January 15, 2007

Dear Carleton friends,

Thank you for your request for more information about Carleton’s Alumni Adventure weekend in Thermopolis and Cody, WY. This promises to be a wonderful weekend looking back into the past.

The weekend will begin on Thursday afternoon, July 19, at the Wyoming Dinosaur Center in Thermopolis and end with a wrap-up discussion over a continental breakfast on Sunday morning, July 22.

Thursday afternoon we will tour the Wyoming Dinosaur Center and Friday will be our day at the dig site. There will be transportation back and forth if you do not wish to spend the entire day at the dig site. Saturday morning we will be board the bus for our trip to Cody and the museums. On our return trip we will be stopping in the small town of Meeteetsee for an Outdoor Western Steak Fry before returning to Thermopolis.

Professor Ed Buchwald will be our faculty leader focusing on environmental geology and paleobiology. Buchwald states that “In 1959 after my junior year in college and shortly before I was married I spent eight weeks in Wyoming learning how to make geologic maps. Prior to that I had never been west of Buffalo, New York. Wyoming was everything I dreamed about as a young geology student. It is dry enough that rocks are not so covered with soil and plants as Upstate New York, and I reveled in exploring for fossils. In those days dinosaurs were thought to be big, slow, and stupid. Now we know that Michael Crichton got it right; dinosaurs can be big or little, fast or slow, smart or dumb. Thermopolis has some of each!” Professor Buchwald will also make time to discuss fossils with the younger members of our group (parents may join in this conversation if they wish).

Professor Bob Bonner is our authority on the American West and will be our leader on our day trip to Cody and our visit to the Buffalo Bill Historical Center which is perhaps the most complete location for the convenient study of the history of the American West. Built around the museum celebrating the career of Buffalo Bill Cody, there are now the Whitney Gallery of Western Art, the Winchester Arms Museum, the Plains Indian Museum, the McCracken Research Library, and the Draper Museum of Natural History. We will tour at least two of the museums and leave enough free time in the day for people to look into others that may interest them. The group will lunch in the great dining room of Bill Cody's Irma Hotel.

A tentative schedule and registration form are enclosed. Please complete and return the form no later than April 1.

We are delighted you might be joining us for what promises to be an exciting and fulfilling weekend. If you have any questions, please call me at 800-729-2586 (email: mcalcutt@acs.carleton.edu).

Sincerely,

Merilyn Calcutt
Project Coordinator