A Message from Dean Carolyn H. Livingston

Dear Colleagues,

Happy February! Some of you may have attended the LTC workshop last week on “How Social Identities Affect Student Learning,” which was led by four students to highlight how identities, such as race, socioeconomic class, gender, sexual orientation, and religion, affect every aspect of their lives, including classroom experiences. The students used their own and others’ stories to advocate that faculty should provide safe spaces so students with marginalized identities can achieve their full learning potential. At the end of the workshop, the audience was asked to share what other issues/topics they think should be included in faculty/staff diversity training if Carleton were to implement it in the future.

As you can imagine, my brain started moving even quicker than it usually does. Faculty shouldn’t be the only group on campus to enjoy the benefits of diversity training. As staff members, particularly in the Division of Student Life, we deserve training, too. Understanding the changing demographics and identities of our students, as well as our colleagues, can only enhance the work we do.

To that end, I have asked Rachel Latham, Program Director for Internships and Experiential Learning in the Career Center, and Betsy Lane Getaz, Nurse Practitioner in Student Health and Counseling Services, to co-chair a working group to explore the framework for an annual Student Life staff training. They will begin their work in the upcoming weeks and will submit a report to me late spring. If you are interested in joining their efforts, please send me an email. This is important work, and I am grateful for their leadership.

Happy February again, and thanks for all you do for the division and Carleton.

Carolyn

What’s Coming Up

A brief selection of Student Life events...

GSC Community Planning Forum Part 2—2/10 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in Weitz 235
Chili Night—2/17 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Alumni Guest House
Live at Sayles featuring Holly Henry—2/25 at noon in Great Space
Community Conversations
2/9: 1 and 4:30 p.m.
2/10: 4:30, 8 and 9 p.m.
2/11: 1 and 4:30 p.m.
2/12: 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.
2/13: 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.
2/14: 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.
2/15: 4:30 and 8 p.m.
2/16: 1 and 4:30 p.m.
2/17: 4:30 and 8 p.m.
2/18: 1 and 4:30 p.m.
2/19: 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.
2/20: 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m.
2/21: 11 a.m., 3 and 6:30 p.m.
2/22: 4:30 and 8 p.m.
And many more!

Staff Highlight: Marit Lysne

Marit Lysne, Director of Student Health & Counseling, has been at Carleton for 15 years. She came to Carleton because there was a need for a therapist with expertise in the treatment of eating disorders and body image issues. “Eating disorders continue to affect many students on our campus,” she says, “but I also provide therapy related to a variety of other issues, too, in addition to my administrative work.”

Marit credits her longevity to the atmosphere at Carleton. “I have the greatest colleagues in the world, who are simultaneously high achieving, dedicated, supportive, and fun loving.” She adds that “it is an honor to walk alongside Carleton students during this life stage of considerable development, growth, and challenge. They are inspiring to me, and working with them consistently pushes me to learn and grow in new ways. I’m tremendously grateful to work here.”

Marit keeps busy outside of work, too. She and her husband make their own wine, and her children help out with bottling, corking, and labeling. Best of all, “It tastes pretty good, too!”

The creativity doesn’t stop there. She explains, “I need some sort of creative outlet in my life. I am always involved in multiple art or craft projects.” She has dabbled in sewing, ceramics, crocheting, silversmithing, painting, drawing, and glass making. Marit creates beautiful jewelry, usually involving beads and wire. “If I weren’t working as a psychologist, I would try to make jewelry for a living.”

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Department Updates

Academic Support Center: Fall prefects held a total of 289 review sessions, with 18.7% of all students on campus attending at least one. The Writing Center saw 18% of all students during a total of 1,010 sessions last term.

Alcohol & Other Drug Prevention: The Carleton Coalition on Alcohol and Marijuana (CCAM) has finished a prioritization process for selecting “intervening variables” of focus for the grant. These variables ranked the highest with regard to contributing to alcohol and marijuana use by our students: perceived risk of consequences for breaking campus alcohol and marijuana policies, perceived risk of harm from alcohol or marijuana, perceptions of drinking as part of campus culture, and alcohol use for relaxing/relieving stress. During winter term, CCAM will select multiple evidence-based strategies to target each one of these variables.

Career Center: Students can apply for funding from Carleton to support an unpaid internship. Many generous Carls have provided resources to support all students, regardless of financial means, to intern domestically or abroad, especially in China and other developing countries. Summer 2016 internship funding application deadlines are February 10, the priority deadline for international (developing countries only) internships, and April 6 for all others. Application details are on our website.

Dacie Moses: We hosted Dacie's 133rd birthday celebration—featuring the Knights and Gales singing, good food, and wonderful people, including students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community friends. With more than a hundred people attending, the house was full. The House Resident and student workers did an excellent job of planning, baking, and hosting this event.

Disability Services: Andy Christensen met with Department Assistants as a group to update them on procedural changes for scheduling accommodated exams, including the online procedures, so they could report back to their departments.

Gender & Sexuality Center (GSC): We hosted the Rainbow Retreat, our annual event for students, faculty, and staff. More than 60 participants came together for LGBTQIA+ education and community building. Along with PEAR, we hosted two Green Dot basketball games against St. Thomas to help raise awareness of the Green Dot Program and the role that bystanders play in preventing power-based personal violence.

Intercultural & International Life (OIIL): Our major January event was the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dinner Celebration. This year’s theme was “Age of Contemporary Activism.” More than 165 guests attended. From a powerful opening address from sophomore Walter Paul to vocal performances by the Singing Knights and junior Jennifer Lor, the night was filled with inspiration and positivity. Students spoke on various issues that not only the Carleton community faces, but the U.S. and the world, as well.

