Dear World within Us FIG student,

First and foremost, welcome to the University of Oregon! I’m Christina Robert, and I’m very excited to be your Freshman Interest Group Assistant for this fall. Together we’ll be exploring world cultures through ANTH 161, and how people are shaped by their personal choices and their societies in PSY 202. We will also be in a College Connections course, which will help to ease your transition into a new school and make college a little less mysterious.

I am a senior from sunny California, and am a Psychology major and Women and Gender Studies minor. I was part of the Oregon Marching Band, and love playing music--anytime, anywhere! I am a huge fan of dogs, sunflowers, poetry, Elvis Presley, and baking. On campus, I am involved in First-Year Programs, the ASL department, the Psychology Research Lab, and everyday fun activities the UO has to offer. If you are interested in any of the above activities as well as any you will find on campus, please do not hesitate to let me know! Getting involved on campus is a great way to really dive into the college scene. And now, back to FIG business!

Dr. Baxter will be your FIG professor; she is teaching your Anthropology class as well as our College Connections class. Dr. Baxter has a master's degree in Clinical Psychology and a PhD in Anthropology, and believes that Anthropology and Psychology are an excellent combination for understanding people and the ways in which culture impacts individuals. Dr. Baxter’s focus is on the Middle East, mainly in Israel and Palestine. She has written an article entitled: "Idealized and Devalued: Images of Identity among Palestinians in West Bank Refugee Camps", which is published in the CORI (Committee on Refugees & Immigrants) volume. She has had many years of experience in her field, and is a very valuable and knowledgeable resource for Anthropological studies.

Our FIG is a combination of Psychology and Anthropology, and will meet once a week in our College Connections class to discuss the two. We will also be having adventures outside the classroom! Dr. Baxter and I will be planning social events(some of which may include movie nights, dinner together, and even a trip or two to Prince Puckler’s Ice cream!) as well as study groups to clear up any potential questions you may have and solidify the information we’ll be learning.

The first time our FIG will meet will be at the Week of Welcome Meeting on Friday, September 21, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. in Columbia 150(Mark your calendars, ladies and gentlemen!). We will also be attending University Convocation on Sunday, September 23rd, 2012, and will go as a group. One more important thing to note: please bring your student handbooks, as they will be very helpful throughout the term!

There is a small amount of reading assigned to you for summer. Before you come to our first FIG class, Dr. Baxter has requested that you read “The Nacirema”. Here is the online link to the article.
All in all, we are looking forward to an awesome fall quarter with you and would like to get to know you even before we meet. My e-mail is crobert@uoregon.edu, feel free to email me with any questions about college, the FIG, or just to say hello and let me know you received this letter! Thank you, have a wonderful rest of your summer, and we will see you soon! GO DUCKS!

Best,

Christina Robert and Dr.Baxter