

Carleton College 1966 50th Reunion Newsletter

RATIONALE FOR FURTHER READING.

1. What are the linkages and meaning between two Carleton graduates of the Class of 1899 and our class?
2. Why was Paul Grawe assigned to be one of two body guards to George Lincoln Rockwell?
3. 1965: Insights from black students—lessons for today
4. Mike Taylor saw a basket he admired in a market in central China and he ended up getting it—this was not a purchase at Walmart!
5. Brett Smith (Class of 1964) provides an official update to the Divestment Story presented in the June Issue of the Reunion Newsletter.
6. Pete Schultz has been recognized for an important off this planet observation.



Content

1. Carleton Before 1900: The legacy of two 1899 graduates of Carleton College. That is 1899, not 1989!
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Carleton: Before 1900!

Chris (Cleeland) Erenberg provided the following story about her maternal grandparents. Their story illustrates the kind of legacies that emerge when one examines the post-graduate life of many of Carleton's graduates. They graduated in 1899, 116 years from today!

'A CARLETON STORY' by Chris (Cleeland) Erenberg, Class of 1966

We students past and present share a sense of social justice and a belief in the possibility that human effort makes a difference in improving the quality of peoples' lives. This shared college experience sharpens our minds, intensifies our sensitivities and challenges the choices we make in our lives.

We have all put our mark on this unmatched institution of learning just as Carleton has directed our lives irrevocably to the Good. From its inception she has instilled in its students a shared moral responsibility for the betterment of the world. A personal story may best illustrate this.



My maternal grandparents were born into Swedish pioneer families. My grandfather Charles Oscar Swanson was brought to this country when he was a baby; his family

settled on a farm near Paxton, Illinois. He labored for his father until he was 21, picking up small scraps of knowledge gleaned from the

sparse time between harvest time and spring planting. He quickly made up for the lacunae in his formal education by studying at a private school in Chicago. He entered Carleton Academy in 1895 where he met my grandmother Esther Holmberg. Both of my grandparents were determined to get an education. To afford this would require both of them to work at hard-labor jobs as well as keeping up their high grade averages.

Grandmother, one of eight children growing up in a dugout in Minnesota, had to leave Carleton for a semester for lack of money. The following semester the same situation loomed. While wishing her Greek professor good-bye, she shook his hand. After he left she looked down at her hand. There was the \$10 she needed for that semester's tuition.

Grandfather had a hernia yet one of the jobs he took was sawing wood... at 50 cents a cord!

In 1899, they both graduated from Carleton College; my grandmother as Valedictorian of her class, majoring in, not "home economics" or "domestic arts" but Greek and Latin. Wow!

Called the impractical dreamer by his friends, Grandfather was ever expanding his horizons. In 1903 he entered the University of Minnesota to study Agricultural Chemistry and worked with Henry Snyder, a pioneer in Cereal Chemistry, the field where he was to make his mark. In 1905 he received his Master's of Agriculture and was soon appointed Assistant Agricultural Chemist at Purdue University. A year later he left Purdue to become Assistant Chemist of the Kansas Experiment Station (later known as Kansas State University). He took a one-year break in 1921-22 to attend Cornell University in Ithaca, NY getting his doctorate for which many of the required readings were his own writings. Back at Kansas State U. he achieved rank of full professor in 1920 and in 1923 was appointed Head of the Department of Milling Industry, a position he kept until he died.



In 1930 the State Department sent my grandparents on a nine-month fact-finding trip to Europe. Grandmother was now able to see all the places she'd studied about. I don't think she stopped sight-seeing for the full nine months.

Grandfather was a beloved teacher, an excellent researcher, a deeply spiritual man, an inventor whose inventions made fortunes for many people. But not for him. "Money isn't everything," he'd say.

In addition to the many other honors he received, he was

awarded an honorary doctorate from Carleton College in 1940. By the time the "impractical dreamer" died in 1944, he had written three books, numerous articles, and saved many lives through the knowledge of spontaneous combustion in grain environments. He completely revolutionized the baking industry with his inventions which he donated to science for the good of mankind. May his life be for a blessing.'

