

Kendyl Robertson

EFL Seattle 2014

My EFL Experience

Photo Essay

Hello! My name is Kendyl Robertson, and I am from North Carolina. This year, I was fortunate enough to participate in the Economics for Leaders program in Seattle, Washington. The portion of the program that got me interested was the leadership aspect- I honestly didn't think I'd enjoy the economics that much! Once I arrived, and we began the first econ session on Monday morning, I already loved it.



What's econ camp all about, you ask?

During the econ sessions, we learned practical, day-to-day information- such as scarcity, money, markets, supply and demand, et cetera. The information was comprehensible and easy to follow. If ever someone needed help, fellow students and the professors would gladly pause what was being done to help. The professor, Professor John Brock, and mentor teacher, Malhaz Jibladze, were absolutely outstanding teachers.

(Pictured above: Econ. Session 6)



(Above) At the end of the week, we have student presentations. This is one group presentation on The Minimum Wage Fairness Act.

The Amazing Econ Teachers!

Professor Brock and Mr. Jibladze were spectacular. Both are very knowledgeable in the subject of economics and dedicated to the bettering of student's knowledge. They definitely furthered my knowledge and understanding of economics.



Malhaz Jibladze – Mentor Teacher



Professor John Brock

The Amazing Leadership Staff!



Katie Shim – PC



Brad Selby – PC



Haley Rosen – PC



Leo van Warmerdam – Student Administrator

This leadership staff was absolutely outstanding. They are very kind, dedicated people. Now, I am a much better, efficient leader because of the hard work and effort put forth by these amazing people.



During leadership sessions, we did all different types of activities, each one of different importance. The above picture is of the “Reach Out” activity, where we had to literally *reach out* for our personal goals (written on not cards). This exercise stressed the importance of teamwork- seeing as though we could not retrieve our own cards without the help of our team.



This leadership activity required a lot of trial-and-error. In the “Swamp Activity,” we were told to get from Point A to Point B without touching anything but the six Frisbees we were given. We had to do so silently and in the timeframe of 30 minutes. After minutes of trial-and-error, our group came up with a strategy that worked out very well- we were the only team to completely the task! This activity focused on the importance of the process- the process must be successful in order to complete the task!



At the beginning of the week, everyone was designated to a Program Coordinator – 11 students to 1 PC- that headed our check-in group. My group was the Wolf Clique (the best ever). These groups were designed for us to have time to be heard and to listen. We did many of the activities with our check-in groups, such as the Swamp activity and the end-of-the-week scavenger hunt.



Here is a photo of all 33 of us students from our outing to the EMP museum. The museum was so much fun!

Near the end of the week, all students and a few teachers took FTE's behavioral styles assessment. We then created visuals within our groups to help capture the essence of our quadrant. This exercise did help us identify our strengths and weaknesses, but it more importantly helped us recognize how everyone works differently within a group.



Quadrant II – The Expressives



Quadrant III – The Drivers



Quadrant IV – The Analyticals



Quadrant I – The Supportives

The best part of econ camp is the people you meet there. You meet people from all around the country (even Canada sometimes) that have similar interests and values as you. I wouldn't trade the people I've met through EFL for anything. They're all very special to me.



