Dear FIG Student,

Good morrow! Welcome yet again to the University of Oregon. My name is Olivia Walton, and I am your FIG Assistant for our FIG “The Art of Expression.” My hometown is San Mateo, CA otherwise known as the “Bay Area” (go Giants!). I’m a senior majoring in English with a double minor in Business and Writing/Critical Thinking/Public Speaking. I am a four-year member of the UO’s improvisational theater team called Absolute Improv in addition to being involved in other theater productions with the University.

Our FIG “The Art of Expression” is comprised of AAD 251 – Arts & Visual Literacy; TA 250 – Acting I; and our College Connections class. In our College Connections class, we will discover different ways to mesh the concepts we learn in AAD 251 and TA 250 to create storyboards for Shakespeare’s Sonnets. In addition to discussing class material, we will get the ultimate education in what the University of Oregon has to offer us. As an “Art of Expression” student, you will gain invaluable knowledge and experience in:

- Mastering library resources
- Participating in effective (and fun!) study groups
- Do’s and don’ts of the residence halls
- Taking the EMX to explore the oh-so-amazing Saturday Market
- Interpreting the complex images you see every day
- How to dive into the Study Abroad programs
- Acquainting yourself with your professors
- And soaking up campus life to its fullest!

In short, we will not only be learning how to be collegiate intellectuals, but also how to be true Oregon Ducks!
Our College Connections instructor is Grey Gurley. He is also going to be the professor of our Arts & Visual Literacy course. He has a lot to teach us about visual literacy and interpreting images we interact with on a daily basis. We are lucky to have Professor Gurley in our FIG!

Here are the meat and potatoes of what you absolutely need to know for our first FIG meetings! Our Week of Welcome Meeting is **Friday, September 21st, 2012 at 10 a.m. in Columbia 150** (which can be found on 13th Street, directly across from the EMU). It is very important that you arrive on time. We will be attending University Convocation with our entire FIG on **Sunday, Sept. 23rd, 2012** (details on where we will meet will be discussed during our first meeting). We get to parade down 15th Ave. to the famous Hayward Field as a massive freshman class! It'll be a really fun day, and we'll hopefully have an opportunity to get to know each other better.

Professor Gurley and I have a reading assignment for you to be completed prior to our first class. We would like you to read Shakespeare’s sonnets. The great thing about the sonnets is that there are collections of them available online. The one I like best is at [http://www.shakespeares-sonnets.com/](http://www.shakespeares-sonnets.com/) - it’s the first site you get with a Google search. It would behoove you to purchase a physical text of the sonnets, as you will be working closely with them in class. Until then, have fun reading them online! Try to piece together an interpretation of the story that flows through them chronologically.

I cannot wait to meet you on September 21st. Please be sure to **bring your Student Handbook** when we meet. Here is my email address: oliviaw@uoregon.edu. Please feel free to email me with questions, tell me a little bit about yourself, and maybe what you’ve been up to over summer!

Best,
Olivia Walton