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Emma's Blog

Emma from Los Angeles, California - (September 30, 2007)

The Greatest First Two Weeks.

What I find so hard to believe is that for someone who has had the travel bug since junior high, I found it so hard to leave home. It wasn't just leaving my family and friends, but also leaving southern California. I didn't think goodbyes were going to be that bad until the moment that I said goodbye to my brother, Roberto. I think that is when I truly realized I'm no little girl anymore; I'm not living with my siblings or my parents.

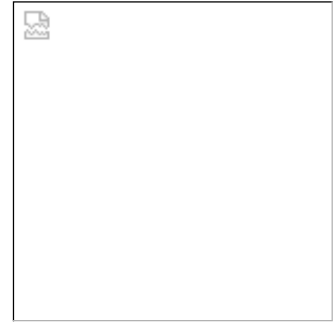
My biggest fear coming to OSU was that I would inevitably be consumed by culture shock. I won't lie; Oregon is different than Los Angeles in many ways. It is a predominantly Caucasian population, we can't pump our own gas, it rains a lot, and it could get pretty cold. But to concentrate on things like that would totally upset the whole college experience. I have always strived to see the positive things in life and I can honestly say that so far the positive things have more than drowned out the negative.

First off, I have the best roommate imaginable because I used the Roommate Matching Network. Our mother couldn't believe how much Many and myself had in common. We now say that we are just "sisters from very similar mothers" or that I am the shorter Mexican version of her. Secondly, it doesn't matter what your ethnic background is or what part of the world you are from, Oregonians are just so friendly and helpful!

It has already been two weeks since I have moved in and I can't believe how fast time is flying. If there is anything I have learned while being here it is that it doesn't matter what time of day it is, there is always something to do on campus. I had been in Oregon for less than four days and I had already gone on a day hike/river rafting trip with fellow classmates as part of the FOOTSTEPS/Odyssey class offered to first year students. That trip was so much fun! I got to explore the Oregon outdoors and meet some amazing people who also attend OSU in the process. After that trip, things just got even better. There was a giant picnic for the 2011 class that consisted of food, games, music and informational booths. The rest of the week was also filled with other activities associated with CONNECT week.

The first weeks of classes were a bit confusing because I was unfamiliar with the campus. However, I was not the only one holding a map to my face. The classes are a bit challenging but there are so many ways to get help that it seems somewhat impossible to actually fail the classes. And to top off the end of the week, I went to my very first college football game against one of my hometown teams, UCLA. I went with a bunch of people from my floor and we got all decked out in OSU t-shirts and face tattoos that said 'OSU Beavers'. It rained on us but no one really noticed because of all the screaming and jumping. Although we lost, horribly, the game was so much fun and I'm proud to say that I stayed till the very end.

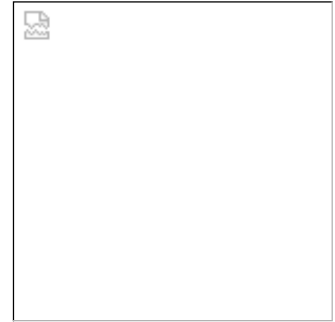
I guess that had to be the cherry on top of a great first two weeks at OSU. Much of what I feared was just that, fear. By just jumping in and getting involved I have found that my transition to OSU had been greater than I ever imagined. I can't say that I don't miss my mother (I really miss her!) and the rest of my family because I do. But I know that they are behind me one hundred percent and that means more to me than anything. So with the support of my family and the OSU community, friends I met during FOOTSTEPS, an amazing roommate, very cool dorm neighbors and a smile on my face- I know I can say I'm definitely ready for OSU. As cheesy as it is to end things with a quote, I can't help to write this because I remember this every



day, "I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it."-Maya Angelou

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Emma's Blog



Emma from Los Angeles, California - (October 7, 2007)

Time Management

I can't believe midterms are all ready here! This term is going so fast. We get midterms every 3rd and I think 6th week. A midterm is just one of those things that just sneaks up on you and if you're not ready, then it will totally bite you in the butt.

I've learned something wonderful this past week, time management! College is way different then high school in that there is just so much free time before, between and after classes. Everyone needs to learn how to utilize the time that is given to them. I learned it the hard way because I left my math homework until the last minute. This wonderfully poor decision left me and two other friends (we were all in the same class) locked in one of the Callahan study lounge's doing homework until the wee hours of the morning. I can honestly say that I never want to do that again. I was so sleepy the next day and the lack of sleep was not even worth it. The homework wasn't that hard, we just didn't do it. I personally am really bad at math but there is just so many ways to get help. However, since I waited to the last minute, I didn't get the help I needed when I needed it.

Now I'm still somewhat paying for my laziness because midterms are this week and I have not fully caught up in some of my classes. Can anyone say stressful?! Although I know I'm little stressed, I'm not complaining since I know I brought this upon myself. But since that night, I have improved my study habits and I'm learning to manage my time better. Doing homework in my room is way to distracting so I decided to continue doing work in the study lounge. So far, so good!

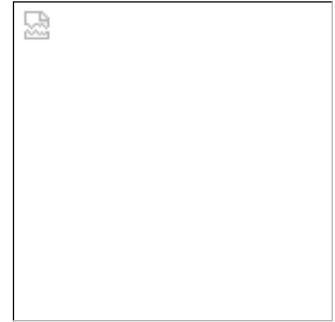
I just need to remember to stay on top off my classes. They are so much easier when I know exactly what's going on... I think I will just be happy when this week is over and I have my first set of midterms out of the way. Well, I need to study for bio. Wish me luck!

Oh and the Beavers won their home football game yesterday; 31-16!

Go Beavs!!!

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Emma's Blog



Emma from Los Angeles, California - (October 14, 2007)

I must admit that this week has been one of the most stressful, yet, one of best weeks ever!!

Okay, so I had my first midterm this week and I was angry because I stressed out so much when the exam was not even that hard. It was my biology midterm and since I work better under pressure, I somewhat crammed before the exam (although I don't recommend it). That whole experience goes under the same learning lesson of last week which is time management. Don't cram! As for this week, I have two midterms and I am really nervous about my math exam. I'm pretty confident that I will do well in Chemistry because I have an excellent professor but I'm not as confident about my math skills. I have been attending a math study table at the library to help myself understand the math concepts better and it has paid off, however, I'm still nervous. Even though many are stressing over midterms, I think it is really important to get your mind away from all that chaos. Yes, I know have to study and I do, but it is also important to give yourself a break; to relax and not overstress yourself. I mean, I still have four years! Why burn myself out in the first? I don't like to think of midterms as MIDTERMS, I'd much rather say test because it doesn't sound as daunting. I guess it's a psychological thing.

