Class of 2012 Highlights

The 493 students who enter Carleton in September 2008 number 249 men and 244 women. They were selected from a pool of 4,968 applicants and represent 41 states and 22 countries.

- 10 percent come from countries outside the United States.
- 74 percent of ranked students graduated in the top tenth of their class; 92 percent were in the top fifth.
- 8 percent are the first generation of their families to attend college.
- 21 percent are African American, Asian American, Hispanic/Latino/Chicano, or Native American.
- 93 are National Merit Scholars, 9 are National Hispanic Recognition Scholars, and 3 are National Achievement Scholars.
- 11 percent speak a language other than English at home.

Notable Achievements

The class has undertaken an impressive array of endeavors in its pre-Carleton days.

Someone in the class:

- Wrote, directed, and edited a film that was screened at New York City’s New Filmmakers short film series.
- Authored a geology research paper on seismites that was published in a geophysicists’ peer-reviewed journal.
- Worked as a facilitator in Bali during a five-day Initiative for Peace conference for victims of the Timor Leste civil war.
- Won gold medals in six events at the 2007 U.S. Canoe Association nationals.
- Traveled 9,500 miles across the United States conducting interviews for a guidebook for teenagers dealing with relatives diagnosed with Alzheimer’s.
- Played the violin at the White House, the National Zoo, an Orioles baseball game, and in Iceland.
- Competed in pairs skating at the 2008 U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

Financial Aid Facts

- Carleton met the full financial need of all admitted students.
- 243 members of the class are receiving more than $6.2 million in Carleton grants.
- The average need-based Carleton grant is $25,608.
- The average need-based financial aid award is $32,977, including grants, scholarships, work-study, and loans.

Category: Adventure

The Class of 2012 includes someone who:

- Used a gap year to teach English at a primary school in Costa Rica, volunteer at a children’s hospital in Romania, and work at a national park in Chile.
- Helped excavate Byzantine ruins at Yavneh Yam in Israel.
- Watched the sun come up from the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.
- Studied or performed community service in the following countries: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guadalupe, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and Vietnam.
“Reporting for the Express, whether the story was about dangerous public buses or a film festival, gave my natural curiosity a professional purpose.” Though American by birth, Max has spent a great deal of his life abroad as the son of two foreign correspondents. While living in New Delhi he had the opportunity to write for the Indian Express, a national English-language daily. In Chile he worked with autistic youth at the experimental Escuela Pukará, while most of his senior year was spent in Johannesburg, South Africa. Unsurprisingly, it is language and diplomacy that interest Max; he’s a fluent Spanish speaker, reads and writes in Hindi and Arabic, and led his school’s Model U.N. delegation. Max hopes to take a wide variety of courses at Carleton to further his understanding of the world.

“I get to come home and know my team and I have raised money for something that I care so desperately about.” Kate deferred her first year at Carleton to pursue interests in environmental policy. The gap year took her to Kibbutz Ketura, a collective community located in the Negev Desert of Israel. Kate lived and worked with students of many faiths from across the Middle East, North America, and Europe, while attending classes on sustainable development and peace building. She returned to the United States to work for Environment California, the largest citizen-based environmental nonprofit organization in the state. As a field manager, Kate directed a fund-raising program supporting environmental legislation in the state assembly. She looks forward to pursuing opportunities in the education, English, and anthropology departments at Carleton.

“I thrive on ski racing. I love the thrill of overtaking a skier and the burning feeling in my lungs during the last 50 meters. I focus and give that moment everything I have.” Dia received her first pair of skis at the age of four and the rest, as they say, is history. She captured the New England Nordic Skiing Championship in 2006, but her athletic prowess is not limited to the snowy trails of Vermont—she also is an all-state soccer and New England regional track selection. When not competing, Dia takes advantage of long summer days by working at the local community farm. As the longest-serving employee, she now instructs apprentice farmers on the finer points of organic agriculture. Dia is undecided about a major and wouldn’t dare speculate on a career at this point.

“I’m a math and science person, but art is the balance—a chance for me to express my soul in a different way.” Haley’s seven-foot canvas depicting a reinterpretation of Michelangelo’s David hangs in the Holter Museum of Art and is a surprising discovery for some. More often than not, Haley can be found absorbed in a science journal or chatting excitedly about chemistry, her artistic side hidden from view. But a passion for painting and drawing is merely the beginning. During her senior year, Haley was a representative on her school board while captaining her varsity cross-country team. Pursuing classes in art and the sciences at Carleton is a given, with the goal of working for a medical aid organization in the future.
“One of the best decisions of my life has been to come to Argentina to live and learn. It is an experience that has been difficult, filled with ups and downs. It has given me a different perspective about our world.” Following a successful junior year, Ian left northern Minnesota to finish high school in Cordoba, Argentina, on an AFS exchange. Classes taught entirely in Spanish were a challenge, as were humid summer days in December, but the decision to become immersed in a new culture came naturally. While away, Ian put his successful lawn-mowing business on hold and took a sabbatical from training with the Minnesota Elite Junior Triathlon Team. He plans to enroll in math, physics, and foreign language classes at Carleton, with the ultimate goal of working for the Forest Service.

