Sept. 2, 2010

What’s New at Carleton?

From the desk of Paul Thiboutot, Dean of Admissions:

First of all, we have a new President! Steve Poskanzer comes from the SUNY system- the campus at New Paltz (he was previously at University of Chicago, the U. Penn and Princeton). New Paltz is the closest to a small liberal arts college in structure and size of any in the SUNY system. Our new President will bring energy and a fresh perspective to Carleton. He is very personable and has favorably impressed all constituencies, from trustees to students!

Other changes include:

Facilities:
- A new Arts Union is under construction and will open in fall of 2011—it will house a new theater, a new teaching museum, a film auditorium/theater, the Cinema and Media Studies department (with a state-of-the-art digital resource center), and dance studios/performance space.
- Two new residence halls opened last fall, (Cassat and Memorial), each with an environmental focus. They are the first dorm type buildings to receive LEED gold certification. They have solar heated water, as well as radiant floor heating. They are very popular at room draw.
- Sustainability remains a focus on campus with a second wind turbine being donated to the college, with construction to start hopefully this year.
- There was large-scale replacement of roofs and some windows on major century-buildings over the past summer. Updated buildings included Scoville, Leighton, Laird and Chapel, and windows in the old Music Hall.

Programs:
- Cinema and Media Studies is a new major within the past two years. The Arts Union project will further enhance offerings and resources to support this major.
- Linguistics is also a new major, which is unusual within a small liberal arts college context.
- There is a new Environmental Studies major, building on a long-standing cross-disciplinary concentration. The concentration will be phased out.
- Carleton added a new Department of Middle East Languages in which both Hebrew and Arabic are taught for competency in these languages.
- 15 new faculty have been added over the past 4 years to enhance curricular offerings and broaden availability of faculty for a revised curricular structure.
- A revision of curriculum with a remapping of distribution requirements, as well as the incorporation of a required first year interdisciplinary seminar on Argument and Inquiry in the Liberal Arts context. (See AAR Updates page for more details about the distros).

General:
- The Career Center has developed some new initiatives, several of which have been recognized nationally in articles such as in the New York Times. A web-based email exchange called “Engagement Wanted” helps match students with alumni for career explorations and potential jobs.
- The $300 million capital campaign was successfully completed on time at the end of June, 2010, within this economic climate and times.
- The Off Campus Studies programs are always growing and evolving. Some new exciting offerings include an Environmental Studies program in Ethiopia and Kenya, a cultural psychology program in Prague, a Spanish program in Peru, and a linguistics program in Kyoto.