



Carleton

PARENTS & FAMILIES NEWSLETTER

January 20, 2026



Photo by Zachary Spindler-Krage

Campus News

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Campus Safety Update

With national attention on Minnesota in recent days, Carleton has continued to prioritize being a safe and supportive place for our students to live and learn, and for our faculty and staff to teach and work. College leaders are providing direct support to individual members of our community, and are sharing regular updates with all students, faculty, and staff about protocols and resources, should any members of our community be approached or contacted by an unauthorized visitor on campus.



Carleton Career Summit returns January 24th

The Carleton Career Summit is a one-day career conference open to students from all class years, offering practical tools, alumni insights, and meaningful connections to support next steps after Carleton. The Summit features skill-building workshops, alumni industry panels across a wide range of fields, a summer internship poster symposium, and a student–alumni networking reception. Nearly 50 alumni will be on campus to share how they translated their Carleton experience into diverse career paths.

[Register for the Career Summit and view the full schedule.](#)



Convocation speaker James Kakalios explores the science behind superheroes

James Kakalios, an internationally recognized physicist and science communicator, is the Taylor Distinguished Professor in the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Minnesota. Known for using comic books to make complex scientific concepts accessible, Kakalios created the popular course “Everything I Know About Science I Learned from Reading Comic Books,” which examines real-world physics through the lens of superhero stories.

Kakalios is the author of several acclaimed popular science books, including *The Physics of Superheroes* and *The Physics of Superheroes Goes Hollywood* (2025). His work has taken him to speaking engagements around the world—from academic institutions and national science festivals to Comic-Con—and has included consulting on major films such as *Watchmen* and *The Amazing Spider-Man*.

This convocation will be presented both in person and via livestream.

[Learn more about James Kakalios and his work.](#)

[Register to attend via Zoom.](#)

A limited number of complimentary copies of Kakalios’s books will be available to in-person attendees on a first-come, first-served basis.



Carleton announces faculty development grants for 2026–27

Carleton has announced the recipients of faculty development grants for the 2026–27 academic year, supporting scholarship, creative work, and professional growth across the curriculum. The awards—approved by the Faculty Grants Committee and announced by Provost Michelle Mattson—include term-long fellowships, targeted opportunity awards, and small grants spanning disciplines from the sciences and social sciences to the humanities and arts.

[Read more about the 2026–27 faculty grant recipients and their projects.](#)



Carleton Trustee, Jonathan Capehart '89 reflects on Carleton on IMO podcast with Michelle Obama and Craig Robinson

Journalist, commentator, and Carleton College Trustee, Jonathan Capehart '89 recently appeared on the podcast IMO with Michelle Obama and Craig Robinson, joining the hosts for a wide-ranging conversation on race, faith, family, and identity. During the episode, Capehart reflects on his time at Carleton—where he majored in political science—and the role the College played in shaping his personal and professional journey. His discussion of Carleton begins around the 30-minute mark. [Watch the full podcast episode.](#)

Career Center Updates

Summer Internship Funding opportunities

Summer internships help Carleton students explore career interests, build skills, and clarify next steps. To ensure finances don't stand in the way, the Career Center offers [Summer Internship Funding](#) of up to \$5,350 for eligible unpaid or underpaid summer experiences.



Encourage your student to apply early. Applications are reviewed in waves beginning February 1, with additional deadlines on March 1, April 5, and May 3 (or until funds are exhausted). Students must secure a qualifying summer experience and complete a [Success-Ready Résumé](#) with a career coach as part of the application process.

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Don't forget: [Career Center staff](#) and trained Student Career Assistants are available to support students with résumé preparation, opportunity exploration, and application planning through appointments and drop-ins. Encourage your student to connect with the Career Center now to stay on track. [Read More.](#)

Knights Sports Highlights



Indoor track & field opens season strong at Ole Opener

The Carleton women's and men's indoor track & field teams opened the 2026 season with standout performances at the Ole Opener, hosted by St. Olaf College. The women posted two event victories and 14 top-five finishes, highlighted by wins from first-years Pamina Nemet and Lauren Tittel. The men followed with an impressive showing of five event

victories and 16 top-five results, including wins in the mile, 800, 3000, pole vault, and 4x400 relay.

[Read the women's meet recap.](#)

[Read the men's meet recap.](#)



Eight Knights earn CSC Academic All-District Football honors

Eight members of the Carleton College football team were named to the 2025 College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District Team, recognizing excellence on the field and in the

classroom. Seniors Jack Curtis and Luke Sugalski earned the honor for a third straight year, while several teammates were recognized for the second or first time. Four Knights will advance to the Academic All-America® ballot, with final teams announced later this month. [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](#).

Important Dates

January 23

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January 24

Carleton Career Summit

Monday, February 9

Midterm Break

Monday, February 16

Advising Days Begins

Friday, February 11

Ten Week Late Course Drop Deadline

Tuesday, February 24

Registration for Spring Term

Wednesday, February 25

Advising Days End

Friday, February 27

Second Five Week Late Course Drop Deadline

Alumni Spotlight

From Carleton to Public Service and Civic Leadership

Robin Wonsley '13, Minneapolis City Council member, is bringing her Carleton-shaped commitment to equity and community advocacy to the national conversation. She was recently featured in a Democracy Now! interview responding to the fatal shooting of Minneapolis resident Renee Nicole Good by a federal ICE agent, discussing the impact on the city and calling for accountability and systemic change.



Wonsley's perspective highlights her ongoing dedication to civil rights and public safety, rooted in her deep engagement with community organizing and democratic participation. [Read more](#) about her insights from the Democracy Now! interview and her continued work representing Minneapolis.

Useful Links

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



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