Dear FIG student,

Welcome to the inaugural year of Bollywood to Hollywood. We hope you have been enjoying your summer, and that you are as excited as we are to start the new year with our FIG! You should be really proud and excited to be a Duck, and equally as excited to be a member of this FIG. Our combination of Ethnic Studies 101 and Media in Society is sure to be an awesome ride that makes us all more media literate. Yes!

I’m your FA, Dillon Pilorget. As a senior Journalism student with heavy interest in Ethnic Studies and international media, I am thrilled to dive into this FIG with you. I love outdoor activities and can often be found riding my bike or skateboard. On campus I work on Ethos Magazine, and I’m also involved with University Theatre. I’m so stoked to get to know you as we get situated in our residence hall and I’m also stoked to take this FIG adventure with you, but we won’t be doing it alone. Harsha is our College Connections professor and he also teaches our Media in Society class. He is super nice and funny and he knows his stuff, so I know you’ll love him as much as I do.

Hey everyone, it’s Harsha. I will try my best to live up to Dillon’s description of me, but it’s true that I am very invested in media’s effects on society. I have a special interest and expertise in advertising, and I grew up in India, so Bollywood is very familiar to me. I am excited to welcome you all to this great university and watch you flourish in our first term and throughout the year. If I come to class with a big, flat bat, do not worry. I may just be going to play cricket afterward.

Now that you know a little about us, we would love to know about you. Please shoot Dillon an email (pilorget@uoregon.edu) telling us a little about yourself, where you’re from, what you like, what you’re nervous or excited about, and anything else you feel is important. We would really appreciate hearing from you and having some preliminary contact so we can get right into the fun stuff when you get to school.

You might be wondering, “Do I have to be a devoted fan of Bollywood to be in this FIG?” or even, “What the heck is Bollywood!?” Well luckily for you, anyone can enjoy this FIG! We will use the combination of Media in Society and Intro to Ethnic Studies to explore globalization of media and how it has changed the media landscape. Media in Society covers the many different forms of media from books to Facebook, and their impact on the way society operates. Ethnic Studies 101 is an introductory crash course to racial inequality that challenges stereotypes and stigmas and truly enlightens everyone who takes it.

In our College Connections class, we will review specific examples of media, including
TV shows, movies, commercials, and possibly some print media, and the ways in which they are shared globally the effects of their globalization on us and the medium itself. To get a head start on this we are asking you to watch at least **1 Bollywood or other international film or TV show** throughout your break, and come to school with some ideas about the differences and similarities you notice from American media.

Along with all the fun that comes from consuming media, we will take field trips to our campus media outlets, like the radio station (KWVA 88.1) or the newspaper (The Daily Emerald), while getting acquainted with other aspects of a successful existence at our school.

We hope you’re looking forward to learning about the globalization of media through Bollywood in the fall, but until that time comes please enjoy the rest of your summer and come to school prepared for the time of your lives. College is an exciting time for growth, education, getting out on your own, and FUN, and we’re confident that you will do just fine. When you get here in September, be sure to be nice and punctual for our **first meeting on FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 at 10 a.m.** (please remember to bring your **student handbook**!). Then you’ll have the weekend to explore, and we’ll all go as a group to our **University Convocation on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**. Good luck packing and gearing up for your Freshman year at the wonderland that is the University of Oregon. We can’t wait to meet you and get this ship off the ground!

Best,

Harsha (harsha@uoregon.edu) and Dillon (pilorget@uoregon.edu)