much more with volunteers.

Overall feedback from the students was positive. They would like to have more chances to meet and talk frankly with PCVs and other native speakers in the future.