



"Amazing Trip"

25 April to 3 May 2003
Ambassador of Goodwill Student Exchange
CSB-NTID

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My Introduction

- I was sad because only seven students passed but I still prayed to pass. I waited for Ms. Techie who will tell me later. My mother met and asked her. Then she was very happy and kissed me because I passed for PEN-International Students Exchange. I was really happy and thanked God. I wanted to experience and learn more.
- My purpose in joining the students exchange on April 25 to May 3 is to go touring different places. I wanted to know about the Deaf students from different countries. I will share with them my culture also they will share with our culture, sign language and education. I met many American Deaf students in NTID-RIT.

My Personal Realizations



Growing and Learning self

- I only know very few things before but now, I learned many about American Deaf Culture, Higher Education and Technology, They have own skills that are unique, and good qualities of sharing and cooperation. I really was very surprised because Deaf Americans can do equal with hearing. I begin to understand about different culture for Deaf and hard of hearing. I observed different Deaf ways and skills. I realized that I should try and be same like Deaf Americans but I can't copy, only be inspired because they have their own way and I have my own way to express my creativity and ideas that relate for Filipino Deaf Community. I had learned more and profited and became interested in it because I have a feeling I am stronger and more developed now than before. It made me more flexible and open-minded that I have to be serious with my studies because I am in 4th year college now and I feel a change for new life. I want to have discipline in myself and more responsible but I will try my best. I must control myself and be good role model to students. I can share with them my experiences and skills then they can share with Deaf community their awareness about our experience.

Proud to Be Filipino Deaf

- I am very proud to be Filipino Deaf because I was born in the Philippines and I am pure Filipino that I have my own Filipino Sign Language and Deaf culture that I can relate myself. I was very lucky because I had many experience in the U.S. that I learned from NTID and RIT going different places, having good education and culture. I can share with Deaf community and CSB students my experience.

Proud to be a Benildean

- I believe that Benildean also have good values because I feel lucky I learned many opportunities. I went to U.S. and I always smiled and be very nice to Americans at NTID. I really respect them because I follow Benildean values. I am very simple to show at CSB that we can share about my experience. We must be all equal and humble. I understand the difference in ways in NTID-RIT but I can't bring all but I must have own way how to compare about our experience at CSB. I want to share and cooperate with Deaf students that they can express and experience. If CSB is proud of me but I still want to be of equal to other Deaf students because we are all Benildean.

My Hopes



Growing, Improving, Becoming Better

- I learned from NTID-RIT that I must be a good role model and I will motivate students more about difference in ways, comparing education in CSB and my many experience and realizations about my life but explain clearer so they will be aware about it and try to understand more. So they will get interested and be more curious when they understood. I want PEN group must be role models but remain humble that we can share and motivate students about our experience in the U.S. and compare life before and how we feel now that we have changed our lives. They will realize experiences about us so that they can motivate others outside community.

Sharing My Hopes Dreams

- I want SDEAS to have many faculty but need to focus on each student. They must discipline well the students so that they can equal learning with hearing. But not too strict, only that faculty must know how to make students more responsible. Faculty must motivate them more to raise quality education and attitudes and perspective so that students will learn more and change their attitude. I want us to have self-discipline as well.

Hard Rock Café in Canada



April 24 to May 5, 2003
Day by Day
My Journal Experience Trip



April 24, 2003

- I left for U.S. at 10:30 this evening. I missed my mommy and friends in the Philippines. I was in plane then ready to leave for U.S. but I was afraid because Rochester is very far. When I arrived at San Francisco the first time. I was confused because t has different time. I felt very cold. I was really amazed with the big place that is more beautiful and nice. Again we flied to Atlanta.



April 25, 2003

- I arrived at Rochester. I met two Americans who will be guiding us to NTID. I saw at more beautiful places. We arrived at the hotel and rest. I felt cool because I forgot my stress and problems. I wanted to be cool and change new my life.
- For the first time, I saw NTID that is very big and nice. I saw different Americans but who are deaf and who are hard of hearing or hearing? I was confused. But they are good and kind and always smiling at me. My idea before we left Manila was that they look like wild and worthless but no, I was wrong, and they are always nice and smiling same like Deaf Filipinos.
- In EPB conference room, I met some Americans but some are not Americans, they look like Asians but I don't know where they are from? I didn't ask them yet because I was so shy but later, I tried to be brave and interact with them. They are very nice to me and shared about our life in Philippines and U.S. Better I must interact with Deaf Filipinos at CSB and outside. We have more time to interact and talk about the culture exchange.

April 26, 2003

- I went to Eastman House. I was amazed that Eastman has different unique cameras but he was good and ideal that I found him wonderful that he had success but too late because he died. I was so sorry for him. I toured to other different places, with lunch at the Museum & Science Center, Strasenburgh Planetarium Show, Rochester/High Falls Area and dinner at Pittsford Wegmans. I learned many things from them.



April 27, 2003

- At Emmanuel Church of the Deaf, I met many Americans but they are Deaf and hard of hearing. I was amazed with them because even though some are old they are still strong and active. I really like them because they can interact well and share with others but I like same Deaf Filipinos. I felt I must try to share with Deaf Filipinos because they want to know more and improve their life compared with our experience and I hope I can be of help to them.
- I was in bus and talking to Patrick who talked about his experience. I really admired him because he was successful with his poem. I want to be like him because I believe that even though he is Deaf he still became a famous poet, I found him wonderful. But I can't be like him because I am not good with poem but I must try to learn more about uniqueness of Deaf poem.
- I toured Niagara Falls that is very beautiful and very big and we had dinner at Hard Rock Cafe. I felt very cold when I tried to analyze myself how I can prepare to change my attitude that is good for my life but I try to be more dependent on myself.



