

ALUMNI ADVENTURES

Explore the world with Carleton College

November 2007

Dear Carleton Alumni,

For many people, Alaska conjures up images of the last American frontier filled with amazing wildlife, occupied by “sourdoughs”, and perhaps hiding a few bridges to nowhere. This image has some basis in reality, especially when it comes to the wildlife. For me, and for anyone interested in how our planet works, Alaska also offers a world-class natural laboratory to study a wide range of scientific questions from how continental crust grows with time to the impact of climate change in northern latitudes.

I have been going to Southeast Alaska off and on for the past twenty years to study some of these questions. However, the draw Alaska has on me, and hopefully will have on you, is not purely scientific. There is something magical about skimming along the smooth inland-passage waters with bald eagles overhead, towering mountains and glaciers on the horizon, and humpback whales surfacing ahead. I remember one trip just a couple of years ago when a Carleton student and I surprised an Orca family as we entered a small bay. The male came right up to us and looked us in the eye, while mom and baby moved quietly away in the other direction. It was quite a thrill.

Please join me, my wife, Karen, and many other Carleton Alumni and friends for an unforgettable cruise up the inland passage of North America’s last frontier. The scenery, wildlife, and spectacular geology will keep you coming back for more.

Cameron Davidson

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