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I love hearing what readers think of the magazine. One of the best things about this job is that I get frequent feedback from folks about, well, just about anything we do. We get plenty of letters to the editor, of course. But I also receive just as many notes, e-mails, phone calls, and impromptu conversations in places like the local coffee shop, in which people are eager to share their opinion about a story we published, a cover choice, an unfortunate typo (!). Often these comments are complimentary, but they can also be critical, and while I’ll never tire of hearing how much someone likes the magazine, I can honestly say that I welcome and encourage dissenting opinions. Constructive criticism not only makes us better at what we do, but it also reminds us that we have an engaged and passionate readership. (Nothing screams I READ AND I CARE more than an angry letter, not even a gushing e-mail.)

For some time now, I’ve wanted to conduct a reader survey that would give analytical credence (or rebuttal) to information we have already been receiving anecdotally, so last fall we worked with both our national professional organization and a research firm to conduct a 25-question survey that would query constituents—selected randomly—on their reading habits and their opinions of Middlebury Magazine. Enough people filled out the survey to give us an error rate of plus or minus 3 percent, and while we’re still analyzing the data, we couldn’t be much happier with what we’ve learned so far.

Among our findings:
Ninety-five percent of you read every, or nearly every, issue of the magazine. Of those, 64 percent read all or most of the magazine, cover to cover.
You keep it around: 84 percent hold on to an issue for a month or longer.
Ninety-four percent of you want to receive the magazine in printed form. We were somewhat surprised to learn that 78 percent will only read the magazine in print, while 16 percent want both print and digital forms. We hope this “both” figure ticks up as you become more familiar with the robust multimedia offerings of our new digital magazine (found at www.middmag.com).

Among the things you’re interested in: campus controversies (79 percent); issues facing higher education (73 percent); admissions policies (71 percent); student issues (70 percent); alumni profiles (69 percent); international issues (69 percent); the academic experience (68 percent); and, of course, class notes (85 percent!). What are you least interested in? Religion (34 percent) is one; donor stories (28 percent) are another.

And while I’m thrilled by the high marks you’ve given us for content (89 percent give a thumbs-up), cover choices (90 percent), writing (89 percent), and design (87 percent), what might be most heartening is the fact that 94 percent of you believe the magazine strengthens your connection to the College. You lead full and busy lives, most of you far from these hills, so it’s nice to know that when we arrive in your homes, your thoughts—be they happy or angry—turn to Middlebury and its place in the world. I look forward to when I hear from you again. —MJ

For more on our reader-survey results, including some of our favorite answers to the questions What do you like most, and least, about Middlebury Magazine, visit www.middmag.com.
All Middle Schoolers Deserve Such a Place

I enjoyed the article “School Building” (spring 2010) on North Branch School and its dynamic head teacher, Tal Birdsey ’87. In his quest to create “a house where wisdom would flourish,” where “mistakes [could] become part of the discussion,” where students were aware that “the only thing of lasting value was what they created in the liminal zone between who they were and who they were becoming?” Mr. Birdsey is clearly meeting his fundamentally important goals.

I wonder, though, what my own students might say about Xander Manshel’s characterization of middle school as “a terrifying place,” reviled by students and endured by parents, we can only hope to forget. I wonder if they feel “the singular truth of the middle school experience [is] it, like, sucks.” I would never discount anyone’s personal experience, but as someone who loves middle school kids and has heard too often, “God bless you. I wouldn’t survive five minutes,” I can only sigh and shake my head.

I’ll grant that the epitome of despondence is a middle schooler who realizes she has deeply hurt her friend’s feelings and there’s no way to take back what she just said. I’ll also grant that the frustration at repeatedly hearing “Wait until you’re older” inevitably, and justifiably, boils over on occasion. But middle schoolers are extraordinarily resilient—when a week ago seems like years and a month from now the distant future, it is often relatively easy to recover, especially with caring support. In middle school, there is always “a sense of the possible.” (Stephen Stroud)

That sense of hope strengthens the extraordinarily caring side of middle schoolers. In my school, every student performs community service twice monthly; it is moving to see the tenderness and love they bring even to jobs like changing kitty litter. With rare exceptions, such as the first warm spring day, they are happy to leave campus, often laughing, talking and singing the whole way to their worksite. And they take equally good care of each other.

Middle schoolers bring boundless energy to everything they set their minds to. My students design their own units, and the questions come so quickly that the issue becomes how best to combine and focus on a selection of those questions. The smallest detail provokes the deepest discussion, students’ words falling all over each other as they rush to discuss why some people feel they’re better than others and what can be done about it, how a student’s farm compares to those depicted in Food, Inc., or how to learn from and grow through conflict. No one has to tell them to learn. Indeed, I attempt to direct them at my own peril!

These students have genuine pride in their school. At a recent all-school meeting, they surprised me by walking up to make an announcement. They explained that they had had a really great year and wanted to acknowledge two special teachers. They had taken the time to write extended citations, and they presented signed, hand-made certificates. Everything had been done in secret and at their own initiative. What a wonderful, touching moment.

So, my heart goes out to Mr. Manshel on the horrific experience he must have had in middle school, and my gratitude goes out to Mr. Birdsey for creating a safe place for these students to fully explore who they are and the world of which they are a part. With all the highs and lows young adolescence can bring, and all the joys that can come from growing up feeling loved and supported, all middle schoolers deserve a place like North Branch School.

Bill Ivey ’81
Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts

The writer is the middle school dean at Stoneleigh-Burnham School in Greenfield, Massachusetts.

Time for Urgent Action

I read with great interest the article by Professor Michelle McCauley, “Brain vs. Nature” in the spring issue. This article highlights an important research and policy topic that will be receiving greater attention in the coming years.

For those interested in addressing climate change, we will need to act more urgently and comprehensively than ever before to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We will need to become more energy efficient, as this is the first order of business for reducing emissions. We will need to
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rely on energy efficiency technologies and, more importantly, we will need to persuade individuals and organizations to become more energy efficient.

As Professor McCauley writes, social-norm feedback is one of the strategies that will be needed to move us along this path. Setting goals and making public commitments is another strategy. And continued monitoring of that performance (by herself, friends, or family) will determine if she and others meet their goals. I hope to see more articles like this in the coming years in Middlebury Magazine.

Ed Vine ’72
Berkeley, California

Another Side to White Privilege
In regards to the story “Who Am I?” (winter 2010) and to its respondents: With most subjects or topics or issues, race has a public and private dimension.

Middlebury expanded the limited worldview from which I came as an African American growing up in segregated Fifth Ward of Houston, Texas, and exposed me to a world of opportunities and possibilities intellectually, academically, professionally, and socially.

The white privilege, which was and is very much in evidence at Middlebury, served then to only broaden my outlook and options. Middlebury spoiled me, in the sense that I felt as privileged as my classmates to grow up, given my exposure to their privilege, on my own terms and not terms that were imposed upon me, like my race. The only negatives I took from Middlebury were my own emotional immaturity, which, over time, I conquered.

I do not deny the negative influence of race as a factor in the lives of many people of color, but for me, it has never been a factor. I attribute this positive outcome directly to my having Middlebury College as a key formulating experience in my social and professional development. Moreover, I do not deny that by
being white one is “afforded advantages, many of them subtle and embedded in everyday life” as Connie Craig admits.

I do contend that I have never made much fuss about those advantages that are conferred upon whites, except merely to work hard not to be dissuaded or influenced negatively by those advantages, in other words, not to take them personally. My Middlebury College education and experience have only been assets to my life experience. White privilege, as a learning experience and in the context of this one Middlebury minority graduate’s experience, has been a valuable part of my growth and development.

(Regarding the letter [spring 2010] about College Street, to Anne Yerpe Kavcic: your statement, “Rick Dostie improvising on the piano,” brought back a flashback of positive memories and nostalgia I had long forgotten. Thank you.)

Milton Randle ’71
Inglewood, California

The writer is director of the Maximizing Engineering Potential (MEP) program of the College of Engineering at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, in California. MEP is a recruitment and retention department designed to increase and successfully graduate underrepresented minority students in engineering majors.

**Fade Away, Please**

Ari Fleischer, George W. Bush’s former press spokesman, was invited back to the campus to speak to a College audience last fall. The magazine’s winter issue reported on his talk (“The Return of Ari Fleischer ’82”). Readers will remember that Fleischer received the Alumni Achievement Award in 2002.

Can the political science professor who invited him be unaware that he is an embarrassment to many (most?) politically aware Middlebury alumni for his unapologetic and highly visible service to the Bush administration? This was an administration which entered into an unprovoked war with Iraq, causing the deaths of over 4,000 American soldiers (May 31 figures), and the deaths of allied service members.

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and uncounted numbers of Iraqis; which initially bungled the Afghan war where 1,076 American service members have died; which handed Iran a golden opportunity to expand its influence in Iraq, and is gravely unsettling Pakistan; which failed to address critical domestic problems, and adopted tax policies which led to the historic deficits which contribute to the current recession.

Is it too much to ask that Fleischer’s connection with Middlebury be allowed to slip into oblivion?

Pete MacDonald ’50
Lyme, New Hampshire

It’s What’s Inside That Counts
Hafsa Ahmad ’12 ("Unveiling the Hijab," SPRING 2010) WAS A STUDENT IN MY chemistry class at South Brunswick (New Jersey) High School. There, she taught us all that it was not what was on her head that was outstanding but that which was in her head. Carpe diem, Hafsa.

Theresa Farinella
Manalapan, New Jersey

We Survived and Then Some
I JUST RECEIVED MY SPRING 2010 ISSUE of Middlebury Magazine. After I read the obits for my class (yes, I know) and my class notes, I read the Letters to the Editor. I was most touched by Ken Seward’s letter about his experiences at Middlebury. I am grateful he shared his story.

Not all of us were stars at Middlebury. More than one of us received scathing, scarring remarks from faculty. (Example: “You’re too short to be a high school
teacher’ from a faculty adviser my second day at Middlebury.) More than one of us nearly flunked out after freshman year. And, thankfully, more than one of us who had less than a stellar time met with wonderful success in life.

Janet S. Reed ’61
Chicago, Illinois

E-zine Option?

Last fall, when I received a letter requesting donations to fund the mailing of this magazine, I immediately thought of an alternative response. “Surely everyone else will suggest that the magazine be offered in electronic format to those who choose the option,” I thought, so I did not write in at the time.

Since then, I haven’t heard or seen any mention of this idea. Considering the College’s push to everything eco-friendly, where is the “e-zine” option? I, for one, do not need a paper copy of the magazine and would be just as likely to peruse it online. My guess is that many, many other alumni would also be willing to receive the magazine electronically, saving printing and mailing costs, trees, and even money.

Paula Davidson ’91
Cabot, Vermont

Editor’s Note: Content from the printed magazine is available online at middmag.com, the home of our digital magazine. Launched in January, our digital version is much more than a repository for our printed content, though. The site features a regularly updated blog (“Dispatches”) and a wealth of multimedia content—videos, audio slideshows, and, soon...
to launch later this summer, a regular podcast (which will also be available through iTunes). We see our digital space as a way to expand and augment what we do best in print—tell engaging stories. Of course, if folks wish to opt out of the printed version and just access content online, they are more than welcome to do so. Just contact us at middmag@middlebury.edu and let us know that you would like to be removed from our mailing list.

However, we will remain committed to our printed magazine as the best and most effective way to keep you, the readers, engaged with Middlebury. Our most recent readers’ survey (which I have addressed in my Viewfinder column) delivered a loud and clear message to us: 94 percent of respondents said they preferred to receive a printed magazine. (Of this total, 78 percent said they wanted just a printed magazine; 16 percent prefer print and digital. It’s our hope that as more people learn about and visit our new digital edition, then that 16 percent figure will rise.)

We have also been immensely pleased by—and exceedingly grateful for—the response to our fall appeal seeking support for the magazine. This one solicitation raised more than $60,000 in voluntary subscriptions to the magazine, further demonstrating the value our readers place on the publication you are holding in your hands. We hope that we continue to meet and even exceed your expectations by delivering a magazine that will make you laugh, cry, smile, gasp, even snarl—all while reminding you that Middlebury is a place worth keeping in touch with.—MJ

### Take Three on Reading a Poem

I appreciated the response by Judith Kitchen ’63 (Letters, spring 2010) to Brett Millier’s essay “How to Read a Poem” (winter 2010). Like Kitchen, I too had felt Millier’s essay left something to be desired—probably written under constraints of time and space. My own response took the form of a poem (at right).

Although I am not a Middlebury alum, I’m a proud Midd-Wife (that sounds odd) and Midd-Mom: my husband is Roy Madsen, MA French ’63, and our daughter is Laura Madsen ’95 (and Monterey Institute of International Studies ’98 MA). I love your magazine, every issue a gem. Thank you.

Linda Houghton Madsen
Marina, California

### How to Read a Poem

Despite its enticing title, the professor’s essay fell into a tar pit, gurgling that poetry must use multiple strategies to convey meaning... and my mind lumbered sadly away.

My own advice on how to read a poem is... don’t. It might explode at any moment, ripping wide your heart and guts, or pulverizing your orderly brain. Or it might just follow you everywhere, demanding your total focus, confounding you with its brevity, with its simplicity, ensnaring you in its sensuality, and haunting you with the deep liquidity of its sounds.
It will no doubt insist you read it over and over, out loud, letting its layers of essence unveil themselves one by one like figures at a predawn marsh, gray at first with dense fog clotted on the cattails, but slowly revealing ducks and geese behind a scrim . . . then a heron wading watchful at the water’s edge . . . and then, in the first high rays of daybreak, white seagulls soaring overhead, outlined in purest gold.

A poem, you see, can come to you as does the dawn, with imperceptibility, and after many readings may just talk you into memorizing its every line . . . a task that can reveal as can no other the poem’s inner structure, music, color, the way that noon’s bright light is able to ignite at the marsh the scarlet epaulets of red-winged blackbirds that had seemed like leafy shadows in the mists of dawn.

—Linda Houghton Madsen
Letters Policy
Letters addressing topics discussed in the magazine are given priority, though they may be edited for brevity or clarity. On any given subject we will print letters that address that subject, and then in the next issue, letters that respond to the first. After that, we will move on to new subjects. Send letters to: Middlebury Magazine, 5 Court Street, Middlebury, VT 05753 or middmag@middlebury.edu.

Wanted Alumni Interviewers
The Admissions Office is looking to expand its Alumni Admissions program (AAP) and is in need of additional alumni interviewers in specific areas in the U.S. and abroad. If you are interested in serving as an alumni interviewer, and to see the areas in need of additional interviewers, visit www.middlebury.edu/admissions/aap where you can learn more about the program and register as an interviewer.

Middlebury

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Bridget Besaw ("Held, In Place," p. 38) is an award-winning environmental photojournalist based in northern Maine. Her work can be found at www.bridgetbesaw.com.

Gabriel Cooney ("A Matter of Faith," p. 44) is a photographer in Haydenville, Massachusetts. His work can be found at www.gabrielcooney.com.

Sierra Crane-Murdoch ’10 ("Hollowed Ground," p. 30) is a Virginia-based freelance writer. She was a 2009-10 Middlebury Fellow in Environmental Journalism.

Angela Evancie ’10 ("Hollowed Ground" p. 30) is a photographer based in Middlebury.

Sarah Franco ’08 ("Raising Canes," p. 88) recently received a master’s degree in education from Northeastern University.

Bob Handelman ("Northern Exposure," p. 26) is a photographer based in Connecticut.

Richard Hawley ’67 ("Held, In Place," p. 38) was the headmaster of the University School in Cleveland from 1988 until his retirement in 2005. He is the author of 18 books of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.

Lucas Kavner ’09 ("The Class Notes [Of Your Mind]," p. 28) is a writer living in Brooklyn, New York. His Web site is lucaskavner.com.

Caleb Kenna ("The Language of Teaching," p. 36) is a Vermont-based photographer. His work can be found at www.calebkenna.com.

Ed Koren ("No English Spoken Here," Cover) has contributed more than 1,000 cartoons and illustrations to The New Yorker. He lives in Brookfield, Vermont.

Coco Masuda ("Dress Up," p. 20) is an illustrator based in New York City. Her work can be found at www.cocomasuda.com.

Tad Merrick ("Summer Reading," p. 46) is a photographer in Middlebury.

Marian Richardson ("Raising Canes," p. 88) is an illustrator in Holland, Michigan. Her work can be found at www.marianrichardson.com.

Graham Roumieu ("The Class Notes [Of Your Mind]," p. 28) is an illustrator based in Toronto. His work is featured at www.roumieu.com.

Brett Simison (Uphill/Downhill, p. 19 and others) is a photographer in Middlebury and a regular contributor to Middlebury Magazine. His work can be found at www.brettsimison.com.

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"THE DAVIS FAMILY."
IT IS
Six years after its doors first opened, the Middlebury library receives a name.
Photograph by Brett Simison
Dress Up

Today’s academic dress has roots extending back nearly a thousand years, to the time when monks and clerics wore long gowns for warmth in unheated buildings and draped their tonsured heads in cowls. The European tradition of academic dress closely followed suit, since scholars were often in the clergy. Over the centuries, those practical garments morphed into the ceremonial dress worn today by faculty and graduates.

Gowns
- Bachelor’s gown: simple and untrimmed; pleated front panels; sleeves pointed at the back.
- Master’s gown: untrimmed; unusual sleeve—very long, closed, crescent-shaped, with a squared edge. The arm extends through an opening cut higher in the sleeve.
- Doctor’s gown: trimmed with full-length velvet panels in front; full, bell-shaped sleeves trimmed with three horizontal velvet bars. Velvet trim may be black or may be a color representing the wearer’s discipline.

Although gowns are usually black or brown, some universities have opted for colored gowns.

Hoods
These show the wearer’s degree, discipline, and alma mater. They are made of the same material as the gown and are worn draped around the neck. Their embellishments include velvet edging in the color of the discipline in which the degree was earned and a lining in the color or colors of the school granting the degree.

- Bachelor’s hood: three feet long with trim two inches wide.
- Master’s hood: three and a half feet long, with trim three inches wide.
- Doctor’s hood: four feet long, with trim five inches wide.

Caps
While caps may be made of several different materials, only velvet may be used for the doctor’s degree. The most commonly worn cap is the Oxford cap, also known as the mortarboard. Six- or eight-cornered tams and large berets are worn at some institutions. The tassel, believed to be an outgrowth of the knob on the top of early caps, may be black or the color representing a discipline. Only doctor’s degree recipients may have gold threads in their tassels.

Four Years in, Oh, Seven Minutes
Each year, students vie for the honor to deliver a speech at Commencement. This spring, Peter Baumann had the privilege—addressing life after college in an uncertain economy. Of course, he also made use of some familiar locales and Midd themes—Mead Chapel, the Commons as Hogwarts—and it got us thinking: what did the other aspirants write about?

We pored over the submitted speeches, searching for common phrases, making note of names and places, and marking up anything else that caught our eye. Here’s what we discovered:

7:12
Ratio of speeches that contained the phrase “Midd Kid”

11:12
Ratio of speeches that saluted parents

Names dropped

Places cited
Lake Dunmore, Proctor, Mead Chapel, Battell Beach, Bi Hall, Dana Auditorium, Freeman, Storrs Walk, The Grille

Professors lauded
John Elder (twice), Kit Wilson, John Hunisak, Andrea Olson

1
Number of speeches that included the etymology of the word ecotone

Illustration by Coco Masuda
Follow the Leader

A rumor circulates among faculty marshals on Commencement day. It's reminiscent of stories that our second grade teachers told us to scare us into not tipping our chairs or chewing our pencils. The marshals have heard about a past Commencement—they're not sure exactly when—in which a marshal wasn't paying attention... 

Why Marshals? Because we've never really lost our passion for playing follow the leader. Two marshals guide the faculty to their seats and keep order. Two more lead the stage party onto the stage, where they get to sit front and center for the entire ceremony. Among the sea of many-colored Ph.D. robes, the faculty marshals' bright blue attire helps them stand out and lead the way.

Best self-descriptions of the outfit A jester, only more outrageous; ridiculous, blue beefeater; a big, billyou, balloonlike affair; the Smurf costume.

Who gets the honor? Recently tenured faculty members are invited to be marshals for Commencement and Convocation. “It’s kind of a rite of passage for newly tenured colleagues,” says Provost Alison Byerly, “signifying that they are now permanent members of the faculty.” Although jokes fly about the foppish hat and robes, Byerly says they seldom turn down an invitation to serve.

The Q-tip factor If all goes well, the marshals will only use their staff (a.k.a. “the giant Q-tip”) as a call to order, and later dismissal, on the stage. One marshal notes that if things ever got rough, the Q-tip could be very useful: “It’s a multidimensional weapon—it can trip people, hit people, it has a Taser.”

What's the Word? Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn delivered a fine speech at Commencement. They were funny, insightful, gifted storytellers, and while they offered the kind of advice one would expect from Commencement speakers (give back, get out of your comfort zone), they did so in a way that was utterly authentic—by citing their own life experiences as examples. We arranged their text in a word cloud to give you a sense of what they said.

Observed

It's official. As of July 1, the Monterey Institute of International Studies, an affiliate of Middlebury since 2005, became fully integrated into the College. Monterey is now officially known as the Monterey Institute of International Studies: A graduate school of Middlebury College. “In addition to its commitment to excellence across the liberal arts, Middlebury must also continue to define itself and the strengths that set it apart as a global leader in language learning and international education. Monterey contributes greatly to the ability to do this,” Middlebury President Ronald D. Liebowitz says of the integration. More coverage of the integration can be found at www.middlebury.edu/international/Middlebury-Monterey and in future issues of the magazine.

