Dear FIG Student,

If you are receiving this letter, it means you have signed up for the Sorting Hat FIG next fall 2012. First off, we would like to welcome you to the University of Oregon and let you know we are extremely excited that you have chosen to enroll in our FIG! You may have signed up for this FIG because you are a huge Harry Potter fan; if that is the case, I am sorry to say that the FIG has nothing to do with Harry Potter. Our FIG will explore ideas of Human Services through FHS (213) Issues for Children and Families and Sociology through SOC (204) Introduction to Sociology. Both classes are going to be extremely interesting!

Before going any further we would like to introduce ourselves. My name is Jennifer Breunig and I am going to be your FIG Assistant this coming fall. I am a senior Family and Human Service (FHS) major and a Spanish minor. I am from the San Francisco Bay Area and grew up in El Cerrito (which is near Berkeley). I have lived in Eugene for the last three years and I have loved my time at the U of O. I am looking forward to making this first experience as a college student both fun and interesting for you! I am involved with a wide variety of organizations and extra-curricular activities on the U of O campus and in the Eugene community. We hope to be a great resource for you, so don’t hesitate to ask us anytime! I am extremely passionate about people, and helping others. I have also spent some time interning at several local agencies including the White Bird Clinic and Head Start of Lane County (both local human service and non-profit agencies).

Our College Connections professor is Professor Michael Garling. He is a graduate of the University of Oregon. He has three daughters, and three grandchildren. Professor Garling spent 28 years as a teacher and principal in Eugene. He currently works as an Oregon School Improvement Facilitator and has taught a number of courses for the College of Education. He is very active in the community and volunteers on several boards of organizations that provide services to children and families. He is extremely passionate about teaching and education and is focused on helping make your experience as an incoming freshman a great one!

The Sorting Hat FIG will also act as an academic bridge in your transition from high school to college. Not only will the FIG be an opportunity for you to learn how to use your peers as an academic resource, but it is also a great way to meet new people that share the same interests as you in your first term at college. It will be a great chance to get to know the university and the resources and opportunities available on campus! I was in a FIG my freshman year and the experiences I gained while in the FIG were and are irreplaceable. I learned skills and made connections with people that are still very important to me. I met some of my best friends through the FIG, and every year since my freshman year I have lived with at least one person I met in my FIG.
We will meet for the first time at the end of Week of Welcome on Friday, September 21, 2012 at 11am in Columbia 150. Please arrive on time because we will be moving to another location shortly after meeting here. After this meeting we will also be having a FIG dinner! We will be taking the EMX (bus) to Roaring Rapids Pizza. All you need to bring is your student ID and some money for a drink (if you like); the rest of the meal will be paid for. On Sunday September 23, 2012 we will also attend University Convocation together. Convocation is a formal welcoming for new students to the university. Make sure to mark these dates on your calendar ahead of time! Be sure not to forget your student handbook, as this is a very useful and important resource.

You are required to do a light reading assignment before arriving at the university. Please purchase a copy of The Glass Castle: A Memoir by Jeannette Walls (it is available at the UO bookstore, Amazon.com, etc.) and read it before our first meeting. We promise this book will be an interesting read! We have some great things planned for this fall! Some are academic and some are for fun, but all are meant to better orient you to the university and the Eugene area. Please do not hesitate to ask Professor Garling or me questions regarding the FIG, classes in general, the U of O, Eugene, or really anything. If you have some free time we would love to get to know you a little better. Please email me or Prof. Garling sometime this summer!

We are extremely excited and honored to be part of this exciting transition and journey you are about to embark on!

Sincerely,
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