

December 18, 2009

Dear Alim HujjatullIslam Seyyed Abbas Ayleya, Abdolreza Amindavar, Zehra Abidi, Miriam, the members of the Welcoming Committee and all the members of the Lady Zainab (a.s.) Organization of Greater Seattle.

I want to thank you all for the amazingly gracious welcome that myself and the students of Pacific Lutheran University received last Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. All of the students who attended the service were so grateful for the opportunity to visit your center, to participate in such meaningful worship, and to receive the benefits of your teaching and warm hospitality.

At the completion of the course I have students write an analysis of site visits. I would like to share with you some of the comments that students made:

One young woman writes: *"The message given by the Alim was so clear and I appreciated the way he ended the message by reminding us of the two ways we need to approach Islam. Both reasons had been given in class, and it was neat to hear the Alim stress the importance of not judging a religion by the actions of one person and reminding us that there are many different forms of Islam culturally."*

Another young woman writes *"This visit really helped to put our class discussions into reality. Expanding on the idea of modesty within Islam, seeing the actions of the Alim and the other men, the clothing of the women and the discussion with Miriam really brought all of what we read in the Qur'an and discussed in class into perspective."*

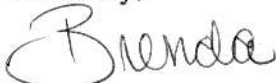
One young man writes: *"Overall, I felt that the trip to the Center was an amazing experience, both personally and spiritually. I learned many things about one particular Muslim community, and was able to connect with what we learned about Shi'i Islam in class. What the Alim had to say was very relevant with today's world, and I would definitely like to go back if I have the chance to."*

Another young man writes: *"I felt that this was one of the best experiences I have had at a religious service. It was so completely different from what I am used to, it was a breath of fresh air. The members were so kind and gracious, I have nothing but kind words about this Center, and I am going to tell everyone about it."*

As you can see, the students (and I) loved it!

Thank you again for your welcoming spirit, and I look forward to further visits.

Sincerely,



Brenda Llewellyn Ihssen