

My Journey to the Summer Leadership Institute

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Student Development Center
Presentation



August 4, 2006



"I'm thrill because this is my first time going to England. This will be a great international experience for me."



"The weather was very nice and getting on the airplane was no hassle. The sky was very awesome. It made me miss my skydiving experiences."



“We thought it would take us 7 hours to get there but the captain announced that it will be in 6 hours. Whoo-hoo!”



“3,600 miles from Rochester, New York to London, England...

The airplane flew us 37,500 feet in the air...

Wow, the fastest we went was more than 600 mph!”



“I wasted the long hours by relaxing to the jazz, the blues, and the classical which silence the roaring engines. I saw a couple movies and fell asleep for some short naps.

Then I wondered, will I get any ‘jet-lag’ feeling when I get there?”

August 5, 2006



“Finally, we have arrived at the Heathrow Airport. I’m not used to all the opposite use of transportation. There were variety of international brand cars that were unfamiliar to me. I don’t see many USA cars and rarely did we see any SUV.”



“Different style of architecture... the use of spaces are different...”



Town of Kent

“We took a break at the town of Kent. 400 years of history and all the buildings were stacked together with a mall tucked in somewhere like a maze. You can see globalization snuck in some areas such as McDonalds. I did not feel that I have left America because everything was still in English.

It took us two to three hours to get to the Herstmonceux Castle because there were many closed roads and the bus driver took all sort of detours. It wasn't that bad because we got the view of the country side and small towns.



Even though it's a bit scary how fast the cars were going on narrow roads, it was very cool how the natural woods created this long green tunnels everywhere we go.”

Herstmonceux Castle



“It was magnificent but hard to believe that any castle be made of bricks. Normally it would be in block of stones but this castle was among the first of its kind to be made of bricks.

I noticed several observatories all over the campus. This castle is currently a university hosted by the Queen’s University of Canada.”



“I love the big trees and there were many of them. Some date back to 1700’s and its huge! You’ll need more than seven people to hug one.”





“We entered the castle from the side and took a tour around. We saw the dining hall and several rooms in the castle. We walked in the courtyard and went to the Bader hall (dorm). I felt like Harry Potter walking around in this castle. “

“There were lot of details in this castle and mostly hand-carved. I lost count of how many fireplaces they have in this castle.

There were some neat spiral stairways and huge wooden doors”





Views around the castle...





Views of the indoor courtyard



“The USA group were the first to arrive and we had plenty of daytime left. We went to the local village and socialized at one of their pub.

The pub there had a casual atmosphere decorated with British items and dark wood furniture. Guests were allowed to bring dogs and some of them were not on a leash. The dog sat next to their owner and followed whenever the owner went.

After the social at the pub, we returned to back to the castle. We stopped by one of the observatory near Bader Hall. We noticed a long stream of green light toward the sky from this observatory. A young man who worked there gave us a tour inside and explained the purpose of this observatory. The observatory used green laser light to pinpoint different satellite in the sky. The goal was to become a universal GPS system by collecting data of different satellites (stars) in the sky and being able to pinpoint them again with accuracy. The green laser measured the distance from the earth to a particular star. It was really neat to see how it worked.

After a great night, we all head to bed.”





August 6, 2006

Our first day of workshop...

“Everyone from other countries arrived safely at the castle and gathered at the dining hall for breakfast. Each country grouped at their own table and I was excited to meet with some of them. I sat with the students from the College of St. Benilde. I met Miracle, Archieval, Melissa, and Joyce. They were very nice and friendly people. It was easy to communicate because some of the signs from the Philippines sign language are from ASL.



After breakfast, I went out of the dining hall and bumped into the Chinese group. I had no Chinese language experience and attempt to communicate with them by gesturing. They pulled out a notebook and wrote to me in English. I was astonished by their writing skills and asked where did they learned English. They said their teacher, Li, who came along on this trip was the person who taught them English. The communication was easy by writing but I wanted to learn from them and told them to teach me some Chinese Sign Language and they agreed.

“After breakfast, we gathered together in the main lobby and then went to the conference room to make our introduction of each other.”





“A representative from the Nippon Foundation of Japan, Eriko, was introduced and she gave her presentation about the foundation. PEN-International is funded by a grant through the Nippon Foundation of Japan. The Summer Leadership Institute was created by PEN-International using this grant with an addition of Dr. Alfred Bader’s generous donation.”