Elizabeth Morrison (religion) and Jeremy Ward (biology) were granted tenure by the Board of Trustees this spring.

Middlebury reached an agreement with a local energy concern to explore a biomethane gas collection and delivery system that could help the College further reduce its use of fossil fuels. Middlebury has agreed to purchase biomethane gas from Integrated Energy Solutions with the agreement contingent on the College raising money to build storage facilities for the gas on campus and retrofit its current heating plant to burn the new fuel.

What's the Word? Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn delivered a fine speech at Commencement. They were funny, insightful, gifted storytellers, and while they offered the kind of advice one would expect from Commencement speakers (give back, get out of your comfort zone), they did so in a way that was utterly authentic—by citing their own life experiences as examples. We arranged their text in a word cloud to give you a sense of what they said.
Scene from a Naming

Six years after its doors first opened, the Middlebury College library has received a name: the Davis Family Library.

On May 6, the College announced that it would name the library in honor of Jim Davis ’66, his wife, Anne; son, Chris ’08; and daughter, Kassia. One of Middlebury’s most generous—and publicity averse—supporters, the Davis family has donated more than $70 million to the College, almost all of which was given anonymously. Until now.

What follows are a scene from the program and words from the dedication.

Who Turned Out the Lights? Mother Nature has a delicious sense of humor.

Less than an hour before a panel convened in the McCullough Social Space to discuss “Why the Library Matters in the Digital Age,” the power went out on campus after a fierce afternoon thunderstorm sent a tree crashing into an area electrical transformer.

The panel discussion was the kickoff event to an occasion six years in the making—naming the College library—and an already mysterious day (who the library was being named for was still a secret) became cloaked in further uncertainty.

As a crowd of about 200 people navigated darkened stairwells and emergency floodlit hallways and made their way into the naturally lit social space, Glenn Andres, Anne Kelly Knowles, and Paul Monod (scholars in art and architecture, geography, and history, respectively) shared bemused glances. They were to be the first three speakers and all had prepared Power Point presentations; Xander Manshel ’09, a digital-media intern in the communications office, was to follow them, and he was more agitated. His presentation was entirely digital—a four-minute audio slideshow that captured student views on how the library is used.

One by one, Andres, Knowles, and Monod spoke fluently about what the architectural planners hoped to achieve with the library, the importance of a library in an age of digital communications (books don’t require electricity!), and a library’s historical evolution as a place of teaching and learning. (That they performed so well without visuals should come as no surprise—they’re professors after all—though Monod did humorously pepper his talk with references to what people would be seeing if the power were on.) And then, literally seconds before a by-now-sweating Manshel was to be called upon, the electricity hummed to life.

What They Said: Liebowitz and Davis on the Naming

President Ronald D. Liebowitz

Up to this moment, the intended name of the library has been kept secret, not because we wanted to create an aura of mystery, but because our benefactors have been reluctant to be acknowledged in such a public way. Much of what they have done for Middlebury has been done anonymously. One reason this beautiful library—the heart of the College and the hub of campus life—has been without a name for so long is because we wanted to name it for this family, and we didn’t want to have to call it the Anonymous Benefactors Library.

Jim Davis ’66

As a family, we do not seek and are not accustomed to receiving public acknowledgment of our community endeavors. In this case we thought our example might inspire others to rethink their charitable commitments. We also thought our example might inspire a greater appreciation for the free enterprise system that has allowed all of us to be sitting where we are today.

We are facing a new frontier—a new frontier that requires pioneers with leadership, imagination. Those who adapt will survive, flourish.
Trash or Treasure?

Each year, Middlebury recycles tons of stuff. Food waste (336 tons). Paper (155 tons). Cardboard (122 tons). And that’s just the high-profile items. Recently, I was wondering how all this gets done and decided that there was no better time to find out than during clean-out week, the week after the undergraduates leave campus at the end of May. And so on a warm spring morning, I left the comfort of my air-conditioned office and drove over to the Middlebury Recycling Facility (MRF) on Route 125. As I quickly learned, every trash bag is opened, scrutinized, and its contents redistributed. This is not work for the faint of heart.

After I layered plastic gloves over a pair of cotton gloves and covered up with an apron and protective glasses, John Gosselin, waste management team leader, and Kim Smith, material recovery worker and driver, tried to get me up to speed, “be sure you use scissors to cut open the bags,” instructed Kim, “because if you pull them apart something could pop out.” I began to understand that dealing with trash requires meticulous organization.

During clean-out week, the daily mountain of trash becomes an avalanche, with tracks delivering to the MRF all day long. As I stood at my station, Missy Beckwith, waste management manager, made short work of a huge pile across from me. She showed me that a trash bag is a mystery, a treasure hunt, and a challenge. As I stood shell-shocked before one ghastly example (everything was drenched in salad dressing, or something), all I wanted to do was throw it away.

John Gosselin looked over. “What do you have?” I had no idea.

His eyes lit up, and he reached right into a mushy mess, pulling out two large, dripping plastic bags filled with marbles. He set them on the counter to be hosed off and given away.

And so it went in a steady roll: pulling out the paper and cardboard, removing lids from bottles, and sorting cans and bottles into various bins. The trash that remains is a fraction of what was there before.

While workers sorted at several stations, others organized clothing, bedding, empty notebook binders, and office and cleaning supplies at the back of the facility. A giant poster of a shirtless, muscular hunk was set up in the back, as the find of the day; a track delivered what looked like a brand-new sofa; building supplies gradually filled one large crate, and old telephones filled another. Periodically paper was pressed into huge bales and lifted by a forklift into a trailer, as were cardboard and plastic bottles.

Folks looked a bit weary, yet they continued to work with a sense of purpose—getting the recycling rate up.

Gosselin chuckled, “I’d also like it if people would learn one thing—remove lids and rinse containers.”

—Regan Eberhart
For an audio slideshow, visit middmag.com

U.S. News & World Report named the College one of the 10 most eco-friendly campuses in the country. This summer, a trio of rising seniors has hit the open road. Salen Andrews ’11, Stephanie Preiss ’11, and Ashley Tyner ’11 are driving from Middlebury to Monterey and back again, while chronicling their exploits on their blog: aftermidd.com. On their journey, they are interviewing Middlebury alums, asking them the question, “What have you done since leaving Middlebury?” It’s well worth checking out.

Addison County is now home to a new radio tower that provides the Champlain Valley with a clear broadcast of Vermont Public Radio’s classical station. To celebrate the new station at 90.1 FM, Middlebury’s Mahaney Center for the Arts hosted a live performance by pianist Annemieke Spoostra. The event was well attended, but those unable to make it over to the Mahaney Center were able to listen to the performance without a hint of static.

The Middlebury Fellowships in Narrative Journalism project has just concluded its second year. Once again, the fellows asked their Middlebury peers, “How did you get here?” The 16 answers—emotional, awe-inspiring, humorous, courageous—can be found on our digital magazine site, middmag.com.
Around the World

This spring brought news that several faculty members had been awarded grants or fellowships for research or conferences around the world. Where will they be going and what will they be doing?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Locale</th>
<th>Project</th>
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<tr>
<td>Louisa Burnham, History</td>
<td>Barcelona, Spain</td>
<td>“Cultural Hybridities: Christians, Muslims, and Jews and the Medieval Mediterranean”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guntram Herb, Geography</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>“Geopolitical Atlases in Contemporary France”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cynthia Packert, History of Art &amp; Architecture</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>Study on the art, architectural development, and global influence of recent Hindu temples</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Viner, Philosophy</td>
<td>St. Louis, Missouri</td>
<td>“Philosophical Perspectives on Liberal Democracy and the Global Order”</td>
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Confluence Just in time for summer reading, Julia Alvarez’s latest work, a young adult novel titled Return to Sender, has been selected by Oprah Winfrey for inclusion on the media maven’s popular Oprah’s Kids’ Reading List. On the heels of this selection, Alvarez learned that the book was one of two titles to receive the prestigious Américas Award for Children’s and Young Adult Literature. The award is given annually to U.S. works of fiction, poetry, folklore, or selected nonfiction that authentically and engagingly portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos in the United States.

Excerpt “When I compared parenting styles among the professional middle-class respondents with those of their less privileged peers, I found quite distinctive differences. Among the former, parenting includes a lengthy perspective on children’s dependency without a clear launching point for a grown child, a commitment to creating ‘passionate’ people who know how to find a ‘proper’ balance between working hard and having fun, personalized and negotiated guidance in the activities of daily life . . . and in intense engagement with children who in previous generations might have been encouraged to begin the process of separation . . . . By way of contrast, the working and middle-class parents assume that higher education will prepare their children to live on their own; they are more concerned with skills that will ensure self-sufficiency than they are with passion and fun.” —From Parenting Out of Control: Anxious Parents in Uncertain Times by Margaret K. Nelson, Hepburn Professor of Sociology at Middlebury.
On the Air

“The no show is a demonstration of the degree of tension in the relationship between Brazil and the United States, especially when it comes to the question of Iran. . . . Brazil decided to use the case of Iran to project itself in the world arena, and so giving in [and voting for sanctions] is going to be very difficult for them to do.”

—Jeff Cason, Knox Professor of International Studies and Political Science and dean of international programs, appearing on the Portuguese language service of Radio France. He was discussing the decision by Brazil’s foreign minister to skip this year’s Organization of American States General Assembly, thereby bypassing an opportunity to engage with the United States on issues relating to Iran and its nuclear ambitions. An expert on Brazilian foreign policy, Cason translated his comments, which were in Portuguese, for publication.

Excerpt “We recoil when faced with a future different from the one we imagine. And it’s hard to brace ourselves for the jump to a new world when we still, kind of, live in the old one. So we tell ourselves that the scientists may be overstating our environmental woes, or that because our stock market has climbed back from its lows we’ll soon be back to the old growth economy. As we’ve seen, though, scientists are far more guilty of understatement than exaggeration, and our economic troubles are intersecting with our ecological ones in ways that put us hard up against the limits to growth. . . . Now we must try to figure out how to survive what is coming at us. And that survival begins with words.”

—From Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet by Bill McKibben, Middlebury scholar in residence

Maps
Where do Middlebury juniors go when they study abroad? As part of Jeff Howarth’s spring geography course Spatial Visualization, students were asked to design a map that showed where Middlebury students studied during a three-year period. The project was one of two Middlebury projects to be honored by the National Institute for Technology in Liberal Education for work that helps “chart the new knowledge terrain.” (The other selected work was an environmental mapping project conducted by Chris Fastie, a visiting research scholar in biology.)

The selected map was created by Jue Yang ’11. To view other maps visit blogs.middlebury.edu/maps/projects
Your College and You

President Ronald D. Liebowitz’s baccalaureate address to the Class of 2010

GOOD AFTERNOON. On behalf of the faculty, staff, and trustees of the College, I extend a warm welcome to you, the Class of 2010, and to your parents, families, and friends who have joined you on campus this weekend to celebrate your accomplishments.

Today we reflect on your experiences over the past four years and on your contributions to our community and the world beyond the College. And, of course, since this is Commencement weekend, we look ahead, as well, to the opportunities that await you as you begin the next chapter of your lives.

Let me begin by telling you a few things about the graduating class:

- There are 641 graduates in this class (including February and May graduates), 301 men and 340 women.
- The six most popular majors were economics, international studies, English and American literatures, political science, psychology, and environmental studies.
- Nearly 70 percent of you studied at least one language other than English.
- 339 of you studied abroad for at least one semester, in a total of 40 countries.

MEMBERS OF YOUR CLASS HAVE WON
- A Thomas J. Watson Fellowship
- A Keasbey Scholarship
- A Gates Cambridge Scholarship
- A Fulbright Beginning Professional Journalism Award
- A St. Andrews Scholarship for graduate study in Scotland
- A Compton Mentor Fellowship
- And a Weidenfeld Scholarship for study at Oxford

In addition, eight of you were elected to Phi Beta Kappa as juniors, and you have been joined by 58 others whose election we celebrated this morning.

In keeping with longstanding Middlebury tradition, many of you have published papers in scholarly journals and presented your work at national conferences. And one of you found a great outlet for telling the stories of other students in the Middlebury Fellows in Narrative Journalism project.

The scholarship and imagination of your class were vividly demonstrated on April 16 at the fourth annual College-wide symposium recognizing student research and creativity. One hundred and ten members of your class participated in that symposium, reporting on an amazing array of research projects.

Arts events associated with the symposium and performed that evening at the Mahaney Center for the Arts and the Hepburn Zoo included a presentation of a classmate’s play, Jekyll, an adaptation of the novel The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, which was recorded for presentation a couple of weeks later as a film; a performance of After Miss Julie featuring two of your classmates in the leading roles; and the work Walking the Curb, an independent project involving three seniors.

And there were other impressive achievements in the arts: Eight of you will be part of the New York City-based Potomac Theatre Project’s 2010 summer season; a member of your class won the American College Theatre Festival’s Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship; and another classmate received a scholarship for a yearlong apprenticeship at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, Kentucky.

And I would be remiss if I did not mention another arts project that would not have happened without contributions from members of the Class of 2010: The Midd Kid video, which as of today has been viewed nearly half a million times on YouTube. Not that the College administration has anything official to say about the video . . .

Outside the classroom, more than 20 of you worked on various projects in the Old Stone Mill, home of Middlebury’s Project on Creativity and Innovation. In addition to scholarship and artistic endeavors, a Middlebury education also involves civic engagement, and this senior class has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to volunteerism and community service. More than half of the class volunteered in town or in Addison County, helping an extraordinary number of Vermonters along the way. One of your classmates, who volunteered
Vermont's highest honor for Vergennes, recently received by Graham Emergency Shelter in public service, the Madeleine M. Kunin Public Service Award. And personifying the Class of 2010's broad and deep commitment to making a difference in the climate change movement, a member of your class was among just six students to be honored nationally with the 2009 Brower Youth Award, presented by the Earth Island Institute to young environmental leaders.

In athletics, too, you have excelled:

- Thirteen members of your class earned All-American honors in intercollegiate sports.
- You garnered 101 all-NESCAC academic honors and 52 All-NESCAC playing honors.
- You played on teams that won 17 NESCAC championships, as well as three NCAA national titles: one in men's soccer and two in women's cross country, plus a national club championship in men's rugby.

These are just a sample of the accomplishments of the Class of 2010. We are enormously proud of all of you, and thank you for all that you contributed to this vibrant and talented community.

I provide this summary at Commencement each year, recognizing that I couldn't possibly include all that your class accomplished during the past four years. I do it to highlight the kinds of things the class leaves behind as an important legacy to this institution—an institution that has been around for 210 years—and to highlight, as well, the ways in which this institution has left its stamp on you as you begin the next chapter of your lives.

As I think about your graduating class, what it accomplished while here, and what it adds to the College's rich history, I can't help but think about something I have now heard from seniors in just about every one of my 26 years here at the College... and that is how Middlebury has "changed so much" since one's first year. And the laments have been so similar, year after year: "First-years are smarter than we were; they are more serious academically; they are too focused; they actually try to do all the over-the-top amount of work we are assigned;" and, finally, "We would never get into Middlebury today."

I have given considerable thought to these rather confounding observations by seniors, especially since I became president six years ago, admittedly perplexed by their predictable consistency, yet likely impossibility. Could this be true? Could so many successive groups of seniors have really experienced such noticeable change in three short years?

It took an observation by my wife Jessica during a lunch with students at 3 South Street before I could put all this apparent angst about how much Middlebury had changed, or might be changing, into a greater context. Jessica's fresher perspective on the College didn't hurt: I have, in many ways, become part of the so-called wallpaper, having been at the College since 1984, while Jessica is a relative newcomer, having only arrived here in 2003.

Upon hearing seniors express their traditional lament about Middlebury changing—"The first-years are smarter than we are; they are too serious; they study too much; we would never get in today"—Jessica's response was the following:

So what if the average SATs of the entering class might have increased significantly over the years; the world is getting more competitive. And, of course, broad changes in society, both nationally and globally, have made institutions like Middlebury more diverse. But none of that is powerful enough to change the essence of this place. This is a liberal arts college forged in remote, beautiful, hardscrabble, nonsectarian Vermont. These things cannot help but define the imprint that this institution has on all those who pass through it, no matter how much the student body changes over time.

Jessica's comments resonated deeply with me, perhaps because I knew this all along, but hadn't stopped to think about it. I know they resonated with the students, too, that day at lunch.

And why might this be the case, anyway? As a geographer, I would, of course, concur with Jessica, that the place itself—the physical environment—is responsible for exerting the greatest and most durable influence on each of you. I agree with the poet Wallace Stevens, who wrote: "His soil is man's intelligence," and it is hard to argue with Stevens. We learn from our environment, our environment shapes our experiences, and there is no doubt that the physical beauty of the Champlain Valley plays some role in what we learn and take from our time here.

But there is more to it than the sheer beauty of the place. The hardy and variable Vermont climate, part of Stevens's metaphorical "soil," along with the College's remote location, creates the kind of environment in which friendships and personal relationships form more naturally and become more meaningful, more long-lasting, than in most other settings. There are few distractions in this beautiful, sparsely populated part of New England, which means students who come to study at Middlebury must rely heavily on one another for their social, intellectual, creative, and academic sustenance and energy. Though one of the great benefits of being at a place like this is the opportunity for students to get involved and make a difference in town, in Addison County, and even in our state capital, living and learning at Middlebury revolves around being part of a strong and tightly knit intellectual community.

And this intellectual community isn't recreated from scratch each year, or every four years, as it may seem to be while one is about to graduate and, quite understandably, holds but a four-year perspective. It is the product of 210 years of history, shaped most prominently by an ethic that dates back to its founding, rooted in making the best use of resources available and a necessary spirit of collaboration and teamwork.

As all of you should recall from your first-year Convocation, Gamaliel...
Painter, whose cane you passed among yourselves right here in the Chapel, was the leading force behind the establishment of this College. He could barely read and write, yet he was wise to the world, knew how to assess risk, and had a remarkable ability to master whatever kind of work he pursued or needed to get done: a self-starter in the true sense of the word. He was a successful businessman, skilled negotiator, bold entrepreneur, and a farmer, and was always looking to improve his and this town’s lot. German to us here, and to our College, Painter and his brother purchased land on speculation just east of the Otter Creek during a chance trip to the region in 1763. A decade later, newly married, he and his wife left their native Connecticut and moved to Middlebury to take their chances on a new life. When Painter moved to Middlebury, the population numbered fewer than 125.

Painter, again largely uneducated, saw the need for his children and other children in the growing town to obtain a better education than what was then available in and around Middlebury. He began negotiations with representatives of the state to establish a grammar school, or what he called a central academy, to supplement the local district school, which sat along the falls on the site that today houses, of all things, American Flatbread Pizza. In 1797, with the help and cooperation of several prominent Middlebury families, Painter purchased land on the west side of the Otter Creek where Twilight Hall stands today, and acquired a state charter to begin a grammar school.

A year later, in the fall of 1798, Timothy Dwight, then president of Yale and New England’s most venerated educator, visited Middlebury. The Yale president was in Vermont to complete research on the economic geography of the region, but also to enjoy Vermont’s wondrous natural environment. The trustees of the new grammar school, and Painter in particular, believed strongly that if Middlebury was to become a prosperous town, and the greater Champlain Valley was to become a viable economic region, both would need a college or university. Gaining the support of someone of Timothy Dwight’s stature would make this goal far more attainable.

In what College historian David Stameshkin and Painter biographer W. Storus Lee ’28 describe as Vermont’s version of a Potemkin Village-like affair, Painter and the grammar school trustees wined and dined President Dwight during his visit to Middlebury. They asked Samuel Miller, who, by virtue of his recent marriage, ran Middlebury’s finest inn, to host what was described as the fanciest prepared meal anyone had ever witnessed in town. They lubricated the meal, and the guests, with Miller’s finest liqueurs, and by the end of the dinner, the hosts had secured Dwight’s approval of the project. In his own account of the evening, written in his personal papers, President Dwight alluded to the unusually fine meal, the intensity and conviction of the hosts’ cause to start a college, and confirmed that he had conveyed his blessings to the project, along with a pledge to continue to advise Painter and his colleagues through the tedious process of securing a state charter.

Soon after the Dwight dinner, Painter began his work with the Vermont legislature to gain permission to establish his college in Middlebury. He called upon many in the local community to join the cause, highlighting how all would benefit with the addition of an institution of higher learning in Middlebury. His proposal failed to make the assembly’s agenda in two successive legislative sessions—the 1798 and 1799 gatherings—but though irritated and impatient, Painter persevered. He had succeeded in gaining support for his cause from a significant portion of the town population, and as a way to pressure the legislators to take up his cause in 1800, he offered Middlebury, with its spanking new courthouse, to play host to that year’s legislative session. Much to Painter’s delight, his offer was accepted. By the way, in those days, Vermont’s state capital was not located in Montpelier, as it is today. In fact, adding to the list of interesting and unusual things to know about Vermont, it was not located in any one place. Rather, until 1805, the state capital moved each year, alternating between towns on the eastern side of the Green Mountains one year, and the western side the next.

The 1798 and 1799 legislative sessions may have embarrassed: for even though their town received the state’s first charter for an institution of higher education in 1791, nine years later, despite having already built a president’s house, the university had yet to hire a faculty member or teach a single student.

It was a true team effort that won the College’s charter, with a good portion of the town’s population joining Painter and other prominent citizens, which is why the College, from its founding, took on the moniker “the Town’s College,” and why it was named Middlebury College, after the town, rather than for a single visionary or major benefactor.

