August 2, 2010

Dear Member of the Class of 2014,

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

Each year, members of the new entering class at Carleton complete a Freshman Survey that is part of a national Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) at UCLA. This ongoing research on college student experiences gathers information from the entering class that serves as a profile for your class and is compared to entering classes at other colleges and with other past entering classes here at Carleton. Your responses will provide a benchmark against which to measure future academic progress of your class.

Carleton takes pride in its programs and is recognized as a national leader in the evaluation of student learning. As such, we ask for your cooperation to improve the Carleton experience. During your time at Carleton, you should expect to participate in a variety of surveys or other research experiences. We will attempt to minimize the number of times that you are asked to complete institutional surveys each year and in turn, we ask that you respond to survey requests with thoughtful, timely responses. Carleton actively uses the results of its ongoing student evaluation programs to develop academic and student life programming that will be responsive to student needs and interests.

Carleton is administering this year’s Freshman Survey online, so please check your Carleton e-mail over the next few days for an email from Carleton that will contain your unique, confidential Web link (URL) to the survey. Please note that the survey will ask you for your student ID so that your responses can be combined with follow-up studies. To be sure you have it available we will include your ID in the email invitation.

This survey will take about half an hour to complete. We hope that you will take time to complete it when it arrives in the next few days.

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

Sincerely,

James C. Fergerson       Arjendu Pattanayak
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Disclaimers: Although we need your participation very much, the survey is voluntary. We may occasionally link your responses to other surveys or institutional data for research purposes or to measure how groups of students 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.