



My Unforgettable Trip



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Introduction

Before I was worried and hoped that I will be selected and I keep on praying that I can be selected but I can't believe it will be a dream come true. I was selected to be one of those students who will go to New York thru PEN INTERNATIONAL Cultural Exchange. Of course I was so excited and so happy because finally my dream of going abroad will come true. The preparation before going to NTID was quite hectic but these days were tireless and there was a feeling of fulfillment.

It was a good experience to be involved with Ambassadors of Goodwill. After the selection of delegates I started to work hard and thought of what to prepare for our presentation.





My Personal Realizations

*My Growing and Learning Self

From these experiences, I learned a lot of things when I went there and I found some similarities but not much, and I realized that the Philippines needs to improve many things and can learn through interaction with different schools and organizations like Asian Deaf Club. That club helps the student to improve and grow and interact with different people and culture. That will be more helpful in encouraging the student to grow and gain their experience in exchange of what they have to share. In my realization about myself and reflecting on what I need to improve and change to be a better person and help others. I think my being Deaf is not a hindrance for me to be successful. I have learned to be mature and confident with all my rights and I am ready for any challenge in the future.





***Proud to be Filipino Deaf**

I feel proud to be a Deaf because I believe that I am capable of doing things like hearing people, being born a Deaf and at the same time a Filipino has brought pride for me. We have good values that I always bring in my life wherever I go. I believe that Filipino Deaf have their own unique way of their living. Filipino Deaf can struggle and in my life where it will be a challenge for my own good.

Being proud to be Deaf as what I am today and it has brought every lives of Filipino Deaf to a real world to get good experiences. That is a good chance for Deaf to gain many experience on what I can see in different ways.

I'm happy to be a Deaf person no matter what. I believe that God gave more blessings for me to learn a lot of things around me. It is a wonderful time to experience and show my confidence of being a Filipino Deaf.





***Proud to be a Benildean**

Being proud to be Benildean. I believe that Benildeans have strength in themselves and always do best in different ways. I even brought our Benildean core values which I use in my life and show how Benildeans have their own set values that are truly unique.

From my experiences in NTID. I believe that NTID was happy to have our Benildean students go there. I have been very thankful to CSB who brought us good opportunity to visit NTID.

In CSB we have very good faculty headed by our very efficient dean who is also patient in teaching us. The head of the Deaf School have prepared good programs for us and believed in our capacities. I am happy as a Benildean Deaf because our teachers help us in our studies, and in our personal being. In NTID I have represented the school and shared to the foreign Deaf students about Filipino Deaf Culture, Filipino Deaf Education and Filipino Sign Language. I showed the best of me so they will see the Benildean Deaf in me.



My Hopes

***Growing, Improving, and Becoming Better**

Filipino Deaf students should have more courage and determination in their Goals. They should be very willing to learn new ideas and concept. They should be brave and mature to stand alone. Filipino Deaf Students should cultivate good attitudes and good values in life. They should learn to improve by reading a lot and practice good in daily life.

***Sharing My Hopes and Dreams**

Maybe our faculty and academic staff need to attend seminars and learn how to improve Deaf Education. Maybe we can let them study and observe more in NTID so they can apply the NTID programs to our school and deaf student in CSB even out of CSB.

As a Deaf student, we need to have initiative to learn. We need to help ourselves in all aspects. We must learn how to be good and be brave enough and not pity ourselves. We should have strong determination to achieve our goals. We should be more diligent to learn everything and must know how to interact with other people. Deaf students must try to stand alone and if given opportunities we must learn how to accept and try our very best.

Trip to RIT-NTID Rochester, New York, USA

April 23 to May 3, 2003





April 24, 2003

Departure from Manila, I was very excited and can't wait to reach Rochester. It is the first time I rode on an airplane. I thought of my very first day to travel in United States. I arrived in San Francisco and Atlanta to transfer to another plane. To see new places in States.





April 25, 2003

Arrived in Rochester at 10 am and the temperature was very cold. We were looking for our luggage. We met Mary Lamb and Mary Beth who picked us up in the airport. We went out of the airport and I looked at my group and they started to feel very frozen. We waited for the shuttle bus to arrive. We rode the shuttle bus all the way to Radisson Inn where we will be staying.

