

March 11, 2018

Wow what a day! We began our day exploring historic downtown Charleston. The group marveled at the scenic homes and breath-taking water-front views while struggling to understand the complex history of Charleston and its role in the Civil War. Immediately upon entering Charleston, we encountered a peaceful protest; ~~on~~ on one side of the road were individuals holding signs that read "no racism" with a big X through a photo of the Confederate Flag, and on the other side of the street three individuals held up Confederate Flags - one man even wore a Confederate soldier's uniform. Seeing this juxtaposition set the tone for our day and we continued to challenge ourselves, challenge our understandings, perceptions, and assumptions as we walked around the heart of the city where the Civil War began. We saw multiple monuments dedicated to the men who gave their lives to protect what they believed were

States' rights a short walk from the Courthouse where Briggs v. Elliot was ruled, the case that began the legal battle to desegregate schools. For many of us, the most challenging part of the day was visiting and touring the McLeod Plantation. Our guide Olivia gave us an in-depth view of life on the plantation from before the civil war right up until 1990, focusing on the experiences of the enslaved peoples, especially those of ~~men~~ enslaved women. The experience was personally humbling, upsetting, challenging, emotional, and, when learning about the strength and resilience of Gullah culture, inspiring. Everyone appreciated the visit. We ended our trip with a lovely dinner at Doug and Terri's house, joined by fellow alums, a current Dickinsonian, and members of Habitat for Humanity. (Before that we saw the oldest oak tree in North America - very impressive! Today we learned a lot about our surroundings, challenged ourselves to have open minds this week, and pumped each other up for the work we'll be doing!


March 12, 2018

It was cloudy and rainy but my feeling or my mind was as sunny as yesterday. I woke up at 7:20 AM and after preparing, I ate breakfast. It was pancake P.P. Amelia, Matthew and Loe woke up earlier than us and made the pancakes for us. They were really delicious so that I couldn't stop eating ^^

After breakfast, we went to Habitat Information Center.

We arrived there at 9:07 but the other group was in orientation. Thus, we had to wait until 10:00.

^{the} Considering between playing a game and exploring around, we decided to explore the vicinity of the Habitat Information Center and cross the road to the cemetery (graves?) It was really interesting that US also buries the dead near the family's grave.

In Korea, we also bury the dead next to the parents or partners. However, the difference is, these days, there is no space to bury in Korea, so people prefer cremation to burying. In addition, the shape of grave is different. We buried people under the ground and made a small mountain for the other people to catch it as a grave.  At 10:00, we got the orientation.

The person who led that time was really cool so we learned the history of habitat and how meaningful this work is.

At the end of the OT, we bought T-shirts. At first, I bought blue one but I realized that almost everyone bought purple one so I changed my T-shirt color to purple.

We came back to ^{the} house and ate lunch. Eating time is always happy 😊 After eating, we started to Charleston again and took a bus for the tour. It was great but I couldn't understand bus driver's accent.

Bus tour was long but it was meaningful in 2 aspects. First, I couldn't explain my hometown like he did. I didn't know the history of my city and I even didn't want to know it. Through this tour, I decided to pay attention to my city and country. Second, I couldn't understand even 10% of his explanation. I felt miserable but this experience intrigued me to study English hard. Even though I couldn't understand the tour guide's words I spent a lot of energy during that tour. And I hesitated to go to the beach. However, the beach was absolutely amazing!! We took a lot of pictures and also played games. I am shy person when I meet people first but after being familiar with that person, I show everything about me. I think this beach time was the turning point for me to show everything about me.

Now I broke up my wall which kept me from being friendly with others. After beach time, we all were tired and laid on the bed or took a rest on the sofa. While we were taking a rest, Tara and Audrey went out to buy stuff for this week. Also, Katelin and Aleks prepared dinner for us. I was so thankful to them. Thank you very much.

