PEN-International

Summer Leadership Institute
August 9 - 16, 2008
Herstmonceux Castle, East Sussex, England

"If you can imagine it, you can achieve it; if you can dream it, you can become it." - William Arthur Ward

National Technical Institute for the Deaf • Rochester Institute of Technology
About the 2008 Summer Leadership Institute

The second PEN-International Summer Leadership Institute, a multinational week-long program for postsecondary deaf and hard of hearing students, took place 9-16 August 2008 at Herstmonceux Castle in East Sussex, England.

Approximately 50 participants: Eighteen deaf and hard of hearing international students, fourteen sign language interpreters and voice language translators, faculty members, speakers from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf and PEN-International's partner programs in Japan, China, and Russia, and a representative from The Nippon Foundation of Japan participated in the program. There were also a faculty member and two deaf and hard of hearing students from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, courtesy of the Alfred Bader family who provided significant funding to support this Institute.

The goals of the Institute were to promote development of leadership skills among postsecondary student leaders who are deaf and hard of hearing; to focus on self-advocacy skills; and to engage in learning about Deaf Culture and awareness. This was accomplished through ice-breaking activities, training workshops by faculty members, student leadership presentations, evening cultural performances and demonstrations, team-building exercises, and social hours in the pub on the Castle grounds. In addition, there was an educational daylong field trip to London.

It was clear that the 2008 Summer Leadership Institute was a resounding success, as was the 2006 Institute. Faculty members, interpreters, translators and students immediately bonded, and the cultural exchanges and exposure was a tremendously positive experience for everyone involved.
This Summer Institute was conducted by PEN-International, a program funded by grants from The Nippon Foundation of Japan. Additional generous funding was received from Dr. Alfred Bader, Mrs. Isabel Bader, and Mr. Daniel Bader.
"We would like to say to all organizers, faculty, and specialists who prepared International Leadership Institute program: so many thanks! This project is very impressive! The young deaf students understood and demonstrated their leadership abilities. We really were very happy to participate in a very positive and friendly environment, to see all these beautiful talented young people and to be proud of them. Thank you again and again!"

-Faculty member
Tuesday Schedule
8:30-9:00 Breakfast
12:00 Group Photo in front of Castle
12:00 Lunch
outside in Courtyard
2:30-3:00 Program Development
3:30-7:30 Program D
"This program has enriched content, all the teachers are very professional. I learned about the qualities that are required of a successful leader."

-Student
"The SLI is a really good opportunity for international students to catch-up with new concepts of leadership, and how to become a successful deaf leader."

-Student
“I think the team did a wonderful job planning and executing this experience!”

-Interpreter

Our presentation topics included: effective communication, negotiation skills, cultural diversity, networking and employment, role modeling and volunteerism, transition after college, and characteristics of successful deaf leaders...
“Overall the experience has been beyond amazing! The concept is just great! I wish it could have been 10 days up to 14 days.”

-Faculty member

Celebrating birthdays:
Japan and USA
"I am very pleased to have had the opportunity to participate in the 2008 Summer Leadership Institute. I learned a lot from your presentations on successful careers, profound expertise, diligent in work, wise and optimistic attitudes towards life and so on."

- Interpreter
"It was a wonderful experience. I had an amazing time learning and creating my network of associates. I wish we had a bit more time to teach and learn from the students through interactions."

-Student
Participating Institutions

China
PEN-China
Changchun University of Technology
Beijing Union University
Tianjin University of Technology

Japan
PEPNet-Japan
Tsukuba University of Technology
Ehime University

Russia
Bauman Moscow State Technical University

USA
PEN-International
National Technical Institute for the Deaf / Rochester Institute of Technology
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

http://www.pen.ntid.rit.edu/events/exchanges/2008/summer-institute/