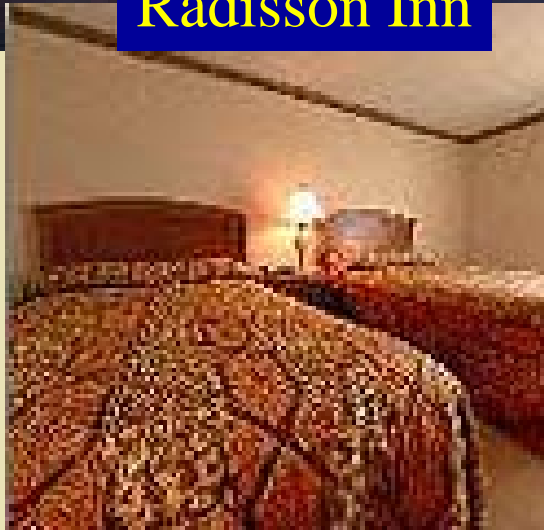
While on the way we were amazed to see different places. As soon we arrived at the hotel, we waited for Mary Lamb to give key card for our room. But it is not yet arranged and we put our luggage in John's room temporarily. Mary Lamb asked if we still want to rest or just walk around in NTID for few minutes.

We went back to our hotel and we met Sid McQuay there. He was excited to see us. Mary Lamb found our room and put my own luggage in the room where I will be sleeping, it was very nice. After that we went back to the lobby and met Sid McQuay to have lunch together. It was good time for us to reunite with Sid McQuay.


I went back to my room and I just rested for a few minutes and watched TV. I decide to take a nap a while later and it was already 5:30 that me and my group decided to have our dinner. I met some of group mates in the lobby and I met new friends named Minoru and Tony. They brought us to EPB Conference Room where we met the Asian Deaf Club. The students are very active and can easily interact with us. ADC is a very cool club for Deaf people to share their cultures and it was very interesting to learn from them. They are very friendly with us.



Radisson Inn



NTID



April 26, 2003

I woke up in the morning and looked outside the window. It was bright and sunny. I prepared myself and went down to have breakfast in the Garden Room. We went out of the hotel and on the way to George Eastman's House, who owned Kodak. I was amazed with how he made the house. I admire how Eastman worked with his photographs. He made his images with full meaning as what you can see in the pictures. I felt wonderful with his life and his wealth but was sad that he killed himself.

We had lunch at Rochester Museum & Science Center. I looked around inside the Museum. I enjoyed & saw the things that the Americans have invented. It was wonderful experience to visit that place.

We went to Straseburgh Planetarium Show where we watched the stars and sun. It was a nice show and we had wonderful time there.

We visited the High Falls. We took our pictures there, and I saw there was a long car and I decided to also take pictures there. It was funny.

We had our dinner at Pittsford Wegman. Some of us bought some grocery. It was nice to be there for grocery. We left and went back to our hotel. I was tired of the travel but it was great. The interpreters were very nice to us and they are easy to communicate with and understand. I wonder how they could be patient and listen when we ask questions. I enjoyed this wonderful day traveling places. We went back to our hotel and we were tired and went to sleep.

Straseburgh Planetarium





HIGH FALLS





April 27, 2003

I woke up in a bright morning and prepared myself. I had breakfast with my group. We waited for Mary Lamb and Marybeth to meet us at the lobby. We met them and rode on the shuttle bus on our way to hear Mass at the Emmanuel Church of the Deaf. I watched the road and saw different places. We arrived at the Emmanuel Church and went inside. We took our seats and met the Deacon. It was a wonderful Church for Deaf. Most of them are old Deaf people and we began celebrating the Holy Mass.

The deacon introduced us to other Deaf people and explained we came from the Philippines. I admire the priest because he had good homily during the mass that is easy to understand. Then the Mass was over and some of my group mates were familiar with the deacon because we watched a video last time in our World Literature class. One of my group mates asked the deacon if he is. That was a very small world that we finally met him and it was unbelievable that we met.



