

## Field Assignment #2:

Greetings Professor,

The name of the person I interviewed is Jatou Jaye. She stated to me in the interview that her name did not have any special meaning. She said she was named after her aunty. I immediately noticed that we had this in common, I call my aunts aunty too. The country she is from is Gambia, West Africa. She grew up there and came to the United State 5 years ago. She currently works in the Pharmacy department at Wal-Mart in Albany, Ga. We met when our cars were flooded in the parking lot and her car ended up damaged from the water. I assisted her in getting to work and got to learn a little bit about her. So when the assignment came I was glad to interview her. I had already had some difficulty understanding some things she says, as she speaks very fast. The language she speaks is called "Wolof". She is very fluent in Wolof", but she also speaks other languages such as "Mandinka", "Aku", French and English. She must be doing well with the English language to be able to fill prescriptions on her job. When asked about what core values she has she said to me, As an African, she believes in respect for one another regardless of your race, origin, color, sex, religious beliefs or cultural background or country of origin. She says one of her core values is respect for her parents regardless to how and what their status is. I explained to her what my difficulty was understanding her sometimes, I asked her what communication difficulties did she face when coming to USA, she stated that the main communication difficulty is her accent. People say she talk too fast she said that is how they speak in her native language, the words are spoken fast. A lot of the people she said she meets have no problem with the accent. When asked about what she likes about USA, she said generally she love the people that she has met so far. As an immigrant trying to settle down in a

completely new country was very challenging for her. She says she is most grateful for the many people, specifically American citizens, who have been very supportive and nice to her and welcoming.

I understood what she meant when I asked her what she did not like about the USA; the first thing stated was the fact that without your own car to move around, living here can be stressful especially with a small child. She remarked about how it was in Africa. A personal car is not necessary, you can move around with lots of public transportation. From this interview, I learned that there is not much difference in our values, we all want what is best for our families. She has no family here in the City, but she is dedicated to keeping her job and she showed very good work ethics. When she did not have a car, she communicated and organized things where she made it to work. She did not have a pity party. The main thing I learned about communicating across cultures, is that we both held steadfast to the type of foods we eat and both had love and care for our fellowman. The food to me was the only difference I noticed in us. I was going to cook a soul food dinner and asked her if she liked collard greens and she does not eat pork. We both agreed we were willing to try different food that we had not had before, but no pork, that sorta got me off the hook for preparing many meals for her. But even though we met under some difficult circumstances, it was a pleasure to get to know and interview someone from Gambia West Africa.

Submitted By: Marie Mahan