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Reflecting on your original proposal – What would you do differently and why? How was your original view different from your experience?

I wouldn't do anything different in my proposal. My experience was different from my experience most significantly in the fact that my time at Bi-Okoto was spent primarily helping with their day-camp, and not dancing. I guess I would request a signed contract between me and the organization as to how many hours a week were expected to be spent dancing. A contract about responsibilities expected of me would have been good too. If you are working with an organization in return for their giving you services, you should establish an hour-to-hour exchange.

Did your proposal meet the needs of your actual experience? How could you have improved the proposal and/or the experience?

Even though house-sitting is a good way to get cheap housing, depending on your Azimuth organization and your house-sitting situation, it could cost you extra stress. I would have looked for housing that was closer to my organization, and that required less commitment on my part—for example, checking out student housing. My proposal stated that I would spend time talking to mentors, both my Wooster mentor and my organization mentors. I would have implemented some way to make that more concrete, because it didn't happen—perhaps another contract? One thing people should think about is if there will be people their age around, and if not at the organization, the opportunity they have to connect with them in other ways at their location. It can get lonely only being around adults or kids.

How did you affect/interact with your community/environment?

My first Azimuth experience was with Bi-Okoto Drum and Dance Theatre in Cincinnati, OH. My presence there was a great help to them in their summer camp—there were some times they used me as the sole supervisor of the children. I also participated in their dance rehearsals, and got to know their 4 working members, 3 of whom were Nigerians new to U.S. business. There was a lot of tension at Bi-Okoto due to the poor ethics and subsequent treatment of workers by the 2 people running the business. I ended up spending a lot of time listening to the workers blow off steam, and advising the Nigerians about their options. So my experience there became less about dancing and more about interpersonal contact.

The second part of my Azimuth experience took me to San Francisco to work with Rhythm and Motion Dance Center. I worked in the office for an hour-to-hour exchange in taking classes. So I was able to get an “insider's view” on the studio, meeting the choreographers and working with some of them. I took so many classes that I got to know many of the students, and became a known face around the center. I spent a lot of time in conversation with the staff, even seeing some of them after hours. I think they appreciated my enthusiasm.

What affect did this have on your values? Your idea of vocation?

I always say that I think a (perhaps latent!) part of Azimuth's vocational purpose is to collide students with the real world, and that definitely happened with me this summer. I never expected to be working in a place that was taking advantage of its workers, and taking advantage of my presence to have me work more than being taught, as well as compromising the safety of the children attending the camp. Even when they *were* carrying out their appropriate duties, they

were performed sloppily and carelessly. So I was working day after day caught between the workers and the supervisors, and caught working for people I did not trust nor respect. This made me search hard for the value that I could take out of the internship, and I found it in relationships with the workers. Still, I ended up leaving this placement early, and I think it was good that I found my boundary between what I could reasonably handle and what was unacceptable. I also learned that while I cannot live in cognitive dissonance, I also have to accept the fact that probably everywhere I work there will be people who follow ideals that I follow and those that do not. I saw that it was often my responsibility to assert my rights.

As far as my idea of vocation, Azimuth made me more aware of the position that I want to hold in my life. This position is not necessarily simply an occupational position, but the position I want to hold in relation to other people and to myself. Since Azimuth is an experience that I get to create for myself, I learned that I have a lot of say about what goes on in my day to day life, because I choose what to involve myself in. I feel that vocation is a place where you feel you serve and are fulfilled, and this extends to your emotional response to your occupation and the way it influences other areas of your life. I also think I realized that your vocation can be something other than your job; that you can work in one area to support yourself, and find joy and fulfillment in other ways that will not earn you money. Vocation is also not an isolated concept, because you affect others with your actions, so the community I experienced through my Azimuth experiences made me see myself in the larger picture.

What was your interaction with your site supervisors and faculty mentor?

My interaction with my site supervisor at Bi-Okoto was limited and sporadic. My supervisor there was one of the people whose decisions I did not approve of, so I tended to interact with her on the basis of need. I was able to see her in different contexts, such as when we drove places together, and she was the one who worked with me to teach me dances initially.

My site supervisor at Rhythm & Motion was my boss, and she was a very open person who worked in the same office as me, so we had a lot of informal discussions. She was very accessible and took care that I knew I could talk to her at any time. We didn't have arranged conversations, but she checked in with me, and I talked with her about things.

My interaction with my faculty was very limited, and definitely a relationship that I wish was more prevalent. Because she was away a lot, it was hard to reach her, and I didn't even talk to her until a few days before I left because I called her. I wished we would have set up a regular meeting time, and she would have taken more initiative to check up on me. When I was having trouble at Bi-Okoto, I didn't talk to her until I was at the point that I wanted to leave the organization, because each time we talked, it was in a tiny time slot. That was very frustrating for me. I wish we would have talked more about my experience and more about abstract questions such as those that I am answering now. I felt very unanchored at times.