Students...



Nikolay



Meng



Anastasia



Zhang



Sanek



Xiao



Tatiana



Diao

Russia

China

Students...



Chiaki



Melissa



Motoyoshi



Joyce



Yuka



Kensuke



Archieval



Miracle

Japan

Philippines



After the introduction of each country's participants, we took a castle tour together with the tour guides.

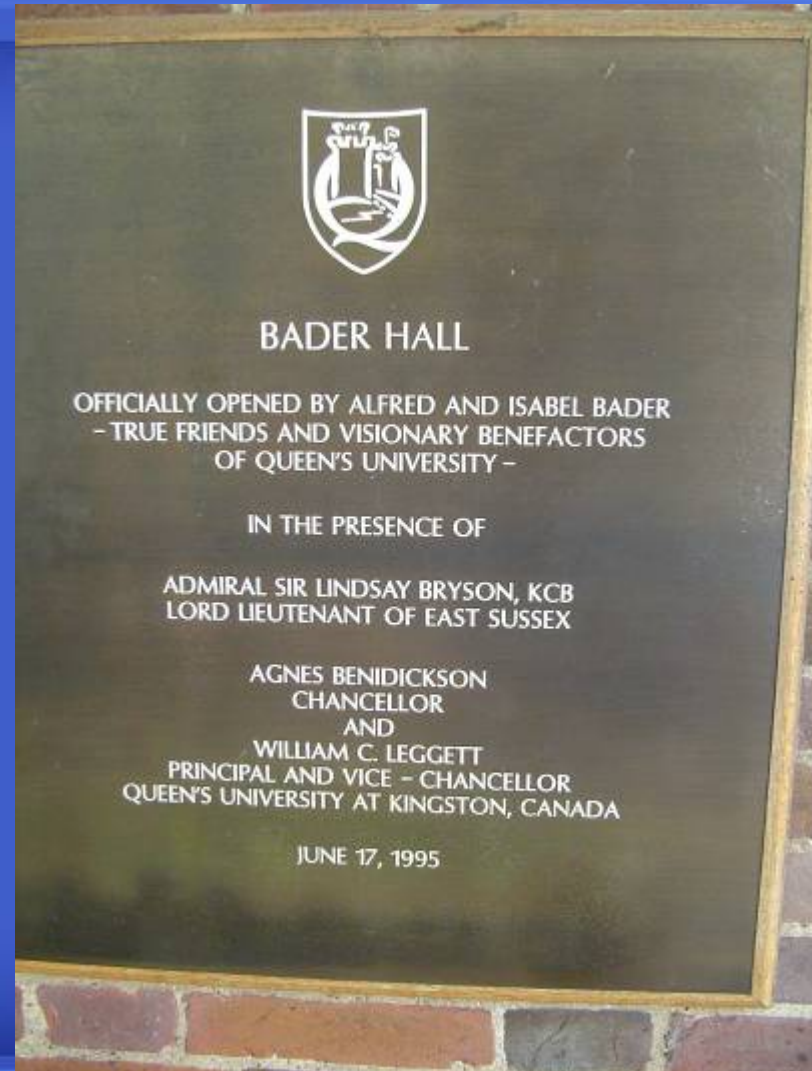




“Wait a minute, they have a dungeon in this castle?!?”

Yep, a small dungeon in a small room in one part of the castle. You need to get down the ladder in this small confined space with a small toilet hole.”

Tour of the Bader Hall



The Headless Drummer



It was said that a drummer lived in the room above the main door . Whenever visitors come by, the drummer would warn the family by beating his drum to prepare them for the visit.

The ghost story of the headless drummer started when the castle was abandoned for some time and the smugglers took that to their advantage to hide their tea to avoid the high British taxes. In order to protect this valuable asset, the headless drummer was used to scare off people from exploring this abandoned castle.

A Brief Castle History



Sir Roger Fiennes, a descendant of the Monseuxes, was appointed Treasurer of the Household of Henry VI, He needed a house fit for his need. Normally, those who were loyal to the king were allowed to own mansions but Sir Roger was given special privilege to build a fortified castle. It was built in 1441 and later donated to the Queen's University by Dr. Alfred and Isabel Bader in 1990's.