As for the best part of the week that I mentioned earlier, it all started right after my bio midterm on Tuesday night. I wanted to celebrate the fact that I had just completed my first *big college midterm* which I had finished around 8 o'clock at night. When I got back to the dorm I was beyond hyper and felt so relieved/happy that I didn't want to stay indoors. Given that I'm in Oregon, it was no surprise that it started to rain hard that night. Do you think that stopped my friends and I? NO! Leina, Sam, Kyle and I decided to take a casual walk in the rain. That 'casual walk' turned into a rain-puddle war and then escalated even further into an all out wrestling brawl in the grassy field across from McNary. It was the middle of the night, my friends and I were drenched from head to toe (all of us in flip-flops and no sweaters), and if a cop had seen us, he would have assumed that we were a bunch of drunken college students. In all reality, it looked like that, but we were having soooo much fun just enjoying the rain, each other's company and just embracing life. It was nice to get away from the stresses of school and to let the little kid in all of us just have some fun. You can only imagine how difficult it was to explain ourselves to all those people whose mouths dropped and eyes bulged out at the sight of us. While we were running around in the field, a guy stopped us and said "hey, it's raining!" we just looked up to the sky, smiled, and yelled "REALLY?!?"

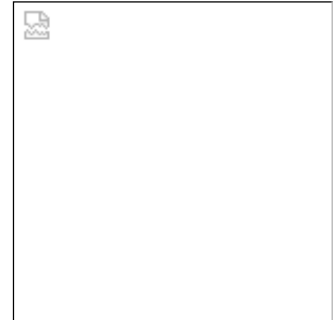
From there the week just got better; I'm now working at the McNary Service Center which means I have a job working 10 hours a week as part of work study and will soon come into some money. I think I am joining horse polo (I'll fill you in on that next week), and OSU won its away football game.

Overall, it has been a good week. I'm getting anxious for my last two midterms but I'm defiantly learning how to minimize the stress and maximize the productivity in school. Well...at least I think I am. haha

Well, wish me luck on my last midterms cause I'm going to need it! I need to do other homework before I go to work. Bye!

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Emma's Blog



Emma from Los Angeles, California - (October 29, 2007)

Not much has happened since the last blog. I have been studying for my second Bio midterm (which I am terrified about) and I'm just trying to figure out what I'm going to be for Halloween. It is soon approaching and I don't have a costume! I talked to my mom and she said that she would send me up my uniform from high school; I think I'm going to be a school girl...but then again I just found out I work that night. There is a big Halloween dance party in the Lounge of Callahan on Halloween night. I want to celebrate...but I work! My anger soon subsided, however, when one of my supervisors, Joe, let me have a leftover pumpkin. He knew I missed the carving contest that was in McNary so he let me carve a free one. But I couldn't find the carving tools. So...as of right now, there is a dirty noon-carved pumpkin sitting in the hall, right outside my dorm room.

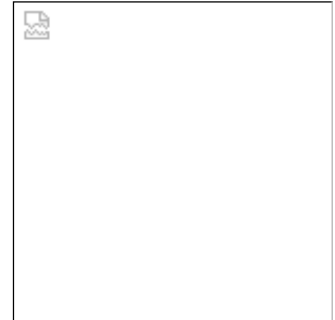
On Friday night when I was working at Main Squeeze, the Multicultural Community Intern (MCI) group was putting on a Dia De Los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, activity. They had pan dulce (sweet bread), chocolate Mexicana, candies, an altar and they gave us the opportunity to make sugar skulls and paint are faces. Since Main Squeeze was not that busy on Friday night I decided to use my time wisely and so I made two sugar skulls. They got locked in the store at closing time and were dumped the next morning; so much for all that hard work haha... although I had fun making them. Getting involved in that activity has made me realize how much a miss some of the culture I used to be around back home. I decided that I am going to check out the Cesar Chavez Cultural Center this week. I want to get involved in the multicultural activities around campus. I'll tell you how that goes.

The last couple of days have been so beautiful. The sun has been shining and there has been a breeze. I realized that I am getting used to Oregon weather because when I was at the football game against Stanford (which we won!!) the sun was hitting the student section and I thought it was soo hot. Little did I realize that if I think this weather is warm, then I'm in for a treat when I go back down to LA for the summer. Speaking of LA, I talked to my friends who are still in California and all of their voices sounded horrible because of all the fires that are devastating California. Apparently the air is way worse now; one of my friend's family members had to be evacuated from San Diego. I'm somewhat happy that I'm not down there but I still hope for the best for all the evacuees.

I know last week I was really stressed out and I still am somewhat but I think I found somewhat of an outlet. Yesterday after noon I went horseback riding with one of the girls from the polo team. She was teaching me how to post, but the day was so nice and the sun felt so good, that I just relaxed to much. For a good two hours I was worry free. Getting inloved for polo was a good thing and I'm happy I'm doing it. Even though I'm doing polo, I still hope this week is a little better then last.

Wait... it should because its Halloween!!!!!! I need to study now. Peace!

Emma's Blog



Emma from Los Angeles, California - (November 21, 2007)

I feel bad that I have not written a blog in so long. I think the last time I sat down to type was around Halloween. Which was fun by the way; I saw some really good/creative costumes this year....that's all I'm going to say...

It has been pretty crazy these last couple of weeks. I have been stressed but also having a good time. I was freaking out last week because I had a Bio lab due and a midterm and I barely studied for, all in the same day. I didn't do too great on the midterm but my professor drops the lowest grade which makes me happy. Speaking of classes, I had to register for Winter term this week. Talk about a pain in the butt! Based on how many credits, there is a designated time in which students can register. Every term we have to meet with our advisor before registering for classes. I sometimes don't like going to my advisor because if I try to ask her a question she will not give me a direct answer, rather, she will give me a resource like a website and have me find it on my own. This gets me sooo frustrated!! Sometimes I just want a straight answer. Next term I am taking math, chemistry and biology. My schedule is almost the same as last term except for two 1-credit class I am not taking. My advisor wanted me to take another Bacc Core class but she did not recommend one. All she told me was to find a 100 level class to take so that my schedule is not too crazy. However, there are not that many 100 level classes and I was getting really frustrated. It was between a fitness class, an ethics class, or an anthropology class. I have heard from other people that the intro anthropology class is not that great which makes me mad; I want to minor in cultural anthropology but I don't want to waste money on an elective class that sucks. As for the fitness class, almost everyone is already waitlisted. I guess we shall see what I decided to do.

