Dear Prelude Participant,

Welcome to the University of Puget Sound! We (Bill Barry, Classics; Matt Ingalls, Religion) will be your instructors for Prelude. Prelude is the academic portion of Orientation. If you haven't already, you will soon receive more information on the logistics of Orientation.

Our Prelude session is entitled "The Meanings of Birds." During our day together, we'll be reading, writing, and discussing the ways that different artists, writers, and scholars have thought about birds.

Sorry about this, but we have some homework for you to do over the next few weeks. Specifically, we have two short essays for you to read and one movie to watch. The first essay ("Who Are You and What Are You Doing Here?") was written by a professor at the University of Virginia and is intended to be read by incoming college freshman. It is an important essay that might cause you to reconfigure all your assumptions about college. The other essay (Gould’s “The Flamingo’s Smile”) is more directly linked to the birds theme of our Prelude session.

Finally, at some point before you arrive at Puget Sound we would like you to watch Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds* (a streaming version can be found online at: https://archive.org/details/THEBIRDSBWDEMO). When the movie is over, jot down a few notes about what you think Hitchcock's point is and what you think birds have to with that point. You won't be handing in these notes, but they may be useful to jog your memory when we talk about birds in Prelude. So grab your popcorn, get comfortable, and brace yourself for a frightening and fascinating film!

We are looking forward to meeting you in August!

Bill and Matt