Dear Urban Garden student,

We would like to welcome you to the Urban Garden FIG! My name is Hannah Muller and I am excited to announce that I will be your FIG assistant for the 2012 fall term. I am a junior here at the University of Oregon and I love every second of being a Duck. I am currently majoring in sociology but my true passion lies in teaching individuals about agriculture. I am originally from Northern California where I was raised on a 300-acre organic farm. I love traveling and adventuring and cannot wait to take you to some of my favorite spots in Eugene.

I am so excited to help share my love for agriculture, Eugene and the University of Oregon with you. When I graduate I plan on traveling a lot more, exploring all that this incredible world has to offer. I also hope to one-day help start gardens in urban areas around the globe, to help individuals get reconnected to farming. I took the Urban Garden FIG my freshmen year, and loved it! It gives you a chance to incorporate new thoughts and ideas of landscapes and sustainability into your everyday life.

The Urban Garden FIG is a combination of LA 260: Understanding Landscapes, GEOG 1401: The Natural Environment, and LA 199: Your College Connections class with me and Harper Keeler. Each of the classes that you are enrolled in coincides with many of the topics we will cover in our college connections class, including creating a sustainable future and looking at spaces in a new way. The classes that you are registered for in the FIG are ones that most seniors are waitlisted for, so be excited. You have the awesome chance to learn from these great professors in just your first term of college! The College Connection class is a perfect setting to get to know the other student involved in your FIG. Harper Keeler is so excited to meet you all this fall. He graduated from the U of O with a degree in Landscape Architecture and now serves as the Interim Director of the Urban Farm. We will meet every week out on the campus garden and learn and grow together. Through activities and exploration we will help you as you find your way into the college life. We are here to help you in anyway and we will try to make your transition into college as smooth and fun as possible.
We will be meeting during **Week of Welcome on Friday, September 21\(^{\text{th}}\) 2011 at 11 a.m. in Columbia 150.** We will be heading straight from there to visit the campus farm for the first time so please **make sure you are on time.** Please come with your **Student Handbook.** You will need it so please don’t forget it! We will be doing some group activities out in the garden so please wear clothes that you feel comfortable moving around in! The **University Convocation** is **Sunday, September 23\(^{\text{th}}\)** and we will meet beforehand and go as a FIG. The convocation is a great way to start your University experience and to begin connecting with new students. But, most of all, we are just so excited to meet you, so please show up on time and bring everything that is required!

**Summer Assignment:** We have two requests of you this summer: We would like you to **visit** a farm, garden, urban garden, or Farmers Market near where you live. Please enjoy the experience, learn a little about the farm, farmers or garden project that you visited. Please write a one-page paper describing your experience. If there aren’t any of those places around where you live, then please write a one-page paper about one of those places that you would **like** to see around where you live. This will be turned in the first week of class. If you have any questions regarding the reading or writing prompt please feel free to shoot us an email. The second assignment is to send an email to me (my email can be found below) with a short introduction and a bit of information about yourself. Please send that email to me by the 15\(^{\text{th}}\) of September.

Lastly, we would just love to tell you how excited we are to meet you. There is so much to do around Eugene and on the University Campus we cannot wait to help you explore it all. We want to learn more about you as soon as possible so that we can jump right in when we finally meet. You can request to add me on Facebook where we will soon post a group for our FIG. Please email me as soon as possible! Have a great summer and GO Ducks!

Sincerely,

Hannah Muller- [hmuller@uoregon.edu](mailto:hmuller@uoregon.edu)

Harper Keeler- [hkeeler@uoregon.edu](mailto:hkeeler@uoregon.edu)