Welcome!

Congratulations on being accepted to Carleton! I’m delighted to hear of your potential interest in English, and I write to welcome you to the college and to the English Department. We offer both a major in English and a minor in creative writing.

The English Department at Carleton is a special place. With a long tradition of nurturing clear thinking and good writing, we’re a community of accomplished and dedicated teachers, writers, and scholars who love what we do and communicate that passion to our students. Every year we put together a schedule of challenging and engaging courses in English and American literature, drama, postcolonial literature, and creative writing. We offer off-campus study, through seminars in London, Ireland, and California. We bring to campus a rich stream of distinguished guest speakers, recently including Li-Young Lee, David Henry Hwang, Salman Rushdie, and Siri Hustvedt. And we enjoy a vibrant departmental culture on the second floor of Laird Hall.

Our majors are a lively, talented, and friendly group. They produce a department blog (The Second Laird Miscellany: check it out at https://www.carleton.edu/english/miscellany/) and organize student-faculty events. They develop as poets and fiction writers in the workshop courses we offer. And, when opportunity and interest coincide, they work closely with faculty on research projects. Some of our students go on to graduate study in law, film, creative writing, architecture, public policy, medicine, business, and of course English; others embark right away on careers in government, teaching, advertising, marketing, business, journalism, and publishing.

Wherever you go afterwards, at Carleton you'll learn to read and write with knowledge, insight, clarity, and attention. You'll do so in the company of humane and dedicated teachers, of warm and intellectually curious students, and as part of a community that has fun working hard but doesn't take itself too seriously. To find out more about the department, our alumni, and our imp (the little chap made ‘famous’ by Jeopardy) visit our website, https://www.carleton.edu/english/.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with me directly: you can reach me by phone at 507-222-4330 or by email at ghewett@carleton.edu.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Hewett
Professor of English and Chair, English Department