Nothing much has been going on. Two weekends ago was Dad's weekend and so many people had their dads with them. I guess in the spirit of the weekend I was a little sad given that my dad couldn't come up (too expensive). It was nice to see all the stuff that students were doing with their dads like the comedy show. A lot of my friends had a good time with their fathers. As for me and a few other people who didn't have dads around, we referred to ourselves as orphans and decided to watch movies and chow down on food back at the dorms. It was comforting to be with other people who didn't have their dads present. Although by Sunday morning, I really started to miss my dad; I have not talked to him in a long time. However all those feelings sooo subsided because I knew that my mom was coming up this weekend. What can I say; I was beyond excited to see my mom. Ask anyone on my floor hall and they would tell you how I counted down the days until my mom arrived. Anytime I talked to my friends I would jump up and down screaming that my mommy was coming (and yes I used the word mommy). She had a business meeting in Portland during the week and decided to extend her stay so she could spend time with me. Last Friday we went to a Mexican food restaurant on 9th street which was pretty good and then saw the movie Across the Universe. The movie is a musical that plays nothing but Beatles songs' which was perfect for my mom and me because we both love the Beatles. I stayed the night with her and then the next morning we went to downtown Portland to do a little exploring. It was my first time in Portland and I love it there. The city is beautiful and it reminded me of home. While there, we went to the Saturday market which was a cool little outside market that sold all kinds of clothes/ arts and crafts. Later in the day we met up with a few of my friends who were also in Portland for the weekend. My mom met a lot of my friends and she seems to have enjoyed herself. I was just happy that I got to see her since it had been so long since I had seen her, we had a lot of catching up. My mom's flight was

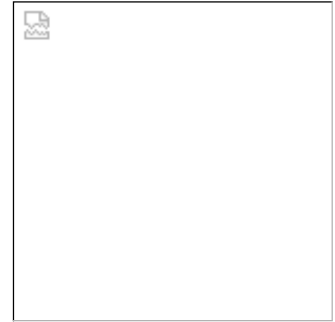
at night so after she left, I went to my friend Leina's house in Gresham which is east of Portland. Her mother had a lot of friends over and we had a big family dinner. It was really nice to have a home cooked meal, especially since I have officially become a poor college student. I have only received one paycheck so far and all my accounts are drained. I must admit that it sucks not having a whole lot of money. Good thing I still have money on my student ID card.

As for this weekend, I will be flying home for Thanksgiving and I could not be happier. The weather is getting colder here and although I 'm getting pretty used it, I think I prefer the 70's-80's degree weather to the 50 degree weather we are having up here. It's nice and all but its starting to get a little more glooming and I'm starting to pale. I like my tan! Plus I can't wait to see my family. Thanksgiving is always at my house and my mom's side of the family always comes over. Talk about a good time under one roof. There is lots of food, music, fames, laughter and occasional drama. My flight is Thanksgiving morning and since many of the dorms on campus close on Wed. night, I had to make arrangements to stay at my friend Anisia's house in Portland. But all in all everything is taken care of and I will be home in two days. When I get back to campus it will be nothing but hardcore studying during dead week and then finals! Gosh that small but quite intimidating word. Hope everyone stuffs themselves silly with turkey (or tofu turkey), stuffing, mash potatoes and gravy. It's gonna be a great Thanksgiving.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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Emma's Blog



Emma from Los Angeles, California - (December 8, 2007)

I can't believe that the holiday season is already here...Thanksgiving was great. I loved seeing my family again but I didn't feel like I could relax. I ironically didn't rest until I actually got back to my dorm. But still, the vacation was good.

These last few weeks have been crazy. Everyone has been on an emotional rollercoaster because of Dead week and finals. If you are unfamiliar with dead week, it is the week right before finals where the professors are not allowed to assign any new assignments, it's all review, and all the halls extend their quite time hours to 22 hours. It's nice for those who are studying but I must say its sucks for everyone else. The R.A. will get on you for making the smallest amount of noise. Still, I was surprise d with how much studying I was able to get accomplished in my own room. As I have said before, my procrastination has been getting the best of me and I had to finish all of my chemistry owl assignments by the day before my finals. That is 113 assignments for the whole term and I was not even 50% done with them by the time dead week rolled around. It is no surprise that not that many people saw me during dead week because I locked myself in my room and did the assignments. But that also meant I had less time to study; I don't think I did the best on my biology final...

Like I had said earlier, everyone was on an emotional rollercoaster. First everyone is angry because finals are coming up, then they get nervous cause finals are approaching faster than expected and then comes the stressed time during finals (that also includes cramming) and then for those who think they did good on their finals-there are happy while others are sad at the outcome of their finals. And lastly everyone is just giddy to go home for a whole month!

As for myself, I had three finals and I went through all of these stages but I had mixed emotions about the end of the term. I'm happy it's over and that I get to go home but at the same time, a couple of my friends aren't coming back to OSU next term and that makes me sad. I might not see them again and that sucks; but we did have some good times during the year.

So the first term is finally over at OSU and I couldn't be happier. Christmas is coming and I got excited when I went down to McNary and they were playing Christmas music everyone had the opportunity to make gingerbread houses. To top it off, the other day it was so cold in Corvallis that I saw some rain attempting be snow! I hope it snows this year because I have never seen falling snow.

As for the end of finals, everyone had been packing up and leaving since Tuesday. I was the last one on my hall floor to leave. My flight was not till Saturday and so I got permission to stay in the hall one extra day until my flight. Everyone went home but like two others. I must say that Callahan is a very creepy place when no one is there. I felt so alone haha.... It was an interesting experience but I'm glad I'm not there by myself anymore. My R.A. Aaron suggested that we toss around the Frisbee last night while I was packing. So I spent my last night in the field of Callahan learning how to throw and catch a Frisbee. It was fun and it was a nice night.

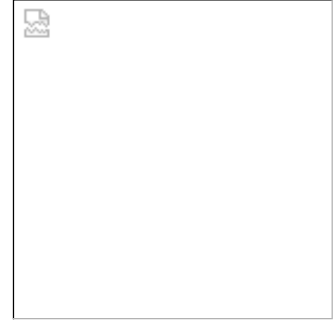
Right now I am actually in the airport waiting for my flight. I woke up at 6 to catch the 7 o'clock hut shuttle, which is a shuttle that picks OSU students up at the bookstore and takes them to the airport. It's a two and a

half hour ride to the airport from Corvallis so I got to sleep. This morning is actually one of the most beautiful mornings I have seen in a while. As the sun came up, there were no clouds in sight. It's cold in Portland but there are still no clouds and the sun is shining so bright. There is a Pacific Islander singing and playing the guitar right now next to the café and he is really good. He plays a range of stuff from Hawaiian songs to Simon and Garfunkel. I love listening to him!

I can't wait till I get back to LA. I can't wait to see friends, family, decorate the house and Christmas tree; get a tan but more importantly to rest! Next term is going to be busier than the fall term but all I can say is bring it on! Hope everyone has a good holiday and New Year!...I need to board my flight for... HOME.

