Carleton

Department of Geology 507-222-5769

Greetings!

The Dean of Admissions told me that you are interested in studying geology at Carleton. I am writing to tell you a little about the Geology Department and to encourage you to contact me if you have any questions.

An open, informal, and supportive atmosphere of learning and teaching is important to students and faculty in the Carleton Geology Department. We maintain this atmosphere by taking extended field trips twice a year, doing student-faculty research, and encouraging group projects in our classes.

The Carleton Geology Department also emphasizes an active, hands-on approach to learning, spending considerable time in the field actually doing geology rather than simply reading about it. In addition to field trips associated with most of our classes and the departmental field trips to different parts of the country, we offer a full-term (10 week) off-campus field program in New Zealand every other winter.

All of the faculty are actively involved in their professional lives. **Clint Cowan** works on understanding ancient and modern coral reef systems and their implications for deciphering the past history of climate and life. **Cam Davidson** uses geochronology to better understand the geologic history of Southern Alaska. **Chloé Fandel** is a hydrogeologist who studies Karst systems in France, **Bereket Haileab** has worked on the tephrostratigraphy of the Turkana Basin in Africa where he uses volcanic ashes to date the early evolution of hominids. **Dan Maxbauer** studies records of past climates in sedimentary deposits and has a new project monitoring carbon sequestration through mineral weathering in an agricultural field on campus. **Sarah Titus** studies how rocks deform in fault systems, such as the San Andreas fault in California.

All of us think that working with active geologists is the best way to learn geology. Each year many students participate in research with Carleton faculty, alumni and friends of the Geology Department, or through the Research Experience for Undergraduates program sponsored by the National Science Foundation. We also belong to the Keck Geology Consortium, a national consortium of well-regarded undergraduate geology departments that sponsor student research projects all over the world. There are abundant opportunities to participate in geologic research at Carleton.

The requirements for a geology major include seven courses in geology plus courses in mathematics, physics and chemistry. Every senior completes a substantial independent-study project for their Integrative Exercise or "Comps". Most graduates continue their formal education beyond Carleton, and the majority stay in geology or some related field such as land-use planning, mineral and energy policy, environmental law, or academia.

At Carleton, we have an outstanding record of educating geologists, and we graduate ~20 geology majors every year, making us one of the largest departments at a small liberal arts college in the country. If you plan to visit campus, I would be pleased to arrange a personal tour of the Department. In addition, our majors would be happy to write or meet with you. Please let me know if you would like to visit or correspond with geology majors.

Sincerely,

Cam Davidson