The above picture shows Professor Swanson working in his lab at Kansas State University. In February 2011, he was posthumously honored by [Ad Astra Kansas](#) when he was named one of Kansas' Top 150 Scientists. His research focused on the basic and applied composition and properties of wheat, flour, dough, and the resultant baked products. His contributions and his mentoring of students were noted in the writ-

ten history about the [Field of Grain Science and Grain Processing](#) at Kansas State University.

Carleton Then: Final Update Regarding the Horace Goodhue Caper

Unfortunately, there will be no resolution regarding whether poor memory or multiple escapades will clarify the two versions of Horace's trip across campus.

Carleton Then: Spider Wrestling

Efforts to recreate one of the historic matches has gone unfulfilled.

Carleton Then: The Untold George Lincoln Rockwell Story (Paul Grawe)

'When Nazi George Lincoln Rockwell spoke at Carleton, I was confused. I was glad that Carleton allowed freedom of speech, but I was in a haze why the officers of the Senate had asked me and Fred Groat to act as bodyguards for the man.

I have tried to eliminate the confusion throughout life, it centering on my sense that the Nazis were strongly leftist. Before the war, they made a non-aggression pact with the Soviets, posing a fearsome threat to the Western democracies.

The Nazis were national socialists; the Communists were international socialists. The Germans preferred nationalism after the bad experiences of 1918. So I understand that there was something for these leftist groups to fight over. To me, however, the national-international difference made insignificant distinction.

Both Germany and Russia were typically European in centralizing all war decisions including scientific and industrial war-machine decisions. In contrast, Britain wouldn't have had any modern fighter pro-

tection if private industry hadn't privately developed the Spitfire. And after Pearl Harbor, the Americans turned the war machine over to the giants of industry to be handled with private-company procedures as much as possible with the exception that war-profiteering was largely eliminated.

Germany and Russia during the war had remarkably similar experiences: they both produced and used superb tanks, they both produced and used genocide and concentration camps, they both implicitly obeyed ruthless dictators to the end, neither engaged in democratic elections like the American Presidential election of 1944. Germany believed in German racial superiority as suggested in Wagner and Nietzsche; Russia believed in Mother Russia as it had in the reign of Peter the Great. Both countries lived under the rule of totalitarian exclusive political parties. Both Russia and Germany were officially atheistic.

Anyway, when Rockwell arrived at the chapel, Fred and I were ready to greet him at the Northfield-side doors, what I would consider the normal doors. It turned out that Rockwell entered by the back door and with his own squad of bodyguards who came better-equipped than Fred and I would be able to match.

I remember nothing of what Rockwell said. I do remember it sounded like gibberish to me. I think I felt relief. After all, my father, a German immigrant himself, had spent the war helping train bomber crews to bomb his native land, possibly his hometown. I hadn't been left standing at the altar but rather standing at the public doors. It had turned out to be a better day than I'd imagined.'

CARLETON THEN: An Insight that has continued meaning today:

Black Students Speak-up at Carleton: Dissatisfied over "equal treatment," surprising view expressed at students meeting (Sankei Shim-bun, Evening Edition, July 6, 1965)

By Shotaro Oshima (Junior, University of Tokyo; attending Carleton College, under Sankei Scholarship). This is a translation of an article that appeared in the *Sankei Shimbun*.



White Students Taken Aback: Some days ago there was a meeting held at Carleton College where I am now studying. The purpose of this meeting was for the ten or so black students at the college to address the white students and speak their mind about various unpleasant experiences on campus, and to try to identify the problems and find ways to solve them through frank discussion.

The problem facing blacks in the United States is generally known in Japan, and I thought I had certain understanding about the issue in my own way. Nevertheless, the points raised by the blacks at this meeting took me by surprise. Nor was I the only one, rather most of the white students were much dismayed, even shocked, by what the black students had to say.

The crux of the displeasure the blacks aired was in the fact that they were treated as "totally equal human beings" as the whites on campus. Convinced that the removal of all kinds of discrimination and achievement of equal treatment to be the greatest goal for the blacks, it was natural for us to find this argument totally unexpected.

Liberal College: Carleton College is a private school located in the northern part of the Midwest, which has total enrollment of 1300 plus students all of whom reside on campus. It is different from a typical large scale university in that its focus is on liberal arts education, or to stress the importance of broad based learning, rather than concentrating on specific subject areas as big universities wont to do. Matter of fact, Carleton is among the best of many liberal arts colleges.