Painter and his colleagues—all New England Puritans, and most of them educated at Yale—donated $4,150 to construct the first college building on the site of present-day Twilight Hall, where, earlier, Painter had started his grammar school. One might say things got off to an inauspicious start. The first Commencement ceremony took place with great pomp and circumstance, but, unfortunately, without any graduates. The lone student who was to have received the College’s first and only diploma during that first year tragically died just days before the graduation ceremony.
Like most of its peers in New England, the College struggled financially in the early part of the century. In 1819, however, Painter died early part of the century. In New England, the College bequest of $13,000, which, at that time, was a huge sum of money, and which secured the College's future. And that time, was a huge sum of money, and which secured the sense of founding principles retaining their power over time—that we can confidently point to the essence of this institution as being identifiable and continually relevant in spite of the changing characteristics of the students who pass through it.

Examples abound of how this ethic has endured over two centuries. I often hear from students how, even in the most competitive of academic programs, Middlebury is the antithesis of the competitive, cutthroat environment they hear about from friends at other highly selective colleges. This aspect of the Middlebury culture is a function of students realizing, owing to the College’s remote location, their need to engage and get as much from the 2,400 students on campus as possible, and the best way for that to happen is through creating and sustaining a supportive and closely knit intellectual community.

And parents seem to see the results most clearly. I hear more often than anything else from parents, while I am on the road fund-raising or attending College events, that the friends of their sons or daughters who attend Middlebury, compared with the friends of their sons and daughters who attend any and all other schools, are the most friendly, engaging, and well-rounded young adults they have ever met. This is no accident, and it is not wholly, or even largely, a function of self-selection—that students of a particular personality choose to attend Middlebury. Rather, it is a powerful influence that the institution exerts on its students over the four years they spend here, and it explains, in part, why graduating seniors, year after year, seem to think the incoming first-years are smarter, more serious, study too much, and are more narrowly focused than they were. Odds are, when most first-years enter Middlebury, much of this is true. But it is also true that by the time these first-years, who supposedly represent a rapidly changing Middlebury to the outgoing seniors, become seniors themselves, they will be, as Jessica pointed out, shaped and changed significantly by this College—so much so that they will sound very much like today’s seniors, and will lament the changes they see in first-years as they prepare to graduate.

Why, then, hasn’t Jessica’s observation been a greater part of our collective self-understanding? Why hadn’t I noticed, amid all the great things Middlebury has accomplished over the past 30 years, the unchanging characteristic of this College that makes it a truly exceptional place for learning and growth?

1, and many of us who are so focused on continuing the College’s pursuit of academic excellence, can, quite obviously, miss some of the institution’s more subtle, yet enduring and defining qualities.

It behooves us—trustees, administrators, faculty, and students—to slow the treadmill to success every now and then and take stock of who we are and ensure that what it is that makes this place special is more widely recognized, better understood, and appreciated. Of course we will not—cannot—retreat from our pursuit of academic, athletic, artistic, scientific, and general excellence. In so doing, we also need to recognize who we are and aren’t, and take great pride in even the subtle things that are central to the quality of our students’ education.

I suppose all this was far more evident to Jessica, who sits outside the day-to-day complexities of College operations and therefore is able to see the bigger picture with more clarity than those of us.

Continued on page 85
SUMMER REFLECTIONS
What do you love most about Midd in the summer? The blue skies? Late afternoon thunderstorms? Or perhaps the serenity?
Photograph by Bob Handelman
Alison Crane just received her MS in Environmental Progress from Oxford and Cambridge and is on track to receive three Ph.D.'s in Academic Excellence from the Sorbonne, Harvard, and Yale respectively. She lives in a floating house in Beijing and made a robotic dog out of compost. The dog cooks breakfast for her and her incredible husband, Arnaud, the last remaining relative of Johannes Gutenberg. Linda Ray and John Frankley were married in a beautiful ceremony overlooking a glistening bay on top of a secret mountain made of gold in the Adirondacks. You didn’t know there was a mountain made of gold in the Adirondacks, did you? Well, there is, and that’s where the wedding was. All of your closest friends were there, except you, since you had to stay in the city and work on a PowerPoint presentation about how to reduce the number of PowerPoint presentations in the new fiscal year. Linda says, “It was the best weekend of everyone’s life. Seriously. It was so so so so so fun. Oh, man! If only you were there. You really missed out. Wow! I’m getting goose bumps just thinking about how much fun we all had on top of the golden mountain and then, later that day, swimming in the glistening bay. We also saw four moose.”

Brian Arnold just got back from multiple trips to Thailand to consult with his new company, the Thailand Company for Extremely Successful Businessmen. He also wants to remind you that he still disagrees with all the things you said in your Chaucer Seminar sophomore year and, as his final Blue Book essay proves, The Miller’s Tale definitely includes consistent elements of dramatic irony. The fact that you never picked up on that is laughable. Speaking of right and wrong, That Guy Who Lived Across the Hall freshman year still has possession of your original Nintendo and the first three Super Mario Brothers games. You left it in a box outside your room on the last day of the semester while you were moving out, and he stole it. “In your face!” he says, holding up the game system triumphantly from the basement of the glass house that he built with his bare hands in Syracuse, N.Y.

Lindsey Braider is at med school in Boston and having a blast with her roommates, Ashley Payne and Monica Saronson. Med school’s great and all, she says, but they mostly just sit around and talk about how they still have huge crushes on you, even after all these years. Lindsey, especially, sits by the phone most nights waiting for you to call and tell her you still have feelings for her, and she definitely remembers that one night at the Khakis-and-Pirates party in Gifford where you did that hilarious impression of Tommy Lee Jones’s character in Men in Black. She’s laughing now just thinking about it. Dude, you should totally call Lindsey.

Jack Strauss found $29,450 on the ground outside Port Authority. He’d love to take you out for a beer after you’re done with that last PowerPoint presentation. “You’ve been working so much, you really deserve a beer and some fries!” Jack says. Your class correspondent agrees. Erin Mariner never went to Middlebury and does not exist. You made her up that summer after freshman year when your ex-girlfriend asked if you were seeing anybody. But, if she did exist, she’d agree that you’ve really got to hold off on all those PowerPoint presentations and hit up that golden mountain in the Adirondacks. And go get back your old Nintendo.
A student moves to West Virginia, where mountains and politics turn inside out.

If you followed the news, you know the story. On April 5 this year, a fiery ball of methane gas killed 29 men in Upper Big Branch, a Massey Energy Company mine set between Montcoal and Whitesville, West Virginia. Rescuers hoped that a few missing men were still alive, but anyone who had worked in the mines knew it was impossible—the miners had died instantly. Reporters camped out along the Big Coal River for weeks as they dug for the best story. Had the company disabled the methane detectors on mining machinery? If the mine had been unionized, would this have happened? Was Don Blankenship, Massey’s CEO, responsible? Many locals cursed Blankenship long before the explosion. He’s a classic villain: dark eyes, a handlebar mustache, shrewd business sense, and indifference to the law. The man could make any story interesting.

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ON A HUMID NIGHT ALONG THE BIG COAL RIVER, in a restaurant just north of Upper Big Branch Mine, Carrie Lou Jarrell counted her steps to a wailing country beat. Eight matronly women followed. They rocked, shuffled, and turned with unlikely grace. They scuffed their heels and toes along the floor, stomping at the end of each beat. An old man pressed his nose to the window and moved on unnoticed. When the dance ended, Carrie Lou sat at a table pushed against the wall and rested her elbow on a napkin dispenser. “Keeps me healthy,” she said, breathing heavily. She drew a cigarette from her pocket and offered me a seat.

Carrie Lou, 65, has wide sassy eyes and a mouth pinched to a frown. Dancing was her idea 15 years ago when she gathered the first “swinging grandmas” in a dingy basement and had a friend teach them the steps. She only missed a few nights since, when Virgil, her husband, fell sick and when she was bedridden herself. Carrie Lou had a tough few years. First the coal dust got so thick in town she could barely breathe. She had the aneurysm; Virgil’s lungs gave out. They lost money when they closed their restaurant. And then the mine explosion: she had known miners to die, but never that many at once.

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stay several months in Rock Creek, a town missing from most maps, set 10 miles south of Whitesville. At first, I was hesitant to move. In my last semester at Middlebury, a professor had encouraged me to coordinate a project called Power Past Coal, a national effort among communities and organizations to transition away from coal. “Why not live in the coalfields while you work?” he had said.

So I called a friend in West Virginia to ask where I should live. I was looking for something cheap. “Can’t get much cheaper than the Coal River Valley,” she said, and that’s where I ended up.

It’s hard to measure the cost of living in a place like the Valley. Even before the explosion at Upper Big Branch, the region ached with loss. Casualties are commonplace in the mines: roof bolts give way to collapse, off-gassing feeds fires, and sparks from machinery turn rock dust into gunpowder. By the time a miner’s retired, he’s likely to have black lung. And the industry’s changed, making it hard to find a job. Many mines closed in the nineties, sending able workers to Cleveland and forcing old miners to retire. The company that reopened the mines—Massey Energy—hired many miners from out of town to keep the union from reorganizing.

Now the union has all but disappeared.

In 50 years, West Virginia has lost over 80 percent of its mining jobs while coal production continues to increase. Machines have replaced men, and to reach the thin, shallow seams of coal that underground mining often can’t, peaks are exploded and the coal scraped out through a method called mountaintop removal. To clear land for the mines, Massey buys up houses—sometimes, whole towns. The company saves money and speeds production by dumping mine waste into the valleys and streams, leaking arsenic, selenium, and heavy metals into people’s wells. Cancer and disease rates have spiked—the last nail in the Valley’s coffin, emptying towns that were never meant to exist without coal.

But somehow, people like Carrie Lou Jarrell have held on. In a town riddled with ghosts, she and her line dancers are among the few signs of life. “Thirty years ago, you couldn’t find a parking spot in Whitesville on a Friday night,” I’ve heard her say. Now she owns one of the last open buildings in town, though she hasn’t kept a business more than a few years. When I first came dancing two winters before, she had just closed her restaurant, the Country Corner. The walls were tacked with Coca-Cola signs and
yellowing Elvis photos clipped from newspapers. The deep fryers shine like mirrors, and the coolers still had a few warm cokes. Now there’s Nuttin’ Fancy, serving the same greasy corn bread and sweet pork beans. The new owners replaced Carrie Lou’s cut-outs with nylon flowers and cheap, nostalgic paintings of pastoral valleys and bustling city streets.

“Life is what you make out of it,” said Carrie Lou. She rested her burning cigarette on the ashtray and winked at me through the smoke. “I could sit here and bitch and complain and bellyache, but it doesn’t accomplish anything. So why do that? Turn the music on and dance a little.” She clapped her hands and rose for the next song—“Old Time Rock ‘n’ Roll.”

I tried to imagine the place on the day of the explosion. A friend, Chuck Nelson, described it to me clearly: at four in the afternoon, ambulances raced past his house, and he knew something was wrong. He took his car toward Whitesville and stopped at the north entrance to the mine. Police closed off the area as he arrived, so he watched from the road. He had three friends in Upper Big Branch. One he had seen just that morning at a funeral—he worked with the man in a union mine for 15 years, before they both found jobs with Massey. Chuck quit to speak out against the company’s mining practices. (“Your job is the most important thing,” he remembers hearing on the first day of work. “You mine coal. The company will take care of the rest.”) His friend kept working and made it out of the mine alive after the explosion. The other two showed up dead within a few days.

In the following weeks, Chuck’s phone rang constantly with calls from reporters. They needed names of miners who would tell the truth about working conditions at Upper Big Branch. But Chuck refused. “I’ve worked for Massey, and I know how they operate,” he said. “If a miner talks, he’ll lose his job. Then you’ve got your story, and he ain’t got nothing.” Chuck knew better than anyone: whistleblowing was a big risk for a miner with kids to feed. The company, at times, offered compensation for its errors—three million dollars to each family that lost a husband or son in the explosion—but otherwise, it pinched pennies. It was the way things worked in the Valley. And little had changed, it seemed, in the year I had been away.

When I first came to Rock Creek in the winter of 2029, the snow turned to rain each day and refroze overnight. The house was small for six people—it would’ve been small for four with a kitchen, a bathroom, two bunkrooms, and a living room that fit a couch and a loveseat. I slept with a wool hat pulled down over my eyes; the house was not insulated, and the plastic taped over the cracked windowpanes did little to keep out the
draft. Once awake, I’d make my way to the woodstove, a rusted, flimsy box in the center of the living room, connected to a pipe protruding from a crudely cut hole in the ceiling.

My housemates and I spent most of the winter beside the stove, bent toward the fire over our laptops. We were all activists of some sort: one a videographer for the documentary Coal Country, another, a liberal arts graduate with a degree in physics who stayed up nights engineering roadblocks and banner drops along the stripped ridges. One boy, Glen, had left home at 14 and found his way to Appalachia from New York, via New Orleans. He did whatever needed doing. Julia, like myself, had just arrived as an Americorps Vista, certain she’d live in the Valley the rest of her life. Noerpel had been in Rock Creek enough years to tell me anything about the Valley—the hollows to explore and those to avoid, the height of the mountain’s coal seams, the wind potential along the highest ridges, the reasons creeks ran orange and wells turned black, and the name of every person who passed through our door.

We had a few visitors those first, cold weeks: Officer Smith, a cordial man who had arrested two of my housemates for locking themselves to mining machinery, and Charles Ballard, who came, on average, twice a day. Ballard would drive his spitting blue Sidekick across the bridge, pass the house as though he didn’t intend to stop, and then abruptly accelerate in reverse to halt beside the stoop. If we noticed and came to the door, Ballard would crane his neck out the window, a cigarette propped between his thin curled lips, and yell, “Where’s everybody at?” Otherwise he’d skulk in and see if we noticed. Sometimes when I was washing dishes, I would turn to find Ballard behind me, holding a handful of my hair to his knife blade. He would pull back and cackle, his mouth suddenly gaping, teeth lost to chewing tobacco and the mine foreman who punched them out years ago. Then he would mutter something I couldn’t hear, and I would respond routinely: “No smoking in the house, Charles,” or “Where have you been?”

When the wood smoke got nauseatingly thick, I’d venture out—sometimes to Lloyd’s, the convenience store across the bridge, or up the narrow road through Rock Creek Hollow, or down the street to visit Ed Wiley. He lived at the road’s dead end, where the river bowed against a steep, rocky cliff.

I had heard of Wiley before I came to Rock Creek. In 2004, his granddaughter started coming home from Marsh Fork Elementary School with respiratory problems, and he immediately knew why. The school sits across the river from a preparation plant where coal is washed and loaded into eastbound trains. Dust from coal trucks floats into the hallways, settling on lockers, desks, and lunch plates. Above the school is the Marsh Fork Impoundment, a 2.8 billion-gallon lake containing sludge—the mixture of chemicals, water, and sediments left after washing the coal. While lakes like these have been known to break, Massey plans to blast within 100 feet of the precarious impoundment. Wiley appealed to the state to move the school, and when the state didn’t listen, he walked to Washington, D.C. But it took the mine explosion, nearly three years after his visit to Congress, to draw the Annenberg Foundation to the area. Donors noticed the school’s proximity to the coal facility and offered $2.5 million as long as the state and Massey paid the rest.

I went to visit Wiley one evening when my housemates had gone out. He was laid out on the couch when I came in, watching

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[Image of a landscape]
The Last Samurai. He pushed himself upright and waved for me to sit down. Wiley had a youthful physique despite all the years he had worked in the mines. But that night he looked tired, his sharp eyes sunken.

“Good movie,” he said, and I sat down to watch Tom Cruise fend off four armed ninjas. We both were quiet the rest of the film. When it ended, I stood to go.

“How’s Marsh Fork?” I said.

“The same, I reckon,” said Wiley. He went into the kitchen, and I could hear him rustling around in the freezer. He came out holding a white grocery bag, heavy with bear meat. “You kids cook this up,” he said.

I thanked him, slipped on my boots, and headed down the dark road, past a boy who raced his four-wheeler alone, and into the house.

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I learned all this from locals like Chuck Nelson and Wiley, who, since the day they could shoot a gun, followed their fathers into the woods to track deer or wild turkey. Like most of the people I met in the Valley, they prided themselves on knowing the woods, and they loved the land for what it gave them. They had lived in the Valley their whole lives, as had many generations before, tracing back to the escaped indentured servants who settled the region. They seemed to cling to their ancestry like many first-generation Americans—or anyone, for that matter, who feared their roots could be forgotten or misunderstood.

There was a good deal of truth to their fears. On Sundays, when the mines were closed, my housemates and I would take four-wheelers up onto Coal River Mountain to visit some of the strip sites. The way up was narrow and rocky, edged on both sides by briars and old-growth trees. At the confluence of two ridges, we’d turn south, past an abandoned log home, and emerge into a clear-cut forest and then the craterous mine. Hundred-foot walls of rock rimmed the basin above us, layered with foot-high seams of coal. The mine had left a coarse, gravel surface, sprouting with boulders and dry grass. Below us, the ground dropped off into another walled basin, filled with sludge and dammed at its end by a loose, rock embankment. Whatever had been there before—trees, topsoil, homesteads, cemeteries—wouldn’t grow back for a very long time.
I've walked out onto many more strip mines since this one, and each time I do, I think of a remark my friend made when she came to visit me in Appalachia. This place, she told me, looked war-torn, as if artillery had erased the stories once embedded in the land. I had lived in other places similarly stripped of their cultural and ecological memory; even in Vermont, 19th-century settlers had leveled the woodlands once inhabited by the Abenaki to build and heat their homes, opening the sparse land to grazing and erosion. On the topsoil that remained, the woods grew back, a little unhealthy, scattered with new artifacts—saw blades, wall stones, oxen yokes, maple taps, plow teeth—the kinds of souvenirs hung over mantels and propped among flower beds.

Some argue the Southern Appalachians will recover just as well. Companies, by federal law, must put back the mountain to its “approximate original contour.” But that's after they've buried the topsoil under the bedrock. It's like felling a tree, plucking off the buds, carving out the core, and nailing it back to the stump. It's the sort of work that can't be undone.

Nor could I ignore it. My own tap water ran black on mornings after a hard rain, swirling with sediments washed into the Coal River from the mine above Rock Creek Hollow. When the air was right, I could feel the blasts. In the midst of all this, I found my neighbors' resilience most remarkable. I went line dancing more out of a need to hear the light-hearted banter than to learn the steps. I attended public hearings on new mining permits to see Chuck Nelson and other locals make their case. Many times they were cut short by facilitators from the state environmental agency or harassed off the podium by Massey men and women.

Some days, I tried convincing myself that the Valley was like my own home, a small gravel-mining town on New York's Rensselaer Plateau. It looked similar, anyway: twisted mountains, hardwood forests, silted streams, and defunct trailers scattered among neat, brick houses. But my relief, in the end, came from knowing I would soon return north to finish school.

The longer I stayed in Rock Creek that first spring, the more I wished to leave. I blame my dependance, in part, on my computer—there's nothing quite like it to steal you from the present, and as my campaign neared its end, I worked 16-hour days. But a few things happened that rattled me more than anything. The first was the crash.

On a sunny morning in March, as miners headed home from the night shift, two pickup trucks collided in front of the house. I was on the porch when it happened and looked up to see a cloud of sparks and shattered windows rain down the embankment into the river. I sat still for a moment as the cloud cleared. When I could see the two trucks smoldering, I grabbed a blanket from the couch and ran out to the road. Cars had already lined up on both sides of the crash, and a man in a jumpsuit was prying open the door to one of the trucks. I helped him guide the boy out—he had a deep gash in his arm and a broken ankle, but otherwise he appeared fine. The other truck was much harder to open, and so we pulled the young, gangly miner out through the window. Blood obscured most of his face, and his ribs had been crushed against the steering wheel. We spread the blanket on the road, and laid him down. The man in the jumpsuit asked for his mother's phone number and ordered an onlooker to make the call. A helicopter arrived, and the young miner died on the stretcher.

An old-timer had once told me, “Every time you turn on the lights, there's blood of a miner there somewhere.” The accident, though out of the mines, made his words suddenly, disturbingly true. It seemed such an undue death—to spend every day beneath cracking roof bolts and methane pockets, losing sleep with each ton of coal shipped east, thanking God when leaving the mine alive, and then to die on the way home. It was my first interaction with a working miner, apart from the stilted hellos I exchanged with sooty-faced men in Lloyds. The miners I had come to know were the ones who had survived, bent backs and black lungs proof of their service. They were of an entirely different generation than the young miner who died in the road—they remembered when Whitesville hummed, when there were more jobs than men to fill them, when the union kept wages up and the company stayed underground.

According to Chuck Nelson, most young miners never heard this history. Massey men learned to mine coal fast, by whatever means necessary. Some miners' commitment to the company bordered on idolization—they wore Massey T-shirts like letterman jackets, fixed flags to the backs of their motorcycles, and chanted the company name at rallies and counter protests. As anti-mountaintop removal sentiment swelled in the Valley, so did their zeal. Locals like Wiley fielded daily threats, and at the Rock Creek house, we stayed up nights to watch the bridge after rumors of arson had circulated through Lloyd's. Then on a July afternoon, a truck full of drunken miners stormed a music festival where the Valley's activists had gathered to celebrate another year of work. That night, I moved south to Wise County, Virginia, and didn't return until after the mine explosion.

