Hi Fellow Alums,

I’d like to invite you to join Professor Mary Savina ’72 and me on an Alumni Adventure trip to the topographically amazing destination of Iceland in August of 2014. Way back when I was a sophomore facing the moment of truth—declaring a major—I was torn between Studio Art and Geology, as both disciplines appealed to me for their integration of hands-on direct experience and theoretical and conceptual rigor. Though I eventually chose Art, I’ve never lost my enthusiasm for earth sciences, and in fact have made an exploration of the human interaction with the landscape a central core of my artistic practice.

It is especially exciting for me to have the opportunity to co-host a trip to one of the most dramatic and peculiar landscapes on the planet with the teacher (Mary) who first sparked my engagement with the land and who is now my colleague and neighbor. What sparks my enthusiasm about this trek is exactly what appealed to me about Carleton when I selected to come here as an undergrad in the first place. The itinerary emphasizes the connections between science and culture, the physical features of a place and the stories people tell about their experience there. It is guaranteed to be both fun and illuminating.

Our local guide will provide historical context for the places we’ll visit. Mary will be contributing insight on the complex geology of this utterly unique landmass that sits atop a mid-ocean ridge. I will talk about landscape traditions and how the ways we frame nature impact our interaction with the land, looking at several contemporary artists and photographers who have explored the terrain of this island nation. In addition, I will be available for informal drawing and watercolor workshops modeled on assignments I have used in the Field Drawing course I teach at Carleton.

Clear your calendar now for next August and join us for a memorable Alumni Adventure beyond compare!

David Lefkowitz ’85
Associate Professor of Art

Map for Iceland Itinerary