Dear FIG Students,

Hello! How are you doing? I hope you are enjoying your summer so far. First of all, I would like to congratulate you for being admitted to the University of Oregon. It is a wonderful school and I'm pretty sure you will take advantage of the opportunities it has to offer.

My name is Rossmary Marquez, I am an international student from Venezuela and I'm currently a senior majoring in human physiology and minoring in chemistry and biology at the University of Oregon. I'm planning on pursuing a master in public health after I graduate from the UO. This will be my third year as a Residential FIG Assistant. I’m really looking forward to meeting you all and working with you. I will say that my interests are pretty broad. I’m absolutely desperate for French (such a romantic language!) but I also love science and health (it is my major, right?) I started to study English when I was twelve and I have been taking French classes since I was sixteen year old. I really like linguistics and language in general. After I finished high school in my home country, I went to Topeka, Kansas for a year as an exchange student. Having the opportunity to study abroad totally changed my life and even though I was not expecting to stay here and study at the University of Oregon, I definitely made the right decision.

As a freshman, I did not have the opportunity to be in a FIG and I think my transition through college would have been easier for me if I had taken one. It was incredible seeing how the student in the FIG I work with in the past two years have been able to connect with one another and some of them have become good friends and even housemate. As part of a Residential FIG, you will have the opportunity to interact with 25 other FIG students who besides taking three classes together will also be living in the same residence hall. Another interesting part of being in a FIG is all the knowledge that you acquire during your College Connection class where you will meet your College Connection professors and me once a week. You will be working ahead of other students by studying topics that are not usually covered during your FIG classes (CH221 and CH 227). Being in a FIG has proven to be very beneficial to the students who are part of one, but it is up to you to take advantages of the benefits that come with joining a FIG. I’m here to be a resource for you and I’m more than happy to help you find ways to succeed at the UO.

The two courses that Chemistry of Sustainability integrates are General Chemistry and General Chemistry lab. In your General Chemistry class you will be able to learn key concepts that then are applied during the lab sessions. Therefore, these are two subjects that pretty much work together throughout the term. The most important part of taking the lab is that you can strengthen your knowledge by applying what you have learned in the classroom. The college connection class is engaging because you will be able to go beyond what is taught in your other classes. During our college connection classes, we will focus on sustainable chemistry. Sustainable chemistry basically studies ways to reduce the damages we do or have done to the environment though chemical processes. We also want you to have a better judgment about what products are truly environmental friendly and learn how to make your life style more “sustainable.” We will be learning about interesting topics; such as Plastic/polymers, Energy, Water, Nano/Biotechnology. During the college connection class, you will have the chance to directly interact with two college professors who will be there to help you. Since I think you must be curious about the college connection professors. Let me just talk a little bit about them
The two CC faculty for this FIG are Darren Johnson and David Tyler. Darren Johnson is an Associate Professor for Inorganic, Organic, & Materials Chemistry at the university. He got his B.S at the University of Texas, Austin, PhD at University of California, Berkeley, and he did his Postdoctoral at the Scripps Research Institute. (Pretty cool, eh?) He has been working at the University of Oregon since 2003. As a recovering Texan, Dr Johnson loves BBQs. David Tyler is an Inorganic, Organometallic & Polymer Chemist. He got his B.S at Purdue University in 1975 and his PhD at California Institute of Technology. He has been working at the University of Oregon since 1985. Dr Tyler is a baseball fan and he loves techno music. They are really nice guys who are just absolutely crazy about chemistry and sustainability. The first thing that Dr Johnson told me when he first saw me was “Oh! I think that your Marmot rain Jacket has new nanotechnology" good observer, eh? It has been a great experience working with them in the past two years. This class will be a lots fun for you. We are currently designing a term project where you will be able to apply what you have learned during the class. How does making compost on campus sound?? 😊. As part of your summer assignment, we want you to watch the Nova Car talk show on the "Car of the Future". You can find it on this website. It will give you just a little taste of what chemistry of sustainability is all about. Hope you enjoy it. We will have a discussion about the video during our first class so please be prepare.

We are really excited to get to meet you this fall term. Finally I would like to invite you to our first mandatory meeting on Friday, Sept 21st at 10 am. in Columbia 150. Please be on time. Please bring something that is important or significant to you since we will be doing a short “Show and tell” during our meeting. We may be having a tour of campus and lunch at Carson afterwards. We will meet again for the University Convocation on Sunday Sep 23rd.

I would absolutely enjoy getting to know you or answer any question you may have before fall term starts. So please feel free to email me at Rossmary@uoregon.edu. We look forward to meeting you!

Enjoy your summer!

Rossmary Marquez, Darren Johnson, and David Tyler