Before I left the Valley this April, I took the road north from Whitesville to Sylvester, turned left at a sign that read, “Pray for our miners and their families,” and stopped at Carrie Lou's. The house was yellow and small, with a neat yard and well-lived-in rooms. She and Virgil shared the place with their niece and her two children. When I came in, Virgil was washing dishes. Plastic Tonka trucks cluttered the thick red carpet, and a baby slept in the corner room. Carrie Lou poured me a glass of ice water and sat with me at the kitchen table. She asked a question, but the phone rang. Her niece came in, set a furry newborn on the counter, and began changing her diaper.

“Have you any kids?” she asked.

“No.”

“How old are you?”

“Twenty-two,” I said. She was 25.

“Good, you're young. You should wait.”

Carrie Lou shook her head as she hung up the phone. Then she looked at me, trying to remember what she wanted to say.

“You're going to come back soon, aren't you?” she said, finally. “You've got to learn those dances.”

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Sierra Crane-Murdoch '10 is a writer in Virginia's coalfields.
The Journey of Roberto Véguez

Roberto Véguez was 18 when he came to the United States from Cuba, a young university student fleeing the revolución and Castro conscription orders in the wake of the failed Bay of Pigs invasion. His arrival in New York led to a job cataloguing books in the library of the Columbia University Medical Center; soon he was taking night courses at Columbia’s School of General Studies, where he met his future wife, Susan, and earned a degree in 1968. A Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin followed, and then in 1972, Susan and Roberto came to Middlebury. Now, on the eve of his retirement, the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Spanish reflects on the journey—past, present, and future.

When I was very young I always thought I was going to be a teacher. But I had never envisioned being a university teacher. It wasn’t until I came to the U.S. that I thought it possible.

Either trouble followed us or we followed trouble. We were [at Columbia] when all hell broke loose during the student riots... Students for a Democratic Society... that was my final semester. Then we went to Wisconsin, and there were protests and bombings and tear gas. Interesting times. We followed trouble.

Fear of the draft had pushed quite a lot of people into education, so jobs were scarce in 1972. Susan was from Massachusetts, so we had decided to focus on the Northeast, but that’s as particular as we got. I blanketed schools in the area with requests for interviews at the Modern Language Association [conference], and Middlebury answered. “Sure,” they said. “Come for an interview.”

Now, I was coming from a cold place—Madison, Wisconsin—but we came here and it was so cold, and there wasn’t a soul to be seen. We came to the Middlebury Inn, and there was no one there to receive us. We couldn’t figure out what was going on. And then we realized that it was Super Bowl Sunday. Everybody was watching the football game.

Middlebury was the smallest place I had ever lived. I lived in what was then the second largest city in Cuba (Santiago de Cuba), New York, and Madison, which was less crowded, but still a city, very lively. It took some getting used to here.

My first advanced course at Middlebury, I made the classic mistake that every professor made back then: I turned it into a graduate course, just like the ones that I had just finished at Wisconsin. It was just a disaster. I was assigning them huge amounts of reading... after about three weeks. I knew it couldn’t go on. It was awful. I was lost. I had to recalibrate. Like a GPS.

We lived on the second floor of 105 South Main. When we arrived, we knocked on the door of the first floor apartment. This woman opened the door, and I said, “My god, it’s you.” It was my French teacher from Columbia, Ann Stern. So we had an open house. It was almost like not leaving graduate housing.

I’ve always had very good students, but now, they’re getting so good. The faculty should be paying admission to be allowed to teach them. The students we get here are a luxury.

I’m very close to my students from the Class of 1980. That was the year I got tenure; Susan and I went abroad with them as juniors when I was the director of the School in Madrid; and the next year, we had a very intense bonding experience over a play that the entire Spanish department produced.

Okay, in English the play was called In Bunning Darkness. One of our majors, Robert Ackerman ’80, was directing and producing it (he was a double major, Spanish and theatre), and he cast all of us in it. Every character in the play was blind, and I played the blind director of a school for the blind. I was playing myself, except blind. It was art imitating life.

At some point, I had five children of former students here at Middlebury at the same time. It’s part of the Woody Allen formula: success is just being there. I’ve been here for so long, some of these things are bound to happen.

The head of our department, Miguel Fernández ’85 (and MA Spanish ’89), is one of my former students.

The rewards of teaching? You see the results. That’s why I think everyone should teach a first-year course, because you see even more results, faster.

I think I’m most closely associated with my Quixote course. Quixote teaches the importance of considering someone else’s point of view. It can be seen as a philosophy of life. It’s the entire range of society contained in 1,000 pages.

The Spanish School has a special place here. One of these days I’m going to finish the history of what I call “The Golden Years of the Spanish School.”

In 1937, the first of the exiles from the Spanish Civil War came to teach here. This place became the summer place to meet for everyone who was exiled to the eastern seaboard and beyond. Federico García Lorca’s entire family came here; the poet Pedro Salinas. People have been saying, “Someone has to write that history,” so I thought I’d give it a try. That’s what I’ll do in my retirement.

Teaching can be a lot like being a doctor—do no harm. Just point the way and get out. Let [the students] do it, and they will.

Photograph by Caleb Kenna
Years ago, when I fancied that I was becoming a scholar, I went off to study at Cambridge University. Twenty-five years old and newly married, I was writing a doctoral thesis in political philosophy, and my reason for going to Cambridge was to study the ideas of Alfred North Whitehead under the supervision of a distinguished disciple of his, the Reverend Dr. William Norman Pittenger.

Dr. Pittenger was a Life Fellow of King’s College, Cambridge, and as I climbed the stairs to the great man’s rooms for our first tutorial, I was as nervous as I had ever been. But as it happened, Dr. Pittenger turned out to be as gracious as he was learned, and he put me immediately at ease. He asked me to tell him my story, where I had studied, how I had become interested in philosophy. I got as far as mentioning my undergraduate years at Middlebury College, when he raised a hand to stop me. He was beaming with pleasure. In his deep, plummy voice, he exclaimed, “The strength of the hills is his also!”

This of course is the lovely line from the 95th Psalm chiseled into the entablature above the portal to the Middlebury College chapel, where apparently Dr. Pittenger had once been a visiting lecturer. As a student I had made no point of remembering it, and no one could have accused me of spending much time in the chapel, but as he intoned the words, I immediately felt myself back in the bracing air of Middlebury and feeling, for some reason, that I was home.

That impression—that in the deepest sense Middlebury was my home and that it was somehow calling me back to it—would grow even stronger in the years that followed. I have now had 40 years to consider the matter, and I cannot attribute that calling to mere nostalgia for my college days, satisfying as they were. All of that—the almost unbearable scholastic rigor, the experience of daily living in a dense hive of unforgettable new people, the high spirits, the exhilarating and humiliating self-discovery—was undeniably formative and important to me, but that is not what beckoned. Something older and more elemental, perhaps even geological, seemed to be at work, something like the strength of the hills.

For most of my life, Vermont has been, literally, far from home. I was born in Chicago and grew up in what became a suburb northwest of the city, Arlington Heights. The native Vermonters I have come to know call midwesterners “flattanders,” among many other things, but unless they have ever been to Arlington Heights, Illinois, they cannot know how apt the term is. There are no heights in Arlington Heights. I have clear memories of first learning to ride my bicycle and then, as I grew older and stronger, cycling miles and miles trying to find some grade in the pavement that might be considered a “hill.”

There was nothing at all aversive about my youth as a flattander. In fact, I believed, in those Eisenhower fifties and pre-Kennedy assassination sixties, that I lived in the benign epicenter of an unassailably prosperous and happy land. My larger cultural reference at the time
I am no architect and certainly no draftsman, but as my graduation approached, I spent what must have been hundreds of hours sketching elevations and floor plans of cabins and houses I thought I might find or build in Vermont.

came from the weekly magazines we got at home, the *Saturday Evening Post, Colliers, Life,* and *Look.* Norman Rockwell used to paint covers for some of those magazines, and while some people maintain that he prettified and sentimentalized American life in his renderings, they looked exactly like Arlington Heights to me.

When it came time to think about college, I bewildered my parents by looking eastward. We had no known East Coast relatives. We had never traveled or vacationed east of Indiana. Nearly everyone who was college bound in my teeming public high school went to state colleges in Illinois or to the fabled universities that composed The Big Ten. Very, very rarely, someone who was known to be unusually intelligent or very rich would go off to Harvard or Yale or Vassar, but I can only remember one such person, and the meaning of his gesture was lost on me.

My own eastward leaning may have been the first stirrings of the Call. The East Coast and New England in particular figured into books I read. I especially liked tragic novels about boys in New England prep schools, a milieu as exotic to me as the French Foreign Legion. I remember feeling that I wouldn’t mind at all being sensitively unhappy in the world of *A Separate Peace* or *Catcher in the Rye.* Any paintings or magazine photographs I saw of New England seemed so majestic and settled and right that I sensed there must be some tacitly understood barrier to admission.

This hodgepodge of impressions somehow worked its way into my college deliberations. My mother and father had not attended college, so negotiating this passage was pretty much up to me. There was a catalog of some kind in the guidance office at school, and I remember looking up colleges in the northeast and trying to make sense of the synopses. I couldn’t understand half the terms, but what I did understand suggested they were all quite similar, which caused me to rely heavily on the small photographs set into the promotional copy. In the end I applied to quite a few colleges in the east and to quite a few elsewhere. I can recall no guidance or help, only my father’s irritation that each application required a 10- or 15-dollar fee.

I did not apply to Middlebury College. By a kind of fluke surely no longer possible in college admissions protocols, a young man working for Middlebury College came to my high school in April of my senior year on a kind of regional exploration mission. No one from Arlington Heights had ever gone to Middlebury, and perhaps the College was curious about what such towns were like. At any rate, in the course of his visit this young man met my English teacher, who liked me and who knew I had taken a highly intuitive approach to college selection. I was called out of class to meet the man from Middlebury, and we had a wonderful talk. And here is the part that convinces me that higher powers were at work: the young man gave me a long look and said, “Okay, the admissions process for this year is over, but—if I can call up and find a way to get you through the door,
lost the sense of being held. Sometimes I thought it was just the pleasing novelty of mountains looming above the tree line. Sometimes I thought it was architecture, the flinty stone facades of the residences and classroom buildings, but it was something more basic than that, something that seemed to come out of the stones themselves. I was mesmerized by sheer place.

Held in this kind of thrall, I was not a notably strong student. The place for me exuded a kind of force which was almost too much for me. Many of the courses seemed to assume background and scaffolding I lacked. Courses in literature required more novels than I could read even if I were taking no other courses. For more than half my time at the College, I carried an abiding, bad-dream-quality dread that the College would identify me once and for all as the impostor I felt I was.

For a year or so at Middlebury I felt like a rhapsodic trespasser but thereafter a grateful initiate. There is a line in Romeo and Juliet when Juliet first realizes her love for Romeo is not only oceanic and boundless, but that she actually possesses the object of her desire. She exclaims, “I wish for but the thing I have!” She could have been speaking about my years at Middlebury College.

Walking the streets of the village, hurrying along campus walks, gazing out toward the Adirondacks from my dormitory window, I longed for but the thing I had.

I never longed for it more than when I went home to Chicago for Christmas. I longed for it in the stifling back seats of cars and from smoky train compartments on my way back. The Call would deepen as I approached the New York-Vermont
line, and always, as I crossed over the border and the garish signs and wires overhead disappeared, I felt myself held, gratefully held, in the old way.

I am no architect and certainly no draftsman, but as my graduation approached, I spent what must have been hundreds of hours sketching elevations and floor plans of cabins and houses I thought I might find or build in Vermont. Hiking the roads outside Middlebury or driving to or from a skiing outing, I would, like Thoreau in Concord, imagine myself master of all I surveyed, resident in every frame house I passed. No house or cottage or camp would have been too modest. To own an acre, a dwelling in Vermont, to store up provisions, stack wood, mow grass, cut back shrubbery, to retire at night and wake up in the morning among those stones and in that air was a continual waking dream.

In the early 1980s, I published a novel and in consequence was invited to be a teaching fellow at the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference. I joyfully accepted and for the next 10 years taught fiction and nonfiction writing there. I was long familiar with the rambling yellow frame buildings that compose the Bread Loaf campus. Dozens of writers from Robert Frost forward have tried to convey the crisp, elevated atmosphere of the place that is at once pastoral and alpine. A writer friend, Ron Powers, has called the intensely radiant afternoon light of Bread Loaf “prior light.”

During one of my last summer stints at the Writers’ Conference, the Call registered with a new urgency. I was sitting in the Bread Loaf Little Theatre listening to a Middlebury classmate and friend, Gary Margolis ’67, read from a collection of his poems and found myself overcome with a feeling I couldn’t quite name. I realized that Gary’s poems were a touching extension of every voice that had informed and changed me over the course of my years at Bread Loaf. I remember looking into the exposed beams overhead and thinking of how many transforming moments I had experienced in that room and that it was just one remote room in the complex of Middlebury College, where I had once come of age and where I had met the friends who have sustained me, where I met my wife, where I had been challenged to contend with the ideas and possibilities that have shaped my life’s work. And I remember thinking: I have been held in this place.

Because I am the one held and not the holder, I cannot bring this reflection to a tidy and masterful closure. There has been the Call, and most recently it has called me back here to live. Retired for over a year now, I am a house-holding citizen of Ripton, Vermont, a little hamlet on the mountain road from Middlebury up to Hancock. We have once again found a very old house, and it is wonderfully habitable. The water in this one too only trickles from the faucets, but behind the house a rushing stream (a roaring river after heavy rain) reminds us that we have all the water in the world.

There have been humbling surprises. Great winds and early snows have overwhelmed trees and power lines, and we have come to know, and rather to like, the uncertain feeling of a dark house and no telephone. In the darkest spell of such nights, there is just the invisible whoosh of the river over rock. But of course day breaks, and an unseasonable warmth returns, and—lo!—thousands of deep red lady beetles darken our windows, fit along the ceilings, burrow into folds of the curtains. I ask a neighbor about this, and he says, “they know it’s about to get cold.”

I suppose they do know, and now we know. I suspect we have a lot to learn, but of one thing I am certain. I am held here for life. I have been called to this place, and the happiness passes all understanding.

Richard Hawley has written 18 books of fiction and nonfiction and has contributed stories and essays to a number of publications, including the Atlantic, the New York Times, Orion, and Commonweal.
CHANGE AGENT

For the first time in its history, the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut elected its new bishop from outside of the state. One of many signs of the changing times.

Photograph by Gabriel Cooney
A Matter of Faith

As the Episcopal Church wrestles with its identity, one diocese votes for a future of change.

BY SARA THURBER MARSHALL

NOT THAT LONG AGO, an Episcopal priest could accurately be described as being the following: male, white, straight, and English speaking. He looked a lot like Ian Douglas ’80, the newly elected bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut.

Yet with Douglas’s April consecration before a congregation of 2,000 people that included Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Katharine Jefferts Schori, the Episcopal Church’s presiding bishop, the diocese made a resounding statement: it was time for a change. That this agent of change happens to be male, white, straight, and English speaking only tells part of the story.

It’s easy to talk to Ian Douglas. He has a friendly smile and an open manner, and in conversation, he speaks quietly but clearly and with an assurance that demonstrates a grounding in his faith and convictions.

For the past 22 years, Douglas had served as the Angus Dun Professor of Mission and World Christianity at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He’d considered putting his name forward in the past for bishop positions, but the timing had never seemed right.

His children were young and his family was established in Massachusetts. However, he and wife Kristin Harris ’79 knew their life circumstances were changing when their oldest son, Luke, had graduated from Middlebury, their middle child, Timothy, was in college, and the youngest, Johanna, was graduating from high school.

Colleagues suggested he look into the opening for bishop in Connecticut. Douglas had reason to hesitate. In the 225-year-history of the Diocese of Connecticut, a bishop had never been elected from outside the state. “When I read the profile of the position,” he admits, “it so seemed to fit my sense of who I am and what gifts I have to offer that I felt like, okay, I need to do this. And so somewhat on a lark, somewhat with some fear and trepidation, I said, sure, let’s enter this process.”

The process was a quick one. From the time he submitted his name to the time he was publicly nominated, only eight weeks passed. A few months later, in October 2009, when lay people from each of the parishes and all the clergy came together and voted at the diocese’s annual convention, Douglas was elected.

“After the results of the first ballot were read, there was a collective gasp from the 800 people there,” says Sylvia Ho, chair of the search committee. “He was almost elected on the first ballot. That has never happened before.” On the second ballot, Douglas had enough votes. He began work February 1.

THE JOURNEY

Years ago, Ian Douglas almost became a long-haul trucker. He opted for another journey, one that has culminated in his consecration as an Episcopal bishop.
During the last decade Douglas has spent a significant amount of time traveling around the world to meet with Christian leaders, lay and ordained, in an effort to help them understand what the “new world” of the church is. Douglas discusses this “new world” a lot. In the past half century, the worldwide Anglican community, of which the Episcopal Church is a part, has undergone immense changes that have challenged its historical view of itself. From a predominantly white, male-led, English-speaking, Western industrialized community, it has become a radically plural, global, multicultural membership with 80 million members worldwide. “The historic margins, who have always been in the church, are now achieving their full stature and coming to the table,” Douglas says. “And that includes the margins in the West as well—women, people of color, specifically African Americans, most recently gays and lesbians—who are saying, we’re here and we deserve a place at the table, too. And I say thanks be to God. I think we’re a lot closer to what God is up to in this world, with this plurality represented.”

He suggests, however, that those representing the old hegemonic norms of the Anglican Communion are challenged by the new multicultural demographics of the church and fear they have a lot to lose. “The oldest trick in the book, if you don’t want anything to change, is to get one historically marginalized group, like the African Church, focused on another historically marginalized group, such as gays and lesbians, and if they’re fighting and challenging each other’s authenticity, nothing changes.” So a lot of his work has been to try to provide a frame by which leaders can have “deep and meaningful conversations across their differences and appreciate that they have more in common than the particulars they are focusing on.”

Douglas hopes to draw on the skills he used at the international level in a more localized setting, and he feels that Connecticut is a particularly suitable place.

“It really is a microcosm of the United States,” he says. “Here you have some of the richest counties in the U.S. and some of the most economically challenged cities. You have very rural areas, populated areas, and ocean and mill towns and suburbs, black, white, theologically quite conservative, theologically quite progressive—it’s just got everything.”

And obviously Sylvia Ho’s search committee, and ultimately the diocese, felt that Douglas’s experience reflected where they were headed in these changing times.

Douglas almost became a long-haul tractor-trailer driver. A political science major at Middlebury, he did not pursue religious studies in college, although he’d always had it in the back of his mind that he might go to divinity school. At graduation, he applied to seven trucking companies and Harvard Divinity School. The trucking idea fulfilled his sense of wanderlust, a desire to re-connect with his working-class roots, and his countercultural reaction to the commonly tread path from Middlebury to the ranks of the employed on Wall Street. Three companies offered him work; Harvard also accepted him.

He chose divinity school over the open road.

Since earning his degree and becoming an Episcopal priest, Douglas has seen many changes in the church in the United States. The historic white male leadership has diversified to include women and gays and lesbians. In 1989, the first female bishop was elected, and, in 2003, Gene Robinson became the first gay man to become a bishop. These changes have created a good deal of divisiveness in both the Episcopal Church and the wider Anglican Communion. (After Robinson’s ordination and confirmation in New Hampshire, four bishops defected from the church, along with the majority of their dioceses and numerous parishes around the country, totaling about 100,000 members.) The strife was exacerbated at the 2009 General Convention when the church voted to open any ordained ministry to gay men and lesbians.

But when asked how that convention will affect the future of the church, Douglas remains hopeful. The voices heard at the convention were honest. “They were saying this is who we are. We don’t have it figured out. It’s not easy. But we’re being truthful in how we are wrestling with what we think God is up to in our midst. We’re discovering a new way of being a church beyond the politicized divisions that have defined a lot of the church’s conversations in the past few decades. I think as a church we are beginning to find our voice as a whole.”

More on Ian Douglas, including an audio slideshow, can be found on our digital magazine at http://tiny.cc/ian-douglas.
Our editorial staff picked a few books from our "to read" shelf—here's what we found.

**Awkward Family Photos**  
(Three Rivers Press)  
By Mike Bender '97 and Doug Chernack

If you haven't had a good belly laugh in a while, run, don't walk, to your nearest bookstore and pick up Awkward Family Photos. Based on a popular Web site of the same name, the book captures the essence of that posed, often painfully arranged, usually completely unnatural family photo that is sitting on the mantel at home. The humor is universal, whether you've ever had to sit for such a photo or not, and Bender and Chernack have intentionally kept it good-natured. Divided into camera-worthy topics, the book covers everything from vacations to Grandma and Grandpa, with fitting, laugh-out-loud captions and stories that lend an added dimension to the embarrassing portraits. But in the end, as the authors point out in their introduction, the book isn't about how families may choose to depict themselves; it's about "celebrating the family experience and shining a light on all of those deliciously awkward moments that come with the price of membership."

**Midnight Fires**  
(Peace Press)  
By Nancy Means Wright, MA French '65

For anyone who enjoys historical fiction rich in the flavor of the period, Midnight Fires offers an intriguing view of the 18th century. Mary Wollstonecraft, an early feminist and the mother of Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, author of Frankenstein, is the story's central figure. Unwilling to accept her culturally assigned role as a subservient, lower-class female, Mary fulfills her appointment as governor of Ireland's aristocratic Kingsborough family with independent resolve. During her voyage to Ireland, a sailor aboard the ship begs Mary to deliver a letter for him, and then he falls, or is stabbed and pushed, overboard. Thus begins a mystery that unfolds around Mary, compelling her to act. The story is richly told, with fascinating historical details, from descriptions of personal hygiene and fashion to the trauma experienced by a female asleep in her remote castle bedroom and considered to be fair game in the middle of the night.

