Dear Rock ‘n’ Science FIG Student,

Congratulations! You not only are going to be a college student soon, you have the privilege to be in the coolest FIG on campus, Rock ‘n’ Science. Professor Stanley Micklavzina and I lead the College Connections course that is attached to this FIG. Let me give you a brief background for each of us:

I lived in Hillsboro, OR for 18 years, and then moved to Eugene in 2008 to go to the University of Oregon. I am an Economics and Music double major with a minor in Math. I play the saxophone in most ensembles on campus and have marched baritone in the Oregon Marching Band since I was a freshman. Besides playing in the Green Garter Band—which fully pays each member’s tuition—I work as an economics tutor on campus as well as a research assistant for Dr. Bruce Blonigen. After I graduate I want to join the Peace Corps and then get my PhD in Economics so that I can become a college professor.

Prof. Stanley Micklavzina is a senior instructor of physics at the University of Oregon. He has been at the University of Oregon since 1979, when he went back to college after working electronics and travelling around the country. (What rock band was famous in 1979?). He received his advanced degree in Physics from The University of Oregon in 1985 and became an Instructor in the Physics Department that same year. His expertise is in Physics Education, the use of Physics Demonstrations used in instruction and physics instructional laboratories. He played drums in a local rock band for a number of years and also has some experience with being a roadie and soundman for bands. He has been listening to Rock 'n’ Roll for 50 years even though he looks and acts quite young!

Some FIG Assistants may say that they have the “coolest FIG on campus,” but as you probably already know, we actually do. Rock ‘n’ Science is what it sounds like, rock and science. The two classes in this FIG are “History of Rock 1950-1970” and “Physics of Music and Sound”.

Most of our activities will be music based. They may include going to University ensemble concerts, or even having the University ensembles come to us! Other possibilities include visiting a local music venue to learn about acoustics and sound systems. It may even include experiencing and actual sound check!

An informal letter would not be complete without information on your SUMMER READING PROJECT!!! Before the first day of classes, you will need to find a copy of “This is Your Brain on Music” by Daniel J. Levitin, read it, and then write a response (2 page minimum, double-spaced) to the questions:

“What did you think about this book? How do you think the topics from this book will relate to the two classes incorporated in this FIG?
You will turn in your response at the beginning of class on the first day of classes. I recommend buying (or borrowing) the book early, so you have time to soak in what you read before you respond to the questions.

Professor Micklavzina and I are excited to meet you in person. Please email me when you receive this letter, even just to say, “Hey, my name is ______, my toothbrush is (red/blue/plaid/I don’t have a toothbrush).” Or something like that.

Before we close out this letter, a few important reminders:

**Week of Welcome Meeting- Friday, September 21, 2012 @ 11 A.M. in Columbia 150**
- Be punctual, we will be re-locating to another room to meet the other faculty members.

**University Convocation- Sunday, September 23, 2012**
- We will be going as a group.
- For your first term on campus, bring your Student Handbook with you everywhere. Just keep it in your backpack and you should be fine.

I look forward to seeing you at the WOW meeting on September 21st.

Sincerely,
Jake McGrew
jmcgrew@uoregon.edu