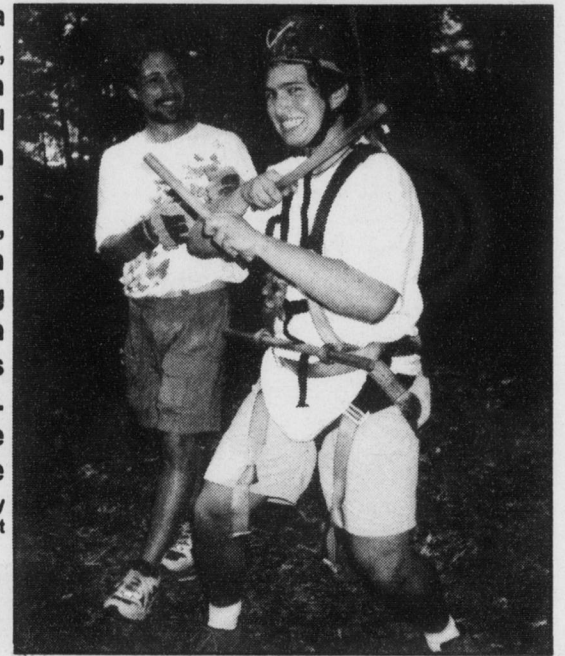




Top: Cara Lindsay, Karyn Tierney, and Karen Coleman. At left, helping each other during the high ropes course. Right, Jesse LaPlante

Photos courtesy Anne Lundquist



Avanti!

A New Beginning

They came, they bonded, and they won't ever forget the experience. Fifty-four first-year students—'Avantis,' in the terminology of the day—participated in the spanking-new Avanti program. Developed by Anne Lundquist as a means to ease the transition from high school to college, the program, well, it's best described by one who experienced it...

ANNIE BUCHANAN-CLEARY
staff writer

I spent a lot of time during my senior year thinking about what college would be like. I imagined new people, experiences, and a totally different learning style. Mostly, however, I thought about how scared I was at the prospect of abandoning all that I knew and

I loved.

When I came to Guilford for the first time, I encountered a place that made me feel better about what was to come. I felt slightly relieved that the people here were open and kind and seemed to accept me. Even better than that, though, was hearing about Avanti.

When Anne Lundquist described it to me, I saw it as a chance

for an orientation in which I could arrive early and get a glimpse of college before actually having to be serious about. I also like the idea of doing a little writing and going white water rafting.

Months later, while sitting atop a 45-foot tree and looking down at the astonished faces of the people I now could call my friends, I had a vision of what the true les-

son of Avanti is.

I learned during the course of two weeks about the campus and classes and what to expect, but all freshmen learn that eventually. What the 54 Avanti students had was a chance to come to grips with their fears, hopes, limitations and beliefs.

We met people who were supportive and cheered while I climbed that incredibly intimidating tree during the high ropes course. They became friends who called your name, cheering you on because they knew that more than anything, that was what you

needed.

At the closing group meeting of Avanti, I had an empty feeling in the pit of my stomach. When people came up and hugged me, I questioned that feeling. I continually reassured myself that we were going to be at school together for the next four years.

It was not until classes started that I began to understand what I had left behind. It was the sense of community.

Avanti enabled me to have the confidence to meet new people, but I know we will always be a group. There are some experiences that you never forget.

Orientation '95 : It was what you made of it

COLIN McFADDEN-ROAN
staff writer

Nervous anticipation filled the air as Guilford's class of 1999 and other entering students gathered in Founders Hall early on the morning of Friday, August 18.

Designed to help combat that anxiety, the Student Orientation Staff took over where those seemingly endless lines ended.

New students were divided into twelve small groups. Led by trained returning students, groups were given the opportunity to ask questions and to get know others.

After being officially welcomed by President William Rogers and the Guilford community at Convo-

cation, students were asked to fill out an endless number of surveys.

For those who chose to attend the mixer in Sternberger that evening, singer Roger Day provided entertainment. His repertoire included popular favorites as well as some of his own compositions.

"He was pretty good," commented first year student Kristin Hodnett.

As students began to adjust to college life, Playfair and Casino Night were held Saturday night to help students meet one another and have fun at the same time.

First year student and Playfair participant John Cocking observed, "Playfair was basically pointless, but it was still fun."

Orientation on Sunday included help for students

straightening out their schedules. Dick Dyer, assistant to the dean of student life, addressed students that evening. He expressed to incoming students the importance of their doing well in the first semester and how they can succeed at Guilford.

Some students complained that they had too much free time and often found themselves bored and anxious to start class. However, Kristin Hodnett said, "There was not enough time to get settled and moved in." But others felt that the scheduling was flexible and according to Susan Stanley, "Not bad at all."

Perhaps first year student Molly Martin summed up orientation weekend best. "I don't think that such a personal, extensive orientation would have been possible at most other schools. I really enjoyed the people, and it actually sped up my school adjustment."