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Emma's Blog



Emma from Los Angeles, California - (January 17, 2008)

Winter term is here!!!! I hope everyone had a good, restful, amazing winter break; I know I did. Southern Cali was warm and I finally got some color back in my skin. I went to Disneyland with my cousin, to the beach and a reggae club with my friends and worked at a Hello Kitty store that my friend's mom manages. It was good times with good friends and family but I guess it's time to get back into the swing of things. I've only been here about a week and a half but with the load of new classes and colder weather, I can already tell it's going to be a busy term. The biggest news coming back to the dorms was that we now have towel dispensers in the bathroom; I guess it doesn't take much to make a college student happy. The other "news" was that there was a break out of norovirus infection on campus. Because of this, all of the food and dining places have been taking extra precautions around salads bars and pre-wrapped bagels. Let's just say everyone became more of a paranoid germaphobe last week. Every time someone got sick, they assumed the worst! Haha But since last week's cases, no new cases have been reported so everything is getting back to normal.

Coming back to OSU, everyone was excited to see friends and I was just stoked to be back in my dorm. I guess I never thought I would be excited to get back to my dorm bed but the past month had just not been the same at home. There is a certain amount of space you get used to in the dorms and when I went back home, I found it hard to balance that space between the rest of my family. Don't get me wrong, I LOVED going back home and spending time with everyone , but I couldn't wait to sleep in my own dorm.

The one thing I do miss, though, is the California weather. In Corvallis the average right now is high 30 degrees to about mid 40 degrees; it's cold! However this weather did pay off last week when it snowed on campus on night. I had never been in falling snow and although it wasn't that much snow, it was amazing! Everyone who was used to the snow was annoyed while others from like California and Hawai'i were running around outside, scooping up snow from cars and having snowball fights. The snow didn't last through the night but the pictures did!

In term of class schedules, I have almost the same schedule (bio, chem, and math) but I am taking an anthropology class that I am really excited about. I love to travel and learn about different cultures so I guess the class is less work and more fun for me. So far I'm doing pretty well. Some of my friends always make me do homework with them so it's helped me keep up with all my classes and I signed up for EOP (Equal Opportunities Program) which offers EOP classes and free tutoring among other things to students in the program. I have been so busy with meetings, class, work and homework that I really haven't had time to relax; resulting in a feeling that this week will never end! However, it's Thursday which means the week's almost over and my birthday is this weekend! I'm going to be a big 1-9. It's a three day weekend and most of my friends are leaving. I got sad about that, but my friend Rachael invited me to her house to celebrate both of our birthdays so I don't spend it alone. So many people are going home or snowboarding in the mountains so who knows what I'm going to do...As for polo, I decided not to do it this term because I didn't have enough money for everything and I couldn't dedicate enough time to it. I miss it but it's also a relief since I now have free Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights. Instead my friends and I signed up for the membership at the Craft Center. We just had a ceramics orientation and can go in there whenever we want to play with clay. They also have a black room for photography, wood work, making t-shirts, and glass work areas. It's pretty

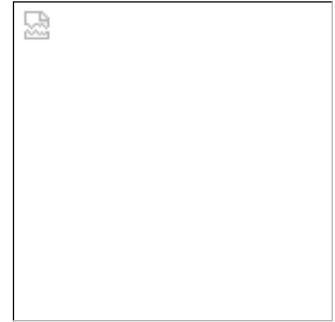
cool and every one is really nice there.

Well I guess that it for right now, the dorm is getting loud which means people are getting done with classes.
Time to socialize!!!!.....oh yeah...and do work ;)

Happy early birthday to me and happy early MLK Jr.weekend!

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Emma's Blog



Emma from Los Angeles, California - (January 25, 2008)

Hello everyone!! Okay well not much has been going on this week. My weekend was a lot of fun! Although I didn't spend my birthday weekend with a bunch of my friends, I did go to my friend Rachael's house where we celebrated our birthdays together. I can't even start to explain how meeting her family went. Her mom is so chill and nice and although her brother is younger than she is, he still is very protective of her. I'm not a smoker, but she is and so is all of her family so I smelled like cigarettes the whole weekend but it was okay! She lived in Beaverton and showed me around town. So far I have been to Albany, Eugene, Salem, Beaverton, Aloha, Gresham and Portland. I like venturing out of Corvallis once in a while because it's good to become familiar with Oregon especially if you are not a resident. So overall it was a good three day weekend but I was so tired by the time Tuesday came around. I still have not caught up in sleep and I am looking forward for tomorrow because that means I can sleep after all my classes.

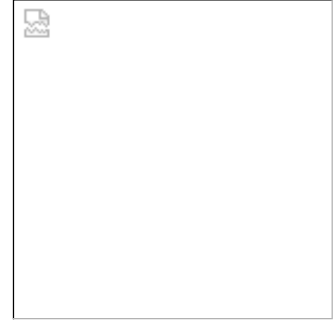
As for this week, it hasn't been too bad. Midterms are next week and I know I'm going to have to study but I'm trying not to stress out about it. As for the weather, it has been freezing but it has been so dry that it hasn't been able to snow. However, it snowed today!!! We actually got almost a good inch (for those of you who live in snow, I know it's not much but for me it is....) Everyone was surprised that it actually stuck to the ground and by the time 6 o'clock rolled around, everything was covered in white powder. My R.A. Aaron, Braxton, Cherrie and myself all ran out and played in the snow for a good half hour. We had snow ball fights, made snow angles and a little snow man. I then managed to lose my phone but Cherrie found it a couple of minutes later. My clothes were drenched, I was freezing and my hair was wet but that didn't stop me from having fun. There is still snow on the found but I think it's gonna freeze over by morning...

Earlier today I had to go to Kerr Administration to sort out a charge that was made to my account that my mom was unsure about. It turns out that because I have 17 credits instead of 16, I get a extra charge because I'm an out of state resident. How lame is that?! After that, I had my first counseling meeting at EOP. I love the people there; they are so nice and friendly and have an amazing sense of humor. I might sign up for private tutoring through EOP and I got a list of Scholarships that I need to look through to see if I apply. Other than that, nothing is really new. Tomorrow I'm going to the Gymnastics competition and then on Saturday I might go to the OSU basketball game. Our boy's basketball team isn't that great this year but they are playing UCLA.

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Emma's Blog

Emma from Los Angeles, California - (March 21, 2008)



Well, I'm sitting in the airport again. It's the end of another term but this time instead of going to Los Angeles, I'm going to San Francisco to spend time with my aunt my uncle and my little cousins that I adore. My mom and brother are coming up with another aunt and my cousin Sam. I can't wait to get there; I miss them so much. Don't get me wrong, I really love going to Corvallis but this whole seeing them three times a year thing sucks. Also, Corvallis is such a small college town. It's nice but for someone who is used the city and suburbs, I get bored sometimes. That's why I can't wait to go shopping in San Francisco. In downtown San Francisco there is a three story Forever 21!

