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Preparation for H1N1 underway

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September 25, 2009

President Oden announces retirement

By EMILY HOWELL AND
VIVYAN TRAN
EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

On Friday, September 25, 2009, President Robert A. Oden Jr. announced his retirement effective June 2010.

"It will have been eight years that I have served as Carleton's president and 21 years that I have served as someone's president. It is the best job in the world but it leaves no time for family and friends," President Oden said.

Oden cites many factors in his decision to retire. "In the last 12 months, probably because of my age - I am 63 - I've received so many reminders that we're all mortal; life is fragile and we can't count on time forever."

Oden chose this time to announce his retirement in order for the College to have ample time to find his successor.

"You have my pledge that my commitment to doing all I can for Carleton remains fully in place throughout the current academic year," Oden said.

"These years [as an educational leader], and especially the Carleton years, have been filled

with the friendships and opportunities and profound satisfactions that few positions can offer to anyone," Oden said.

"Still, I do sense that the full energy I have proudly devoted to leading Carleton will someday begin to diminish and that the time to retire is soon, while my enthusiasm and energy remain undiminished."

In his years at Carleton, Oden's leadership has transformed the College on many fronts. The College is in the final stages of its *Breaking Barriers, Creating Connections* campaign, Carleton's ambitious \$300 million fund-raising campaign which currently stands at \$235 million due to the extraordinary support of trustees, alumni, parents, and friends, and the College is poised to successfully complete the campaign in 2010.

An emphasis on intercultural understanding and global issues also emerged during Oden's tenure. The College has increased its international student population from 18 students enrolled in fall 2000 to 117 enrolled in fall 2007. Off-campus studies programs have expanded to include the Middle

East and new programs in Africa and China.

Oden's other notable accomplishments include leading the faculty in the College's first systematic curriculum review in nearly 50 years to develop a liberal arts curriculum accenting creativity and inventiveness.

Tied to that initiative is the Arts Union project, which through both its physical structure and its programming will shape Carleton as a leader in interdisciplinary teaching and learning in the arts and beyond.

"Creativity will be the key educational currency in the 21st century," Oden said.

Carleton also added majors in cinema and media studies and environmental studies during Oden's time in Northfield, and established Carleton's Headley House program, an extended-stay residential pro-



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARLETON COLLEGE

President Robert Oden Jr. will serve his eighth and final year at Carleton.

gram to promote sustained dialogue between visiting scholars, students, and faculty members.

This fall, the College opened Cassat and Memorial Halls, two new residence halls that filled a huge need that Oden first noticed as the leader on an accreditation visit more than a decade ago.

Oden has been a leader in

higher education for more than 30 years. He served as president of Kenyon College from 1995 to 2002 and as headmaster of the Hotchkiss School from 1989-95. Born and raised in Vermillion, S.D., Oden holds a BA degree in history and literature from Harvard College. He attended

ODEN ♦ A3

New dormitories evoke mixed reactions Heated floors but no cellphone reception

By SHREYA SINGH
STAFF WRITER

The festivities surrounding the inauguration of Carleton's two new dorms, Memorial and Cassat, culminated on August 26 with an open house and a tour that gave Carleton staff and students the chance to receive a tour and check out the new facilities.

Though the dorms' construction have run into several obstacles throughout the past fifteen months, including Northfield group Northfield Eastside Neighborhood Association (NESNA) protesting tree removal, the unveiling of the new dorms quieted most of their critics.

Student response to the new dorms—especially Memorial—have been positive. Features include heated floors, motion sensor lights, strong wireless connection and ceiling fans rotating in two directions to circulate two different air temperatures.

In addition to the comfort of the new dorms, Carleton is pursuing a gold level of certification through the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating system. Most of the technology used in the new dorms was chosen on the basis of its sustainability. The motion sensors and the in-floor heating are energy-saving technologies with long-term use, and the buildings have been developed by insulated concrete for increased thermal performance and have solar thermal rooftop collectors to warm water.

Sustainability aside, the new dormitories have provoked

jealousy among other students living elsewhere on campus. Memorial and Cassat have a number of study rooms and printers which make it possible for students to get all their work done without having to leave their dorms. With the LDC opposite the dorms just across the Mini Bald Spot, students may never have to travel to the west side of the campus anymore. Cassat and Memorial also boast a tunnel that connects them. Just outside this tunnel is a game room complete with a plasma TV, foosball and snooker tables.

"I am going to hibernate in my dorms once winter creeps in," said Sonali Gupta, a sophomore living in Cassat.

"Generally its awesome!" said Danny Chen, a sophomore who was drawn in by a senior into a Memorial quint. But, as Chen explained, the dorms have their small share of problems too: the biggest is that large parts of the dorms are completely cell phone dead zones. ResLife, in response to the cell-phone situation, said that it is aware of the issue and is working on a solution.

