Dear all,

I know that some of you are already in the U.S. and others will be here soon. For whatever reason, if you have decided not to attend Carleton this Fall, please tell me now.

Otherwise, in slightly more than 2 weeks, we will see you on Wed, August 31. Here are some reminders and information to help you (and any family members that might be traveling with you).

1. prior to departing your home - if you have not already

a. Have you completed and returned all the required forms required by the difference Carleton offices? Visit the checklist at http://apps.carleton.edu/newstudents/ and may include things like the Medical History Form, your Final High School or Secondary Transcript (for those who will complete a degree at Carleton), paid for your Carleton Health Insurance or have it billed to your student account, etc. Bring any remaining forms with you to turn into the appropriate office.

b. Know where your plane ticket and passport are and if you need it, your F or J visa, and all your important documents to enter the U.S. It has happened, but please make sure your passport, visa, I-20 or DS-2019 (as needed) is in your carry-on or on your person and not in your checked luggage. Certainly, it might be a good idea to keep a copy of your paperwork with you (but separate from your original in case they get lost or stolen) and keep a copy with your family or other trusted person.

c. Money that you may carry with you - Whether you carry cash, a check (cheque), travelers checks/cheques, or other forms of currency please keep them in secure place. Also know that if you and your family are carrying more than $10,000, you are required to declare that amount, https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/195/~/currency-%2F-monetary-instruments---amount-that-can-be-brought-into-or-leave-the. If you don't declare and the Customs and Border Protection (immigration official you will encounter) find out, you might lose your money and/or pay a fine as well.

d. Bring a small gift for International Student Orientation gift exchange.

e. MOST IMPORTANTLY - complete your arrival form. About 1/3 of you still have not completed the arrival form as requested. Please complete the form even if you are coming to Carleton with your family or friend. We need to account for each person’s arrival so we can make appropriate plans.

If you want to be picked up from the airport on Wed, August 31, and we do not receive your arrival form by this Thursday, Aug 18, we will still pick you up but instead will charge you student account for $80-$100 for the cost of the airport pick-up. Again the free airport pick-up on August 31 is only for those who return the Arrival Form by Thursday, Aug 18, and is only for Carleton student (family members must make their own arrangements).

2. Day of Arrival and Rest of ISO
As you may have already seen, you are required attend all the ISO activities. Family and friends are welcomed to join us for dinner on Aug 31, breakfast and dinner on Sep 1, but after that you will be too busy to meet up with them. Do remember that New Student Week starts on Sep 6.

a. Arrival at airport - everyone who is arriving at the Minneapolis/St. Paul (MSP) airport should meet the Carleton representative (Luyen and one of the student leaders) on the lower level where the luggage pick-up is. If you are coming directly from an international location, just come out the sliding doors of the international section and you will meet me near the statue of the fireman (picture attached) which is right next to the only Starbuck Coffee place on that floor. If you have a domestic connection before coming to MSP then after you off the plane, come down to luggage area and find Carleton representative around the area of Starbuck and the fireman statue.

If you are staying at a hotel near the airport, most hotels will have a shuttle that you can take for free to get back to the airport.

b. Arrival at Carleton - you are welcomed to get yourself to Carleton. When you arrive on-campus, find your way to Parish House to check-in. Everyone will check into Parish House to get information and also the keys to your assigned room. Remember if you arrive at Carleton/Northfield before August 31, you will need to find a place to stay as dorm rooms will not be open.

c. Delays, lost luggage, other emergencies - Please keep my cellphone number on you for emergencies 1 952 454 0068. If your flight is delayed please call or text me; leave message with your full name and the update I should know. I can text international numbers back but not call. This may sound strange, but sometimes the airline employee or total stranger will allow you to use their phone as long as you explain the situation to them - "I’m an international student and trying to get in contact with my International Student Adviser at Carleton College." Who knows, one of these folks might be a Carleton alum and if so, get their name and contact information and we’ll send them a thank you note.

If your luggage is lost, provide them with your Carleton address so they can send it there and my cellphone number (if you don’t have a number of your own). Usually, they will find it and send it to Northfield as soon as they get it. (Tip: carry an extra change of clothing with you in case your luggage is lost for more than a day.)

We know many of you will have traveled nearly 24 hours by the time we meet up and you check into Carleton so just remain calm and know that we are here to greet you and welcome you to your home for the next 4 years (or term if you are an exchange student). You may not know it, but those of you are catching connecting flights, especially through Tokyo, might be sitting nearby an Carl already.

TO DO: COMPLETE THE ARRIVAL FORM BY AUG 18, if you want a free ride to Carleton from the airport otherwise it will cost you up to $100. Visit our home page, http://apps.carleton.edu/intl/, and complete the form.
Take care as you say your good byes to family and friends. We will see you on Wed, August 31.

Luyen