Dear FIG Student,

Hello and welcome to the Honors Science FIG. Your College Connections professor, Andy Berglund, and I are very excited to meet and work with you throughout the term. We will start off with some introductions then let you know some important dates and FIG information.

My name is Beatrix Bacher but everyone calls me Bea (pronounced like the letter, B) and I am from Portland, OR. I am a junior this year, majoring in biology and political science. I am interested in environmental issues and how politics can be used to achieve greater environmental protection and awareness. My favorite current TV show is the Big Bang Theory; I never miss an episode.

The professor for the College Connections course is Andy Berglund. You can call him Andy or Professor Berglund, whichever you prefer. He is an associate professor for biochemistry, biophysics, and molecular biology. Andy earned his B.A. from the University of Colorado, his Ph.D. from Brandeis University, and he has been at the University of Oregon since 2002. His current research deals with myotonic dystrophy to understand its molecular basis and the mechanisms of mRNA splicing, don’t worry you won’t be tested on that.

Now that you know us a little better, you are probably curious about what it means to be in a College Connections course. This course is a chance for you to get to know other students, faculty, and become more familiar with the University. You will have assignments for the College Connections course which are designed to help you succeed in other courses and for the rest of your college career. To start with, over the summer you should read *The Agile Gene* by Matt Ridley which explores the relationship between nature and nurture. Also, don’t forget to bring your student handbook in the fall, it is full of important information and you will not be able to get a replacement.

It won’t all be work though. Outside the classroom, we will have activities to let you get to know Eugene and enjoy all it has to offer. Depending on your interests, potential FIG activities could include a hike up Spencer’s Butte, a trip to the Saturday Market, or a movie night. Since this is a Residential FIG, you will be living with me and your fellow FIG students in the same Residence Hall. This will make it very easy to talk and plan activities outside of class, as well as giving you built in study buddies.

Here are a few dates you should mark on your calendar; they are events you *must* attend and please be *punctual*. We will be going to both events as a group, so you do not have to worry about not knowing anyone or finding the room, just make sure you don’t have something else scheduled or planned for these times.

**Week of Welcome FIG Meeting in Columbia 150- 10 am- Friday, September 21, 2012**

**University Convocation- Sunday September 23, 2012**
Please send me an email on your UO account so we can start to get to know each other, introduce yourself and tell me what you like to do in your free time. My email is beatrixb@uoregon.edu

We are looking forward to meeting you in the fall!

Bea Bacher, FIG Assistant

Andy Berglund, College Connections Professor