Dear FIG Student,

Welcome to the University of Oregon! My name is Shanna Rosenberg and I am your Freshman Interest Group (FIG) Academic Assistant for our FIG Gender in The Fast Lane. I am a senior at the University of Oregon from Calabasas California, although I spent several years of my life living in Portland, Oregon. I am studying in the College of Education in a program called Family and Human Services and minoring in Special Education.

I spend a lot of my free time seeing concerts at Eugene venues, bike riding alongside the river on those sunny days, attempting to become a runner and interning with local non-profit organizations. Something I appreciate about Eugene are the many opportunities for internships, in the past three years I have had the opportunity to work with a variety of organizations that provide resources for our community, which has really enriched my college experience.

UO has given me the chance to dabble with different programs and visit amazing places, for instance going white water rafting with the Outdoor program and visiting Crater Lake with my geology class. I am looking forward to spending my summer going abroad with other UO students to Querétaro Mexico for a Spanish intensive program! I am currently an intern with the off campus Jewish organization, Hillel. In addition, I am part of a group of students starting up a chapter of a nationwide organization Students for Education Reform.

Looking back, one of my favorite memories from freshman year was marching in a protest as an ally for individuals who have experienced assault; the event is called Take Back the Night. I hope next year we can all march together. I look forward to providing you information about the different opportunities on campus; I truly believe there is something here for everyone.

We are fortunate to have Professor Lynn Fujiwara teach our College Connections and your Women’s and Gender Studies 101 course this fall term! In addition to teaching Women’s and Gender Studies Fujiwara is currently the head of the Ethnic Studies department. She has been teaching at the University of Oregon since 2000. She received her Ph.D. in the field of Sociology at the University of California Santa Cruz. Fujiwara wrote a book titled, Mothers without Citizenship: Asian Immigrant Families and the Consequences of Welfare Reform. She is currently working on a new book about Asian American women in popular culture and performances of sexuality and resistance.

A little bit about her personal background: Professor Fujiwara grew up in a small town in Southern California, she then moved up north to Santa Cruz and lived there for ten years while she was in graduate school. Her favorite activities include going to the beach (in Southern California when she visits her folks), swimming at Amazon pool in Eugene Oregon, and watching movies. She is looking forward to meeting you all, and is honored to be a part of your first quarter at the University of Oregon!

The Gender in the Fast Lane FIG is designed to help you become a savvy college student. Once a week in College Connections course Professor Fujiwara and I will introduce you to many people and resources at the university and also connect you with a small group of students. The FIG will become a wonderful support system. We will schedule many fun group outings, dinners and
study sessions. In the College Connections course we will cover a variety of topics aimed at easing your assimilation into the university environment. We are taking two classes as a FIG, Women’s and Gender Studies 101: Women, Difference, and Power and Sociology 207: Social Inequality.

WGS 101 introduces the basic concepts in Women’s and Gender Studies, focusing on contemporary women’s issues, and examining the way in which gender interacts with race, class, identity, sexuality, and ethnicity. Again, this course will be taught by our very own Lynn Fujiwara! SOC 207 will be an overview of social inequality, cross-culturally within the United States. You will examine the relationship of social inequality based on social class, race, and gender to social change, social institutions, and self-identity. These two courses complement each other very well. In our College Connection course we will discuss the many common connections between these courses to help piece together all of the information gathered on these topics.

The first time we meet as a FIG will be before school begins at our mandatory meeting on Friday, September 21st in Columbia 150 at 10:00 a.m. Also, on the Sunday of Week of Welcome (September 23rd), we will be going as a FIG to University Convocation—where our president will be speaking—and a picnic. Please mark those two dates on your calendar!

Feel free to contact either Professor Fujiwara or I by email with any questions you may have or just to introduce yourself! We are not assigning a summer assignment, but feel free to begin exploring the topics these courses will introduce. I look forward to meeting you during Week of Welcome and getting to know you throughout fall term. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely,

Shanna Rosenberg

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