



My Journal



July 31, 2006, Monday

I reflected on the fact that I am representing DLS-CSB SDEAS for the Summer Leadership Institute. I don't know why the faculty chose me as one of the student ambassadors for this event but I really thank God for this blessing.

I thought to myself, I was not really able to join the school activities and other organizations. What will I do? I think I should start training on how to become a leader and I had people around me who always encourage me to be a leader and join in the activities.

August 2, 2006, Wednesday

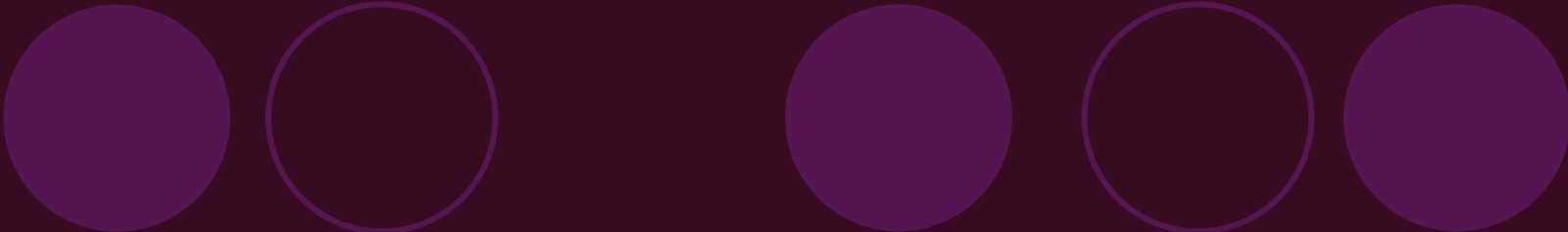
I feel so bad, I am stressed and have been very busy with my thesis, reports, and projects because I need to submit all of these before the final exam. I try to balance my time between this and the things I have to do for the Summer Leadership Institute, like the PowerPoint that I am making for our presentations.

After my class this evening, I went home and continued to prepare my things and pack my clothes in my luggage. I still did not finish. I want to be able to rest a little before leaving to England.

August 4, 2006, Friday

After my FIDECOM (Filipino Deaf Community) class, I went to the chapel with my boyfriend, Frederick and just sat there for a while. There were some of other students and faculty from our school, SDEAS, who were going to attend the Mass. I just prayed quietly and asked God to bless me and I expressed my thankfulness to Him.

After that I ate lunch and then went to the O-DEAF office for a meeting with the other student ambassadors and the two interpreters who will be with us. We discussed things in preparation for our trip.



We continued to prepare the PowerPoint for our presentation at the PEN-MLC. Later, Ms. Rubylee called us to go to the office of the Executive Vice President to present ourselves as the student ambassadors to the Summer Leadership Institute. We went to the EVP's office with Ms. Nicky, Ms. Tess, Sir John and Ms. Earnest.

Afterwards I left for Robinson's Ermita to buy some things and then my mommy and I went home. I still had to prepare my things and pack my clothes in my luggage and my mommy helped me to organize it. I felt I lacked rest and sleep.

August 5, 2006, Saturday

I arrived at DLS-CSB with my parents and there I met up with Aval, Joyce, Melissa, Ms. Nicky, Ms. Tess and Sir John. We rode the school van to go to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. I did not feel well because I still lacked sleep and rest. I really felt that I needed to rest.


We arrived at the airport and this was my first time to see the place. I saw Filipinos and foreigners showing their tickets and passports to the checkers at the gate. For our breakfast we ate the snacks served by Cathay.

We rode the airplane of Cathay Pacific and I thought it was beautiful, it was the first time I saw stewardesses who I thought were pretty. On our way to Hong Kong I caught the sight of the Philippines underneath and I thought it was so beautiful but there were areas that were poor and dirty. I slept deeply on the plane.

We arrived in Hong Kong Airport and we still needed to walk to Gate 15 that I felt was so far from where we arrived. Finally, again, we were on the airplane on our way to England. Again I slept deeply.

I really miss my boyfriend, my family, my dogs, my classmates and some of the other SDEAS students and faculty. But I really miss my boyfriend the most.





We arrived at the airport in England and I saw beautiful places. I was there for the first time. I saw different people from different countries who strolled around the place. There were also different culture and language.

