

The Rassias Center for World Languages and Cultures

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Enriching lives by improving communication

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We are committed to the effective instruction of language and culture for the purpose of strengthening communication among people of the world.

We are committed to science in the field of communication and understanding through sharing of ideas, of aspirations, of convictions, of problems, and of humanity.

We are committed to instruction that is dynamic, dramatic, durable, and dedicated to changing attitudes toward learning and the teaching of language and culture.

We are committed to demystifying language and eliminating the word “foreign” as an alienating sign.

“Speak the language to learn it, rather than learn the language to speak it.”

JOHN A. RASSIAS



“The understanding of other cultural traditions begins with language. Dartmouth Professor John Rassias’ high-powered language drills reveal the values of foreign cultures more tellingly than a dozen weighty treatises. It would be easier for all of us to continue insisting that the rest of the world learn English. But such complacency has already placed Americans at a serious disadvantage in the international marketplace. . . We isolate ourselves from a wide range of opportunities — diplomatic, economic, and cultural.”

JAMES O. FREEDMAN
President Emeritus of Dartmouth College,
in “American Glasnost” (Dartmouth Alumni Magazine, November 1990)





The purpose of the **Rassias Method** is to eliminate barriers of inhibitions and fear that learners normally bring to the classroom. This is accomplished by a combination of unpredictable maneuvers and dramatic spontaneity to keep the student locked in the learning cycle.



“Language is a living, kicking, growing, flitting, evolving reality, and the teacher should spontaneously reflect its vibrant and protean qualities.”

JOHN A. RASSIAS
1925–2015



Thank you for your interest in our work and programs. We have had the privilege of working within the language and cultural acquisition field for over five decades both in the USA and abroad. Our worlds are profoundly touched and improved by those across the globe with whom we are lucky enough to work.

Developed for training Peace Corps volunteers in the early 1960s and adapted to college level instruction in 1967, the Rassias Method® is a combination of dramatic techniques, rhythmic drills, and energetic reinforcement strategies that make learning an engaging experience, while eliminating inhibitions. The Rassias Method is used in colleges and schools throughout the country and abroad. Please note, we have included a time-

line in this document with a brief overview about the early years.

We are committed to the premise that “language instruction at any level should be a humanistic pursuit intended to sensitize [individuals] to other cultures, to the relativity of values, to the appreciation of similarities among peoples and respect for the differences among them” (Perkins Commission Report to the President, 1979). Our philosophy within any of our programs is to assist educators and learners; indeed, our purpose is to share, to serve, to stimulate.

We look forward to working with you in Hanover, NH or anywhere our paths may cross.

We each instinctively learn our native tongues by listening, repeating, manipulating, and gradually building the base.

A Summary of the Rassias Method Philosophy

Know Thyself – explore one’s own inhibitions, prejudices, values.

Connect – recognize cultural differences and similarities to be aware and empathetic of others.

Special Delivery – use techniques to foster spontaneity through dynamic classroom pace and atmosphere.

Stage Presence – empower language learners to be at ease in the classroom, in the language, in the culture, in the country.

Senses and Emotions – participate in multileveled approaches that break down the obstacles of language acquisition.



Family • Peers • Profession

As we grow, so too do our cultural layers. We must be aware of how these complicated layers both enrich and impede our lives so we may feel fully connected with humanity.

History of the Rassias Method and Dartmouth College’s Rassias Center