EMMANUEL CHURCH OF THE DEAF



Taking pictures in Emmanuel Church



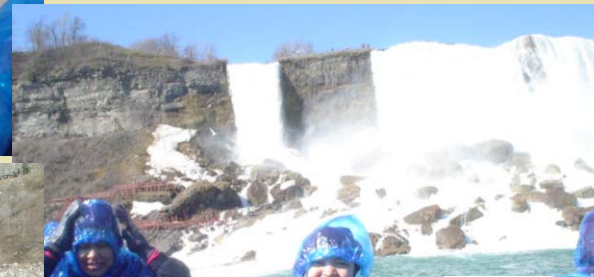
We went to visit Niagara Falls. We had lunch on the shuttle bus which the PEN International provided. On our way to Niagara Falls we stopped in one place that looks like an old church with many statue of Saints. We visited and took some pictures. And some went to Church shop to buy some things for their friends and families.

We left and went to Niagara Falls. We were on the way and just rested on the shuttle bus. We arrived at Niagara Falls and we were excited to see what Niagara Falls looks like. We took pictures around the Niagara Falls. We plan that we would like to ride the boat and want to experience what it feels like to be on that boat. We walked along to reach the boat. It is called Maid of the Mist. We can ride the boat to go near the Niagara Falls. It was wonderful to see and felt very cold when the falls drop a water into me. I enjoyed taking pictures and video around. Before we left Niagara Falls we went to Hard Rock Café and we had dinner there. After our dinner we went back to hotel because we were tired of walking around but it was very good.





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April 28, 2003

We walked to NTID to meet Dr. James DeCaro. NTID welcomed us to visit in various rooms. We went to PEN Training Room where we met Dean Hurwitz. He welcomed us and introduced about the school programs and education for Deaf. I was amazed that NTID has good opportunities for Deaf students. He explained many things about the programs in NTID. These programs help achieve the students' dream and goals.

NTID gave us a tour around the school and visited various classrooms. We toured in different classes and it was wonderful to see how the students work in classroom. The professional way of doing lectures about their subject and course for Deaf. I realize that they are skilled using their hands with their works like making the eyeglasses. It was quite nice to see how they make it. We went to CAD Lab which is about computer and in their classroom they have complete equipment. I was thinking of how our Deaf education needs more improvement on program system. We went to Dining Commons and we had our lunch with Sid McQuay. We visited other classrooms. It was amazing. We visited some more classrooms and then we went back to hotel.





We went to Dinning Commons and we having our lunch with Sid McQuay.



We visit other classroom. It was amazing that what I visited.





We rested for a few hours and we met Clarice Bondoc to have dinner together at Grace Watson. I was glad to meet her and talk with her about NTID. She explained to us how and shared with us her experiences staying in RIT-NTID. It was quite amazing and she had good time with us.



April 29, 2003

We walked to NTID to meet Tony. He guided our tour around RIT. It was quite a big place, and we visited the Student Life Center, Ritter Ice Arena, Clark Gymnasium, and saw all kinds of sports. It was quite a cool place because students can play anywhere for their sports or train for competition.

We went to the Student Alumni Union Bookstore where I bought an RIT shirt and book entitled "Deaf Espirit". After visiting the bookstore we went to Wallace Library. It was interesting because there are lots of books about Deaf and other issues. We met Joan Naturale who is a Deaf librarian. She explained about how to use the library.



Wallace Library

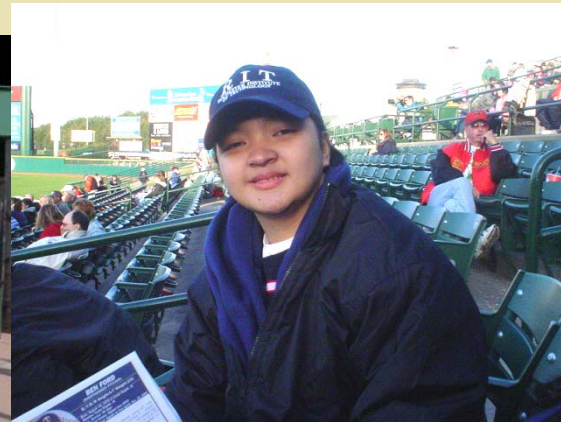




We went to Cross Roads where we had our lunch. I met my childhood friend who have been my classmate since nursery and I was very happy to see him again.



We went to the HiTech Center to visit other classes then we went back to the bookstore. Some of my group mates bought some more things in the bookstore then we went back to hotel to rest for a few minutes. After that they picked us up and went to see a baseball game. It was very cold in the baseball stadium. We were freezing and can't stand the weather. We watched the game played by Rochester's team.