EMP Museum



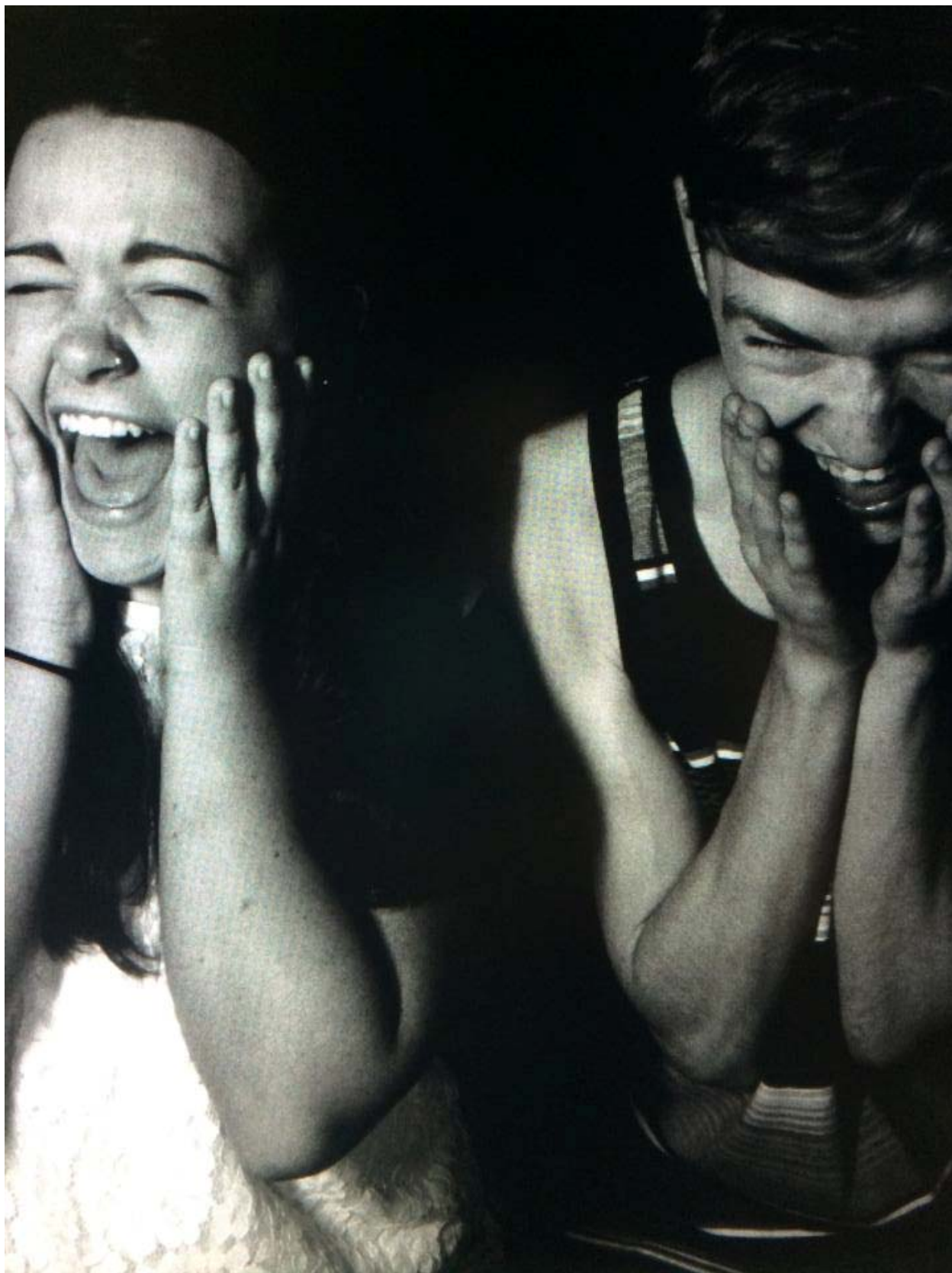
Bonding joke sessions



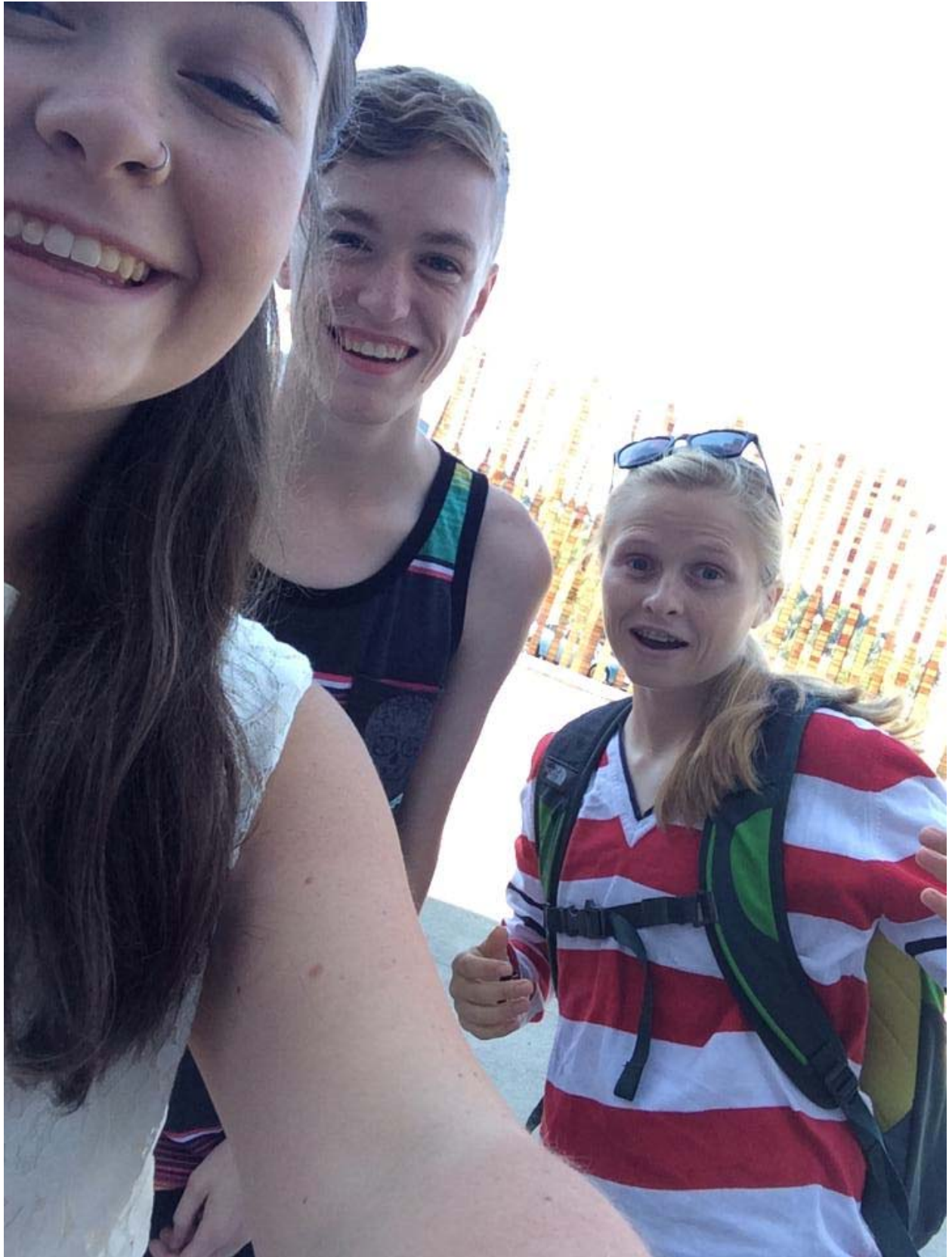
Dance crew! – at a local concert in University Village after our outing to the EMP museum



Small group adventures in the university library!



Scream booth with my best friend from Iowa, Johnathan!



Two of my amazing new friends – Johnathan (Iowa) and Maggie (California)



My best friend, Johnathan, and me on the bus headed to the EMP museum



This is a photo from our closing ceremony. This is one of the most beautiful parts of this experience- second to the Power Walk. One by one, we walked to the center of the circle, light our candles, signed our names on the map, and shared one thing we believed to be bringing back from this experience. It was amazing to hear what everyone had gotten out of this econ camp. This camp worked wonders – helping us to grow, learn, and change for the better.



This is the group – all 33 students, 11 teachers, and the leadership staff from Economics For Leaders, Seattle 2014. This is my second family. I am very honored and blessed to have met such amazing people from all different walks of life through this great program. I would definitely recommend this program, to everyone and anyone. It truly is a life changing experience.