As for the end of winter term, I think I did okay. I started out finals pretty good but I'm not exactly sure how I did on my last two. My friend and I needed the math final in order to pass the class so I won't find out my grade till next week.

Oh! I decided that next year I'm living in Azalea Co-op. When I went to dinner at the co-op I was really hesitant but the girls were really nice and welcoming and told me a lot about the co-op. I got a really good vibe from them, plus, I love the house. I really don't know how I'm going to like it next year. I'm so used to living with guys (I have two brothers and no sisters). But the more and more I think about it, the more excited I get. I don't know if I'm going to enjoy the giant sleeping porches and the personal wake up service (alarms aren't allowed in some of the co-ops so someone comes a wakes you up when you want). But like with everything at OSU I refuse to not try something based on first impressions. Plus, a lot of my friends said they would come and have dinner with me at the co-op and I mean it's not like I'm never going to be going out with my friends.

I also applied for housing in Azalea for next year. I got to pick a room and I picked one that faces the south side because my dorm room gets a lot of sun on the south side and that's the way I like it; I'm trying to get as much sun as possible. It think I will be having 3 other roommates but the rooms are for studying and putting clothes so I don't think it will be a big deal.

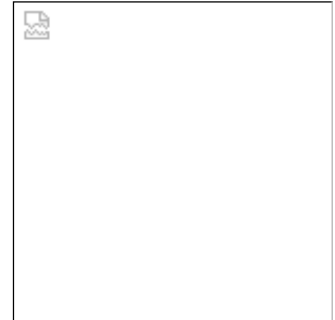
Well, I know this blogs is short but I'm about to board my flight!

I'll tell you about my spring break when I get back to school.

Hope everyone has a good spring break!

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Emma's Blog



Emma from Los Angeles, California - (April 1, 2008)

Hi everyone!

Hope everyone's spring break was great. I know I had a blast. There were some days where my cousin and I were couch potatoes but as long as I got to relax and be with family, I didn't mind. My aunt lives in Vallejo which is less than an hour away from the city. A couple of days my cousin and I took the BART (metro/subway line) into downtown S.F.. We shopped in downtown; we took the trolley to Fishermen's wharf, and went to China Town. It was the first time my cousin and I went on the BART by ourselves and we must be special because we managed to get on the wrong line when we were coming back and ended up in a completely different area then where my aunt had to pick us up. But we realized what we did wrong and it never happened again. There were also days when my Aunt Yolie took my cousins and me to Berkeley just to chill and we also went on little drives here and there. My aunt and uncle were redoing the kitchen so it was pretty crazy at the house. They had been sleeping in their RV for a month because of the renovations but by the time we got to Vallejo, they were already back in the house, but still trying to get things organized. I didn't mind helping around the house.

I also knew that a couple of my friends from OSU were in S.F. for the break. It was funny learning later that many times during certain days we were in the same area of S.F. but we just never met up^{ed}. To top of the relaxing week, we had amazing warm weather. What more could I ask for?

Coming back to OSU was a little hard. I love the bay area and I didn't want to say bye to all my family again. But it's only for two months and spring is here which means the weather will improve...I hope. Last term ended good and bad. I got good grades in all the classes I thought I would and passed my math class which I hoped I would. However, I didn't do so great in Bio and that complete caught me off guard. I need to talk to my advisor to see if I need to retake the class; technically I passed the class but since the class is a part of my major I need to get a certain grade or above. I didn't want to tell my parents (but since I put it in this blog I'm pretty sure they know now). I heard that out of the 3 classes I'm taking this year, last term was the hardest. I'm taking bio 213 right now and this stuff seems easy to me. Maybe I'm just more excited about the class; this term is on genetics, evolution and ecology.

This term I'm also taking Chem 124 and Math 251(differential Calculus) and Writing 121. As usual I'm not worried about the Chem class. I'm scared for math because I have never taken calculus but the class I'm in has only 35 students and so I feel much more comfortable in the small class setting. Plus, I like the instructor that I have.

As for the writing class, I have never been comfortable with my writing abilities but I do like the instructor and the reading we have to do. We are learning Rhetoric at the moment and we are reading Martin Luther King Jr.'s Letter From Birmingham Jail. It's an excellent example of Rhetorical writing but the message within the letter is powerful. For our first assignment we have to analyze a Rhetorical writing or we can analyze another work of art such as an advertisement or a painting. I was thinking of doing a painting that my

Spanish teaching explained to us in high school. I asked my instructor, she said as long as I can give some background information about what was going on in the world during the time it was painted and if I could explain any political/emotional message then it would be okay. I'm not sure if I will do this but I'm getting excited over the idea.

As for things not associated with academics, my friends and I decided we were going to do kickboxing classes at Dixon this term. They are Mondays and Wednesdays and so far it's a lot of fun. My girl friends and I have a big workout schedule-Mondays is kickboxing, Tuesdays is most likely running(or bike riding), Wednesdays is kickboxing again, Thursdays is swimming, and Friday we are unsure about. That last two days we had amazing weather so going to Dixon seemed like no big deal but now that we are in rainy overcast again a need a little motivation to go to Dixon. My friends and I are also trying to plan some camping trips and river rafting trips. I hope we can do all the stuff we want.

I'm also going to be applying for a job with housing and dining services. I want to be an Ambassador and part of the job is giving housing tours to prospective students and their families. My boss has encouraged it but I really want to do it now. I hope I get it!

Well, it's been a good first week and I hope it stays that way. I can't even believe that there is only three more months until this year is over. It has gone way to fast! But as my aunt Yolie and grandfather have told me, everyday you just need to stop whatever enjoyment you're having and appreciate it; just look around, take it in and enjoy life. That's exactly what I'm doing right now.

Well, it's a Friday and I got stuff to do and people to see!

Bye for now!

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Emma's Blog



Emma from Los Angeles, California - (April 15, 2008)

This past week had been a bit busy. Last week I applied for a position as a Department of University Housing and Dining Services tour ambassador. Basically, I would have to give housing and dining tours to prospective students and tell them about my experiences of living on campus. My boss at UHDS had bugged me to do it for the longest time. And the more I learned about it, the more I was interested in doing it. The only thing is that you have to have a certain cumulative GPA in order to be a tour ambassador and at this moment I'm .10 below the minimum. My boss told me that as long as I can get a 3.0 or better during my last term then I should be fine. I'm a bit worried because I haven't been able to get a 3.0 all year(I've never had below a 3.0 until I got to college) but I'm pushing myself this term because I would love to work as a tour ambassador. I hope I get the position so keep your fingers crossed!

