Dear FIG Student,

With great pleasure and excitement we welcome you to the University of Oregon!

My name is Shira Einstein and I am going to be your Freshman Interest Group Assistant (FA) for the *Adventures of the Mind* FIG. This is going to be an exploration of the extensive fields of philosophy and psychology.

I am a junior from Portland, Oregon, and I am a premedical student majoring in psychology, & minoring in biology and chemistry. My passions include traveling (especially in Latin America), working with children, and having exposure in the medical field. For all of these reasons, my dream is to become a pediatrician and practice in developing countries some day. In fact, this summer I have the incredible opportunity to intern in a children’s hospital in La Paz, Bolivia for ten weeks.

Your College Connections instructor is Dr. Jeff Measelle. He is a professor of psychology at the UO whose research interests include prenatal development, early parent-infant relationship processes, and long-term social and emotional outcomes for children. [Here’s a link to his web site if you’re interested!](#)

Our Freshmen Interest Group, *Adventures of the Mind*, like all FIGs, incorporates two classes, as well as the once-weekly College Connections class. Professor Sara Hodges is teaching Psychology 202: Mind and Society, and Alejandro Vallegs will be teaching Philosophy 110: Human Nature. In addition, we will meet once a week for our College Connections class, which will be facilitated by Jeff and myself.

The College Connections class will be an opportunity to delve more deeply into our subject material in a small, discussion-based setting. The topics of psychology and philosophy are extremely diverse, and both of these classes are large courses. The College Connections class will give us an opportunity not only to digest and dissect the material, but also to establish a relationship between the two subjects. **At the end of this letter, we have included a book title that we request you read this summer.** Please read the book by our first College Connections class!

*Adventures of the Mind* is a residential FIG, so everyone in the FIG (including me) will be living in the same residence hall, where we will have a chance to build a community and establish connections with other students with similar interests.

Events to keep in mind the week you arrive in Eugene: We’ll have our first meeting for *Adventures of the Mind* on **Friday, Sept. 21 at 10am in Columbia 150**. We will meet in our hall to walk over together. On **Sunday, Sept. 23**, we’ll be going to **University Convocation** as a group. Be sure to keep both events on your calendar, and to **bring your Student Handbook** to campus, as you’ll need it throughout the year.

Meanwhile, if you have any questions about the FIG, our classes, professors, or the University in general please feel free to email me at shirae@uoregon.edu. Keep in mind that my response may
not be prompt as I am in Bolivia and the internet connection is iffy. **Please send me your email address so we can reach you for more news about this coming fall!** Hopefully we will have a Facebook group up and running soon as well. I am looking forward to hearing about all of your summer adventures!

We hope you are enjoying your summer, and we are looking forward to getting to know you this fall 😊

See you soon!

Shira Einstein      shirae@uoregon.edu
Jeff Measelle       measelle@uoregon.edu

**Required Summer Reading:**

*Material World: A Global Family Portrait*
by Peter Menzel, Charles C. Mann and Paul Kennedy

It can be purchased on Amazon used for as little as $5.