This castle endured a long and rich history and the tour guides told us wonderful stories about previous owners.



**Views of the
Garden**



The garden is huge. You could walk for miles in it. This castle has a maze out of bushes with many different species of flowers. There's a section called the Shakespeare garden with some flowers that matched some of Shakespeare's poetry. This castle has its own peacocks quietly tucked in a small part of the garden. A small miniature house, mainly used as a decoration, reside at the far back of the castle.





Group photo in front of the castle.

Monday's Presentations

August 7, 2006

- The Making of Deaf Leaders
- Developing Effective Communication and Negotiation Skills
- Leadership and Diversity





“There were 16 sign
language interpreters that
attended this program...

5 different languages...

Imagine this...



1. You sign in your native language (ASL)...
2. Your interpreter translate it to spoken language (Spoken English)...
3. The international interpreter translate that to their native language...
(example: Spoken English to Russian)
4. Then another interpreter take that spoken language and translate it to their country
sign language. (Spoken Russian to Russian Sign Language).

Tuesday's Presentations

August 8, 2006

- Assumptions & Expectations Regarding People who are Deaf
- Setting Goals and Achieving Them
- Deaf Culture by John and Gordon Hay



Wednesday's Activities

August 9, 2006

- Brighton and White Cliff
- Pizza Party at the Pub





White Cliff and Beach Head Path

Town of Brighton



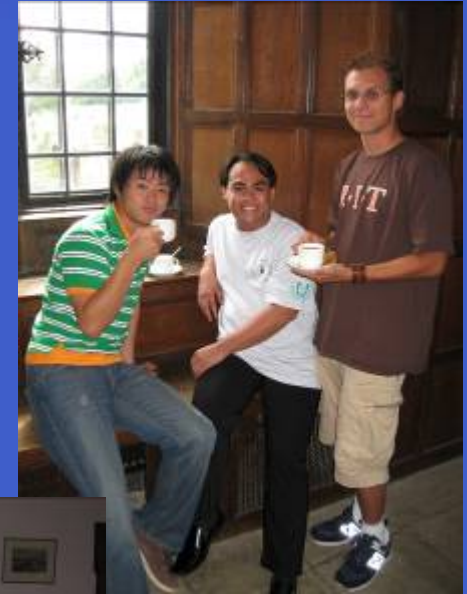
It was fun touring the White Cliff and the town of Brighton with my Russian friends. The beaches were not sandy like America. They were filled with rocky pebbles and that's one reason why I did not want to swim. We went shopping at one of the malls in Brighton. Many of the souvenirs were expensive and I did not buy anything. The value of British pound is almost twice the value of American Dollar. I bought some British tea to take home which was something America would not have sold in many of their stores. They have a store similar to a dollar store in the USA but everything cost a pound each (about \$2).



Thursday's Presentations

August 10, 2006

- Characteristics of Successful Deaf Leaders
- A History of Leadership in Deaf Culture
- Student Cultural Night



Cultural Night



Poetry, Dances, Music, Art, Food, and Stories were exchanged during the Cultural night. It was fun and entertaining night.

Friday's Presentations

August 11, 2006

- From Networking to Employment
- Self-Advocacy for Access
- Evaluations
- Leadership Presentation
- Closing Ceremony





Reflecting back to great memories!

August 12, 2006

Heathrow Airport Incident

- Someone threatened to crash the airplanes departing or arriving to London.
- Several people arrested.
- A small clear plastic bag containing only a wallet, passport, and prescribed medicine were allowed on board. Everything else had to go below.
- Arrived there 3-5 hours early.
- Long line to nowhere, airport workers collected people about 30 minutes to scheduled flight time. We left 30 minutes late on our departure.
- The Flight delayed in Washington DC and we arrived in Rochester the next day.

End of my Journey

“The trip was a memorable one. I had a great time interacting with friends from other countries. I learned how much this conference made an impact by bringing us together and share our deaf awareness to the world.”



Websites...



- <http://www.queensu.ca/homepage/>
- <http://www.herstmonceaux-castle.com/index.htm>
- <http://www.pen.ntid.rit.edu/summer-institute.php>
- <http://www.nippon-foundation.or.jp/>