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Tea Ceremony

Last semester, unfortunately, I missed the opportunity to see the tea ceremony at CSUMB. I remembered I had a class and I arrived too late for the Tea Ceremony. This time, I had the opportunity to be present, my only complaint was that I could not see the back and I couldn't hear what they were saying.

First, the Tea Ceremony is a “spiritual and refinement of the self-know.” It was my first time ever seeing a Tea Ceremony and it was a good experience, knowing that the ceremony has been practiced for centuries. Second, I liked seeing many volunteers and the hostess dressed in kimonos. The Tea Ceremony is an activity of “host and guest spending a mutual heartwarming.” At our house I drink tea but my preparation process is simple. After I realized to them enjoying hot and cold tea green tea isn't the only important thing. Another important aspect is the procedure in which the objects with which the Tea Ceremony was made and is placed. For example: “natsume, chashaku, chasen, fususa, chawan, and kaishi.” Then, I had the opportunity to be close to the objects and I saw all the articles that were used to prepare the tea and I took some pictures. In other words, now comes the most exciting part, the tasting and drinking of the tea in the bowl. Honestly, I like green tea, but in the Tea Ceremony the aroma was very strong. Despite that, I drank and enjoyed a lot of tea. Something that surprised me was when I was reading about the preparation of the tea, which is that it is only “once in a lifetime” the host invites someone to drink tea. Overall, I really enjoyed this experience and learning the meaning behind the Tea

Ceremony which are “harmony, respect, purity, and tranquility.” I hope to continue attending tea ceremonies and other Japanese events. The observational learning about Japanese culture through experience is so intriguing.