We waited for three other countries to arrive and when we were all together we rode a bus for 2 hours to East Sussex, to Bader Hall where we stayed. There I met the student ambassadors of the different countries and I thought I really wanted to interact with them and be friends.



Joyce and I shared a room at the dorm and that night we slept. Good night!



August 6, 2006, Sunday

I woke up and saw rabbits outside the window. We took a bath and got dressed and went outside. I felt so cold, it was like being in Baguio City, Philippines. I really love the cold. In the hallway, I met Lizzie, one of NTID students. She visited us in the Philippines last March.

We walked to the castle where we ate breakfast. After breakfast, we went to the conference room and I met the student ambassadors from Japan, USA, Russia, and China and they were chatting with each other using different sign languages. That was something that I was really aware of.

I listened to Dr. DeCaro and Dr. Kevin who welcomed us and we also had an orientation. I also interacted with the other countries but was able to chat more with my partner, a Japanese female student named Chiaki. She is very nice and friendly. But I didn't understand her sign language too much so sometimes we used pen and paper for communicating.

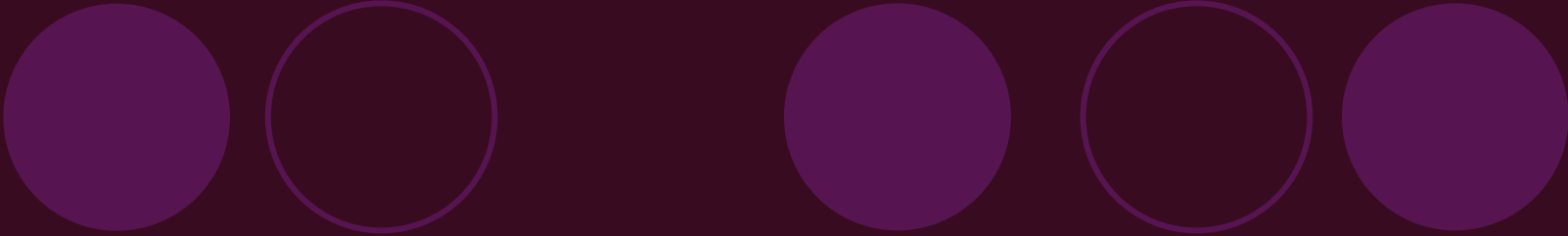


August 7, 2006, Monday

After breakfast, I walked to the conference room with the CSB group and we listened to the talk of Dr. and Mrs. Hurwitz about "*The Making of Deaf Leaders*". They also shared their life experience. I admire them because of their stories on how they were leaders. I thought it was beautiful.

I reflected and thought how I could become a leader for a Deaf organization and support the Filipino Deaf. It is really important for me to help them.





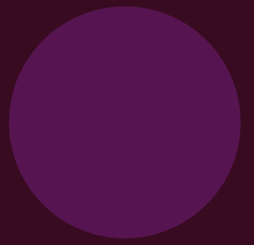
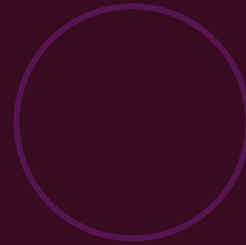
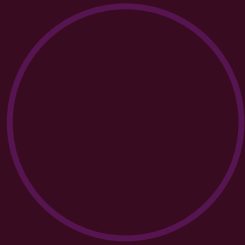
Back in the conference room, I again listened to Dr. DeCaro and Mr. Rosica's lecture on *"Developing Effective Communication and Negotiation Skills"*. But it is something that I really found difficult to learn. In my mind I began to think how we would act out the different characteristics that were given to us by Dr. DeCaro.

After dinner, the SDEAS team discussed what activities about diversity we would present to the other student ambassadors and faculty for our presentation. I started to panic and I was a bit nervous because it was my first time to present to a large group.

August 8, 2006, Tuesday

We went to the conference room after breakfast and we listened to the presentation on *"Assumptions & Expectation Regarding People Who are Deaf"* by Dr. DeCaro. I really understood his presentation and I started to think what my plans could be for my career. But I don't think I am ready to set deep goals for myself yet.

Honestly, I always wanted to be fashion designer when I was young girl, but I changed my mind and not I like to be a teacher for the Deaf because I want to help them in English, something I know is a big problem for the Deaf.



