It is in my experience that few things should feel so appealing as merely enjoying the hot morning sun at your face, on a serene August morning, by a land estranged by such a vast ocean. To speak of such things cannot possibly do the senses justice. Adjoin this to the elements of education, friendship, knowledge, humbleness, and respect, and one might effortlessly overload on sensation.

~Jason P. Anderson
PEN Journal

- My ideas, my experience, my new friends
Day One

We arrived in England today. I stayed awake for something like 38 hours. It was a long slow day of flights, airports, airplanes, buses, and meeting new people. Despite it being such a long day, it was quite enjoyable. After we arrived at Bader Hall, we went to a local pub in a nearby town. We became more acquainted with each other and started to talk more.

Pictured here:
(top) Elena (RTT) and I enjoying a pint of bitter after a long, strenuous day.
(Bottom, from left) Christine, me, Kate, Catie, Elena, Pat, and (background) Jason Franklin.
Day 2 OOPS!
The night after the pub in town, we all headed to Bader dorms for some much needed sleep (remember, 38 hours awake!). I plugged in my alarm to my newly bought voltage reducer and UK plug. I was awoken the next morning, to which I initially though was a sea captain because of how he was dressed, by a man who worked for the Dorms.
Apparently, my new voltage reducer, reduced time as well (Einstein would be proud! Ha!) My alarm said it was 8:36AM when it was actually after 10AM, when I was supposed to have met the others for breakfast and meetings. (keep in mind, this means it was 4 AM in U.S.). I scrambled to get dressed and received a stern scolding about being on time :) The result of this was a lecture to all the students, who apparently already knew this, that when staying in a Hotel or Dorm, one should NEVER lock the deadbolt, as it becomes difficult to enter and wake, should an emergency arise! LESSON LEARNED!
DAY 2 Introduction

The Russians - Semen, Elena, Anastasia, Maxim
Day 2- Introduction

Japan- Yuki, Hanae, Yoshiyuki, and Masanori
Day 2 - Introduction

China - Zhang, Tian, Yang Cui, and Chen Yun
Day 2- Introduction

Americans (clockwise from left)- Cassie, Jason, Catie, Alim, David, Christine, Kate, and Elena
Day 2 - Introduction

(above) Organizers Bill, Pat, Denise, Jim
(below) Sponsor from Nippon Foundation

(top) Alan & Vicki Hurwitz
(below) Scot Atkins
Day 2 - Ice breaking activities!

What an incredibly humbling experience! We moved together into groups mixed with other countries students and had to communicate with no interpreters using gestures. Communication is not a barrier!
What did we discuss?

- We listed the top 5 things we enjoy doing among two or three partners.
- Join another group of 2 or 3, other person must explain their partners’ “top 5” in their own sign- interpret!
- All people come together and interpret the next persons name.
That night...
• We learned that communication without interpreters is entirely possible
• We learned about one another and how deaf culture can bring everyone together as one
• I learned a difference in language is not an excuse to have a “can’t do” attitude
• We forged strong friendships and easily communicated
Day 3
Jim DeCaro “Communication and Negotiation Skills.” While I learned from all the presentations, Jim’s sticks out in my mind the most.
Jim’s Presentation

- The Thomas-Kilman Modes of Conflict resolution
  - Competition (The Shark)
  - Collaboration (The Owl)
  - Compromise (The Fox)
  - Accommodation (The Teddy Bear)
  - Avoidance (The Turtle)
Continued....

- **Collaborating**- working together to solve a problem or issue, such as playing a team oriented game such as capture the flag, or working together towards a cause.

- **Avoidance**- When one feels that no matter what is said, the other person won’t listen or change their mind. Feels like a lost cause, so they avoid the situation so they don’t need to get all worked up. An example would be when you are a democrat and feel that we should be conserving our natural resources and looking for alternate fuels, and trying to show your idea to a strong Republican (or for arguments sake, Vise Versa) A lot of Strong members of a particular political party are strongly opposed to hearing an alternate idea, so they avoid it.

