Welcome to the Shakespeare’s Stage Challenge FIG!

First of all, let me congratulate you on being a part of the Shakespeare’s Stage Freshman Interest Group! Challenge FIGs are a great way to work towards academic success right off the bat! Not only will you learn a lot through your two classes but also you will have me to help you with anything you may need throughout your first term!

My name is Jaclyn Morris. I am a senior at the University of Oregon. All my life, my favorite subject has been English. I’m really interested in sentence composition, grammar, and creative writing. I am also completing a minor in Theater Arts. I have had experience working for last year’s production of The Crucible and I am an avid playgoer—especially since students get free tickets to university productions! I am also an editor for Unbound, a literary arts magazine, and the president of the Presidential Scholars Student Association (PSSA).

The Shakespeare’s Stage FIG is going to combine two great classes: ENG 207- Early Shakespeare and TA 367- History of Theater 1. These classes will show you how Shakespeare’s plays and the theater of his time have influenced modern-day theater and literature. Your College Connections professor will be Lisa Freinkel, who will be teaching ENG 207. She has been teaching Shakespeare for 20 years and has directed and acted in productions since college. She was once under the direction of Bill Rauch, the current artistic director at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and her favorite directing experience was staging Hamlet in a hot tub with a four-person ensemble!

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT: Over the summer, we want you to watch a movie! Yes, you heard right! The movie you will be watching is Kenneth Branagh’s Hamlet (1996). Pay attention to the artistic choices made in this movie—you’ll have to use this information for the College Connections final project. We also recommend that you read Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare by Stephen Greenblatt. This book will put Shakespeare in historical perspective and show you what kind of things influenced his writing. Both of these can be found online on Amazon for around $15. However, you can also opt to rent both from a library or find them elsewhere online.

On FRIDAY, SEPT. 21, 2012, we will be meeting in COLUMBIA 150 at 11 AM for the Week of Welcome Meeting. Please be ON TIME for this meeting because we will only briefly be staying in the building before we move to another part of campus for our FIG activities.

We will also be attending University Convocation as a FIG on SUNDAY, SEPT. 23, 2012. Convocation awards faculty for excellent work and features an important speaker. This event will definitely inspire you to make your freshman year the best one possible!

Last, but not least, remember to take a look at the Student Handbook that was issued to you. We will be referring to it often during our College Connections class and it’s also a good source of information for your time here at the University of Oregon.
My contact information is included below. Send me an email this summer and tell me a few things about yourself. Be sure to attach a photo so I can make a class roster with pictures! You can also add me on Facebook and send me a message if you would prefer to contact me there. Lisa and I absolutely can’t wait to meet you and we hope you have a great rest of the summer!

Jaclyn Morris  
jaclynm@uoregon.edu

Lisa Freinkel  
freinkel@uoregon.edu