April 28, 2003

- I went to NTID and toured to different rooms and labs. I was surprised that they have high technology and good education. I found it wonderful that Deaf Americans and Asians can do and try hard for the best. I realized that they are like Deaf Filipinos at CSB but not all, only few, but I must find my own unique ways that Deaf Filipinos can do. I learned from different Deaf and hard of hearing culture that they have good uniqueness in their ways. I was curious about the high technology they have and learn many good ideas that I can share with Deaf students at CSB. They will be aware and realize deep, I hope.
- I had dinner at Grace Watson with Clarice Bondoc and other delegates. I ate a lot, and I was very full. I really miss rice because there I haven't had rice for many days. I tried to eat different food from different counties because I wanted new experience.

April 29, 2003

- I went to RIT and toured to different places. I was confused who are Deaf or Hard of hearing or hearing at RIT. Some Deaf mainstreamed, and I understood what they mean about it. I bought only some things at Bookstore because it is little expensive. I was amazed that Joan Naturale is very professional in Wallace Library. Even though she is hard of hearing she still can work professionally. I learned from her lecture about different painters of Deaf art. There is one Deaf Filipino named Mr. Jose dela Cruz who is a skilled painter. I am very proud of him that he was popular here in the U.S. but most Deaf Filipinos have skill in the arts.
- We watched a baseball game. I was very cold and I want to go back to hotel because I need to be warmed. When I arrived at the hotel, I still thought about NTID and RIT and what comparison do they have with CSB and the education system in the Philippines.



April 30, 2003

- John Paolo and I were with Clarice Bondoc who guided us to tour different classes and places around RIT. She shared with us about her experiences in NTID and RIT, that Americans and Asians have good discipline and responsible and study hard because they have goals to be very serious with their studies. I understood what she is saying. I felt a little frustrated because before I didn't know what my goal for the future is. But now, I learned from what she said about her experience. I realized that I will try make my best and I will study hard and serious and be responsible but I hope if I have good use of my time. Now, I will be in 4th year college. I must share with others about my experience because I learned from Clarice. I am thankful for her because she motivated me good and positively. I am very proud of her that we are true Filipinos.
- We went to Jillians. I played game with Theresa and we really like to win each other with the games there.



May 1, 2003

- I read a paper about the Deaf Filipino Culture. I practiced my signs to see if I get them right or wrong. Ms. Joy Cristal suggested that I must make my sign clear and short and I accepted what she said. I practiced my sign for a short time but I hope I tried my best. We had formal lunch with Dr. Jim DeCaro, and other staff of PEN-International. I received a certificate from him. I was thankful to him.
- After our lunch I prepared my lecture and I was a little nervous because I haven't danced for two years but I really miss dancing. With faith, I was ready to give my lecture about Deaf culture. Then one audience asked me for an example about Deaf humor but I wasn't ready so I asked Jamilla for help. But she was shocked because she isn't ready too so she tried her best to show a Deaf joke. After the lecture, we did a dance presentation. All Americans and Asians liked it. I really appreciate their support. I was so happy that I felt cool because I was very brave and confident.
- We met different Deaf students at Asian Deaf Club. I observed that they talked and interacted with others and I learned a lot. No matter whether 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th year college, they still interacted with us and were very friendly. They have their own way that is unique and they have cooperation. I analyzed myself that I must share with Deaf at CSB about the importance of cooperation and interaction that they can become more friendly and share their way that is unique that will be their bridge for future.



May 2, 2003

- I realized many through my experiences in the U.S. Before, I didn't know how to grow, but now, I felt I grew a lot and have a lot of awareness in myself. I tried to forget negative things. When I toured the Country Museum it made me more comfortable even though it was very cold. I was very happy that my PEN group had fun and can share our experience about NTID, RIT and others.
- I shopped at the Marketplace Mall but I didn't buy chocolates because I can't find any grocery there so I was sad, but never mind. Later, Jamilla and Victoria bought many chocolates already and I was little frustrated because I waste my money on other things. Two Asian Deaf Club members asked if we want to ride in her car and go to grocery but I was very shy. I tried to be brave and rode in her car to go to Wegmans. I bought some chocolates. I was thankful to her. They are very nice to me and welcomed me always. I looked up to them that they are good role models that I like.



May 3, 2003

- I prepared my things to go back home to the Philippines. I really miss it so much. I met Deaf Americans and I felt sad to leave but I didn't know why because they have good things they gave to me and made me happier but I will miss them so much. We ate at McDonald's then we waited at the airport. I saw Theresa start to cry then I turned to see the PEN staff who were also touched and it also made me cry. Later all PEN group cried and was very sad because we want to stay in Rochester but we can't. I remember all Deaf Americans and Asians and the times we enjoyed and shared together. We cried and cried. We said goodbye to Rochester. I will never forget it.
- I was very thankful to PEN-International who supported and help me to have more opportunities and learning from this tour. I had so much experience and have grown better. I have better awareness about myself now and about American and Asian Deaf people.



May 4, 2003

- I was on the plane. Three times we stopped over: first in Atlanta, then San Francisco and finally arrived in the Philippines early morning the next day. I thought of the preparations we need to do for our lecture to the CSB students about my experience and realizations in the U.S.



May 5, 2003

- I arrived in the Philippines. I was really happy that we arrived safe. I felt very hot and I really miss U.S.A. because it was very cold that I like. I went home and had rest and my mommy arrived and she was very happy to see me, I was very happy to see her too.

We arrived at Philippines then went home

