Dear FIG Students:

My name is Ryann McInturf and I'll be your FIG Assistant for C:/My Planet this term! I'm from Carmel Valley, California and I'm currently a sophomore here at the University of Oregon. I love going to the Saturday Market, trying out new restaurants in Eugene, and attending campus events. I also love to cook, read, and go hiking. I'm majoring in environmental studies and hope to go into the public end of that area, either teaching or getting involved politically. Some of my favorite classes at the University of Oregon include Biology 132: Intro to Animal Behavior, Education Studies 111, and Environmental Studies 203: Humanities. There are also many ways to get involved on campus other than taking fun classes. We encourage you to explore different clubs, or to attend university plays, which are always fantastic, or club events. For example, the Hawaii Club has a Luau every year and the African Student Association throws an African Culture Night. There are all kinds of events on campus such as these and we encourage you to check them out!

Your College Connections professor is Professor Nicholas Kohler. Professor Kohler is a member of the Geography department here at the UO and is interested in land use and land cover change, human-environment interactions, GIScience, and conservation and development. Professor Kohler has focused on the countries of Southeast Asia and the American West and is currently doing research on natural and cultural world heritage management, land use change related to infrastructure development, and the use of volunteer geographic information to aid in land cover monitoring.

For this FIG, you will be enrolled in two lecture-style classes and our College Connections class. You will take Geography 141: The Natural Environment with Professor Mark Fonstad as well as Environmental Studies 201 with Professor Galen Martin. I have taken ENVS 201; it covers a lot of material, and is very interesting. The focus of this class is the contributions of the social sciences on understanding how and why environmental problems occur, as well as social ways to fix such problems. I have not taken GEOG 141, but I will be taking it with you this fall. This class focuses on the physical landscapes, vegetation patterns, weather, and climate of the earth. Being an Environmental Studies major, I am very familiar with that end of our FIG and hope to make meaningful connections between the two courses.

As a FIG, we will go on a field trip to a local habitat restoration project on a former farm. We will also do some informal field trips that will help you to get to know Eugene, such as going to the Saturday Market. If you have any suggestions of places that you would like to go to, please let us know.

You will have a short summer reading assignment that we hope you will enjoy. Please read:

Our first meeting will be on **Friday, September 21, 2012 at 11 a.m. in Columbia 150**. Make sure to arrive on time, as we will break into our FIG groups and move locations.
shortly after. We will also be attending the annual University Convocation Ceremony together on **Sunday, September 23, 2012.** Lastly, don’t forget to bring your Student Handbooks to campus with you. They will be useful throughout the year.

Please email me if you have any questions. My email is ryanm@uoregon.edu. Please send me your email address as well.

We look forward to meeting you!

Ryann McInturf and Professor Kohler