Hello! Welcome to the University of Oregon and the *Inside Architecture* FIG!

We hope your summer has been wonderful and cannot wait to hear all about your adventures when we meet in the fall.

Congratulations on deciding to be a part of the *Inside Architecture* FIG! FIG’s are a great opportunity to get to learn within a smaller community of fellow students that share the same interest in exploring architecture. *Inside Architecture* is composed of three courses, Intro to Architecture, History of Western Architecture, and the College Connections course. In the College Connections course, we will discuss the connection between the material presented in these courses and general information on how to succeed as a university student. Throughout the term we will have study sessions, social activities to get to know each other, and work collaboratively on design projects introducing you to some experiences and ideas architects explore.

A little about myself, my full name is Nicole Michelle Ghiselli, but I go by Nicki, and I will be your Inside Architecture FIG Assistant. As your FA I will be helping with the College Connections course and be a resource to you whenever you have questions about anything school related or not. I grew up in Glenview Illinois, a northern Chicago suburb, and the trees, fresh air, and the Architecture program lured me into attending the University of Oregon. I will be entering into my third year in the architecture program this fall and I am excited to get to explore the field more and see where it ends up taking me.

Leading the College Connections course will be Glenda Utsey, an Associate Professor within the Architecture and Allied Arts Department. Glenda received both her Bachelors of Architecture and Masters of Landscape Architecture from the University of Oregon. She is very passionate about working with students and teaches the College Connections course along with media and first year architecture studios in the winter and spring term. When Glenda is not teaching or advising she is often working on projects with her husband, Michael Utsey.

During Week of Welcome we will be meeting on Friday September 21st, at 10 a.m in Columbia 150. We ask that you arrive on time because shortly after we begin we will be relocating to a different room to meet with our professors. Also on Sunday afternoon, September 23rd, we will be meeting as a group to attend the University Convocation.

This summer we would like you to find a place or specific space back home that is important to you and describe it visually through collage, photo, drawing, mixed media, three dimensions, etc. We would also like you to accompany your visual with a short one page double spaced essay or poem and then mount your items on an 11x17 board. We will have mini presentations on the first day of class during week 1 as a way to get to know each other and see where everyone comes from. This isn’t meant to be a stressful assignment so have fun with it and be creative!

If you have any questions about the FIG, college in general, or pretty much anything at all, do not hesitate to email me at ghiselli@uoregon.edu. I will be compiling a list of everyone’s emails in our FIG so if you could send me an email with your preferred email and short bio about who you are and where you’re from that would be great!

Have a great rest of your summer and Glenda and I are both very excited to meet you this fall!