Hello, new FIG students!

My name is Sasha Chang, and I will be your FIG assistant for Thinking About Teaching this fall. I live in Eugene, Oregon and I’m a sophomore here at the U of O. I am a pre-education major, planning on becoming a kindergarten teacher. I’m a member of the Black Student Union, as well as an active member of the NAACP. I’m an unapologetic Hello Kitty addict, I love being around kids, and I have a profound appreciation for good food.

Your College Connections professor, Judy Francis, is a retired middle school science teacher who currently teaches method courses and supervises student teachers in the UO graduate program. She has been teaching since 1964, when she started at Midlothian High School in Midlothian, Virginia. She moved on to obtain her graduate degree at the UO in 1972, and spent the next 32 years of her career teaching at Roosevelt Middle School. Judy loves teaching, and believes that it is extremely important. This is her seventh year to be working with the FIG.

As the name of our FIG suggests, we will be focusing on teaching and education. Your Educational Issues and Problems class (EDST 111) is worth 4 credit hours, and will focus on specific problems and issues that educators are faced with, as well as the different approaches that society may take when it comes to those problems. It will be taught by Professor Donnie Hale, and if you have any questions you may reach him at dhale@uoregon.edu.

Your Introduction to Biological Anthropology class (ANTH 270) is also worth 4 credit hours, and focuses on the biological aspects of humankind from many different perspectives; comparative, ecological, and evolutionary. It will also explore both the theoretical and the methodological issues concerning biological anthropology. This class will be taught by Professor Michel Waller, who can be contacted at mwaller@uoregon.edu.

Your College Connections class (EDST 199) is only 1 credit hour, and will be taught collaboratively by Judy and myself. We will work with all of you to actively find the connections between education and anthropology through discussions and activities, as well as help you adjust to life here at the UO. We are planning on a few activities to take you all out of the classrooms and learn in a different kind of environment; if you have any ideas feel free to email either myself or Judy (email addresses below).

We’d like you to read a novel before arriving on campus; it should get you thinking about your classes in the fall. It is called The Water is Wide by Pat Conroy, and we will discuss the book at the beginning of fall term, so please come prepared to talk about it during our first FIG meeting on September 21st.

During the Week of Welcome we will have a mandatory meeting with half of all the other FIGs on Friday, September 21, 2012. It begins at 11 AM in Columbia Hall, room 150. We will meet beforehand and walk over there as a group. You’ll get the chance to meet a few more people before school actually starts! Once there, we will move locations, so be prepared to walk around.
Don’t forget that University Convocation is on Sunday, September 23, 2012. We will be attending together as a FIG, along with many other U of O students.

You all can contact me at sashac@uoregon.edu, or Judy at cfjuma@comcast.net, if you have any questions, concerns or comments before arriving on campus; if you all could email me so that I have record of your email addresses I would greatly appreciate it. It doesn’t have to be anything important, you can just introduce yourself and let me know you read this letter.

Remember to bring your Student Handbooks with you whenever we go somewhere together as a group; you don’t want to be caught without it. It will help you navigate classes, campus resources, and being a first-year student in general.

We’re looking forward to meet all of you!

Sasha & Judy