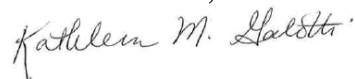# Carleton

Welcome Friend,

Congratulations on your admittance to Carleton! Because you have expressed an interest in Cognitive Science, I write to tell you a little more about our program.

Cognitive Science is an interdisciplinary field centered around the question of how minds work; be those minds human, animal, or computer-based. Related topics include how minds store knowledge, produce and use language, draw inferences and make decisions, acquire new information and develop intelligence. Our program at Carleton encompasses faculty from various departments including psychology, philosophy, linguistics, computer science, music, biology, economics, and educational studies.

Cognitive science is offered as both a major and a minor. Originally it was designed as an interdisciplinary minor in the late 1980s, and our students pushed us to develop it further into a major. Since 2002 we have had 79 students graduate with a major in Cognitive Science. Every Carleton student has to complete a senior capstone project, called "comps," and our students have completed a number of fabulous projects: On bilingual education, on models of schizophrenic language, on moral reasoning, and on representations of spatial knowledge of a campus map to name just a few. In terms of minors, we've graduated a total of 152, with most of our minors having majors in psychology, computer science, linguistics, and philosophy, along with many others.

No previous experience with cognitive science is needed for you to join us. Indeed, most of our majors and minors hadn't even heard of cognitive science before they came to Carleton. You might consider taking one of the CGSC 100 A & I courses your first term here to get a feel for it, or simply enroll in one of the CGSC 130 "Introduction to Cognitive Science" sections. One or two of these is offered each year. We'd love the chance to meet you and talk about your interests. Come to Carleton and study with us!

With best wishes,

Kathleen M. Galotti
W. H. Laird Professor of Cognitive Science and Director of the Cognitive Science Program