- **Compromising**- when two opposing sides work to find a mutually accepted idea where both parties give some and take some. They should feel satisfied but not 100% getting their entire way.
Continued...

• Accommodating- When a person feels that if they perhaps ignore a situation, it will go away on its own. This usually leads to the person feeling walked all over and taken advantage of, and breeds’ resentment. An example would be if someone keeps taking your favorite pen at work, instead of confronting them, or trying to work it out, you just continue to pick it off their desk and not say anything.

• Competing- when one side is pitted against the other in a win/lose situation such as a sporting event or an election. Oftentimes, in a side oriented competition where some form of information is at stake, (not usually sporting events but it can happen) each side feels their way is the only way.
Continued...

- The morals and ideas generated from this presentation were...
  - Come up with a game plan
  - Throw out suggestive "ideas"
  - Don’t see problems as a “between”
    - Look off to the side instead- come to an understanding and discuss what both sides intimately want out of the situation.
    - Decide if the problem is worth discussion or if you can live with letting it go
Cassie’s Birthday!
Wishes in 4 languages!
Japans Cultural night
By this point, we all felt very comfortable with one another. Every chance we had, we would play games, even if it was only our 15 minute breaks. The games were the most memorable for me, as I had never played them before.
Pat

“Assumptions and Expectations”
- Explained that Deaf and Hard of Hearing people CAN do whatever they want to do- there are no limits
- Doctors, Managers, Professors. Teachers, cooks...

-Accommodation only means Modification
- “Modification changes the way a job is done, not the job requirements”
  - This means that by simply modifying the way the job is done, any person can perform any job. If you get stuck with the how, take a step back and look outside the box.
American and Chinese culture night!
Day 5- London!

Today was our day trip to London. In the morning I went with Cassie, Catie, and Jason to see The Tate Modern museum, St. Paul's Cathedral, and Millennium bridge. We then had lunch and a couple pints, and I went off to go see my friends who live in England. They live in a town called Reading. It is southwest of London.
Me, Jason, Cassie, Catie, and Christine at Platform 9 3/4 from Harry Potter
Drew, Libby, Jess, and Kate
Day 6
Day 6 activities:
Characteristics of Successful Deaf Leaders
Leadership Qualities

This activity was about tracing the person on a paper and then we listed which properties we felt a leader should have. It was quite interesting to see the differences between the other countries and the U.S. It was also intriguing to see the similarities.
In order to trace on the poster, draw the important parts of what represents a role model to
Last Day

Don’t ask why this picture is here
Cassie’s Presentation
-Self Identification and communication are keys to becoming successful

-Know your identity and how it can help or hinder or goals!
Continued...

- Know your communication needs and rights
- Build you skills to become successful
- Form a credible and sustainable support structure
- Don’t be afraid to ask for help in obtaining the things you need.
  - Interpreters
  - Long-term goals
  - To Keep you on track
End of seminar festivities...
A NIGHT WE WILL NEVER FORGET
CONTINUED...
MY SPECIAL ENDING
And as I arrive home in America with a new sensation of bewilderment, I try to piece together all the information coursed through my feeble mind from the previous week, and a sense of calm rushes over. I walk the seemingly familiar, yet strangely alien streets of my hometown, I think I see the faces of those who I reluctantly left behind, but hope to see once again sometime, somewhere. I stroll the aisle at the supermarket, and see a glance of faces of those whom I left and learned so much from. The man standing on the bicycle waiting for traffic, the two that sat inside the window at the café I pass. The sudden movement of laughter that spills over from these faces seems so familiar, as if I am seeing my friends one more time again. I feel as if I am a machine disassembled, then reassembled whole again. A few pieces left over from that which was just replaced. Feels the same here, yet entirely different in its own right. Perhaps this is the lesson I am to have learned from all this. I see the faces of those, which I have developed this close personal relationship as the Divine’s way of saying, ‘you never left those faces behind, because those same faces can be remembered, and made again in others.’
MISSING YOU