



Carleton

PARENTS & FAMILIES

NEWSLETTER

October 24, 2025



Sayles-Hill Campus Center during Family Weekend 2025.

Photo by Zachary Spindler-Krage

Campus News

From the Dean of Students

Dear Parents and Families,

This year marks my 11th year at Carleton, and while the summer went by faster than

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frisbees, sports, continued traditions, and a fresh notebook or two. Seeing New Student Week Leaders, student-athletes, and Peer Leaders helping new students move in was a refreshing reminder of the supportive community that defines Carleton.

The start of the year is an opportunity to explore, whether your student is a first-year finding their place or a returning student challenging themselves in a new way. The opening convocation, which marks the formal start of the academic year, serves as a reminder of the intellectual journey we are all embarking on and the importance of coming together as a community of learners.



Last month, I encouraged your student to attend the Involvement Fair & All-Campus Picnic and the weekly Friday convocations. Professor Chérif Keita, William H. Laird Professor of French and the Liberal Arts, delivered our A&I Convo on the topic of his documentary, *Namballa Keita: A Soldier and His Village*. This is the story of Keita's late father Namballa, a World War II veteran who, with no formal education and only personal funding, opened the first independently-funded public school in Mali in 1960. The recording is available online.

Our traditions — from the joy of move-in day to the solemnity of Convocation — are more than just events; they are the threads that weave our community together. They provide a sense of continuity and belonging, connecting generations of Carls and reinforcing our shared values. In a world that is constantly changing, these rituals ground us and serve as the foundation upon which we build relationships, explore ideas, and support one another. By participating in them, we honor the past while actively building a vibrant and supportive community for the year ahead. I wish you and your student a happy start to the academic year.

Dean Livingston

Carleton Traditions: Oscar the Penguin

Penguins have a special place in the hearts of all of the students at Carleton. They are used everywhere from admissions recruiting materials, the first-year frisbee designs, to posters for various student organizations and campus events. Although there is no specific penguin that is considered our mascot, Oscar the penguin takes the spotlight for the most well-known penguin on campus. [Read more.](#)



GSA Today features cover story on Carleton's district-scale geothermal system

As part of the installation of Carleton's district-scale geothermal system, a group of faculty, staff, and alumni designed a scientific experiment monitoring its efficiency. The results have now been published by the Geological Society of America in *GSA Today* as its cover story for October. [Read more](#)

Career Center Updates

Exploration Externships now open

As Carleton students settle into the rhythm of the academic year, they may start thinking about how their classes, activities, and interests connect to future goals. To support that curiosity, the Career Center is offering the Exploration Externship — a four-day virtual program for first- and second-year students during Winter Break 2025. [Read more](#)



Knights Sports Highlights



Knights move to 5-0 in MIAC with 63-14 Homecoming win over Hamline

Carleton's football team ran wild on Homecoming, beating the Hamline University Pipers 63-14 to move to 5-0 in MIAC play for the first time since 1992 [Read more](#).

Knights eighth following opening round of Historic Triangle Invitational

Carleton women's golf team opened play at the prestigious Historic Triangle Invitational on Monday at Kingsmill Resort with a team score of 313 (+25), placing eighth in a loaded 14-

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team national field that features five programs ranked inside the top 15 nationally. [Read More.](#)



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](#).

Student Spotlight



Sam Watson-Stevens '27 reflects on summer internship with Exoneration Project in Chicago

There's a running stereotype on campus that Carleton students can't help themselves from doing a little bit of everything and staying constantly busy. That's certainly true for **Sam Watson-Stevens '27**, a studio art major who spent ten weeks of his summer in Chicago as an intern for the Exoneration Project.

The Exoneration Project is a nonprofit organization that does private, pro-bono (free or low-cost) legal work for incarcerated individuals seeking exoneration. Watson-Stevens discusses his summer internship, how Carleton helped him prepare for it, the meaning in his work, and the future. [Read More](#)

Alumni Spotlight

Michael McClellan '13 featured by MIT for applied physics work with Tampa Bay Rays

Michael McClellan '13 was featured by the MIT Technology Review in a story titled, "Data on the Baseball Diamond." McClellan earned his PhD from MIT in 2018.

"Today, the gap between the highest and lowest performers is microscopic," says McClellan, the applied physicist for baseball operations and research and development for



Scenes from Family Weekend 2025



Family Weekend photos by Zachary Spindler-Krage

Upcoming events for your Carl

October 28, 2025

[1:1 Mock Interview for Software Jobs with Austin Dahl '8](#)

[Summer Activities Panel for Math and Stats](#)

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[Geology in New Zealand Info Session](#)

October 29, 2025

[Crafting Your Curriculum Vitae for Research Opportunities](#)

[Carleton Global Engagement Programs Info Table](#)

October 30, 2025

[Thesis-Driven Arguments writing workshop](#)

["Make It" in Hollywood: CAMS Production in Los Angeles Info Session](#)

October 31, 2025

[Entrepreneurship in the Liberal Arts - Talk by David Stade '92](#)

[Government & Nonprofit Career Fair](#)

November 4, 2025

[Communication and Networking Skills to Maximize Your Externship](#)

November 5, 2025

[Yale Law School Information Session](#)

November 6, 2025

[Politics & Public Policy in Washington, D.C.](#)

November 7, 2025

[Entrepreneurship in the Liberal Arts - Talk by Jean Freeman '00](#)

November 11, 2025

[Living London: Reading London, Writing London](#)

Useful Links

- [Parent/Family Gateway](#)
- [Weekly Convocations](#)

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