**Siren**  
(Egmont)

Siren is a great read for the beach. In fact, this young-adult suspense thriller unfolds on the beaches and craggy cliffs of Winter Harbor, Maine, where nothing is what it seems—from a bizarre pattern of violent storms that hit only the tiny village to a rash of smiling corpses washed up on shore. The story is told by 17-year-old Vanessa, a beautiful, brainy, mouselike girl who is scared of everything. Still reeling from the suspicious death of her charismatic older sister, she gradually discovers her own temerity, along with a slew of eerie secrets, as she searches for answers in a town that's coming unhinged. Intellectually written and fast-paced, this is Rayburn's first foray into young-adult fiction (she also wrote the tween-focused Maggie Bean series) and it's a seamless transition. Nudging into the crowded field of supernatural page turners, Rayburn is very effective at tapping themes on the minds of her teen audience—including romance, loss, self-discovery, parental relationships, peer acceptance—and wrapping it all up in an edgy, irresistible narrative.

**Wise Ones of Mull: A Gift of Vision**  
By Helen Prentice '47

Steeped in the richness of Scottish folklore, yet set in a real place in real time, this book weaves an enchanting story of a young girl born with the gift of vision used by the Wise Women to
understand and influence the natural world. Taking place on the Isle of Mull in the 16th century, the tale blends historical events and politics with a magical, mystical element that is seen through the eyes of Ishbel as she learns her ancient craft. Apprenticed to Anna, the Wise One called the Doidag, Ishbel witnesses the Doidag’s power as ships sink at sea and a gold-laden Spanish galleon is blown up; a changeling left in a crib by the Gentle Ones is exposed and the stolen baby returned; and a young playwright is inexorably drawn from London to Mull for a purpose unknown to him. As Ishbel learns her lessons—the magical and the practical—she herself becomes a Wise One and faces challenges and dangers that she must use all her powers to avert.


**Sixty to Zero**
By Alex Taylor III ’67

Alex Taylor, a journalist with more than three decades of experience writing about the auto industry, chronicles the collapse of General Motors and the foibles of the big three American automakers over the past 50 years in Sixty to Zero. The personalities of the top executives—Roger Smith, Lee Iacocca, John Z. DeLorean, and others—blossom into vivid, attention-grabbing characters as Taylor’s account unfolds. Striking just the right tone with his personal, narrative voice, Taylor takes the reader from his childhood in Old Greenwich, Connecticut, during the “car-crazy fifties” to his career-long quest to discover the plans, potentials, and intrigues of the car companies. The story that emerges is as fascinating and complex as the characters and personalities of the men running the shows. But this book is much more than a recitation of auto business plans and failures aimed at car buffs and business-school case studies. By focusing on his personal experiences and his impressions of the major players in the American auto industry, Taylor has given his readers a delightful, historical narrative to ponder at this critical juncture of our economy.

—Susie Davis Patterson ’67

**Life After Favre:**
*A Season of Change with the Green Bay Packers and Their Fans*
By Phil Hanrahan ’86

During the summer of 2008, when Green Bay Packers fans were left to agonize over their team’s indecision about the future of All-Pro quarterback Brett Favre, Phil Hanrahan decided to pack up, move to Green Bay, spend a year as a Packer “Cheesehead,” and chronicle the experience. He takes readers inside the training camp and into the Packers’ locker room, like any accomplished sportswriter would. But the author delves deeper into the Packers mystique: he visits a Packers’ shareholders meeting (convened in the bleachers of Lambeau Field), travels in a front-row seat on the Green Bay tour bus, offers reflections on the origins of the team, and takes excursions to Packers eating and drinking establishments across the land. Along the way Hanrahan comes to internalize what it means to be a Packers fan and to enjoy the hospitality of the locals, even though Favre never returns to the team and Green Bay finishes the season a disappointing (but not surprising) 6-10 without him.

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**Bun, Onion, Burger**
By Peter Mandel ’79

**From Here to There and Back with a Quack!**
By Faith Nielsen ’53

Two books for children have come out recently. In the playful Bun, Onion, Burger, simple words tell the story of a backyard family barbecue with a special, overlooked guest. The colorful, mouthwatering pictures will capture the interest of any toddler who likes food! From Here to There and Back with a Quack! tells a story about a duck who loses a leg after a run-in with a snapping turtle. As he works to overcome his disability, he is befriended by a woman who helps him survive a long winter, and he learns that his courageous spirit is helping her with her own struggles.
Liberal Arts, Global Action

The impact of the world on Middlebury—and Middlebury’s impact on the world.

text by Maria Theresa Stadtmueller

Charting Progress toward $500 Million
(as of 5/31/10)

$329m

$180 million | Access and Opportunity

$139m

45%

$150 million | Teaching and Mentoring

$69m

77%

$90 million | Programs and Infrastructure

$71m

80%

$80 million | Increasing Institutional Flexibility

$51m

64%

www.middleburyinitiative.org
In 2000, noted philanthropist Shelby M. C. Davis and international scholar Philip O. Geier founded the Davis United World College Scholars Program. In its inaugural year, the program provided grants meeting the full financial need for 43 UWC graduates to attend one of five colleges or universities, among them Middlebury College.

In 10 years' time, the program has grown into the world's largest international scholarship program, supporting nearly 3,000 scholars at more than 90 colleges and universities.

During the 2009-2010 academic year, Middlebury enrolled more UWC scholars—113—than any of the other 90-plus institutions, and, in May, the College celebrated the program's 10th anniversary by hosting an interview in the McCullough Social Space with the program's cofounders, Geier and Davis, and three Midd alums and Davis Scholars—Helene Songe '04, Yohanne Kidolezi '05, and Livia Vastag '07.

What follows are excerpts from the discussion.

Philip Geier: It’s a program that has two basic objectives. One is to provide amazing students with great scholarship opportunities at American institutions like Middlebury. The second objective is to change the culture, to transform the experience for all students at our partner schools, so that the world is brought to Middlebury.

Helene Songe: Working within education is something that came to my mind when I embarked on an international education myself. I realized it really changed my life.

Shelby Davis: We have a saying in our family that the first 30 years of your life should be to learn, and the next 30 years to earn, and the remaining 30 years—if you’ve been fortunate—should be to return, to help make the world a better place. I decided that education is what creates possibilities for mankind.

Yohanne Kidolezi: I grew up in central Tanzania, in a small town of 1,000 people. I had a great opportunity to attend a United World College and that allowed me to do two years in western Norway and then Middlebury. Personally, that was the defining moment of my life. Every time I look back and reflect about what would have been if I had not gone to UWC… I can’t begin to imagine.

Livia Vastag: If I had not heard of UWC and therefore had not come to Middlebury? I’d be working in Hungary, probably still in the sciences, but most likely as a lab technician. I certainly wouldn’t have had the opportunity to go to Princeton and pursue a Ph.D.

Just before the program’s conclusion, Davis and Geier were asked what we’d be talking about ten years from now. They were both adamant that the Scholars Program would continue, and that it would continue to grow. But Davis is also a realist and issued a call to action: “I will remain committed to this program, but as it grows there will come a point when I will no longer be able to do it alone. I hope others will join me in advancing this worthy endeavor.”

For more, see: www.davisuwc scholars.org and www.middlebury.edu/giving/difference/impact/davisuweevent
ROSSING INTO THE TERRITORY OF A new language—when you understand, are understood, when you grasp the telling nuance—is a thrill worth the hard work. Just ask anyone who's been to Middlebury's Language Schools, where the prospect of crossing that line is as sure as the workload is rugged. Of course, creating the intense summer colonies of foreign cultures that produce such results is costly—and many students can't afford their share of that cost. Fortunately, donors like Betty and David Jones, Kathryn Wasserman Davis, and Lois and Harvey Watson have committed themselves to helping determined students make new languages and cultures their own.

FOR TWO DECADES, Betty A. Jones, MA French '86, and her husband, David, have helped Middlebury deepen and broaden its internationally focused teaching. The Joneses' scholarships for graduate students at the Language Schools, and their leadership gifts to expand the Monterey Institute of International Studies' infrastructure, financial aid, and academic excellence have helped create a peerless network of international study options. Michael Geisler, Middlebury's vice president for Language Schools, Schools Abroad, and graduate programs, says of their impact, "Many hundreds of people owe their foreign language and cultural fluency to Betty and David Jones. Studying a new language and working to understand the culture of the people who speak it enganges others and bridges inevitable differences. Perhaps the Joneses' greatest legacy is that each Jones Scholar, whether a teacher, journalist, diplomat, NGO worker, or businessperson, becomes an agent of understanding." Meg White, Jones Scholar in Russian, agrees: "Understanding, knowledge, and respect—these are some of the psychological side effects of Middlebury's Language Schools."

COULD ANOTHER SIDE EFFECT BE PEACE? Since turning 100 in 2007, Kathryn Wasserman Davis has given 100 fellowships a year for LS students committed to acquiring one of six languages critical for careers and projects promoting peace. As Davis has said, lessening conflict will require nothing less than "a mind-set of preparing for peace instead of preparing for war." Davis Scholars are working in rural, developing-world classrooms, in diplomatic circles, and everywhere in between. (For more on the Davis Family, see p. 49.)

 INFLUENCED BY HER FATHER'S EARLIER deployment in World War I France, Lois Behrman Watson '51 and her family spoke French at home. She added Italian while a Middlebury undergraduate and found the germ of her philanthropy while at the French School in 1949. "I met master's students who were teachers, and saw how hard it was for them to get support," she recalls. Watson Scholars at the Language Schools now number three a year, the same number Harvey and Lois Watson support at the Monterey Institute's Fisher International MBA program. "When you give scholarships in your lifetime, you see how it changes people's lives," Watson says. "Meeting our students and seeing their enthusiasm has been such a pleasure. It's like being part of a family."

A Parting Gift from the Senior Class

The Class of 2010's Senior Class Gift has "welcome" written all over it. It's a scholarship for an international student, and the idea won handily over four other options the seniors had nominated. Two members of the gift committee explain why they raised money for it.

When students share something they've learned from experience, it's extra special if you're listening to someone from Pakistan, or China, or Brazil, or France, rather than your standard American hometown. And vice versa: for many international students it's their first time in America, surrounded by thousands of Americans, and they'll never forget it. I think understanding something through a person rather than a book is to be heavily valued.

—Will Sifton '10
Now working in Barcelona

Some classmates initially didn't understand why we were specifying an international student, but once we explained that admission isn't need-blind for them, and they really excited. It was wonderful to create this scholarship from scratch and know it'll change people's lives.

—Julisa Salas '10
Now working at J.P. Morgan in New York
Greater than the Sum of the Parts

**Interested in environmental policy?** In teaching a language? In curbing terrorism and weapons proliferation? Now that the Monterey Institute of International Studies is officially a graduate school of Middlebury, new, accelerated study opportunities have opened for current students and alumni alike. Jeffrey Cason, dean of international programs and Knox Professor of International Studies and Political Science, answers questions about these new Monterey-based study options.

**What are these five integrated MA degrees?** They’re in international environmental policy, international policy studies, terrorism and nonproliferation studies, teaching foreign languages, and teaching English to speakers of other languages. In each case, students will need to have taken a series of courses—or majored in a particular field—to qualify. They do not have to come straight from Middlebury; indeed, there are many advantages to having some work experience between an undergraduate education and graduate school at Monterey. All Middlebury alums who meet the basic requirements for these degrees would be eligible to apply for these programs.

**Do Middlebury alumni have an advantage?** Yes. As a consequence of the outstanding undergraduate education they’ve received at Middlebury, our alumni will be able to receive an MA from the Monterey Institute in one year—a much shorter time than is typical. Students will have to have taken certain Middlebury courses and have appropriate linguistic preparation to qualify, but a great many Middlebury alums have done exactly that.

**Will financial aid be available?** Middlebury alumni are eligible to apply for financial aid at Monterey, and there are special financial aid resources for them. That said, graduate school is normally financed with an expectation of greater student investment—including more reliance on loans—rather than on meeting the full need, as is the case with undergraduates.

**How does the professor in you view these degrees?** When thinking about the integration between Middlebury and Monterey, I’ve been struck by the number of students I know who would benefit from an education at both places. In particular, I see political science majors, international studies majors, and international politics and economics majors, and many of them would be an excellent fit for what Monterey has to offer. They’ve got strong language skills, the desire to work in international fields, and Monterey has some excellent programs they can take advantage of. An increasing number of them are doing just that.

**How should interested alumni find out more?** They should contact the Monterey Institute’s admissions office (www.miss edu/admissions), where staff can answer questions and direct queries to faculty and staff at Monterey who will know how to handle them.

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**Selected Funding Opportunities**

A sampling of funding opportunities for both annual (immediate) and endowed (long-term) support.

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trees here began in 1994. It takes 40 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of syrup. For our festive occasion, the kitchen needed about five gallons. We certainly appreciate the many hours the residents work to give us such sweet results.

—Class Correspondent: Ms. Charles M. Hall (Margaret Leith), 100 Water Robin Dr., Shelburne, VT 05482.

Helen Brewer Chadwick reports that she will soon be a great-grandmother and one of her favorite pastimes is a game of bridge. I chatted with Joyce MacKenzie Cropsey. She advised me that she was active as the secretary-treasurer of Cropsey and Mitchell Co., a real estate corporation that owns property on the Brooklyn waterfront, in Litchfield, Conn., and in Plymouth, N.H. She also has an abiding interest in genealogy, history, and biographies and maintains a membership in the DAR and Colonial Dames. She has suffered two minor heart attacks and is participating in a vigorous program to avoid any more. I tried contacting John Golensbeske and reached his son. He informed me that John died December 26, 2008. After retirement from Rockwell International, John was an active golfer and gardener. In his college days, John played football and was on the 1937 undefeated team along with John Kirk, John Cridland '38, Robert Boehm '38, John Chalmers '38, Tom Murray, Ken Kinsey, and others I cannot now recall. Freshman year my roommate Ed Newcomb '40 and I went out for football. Ed and I had not played football in high school. Many of the above-named dumped us and literally used us as tackling dummies. We decided to quit, as it was obvious it was not our game and we reported our decision to Coach Duke Nelson. I have never seen such a relieved person. To this day I can feel the bruises on my legs. It is with deep regret that I report the deaths of two of our classmates: Edward Grosenbeck. For years he was the student leader in the exchange program in Vermont. In retirement he set up the exchange. He lived in Europe and the Far East to the U.S. and sent our obituary that Bob wrote for himself to be put in the service. He served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam and received the Distinguished Flying Cross four times. He was interred in Arlington Cemetery with full military honors including a Marine Flyover. If you have any questions about this obituary the immediate family can be contacted. 

—Class Correspondent: Dr. Loring V. Pratt (rlongdev@aol.com), 37 Lawrence Ave., Fairfield, ME 04947.

Correspondent Margaret Shaub sends greetings and a reminder that we are now just a year away from our 70th class reunion! Several of you have already expressed a desire to return for this event, and I hope as many as possible will think seriously about attending. It is with deep regret that I report the deaths of two of our classmates: Pegram Williams Rhodes died on January 26 and Robert Johnson died on February 21. Bob Johnson’s son Peter sent the College a copy of the obituary that Bob wrote for himself to be put in the local paper. He also sent a booklet with a list that Bob kept of the books he read each year, beginning in 1992. There are 892 of them. We express our sympathy to both Peg and Bob’s families, especially Peg’s sister, Jean Williams Schoch ’45 and Druzilla Williams Schoch ’47, and Bob’s wife, Elizabeth Smith Johnson ’44. Obituaries will be in a future issue. Edith Ladd Evans is leading an active line in North Carolina. She plays bridge a couple of times a week, goes to the beach every day with her little dog, and goes to her lake place from time to time. Her kids come to see her quite often. And she still goes to Maine every summer. She also sees Alice Noppel Knight once a year. Hope to see you at reunion, Laddie! 

—Class Correspondent: Charlotte Gilbert Lightfoot and her lovely little dog drove across the country last summer with her dog. She lives near Los Angeles and enjoys her winter. I dipped my big toe in the Gulf twice. Swam in the pool three times. Played golf in the morning and froze. Florida had the worst weather in 40 years. At least there was no snow or ice to slip on. Also the local stores did not run out of red wine, which extends one’s life.

—Class Correspondent: Dr. Roger Clarke (arogerclarke@aol.com), 7 Rundell Park, Rochester, NY 14607.

REUNION CLASS

Mary Earl sent the College this note: “I regret to inform you that my stepfather, George R. Davis, died on February 6 at his home in Lowellville, N.Y. He retired as county, surrogate, and family court judge in Lewis County, N.Y., in 1983 after serving 20 years on the bench. He pursued his interest in local history, as well, serving on the board and later as president of the Lewis County Historical Society. He was the Lowellville historian for 18 years, spent many summers restoring Civil War graves, and authored many articles on local history. In the last four years, he was at home with 24-hour care, but he still enjoyed many pursuits. During this time he studied for and passed his amateur radio license, joining the Black River Valley Amateur Radio Club. He was 91 years old and just a few months short of his 70th reunion when he died.” The Class of 1940 sends its condolences to George’s family.

—Class Correspondent: Dr. Loring V. Pratt (rlongdev@aol.com), 37 Lawrence Ave., Fairfield, ME 04947.

As sad as it is to report deaths of our classmates, I guess at our age such news is not unusual. On February 20 Ivan Bunnell died and on February 27 Sidney Luria died. We do send our condolences to their families. Memorials will be in a future issue. We also heard of the death of Field Winslow on December 31. He was ill and his unexpected source of comfort was the National Inventors Hall of Fame. He was inducted posthumously on March 31. (See sidebar.) An obituary will appear in the full issue. News from Janet Randall Morgan is that she continues her daily walks from her house in Quonsett, R.I., to the beach. She does enjoy watching the ocean’s many changes and waves. Knitting afghans for great-grandbabies who are still arriving keeps Janet busy. When we talked she had just completed two for twins born in March. Eleanor Barnum Gardner has been a quilter for many years. Recently I saw several colorful lap quilts she finished. At present she is working on a beautiful bedspread. Wake Robin’s annual pancake breakfast was held March 31 this year. You may recall that the tapping of the taps here began in 1994. It takes 40 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of syrup. For our festive occasion, the kitchen needed about five gallons. We certainly appreciate the many hours the residents work to give us such sweet results.

—Class Correspondent: Alba Davis Smoble, 147 West State St., Room 208, Kennebunk, PA 19348.

I was saddened to hear that Paul Foster died on February 13. He had a great sense of humor and was really the spirit of our class. He could always be counted on to attend reunion and he often put together CDs with big-band music, which he collected. For our 50th he spent many hours going through his collection (assembled over 50 years) of 78 records, LPs, 8-tracks, and cassettes to put together four 90-minute cassettes of the Big Band era up through the 1940s. At Middlebury Paul was a KDR and played freshman football, hockey, and was on the track team. He was also involved with the Mountain Club, Governing Board, and the Winter Carnival Committee. He married Audrey Dimm ’39 and they were together 45 years before she died. Our condolences are sent to his family. An obituary will appear in a future issue. I’m also sorry to report that Barbara Weaver Street died on February 7. At Middlebury she played basketball, volleyball, and baseball, and was in the choir, French Club, and Mountain Club. She earned a master’s in French from Middlebury in 1942 and during that time she shared housemother duties in Hepburn Hall with Mary Williams Brackett ’36. She spent most of her career teaching at the New Milford (Conn.) High School and in 1999 she inducted her into their Hall of Fame. Our condolences are sent to her three stepsons and their families. An obituary will appear in a future issue.


REUNION CLASS

Hello to the Class of 1935. No news to report.

—Class Correspondent: Alba Davis Smoble, 147 West State St., Room 208, Kennebunk, PA 19348.
many fruit trees and her garden. Another source of joy is having visits from her children and many grandchildren. * Peg Waller Glazer and her husband lead a quiet life in Texas, where they have lived for 37 years. She broke her hip last year, so her activity is limited. * Ruth 'Packy' Packard Jones learned in a phone call to Packy Jones. Packy Jones. Ruth Hardy Armstrong, whom we made an honorary class member, now lives in a retirement community in Hanover, N.H. To quote the president of Middlebury College: "Armstrong was a classics professor at Princeton Univ. and then, during the wild days of on-campus turmoil over the Vietnam War and the integration of women into the student body, the president of Middlebury College. Because of the excitement and challenges, he calls that period, from 1965 to 1975, 'his mountaintop time.' "

—Class Correspondents: Elizabeth Woffington Hubbard-Ovens received an article from U.S. News & World Report, February 2010, with an account of former Middlebury president James Armstrong, whom we made an honorary class member at the time of our 25th reunion. It seems Jim and wife Carol stay very active in their retirement community in Harvard, Mass., but there are some highlights. The Metropolitan Opera on the big screen in a nearby movie theater has been a huge treat. Tana's was a great experience. Believe it or not, she went to prison for lunch. Trainees at the prison serve a four-course lunch for the amazing price of three dollars. Her Council on Aging schedules trips to theaters and concerts, and recently they went to a fascinating museum featuring Russian icons. She was surprised to learn about similarities between old Russian ideas and beliefs and those of our Native Americans. She worked 20-plus years in the local Indian museum and regretted having to give it up recently. * Rachael Swarthout King is living happily in a retirement community near Philadelphia where she is still able to participate in the many activities offered both on campus and in the Greater Philadelphia area. Although she doesn't travel far from home for reunions, she does enjoy hearing about Middlebury and her former classmates. * Ginny Carpenter Halstead and husband Gordon live in a retirement community where they enjoy the many activities. Although Ginny is legally blind, they very much enjoy the musical programs as well as the lectures that are offered. Ginny was happy to announce they finally have a great-granddaughter, Eliza Franklin, and they hope she will be in the Class of 2031 at Middlebury. * Lonny and Donna are in good health and good spirits and continue to care for what will probably be the last of their many dogs, a 14-year-old female. Dumont remains active in the Canoe Society and Distinguished Middlebury Alumni

Middlebury was well represented at the National Inventors Hall of Fame 2010 induction ceremony in March.