I also listened to the lecture of Mr. Macko and Mr. Rosica about "*Setting Goals and Achieving Them*". Mr. Macko encouraged us to try looking into our goals for our jobs and careers.

August 9, 2006, Wednesday

After breakfast we went to White Cliff and Brighton for a fieldtrip. We really enjoyed the trip. I saw houses and places that were so simple and beautiful.

In the White Cliffs we strolled around and took pictures there. The White Cliffs are so beautiful and clean.



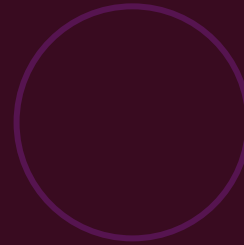
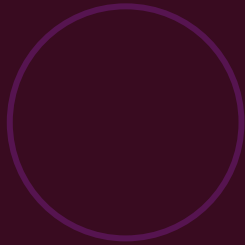
We arrived at Brighton and Joyce, Aval, Melissa and I strolled around. We went to the Brighton Pier to play games. There were many restaurants, shops, and malls and I saw many foreign people around the place.



August 10, 2006, Thursday

Today I listened to the lecture of Dr. Hurwitz about the "*Characteristics of Successful Deaf Leaders*". and then Dr. DeCaro and Mrs. Hurwitz about "*A History of Leadership in Deaf Culture*".

Mrs. Hurwitz said there was another blind and deaf person who was successful and even came first than Helen Keller. I was really surprised because I thought that Helen Keller was the first blind and deaf person in the world to succeed but she wasn't.

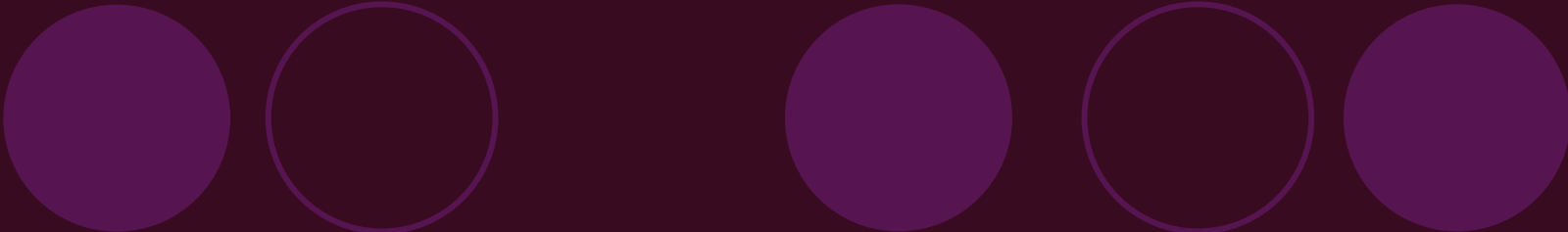


I started to think and look back into our history on who the first Filipino Deaf leader is but I realized I didn't know that. That is something I need to research on.

After the lectures we went back to the dormitory to change into our costumes for the cultural presentation. I would be doing the lecture part on Filipino Culture and I was nervous.

August 11, 2006, Friday

Today I listened to the lecture of Mr. Macko on "*From Networking to Employment*". This meant making contacts with other people one knows and one needs in connection to his/her jobs and this is someone he/she can ask help from so that he/she can achieve his/her goals. I really understood that. I think that some of my relatives have positions and so I expect them to help me look for work.



For the "*Self-Advocacy for Access*" by Dr. Kavin and Mr. Hurwitz, I also understood what they discussed. It was a very important topic for me and it encouraged me to be more aware of self-advocacy for the Deaf if I want to be a leader in the future.

Today we also heard the bad news about what happened at the England airport about the plan to plant a bomb in the airplanes. I was really afraid but I prayed to God.

After the lectures we had a party for our closing reception. I interacted with the members of the other countries. I want to remember them because they are my friends. I really miss them... and I want to thank them for everything.



August 12, 2006, Saturday

Now, we leave for the Philippines...I was in the airport and I was a bit nervous. It was my first time to experience this...Everyone was so serious and very careful.... I felt bad because everyone was so strict and I felt that it was too much.

Good day! Again, I want to thank the people who were a part of my Summer Leadership Institute experience for encouraging me to learn through the seminars and workshops this week. I am really happy that Dr. Kevin helped train us to be leaders.