



Carleton

PARENTS & FAMILIES

NEWSLETTER

December 12, 2025



Photo by Harry Pound

Campus Updates

Winter News from the President's Desk

Dear Parents and Families,

I hope that your student is enjoying the break, whether they are at home, on campus, or on one of the Off Campus Studies courses currently taking place in Chile and Mexico. As a Carleton parent ('15) myself, I recall that Winter Break can seem both welcome and . . . somewhat long!

This year, Carleton's Career Center has increased its Winter Break programming to provide as many opportunities as possible for students with free time to consider using it to explore career pathways. An expanded [Externship program](#) is offering three distinct opportunities during the break: Exploration Externships for early-stage discovery, Applied Externships for first-hand engagement, and Microcredentials for targeted technical skill development. This follows another program that is new this year: the [Career Discovery Week](#) held in October, which brought more than 40 alumni to campus to participate in nine panels on topics like Career Pathways for Students in Arts and Humanities, Career Pathways for Students who Like Numbers, and Career Pathways for Students Interested in Working with People and Communities.



Exploration is the primary theme of all our career programming. **A liberal arts education is not designed as a ticket to a specific job, but as a gateway to many possible futures.** After graduation, Carleton alumni pursue a wide range of professions, in many cases several over a lifetime. Research has demonstrated the enduring value of the qualities cultivated by a Carleton education, including intellectual flexibility, creativity, strong communication skills, and an ability to work collaboratively with others. Our goal is to help students learn how to match their unique strengths with the varied opportunities of a rapidly changing employment landscape.

Best wishes to you and your family for the upcoming holidays. We look forward to seeing students back on campus in January!

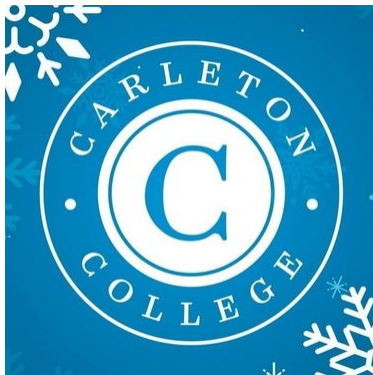
— President Alison Byerly P '15



Watch the 2025 Carleton Holiday Message

This time of year invites us to pause and reflect on what truly guides us. For Carleton, that direction is set by our enduring mission — a "North Star" that

remains steadfast amidst a changing world. [Watch the video](#) to see campus highlights and hear reflections on the year. Thank you for being a vital part of the Carleton community and for keeping the spirit of our mission shining.



Join a Carleton Winter Gathering near you

Carls are coming together to celebrate the season and toast the new year. Carleton Winter Gatherings are informal events hosted regionally by alumni and parent volunteers. **All Carleton families and students are encouraged to attend** to meet or reconnect with fellow Carls in your area. [Find an event near you!](#)



History professor Serena Zabin featured in new Ken Burns documentary

Serena Zabin, the Stephen R. Lewis Jr. Professor of History and the Liberal Arts, is taking her expertise national in the latest Ken Burns documentary, *The American Revolution*. The six-part series explores the country's founding struggle and its eight-year War for Independence. Check out the [official trailer on PBS.org](#) or on [YouTube](#), and [read more about professor Zabin's contribution to the documentary](#).

Career Center Updates

Workshops & signature programs for Winter Term

The Carleton Career Center offers a variety of workshops and experiential learning opportunities for Carls across class years and disciplines. View the full roster of workshops and programs, and encourage your student to attend. You can bookmark the [Career Center's full calendar of events](#) to stay updated on the latest program offerings, deadlines, and registration periods.



Don't forget: professional and peer career coaches will be available to support students via scheduled appointments and drop-ins during the winter term. Encourage your student to [schedule a session](#).

Knights Sports Highlights



Nina Schwab '28 sets MIAC diving record at Rochester Invite

The Carleton College women's swimming & diving team finished seventh of 10 teams at the Rochester Invite on December 5–7. Schwab won the 1-meter diving competition by nearly 80 points with her score of 486.00. That point total eclipsed her own school record set last season and also established a new MIAC overall standard, besting the previous mark (485.40) that had stood since 2013. [Read more](#)

Addy Huss '28 scores third straight MIAC Women's Basketball Player of the Week

Huss is the first women's basketball player to collect three consecutive MIAC athlete of the week honors since at least the 2003–04 campaign. [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

December 24 – January 1

Carleton Offices Closed

Saturday, January 3

Residential Halls and Houses Open for Winter Term

Sunday, January 4

Winter Break Ends

Monday, January 5

Winter Term Classes Begin

Tuesday, January 6

[Student Financial Literacy Series: Understanding Health Insurance](#)

5:45pm - 7:00pm (1h 15m) • Olin 141

Sunday, January 11

Winter Term Course Add/Drop Deadline

Alumni Spotlight From Carleton to 'Saturday Night Live'

Claire McFadden '13 carved the unlikely path from environmental studies major at Carleton to the writer's room at Saturday Night Live (SNL). Her career epitomizes the flexibility and broad utility of a liberal arts education.

McFadden reflected on Carleton's role in her career path with [MPR News](#) and in her [Convocation talk at Carleton in February 2025](#).



Useful Links

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



Parents & Families
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