Field Winslow '38, who died December 16, 2009, was inducted posthumously for helping to find a way to stabilize the polymers used to coat communications cable. His work done with colleagues at Bell Labs helped make universal telephone service possible.

Roger Easton '43 was inducted for developing Timation, an acronym of TIME navigation, for the Naval Air Systems Command. The current Global Positioning System (GPS) is based on the Timation system. The discoveries of both men have had a significant impact on society.

For more information, please visit our website: www.middleburyalumni.org
Bill Neale writes from his "desert home" in Scottsdale, Ariz., that his independent-living facility promotes a wide range of activities and opportunities. Early last year, a committee convened to explore "new adventures". Bill suggested a hot air balloon ride. This idea was well received, and three men and two women signed on. Bill was the youngest at 86, the eldest a woman who was 95! The only hard part was rising at 3 a.m. and eating breakfast at 5 a.m. "We had a beautiful ride for an hour and a half in order to enter the Air Force. After the war, he was, in an extraordinary moment, accepted directly into the Harvard Graduate School of Architecture. He went on to enjoy a long career. In New York, he worked with Philip Johnson and Mies van der Rohe, and then spent 20 years as an associate with M. Pei and Associates. The Crockers' three daughters grew up in Connecticut, and Movise (a Radcliffe alum) taught English as a second language in the Greenwich school system. In 1976, Paul and Movise moved to Cape Cod where Paul, in his boyhood summers, had come to love the ocean. He spent a number of years in private practice on the Cape, and he is now enjoying retirement there. His ties to Middlebury continue through his years of friendship with Al Boissevain. Winifred Witzigmann Ballou and husband Richard, who raised five sons, are now proud great-grandparents of two little boys! The cancer Winnie has battled has now been in remission for four years, but the Ballous' many years of being invertebrate travelers (Europe, Alaska, the U.S. coast-to-coast) are now over, and she and Richard are content to enjoy family and look back on their years of travel. When asked where and when they had been on their last trip, Winnie told us that in 1998 they visited the Far East (Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangkok, and South China). A host of memories on which to feed! — We're sorry to have to report the deaths of several classmates who passed away recently. Harold Parker died on November 6, Richard Brockschmidt on February 7, and J. Warren Schaller died on February 10. Our condolences go out to their families. Obituaries will appear in future issues.
ourselves in history, wherever we have focused our energies: The Lawrenceville School, where Bruce was eighth headmaster for 37 years and from where both granddaughters just graduated, is celebrating its 200th year. The publicity is specific and affirming as the story assumes perspective. You're so good, you're so inspiring. When you are doing it, right? One step in front of other.—Class Correspondent: Mary Elizabeth Wisotzkey, 2014.

There was an exciting wedding in Middlebury this winter—a marriage of Jack Matthew and Kimberly Hagan, whom we last heard from as the couple's first child was born. Congratulations! Mary Nasmith Means joined Mary Jane Selleck Hellekjaer in the move to a nice retirement home just across town. Her new address is 19707 Old Georgetown Rd., #1118, Bethesda, MD 20814. She spent two weeks in Hawaii this winter—the same two weeks that D.C. had two feet of snow. Good planning, Mary Jane. 

Margarita Booker has been remodeling parts of her house despite severe hip arthritis. And the snowstorms this winter put a damper on her activities. Her housemate she met in 1996 does her grocery shopping and he provides great porterhouse steaks. Not only that, she has a tall, handsome physical therapist who provides mental as well as physical stimulation. 

Jean Luckhardt Straton is alive and well, enjoying life at Medford Leas with her third Swarthmore husband. Their retirement community is on 168 acres of woods and meadows, close to Philadelphia so they have the benefit of getting to the theater, the orchestra, the ballet, and other Philly events. In addition, life is very busy with lectures, courses, and activities at Medford Leas. Right now she is the coordinator of 100 health care volunteers. In her words, it's a very rewarding project. 

Penn Snow Cassidy and Mary Nasmith Means joined Anne McMenamin of the Middlebury Office of Gift Planning for a guided tour of some American paintings and for lunch at the Smithsonian National Gallery of Art. They were so pleased to hear that Mall is trying innovative ways to keep college costs down. 

Shelton and Phyllis Watson recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They had a great party with 42 members of the family and friends. She feels very blessed and fortunate. We received a note from Elaine Gavagan Eichorn’s daughter that Gav has moved to a retirement community. She lives in a comfortable apartment and enjoys the frequent visits from her six children and 11 grandchildren. There are lots of activities in which to participate, but Gav likes the dining room best with its delicious meal that she doesn’t have to cook! She sends greetings to her Middlebury friends and often says those were the best years of her life. 

Ed and Alice Thorn Laquer are leading a very quiet life after years of work and travel. Now they are devoted to some good armchair travel programs on PBS. Most of their activities revolve around children, grandchildren and even great-grandchildren. 

George and Natalie Fox are both reasonably well and able to walk a mile each day. They are very fortunate to live in the lovely historic town of Sudbury, Mass., known as the home of Longfellow’s Wayside Inn and the site of one of the 1676 battles of King Philip’s War. They still enjoy the lower coast of Maine where they are joined by their four children and some of their seven grandchildren. Their daughter, Mary Jones, volunteers a great deal of her time at the local hospital where she is chairman of the information desk. She enjoys it because something always comes up that’s never happened before so it’s a challenge to find the answer and handle the situation. She lives beside a very pretty lake and sometimes (but not often) it snows and she sits a bit to watch the gulls and ducks. 

Milo and Ann Curry Munier have been married for 61 years. Sometimes she’s his caregiver and sometimes he’s hers! But they do have fun. They are so happy to still be able to spend half the year on Lake Winnipesaukee, N.H., in their condo on the water. Their three children are still happily married to their original spouses. They have nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. 

Sheila Schmidt Rowland says her big news is turning 85; but then she questions that, because we’re all doing the same thing. Grandkids are next on her list of excitement. Daughter Mary Hamilton-Horner ‘82 has a son, Jack, at Carnegie Mellon and he and his brother Will went to Bread Loaf Young Writers’ Conference along with their cousin Isabel, daughter of son Greg ’79. 

Janet Kasper Taylor has found someone who is going to help her print her book. What a wonderful accomplishment. I hope she’ll have copies for the ’68ers. 

Tim and Phyllis Faber Warren are back in Maine from Florida where they needed electric blankets to stay warm this winter. Phyllis was elated and Tim was delighted that the first-seeded Bowdoin men’s ice hockey team was defeated by Middlebury for the NESCAC championship. It is with great sadness that we have to report the deaths of two of our classmates. 

Edward Andrews died on February 19 and John Perry died on March 2. The class sends condolences to the families. Obituaries will appear in a future issue. 

Class Correspondent: Anne Janet Shaw Percival (aper@comcast.net), 9726 SW 195 Circle, Donnellon, OR 97442.

Good news from Arizona! Raymond Clark is slowly but surely recovering from his recent stroke. He works with weights to strengthen his arms and has started physical therapy to help him regain the use of his legs. He can now write again, his witty, optimistic, and interesting letters. His new address is 2221 N. Rosemont Blvd., #405, Tucson, AZ 85712. 

Elisabeth Condon Anderson really likes being in the retirement community. She writes, “My mind is glad to be near my daughter but my heart is in the East.” All three of her daughters and their families, with the exception of one grandson, were with her last Thanksgiving. I had a delightful conversation with Jacob Mann, son of Sally and Graham Longfellow, in Washington, D.C. He said his only real news is that he is still alive, but otherwise life is somewhat uneventful. At our age that can be a blessing. Jacob bemoans the lack of civility in today’s society and we agreed that it’s an invasive problem in politics and government as well as in daily life. He’s also saddened by what is happening to the country. His family is well and thriving. 

I had an equally joyful conversation with Audrey Jewell Lenk. She is well, still drives, and very much enjoys the company of her daughter who lives nearby. She continues to enjoy her retirement community and the intellectual exchange with her fellow residents, but living in such a place makes one very much aware of growing old and gray. Audrey is very interested in Asperger’s syndrome and is continued to study it and to be involved in educational matters. Phyllis is blessed to have a wonderful daughter, Katherine, who is right there for her when needed. In Seattle Jean Mace Burnell is well and busy with her family, including a daughter and grandchildren who live near her. Jean went to visit a granddaughter who lives in Denver and she and Sally managed to spend a day together. Sally and Graham are both well, though she is troubled with macular degeneration. They have a nice trip to San Antonio last fall and found it a wonderful city to walk in. The highlight of their year was the wedding of a granddaughter who will soon make them great-grandparents. 

Sally plans to dust off her knitting needles for the occasion. Ernestine Rolls Pepin is happily settled into condo living in Vermont and enjoys looking out over the lake and the mountains beyond. She still volunteers in the library, answering questions about genealogy and helping to organize their historical section. When she wrote her letter to me it was sugaring-off time in Vermont and she remembered her first sugaring-off with the Mountain Club at Middlebury her freshman year. Good memories to savor. Last November Pat Harvey Oehler went with a group to Israel and had a tour guide who was part educator and part drill sergeant. She said Israel was just like you hear about—spectacular beauty and fascinating archaeology, but what struck her most was the awful ongoing conflict. “We saw illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank that stretched as far as the eye could see. We met with checkpoints and armed soldiers who looked young enough to be my great-grandchildren. Our guide told us, ‘Don’t hate the Israelis, don’t hate the Palestinians. Pray for us.’” She said it was a wonderful trip but very strenuous and almost beyond her. Mary Pitz Hunt wrote that her plan to “not spend another winter in New Hampshire” worked so well that she went to daughter Barbara’s in October and then to daughter Carrie’s in mid-January. Son Steve joined them for Thanksgiving. Barb’s partner, Graham, used to teach balance and Mary has improved considerably working with him. She no longer takes long walks but she did take a trip to Bangor, Maine, for the purpose of interviewing her son’s wife’s ashes on a small island there. Finally it saddens me to report that we have lost three more classmates: Alice Ashley Costello in December, Alice Leach Marxreiter in January and Floralie King Millsaps in February. I am always sorry when I did not know the classmate well enough to write more than that the person is deceased. But Floralie is an exception. She and Sally Sterritt were roommates and had the room across from mine in Peirsons our sophomore year. In the course of a year we became good friends and I continued to keep in touch with them always interested in world events and society in general and would challenge you to think about
your opinions. Wherever she lived she became vitally involved with the culture and the people, his history and its dreams as well as its reality. Salt Lake City was no exception and she took great delight introducing others to the city she loved as a volunteer with the city's downtown chamber club. Given her enthusiasm and her inner joy they must have found a contagious pleasure in their choice of location. I enjoyed her letters because they always made me feel she was present with me. She will be very much missed as will the two Alces. Our sympathy is with their families and their friends.

Obituary: Bud and Jean Webster Skoien

Adams returned home to Alaska after four and a half days from L.A. to the Marquises Islands, Society Islands, Hawaiian Islands, and back to L.A. We visited Nuku Hiva, Hiva Oa, Rangiroa, Moorea, Tahiti, Bora Bora, Christmas Island, and Maui. Alas, Honolulu was the closed day we were to visit because of the earthquake in Chile and the tsunami that followed. The color of the sea turned from bright blue to light brown as the tsunami rolled by. A nice accolade appeared in the Gothen (N.Y.) Independent newspaper about Tom Johnson. A former student of his at the high school was displaying his silk-screen prints of Gothen scenes he had done. The article ended with "Any of the Class of '63 friends who would remember what an inspirational teacher he was to his students." Leigh Wright sent this note about the late Robert Dustin: "Bob and I grew up together as neighbors and boyhood friends. To me his passing was quite a shock. I attended his interment in the Vermont Veterans Cemetery at Randolph Center; it was a moving ceremony with his large family and many friends in attendance."

Obituary: Bruce and Patricia Malone Bothwell

Bredenberg Ness reports: Bruce and Patricia Malone Bothwell have been doing their usual traveling—Bucks County, Pa., Florida, New Hampshire, Elk Lake in the Adirondacks, concerts at Tanglewood in Lenox, Mass., Colorado, and Hilton Head. When they find time to garden it is hard to figure! Last year all was successful except the tomatoes—they got the blight that a week later got the little ones in mid-Atlantic. Janet Small Adams returned home to Alaska after four and a half months in Maine last summer. They were looking to make a winter trip to Arizona if all went well. Bud and Jean Webster Skoien continue to enjoy their retreat house in the state of Georgia and last May they took a boat trip from the Black Sea up the Danube River to Vienna. When home, Jean is busy with her garden club, master gardening, the art museum, and water aerobics. Ann Ryder Townsend, who now lives in Vancouver, Wash., went back to Hawaii for a two-week visit with daughter Beth and old friends and neighbors. Now that she lives stateside, she spent a few weeks on Cape Cod with two granddaughters. And last, but not least, here comes Jean Swenson Thorkildsen, who is a wonderful example of an octogenarian enjoying life. "I love being retired and I spend my days from L.A. to the Marquises Islands, Society Islands, Hawaiian Islands, and back to L.A. We visited Nuku Hiva, Hiva Oa, Rangiroa, Moorea, Tahiti, Bora Bora, Christmas Island, and Maui. Alas, Honolulu was the closed day we were to visit because of the earthquake in Chile and the tsunami that followed. The color of the sea turned from bright blue to light brown as the tsunami rolled by. A nice accolade appeared in the Gothen (N.Y.) Independent newspaper about Tom Johnson. A former student of his at the high school was displaying his silk-screen prints of Gothen scenes he had done. The article ended with "Any of the Class of '63 friends who would remember what an inspirational teacher he was to his students." Leigh Wright sent this note about the late Robert Dustin: "Bob and I grew up together as neighbors and boyhood friends. To me his passing was quite a shock. I attended his interment in the Vermont Veterans Cemetery at Randolph Center; it was a moving ceremony with his large family and many friends in attendance."

Obituary: Elizabeth Bredenberg Ness

Elsbetha Ness (elsbetha@verizon.net), 412 N. Wayne Ave., Palatine, PA 19087, Sandy Rosenberg (inspace@erad.com), 628 Commons Dr., Sacramento, CA 95825.

Obituary: Dixon Hemphill

Dixon reports: Juliet Carrington Reed '48 sent this note about the late Robert Dustin: "Bob and I grew up together as neighbors and boyhood friends. To me his passing was quite a shock. I attended his interment in the Vermont Veterans Cemetery at Randolph Center; it was a moving ceremony with his large family and many friends in attendance."

Obituary: Barry Parker

"Barbara Parker is still singing. "Tun out three nights a week: Tuesdays for the New Jersey Choral Society, an 80-member chorus; Wednesdays for a chamber chorus called CantaLyrica; and Thursdays for my church choir. Life is very much a volunteer's life, although I've made my living as an editor and writer and have enjoyed my career. Regarding the latter, I'm in between jobs, having been down-sized out of my position as a managing editor of a weekly newspaper owned by North Jersey Media Group. I'm looking for an online editorial/writing position, since the printed word is rapidly becoming obsolete. (I insist however, that reading a book in a cozy armchair beats looking at it on a screen. For me, that will never change! So I'm not in the market for a Kindle.) There's a lot of competition in my field, so many really talented people have lost their jobs. I would like to find a position in the area of environmental issues and climate change, as I think the need to communi cate solid information to the American public is crucial. So many people are in denial about this problem. I became convinced of that when I took the climate change course at Alumni College, my annual 'season opener.' " William Carey writes that he is still enjoying life in Downeast Maine! After three major operations on his left hip joint, Horst Boog wasn't sure if he'd make it to reunion. But thinking back 60 years, he reminisced in a recent letter about life after graduation. "I get a job as a lumberjack in the Catskill Mountains, enabling me to later hitchhike to California and back. At the time I didn't know it, but my employer was the architect of the Berlin Olympic Stadium, Werner March, who was building houses with atomic-bombproof bunkers for rich New Yorkers. I had to cut a lane through the forest to a construction site along the Shawangunk River." Phil Porter reports: With this issue of Middlebury Magazine, my time as class correspondent (as well as that of Lois Rapp McIlwain) comes to an end. I thank classmates for their support over the past five years and express special thanks to Sara Marshall, a fine editor and a joy to work with."

Obituary: Sally Nelson and Corwin "Corky" Elwell

Sally sent this note about the late Robert Dustin: "Bob and I grew up together as neighbors and boyhood friends. To me his passing was quite a shock. I attended his interment in the Vermont Veterans Cemetery at Randolph Center; it was a moving ceremony with his large family and many friends in attendance."

Obituary: Joe Borst

Joe Borst celebrated his 82nd birthday in July 2009 and completed his two-year term as first selectman of Newtown, Conn., that November. Sadly, in December he and wife Babs left for Mont Pleasant, S.C., for a "Celebration of Life" gathering for their daughter Liz's husband, who had died of cancer. During the week between Christmas and New Year's, 19 family members gathered for a
reunion at a Lifestyle resort in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. It was a good time and relaxing for everyone. Back in 2007, Joe and Babs were in Vermont to visit her great-aunts, in their 90s then, and they stopped in Middlebury to look at the campus. They found it an amazing experience and decided that they would like to be buried on the hill where they spent considerable time. In front of Painter, where Joe had lived with the late Hal Leclair and Dusty Kinnard ‘52, he spoke to students sitting on the steps (who seemed astounded that this was his first year here) where Joe had lived with the late Hal Leclair and Dusty Kinnard ‘52, he spoke to students sitting on the steps (who seemed astounded that this was his first year here) and caught up with more alumni. They found it an amazing experience and decided that they would like to be buried on the hill where they spent considerable time. In front of Painter, where Joe had lived with the late Hal Leclair and Dusty Kinnard ‘52, he spoke to students sitting on the steps (who seemed astounded that this was his first year here) and caught up with more alumni.

52  Correspondent Bill Huey reports: I had an interesting phone conversation with Ed Kaplan at his home in San Antonio, Texas. It turns out that Ed’s parents have resided in the area for almost 40 years. A major breakthrough in his career occurred when, in his own words, he “took on a murder case where a husband was hounded into signing an unbelievable confession. I hired my own pathologist to prove the correct time of death and my client was found not guilty.” This led to his practice taking off and growing to 29 lawyers and 150 support staff. Ed and his wife moved to Texas so they could be near their two daughters and five grandchildren. He continued to practice law for a couple of years and then retired after suffering a major stroke in September 2000. Ed happily reported he’s had major improvements as a result of great care and physical therapy five days a week, including going up and down 25 stairs at a vigorous pace. He no longer has the need for a cane. His news, Ed. In 1984, he had a varied business career, which culminated in running his own automotive equipment business for 22 years in Great Falls, Mont., where he still maintains a summer home. You’ll recall Bob’s singing proclivity while at Middlebury, which continued during his stint in the Army when he sang with the 43rd Infantry Division Choir, entertaining at Army and Air Force bases throughout Europe. Music remains an important part of Bob’s life, and he still sings with choruses in Tucson in the winter, and Great Falls in the summer. Bob also enjoys playing softball, but that activity is temporarily suspended due to a touch of arthritis. He sends his best to all and looks forward to our 60th. *I’m very sorry to report that Jim Hutchinson passed away on January 5. Our condolences go to wife Hayes and all members of his family. I heard from his granddaughter, Bill Kirby, who noted that he and Jim had remained close friends since graduation and that Jim will be missed. Bill and Jim were roommates and Sig Ep fraternity brothers in College and were in each other’s weddings. Jim was also on the track team. *I am also very sorry to report that John Roy died February 22 in Florida as a result of a tragic accident involving an Elderhostel bus on which John was riding. John’s wife Dolores also was seriously injured. Our condolences and prayers go to John’s family. Obligations for Jim and John will appear in future issues. * Correspondent Barbara Comiskey Villet reports: One of the symptoms of this job is picking up the phone and discovering that all the old, neglected connections are still there. I call it casting out the nets and bringing back friendships. This time I caught Jeanne DuVall at home in Great Barrington, Mass., and found her in good health and happy. Her 80th birthday was celebrated with friends in a house on a beach just south of Puerto Vallarta in Mexico. It came with a chef and a saturation of beachside beauty. She also spends time in North Carolina once a year. She says, “I think of each day as a new day and am happy to have them.” * Ann McCoad Jenkins and I talked for a long time about her time as she felt the work was also a tribute to her late husband. Along those same lines, Hugh Stebbins sent the magazine an article about Ann’s book that appeared in the Pittsburgh Tribune Review on February 28. *I’m still a bit blown away by Betty Parker Burrows’ most recent title—Research Chemist, U.S. Army—one she gave up not long ago. Before that her career was equally impressive, starting with a faculty position at MIT, soon after completion of her postdoc degrees, and continuing with posts at a variety of universities across the country. She chose independence and experience over the tenure track and so lived in many places. Along the way she married another chemist who traded his work in that field for a new incarnation as an environmental engineer. Bea and her household but daring too they flew their own single engine airplane to Mexico, Canada, and the Caribbean (there to go scuba diving) and then in a more conventional mode also did some world traveling. So Betty still amazes—as she did when we were classmates—and I’m happy to report both she and husband Dick are hale and hearty. * Finally, I heard from Erbie (Louise Erb May), still a keeper of bees and given to pithy responses. She says she really enjoyed her 80th birthday because her three kids attended, with no extras. But her other news prompts me to muse on something. Erbie just got a copy of a small bridge book: *A Manchester Confluence also recently acquired a new miniature, after her big dog Gulliver passed away, and I foolishly adopted a rescue pup—a bossy Lhasa apso after years of Newfoundlands. A trend? A hidden desire to trip over something small and living? An affirmation of having lived another decade or so? I choose the latter, though Erbie allowed that she would be happy to put the 80s behind her...hmmm. Has anyone else gone dog happy at this stage? *—Class Correspondents: William Huey (judgehill@hannon.com), 6 Barryton Lane, Hilton Head, SC 29928; Ken Nourse (gumpk@comcast.net), 22 Little Pond Rd., Middlebury, VT 05753; Barbara Comiskey Villet (villeb@sover.net), 208 Eagleville Rd., Shushan, KY 42467.
published by Eden Waters Press. Joyce and her husband have three children—their youngest daughter is a librarian in L.A., their son lives back east, and the oldest daughter is disabled and lives about 10 minutes away. Although Joyce hasn’t made it back to Midd in many years she has kept in touch with Lucy Thwaites Dahlstrom, Faith Nielsen, and the late Rhoda Zim and Moreau Cowan in which she gave me lots of good words. Ed. ♦

