Dear member of the Class of 2012:

Congratulations on coming to Carleton! We are all looking forward to welcoming you to campus at the end of the summer.

Each year since 1966, Carleton students have joined thousands of new college students in completing the nation’s largest and oldest, nationally-administered Freshman Survey. It is created and sponsored by the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) at UCLA. The Freshman Survey provides a broad baseline profile of your class, as well as a means to compare your class to past and future Carletonians. It also helps to compare you to other entering students both nationally and among our peer colleges, and to provide a benchmark against which to measure your future academic progress.

Carleton takes pride in its programs, and it takes evaluation very seriously. You should expect to participate in a number of surveys or other research experiences during your undergraduate years. Your patience and cooperation is essential for improving the Carleton experience. Your professors will give you grades, but as students, you also have a responsibility to participate in the evaluation of your education. This year, Carleton is doing an internal study of the first year experience, and your class will be studied over time as part of several cooperative national studies of undergraduate liberal arts education. The results are actively used to develop academic and student life programming that will be responsive to student needs and interests.

We are administering the Freshman Survey online, so please check your Carleton email beginning July 30th for an email from me containing a unique, confidential Web link (URL) to the survey. I hope that you will take about half an hour or so to complete it when it arrives in later this month.

Best wishes for the reminder of the summer. See you on campus in the fall!

Sincerely,

James C. Fergerson
Director, Institutional Research and Assessment
jfergers@carleton.edu

Disclaimers: Although we very much need your participation, the survey is voluntary. We may occasionally link your responses to other surveys or institutional data for research purposes or to measure how you have changed over time. For some national studies, we may be asked to share individual survey responses with our peer institutions, but only after stripping away any information that would identify you personally. Neither our office nor CIRP will share data internally or externally so that you can be identified by name. We have great respect for the security and confidentiality of your information. All analyses will be reported only in summary form, and the information will be used only for educational research.