Most of the students are from the upper middle class or better families, and many are from family background of intellectual profession, such as college professors. Therefore, students' intellectual level is high, 70-80% of the graduates go to graduate level schools, and among them many are interested in pursuing academic careers.

Perhaps because of such background, students at Carleton generally take a very liberal position on the race issue. There is no racial bias to speak of. During the summer break, some "risked their lives" to take part in the de-segregation (Civil Rights) movement in the Deep South, and most students gave very strong support to student activists. On campus, black students are studying on an equal footing as the white students, and white students treat black students without any discrimination.

However, as the black students aired their views, the problem was in this very treatment.

What the black students had to say: As it turned out, the black students stressed the following: "Before anything else, we are black people, and for anyone to forget, overlook, or consciously avoid this fundamental fact will never lead to complete understanding about us as individuals. We ask not merely to be treated equally as human beings but to be appreciated as individuals. For this, no one should avoid taking into account our special (human) condition as Black people." This was what they told their fellow students.

White students seemed greatly taken aback because they were rejected, not for their failure (of discriminatory acts) but for what they thought they were doing right. One of the white students confided his complaint to the effect "Unless we become friends as individuals we cannot candidly discuss what being black means. The ideal is for each other to go beyond the fact that he is black and I am white and establish rapport as human beings. The expression by the blacks that they are dissatisfied with the equal treatment, and their demand that whites need to treat them as blacks to become true friends, are contrary to the spirit of the Civil Rights movement pursued in the South and elsewhere. I don't understand what they are really after."

I could understand their problem.

On my part, the more I thought about it, the more I felt I could understand the feelings of the Black students. When these black students told their fellow white students they wanted to be treated as blacks, of course they did not mean they were asking for discrimination. These Black students were demanding that, just as no individual can become a true friend unless one truly appreciates his background—how he grew up, what he has gone through—and touches his inner soul, in order to become a true friend to a black student, one cannot disregard the fact he is first and foremost a black individual.

Despite not having any close black friend, I began to feel I understood better what black students had to say because, probably, I was not an American but a foreign student.'

Editor's Notes: Many of us may not have been aware of this or have forgotten about it; however, given the series of events beginning with the August 9, 2014 shooting of Michael Brown, with the Twin City protests regarding the naming of the Washington, D.C. professional football team, and the questions regarding the displays of the Confederate flag by public institutions throughout the southeast, I found reading this piece of Carleton history to be highly informative. Hence its inclusion. The existence of this article was brought forth by Joshua Rabi-

nowitz and it has generated considerable discussion on the [Reunion Web Page](#).

Story from a Classmate: Dun Ying's Basket Mike Taylor, Class of 1966

Following the publication of Issue #4 of the Reunion Newsletter, Mike Taylor (see [Footnote #1](#)) communicated with the editors. It was soon learned that he and Tom Hinckley shared a common experience—they both had spent considerable time in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China. Mike and his family had spent a year (1986 - 87) in Chengdu where Mike taught English. He provided the following story from that period:

'My ex-wife is a white oak basket-maker and historian of that form in the Appalachians. One of the things we did while in Chengdu in 1986-87 was collect basket forms and their uses. We also visited some makers although by then it was a handicraft practiced only in some villages that specialized in that work.

One day in April returning from a bicycle ride into Chengdu proper (we were in a village called Guang Hua Lu [~20 km WSW of Chengdu], see [Footnote #2](#)), I was walking my bike in a crowd by our university's gate and noticed that the woman in front of me had a fantastic basket of great sophistication and unlike anything we had seen. I didn't notice who was carrying it (everyone dressed alike in blue Mao jackets, had the same hair and was about the same height). I just kept following the basket and when the crowd thinned out, I saw that it was Dun Ying, the woman who was assigned to take care of us. It was her market basket. My Chinese being non-existent I caught up to her and pointed to her basket and gave a thumb's up. Later our neighbors who had been there longer helped us ask her about the basket.