Another problem encountered by students living on the Eastside is that because of the construction of the new dorms, the LDC has become overcrowded, making dining a very inconvenient experience for most students. "I have never been to the LDC and found a glass!" said one student.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TYLER MIXA

Cassat Hall opened its doors to students at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

Memorial Hall, which is designed in suites with large singles and doubles, comes with a bathroom with huge mirrors, multiple sinks and a kitchen top which has a fridge, a microwave and a sink which makes living in Memorial like living in an off campus house, except that you have to be on a meal plan.

"It would be ideal if they provided a small stove in Memorial and gave people the option of being off the meal plan if they want to," said another student. If ResLife considered and went through with this option, it would result in approximately the same number of people eating in the dining halls as it had before the reduction of the Northfield option.

Danica Lance, the hall director of the Memorial and Cassat halls, said that she felt

privileged to be working and living in the two new buildings. "There have been some minor issues that have come along with the opening of the two buildings, but we have all been very understanding and cooperative with these issues," said Lance.

Lance also said that she felt that the residents were very pleased with the common areas and the new amenities that the two buildings offer. Lance also said that she has been seeing students from all over campus in the buildings taking advantage of them.

Construction for the new dormitories started in spring of 2008. Opening at the beginning of the school year, Cassat and Memorial Hall houses approximately 230 students.

Preparation for H1N1 underway

By NICHOLAS BELLOS
STAFF WRITER

Carleton officials are working on an H1N1 prevention response plan, amid thirteen reported flu cases on campus that were likely caused by the pandemic strain. H1N1 contributed to the death of a Cornell University student last week, but most symptoms remain mild.

Pandemic flu is especially troublesome on college campuses due to their high-density living arrangements, the weekend social scene and shared dining, bathing and learning spaces.

The Minnesota Department of Health predicts a 30 to 50 percent infection rate for the entire state.

"With pandemics, the only thing that's certain is uncertainty," said Natalee Johnson, Coordinator of Medical Services in the Wellness Center.

The thirteen suspected cases of H1N1 are not the first for Carleton this year. Johnson said a July flu outbreak during Carleton's summer writing program was likely H1N1.

Johnson has been the point person in the Wellness Center on H1N1 and led the SWA training sessions about the flu this summer. She has also been in touch with St. Olaf's medical center, which has had a comparable number of sick students.

"[H1N1] has been taken very seriously," she added.

Carleton is waiting to hear from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to when H1N1 vaccines will arrive. Johnson urges students to participate in "community mitigation" efforts. These include frequently washing hands, coughing and sneezing into your sleeve and most importantly, to stay in your room if feeling flu symptoms.

SWAs and Resident Assistants have been trained to identify the key symptoms of H1N1, like high fever (over 100 degrees), sore throat, runny nose and aches, and have been given prevention kits that include thermometers and hand sanitizers for their residence halls. They stress healthy habits as the best way to prevent getting sick, though.

"[We are] emphasizing cleanliness," said H1N1 ♦ A3

NEWS

Professor Joel Weisberg appears at court date for RNC protest

By ALLYSON HERBST
STAFF WRITER

September 14th marked the start of a new school year, and while many Carleton professors were busy setting up Moodle sites and tweaking syllabi, one was appearing before a judge.

Joel Weisberg, professor of Physics and Astronomy and the Natural Sciences, went to trial along with 7 others last week following an arrest at the 2008 Republican National Convention.

The "other RNC 8," as the group calls itself to distinguish from another set of RNC protesters, were found guilty after 4 days of court proceedings and sentenced to pay a \$100 fine or perform 20 days of community service.

The group was initially taken into custody on 31 August 2008, when, in an attempt to deliver a letter to representatives at the convention, they crossed a police barrier.

This defiant undertaking was an act of civil disobedience intended to protest the Iraq War, U.S. torture policies, and the perceived hesitancy of political leaders on both issues. Weisberg says that he and the others saw the recent court proceedings as an opportunity to

continue the work of the August demonstration, as a time and place to further promote their nonviolent message. "The trial itself was a second...social justice action," Weisberg states.

As to whether or not the group was successful in spreading its message, Weisberg seems to think so, although the judge did not allow the 8 to cite the Constitution and its support of international law in their defense.

He admits this was disappointing, as "challeng[ing] the court not to be complicit in torture and the war" and educating jurors about the U.S.'s violation of international law were some of the group's main goals. However, speaking of both the days in court and the August demonstration, Weisberg states, "We accomplished a lot of what I hoped."

