A Message from Dean Carolyn H. Livingston

Dear Colleagues,

I’ve gone to numerous programs and events this academic year in order to learn more about Carleton and its students, faculty, and staff. In many ways, it is hard to neatly summarize all that I have learned.

Last week, I went to a well-attended event in Weitz 236 as part of the Undocumented Student Awareness Week sponsored by OIIL and the Minnesota Private College Fund “Dream Act” Project. We heard powerful stories from DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival) students at Carleton. These Dreamers, as they are commonly called, came to the U.S. before reaching their sixteenth birthday and do not have citizenship. Before DACA, they could have been deported at any time. Their path to citizenship now rests with the U.S. Supreme Court. Carleton currently has about twelve Dreamers who, before the DACA was signed in 2012, couldn’t have envisioned attending college or fully exercised their human rights within the United States.

At times, the stories were difficult to listen to. Some students talked about treks through the desert to come to the United States; some spoke of parents struggling to make financial ends meet while working around the clock; others told of missed opportunities. Regardless of background, the one commonality was that Carleton provided a chance for these students to fulfill the dream of earning a college education at a residential liberal arts college.

It took a lot of courage for these students to participate in the panel and the week’s events, and I am grateful to them and OIIL for bringing their experiences to our attention.

Happy Spring. It is here.

Carolyn

What’s Coming Up

A brief selection of Student Life events...

Chili Night—5/11 at 6 p.m. in the Alumni Guest House meeting room
Live at Sayles featuring Sarah Morris—5/12 at noon in Great Space
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Research Poster Presentation—5/18 at 3:30 p.m. in Great Hall
Sumo outdoor movie featuring Creed—5/20 at 9 p.m. on the Bald Spot
Spring Concert—5/21 at 3 p.m. behind the Rec Center
Brunches at Dacie Moses House—every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Tea Time in OIIL—every Thursday from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in Laird 14

Academic Teams at Carleton: Model UN, Mock Trial, Debate/Forensics

By Jessica VanZuilen & Ana Sontag, Student Activities Office

Carleton has three active academic teams: Model United Nations (Model UN), Mock Trial, and Forensics Society (Debate/Forensics). Students represent the College at competitions around the country. All three teams have worked extremely hard and have the awards and trophies to prove it.

Model UN included twenty-eight students who rotated in teams of seven to twelve people to attend six competitions this year. The entire team won the Outstanding Delegation Award (second place) at the Washington University Model United Nations Conference. In addition, two students placed at the Harvard National Model United Nations, including Kabir Sarian’s earning Best Delegate (first place) and Kirsten Walters’ earning Outstanding Delegate (second place).

Mock Trial had a very busy season attending six competitions. The team took first place at two tournaments, qualified two teams for the opening round of nationals, earned honorable mention at another invitational, and overall earned sixteen individual awards at tournaments. Students winning multiple individual awards included Ryan Gorey, Jake Kokoris, Mary Kate Hall, Emily Starr, and Sharaka Berry.

Debate/Forensics traveled to three tournaments this past year. At the Minnesota State Tournament, the duo of Ani Nadiga and Dan Gold claimed the state championship, and Ben White was awarded top speaker. In addition, Carleton won the Sweepstakes Award, which was awarded to the school with the best total performance in the tournament, and the Quality Award, given to the school with the highest average performance per entry.

If you are interested in learning more about Carleton’s academic teams, feel free to contact Jessica VanZuilen in the Student Activities Office. You can also check out a selection of the teams’ recent awards in the display case near Sayles 160.
Department Updates

Academic Support Center: The Writing Center has hired fifteen fantastic new students who will join our staff of writing consultants next year! They were selected from an applicant pool of forty-six students. The Writing Center partnered with Cross-Cultural Studies and the Cross-Cultural Studies department to run the Global Experience Travel Writing Contest and received twenty-six submissions. Carleton alum and travel writer Heather Stimmer-Hall selected the winners.

Alcohol & Other Drug Prevention: Great news! Our strategic plan for our Alcohol & Marijuana Prevention Grant has been given the green light! We are continuing with the budget development phase for the ten strategies that we included in our strategic plan, including AlcoholEdu, Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS), Brief Motivational Interviewing, Injunctive Norms Re-Education, InShape Prevention Plus Wellness program, Marijuana-Wise online course, and an ongoing Sanction Education campaign.