Robert Haseltine is still teaching, as he has for 51 years, even though he is retired. Before retirement, he taught English at Scarsdale High School and in the community, and produced 570 shows. His wife teaches at the elementary school level and they have a daughter, Melanie, whose husband is in publishing. Her two sons are five and three and half years old, they are only 45 minutes away. Bob earned a master’s in directing and at one point was a technical director in a play with Liza Minnelli. He also appeared in a video about the life of Liza Minnelli! Bob hasn’t made it back to Midd for reunions but he does miss dear friends from Midd like junior year roommates, Don Peach and Ed Hickcox. ♦  Baldwin Haines retired to Haverstraw, N.Y., where he has lived for 17 years. He was the controller for the redevelopment authority for the local government in Chester, Pa. He and wife Barbara (Hardy) ’54 have two sons, who live in Indiana and Pennsylvania, and five grandsons. Baldwin has a part-time job with Disney World in Animal Kingdom. In his spare time he enjoys the Ocean City, N.J. Hath haven’t seen many Midd folks but did stay in touch with his fraternity brother, the late Thomas Gillam ’52. ♦  Betsy Strong Kent lives in Haines City, Fla., where she has made it back to Midd by her car. Over the years she has kept in touch with her former classmates and roommates. As usual, we find many ’55ers making it back to Midd for their grandchildren graduations and to visit with their grandchildren in that area. They hoped to visit Paul and his wife Mary Cathi again. Nancy says their major contribution to their community is running services for seniors like transportation and Meals on Wheels for some 20 years, but “now we are they!” ♦  Erica Child Prud’homme says, “I continue drawing and painting; my next show will be in spring of 2011 at the Blue Mountain Gallery in NYC, my seventh solo there. Both husband Hector and I are dealing with joint replacements, a by-product of living this long! But we are thrilled to have a new grandson, the fifth.” ♦  Bert Welling’s Christmas letter (if you send one PLEASE put one of us on your list!) tells us Louise and I stay physically active with exercise classes plus skiing and snowboarding during our appropriate season. Both sons lived in California but David ’90 has recently moved to Jacksonsville, Fla., where we visited him in April after golfing in Hilton Head. Last October we took a most enjoyable trip to Spain and Portugal with a great group, consisting mostly of Australians.” ♦  Sadly we must report that two classmates have passed away: Lucille Sala Meharg died on January 4 and John Merwin died on January 30. John’s family sent this message: “John passed away peacefully after a long battle with Alzheimer’s disease and cancer in Corpus Christi, Texas, at age 77. At Midd he was a member of KDR and played on the golf team. He spent his career in marketing and management in many different places. In retirement he and wife Joan chose to live in Padre Island, Texas, where he loved playing golf and enjoyed making beautiful stained-glass creations.” Obituaries for John and Lucille will appear in future issues. ♦

Correspondence Nancy Whittenmore Nickerson (finger@prodigy.net), 4 Osprey Ln., Mystic, CT 06355; Diane Schweb Strong (dharris52@aol.com), 1 North Ridge, Ballston Lake, NY 12019.

Correspondent Diane Schwob reports: I received a wonderful Christmas letter from Mary Moreau Cowan in which she gave me lots of news—both personal and class-worthy. Last spring, Mary and Paul spent a week in Annapolis, Md., attending the graduation and commissioning of their grandson, Will Terminelli, who received his diploma from President Obama. She writes, “We were treated to a garden party supper at the home of the commandant of the Naval Academy; a Women’s Glee Club concert; a Blue Angels air show; and a parade of all the 2009 Class graduates with their color banners on the parade field.” What a thrilling and fantastic experience that must have been. Will has just been assigned to Corpus Christi, Texas, to begin his flight training. She also wrote me that she has visited with Gus and Sally Robinson Boardman, who spent three weeks nearby her on Harbor Island, S.C. Their 14-year-old grandson is an excellent skier and is training in New Hampshire with his eye on a future Olympics. Mary also e-mailed me that she and Paul were planning a trip to Florida and would visit Dick and Nan Wright Reuther and Bill and Pat Gibbs’ 53 Carpenter, who both have condos in the St. Petersburg area although they also have homes in California (the Reuthers) and Vancouver Island (the Carpenters). ♦  Cyl and I were recently in Florida at the Hillisboro Club and drove up to Palm Beach to have lunch with Tobey ’56 and Irene Moseley Shiverick. They play lots of tennis in Vero Beach where they live and entertain lots of Middlebury friends. ♦  Part of the pleasures of getting older (and of course wiser) is enjoying the successes of our children and watching our grandchildren develop and grow up. One of my goals is to be able to dance at all my grandchildren’s weddings—and they range from 21 to 5 years old! ♦  Correspondent Nancy Whittenmore Nickerson reports: Other than a record snowfall this winter, Nancy Wilson Rule did not have a lot to report from what she calls the “extremely boggling” season. “A slap of snow fell the night of February 26 and Gerald Grout on April 19. Ouray in southwestern Colorado in the equally gorgeous San Juan Mountains.” They were flying back east to Greenville, S.C., this spring for grandchildren graduations and to visit with their five children in that area. They hoped to visit Paul and his wife Mary Cathi again. Nancy says their major contribution to their community is running services for seniors like transportation and Meals on Wheels for some 20 years, but “now we are they!” ♦  Erica Child Prud’homme says, “I continue drawing and painting; my next show will be in spring of 2011 at the Blue Mountain Gallery in NYC, my seventh solo there. Both husband Hector and I are dealing with joint replacements, a by-product of living this long! But we are thrilled to have a new grandson, the fifth.” ♦  Bert Welling’s Christmas letter (if you send one PLEASE put one of us on your list!) tells us Louise and I stay physically active with exercise classes plus skiing and snowboarding during their appropriate season. Both sons lived in California but David ’90 has recently moved to Jacksonville, Fla., where we visited him in April after golfing in Hilton Head. Last October we took a most enjoyable trip to Spain and Portugal with a great group, consisting mostly of Australians.” ♦  Sadly we must report that two classmates have passed away: Lucille Sala Meharg died on January 4 and John Merwin died on January 30. John’s family sent this message: “John passed away peacefully after a long battle with Alzheimer’s disease and cancer in Corpus Christi, Texas, at age 77. At Midd he was a member of KDR and played on the golf team. He spent his career in marketing and management in many different places. In retirement he and wife Joan chose to live in Padre Island, Texas, where he loved playing golf and enjoyed making beautiful stained-glass creations.” Obituaries for John and Lucille will appear in future issues. ♦

Correspondence Nancy Whittenmore Nickerson (finger@prodigy.net), 4 Osprey Ln., Mystic, CT 06355; Diane Schweb Strong (dharris52@aol.com), 1 North Ridge, Ballston Lake, NY 12019.

Greetings from your class correspondents. As usual, we find many ’55ers active and involved in a variety of endeavors. ♦  Ed Janeway has lived in the Upper Valley of eastern Vermont for the past 25 years. “I have been greatly helped by the intellectual stimulation of a senior education program called ILEAD (Institute for Lifelong Education at Dartmouth), which is wide open to participation. It brings one in contact with former faculty and the range of courses and subject matter is frankly mind-boggling. Chances are you’ll meet a contemporary from old Midd there, like I met Bill Wagner ’53 in the last class I took. For those of you who may remember my liking for trains, I am apt to be found at the Amtrak station in White River Junction, which is at the cradle of the president’s new stimulus plan for upgrading passenger rail service in the Northeast. It’s waving farewell to the old age of steam we knew when we came to Midd.” Thanks for your good words, Ed. ♦
Stuart Bacon has been volunteering for Habitat for Humanity for 10 years two days per week, contributing 400–500 hours. Through this experience, he has developed skills as a jack-of-all-trades. In addition to Habitat for Humanity, Stuart worked in San Francisco in a homeless shelter, helping to keep the peace. He continues to have a passion for photography, which started at Middlebury. This summer he and wife Jourdy are traveling to Namibia, where he'll have much opportunity to create fabulous photos. *

Dave Bridges is doing incredibly interesting work since his retirement from Hackley School, an independent school in New York. As part of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, Dave travels overseas to make assessments of foreign schools that desire to have an American school accreditation. His most recent trip took him to schools in Israel, which was one of the most interesting trips he has taken. He found that American students study at the Israeli schools to learn their own heritage. Seeing soldiers marching around throughout the country seemed normal along with the calls to prayers. He was treated royally by the schools and escorted to such fascinating places as the Gaza Strip, the barrier wall, and Jerusalem. Travels with wife Nancy have taken him to the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf. * In addition to writing (check out his book Called for Life—Finding Meaning in Retirement), Paul Clayton volunteers, as a resource to his bishop who is responsible for 100 churches, to visit new pastors in his diocese. Paul's goal is to visit eight pastors each month to listen to their concerns and give them support as needed. Before retirement, Paul was a pastor in three United Church of Christ congregations, so he has much to share with new pastors. * In contrast to our many classmates who still live in the East, Denis and Ann Singleton Pfeiffer moved to a ranch near the Ozark National Forest in central Arkansas 20 years ago in retirement. They have cattle, cats, and dogs on their ranch, which is located on a river 20 miles from town. Fortunately their son lives nearby and helps with the ranch. As far as their family is concerned, they are thrilled to have their four grown children volunteer to help with her church and other community services. Their life sounds very ideal with no visible neighbors and the opportunity to hike the Ozark Highland Trail just out their back door. *

Shirley Folsom Loedel has not slowed down since Middlebury days. She wrote, "Our traveling adventures have come to an end. My volunteering still continues for blood drives, food pantry, and Haitian fund-raising. Cleaning house is at an all-time low priority." She adds, "I have kept journals of our trips, but I can’t read my writing! The most memorable experiences are of the people we have met along the way. No matter where we have gone the best part is coming home and appreciating being born in this country. I wish the best to all our class as we continue our journey of life. Thanks, Judy and Dick, for keeping us connected." * Walter Mears checked in with this note: "Not a lot to report. We are comfortably ensconced in our home on the golf course at Governors Club in Chapel Hill, N.C. I write a column for the AP every now and then and just keep a hand in. Also did the writing half of a book, The Kennedy Brothers, a Legacy in Photography, which came out in 2009." * From Henry McFarland came this note: "After retiring from our two family Ford dealerships, I have spent my time golfing, enjoying cultural events during the winter months in the Sarasota, Fla., area, and doing some writing for an online magazine in Rye, N.Y. Anyone interested in sampling this magazine can go to www.ryereflections.org." * Ron Potter reports, "I am still full time doing consulting and volunteer activities. Lancaster, Pa., where we live, is a great jumping off spot to continue my interest in Civil War history. The focus of my interest has been the Battle of Gettysburg in general, but Lee’s retreat/withdrawal in particular." * From Pete Orvis we heard, "This has been a big 12 months for CeCe and me—celebrating our 50th anniversary with a large gathering in Bayhead, N.J., and exceeding the 76-year-old lifetime achievement (wasn’t a possibility in 1934). The most exciting and enlightening part—a-month-long tour of the Far East from Honolulu to Shanghai, Okinawa, Taipei, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Singapore, and Bangkok! What a different perspective I now have about the other half of the hemisphere—many of Rolle I’llick’s points of interest in geography were brought into play, physically, culturally, and climate-wise!" *

Lucy Boyd Littlefield wrote about the passing of her classmate Julie King: "Julie died in early November of pancreatic cancer. I had lunch with her about a month before she died. She was still quite chipper although very realistic about her lack of future and she had laid in plans for hospice, etc. So like Julie to be so prepared. She was our class valedictorian and SO smart. I used to wonder how she put up with me, but we were good friends and had such fun together as roommates our last two years at college. We remained in touch over the years and started visiting each other a little more frequently the last few years. She was a math whiz, an accomplished musician, and an excellent teacher—teaching prospective teachers how to teach math." * We heard from Hull Maynard: "After 13 years representing Rutland County, Vt., in the Vermont State Senate, I decided last summer to step down. When I first ran, I thought I would become a candidate, win by two votes the first time, then serve for so many years, and I'd done what I intended to do. Now my primary mission is to bring our High Pastures B&B back to what it was before our home burned in 2002. We have 130 acres of pasture and woodland, a rustic cabin built by our sons plus tennis and swimming, and they all have certain rituals of spring and fall. After sitting in committee rooms, mornings and afternoons for five months each of the last three years, I welcome the physical challenges of the outdoors. We’re lucky to still have our health.” * Finally, we heard from Stan Hayward of the passing of Norm Crowder. He passed away peacefully on March 12 with his family by his side after a long fight against lung disease. We extend our sympathy to his family and the entire class. An obituary will appear in a future issue of the magazine. * Do have a wonderful summer wherever you are, and do plan now on returning to “the College on the Hill” June of 2011 to share the time together at our 55th reunion. Best, Dick and Judy.*

Class Correspondents: Dick Powell (eppowell55@comcast.net), 13518 Rylon Ridge Ln., Gainesville, VA 20155; Judy Phanney Stearns (judystanton@att.net), 53 Carriage Dr., Glastonbury, CT 06033.
Jim Barker says "hi" to the Midd gang. He's still enjoying a quiet retirement on the Carolina coast in Calabash, N.C. "I spend time golfing, working part time at a local golf plantation, and doing the sights, sounds, and smells of the Myrtle Beach/Charleston area. If anyone is traveling in this direction, give a call to arrange a visit (910.579.5805)."* Nancy Berkowitz Freeland sends greetings, especially to her sophomore year friends in Le Chateau. "This past academic year I was working in Ann Arbor, Mich., with my partner, who was a fellow at the Frankel Institute for Jewish Studies at the Univ. of Michigan. As a retiree I found that long-sought-after passion we're supposed to experience at this stage of life. I was able to audit several classes at the Music School in a 19th-century music with an excellent professor. I also took a life-drawing class and did my usual hiking activity. Many cultural events were free and very easy to access so we enjoyed numerous concerts, plays, etc. I tell people it was like being sophomore year at Middletown all over again when I had courses in art, music, drama, and literature. I was in heaven then and was once again in heaven this year.*"* Classmates who wandered in Florida complained about the cold weather but still managed to find fun and friendship. Peter and Gail Parsell Beckett enjoyed their annual paddle and bike vacation in Florida with fellow New Englanders. "While the ice was still on New England's rivers, we enjoyed both canoeing and kayaking on Florida's beautiful waterways as well as biking on the state's bike's paths."

Kelly Ostrow. *From Ken Farrar comes the big news of his marriage to Kathy Mead. "We went to Key West, Fla., and on February 3, barefoot on the beach, with the sun setting, we exchanged vows. Just the two of us, the minister, and a photographer. We sent each of our kids and grandchildren a floral arrangement that we managed to have delivered at the same time, telling them via a poem that we had eloped. Boy! Were they surprised! But all thought it was terrific—all 26 of them."

Sadly, we must report that John Meeson passed away on March 20 after a long illness. He worked as a computer programmer and was a baseball fan and a train buff. He also enjoyed photography and did some professional work. Our sympathy is extended to his family. An obituary will appear in a future issue.

—Class Correspondents: Joseph E. Mohbat (jmhbat@msn.com), 551 Pacific St., Brooklyn, NY 11217; Ann Omnes Frbitose (asopjay@globalnet.com), 2370 Meadowlark Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94566.

Evelyn Hill Spalding writes that singing, combined with being part of music groups, is her passion. No grandchildren yet, which she supposes makes her feel young! *George Finch was sorry he missed reunion last year. He and Donna took a New England trip in 2008 and saw that the road to the Snow Bowl still had some damage from the floods that summer. They stayed at the Waybury Inn and visited campus, noting that there are many changes since the 40th reunion. All their kids are out of the nest and they have eight grandchildren.

Steve Turner recently had a book published by the Univ. Press of Miss. entitled Awkward Waves and Undershirt in Dry Wheat Country. After spending a summer in Adams County, Wash., in the 1950s, he returned to the area to write a history about the farm life and local residents. *Joy and Andy Montgomery organized a mini-reunion on Bradenton Beach, Fla., with George and Anne Martin Hartmann, Mary Jane and Bill Hahn, Ginny and Dick Bicknell and Richard Hofmann. Richard was just returning from Argentina and fascinated the group with his travel stories. Bill and Dick related war experiences and possibly politics. Mary Jane was excited about their new condo in Cortez and their Grady White yacht. Andy played a D-8 CD recently sent by Barb Parker, Lew Parker's widow. *Carol Sippell Monsees writes, "We have owned a getaway in Naples, Fla., for 20 years, and this was the coldest winter we've ever seen! It was lots of fun hearing high school and Midd friends, and we had plenty to do—mostly lots of talking! Late April was our time of return to Chicago for 'mud season.' During winter and early spring Carol's visitors included Cynthia Haver Rigas, Phyllis Leach Morris, Jeanette McNintosh Ingersoll, and Ron and Joan Wittmer Anderson. Cynthia writes of the visit, "Needless to say, a wonderful time was had by all, and it would seem a precedent has been set for additional gatherings!" She added that Tom Ingersoll and Tull Monsees were good sports for putting up with the antics of their spouses and friends. Tom and Tull went to university around the same time, while we started. But beaches and water still delight us and we find Long Island's north shore still unique and remarkable.* Bruce MacIntyre was spotted at the helm of his Grady White yacht, boating from Vero Beach to Fort Myers through the inland waterways. He says that Vermont is too cold in June so he decided to take a vacation but he did get back to his roots in Marblehead in late summer when he was confident the snow and ice had disappeared.* Sally Sprague Carr is now on her church's payroll as the director of adult education. "I'm so excited to have this responsibility and I'm having a busy summer getting fall programs in gear. Donations so Mentor Methodist is getting its money's worth! Dog show season officially started for me St. Patty's Day. Trekker and I spent four days at the Kentuckiana shows in Louisville—sunny and warm.* Bob Luce and wife Bea enjoyed the Christmas holidays in South Africa with both sons, wives, and four grandchildren. The highlight was a trip to Plettenberg Bay, an Indian Ocean resort town that sits on a spectacular coastline and offers great surf and amazingly warm water. Bob says it was "a perpetual beach party."* Ruth Wienger Reiterman recently celebrated six years of marriage with the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. She writes of her "Little," Jonathan: "Never did I dream that it would be such a long-lasting, rewarding relationship. When several years ago, Jonathan remarked that we were 'a great team,' and then later noted that if he were to draw a picture of his family tree, I would be in it, I realized I was as important to him as he was becoming to me. Although his 14th birthday is approaching, he's showing no signs of wanting to distance himself from me. In fact, he is becoming more interesting, and we are becoming closer all the time. We spend our weekly times together having fun exploring our world, as we reflect upon the challenges of life. I urge all of you who live where there is a BBBS to consider becoming a mentor. What you give is the promise of a dependable, caring relationship to a child whose family experiences have been so chaotic. It can make a real difference in both your lives.*

—Class Correspondents: Lucy Paine Kesar (lucykezarkezar@yahoo.com), 134 Main St., Kingston, NH 03848; Andy Montgomery (joyandymc@aol.com), 8910 Hilyway Rd., Eden Prairie, MN 55347.

60 REUNION CLASS

All the news from our 50th reunion will be in the next few issues of Middlebury Magazine. Enjoy reading our yearbook.

We are sorry to report the death of Kenneth Fisher on February 5. Betty Layer Hoyt were planning to return to Silver Salmon and visit campus, noting that there are many changes since the 40th reunion. All their kids are out of the nest and they have eight grandchildren. The high-light was a trip to Plettenberg Bay, an Indian Ocean resort town that sits on a spectacular coastline and offers great surf and amazingly warm water. Bob says it was "a perpetual beach party."

—Class Correspondents: Jean Seeler-Giftford (jeandavee@mindspring.com), 1529 Steeple Ct., Trinity, FL 34653; Vicky Strekalovsky (vs@architects.com), 47 Fearing Rd., Hingham, MA 02043.

Bob and Lindy Place Kasinsky are excited to announce the birth of their first grandson, Lucy Irene Kasinsky, to Matt and Heather in Fairbanks, Alaska. This will encourage many more great trips to the Golden Heart of Alaska.*" Ione Werner Bonneseen writes, "Our biggest news is that..."
daughter Susan and husband had twins (girl and a boy) on October 12, 2009. These two are numbers 15 and 16 for grandchildren, with the others including the oldest at age 25 (married), two out of college, three in college, and the rest younger. We keep busy with woodworking and an old car (Porsche). Our daughter and husband have given us seven great-grandchildren. She recently flew to Chicago for granddaughter Sophia’s first communion.