He also admits to having great faith in the catalytic and influential power of "breaking the law for justice." "I've been greatly inspired by other people's civil disobedience," he says, "profoundly inspired." He hopes that his actions and those of the other 7 will prove to prompt and propel others.

Weisberg states that, as of yet, he has received no penalty from Carleton College for his



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARLETON COLLEGE

Professor Joel Weisberg and 7 others were arrested at the 2008 Republican National Convention for civil disobedience.

rebellious undertakings and adds that most Carls have been very supportive. Dean of the College Beverly Nagel states, "I respect Joel's passion and commitment. Nonviolent civil disobedience has played an important and legitimate role in many social movements. I would prefer to have seen the charges dismissed,

but am glad that the trial has concluded."

Upon being asked if the future holds more acts of this nature, Weisberg says "yes" but specifies only "under the right conditions." Though this was his first act of civil disobedience, he admits that the desire to do something like it had been bub-

bling within him for almost 40 years.

He believes actions like these, though, should only be pursued when all other channels have failed, and remarks that he was drawn to this particular demonstration because it was a "non-violent, thought-out action."

H1N1 FROM A1

Annie Mark '12, a SWA in Burton, who encouraged students to wash their hands after sneezing and before they eat.

But, healthy habits can be difficult for college students, especially when the weekend rolls around.

"Don't share drinks, don't share cups," Mark continued.

"Especially at parties, really try, if you get a red cup, to not share it with other people. Try to cut down on swapping of spit."

Johnson admits that preventive measures can only do so much. Influenza usually lasts for one week, but is still a highly contagious illness, which has raised concerns about the roommates of sick students.

According to Director of Residential Life Steve Wisener, the College has 40 vacant rooms available this term for medical purposes.

"We are offering the move to the healthy roommate if they would like that option," Wisener said in an e-mail earlier this week.

Students who live within 250

miles are encouraged to return home where they can receive better care.

In a campus-wide e-mail sent last week, Dean of Students Hudlin Wagner announced the steps students with influenza-like symptoms should take,

Wellness Center, the Dean of Students office and Res Life. The Dean notifies faculty if a student will miss classes and the student's Hall Director notifies RAs that their resident is sick.

Martha Paas, an economics professor said that faculty are

enough students begin to fall ill and miss class.

As far as dorm life is concerned, Wisener said that RAs and Hall Directors occasionally check up on sick students and also help them get some meals while they are recovering in their

students have little reason to worry if they do get ill, it hasn't been made clear what medical resources and other types of care are available to students living off campus.

The response plan, which Carleton's Pandemic Preparedness Committee created, is by no means a finished product, and is constantly improving.

In the upcoming days the Wellness Center hopes to bring the same triage online for easier accessibility.

Despite the national news headlines about the Swine Flu, the Wellness Center expressed little concern that H1N1 would threaten to close school.

"The RAs are there for support and to check in on students, but not to be their caretaker... students are ultimately responsible for taking care of these needs."

- STEVE WISENER
DIRECTOR OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE

ODEN FROM A1

Cambridge University as a Marshall Scholar, earning a second bachelor's degree and a master's degree in religious studies before returning to Harvard to complete a master's of theology degree and a PhD in Near Eastern languages and literatures.

He holds two honorary degrees, a doctor of humane letters from Kenyon and an honorary master's degree from Dartmouth, the latter presented when Oden became a full professor at the college.

The Board of Trustees will be charged with naming Carleton's next president, the College's 11th in the institution's 139 year history. "The Board of Trustees has primary responsibility for bringing a new president to Carleton, and to managing an efficient transition, but we will need the help of the entire Carleton community along the way," Jack Eugster, Carleton Board of Trustees chair, said. "Over the next few weeks, the Board will create a search committee, which will

be co chaired by Trustee Cathy Paglia and me."

After he retires, Oden looks forward to devoting more time to his passions outside of education. A trustee recently commented to Oden, "You've got more interests than most people I know. You're the kind of person who retirement is designed for."

Hiking, running, biking, fly-fishing and a stack of books eight feet high all await Oden in Hanover, New Hampshire, where he and his wife Teresa plan on moving.

When asked if there was anything he wanted to share with the Carleton community, Oden said, "Carleton College is what college should be. What a lot of places promise college is going to be - Carleton is."

- Carleton College Media Relations
also contributed to this story.

understanding of students who miss class with the flu, but that few professors worry that H1N1 will be a huge issue.

"A lot of us think it is good to be prepared," she said, "but, so far at least, I don't think we have a problem."

She mentioned that professors are willing to record their lectures and post them online if

room.

"The RAs are there for support and to check in on students, but not to be their caretaker," Wisener said.

"Students are ultimately responsible for taking care of these needs."

While 98 to 99 percent of people who come down with H1N1 have mild flu symptoms, and

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