“Without a doubt, Hurricane Katrina has made a considerable impact on my life. In many respects, it has caused me to grow up within my family, school, and community.” Following the evacuation of his family to Houston during Hurricane Katrina, Justin returned to New Orleans to find a city that felt foreign and lifeless. Over the following year, he used his position as student council president and as a member of the Archdiocese of New Orleans Imani Leadership Team to aid in reconstruction efforts. Through food drives, cleanup projects, and a student mentorship program that he initiated, Justin’s efforts made a sustained impact on his community. A captain of the varsity baseball team, Justin also pursued interests in computer programming and the school newspaper. He hopes to complete a major in computer science before continuing on to law school.
“Over a summer, I learned to play the French horn. This was the most challenging experience of my life. From it, I learned that it’s wonderful to try new things, and perfectly fine to be less-than-perfect.” When Christine’s band director was short a French horn player, he looked to his best flutist to fill the gap, and so she embarked on the formidable challenge of learning a new instrument in three short months. Christine is well-versed in rising to the occasion. As a sophomore, she was selected for the United States National Karate Team, winning gold at the Junior Olympics and bronze at the Pan American Championships. Returning recently from the Goodwill Games in Tokyo, she’s found more time to nurture her knitting hobby. Ultimately, Christine is interested in pursuing chemical engineering.

“I have an overwhelming passion to always sing and this passion is shared equally with a longing to help others.” Mariveliz’s involvement in her community can only be characterized as total. As a junior, Mari founded the nonprofit organization Ladies of Open Minds, or LOOM, to empower young women through creative writing, poetry, and discussion. Witnessing the financial hardship of her peers during the holidays prompted her to organize Project Thanksgiving to collect food and clothing for students’ families. Mari also played the bass clarinet in the Chicago City Band and cuatro in the Chicago Cuatro Orchestra while being involved in her church. She hopes to pursue courses in English, Spanish, cross-cultural studies, and women’s and gender studies at Carleton.

“My conscience called for me to take a year off from academics and divert my efforts to deconstructing the destruction of the earthquake.” Hassan, a member of the Pakistani Under-19 National Field Hockey Team, was competing in India during an historic goodwill tour when he received news that an earthquake had devastated the northern province of his country. Following the conclusion of his studies, Hassan departed for the worst hit areas of Pakistan on a goodwill tour of his own. Over the following months, Hassan worked at a medical camp and a UNCHR relief site, and initiated a campaign that raised $50,000 for the construction of a primary school. He hopes to major in economics and pursue a career in politics.

“When I hear music, I am immersed in a series of sounds, tied together by lines and notes. If I am to be remembered by only one object, let it be the piano.” When is a tune just a tune? Never, where Alek is concerned. His relationship with the piano and the improvised runs, riffs, and rolls it can produce under his diligent fingers, began when he was very young. Now an accomplished and adroit pianist with his own jazz ensemble, Alek often spends upwards of three hours improvising on a melody, to the occasional dismay of his parents. Alek’s heavy involvement in theater and chorus round out his musical chops. He also maintains interests in sight-reading Latin and cross-country running. At Carleton, Alek hopes to take courses in math, music, theater, and writing and would one day like to compose film scores.
Category: Carleton Highlights

- In the past seven years, Carleton graduates have earned many honors including: 21 Fulbright scholarships, 10 Watson fellowships, 20 National Science Foundation graduate fellowships, and 11 NCAA postgraduate scholarships.
- In 2004 Carleton became the first college in the nation to own and operate a utility grade wind turbine, and in 2008 Carleton was recognized by Forbes Magazine as one of the 10 greenest colleges and universities in the country.
- The Carleton Academic Quiz team was crowned national undergraduate champions in April 2007 after defeating teams from Michigan, Stanford, Virginia, and Harvard, among others, at the National Academic Quiz Tournament.

Category: Service

The Class of 2012 includes 15 Eagle Scouts, seven Girl Scout Gold or Silver Award recipients, and three 4-H Club Leaders. In addition, someone in the class performed as Dandy the Clown in a volunteer clown troupe for organizations such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and another worked in Tanzania with orphans who had lost their parents to AIDS.
### Research

While in high school, members of the class conducted several impressive research projects. Someone has:

- Constructed a wind surveying robot as part of a team working with Lego Robotics to solve alternative-energy-related tasks.
- Researched the demise of the car industry in the United Kingdom and its effect on the Coventry region.
- Observed the behavior of caged lemurs at Duke University and that of free-roaming lemurs in Myakka City Lemur Reserve in order to provide better and more natural surroundings for the caged animals and aid their conservation in the wild.

### Language

Someone in the class speaks:


### Out-of-the-Ordinary

In this class, you could meet someone who:

- Built an 11-foot-long wooden sailboat to fulfill a graduation requirement of doing a year-long independent project.
- Attended a professional soccer school for a year.
- Is an officer in a Dance Dance Revolution club.
- Paddles a Hawaiian outrigger canoe on the ocean as part of a six-person crew.
- Is an Irish step dancer and spends Friday nights contra dancing to fiddle music.
- Embarks every August on a wolf-tracking expedition in the Sawtooth Mountains of southern Idaho.
- Piloted a Cessna 152 and has logged more than 100 hours in the air.

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**To Learn More About Carleton:**

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(These figures do not include scholarships for international students.)

- The table reflects averages by parent adjusted gross income (AGI) reported on federal tax forms.
- 49 percent of the class received need-based grant/scholarship assistance from Carleton. The number of students receiving each level of assistance is indicated in parentheses on the graph.
- The size of an award is greatly affected by family size, number in college, family assets, student assets, and other considerations.

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