

Savannah Gomes

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College Visit Reflection

My visit with Manuela and Carolina to Boston for a talk about the University of Pennsylvania happened on September 23, 2012. Before the visit, we were supposed to sign up online, but did it the Friday before which was too late for them to get our names on the sheets of sign-in paper. So, when we arrived, we had to fill out another, albeit shorter, form before being admitted. This was annoying to us because we were already twenty minutes late. The first section we missed could have had a lot of the information we wanted, but we couldn't do anything about it. Then, we couldn't find seats together; the hall was already full. Without any other solution, we alternated who sat and who stood. I was the first to stand. I also took notes on the information being thrown at us by the speakers. It helped to make sure I was paying attention after that long car ride, and I can look back at my notes on it later, which is helpful.

One thing that I learned from this event was that colleges can have many clubs for you to join; you just have to find the right one. For example, the University of Pennsylvania had a merperson club, all about sea life. It was not about actual mermaids and mermen, but about preserving the oceans, which I thought was a very clever way of bringing people in. Still, they had many other clubs as well, and one of the speakers even said that if you asked if there was a band, the answer would be, "What kind?"

I do wish that I could have visited the actual campus. The speakers at the Marriott were thorough in their explanations of life on and around campus, but I still didn't get the experience of seeing the actual buildings. The pictures were beautiful, though. Nevertheless, I think that the university's statement of wanting to push its learners was encouraging as opposed to scary and I think that it would be a good place to learn. It has a lot to offer as I can tell through what I observed, so it seems like a college that I would like, although I'm a tad afraid about its size.

The thing that seemed most special to me was the nonexistent dorms. Instead, they have houses. This was my first encounter with this type of thing and it intrigued me. It sounded like an amazing place to work and live. I was also interested how they'd like an "unfiltered voice" at the interview. It seemed wonderful and made me less nervous thinking about it. I was a little anxious about the expectations of their students to be curious, though. I dislike putting myself out in front of a group of people unless I know exactly or close to the right answer.