

## “Short-term exchange program at Elms College”

Culture 183111 Misato Masaki

### 1) Overview of activities

We visited Boston and had a time at Elms College from February 23rd to March 5th. This exchange was second time for my life so I was very motivated. And, I introduce my memory of this short-time exchange program now.

To begin with, I tell you about my sightseeing in Boston. I went to a Korean restaurant for dinner of first day with Japanese students. I have used a credit card for the first time. In the morning of the second day, I went to Starbucks for breakfast with Tokiko and Mona. Then we were drawn own pictures by an uncle who I didn't know. I haven't been drawn my picture like this, so I was surprised very much and I felt that it's American. Then, I had many sightseeing there. I went to Boston Common park, Museum of Fine Arts, Prudential Center and Quincy Market by subway and on foot. I knew how to take subway and it was a little difficult for me to understand the line. I went to supermarkets as well as sightseeing spots. I found many differences in the supermarket between US and Japan. What I found is a spoon machine that pushes a button and a plastic spoon or fork comes out. I have never seen like this so I was impressed it. I was happy to visit many places in Boston and discover differences.

Next, I tell you about Elms life on three points. Firstly, in college and classes. I had English classes, visit YWCA, heard about refugees, took part in Black Issue Summit and talked about differences between US and Japan at elementary school. I learned about differences between American cultures and Japanese one in the English classes. The most interesting differences is about holidays. I found that America have many holidays for instance Valentine's Day, Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Japan don't have Thanksgiving so I was surprised at this. I want to learn more about Thanksgiving. And, I found differences each culture even though we call same name. Then, I also learned many things about YWCA, refugees and Black Issue Summit but these are so difficult for me, so I want to learn about these things from now on. In addition, I taught them Origami at elementary school. It was more difficult to teach how to fold Origami for instance *Kabuto*, windmills and cranes in English even though it is difficult in Japanese. I found how to tell other people to fold Origami. I experienced many things what I cannot do in Japan. Secondly, school events. I went bowling and shopping, did Japanese cooking party, play some games with friendship partners and experienced American Holidays. I enjoyed all events. The most enjoyed event is Japanese cooking

party because I have not made Japanese food for foreigners. I was happy that everyone said delicious but I noticed that almost Japanese food contain *Dashi*. One of my friendship partners is vegan so he couldn't eat almost Japanese food. I have not understood about vegan or vegetarian well. I learn about differences between vegan and vegetarian from my friendship partner. I also learned many things in other events through talking with friendship partners. Finally, in the day what do not decide. I played *Kyogi Karuta* and poll, went Dunkin Donuts and shopping, made a bracelet, and so on. I have been to Dunkin Donuts for the first time and I was surprised at too sweet donuts. And, I liked such as time because when I had questions, I could ask it to friendship partners soon.

In conclusion, I could experience many things what I cannot experience in Japan. I think it is a good idea to talk with foreigners for learning English. And, I found it that talking positive is good choice to have Elms life.

## 2) Realizations and learning in this exchange program

I learned a lot about US and noticed differences between US and Japan so I was impressed. US was a new world for me. Then, I introduce you my realizations in this program on two points, life or culture and humanity.

To begin with, I tell you about differences of life or culture. I have so many surprised differences. First, I was surprised at the low of door when I went to the lavatory on the first day. The door put the figure of a person out of sight completely in Japan. I think that we can see the off side of the door so the low door make our safe to use toilet in US. Next, when I went to Starbucks, I was surprised at walking with dogs in Starbucks. I think it is good thing to enter the store with pets. And, after seeing it, I had another surprised thing. The traffic signs of US are interested for me because Japanese ones are different. I saw traffic lights of a push-button crossing, traffic signs and cars. US is bigger than Japan, so I think like a difference occur. Then, I noticed that hanging straps in subway is fewer than Japanese one. I didn't know the reason so I want to look it up.

Next, differences of humanity between US and Japan. The most I felt is difference of positive. When I spent a game night and Japanese cooking party with Friendship partner, I was overwhelmed by their heat. I think Japanese is shy even we are playing a game. So, I was surprised at that time. And, I felt they are very kind because they told me what I did every day. It was very happy for me. I think Japanese don't often talk because Japanese can feel atmosphere and almost know the schedule of the day.

Finally, I learned many things during this exchange program. I want to learn about US and think differences between US and Japan on many points.

### 3) More

First of all, I think about my goals. Before I went to US, I have decided some my goals of this program. I have wanted to talk with gestures positive and I could talk with gesture. This is very useful item because I can communicate to everyone without speaking great English. I also want to learn gesture from now on. During this program, I could close with my goals which I decided before.

Next, I have some realizations so I tell you about this. I noticed that we need to make for vegans or vegetarians at Japanese cooking party. They couldn't eat almost Japanese food but I wanted to experience Japanese food for them. And, we should have made Japanese food because I didn't look Elms students' full. As one of the reasons, we didn't know how many people come at the party. I think that Japanese students should have known the information.

In conclusion, this program made me happy life in US and this is my treasure. I want students next year to have great time with our advice.