Also, since I'm on the zoology mailing list on campus, the e-mail us about internship, job and volunteer opportunities for zoology majors. This past e-mail had an internship/volunteer work for the place called Brad's Reptile world. It is a place that does educational programs, conservational work and has a facility where people can go and look at different reptiles and some exotic birds. My friend Louis loves reptiles and I thought it would be a perfect place for me to get experience. But since Raul, Louis and I are all zoology majors we decided we would all go together. I e-mail the facility and Louis called. We both talked to a guy named Mark who was ecstatic to here from us. This Friday Mark is going to get someone to pick us up so that we can check out the place and also talk to the people that work there. I'm soo excited to go! If we are able to volunteer there then it will be excellent hands on experience for us. I hope something will come from the visit.

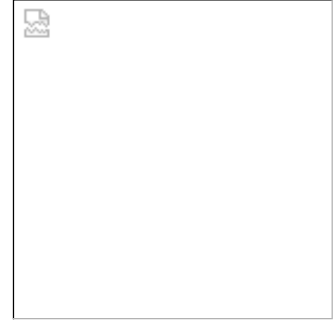
This past weekend the weather was amazing! It hit 76 degrees :D My friends and I bought water balloons and decided to have some fun in the sun. We had water balloon fights and threw around the football, soccer and Frisbee all at the same time. Everyone was outside enjoying the sun while it lasted. After a while I thought it was pretty hot, which gets me worried about how I'll react when I get back home to the 90 degree weather during the summers of Los Angeles. But that's not for another two months. A lot of people also went to the baseball games against Stanford. I have yet to go to an OSU baseball game but I plan to do it next weekend. I can hear the crowds cheering and screaming from my dorm room sometimes; it sounds like fun.

Other than that, it has been school, work and study. Next week is already midterms. Can you believe it, midterms! It always sneaks up on me. I never know what to do. I want to study but my friend Beto who left OSU after first term has come to visit and my friends and I are going to see him this weekend to catch up. Also, one of the Halls is celebrating its 60th anniversary and is having a dance party dinner thing that a couple of my friends want to go to. I'm not sure if I'm going to go, but it sounds like fun. We'll see what happened for the rest of week.

Hope everyone has a good week! I got to call my mom up and wish her a happy birthday/tax day!

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Emma's Blog



Emma from Los Angeles, California - (April 22, 2008)

Happy Earth Day!!!

It's earth week so there are a lot of events going on right now in the MU quad. Every day is something different but it all pertains to conservation, sustainability and environment awareness which is awesome. I can't wait to see what's happening tomorrow.

So first off, the reptile place I mentioned in the last blog is actually called Brad's World Reptiles. Secondly, I went with my friends to visit the facility and it was so awesome! It's not really what I expected because it's on Brads property. It consists of his house, a barn for storage, the basement where everyone checks in, a trailer where the food is kept, another trailer where many of the lizards and amphibians are kept and then the other one story that holds a lot of the snakes, alligators, lizards, and turtles; they even have a couple of birds. I have never seen so many snakes in my life! Right when you walk in, there are large cages with iguanas and to the left there is a large King Cobra and an albino Cobra that is super aggressive. The first time we were there, it was just so overwhelming how many animals we actually saw. We talked to Mark who is in charge when Brad's not around and he is really laid back. After he showed us around, he asked if we were still interested in volunteering and we all said hell yes! So as of now, I am interning at Brad's World Reptiles. I never thought I would be working with reptiles. I have never own one as a pet; however, it's an awesome place and they are willing to teach us as we go along.

The first day of interning was Saturday. The first thing I did was sort out all of the produce that they feed the animals. Then I clean several Leopard Gecko cages and put half logs in some snake cages that needed them. Raul and I had to clean the snapper turtle pool, and the snapper turtle is pretty large. The pool is located on the side inside the same room as the tortoise turtles. All of the turtles were trying to run of the door so we had to keep pushing them back until we were done cleaning. They were so heavy and I was having a pushing contest between one of them; all in a day's work, right? Louis had the more adventurous chore of cleaning the alligator pools and the green tree python cages. They are beautiful but a few were pretty angry with Louis so we were all on our toes during that that hour. Next week we are going to be taking pictures for a board that they have of all the staff and volunteers. We have to have an animal with us in the picture. I really want to hold Jose which is the largest alligator (he's not that big), but I'm not sure if they'll let me. I can't wait until next Saturday! The only thing that made working hard was the unusual hail/snow we had that day. That's right; we had snow and hail in the middle of April. Other than that, it was okay.

As for the rest of the week, I had a midterm yesterday night in biology which I think I did okay on. Thursday I have one in Chemistry which I still need to study for. Oh, I also found out that I have an interview for the tour Ambassadors next Tuesday. I just need to find something appropriate to wear for the interview.

This weekend is the 53rd Annual Hui O Hawaii Luau at Gill Coliseum and I'm really excited about that because I know a lot of Hawaiians who are participating in the Luau. The ticket covers the dinner, show and concert and I know it's going to be a lot of fun! Well I have to do homework before I go to work. Peace out!

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Emma's Blog

Emma from Los Angeles, California - (May 2, 2008)



The weekend before last was really cold. It rained, snowed and hailed. It was so cold in my dorm because my heater doesn't work; however, I went to the UHDS website and submitted a "Fix my Room" request. I am now happy to say that the heater is working and I am no longer freezing my butt off. "Fix my Room" is a service that UHDS offers to residence on campus. So if there is anything that needs to be fixed then you just send in a request and they will fix it within the next few days.

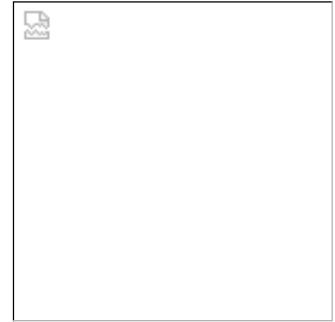
This past week was fun because we had Discovery Day on Campus. Discovery day is an outreach program involving many of the Science Departments at OSU as well as departments from Agriculture and Engineering. This two-day event, held in both the Fall and Spring terms, features displays and hands-on activities from different departments that are suitable for all ages. Brad's World Reptiles was there to show off some of the animals so for two days I volunteered after classes showing some of the kids the amazing animals we have. It was so much fun teaching the kids about reptiles, I even learned a lot!

I also had my interview for the UHDS Tour Ambassadors on Tuesday. Although I was super nervous before the interview, once we got started I just brushed the nerves off and was myself. I think it went well and I had a lot of fun. I'm also currently trying to find out my financial situation for next year. I didn't have grades for a lot of the scholarships I wanted to apply for but I know there are some out there, I just need to look. My roommate went home this weekend so I think I might have time to look up some scholarships this weekend. The first place to always look is fastweb.com and then of course the OSU website.

