

Guilford College: Sample Avanti Letter (Multicultural Trip)

February 8, 2004

Dear Multi-cultural Greensboro Avanti Participant,

We are very excited about this year's Multi-cultural Greensboro Avanti. We have a great group of participants and a full schedule. Our biggest problem is that there are so many exciting people to meet and cultures to explore in this area that we can't possibly fit it all into three short days.

Some of the highlights of our time together will include: a visit to the Greensboro Buddhist Center, sharing a potluck with new arrivals from several African countries, and learning about the experience of Latinos. Get ready for some culinary adventures! We're going to be eating some great food!

Enclosed with this letter is a reading packet to give context to our activities during Avanti. The material will provide some background and introduction to the issue of immigration and the often heated debate surrounding it. Here are some questions to jump start your thinking:

- Reflect on your family or personal history. What is your or your family's story of migration? How long have you or your family been in the U.S.? What forces caused your family to emigrate? How were you or your family treated when they first arrived in the U.S.?
- What is the difference between an immigrant and a refugee?
- Are refugees and immigrants part of the wealth of our nation, or a threat to our very survival?
- What makes a healthy multicultural society? Does such a society exist in any place on the earth? Is such a society possible? What steps can individuals take to develop a healthy multi-cultural society?

If you have any questions about the Multi-cultural Greensboro Avanti, please call James Shields at (336) 316-2447 or email at jshields@guilford.edu, Claire Dixon at (336) 316-2452 or email at cdixon@guilford.edu. We look forward to seeing you upon your arrival Monday August 16, 2004.

Peace,

James Shields
Director of Community Learning

Claire Dixon
Bonner Scholars Coordinator