



Carleton

PARENTS & FAMILIES NEWSLETTER

October 3, 2025



Campus News

Carleton professors ranked number one for 15th straight year by U.S. News and World Report, Carleton remains top 10 liberal arts college

U.S. News & World Report has again ranked Carleton among the top 10 liberal arts colleges in the nation, and as the nation's best school for undergraduate teaching.

For 2026, Carleton achieved the 10th-place spot for national liberal arts colleges in the Best Colleges rankings, tying with Harvey Mudd College and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. U.S. News has made several methodological changes in the

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outcome measures related to schools' success at enrolling, retaining, and graduating students from different backgrounds with manageable debt and post-graduate success." Carleton remains the only Midwestern college among the top 10 schools.

[Read more](#)

Carleton Traditions: The Goat Trophies

Carleton's athletic rivalry with St. Olaf goes back to the start of intercollegiate sports in Northfield: on May 14, 1887, Carleton's baseball team beat the Oles in its first official contest.



The feud took shape in 1914 with the first Goat Trophy for men's basketball. Football followed in 1931, when the *Northfield News* announced that a "relative of the famous basketball goat" would be awarded to the football winner. The wooden trophy was carved by Dr. Ranthus B. Fouch, the Minneapolis craftsman behind the U Minnesota-U Wisconsin "Slab of Bacon."

Over time the Goats became the defining emblems of the Carleton-St. Olaf rivalry, now featuring six trophies across football, basketball, golf, cross-country, and track. In a town of 20,000 with two colleges a mile apart, the battle for the Goats has made Northfield the Rivalry-Trophy Capital of the MIAC — proof that in this neighborly contest, tradition counts as much as the score. [Read more](#)





Opening Convo 2025;

 Zach Spindler-Krage, digital content producer

In 1971, at President Swearer's inauguration, students began the tradition of blowing bubbles on faculty members at formal chapel events from the balcony above. This tradition lives on at the special convocations at the beginning and end of the academic year.

Carleton 2025–26 academic year begins with Opening Convocation featuring Raul Raymundo '87

Under a late summer sun and the traditional Carleton cloud of bubbles, Carleton's Class of 2029 attended their first convocation on September 15, 2025, alongside the rest of the Carleton community, with Raul Raymundo '87 delivering the guest address. As tradition dictates, Opening Convocation is held on the first day of classes of the new academic year and exposes new students to the exceptional educational opportunity that the convocation series brings to Carleton. The event also honors students on the Dean's List. [Read more](#)



Carleton's federal grant for TRIO/Student Support Services renewed for additional five years

In July, Carleton received news that the U.S. Department of Education renewed the College's TRIO/Student Support Services (SSS) grant for another five years. By the end

continuous federal funding since 1981.

TRIO programs are federally funded initiatives designed to expand access to higher education and ensure student success. Established in the 1960s, TRIO encompasses a set of outreach and support programs that serve students from low-income backgrounds, first-generation college students, and students with disabilities. Eligibility is determined by federal guidelines, and each institution structures its program to provide academic and personal support tailored to students' needs and institutional context. [Read more](#)



Passive House Accelerator features Carleton for building PHIUS townhouses

Passive House Accelerator published a piece titled, "Carleton College Builds Eleven Phius Townhouses in Just Two Years." The most recently constructed student residences have also been built with efficiency and sustainability in mind. Eight townhouses were completed in 2024 as part of Phase I of the school's Student Life and Housing Plan. Phase 2 saw the completion of three more townhouses that were completed in summer 2025. All eleven townhouses were designed to meet Phius CORE 2021 standards. The eight townhouses built during Phase I have already received final certification, and the three built during Phase II are expected to receive final certification soon. [Read more](#)

Career Center Updates

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Students can explore career possibilities through Career Discovery Week | October 6-9



The Career Center is excited to announce Career Discovery Week, a new program designed to help students explore the wide variety of ways a liberal arts education can lead to a fulfilling career.

Offered every night from October 6 to October 9, 2025, the event will feature 2-3 alumni career panels per evening, organized around a shared area of study or liberal arts skill set. Alumni guests will be on campus to share their career journeys and discuss the cool and unexpected ways they have leveraged their Carleton preparation to find success in their careers. Each panel will be followed by a dessert reception, where students can ask follow-up questions and make connections with the alumni.

Encourage your Carl to not miss out on this opportunity to explore the possibilities for their future. Registration on Handshake is open until the day of each panel. [Read more](#)

Knights Sports Highlights



Goat Trophy returns to Knights' hands after 35-28 win over St. Olaf

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The Carleton College football team reclaimed the Goat Trophy, turned the Eagle in Bridge Square, and moved to 2-1 on the season with a 35-28 victory over rival St. Olaf College in the 105th edition of the matchup. Jack Curtis '26 also became Carleton's leader in career passing yards (6,555), leapfrogging Jonathan Singleton '23 on the Knights' all-time list.

[Read more](#)

Fast starts to both halves lead Knights to 3-0 win at Macalester

The Carleton College women's soccer team scored early in both halves and secured a 3-0 win at Macalester College. Lauren Caldwell '27, Lola Feurer '27, and Kathryn Kresse '26 scored for the Knights.



It took a little over three minutes for the Knights (6-1-2, 2-0-1 MIAC) to grab the lead. Lily Shure '27 advanced the ball up the right wing before finding Caldwell on the edge of the box. The latter fired a shot across goal into the back of the net to put the Knights 1-0 up. It was Caldwell's second goal of the season and the 12th of her career. [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](#).

Upcoming Events



Registration is open for Family Weekend

We hope you'll join us to get a taste of what your students are experiencing at Carleton. Check out the [schedule](#) of both in-person and virtual events and be sure to register so we know you're coming!

[Schedule and Registration](#)

Team up to support All Day, All Knights 2025

Carleton's third-annual All Day, All Knights fundraising challenge for the Carleton Athletic Initiative will take place during Homecoming and Family Weekend this October 17-19. Save the date to help us reach our goal of 400 donors during this all-day challenge!

Alumni Spotlight

Douglas Sonnek '94 announced as Deputy Chief of Mission for Myanmar

Douglas Sonnek '94 has been announced as the Deputy Chief of Mission for Myanmar. He will "enhance U.S. engagement with the people of Myanmar." Sonnek studied biology at Carleton.

[Read the full announcement](#)

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Useful Links

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



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