Frontier Field Baseball Stadium





April 30, 2003

We met some Asian Deaf Club members who want us to visit their classes. I tried to observe in their class of Photography. I was with Alice who is taking up Photography. I learned a lot from her class and saw the making her project. I visited many different classes for photography. I asked her many questions about the class and course. I found out that it is the best way to have feedback with the students about their projects to improve.

I was thinking on how the teacher and student should have to share their opinion about the project. The teacher tried to encourage the students to improve on what they shared about their project. I visited many studios where the students use to make their projects.

I had lunch with Alice and other friends. We shared many things and jokes. We enjoyed hanging around. After lunch, I went to Alice's classroom because she is making her project and I just watched her and learned a lot. When she was done with her project we went around RIT. Finally, we arrived at her apartment where she showed me her previous project that she worked on. She has good pictures taken. I was amazed on how she did a good job on her project. Some of my group mates arrive at her apartment and we had time to relax for few minutes. Alice dropped me in the hotel.



We arrived at the hotel to meet faculty and went to NTID. ADC hosted the evening for us. ADC and Pen delegates went to Jillians'. It was fun there because there are lots of games around and we had dinner there. I very much enjoyed playing with ADC in the arcade games for two hours.



May 1, 2003

This is the day of our presentation. In the morning we had rehearsal. After that, we had formal lunch with Dr. James DeCaro and Dean Hurwitz. I wore a Filipino costume. We had lunch and when it was over, Dr. James Decaro and Dr. Hurwitz gave us certificates. I received one and I am glad to have this kind of appreciation. We took our picture holding our certificates.





After our lunch, we prepared for a few minutes for our presentation. We were well prepared and started our presentation. Dr. James Decaro made an introduction for us and it was quite a wonderful introduction. We started the presentation on the topic about the Philippine Deaf Education, Filipino Sign Language and Filipino Deaf Culture. We shared our Philippine history and issues for Filipino Deaf. The audience enjoyed and learn from the three topics. We also presented Filipino dances.





After the end program and we went back to hotel to drop some our things. We went to NTID that ADC invites us to have dinner, there is a Ethnicity Fair. And we also attend the seminar about 5'E that the man who lecture is from taiwan. He has own his company. I learned a lot about his idea and his Life. that is wonderful things that I learn about 5'E and I think it is very important to put our every day lives. That is what 5's is worthy for Deaf people to get successful through 5'E.





May 2, 2003

We went to tour the Genesee Country Museum and that is the place that shows life in America during the 19th century. There are many old houses and shops, include a private school. I saw some staff there wearing costumes from the 19th century. It was nice to visit that place. We had our lunch there and the weather was very cold. That place is very big. I enjoyed visiting there.







We went back to RIT to attend a seminar conducted by the same man who lectured yesterday. But the topic is different and it is about technology using the telephone and computer connection. He explained how to operate this program. And we visited Deaf theater where there was rehearsal on going. I was amazed on how the Deaf can act with their signing. I learned a lot and this opportunity for the Deaf to learn and gain more skills and talents.






We went to Marketplace where we had our dinner and shopping there. We bought many things in that mall. We went around in that mall. I enjoyed it. We were looking for chocolates and I found some stores where we can buy some. We went back to hotel and prepared our things.

Alice, Mei and Clarice dropped by the hotel to say goodbye. I was sad because they have been very good to me and I had good time with them. I'm going to miss them a lot. I gave them something in remembrance of our friendship.





May 3, 2003

We prepared our things for departure to Manila. We went to the airport and met with Dr. James DeCaro, Mary Lamb, Minoru and Yufang. We checked in our luggages and we had our lunch at McDonald's. I saw some food there that are different from Philippines. After having our lunch, we received a framed photograph of our group. It was so sad to leave Rochester because PEN International and Asian Deaf Club gave me many happy memories. I really miss them all. When the time to leave came, we were crying because of they have touched our hearts, and especially Mary Lamb. I will never forget all those times we spent in NTID.





May 4 and 5, 2003

We went back to Manila. I saw through the clouds as we left Rochester and was sad but thankful for giving me happy times when I stayed there.

We arrived in Manila and the temperature was hot and I felt so hot. Honestly I miss that place. I met my family and I gave them something and they were excited and listened to my stories about my experiences in Rochester.





“ Rochester and its people gave me happy moments, and surely I will never forget all the times I spent there.”

THE END