Hello and Welcome to the University of Oregon!

My name is Christine Liu and I will be your FIG assistant. I am very excited to be a part of your learning experience here at the UO. I am a junior double-majoring in Biology and Psychology. After completing my undergraduate degree, I hope to go to grad school and pursue research in Neuroscience. I currently work as a research assistant in Professor Wehr’s lab studying how the brain responds to sounds.

Your choice to participate in the Music and the Beast FIG is advantageous in several ways. Firstly, both PSY 348 and BI 132 are classes that get filled up so quickly that freshmen almost never have a chance to take either. Secondly, the small size of the FIG allows for a closer connection with the professors. Both lecture classes are quite large, but as a part of the FIG, you will be a part of a smaller community of 25 students and have the opportunity to know your professors on a closer basis. Third, we all get to live together! If you run into problems with either of the classes, you can count on many of your hallmates, including myself, to be able to help you out. Not only is our FIG residential, but it’s a challenge FIG as well. This means that one of your courses (PSY 348) is an upper division course. Upper division courses are classes that are generally taken by upperclassmen and are about more specific information in the field. Luckily, Professor Mike Wehr, who teaches PSY 348 Music and the Brain, will also be teaching PSY 199 College Connections. In the College Connections course, you will have the chance discuss the concepts presented in the two core courses further, and solidify your understanding of both subjects. The third class, BI 132 Intro to Animal Behavior will be taught by Professor Debbie Schlenhoff.

Professor Wehr and I already have some great ideas for the FIG, like inviting you to come to the lab to learn about recording information from the brain and even taking some data yourself! We are very excited to meet you in Fall Term. During Week of Welcome, we ask that you attend a meeting Friday, September 21 at 11 AM in Columbia 150. This is where we will all meet for the first time. Additionally, we will be attending the University Convocation together, a celebratory event welcoming new students to the UO, on Sunday September 23 from 3-5 pm.

Before class starts, we ask that you read This Is Your Brain on Music by Daniel Levitin. It’s only ten bucks on Amazon. This book is also a recommended reading for PSY 348, so you’ll be killing two birds with one stone. (Maybe three birds since this book is a great read.) Also, please bring your student handbook to campus with you. Lastly, feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or ideas you have! My email address is cliu10@uoregon.edu; please email me back with a headshot and a few fun facts about yourself to share with the class by September 1st.

We look forward to meeting you,

Christine Liu and Professor Wehr