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Emma's Blog

Emma from Los Angeles, California - (May 8, 2008)



Not much has been happening this week. Monday was Cinco de Mayo and I wanted to go to a couple of events put on by the different cultural centers but I had to do an essay. This week is also Pride Week so there are a lot of events and conferences pertaining to the gay/lesbian/transgender community and anyone else who would like to just join in the fun activities planned for the week. There was a giant graffiti board in the MU quad that we could paint on to express ourselves. It was a fun way to attract people to the “Pride Guide” booth. A lot of people showed their support and just drew such cool things on the board.

Speaking of quads, on the quad in front of the library at this very moment is an exhibit called Iraq Body Count Exhibit. Sponsored by Iraqbodycountexhibit.org and put on by a student organization, thousands of small red and white flags were put on the grass in front of the library. Each flag represents five people who have died due to the Invasion of Iraq; red flags represent Americans who have been killed while the white flags represent Iraqis who have been killed. It’s amazing to see such a visual outside of the library because it is nothing but a sea of white flags covering the grass with just a few rows of red flags on the borders of the walk way through the quad. I saw my friend out there the other day and wanted to help set up flags; so, for two days I volunteered setting up flags and answering any questions I could about the exhibit. I think it sent a powerful image and message; several students had inputs both positive and negative about what we were doing. It’s going to be there all week and I took a few pictures of it, too.

We are approaching the 7th week of school which means I need to start figuring out what I’m going to do with all of my stuff for next year. I’m trying to see if I can store some of my belonging in the co-op I will be in next year. If not, then I will be finding a storage space that I can rent out to put my stuff in. The hard part right now is trying to figure out what to do with all the stuff under my bed lift. We need to have our bed lofts down by the 31st because of the 20 hours of quiet time that come into effect starting the Sunday night of that weekend. Everyone is starting to make plans. I need to talk to my roommate because we will have to do some reorganization in the room. The bonus is that I won’t have to climb into bed anymore.

As for Memorial Day, my friends and I are planning a camping trip and I couldn’t be more excited! I haven’t camped in a long time and we might go tubing, it’s going to be fun and I can’t wait.

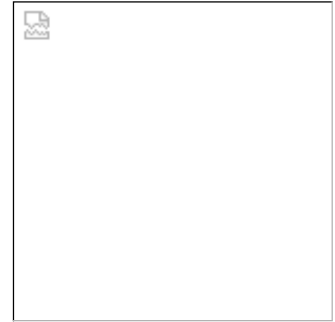
Hope something eventful happens this weekend other than studying for a bio midterm :)

Peace out!

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Emma's Blog

Emma from Los Angeles, California - (May 13, 2008)



Hey everyone.

So I got some good news, I got the UHDS Tour Ambassador position! I found out on Friday, so all I have to do know is get my grades up and I'm good to go. I really excited about it because it will be a different experience for me and I already know a few of the people who work at UHDS. The rest of the week was good but busy. I studied almost all week for a biology midterm and had to write a draft for an essay. I also had work at Brad's World Reptiles. The end of spring term is always hard for everyone because it is so close to the end of the school year that it's easy to slack off and not even care. Although I love Oregon State, I am so ready to go home. I miss my family, my friends, Cali weather and beaches, and of course there is just so much stuff to do in LA. I am pretty sure by the end of summer I won't wait until I come back up north but as of now, I'm ready for a vacation! Next year might be a bit different because I won't be seeing all the Callahan residents that I have seen every day for the last 8 months. However, it's not like I will never see them again; Oregon State is not that big of a campus.

Last week I also figured out that my financial situation for next year will be okay. Living in Azalea will cut the cost of living on campus and I'm excited. If worse comes to worse I can live off campus because it is way cheaper to live off then on campus. The dorms are nice, but I admit that they are expensive, but, my mom told me that the expenses for living on campus in Southern Cali are much more expensive nowadays. Now that next year is figured out, all I have to worry about is finishing the school year with a bang. I know I can do it!

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Emma's Blog



Emma from Los Angeles, California - (May 27, 2008)

These last few weeks have been busy and interesting. I had a chemistry midterm that I didn't do to great on but I know now that it's because I was missing a lot of classes so I promised myself that I wouldn't skip anymore. Given that there is only a few week lefts, our RA also had to have a meeting with us discussing check out dates and the move out process. I can't believe that we will be out of here in about two weeks. The years at Oregon State go way faster then I realized and as much as I'm looking forward to family, friends and warm Southern California weather, I'm really going to miss being "away at college". I still need to figure out what I'm going to do with all of my stuff. I was told that if students are going to be living on campus next year that they can store their stuff in the hall they will be living in. I need to contact the director for Azalea to see how I can move in the little stuff I have. What's good is that my roommate and I are both leaving later than others so I will have a couple of days to hang out since we haven't been this last term. I took down my loft with the help of some of the guys in my hall last weekend (interesting experience) so now I just need to sort out all my clothes and personal possessions and figure out how I'm going to send the home, I think I may need to package it and send it.

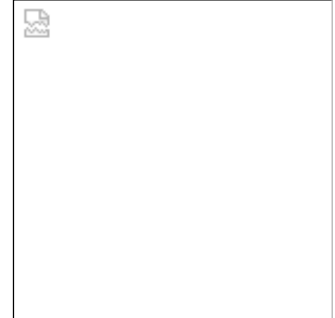
This past weekend I also went camping over the Memorial Day weekend. It was soo much fun! I have not been camping in so long and It was nice to put aside school work and just be in the outdoors. My friends and I went to Fishermen's Bend which is 20 minutes from Salem. We bought a lot of food and Josh my friend's boyfriend reserved a campsite for us and set up the tents. We knew it might rain (which it did) but that didn't stop us from having the time of our life. We had music, food, smores, big campfires and trusting old bed loft kits for fire wood. The days we long and relaxing and a few of my friends and I went on a hike to the river. It was muddy, and wet and it was definitely a fun experience. On the way to the river we found a snake that I tried to catch but the snake wasn't too happy with that idea and almost bit me so I decide to just let it be. Although the four days of camping were fun, my friends and I had to come back to campus ready to do business. There is only two weeks left and with dead week coming up, most assignments are scheduled to turn in during the last few weeks. We are veering the last corner of the race and I'm giving it my all.