Career Center: We kicked April off by partnering with the Multicultural Alumni Network (MCAN) and Out After Carleton (OAC) to offer an event for current students in which an alum discussed a wide variety of diversity issues in the workplace. The roundtable format resulted in engaging discussions. We are eagerly assisting students as they prepare for their summer internships all around the world. Over the next month, students will work with Career Counselors to establish their learning agreements and envision their summer goals. Students who want advice on navigating new cities and taking full advantage of their summer opportunities are invited to visit us for support.

Dacie Moses: We have been hosting weekly Sunday brunches and interesting guests in the guestroom. We hosted a parent and grandmother from India and had a wonderful time.

Disability Services: Starting fall 2016, our office will become a central hub for accommodation requests. Students will soon have one place to contact for academic, housing, and meal accommodation requests.

Gender & Sexuality Center (GSC): We just wrapped up our spring term Pride Games hosted by various athletic teams at Carleton. Team members attended an Ally 101 presentation and wore rainbow bands to show allyship with Carleton’s LGBTQ A+ community. We look forward to the spring term Green Dot Bystander training and also Speak Up, our annual event at which survivors of power-based personal violence share their stories.

Intercultural & International Life (OIIL): The International Festival planning committee and our office hosted International Festival on Saturday, April 30. Approximately 350 to 400 students, staff, faculty, and Northfield community members enjoyed 20 dishes and 12 performances that displayed a vast range of cultures. Thank you to Bon Appetite and all that attended, because of your generosity, we were able to raise $300 for three charities—the Flint Health & Development Fund, and aid for the earthquakes that affected Japan and Ecuador.

Residential Life: Room Draw is now open for all residents on campus! This our second year of implementing the successful online room draw process. Students complete a questionnaire and determine roommates, and then use the online program to select the room that is the best fit for them. Each resident selects a space via assigned lottery number throughout the month of May, which began with seniors on May 2.

Student Activities Office (SAO): We have been busy hosting events, supporting student organizations in their activities, and interviewing new student staff for the upcoming year. Among many other events, the Student Activities Programming Board (SAPB) hosted the Minneapolis-based Blackout Improv group (including Carleton alum Alsa Bruno ’12), the annual Superhero Dance, and Battle of the Bands. The Student Union Movie Organization (SUMO) has also had a busy term hosting movies such as The Big Short, Carol, and Star Wars: The Force Awakens.

Student Health & Counseling (SHAC): Spring term is off to a great start! We participated in the TRIO Resource Fair, where we were able to answer a wide range of questions about access and services. We’re please to announce that increased access to counseling services, updates to the mySHAC patient portal, and Care Navigation appointments (for students who need help with insurance claims, medical bills, and scheduling simple appointments off-campus) will make managing students’ health care easier this term and going forward (see our spring newsletter for more information). Lastly, kudos to the SHAC staff recognized at the April 19 Employee Recognition Celebration (five years for Dawn Fadden, Jan Foley and David Wolff, and ten years for Drew Weis)!

TRIO: Our staff recently returned from a TRIO TRI-State conference (including Wisconsin and Iowa) and were able to gain insightful knowledge of other TRIO programs and updates from Washington D.C. We continue to explore ways to offer a more comprehensive experience for our students.
Green Dot Bystander Intervention
Caroline Sheffield, GSCA

Have you seen the Green Dots sprinkled on bulletin boards, bathroom stalls, and social media around campus and wonder what it’s all about? Here is the first year Green Dot wrap-up you have been waiting for!

In April 2014, a federal task force mandated the implementation of bystander intervention programs on college campuses nationwide. With the support of the Gender & Sexuality Center and Title IX Lead Team, a launch committee at Carleton formed last spring and elected to adapt the nationally recognized Green Dot program. Green Dot specifically focuses on building the skills individuals need to become active bystanders when they see instances of power-based personal violence (stalking, intimate partner violence, and sexual assault) and proactive agents of change for a safer and more affirming campus community.