In the reflection time, we shared our thoughts of today. I like this time, because I can re-think my day and organize my thought. Furthermore, I can hear other's thoughts and opinions. If I have an opportunity to lead the group in Korea, I hope to use this reflection time. Today was really happy and thankful day. I am soooooo thankful to everybody ♡♡♡♡ I hope they come to Korea. Then, I can treat them. Thank you for everybody's consideration! I cannot forget this Service Trip! @

March 13, 2018

The wait, the anticipation, the nervousness, was finally over. It was our first day at the site and we started it with a bang. I woke up at 6:30 and so did everyone else. We had breakfast around 6:45 and were in our vans by 7:00 (we packed our lunches a night before because we didn't want to get late). So, as always, we were right on time (or maybe a little before that) but it's always good to be prepared instead of getting late and doing things haphazardly. When we reached at the site we were welcomed by Liz and the rest of the staff. They were as excited as us to get the work started. We were briefly taught about the tools and machines that we were going to use and the tasks that we had to get done by the end of the day. The weather didn't cooperate with us this morning and it was too chilly, quite unexpected for us, so things started off a bit slow. But as the time passed by we started getting used to the environment & our tasks.

we were able to complete our tasks right on time. I

Today was a very significant day for me. I learned so many new things that it's hard to list just a few here. I discovered so much about myself⁹ that I didn't even know ~~I~~ the sides^{that} I have never seen of myself.

I was always scared of heights and had a severe height phobia, but today I challenged myself. I ~~went~~ climbed the ladder and fought with my fear. ~~As~~ I was accompanied by Tara⁹ Anotia for this task and we literally stayed up almost the whole time. In the beginning of course, I was scared and frightened but as I ~~at~~ reached the highest point of the ladder I realized that it is actually not that scary. It was a BIG achievement for me. Tara also played an important ~~to~~ role here. Her motivational remarks like "Come on Mayam, you got this!" kept me going. Her confidence in me made me believe in myself. ~~However, it~~ ~~one~~ However, it was a very challenging day for

me as well. I couldn't sleep well last night and since I wasn't feeling well, I had only slept for a total of two hours. When I woke up this morning I was already so tired before even starting the work. For fact: This was the first time I got sick here in the States. It's been 9 months and I didn't even get a headache here so I was pretty chill or maybe too over confident that I won't get sick and however, I did. And that ^{too} pretty badly. I actually feel frustrated because if I had not been sick this whole day would have been so much easier and comfortable for me. I am glad I survived today lol. Today I also learned ~~one~~ very significant the significance of team work. In our first task Caroline helped me throughout in finding the ^{missing} nails and hammering them. Her help boosted up my confidence since it was the first task and I was not feeling well as well. Then for the second task Thomas helped me a lot. He taught me

how to ~~drill~~ drill nails into the floor.

I even messed up the first few nails, but his calm and patient attitude towards teaching me really play a significant role in the task. For the last & the third task Tava and ~~an~~ Amelia helped me boost up confidence and fighting my fear of heights. I wouldn't have done it without them.

Today was a very productive, meaningful, and yet challenging day for me. It also reminded me of mom. Because I have never ~~suffered~~ ^{handled} from any disease without her ~~so~~ so this time it was actually tough doing it alone without her supervision. I think that's ~~what~~ what college teaches you "independence". Today I am proud to say that yes I am a strong independent woman (or maybe ^{a girl} almost a woman). Today I fought with one of my fears and I will never forget this day. As Sorn said "Nothing is impossible". Yes Sorn I ~~would~~ will agree with. Nothing is impossible if you have the will to do it. Nothing will stop you in achieving your goals. You yourself are responsible

in achieving your goals. No one else
is going to do it for you, but YOU!

March 11th 2018

Today was the first day of the service trip and I have already had a meaningful experience. We visited the downtown Charleston, SC and was able to appreciate the sun and the fresh air, which was a blast compared to the cold in Carlsbad haha, along with the beautiful and amazing architecture of the houses. There's a lot of history behind them and it means different things to each one of us. For me personally, not having a background as an US citizen makes it harder for me to put things into perspective or to relate to what I was witnessing. I was not really triggered by the site or by looking/reading the signs they had on the houses, but the issue was brought up to my mind. After that we went to see the historic site of plantation, where I could really see the place that history happened and kind of had a connection with it. The facts about the women slave and how they cared each other really struck me and got me thinking. The whole experience just reminded me of how little I knew and encouraged me to learn more about the history of the community that I am in right now. We also had a really great time having dinner with the Dickinson alumni and trustee. Once again I was inspired by the kindness and good will of people and be amazed at how they care about the next generation and the community around them.