This week has also been hectic with my writing class. Our last assignment has to do with analyzing a reading and then picking a sign and talk about the construction of meaning for the sign. I didn't know what to pick for my assignment and my friends Louis said I should do a snake because it is significant for me now that I have an internship working with reptiles. Although at the time is didn't know how I would make that work in the essay, I presented it to the class, thought about the misconceptions people have about snakes and talk to my instructor. It's amazing how much can come out of soo little. I went from a paper that I didn't think I could pull off, to a paper discussing how religion and media has distorted the image of the snake and how misconception about little things like snakes and lead to larger misconceptions later in life; it could lead to misconceptions about people from different backgrounds. Although the paper has a better explanation and goes into a deeper construction of fear, I was still excited about how everything connected. I was also able to connect it to my personal life and explain how there are several misconceptions society has about people of different ethnic backgrounds. My writing instructor said it was turning into a really good essay and that really excited me. Thinking about my essay I realize that nothing is at it seems, but in order to get a true

understanding o something, sometimes we need to look deeper to find the true meaning. I know my misconceptions of OSU were soon shattered as a stepped foot on the campus. Since then I have had the time of my life and I'm loving every moment of college. Every fear and worry I had didn't come true; and even though everything hasn't gone through as planned, I have learned to go with it and see what comes from it. I talked to one of my friends from back home last night, and she agreed that we had both changed, but in a good way. I guess that's what college does, is changes you in a good way; it helps you grow.

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Emma's Blog



Emma from Los Angeles, California - (June 3, 2008)

Although the Dining food at McNary is not that bad, after eating it for three terms the menu becomes old and uninviting. My friends and I have tried to spice thing up a bit but eating out or going to other Dining Halls such as Arnold and West. Each dining place has good and bad things about it, but, even they get boring. As for eating out, we are college students thus us logically assuming we don't have enough money to eat out all the time. That is why coming back to campus this passed weekend was tuff. I was hungry and excited to eat but after going to McNary Dining, my appetite just disappeared. Like I mentioned earlier, the food is not bad (it's actually pretty good; there is a variety) but it just gets old after a while. It's the same stuff over and over again. This past weekend my friends Rachael, Leina and myself took a trip to Cascade Locks which is where our friend Robin lives. Cascade Locks is near the border of Oregon and Washington and goes along the Columbia River. It's is such a small town but it is really beautiful. There are waterfalls and a Dam near Cascade Locks that many people go to check out. We even went to a couple of fish pools to check out the Sturgeons which are these large prehistoric fish that can live a long time and grow up to 10 feet. Those things were huge! Anyway, enough about fish. It was nice to get away from campus for another weekend especially to spend time with my friend before the term is up. Robin's mom is Pilipino which means we had the best Pilipino food I have ever had in my life! So in between checking out the town, hiking on the Pacific Crest Trail, meeting some of Robin's friends and watching movies, Robin's mom cooked for us. In return we made a cake for Rose's (Robin's mom) birthday and sang for her. We also washed all the dishes so she didn't have to do it. Overall, it was a good weekend and it was really awesome to meet her family.

My friends and I have visited each other's home and met each other's family except for mine. My friends realized that so we all decided that next year during the spring break, we are going to take a road trip down to L.A. I can't wait until they come down! I'm already planning a whole bunch of stuff for us to do so I hope nothing happens so that we can't go.

Yesterday I had an appointment with my advisor and she recommended that I start looking for internships over the summer since I won't be at Brad's. I do have a job working at Sanrio but I also want to work with animals. She showed me a link about internships and there was one volunteering at the L.A. Zoo which I'm really excited about. I'm going to contact them next week to see how I can state volunteering there. If I don't volunteer there then I'm think I might volunteer at the Long Beach aquarium just so I can get my "foot in the door" as everyone keeps telling me. Who knows what might happen. I think anything is possible at this point.

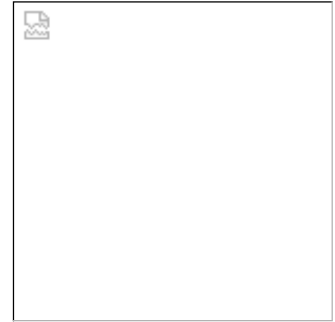
Well, hope everyone has a good rest of the week. I need to do lots of homework, an essay and study for FINALS!!!

Peace out!

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Emma's Blog

Emma from Los Angeles, California - (June 10, 2008)



It's all almost over, my freshmen year of college. I still remember the feeling of apprehension the morning I realized that I would no longer be sleeping in my bed, in my home, with my family, in my city, in my state; it was the day that I realized I'm really not a kid anymore but a growing college student and adult. Nine months later I'm sitting here on my dorm room bed with boxes filled with all my belonging. It's been a long week of finals and packing but I am almost done with both. My friends are letting me store my stuff at the house they will be living in next year and I am one final away from officially being a sophomore. It feels like yesterday that I had just moved into Callahan with a lot of other first year student. In so many ways I know I am the same person but I have grown in ways in which I never thought I would. There is something special about the first year of college, especially at OSU; those who come from small towns as well as large know that there is something unique about OSU. Freshmen year everyone is trying to learn the balance of school, work and partying; many fail to establish that balance until finals of spring term. Everyone is in the same boat and everything is new. At OSU, everyone is really friendly and no one treats you like "freshmen meat"; everyone is willing to help with that big transition. No one realized how fast a year at college can go by, and although I'm two days from checking out of my dorm, I know I'm going to miss it. I realize coming back next year....and the next two but I hate to say I got attached to Callahan, everyone was chill in this dorm. Yes we have the dumb people who litter the halls or the occasional drunks who pee off the emergency stairwells but other than that the dorms are really not that bad. A lot of my friends are those I met in Callahan and the neighboring dorms.

I can't wait to go home and enjoy the wonderful weather of Cali but I know I will be missing the fresh air of Oregon and all the beautiful trees (LA doesn't really have that freshness factor..haha) Over the summer I will be working at Sanrio but I might look for an internship at the LA Zoo or Long Beach Aquarium. I talked to my mom yesterday and she is so excited to see me, she can't wait and I can't, either. So, it's three months of family and fun and then I am back in Oregon where I get to do the whole experience over again but a little better, stronger and wiser. I have all my classes for fall term, I'm living in the co-ops, I'm still going to be working at Main Squeeze, I will be a Student Ambassador and I will still have my internship at Brad's World Reptiles. SO much for taking it easy ☹️ Lately, I have gotten to know some of the girls from one of the sororities, many of them really want me to join but I have never been interested in the Greek life, it's never been for me. However, I talked to a girl yesterday and she told me how she was in that sorority and had never planned on joining one but it was the best thing she ever did (I can honestly say I couldn't picture her in one.) I'm curious about the sorority so next year I might rush. Rushing is going through the Greek life process of learning about all the Greek houses and joining if you are interested and you get a bid from the house. A couple of my friends did it this year so who knows what will happen.

All I know is that I am almost done with my first year of school and it has been an amazing first year. I know now that if I can get through this year with support from my friends, family and the OSU community, then the next three years will be handled! This has been one of the greatest years of my life and I can't wait to see what the next three will bring. I'm living it up, my way, with a smile on my face and nothing is gonna take that away from me. So bring on the next three years!

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Emma's Blog

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