



Carleton

PARENTS & FAMILIES NEWSLETTER

March 13, 2026



Photo by Zachary Spindler-Krage

Campus News

A Note from Dean Livingston

Dear Parents and Families,

Today is the second and final reading day of winter term. Spring break begins on Tuesday. It is hard to imagine that two-thirds of the academic year is now complete—it's gone by extremely quickly. New Student Week and winter break are distant memories at this point, and commencement will be here before we know it. I hope your Carl is managing



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Recently, I discussed with my senior staff Walt Hunter's February 2, 2026, article in the Atlantic titled "Stop Meeting Students Where They Are: What I Learned When I Finally Started Assigning the Hard Reading Again." This article resonated for us—primarily in acknowledging the continued challenges of pursuing academic excellence during a post-COVID recovery period. Many of them shared that "meeting students where they are" can mean very different things, many of which do not lead to noticeable growth or change. This is the generation of short stories, 30-second news stories, and Chat GPT summaries.

Hunter posits that in order for students to appreciate what we ask them to do, we have to share with them why it's worth it. Meeting students where they are is a first destination, not the final step. We must continue to have high expectations of our students and be honest about what motivates them.

Often that motivation looks different than what we expect as parents and families. Meeting students where they are requires discernment, reflection, and feedback. It means that the [Career Center](#) will review your student's resume and suggest areas of improvement, the Class Deans will strategize with your student to meet classroom attendance expectations, and the Office of Health Promotion will suggest your Carl [become a Peer Leader](#) to share helpful information with peers.

As a College, we will continue to meet students where they are and set high expectations for development and growth. Thanks for helping us with this monumental task.

Happy spring.

—Carolyn Livingston, Vice President for Student Life & Dean of Students



Carleton announces Winter 2026 faculty promotions

Three members of the Carleton faculty have been awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor, effective September 1, 2026. **Barry Costanzi** (physics) conducts research on magnetic materials and lithographic patterning while serving as a key mentor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. **Daniel Maxbauer** (geology) contributes to the geology and environmental studies programs through his work on paleoclimate and the College's geothermal system. **Brooke Okazaki** (music) is a

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intersections of music, film, and global culture. These promotions, approved by the Board of Trustees, recognize their distinguished contributions to teaching, research, and the Carleton community.

[Read the full story.](#)

Get Ready to Hail the Maize & Blue

Maize & Blue Daize (April 9–14) is a week-long celebration of Carleton pride that brings together alumni, parents, families, students, faculty, and staff.



Throughout the week, the Carleton community reconnects with one another, reflects on the experiences that make Carleton special, and shows support for current students through stories, events, and opportunities to give back. Students can also learn more about how philanthropy supports the Carleton experience and the many ways parent & alumni generosity helps sustain opportunities for today's students.

Families are invited to explore events happening throughout the week and take part in traditions like Virtual Friday Flowers, a chance to share messages of encouragement and appreciation with students, faculty, and staff.

[Learn more about Maize & Blue Daize](#)
[Explore events](#)

Gather with Carls and Carleton Families Near You

Coffee with Carls is a beloved spring tradition at Carleton that brings together alumni and Carleton families around the world for a casual morning of connection and conversation. It's a welcoming opportunity for parents to meet others in their area, share experiences, and strengthen the Carleton community — all over a cup of coffee, tea, or another favorite drink.



This year's Coffee with Carls will take place on Saturday, April 11. We invite you to learn more about events happening near you and consider getting involved. If you're interested in hosting, it's simple — just choose a favorite local coffee shop or café, and we'll take care of promotion and logistics support.

[Learn more and explore hosting opportunities today!](#)

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Upcoming Convocation

Is Democracy Really in Decline? with Andrew Little '06

Carleton alumnus Andrew Little '06 returns to campus for a convocation exploring why concerns about democracy may be more complicated—and more hopeful—than they sometimes appear.



Now an associate professor of political science at University of California, Berkeley, Little studies how people form beliefs about politics, when those beliefs become systematically biased, and how that shapes the functioning of democratic systems. His research has appeared in leading political science and economics journals and has been covered by major news outlets around the world.

Join the Carleton community for “The Case Against Pessimism About Democracy” on April 3 in Skinner Memorial Chapel.

[Learn more about the convocation and plan to attend.](#)

Career Center Updates

Help expand winter break career opportunities for Carleton students

The Carleton Career Center is inviting parents, families, alumni, and friends of the College to support the Externship Experience by serving as Site or Housing Hosts during winter break.



Externships connect students with professionals for one- to three-week immersive experiences where they observe workplace environments, contribute to projects, and explore potential career paths. Students have expressed strong interest in opportunities across fields including technology, public health, law, journalism, sustainability, finance, research, and the arts.

Site Hosts welcome students into their workplace, while Housing Hosts provide short-term lodging for students completing externships away from campus—helping make these experiences more accessible.

[Read the full article and learn how to get involved.](#)

Knights Sports Highlights



Women's Tennis Falls 4–3 to Grinnell in Close Match

The No. 33-ranked Carleton Knights women's tennis team fell 4–3 to the Grinnell Pioneers in a tightly contested match on Sunday (3/8). After Grinnell swept the doubles matches, the Knights rallied in singles play with victories from Kiley Pickens, Peggy Fu, and Algara Dineva to even the score late. The match ultimately came down to a super tiebreaker at No. 3 singles, where Grinnell secured the deciding point.

[Read more about Carleton's match against Grinnell.](#)

Addy Huss picks up second straight All-MIAC award

Addy Huss of the Carleton Knights women's basketball team earned All-MIAC First Team honors for the second consecutive year as the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference announced its postseason awards.

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The sophomore guard led the Knights with 17.4 points, 8.0 rebounds, 3.5 assists, and 2.1 steals per game while starting all 25 contests. Huss was the only player in the conference to average more than 10 points, 6 rebounds, 2.3 assists, and 1 steal per game during the regular season.

[Read more about Addy Huss' All-MIAC recognition.](#)

Find more [headlines, results, and the schedule](#) for all varsity sports on the Knights website. You can find streaming coverage of Carleton sports on the [MIAC Sports Network](#).

Important Dates

Saturday, March 14

Exam Days Begin

Monday, March 16

Exam Days End

Tuesday, March 17

Spring Break Begins

Sunday, March 29

Registration Ends for Spring Term

Monday, March 30

Classes Begin

Friday, April 3

10 Week Independent Study & Overload Petition Deadline

Sunday, April 5

First Five Week Course Add/Drop Deadline

Friday, April 17

First Five Week Course Late Drop Deadline

Alumni Spotlight

Alumni Farmers Share the Love for Rutabagas in Duluth Reader

Janaki Fisher-Merritt '99 and **Anne Dugan '00** were recently featured in the Duluth

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underappreciated root vegetable.”

The article highlights the couple’s work at Food Farm, where they grow organic produce and champion lesser loved vegetables like rutabagas. During a recent event at the Denfeld Whole Foods Co-op, the pair handed out rutabagas grown on their farm, encouraging shoppers to give the versatile root vegetable another look.



Fisher-Merritt and Dugan took over Food Farm in 2010, continuing a family farming tradition that dates back to the 1970s and has supplied produce to the Whole Foods Co-op for decades.

[Read the full Duluth Reader feature.](#)

Useful Links

- [Parent/Family Gateway](#)
- [Weekly Convocations](#)
- [Campus Calendar](#)
- [2025-2026 Academic Calendar](#)
- [Make a gift to the Parents Fund](#)



Parents & Families
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