Hi there, 2015!

Look at you hot, new Carleton grads! Time has passed since we last sat together, and everyone’s graduation cap should be dry and less droopy now. Here are some things that have already happened to us:

- When we realized the midday nap is no longer a feasible option during the workday
- When we found out from Facebook that a friend from elementary school just had their second kid
- When we awkwardly met a new coworker, a proud Ole.

You can’t make this stuff up. And we aren’t making up the following stuff either:

Last year, the Alumni Annual Fund raised a record $7.94 million, often through gifts of $25 or less. That’s equivalent to:

- 25% of the College’s financial aid budget, or 237 average financial aid awards
- Work-study income for every Carleton student
- Salaries for 96 assistant professors
- 285 grants for faculty to pursue research and course development

We finished our Senior Gift at a solid 50% participation rate, and we are hoping to push that up to 55% this year, with $5,000 in total donations. That’s about 10 bucks a person.

We know we just wrapped up our Senior Gift, but we also just entered the 2015-16 fiscal year for the Annual Fund. Carleton needs to continue growing, and as alums we can now help facilitate that growth.

To donate now, go to go.carleton.edu/give (you can even make smaller monthly contributions automatically from your bank account for easier budgeting). We know some of you believe that a donation of $10 for this fiscal year is small and meaningless. It’s actually not, and maybe your post-grad budget will show you how money adds up faster than you can imagine. It works the same way for the College.

We hope that if able and presented with the opportunity to donate to a community that helped raise you for four years, you choose to give back.

We’ll check-in with all of you throughout the year, but feel free to reach out to us anytime if you have questions, or if you just want to chat. Our Facebook Class of 2015 group page is still active, and we encourage you to use it and keep in touch. We wish you the absolute best! May your fall be filled with as much apple crisp as we got accustomed to eating on campus.

Dilara Akgunduz dakgunduz@gmail.com | Jacob Hassing jacob.hassing@yahoo.com | Colby Seyferth colby083@gmail.com | Rachel Womack rwomack01@gmail.com