Green Dot’s philosophy is that culture does not change when one person does one big thing, but rather when a lot of people each do small things, hence the Green Dot motto, “No one has to do everything, but everyone has to do something.” Regardless of your current connection to sexual misconduct, all of us play a role in making Carleton a safer and more affirming community.

In its first year alone, more than eighty students completed the six-hour training! The first Green Dot training was offered during New Student Week in fall of 2015 for varsity athletes on campus for preseason. Since that first training, Green Dot has maintained close ties with P.E.A.R. and student athletes on campus, hosting six Green Dot Game events over the course of the year (Women’s Volleyball and Women’s Soccer in fall 2015, Men’s and Women’s Basketball in winter 2016, and Women’s Softball and Men’s Baseball in spring 2016). For all games, a few representatives from each team completed the six-hour training or the entire team partook in a one-hour overview of Green Dot to increase awareness of sexual violence prevention in varsity athletic circles.

Subsequent six-hour trainings were offered every Monday of mid-term break and are now open to all students on campus. The goal is to expand the program, hosting about three trainings a year so that, at any given time, several hundred students, representing a diversity of campus organizations, clubs, teams and social groups, are Green Dot certified. In 2016-17, trainings and other Green Dot events will remain open to the entire Carleton community.

If you would like to become a part of the movement or have any questions about Green Dot and sexual violence prevention at Carleton, feel free to contact Laura Haave (lhaave@carleton.edu), Tegra Straight (tstraight@carleton.edu), or a Gender and Sexuality Center Associate (GSCA). One-hour introductory trainings are also available for social organizations and community groups. Reach out if you are interested!
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF)
Mellon Graduate School Exploration Fellowship (MGSEF)
Michael Hodges, Office of Intercultural & International Life

The Mellon Mays Fellowship has been expanded to include the Mellon Graduate School Exploration Fellowship, which includes majors and disciplines that aren't in the Mellon Undergraduate Fellowship. Unlike MMUF, MGSEF is a one-year program that includes summer research that targets juniors.

The 2016 recipients:

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship
Chue Lor, 2018
David Higgs, 2018
Jessica Lartgue, 2018
Connor Rechtzigel, 2017
Jennifer Lor, 2017

Mellon Mays School Exploration Fellowship
Walter Paul, 2018
Amirah Ellison, 2018
Damili Britton, 2018
Simon Gutkin, 2018

The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Poster Session will be held on May 18 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in Great Hall. Stop by to congratulate the 2016 recipients!

The GSC and OIIL Have Moved!
Tegra Straight, GSC, and Michael Hodges, OIIL

The Gender and Sexuality Center now resides in Clader House, just around the corner from Dacie Moses, between WA (Women’s Advocacy) House and Q&A (Queer and Allies) House. The directors and student workers at the GSC have made changes to Clader to smooth the transition to the smaller space. Stop by and check out the new bookshelves, colorful decorations, and new furniture (including beanbag chairs!).

Laura Haave and Tegra Straight, the director and assistant director of the GSC, have new office spaces. The new living room/lounge area provides a more open space for meetings, and the full kitchen allows student groups and GSC Associates to bake treats or cook meals right in the GSC. The safer-sex supplies that the GSC offers are now in the bathroom, which can be reached from either the front or back entrance of the house. It may take some time to learn exactly where Clader House is located, but the GSC and the greater LBGTQA+ community at Carleton are engaging in activism in a new space.

The Office of Intercultural and International Life has moved to Laird 14, and staff welcome the community to visit our new space, which includes a larger lounge for students to study and play board games, enjoy coffee and tea any time, and talk to really cool people. Our first open house was well attended, and we are seeing many people come to our Tea Time every Thursday afternoon from 2:30 to 4:00 pm. Stop by to visit the new space!

HealthFinders Gala
Jan Foley, SHAC

Thanks to the generosity of Carleton Student Life Staff, three attractive baskets were featured in the HealthFinders Gala Silent Auction on April 22. Our themed baskets—Family Game Night, Quiet Time for Kids, and Wellness: Mind, Body, Spirit—raised approximately $200 for HealthFinders! Many thanks to all who donated items, baskets, or money. Your donations will help HealthFinders continue its mission of serving uninsured and underinsured members of our community.