Residential Life: We welcomed 1,796 students back to campus for the winter term, 198 of whom returned from off-campus studies or other leaves. During fall term, we conducted a Community and RA Feedback Survey. Results worth noting: 94.3% of students reported that the campus environment met their physical and security needs, 86% had a good or excellent experience with their RA, and 80% had a good or excellent experience in their residential living area. We will focus on addressing facilities issues, a consistent concern. Please encourage your students to apply to become a new RA to ensure a safe and welcoming community! The application will be open on the Res Life website until February 23.

Student Activities Office (SAO): We had a busy start to winter term, assisting student organizations with a variety of events, coordinating bus trips to the Mall of America and the Guthrie Theater, and hosting a Chicago-based musical improv group called iO Theater. A major event for the Student Activities Programming Board (SAPB) was the 36th annual MidWinter Ball on Saturday, February 6.

Student Health & Counseling (SHAC): In conjunction with the SWA’s January 13 Winter Health Fair, we hosted a flu vaccination clinic for students. We’re also excited to offer a new service to students seeking counseling! Therapist Assisted Online (TAO) is an interactive, web-based program that helps students overcome anxiety and depression. After being screened by one of SHAC’s counselors, participants watch videos, complete exercises, and track their moods. Daily practice logs help clients to reinforce and practice the skills throughout the week. Students meet weekly with a SHAC counselor via video conferencing for a 10-15 minute consultation regarding their progress. This approach provides a convenient alternative to weekly or bi-weekly in-person therapy sessions for some students. Please contact SHAC for more information.

TRIO: We started winter term off with a “meet, greet, and eat” welcome event for Trey Williams, our new director, which many students attended. We opened the lending library and have checked out almost 700 books this term! We are currently working on our winter term newsletter with stories of new staff, Class Act, and advice from the Peer Leaders.
What Are Our Peer Leader Alumni Doing Now?
Emily Scotto ('15, Sociology/Anthropology/Women’s and Gender Studies)
Gender and Sexuality Center Associate, 2013-2015

As a Gender and Sexuality Center Associate (GSCA), I helped develop sexuality programming for students. From study-break workshops about sexual anatomy and pleasure to community-wide dinners about how to navigate expectations in relationships, each project had the goal of engaging students in thoughtful conversations about healthy, safe, and fulfilling sexual and romantic relationships that honor the diversity of identities at Carleton.

I continue this kind of work as Weitz Fellow with the Women’s Fund of Omaha. As part of the Adolescent Health Project, the Women’s Fund has devoted three years to working with community partners to increase access to STI testing and safer-sex materials in Omaha, and to get comprehensive sexuality education into Nebraska public schools. I’ve been able to dive into the project as a new member almost seamlessly, owing in large part to the skills I gained while working at the GSC. I’ve been an active participant in a community council of twenty sexual-health providers and educators, thanks to my work with diverse collaborators at Carleton. I called upon those skills, as well as the sexual violence prevention training I received as a GSCA, to help council members draft a community definition of “trauma-informed care.”

Helping to coordinate and facilitate FemSex, Carleton’s peer-led course about female sexuality, gave me a foundation for talking to young people. I’ve done outreach at a Teen Sexual Education Summit, where I talked with young people about their wants and needs in the sex-ed classroom. I provided teens with information about safer-sex supplies and how to advocate for better sex ed in schools, topics I learned about at the GSC. I’ve assisted our Education Coordinator in writing content for a website aimed at teens and their parents that provides “myth-busting” information about sex and sexuality. Not only am I able to engage fully in this work because of the accurate and wide-ranging knowledge about sexual health gained as a GSCA, but I can also apply broader peer-educator skills to help ensure that the site’s information is inclusive and affirming. Put simply, my work at the GSC has been invaluable in allowing me to grow and learn as I begin my professional life away from campus.

Winter Break Externships
Brian Murphy, Career Center

The Career Center’s Externship Program saw another significant increase in the number of students who were able to participate this year. In December, 145 students had an externship, up from 101 last year. The number of organizations hosting externs jumped from 58 participating organizations last year to 83 this year!

The Career Center is most pleased with the increase in the percentage of unique applicants who were able to participate in an externship: last year, 32.5% of the students who applied for an externship ended up getting one; this year, 43.5% of students who applied participated. As was the case last year, the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) was instrumental in the success of the Externship Program by tapping their professional networks and delivering more new sites.

Some of the exciting new organizations brought on board this year by both the PAC and the Career Center include 3M Safety & Graphics Business Group, St. Paul, MN; Dakota Country District Court in Apple Valley/Hastings, MN; City of Edina, MN; The Girls’ Middle School, Palo Alto, CA; NASA Glenn Research Center, Cleveland, OH; and the Univ. of Alabama Institute for Cancer Outcomes and Survivorship, Birmingham, AL.

Space
Dean Carolyn H. Livingston

As most of you know, there have been significant conversations on campus regarding space, particularly with historic gifts to the College for Music and Science new construction. At the end of winter term, the Office of Intercultural and International Life (OIIIL) will move from Scoville Hall to the basement of Laird. The Gender and Sexuality Center office will move to Clader House. The students who are currently in Clader will relocate to Myers.

These relocations make it possible to completely renovate Scoville, which will house Admissions and Financial Aid; the Career Center to move from Sayles Hill to Johnson House. As a division, we will have conversations regarding Sayles Hill office locations in the upcoming months.

This is an exciting time for our division and the College. Thanks for your patience as we navigate these new and temporary spaces.