

Summer Leadership Institute
Herstmonceux Castle, England

Journal

August 05, 2006

This whole experience was really exciting and cool! The night before I left I did not sleep at all because I prepared my things. My husband, Hilario, brought me to DLS-CSB to meet Ms. Tess, Archieval, Mae-Mae, and Joyce. We also waited for Ms. Nicky and Mr. John to arrive before we left for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 1. I could see that we were all happy and excited. We rode with Cathy Pacific and our flight left at 6 a.m. I thought the plane was very comfortable because of the seats and the air conditioning. Our plane landed at Hong Kong and we had to wait for 1 hour then got on another airplane again. This plane trip was very tiring because we had to sit in the airplane for 17 hours! We arrived at the airport in England and we waited for the delegates from Russia, Japan and China to arrive and together we rode the bus to the venue. We all felt sleepy and tired because of the time difference.

August 06, 2006

In the morning we ate a very satisfying breakfast and we were curious to see what the food culture of England was like. I found it to be nice and delicious. We then went to the conference room and it was wonderful to see the different international guests present. We were very happy interacting with each other. We toured the castle and learned the history of Herstmonceux through our tour guide. We then went back to the conference room and Dr. Alan Hurwitz gave us an ICE-BREAKER where we were asked to partner with other students. My partner was Motoyoshi, a boy from Japan, and later we grouped with Elizabeth, a girl from RIT, whose partner was Tatiana, a girl from Russia. I tried to communicate with them through gestures. After our group sharing we were asked to go to the front of the room and share the background of our partners and their favorites. After, we ate dinner together at 5 p.m. In the dining hall we chatted with each other and took group photos. Then we gave a presentation on one of our country's Deaf Leaders, Mr. Raphy Domingo. Mr. John Baliza, was my voice interpreter for the presentation. I felt nervous and I had to sign very slowly with long pauses because we were working with different international interpreters and it was very difficult. But I was satisfied and learned a lot from that experience. That night some students invited us to have a drink at the pub but we were really sleepy that night and we still had to practice for our cultural night presentation so we went straight to the dorm.

August 07, 2006

We woke up and took a bath at 7:00 a.m.; this was very early for me. I exercised a little and took a look at the view outside Bader Hall, the dorm. The wind was very cold. After a while we went to Herstmonceux castle where we ate our breakfast. Our first session for today was ***“The Making of Deaf Leaders”*** which was presented by Dr. Alan and Mrs. Vicki Hurwitz. The story of their life was very beautiful and I felt I could relate with Vicki’s life. She shared about having to take care of her son and daughter, the same as me. We had a break after their presentation then we listened again to the talk on ***“Developing Effective Communication and Negotiation Skills”*** by Mr. Jim DeCaro and Mr. Mark Rosica. This topic for me was difficult to understand and I tried to listen well. Although I still feel I did not quite understand it and I need more explanation. We then had a dinner break. I continued to reflect about the topic recently discussed and I wondered if my co-delegates (Mae-Mae, Joyce and Archieval) had a hard time understanding it too. We enjoyed listening and learning from the talk on ***“Leadership & Diversity”*** by Ms. Patricia DeCaro but again I felt that I was not able to understand the topic completely. Afterwards we had a group activity that we thought was wonderful. We were very sleepy but we still had a meeting with Ms. Nicky to discuss any problems that our group was experiencing. We told her that we had a hard time understanding the topic on ***“Developing Effective Communications and Negotiation Skills”***. Before going to sleep I tried to read the handouts again.

August 08, 2006

We again woke up very early and walked around the garden before eating breakfast. I was able to talk to Michelle during breakfast but only for a short time. Our first session today was ***“Assumptions and Expectations Regarding People who are Deaf”***. Here we talked about the environment and attitude and I could not believe that Pat had a lot of Deaf relatives! She showed us her Family Tree. Her Grandfather, Great Uncle, Parents and Uncle are Deaf but they were all successful. It really means that the Deaf CAN DO. We read our handouts about the 18 different occupations and we chose the occupation that we thought Deaf people can’t do and we wrote what type of barrier caused this and explained why we thought this was a barrier. I was very interested and listened carefully. We then had our lunch break but I felt so full that I only ate a little. After lunch we went back to the conference room and our next talk was on ***“Setting Goals and Achieving Them”*** by Mr. Mark Rosica and Mr. John Macko. I felt we learned a lot to help us improve ourselves. I was very thankful to John who explained things to us very well. During the activity, this was an example of the goal that I came up with:

Goals	How	Target Date	Use
Multimedia Arts BAPDST, 4 th yrs – DLS-CSB	Enroll Regular class consultant	2009-2010	Scholarship(SGU) Library Internet Tutor

Then there was another game. I felt this was fun and I thought this game with the white cloth will help build teamwork and we should cooperate so we don't lose. We waited for the speakers on the next topic, **"Deaf Culture"** and it was already late when they arrived. The speakers were Deaf men from England and they met heavy traffic on the way to the Castle. Mr. Mark then suggested that we have another fun game and later other students also suggested ideas of games. The Deaf people from England arrived in the evening, and even if it was already dark outside we still listened to their talk. I was very curious and I wondered how they were as a Deaf Family. Their sharing was very good and I saw how the members of their family supported each other. They discussed about being *"Deaf and Assertive"* and the *Frontrunners Project*. I wondered about the British Deaf Association (BDA) who had 8.6 million people. Later on I had a hard time listening to them because I was very sleepy. Afterwards we went to the pub where we had fun eating pizza and drinking a little. We left the pub very late, we still wanted to practice for our cultural presentation and discuss the topics presented but I fell asleep.

August 09, 2006

Archieval and I walked to the dining hall together, we ate early and some of the other Deaf participants arrived and joined us. We had a lot of things to chat about. We talked about our school and we learned so many sign languages. Today we rode the bus and we toured White Cliff and viewed the mountain. We had a camera with us to take pictures. I admired the beautiful sea and mountain. We then went to Brighton City which was very nice. There are many carnivals and places to shop. We were very tired from walking a long distance looking for the mall. I asked people where the shopping mall is and Archieval complained to me so I told him to help me search. I was so tired because I was the one leading the way but he said he was also willing to lead the search for the mall. We were trying to search for the mall called *Chuchtmall (?)*. I bought something for my daughter and nephew and nieces. We then went back to the bus and I ate a hamburger in the afternoon. We then waited for the others to arrive and ride the bus. I was able to take a short nap when we arrived at Bader Hall and when I woke up it was time to go to the Castle for the Pizza Party. After the party my group had time to practice our Filipino dance and check the PowerPoint that Mae-Mae made about Philippine Culture. We did this to prepare for our presentation tomorrow. When we were done, we prayed with Ms. Tess, our interpreter, for our safe trip back home to the Philippines on August 12.

Later, Aki, the Japanese interpreter, invited us to the pub to celebrate the birthday of one of the Japanese students.

August 10, 2006

We woke up and went to the dining hall for breakfast where we had a chance to talk to other Deaf students. Afterwards we listened to Alan's talk and we were grouped together for an activity. We had to have a presentation in the afternoon and each group had mixed students. I was in a bad mood that afternoon because I could not accept that my group thought I was the Least Talkative. During the group activity I was trying to get Lizzie's attention but her focus was on her discussion with Alexander and there was a little disagreement there. But our group tried to explain things well and I tried to be flexible and sure of myself and keep my cool. In the evening we had a presentation of our Filipino dances and we had a short lecture on the Philippine culture. The other student groups also had their own presentations which I all admired. We had fun that night.

August 11, 2006

This morning, I woke up early and took a long bath because I love the warm water from the shower. We took our formal dress with us and today we received our group picture in front of Herstmonceux Castle. We ate dinner in our formal attire and the other students asked us about it. I remember one of the Deaf Chinese students wanted to dance for the group so I called people and told them that she wanted to show us her dance. The group also asked us to dance again so we again performed our Filipino dance.

August 12-13, 2006

We ate breakfast very early and this morning at 5:00 a.m. we said goodbye to our friends from China, Russia and Japan because they left ahead of us. Then the Philippine and USA groups left at 9 a.m. We rode the bus again and I felt it was a long 3-hour ride. I really think that this place, England, is nice. When we arrived at the Heathrow Airport there were policemen who checked our baggage. They were very strict. We grew very tired because we had to stand in line with other people for so long a time. But we were able to ride our plane to Hong Kong and from there another plane to the Philippines. We arrived on Sunday night and my mother and husband fetched me at the airport. My daughter was very happy to see me and she gave me a hug. We ate dinner together and my daughter and niece and nephew waited and were very excited when I gave them their toys. I felt very tired and sleepy.