Dun Ying was quite flattered and proud of it for it had been made especially for her by her niece's husband. She helped us arrange for a car to take us to his village (~Mingyang) about two hours SSW of Chengdu

(roads were not good then, so it was probably about 50 miles). Then the trip was cancelled because no car was available after all. Her relatives had prepared a banquet for us and we no-showed! Then we went to Lhasa for a week. After our return we tried again to get to her relative's village. We succeeded but they thought we were coming the following week! Surprise! He was an electrical engineer and at work when we arrived. He found someone to watch the power plant (after all it was a relative and her friends, so that took priority). It was a market day, so he walked us through the market and bought what he needed to fix us a banquet. Dun Ying's niece was visiting other relatives in another village, so he did all the food preparation and cooking.

Then he took out a passenger pigeon from its cage, wrote a note, affixed it to the bird's leg, and sent a message to his father-in-law, who lived out in the countryside that we were coming out for a visit. No phone, no problem. We hiked out through fields of canola, wheat, snakeberry, and other vegetables for about half an hour. His father-in-law lived in a large hut with excellent basket bamboo nearby.



While our kids chased chickens and geese, watched pigeons, pumped water and climbed down into a 10-foot deep cold cellar full of sweet potatoes, the engineer cut the bamboo, split it, sized it and wove the basket. He had grown up in a basket-making family. About 15 years before he saw a basket that had been made in Shanghai that he thought quite beautiful and copied it. Since then he made them occasionally as presents for friends and family. No wonder we had never seen one like his aunt's. He finished it after we had a wonderful dinner. Then we walked back across the dikes and fields as the sun went down and we enjoyed the cool of the evening. Of course we left with the basket whose making we had documented.'

Chengdu was established in 311 BC, had a population of 14,000,000+ in 2010, and is now the capital of Sichuan Province. Tom Hinckley's

Footnote 1: Mike Taylor is the McCoy Professor of Management Leadership in the Department of Business and Economics at Marietta College, Ohio. He joined the College in 1977 and he has been involved with the College's China Program since 1986 when he spent 1986-87 teaching marketing at the Southwestern University of Finance and Economics. In the fall of 1996 he taught Comparative Leadership Studies at The Foreign Affairs College in Beijing.

Footnote 2: I regularly rode into Chengdu from there. The consulate had a small library and they allowed us to use their photocopy machine. We also had to post our mail from the hotel where the consulate was located. I taught at the University of Southwestern Finance and Economics. It is still in the same place and is one of the Ministry of Higher Education's 71 key universities. When I was there it was owned by the People's Bank of China. Before the Japanese invasion of China, it was a Shanghai college; but it was one of the universities that was relocated lock, stock, barrel, instructors, students, and library to the Chengdu area. They walked and carried everything. Almost unthinkable.

We lived at the University. The village was at the back gate and was pretty primitive. They had a cholera outbreak there the year before we got there and probably had one when we were there.

first time in Chengdu was in 1999—he will return in mid-August this year and will provide a story in a subsequent newsletter.

Carleton Now: Recent Accolades

Peter Schultz, planetary geoscientist at Brown University, and former graduate student, Megan Bruck Syal, had a recent publication that was highlighted by several science news services. In their paper, they provided new evidence that several comet collisions over the last 100 million years have created the wispy bright regions scattered across the moon's surface called lunar swirls. Pete concludes: *"This is the first time anyone has looked at this using modern computational techniques. Everything we see in simulations of comet impacts is consistent with the swirls as we see them on the moon. We think this process provides a consistent explanation, but may need new moon missions to finally resolve the debate."*

Reunion Statistics

Two new bio-stories have been posted: Buzz Duane and Larry Soderholm. Please do not forget to post your story (here is the web site: <https://apps.carleton.edu/alumni/classes/1966/stories/biobook/>). Still wavering on attending the reunion? Here is the list of people currently planning on attending: <https://apps.carleton.edu/alumni/classes/1966/who/>).

OpEd - Divestment Continued

Update on the Divestment Issue (Brett Smith '64):

Hi Class of 66ers... I am interested in your discussion of divestment and other strategies for impacting Carleton's involvement with fossil fuels. Thanks to Joshua and Tom H. for including me in some of that discussion. It seemed like a good idea to me to share some information with you on what has been happening on campus with respect to divestment, although you may already be aware of much of it, and to get any

thoughts or ideas you might have on a divestment campaign at Carleton.

I have been involved with this issue at Carleton for about two years. We started with a group of Twin Cities alumni back in the spring of 2013. The group was brought together by MN 350, a state branch of 350.org. It was made up mostly of recent grads who were involved in a divestment campaign at the University. I got involved because of some connections I had made through the Sierra Club.