One thing from today's trip that keeps coming up in my mind was appreciation. I just couldn't stress enough how I appreciated the weather, the good talk, the beauty of the city, the people, and the privilege to be able to have all of that. So I just want to say thanks to all of the people that help make this happen for all of us.

What I have experienced was beautiful and also powerful! I look forward to working and getting hands on experience as the trip goes, especially, to making connections with people! It was so much fun!

- Jane Le -

Monday March 12th, 2018

Today was an amazing experience where we got to meet the people who we would be working with, and we learned more about the culture of Charleston. We left our Habitat for Humanity house at 8:45 to get to the Sea Island Habitat for Humanity Headquarters which was only down the road, a few mins away. After walking in the door, we realized that ~~it~~^{we} were too early for our meeting, by an hour. We ended up just looking at a ~~grave~~ cemetery which was beautiful but sad because in some locations we could tell the story of some people by the order of the grave stones.

Then ~~the~~ we went inside for our meeting and got to learn about our trip and how they planned to teach us to do some nice hard work. The habitat taught us about the people we would be positively impacting in the next week. It was a good reminder of the importance of the things we would be doing soon. All of this only lasted about an hour, so we had to decide what we were doing next. We decided to go on the Bullah Tour of Charleston.

The tour really gave us a different perspective of the city, and we got the chance to really learn a little Gullah before hand. It was an awakening experience because one of the first people the tour guide talked about was the Richest black man in the days where slavery still prevailed in the south. It made me realize that these ~~is~~ were ^{black} people who owned other black people. We also had the chance to see how close the super rich lived in comparison to the hood which were so close together.

After the tour I bought a Gullah basket for my mom's birthday.

Then we went back to our house in order to change quickly ~~at the base~~ to go to the beach for a few games of tag. Tired and cold, we headed back to the ~~area~~ house for some amazing leftovers. We ate in silence for 5 mins because we were exhausted!

- Thomas Dancy

Today was the first day of our volunteer work for Habitat for Humanity. I was eager to start working because I was nervous about what exactly the construction would entail. My greatest dread was that I would not measure up to the tasks assigned, but I did not expect that I would begin struggling so early; I couldn't even hammer the nails ~~quickly~~ ^{forcefully} and in the correct direction all at once! I got the hang of it after a while, but only after an uncomfortable amount of assistance had been given. Afterward, I began to remove nails from ~~the other house that were~~ ^{from a second house that we were constructing,} as soon as it was determined that those nails did not attach the outer rafters to the inner ~~and~~ rafters. Then I hammered in replacement nails and directed them toward the rafters, which was an especially daunting task to perform for the

Wednesday March 14th, 2018

Today was our second day of working at the site and we headed off bright and early again, exhausted but excited for the day's tasks. Everyone seemed much more confident in their abilities and there were lots more smiles and camaraderie! We learned a ton of new skills and used a variety of super cool (and a bit scary) tools including the impact gun and the saw. At lunch, Doug's wife Terry and her friend Connie came to visit us and we talked with them for a bit. Afterwards, we all gathered and sang Happy Birthday to Anna. There were some cupcakes and cookies for the occasion which definitely gave us that boost of energy we needed to start the second half of the day's work. Towards the later part of the day, the sun came out fully and it felt wonderful! It was really exciting to see how much progress we've made just in the past 2 days, especially on the first house. When we get back to the house, some people went to the beach while others stayed behind to rest and make dinner. For dinner, we had a DELICIOUS meal of chicken quesadillas, fresh guacamole and salad. We wrapped up the evening with reflections which definitely put a smile on everyone's face. I can't wait to get back to the grind tomorrow! -Amelia