As you may know, a lot has happened on campus over the past year with respect to divestment. In the fall, working under the group name of the Climate Justice Coalition, the students collected something like 600 petition signatures supporting divestment. The Carleton Student Association (CSA) adopted a resolution supporting divestment with a virtually unanimous vote (one student abstained; there were no negative votes). Then early in 2015, a faculty letter supporting divestment gathered over 60 faculty signatures. Meanwhile, our alumni group, Divest Carleton, had collected over 300 alumni petition signatures, mainly through tabling and other activities at the past two College reunions. The April 17 issue of the *Carletonian* devoted its Viewpoint section to divestment and that's a good place to see some student, faculty, and alumni perspective on the issue (All pro divestment).

Most of the alumni involvement (through Divest Carleton) has been to build alumni support, to assist the student campaign, and to press the Carleton Responsible Investment Committee (CRIC) to support divestment. CRIC is an administrative committee consisting of 2 faculty, 2 staff, and 5 students. There are student and faculty co-chairs and Treasurer Fred Rogers is an ex-officio member. Details are on the Carleton web site. We had a major breakthrough in February when CRIC noted the ethically problematic behavior of the fossil fuel industry and recommended that the Trustees create a process by which the issue of divestment could be reconsidered. (The Trustees had adopted a resolu-

tion opposing investment early in 2013.) The Trustee Investment Committee responded by authorizing CRIC to do its own analysis (with help supplied by the Investment Office) and to make recommendations. They also laid out a series of concerns or issues that they felt needed to be addressed if the College were to consider changing its divestment position.

Just a few days ago, CRIC announced that they would recommend fossil fuel divestment to the Trustees. This is a very important development since CRIC is the body that the Trustees have entrusted with social and ethical perspectives on the endowment. Few details of the recommendation are available at this time. A report outlining the recommendation and rationale will be written early this summer and will be presented to the Trustees for consideration at their October meeting. We at Divest Carleton are very excited about the CRIC decision.

Divest Carleton has only very recently begun to relate divestment concerns to alumni giving. We had a joint training session with students this spring, sponsored by the **Responsible Endowments Coalition** (RES). RES offers an escrow fund for campaigns that wish to offer alums or other givers an alternative fund for those who do not want their donations to be invested in fossil fuel stocks. We are still working out the details of this approach, but the basic idea is that money in this fund would accumulate and would be transferred to the college when a commitment to divestment is made. Dates are identified at which point if there has been no commitment, the funds would be distributed to identified organizations working on divestment or other climate justice projects. Details from RES are at giveresponsibly.com.

If you want more information on the overall campaign, Divest Carleton has a web site at divestcarleton.wordpress.com and a Facebook page at Divest Carleton. Information on the national campaign that we are a part of is at gofossilfree.org. I have a number of documents relating to the campaign at Carleton. I would be happy to provide them to anyone

who is interested, and/or answer any questions you might have. Also, if anyone is interested, you can sign our divestment petition on our website. I will be very interested in how concerns about fossil fuel investments work into your fund raising campaign, if at all.”

Editor’s Note: There is a really an [excellent article in the Carletonian](#) that I would suggest those interested should examine. At least two other classmates have written to President Poskanzer regarding Divestment. Joshua Rabinowitz wrote the President in May stating that he supported Divest Carleton's modest demand for gradual divestment. He further argued that even if Carleton continues to reject that demand, none of its reasons for rejecting that demand are also reasons for refusing to create a clean energy fund and to give all prospective donors the option to limit their donations of new money to investments in that fund. Among other things, that option would attract donations from persons who are opposed to providing further support to the fossil fuel industry and would provide a benchmark for Carleton to determine whether further investments in the fossil fuel industry are good investments from a strictly a financial point of view. Joshua will send a copy of his letter to anyone who requests it. Buzz Duane also sent a letter to the President in support of Joshua’s suggestion. To date, neither has heard back on this proposal. We are interested in how you feel.

Remember to check out the [50th Reunion Web Page](#) for latest photographs, stories, and news.

Birds on next page are from top to bottom: Top is Speke's weaver, middle is black kite and bottom is grey headed kingfisher.

Cool birds of Tanzania (Tom and Arline Hinckley)