—Class Correspondents: 
Jody Lefestey, who is her son Andy’s godmother, lived in San Francisco for the event. They also planned to celebrate a sixth birthday and get two events for one trip. Sandy’s life has been wild and wonderful—New Year’s with friends in San Diego, skiing in Colorado in February, safari in Africa in March, opera in NYC in April! I’m trying to become a Master Knitter. We spent the month of February in Valencia, Spain.”

* Congratulations to Tom Consolino who was recently reelected to the Wilmington, Vt., town selectboard where he’s serving as the chair.

Sandy Bolton, two children have given her seven greats. She recently flew to Chicago for granddaughter Sophia’s first communion.

Lee Leonard recently had his first book published, A Columnist’s View of Capitol Square: Ohio Politics and Government 1969-2005 (Univ. of Akron Press). A former reporter and columnist for both the United Press International and the Columbus Dispatch, Lee compiled a collection of columns he’s written over the years to tell the story of what Ohio politics is all about.

* Holly McKenzie and Linda Place Kasvinsky have agreed to serve as the class correspondents for the Class of 1966. You can send news to them at the addresses below. They report: We are definitely looking for more news, especially as our 50th is rapidly approaching. Please write with any little tidbits you might have.

—Class Correspondents: Linda Place Kasvinsky (lyn.kas@usa.net), 660 Ring Rd., Watervliet Center, VT 05677; Holly McKenzie (hollwy@shohane.net), 520 Tottingham Rd., Shoreham, VT 05770

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Kathy McKinley Harris and Jan Timmerman Abbott flew to Jacksonville, Fla., for a long weekend last December to surprise Jo Rhodes Bahn at her 70th birthday luncheon, with a family celebration following at daughter Katie’s. They also visited with Dave Bahn and Katie’s family. Jan and husband Harris also enjoyed a reunion with Pat Gay ’53 in Sedona, Ariz., following an Elderhostel there and at the Grand Canyon in April 2009.

* Dick Blodgett writes, “I had colon cancer surgery last fall, but am in good spirits and expect to make a full recovery. I continue to work full time as a writer, which I have been doing for the past 40 years. I couldn’t imagine retiring. I’m currently updating a book I wrote 10 years ago for the New York Stock Exchange and I’m also helping a retired business executive write his autobiography. I’ve lived on the same block in NYC since 1968 and am president of the block association. I also dabble in politics and was elected last fall to the New York County Democratic Committee. I have no idea what the committee does. We have yet to meet since I was elected. But at least it sounds important. My son just turned 30 and lives with his girlfriend in San Francisco. No grandchildren as of yet.”

—Class Correspondents: Judy Bosworth Reitzel (bosworthvictim@comcast.net, 8089 Harical Canyon Dr., Austin, TX 78739; Lisa Dophy Fischer (fischerl@msu.edu), 11630 Center Rd., Bath, MI 48808.

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Larry Ring and Bruce Bailey sent this news: In Washington State Craig Stewart was honored by City Year Seattle/King County with a Lifetime of Service Award at a gala, “Ruppes of Hope,” for over 500 people at the Columbia City Grand Ballroom. The award is given each year to community members who are committed to improving the lives of the children and youth in Seattle/King County. Craig is president and a trustee of the Apex Foundation, a family foundation based in Bellevue, Wash., focusing on children, families, and education. I’m very much involved in environmental activities and continue to work full time as a writer, which I have always, we love to hear from you and also encourage thoughts for our 50th reunion, which is fast approaching.

—Class Correspondents: Janet Brevett Allen-Spencer (allen@softlinkcommunitycoalition.org), 2 Artesa Pl., Huntington Station, NY 11746; Christopher J. White (embryst@att.net), 147 Duck Cove Rd., Bucksport, ME 04416.

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Dan Brown is semi-retired and living in the lakes district of New Hampshire. He and his wife are enjoying all the area has to offer like hiking, biking, sailing, and skiing. They spent several weeks last fall hiking in the Alps of Austria and Switzerland. In Duxbury, Vt., Harwood High School recently inducted the inaugural class of its Hall of Fame. Newton Baker, who played soccer, basketball, and baseball, was one of those honored. An elementary school teacher for 35 years, he has been a swimming and diving coach and has coached the Montpelier, Vt., track and cross-country running teams. He competes in state, sharing some gems from the Center’s archives. After 39 years of elected office, Bill Delahunt is retiring from Congress this year. He announced he would not be seeking reelection.

Kane Phelps, who has been a supervising social worker for 25 years for the L.A. County Department of Children and Family Services, ran a six-week support group this spring for parents of teenagers. Carol Keyes Ferrentino lives in Potomac, Md., where she donates landscapes she paints for fund-raising activities of various local nonprofits. She loves hiking nearby and at their vacation home in Wintergreen, Va. She still skates (remember our Winter Carnival) and occasionally coaches, however most of her free time is spent corralling grandchildren. Vera Maggia Plummer has retired from the publishing world and continues to live in Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y., where she is very active with the Croton Caring Committee doing a variety of tasks that come her way. She too dotes on her grandchildren who live in nearby Riverdale. From time to time she takes the commuter train into NYC for culture and camaraderie. At home she enjoys experimental cooking and gardening. She attended our 45th reunion and looks forward to schmoozing at our upcoming 50th. Jan and I hope you are enjoying summer and encourage all to reconnect. As always, we love to hear from you and also encourage thoughts for our 50th reunion, which is fast approaching.

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Save the Date!
August 26—29 Alumni College at Bread Loaf
September 10—11 Gordon C. Perine ’49 Alumni Golf Tournament
September 24—26 Alumni Leadership Conference
October 22—24 Homecoming
For more information call 802.443.1515 or go to www.middlebury.edu/alumni

Summer 2010 61
By the time you all read this, our 45th reunion will have come and gone, gloriously, no doubt as our reunion committee has worked hard to make it memorable.

Our next class notes will have lots to report. * In New Jersey Bill Ewald sails his s/v Volant, a very trim and sweet sloop on Raritan Bay and its environs. He keeps the boat on Morgan Creek, a place where once his great-grandfather had a cabin in the 1890s. * Anne Knowlton Farrell checked in from Denver; she spent part of the spring doing grandparent duty with new and older grandchildren in Connecticut. One of these days our Colorado classmates will get together! * Tim Hopf, another Coloradan, has spent as much time on the ski slopes in the Rocky Mountain powdery skies as he has peering into people's insides, Tim is an avid cyclist, both road and mountain biking. He bikes in and around the Rockies as well as the great biking/hiking areas of Utah (think Moab and Canyoneirs).

— Class Correspondents: Polly Moore Walters (polly@fiti.com), 100 Grandview Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80521; R.W. "T" Tall Jr. (admin@shoreham.net), 204 Clark Rd., Cornwall, VT 05753.

66 Brenda Booth still works at the Univ. of Arkansas for Medical Sciences as a professor of psychiatry, conducting health services research in substance abuse. Grant funding has temporarily tempted her to continue working for a few more years. "I'm a bit conflicted about this as I now have my first grandchild (a boy born in August 2009), who lives in Michigan. As a compromise, I bought a condo in Ann Arbor and can usually telecommute from there! Needless to say, now that I'm used to Arkansas winters, I will spend more time in Michigan in the summer!" * We heard from Gary Bevington that Middlebury 1966 was strongly represented in the brochure for the Montana Osher Lifelong Learning Institute winter term—both Glenn Govertsen and he were offering courses. Glenn coauthored "Wonder Wheels Camp," a daylong bike camp on the physics of bicycling. Gary taught his etymology course, "Where Do Words Come From?" Gary and wife Em continue to spend winters at the little house in the woods, and in the summers they built 16 years ago on a ranch belonging to a Mayan extended family, the Itzas, with whom they are very close. In recent years they have had visits from Bill Frank's son Toby '52, who brings a group of high schoolers that Gary leads on a tour of the Coba archaeological site. They've also enjoyed a few memorable lunches on their patio with Bill's older brother Karl and wife Joan. Gary's only professional activity ("I've been retired for over a decade!") is reading proposals for the U.S. Dept. of Education programs in language and area studies, and for minority-serving institutions several times a year.

John Brodhead is the ski director at the Craftsbury Center in Craftsbury Common, Vt., and he continues to enjoy teaching as well as doing a lot of nordic skiing on his own.

67 Dwight and Judy Enright '66 Dunning have enjoyed their third winter of living in Avon, Colo. Dwight teaches private ski lessons for Vail and Judy works for the Vail Company. (Susie Davis Patterson) loved visiting and skiing with them this past February. Dwight led me over several of the mountains, and we skied the bowls and in Blue Sky Basin in wonderful snow conditions, including on a blue-sky ski day that ranks up in my best all-time ski experiences. This spring the Dunnings were planning to extend their stay in the West, traveling by camper-van to visit natural wonders and also their daughter in Oregon and their son in Boulder, Colo. They returned home to Cornwall, Vt., at the end of May. * Also at home in Cornwall, Gary Margolis recently completed his 18 years of service to the College as the executive director of College Mental Health Services and associate professor of English and American literatures. His new book of poems, Below the Falls, was recently published. Check it out at www.addisonindependent.com. In retirement, you might be most likely to find Gary either writing in his new studio near his apple orchard or on the ski slopes in the Rocky Mountains. He is hoping his undiagnosed voice problems resolve themselves. We're sad for Shelly—and for us as we can't imagine a reunion without Shelly gathering and leading our own D-8 contingent. Marion worked as an "enumerator" for the 2010 census in NYC while her husband was a crew leader and trainer. She explained, "Enumerators do NRFU: Non-Response Follow-Up. We go to households who did not send in their survey and get them to give us the info." It was an eight-week job, after which she was planning to head to a grad school reunion at East-West Center in Honolulu and visit friends on the Big Island. She had to work for the plane ticket! * This winter Charlie Mead was voted by the Christ Church Parish of St. Johnsbury, Vt., as a member of the church's governing body. He and wife Barbara moved to Kent Island six years ago and live in Chester, where they still operate Reading Group Choices, which provides resources for book groups. * Check out Alex Taylor's new book in the Book Marks section, complete with a review by his co-correspondent!

—Class Correspondents: Susan Davis Patterson (sdp@alumni.middlebury.edu), 67 Robinson Plwy, Burlington, VT 05401; Alex Taylor (ataylor1145@gmail.com), 215 Wels Hill Rd., Lakeville, CT 06039.

68 Correspondent Ben Gregg reports: We received word that Dave Weinstein died on December 21 after a lengthy battle with brain cancer, in Bozeman, Mont., where he had lived since 2008. Dave leaves three daughters, Anna '94, Alison, and Gillian, and their mother, Dorothy Shea '70, and also three grandchildren. Before Dave retired in 2008, he had been an attorney in St. Johnsbury, Vt., for nearly 40 years. Among his many activities, he coached the St. Johnsbury eighth-grade mock trial program for almost 20 years and taught an American history class at Burke Mountain Academy, where he served on the board of trustees for 15 years. Dave was passionate about other nonprofits and served multiple terms as a trustee.
of the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, and was an active docent in their art gallery. Upon moving to Bozeman, he became a docent at the Museum of the Rockies. Dave was an avid skier since childhood, and some of his fondest memories were of crossing Tower 13 at Burke Mountain in Vermont. Roger is now retired from the insur- ance business, and he and wife Lyn have a daughter and son who both live in their area of Victoria. In other news, Susan and I are now the grandparents of a grandson, Alden Thomas Gregg Hayes, born April 19, 2009, to daughter Sara ’97 and husband Ben.

—Class Correspondents: Bette Gregg (gregg.bentley@epamails.epgn.gov), 418 East St. NE, Vienna, VA 22180; Barbara Ensminger Stoebean (bstoebs@triad.com), 6 Timber Fair, Spring House, PA 19477.

In March, Molly Watson Hawley had an exhibit at the Marion (Mass.) Art Center called "Landscapes and Figures, Real and Imaginary," which included her compositions in fabric, paint, and pastel. Besides working in a variety of media, she has done numerous commissioned portraits for private clients and institutions and is working on an extensive series of Cape Cod and Vermont landscapes. Her studio is in Ripton, Vt., where she lives with husband Richard ’57. Living in Crofton, Md., Bob Cowan sent a remembrance of Anne Sykes Hoffman, who died November 20. "At Midd, Anne was one of the most empathetic and loyal friends I had. She loved deep con- versations about whatever weighed upon our minds and hearts at any given moment, a trait she carried with her over the years. She made time for friends and gave much to others, particularly Bob Thompson and me. Sophomore year more than a few late-night talks began with Anne tapping on the window of one of our ground-level room in Gifford across from the Gamut. (Oh, those pre-cell phone days!) Anne will be remembered and missed by many." From Tabor Academy, Bob Thompson also responded to the news: "Her death has genuinely rocked me as we always shared terrific conversations full of laughter and introspection." * Kurt Heinzelman is enjoying the climate in Austin where he continues, among other things, as a professor of English at the Univ. of Texas. "My daughter graduated from Scripps College in Claremont, Calif., last May; my step- son is trying to save the world through his hydro- gen fuel cell company in South Pasadena, Calif." In Greensboro, N.C., Candace Syversen Cummings was named by Triad Business Leader to be a Women Extraordinary Winner. She is VP, administration, and general counsel and secretary of VF Corp. —Class Correspondents: Anne Harris Onion (onion@metoxcat.net), PO Box 207, Gilmanton, NH 03237; Peter Reynolds (peterb@swift.com), 493 Stillmadow Ln., Addison, VT 05441.

70 REU N I ON CL A S S

We heard from Paul Boleyn. "After graduation I joined the Army. Sallie and I were married that December and have had a great life together ever since. I stayed in the Army for 23 years and enjoyed my days leading soldiers and flying helicopters. I never spent any time in combat, but did lead the first aviation company to the Sinai desert in February ’84 as part of the Camp David accord. Also we led the thrilled andgeist of Bavaria when the Berlin Wall came down. After the Army I taught JROTC in an inner-city high school in Kansas City, Mo., for six years. Then I started teaching high school math in Lawrence, Kan., and just retired from that job in May. I’m now working with a friend helping teach people a better way to take our finances so they can get out of, and stay out of, debt. We have two children. Daughter Kate is married to Keith and has three sons. They live in Clay Center, Kan., about two hours from here. Son David is married to Jackie and has one son. They live in Indiana and operate a tour and trekking business. We spend as much time as possible with all of them." * Renal Gearhart Diana retired in 2008 from over 30 years as an educator in order to join her husband, who is now working in the Midwest. “We have lived in Dubai, UAE, and are now in Doha, Qatar.” * Tom Karol writes, “I got laid off (again!) in May 2009. I figured enough of these layoffs and working with 20-something know-it-alls! I’m now an independent contractor working largely from home, and I really like it! Last June I started working as the lead technical writer for Defense Integration Solutions, a small defense contractor providing secure, pervasive wireless data and voice networking for U.S. Navy ships. It’s relatively permanent and it pays well, but it only averages about 20 hours a week. I’m also the senior editor for TRAC Research, a new research analysis firm started as a collaborative effort by me and a former Aberdeen Group colleague. We write white papers for network application vendors. It’s only about five hours per week at present, but there’s room for growth there. I’m still looking for another full-time job, but if I can get one more steady part-time contract or a string of freelance projects (both in the works), I may not have to. I have two new grandchildren and they are progressing nicely. The first is an instrumental jazz/ pop duo featuring guitar and keyboards/sax. We call it Zero To Sixty. ’We’re focused on low-key restaurant gigs and are starting to gain some traction. We also have a new band with bass, drums, and vocals featuring a Classic Rock band; the only criterion for song inclusion is that we enjoy playing them and that some of them are danceable. I also sit in with a singer-songwriter friend frequently; she’s getting ready to record her second CD, and I expect to be involved in that. So, I guess that’s where I am—at could be better, could be worse. I’m in good health (and still ski a bit), still have a little bit of hair, and remain cautiously optimistic about the future. Retirement? Forget it—never gonna happen! But what else would I be doing anyway?" * From Constance Brittain Bouchard we heard: “Those 40 years sure flew by! Two weeks after our graduation, I married Bob. So far we have 12 nieces and nephews (including some grand-nieces and nephews) with the 13th on the way. We both got our Ph.D.s (one in Medieval History, the other in Modern Art) at the Univ. of Chicago and have lived for nearly 25 years in Wooster, Ohio. Wooster has a college that is in many ways reminiscent of Middlebury but I teach 13th on the way. The multicultural context of this new educational experience. She and husband Doug are enjoying table book, Knights in History and Legend. In addi- tion, I’ve published eight science fiction novels under the pen name of C. Dale Brittain. * Philip Lowengart writes, “I blew my marriage after 32 years, went to live in La Paz, Bolivia, for five years and am now not in any area. I had a stroke five years ago, but recovered after a long rehab. But life is good!” * From Katanoh, N.Y., Sandy Humphrey Rybczynski writes, ‘I thought I’d be retiring when I got laid off at Scholastic Publishing at the end of 2008 and the job possibilities for a ‘senior citizen seemed grim, but amazingly enough, I had a new job by February. I had even started taking botanical drawing classes at the local arboretum. My hus- band and I are addicted to spending the last two weeks of September in France or Italy. My French was always decent but I took some Italian classes at the local trade school. The cable-teenager just happens to be from Trieste and looks great in a muscle T-shirt.” * Eleanor Hubbell Coffey writes, “Chuck and I are rooted in Colorado at this point. I retired from teaching music (private lessons and public high school orchestras) but still do some freelance cello playing in the Denver area. Chuck finished his career as an electrical and controls engineer with VECO Rocky Mountain Region. We get up to the high country whenever possible to feed our ski and snowboard addictions. Our Siberian husky, Kodak, really enjoys those outings. 2009 was a very big year for the Coffey fam- ily. Son Ethan, who is a business analyst for Sprint here in the Denver area, married his Jennifer, a seasonal ranger for Jefferson County Open Space. Ethan also plays violin with the Lone Tree Symphony. Son Daniel graduated from Wheaton College in Illinois and is now at Denver Seminary working towards a master’s in divinity. He plays viola with a group. He spent a semester studying in Israel and two summers working at a camp in Alaska so of course we had to go check out those places! My high school class in Tennessee is hav- ing their 45th reunion this year. (I’m even older than most of you folks!) Since I haven’t tried any of these gatherings before, I may start out with that one. However, it’s been really fun to discover some Middlebury people on Facebook. * It is with sadness that we note the passing of our class­ mate Hardy Brewster on February 26. An obit­ uary will appear in a future issue. —Class Correspondents: Dr. David Desnoyers (desnoyers@endanagroup.com); Beth Prase Sibley (beth@sibley.com); Nancy Crawford Sutcliffe (nsutcliffe_sutcliffe@comcast.net).

71 WE Sexagenarians have been busy—retiring, starting new careers, and expanding our horizons in a multitude of ways. * Paula “Stick” Morgan says she’s “making her dent in the planet” by starting an organic and natural foods cooperative, serving folks in Manchester and in the mountains of southern Vermont. Neither a five-week bout with pneumonia nor a sprained ankle can keep Stick down; she sounds as vibrant as ever! Check out her new Green Mountain Food Co-op Website, and contact her at greenmntfoodcoop@yahoo.com. * Beth Condon-Martin retired from the pastor­ ate after 26 years, only to find herself teaching in the seminary and then being appointed director of supervised ministries at the Council of Theological Educa-
watching the families of their children, and they expect a new grandson any day now. You can reach her at congoo@al.com. ♦ Debbie Turner Hicks in her 30th year of teaching Spanish at Episcopal High School in Jacksonvile, Fla., where she is chair of the foreign lan-
guage dept. She and husband Bobby travel fre-
quently and try to get back up north every few
years. She writes, "One of my students was just
accepted at Middlebury, so I still feel connected."
You can connect with her at bobby@debbiehicks@-
bellevue.com. ♦ Paul Hartlieb Selsky writes,
"I've lived in the Sacramento, Calif., area for 24
years after living 14 years in Jackson Hole, where I
met my husband and honed my tennis and skiing.
It probably wasn't a good career choice, but it
was fun! I run into Grove Nichols occasionally at
local tennis events. Now that I'm 60, I can play
super senior USTA tennis. My Northern Califor-
nia team is heading to Arizona shortly to con-
test for a national title. After 15 years at USAA
insurance, I left to work part time as a consultant
providing insurance training. With the advent of
online courses, my skills were unneeded. After a
year of too much work and volunteer work, I
found the perfect part-time job: I work after-
noons at a State Farm agency and have mornings
free for tennis." ♦ Emily Groom Goyette is a
payroll manager for the Montpelier, Vt., school
district, and she serves on another local school
council. As well, she writes, "Fellow classmate
Sandy Farrow works for Endicott College in
Beaverly, Mass., and he arranged a show of John
Winship's paintings in their arts center during
April and May." You can reach Emily at
goyette@emilygoyette.com. ♦ Pam Hanson-
Leisenring writes, "I'm still teaching full time
special education but hoping to retire after next
year. Dennis has cut back his counseling business
to part time so he can hold down the fort until
we're both done working. Our kids are in
Germany and Hawaii, and we'll be lucky enough
this year to visit them both." Contact Pam at
dkleisenring@myfairpoint.net. ♦ Brian
Iggulden retired last June, after 31 years at RIdley
College, a prep school in St. Catharines, Ontario,
where he served in a variety of roles, most recently
as deputy headmaster. At his retirement party,
Brian was honored with the dedication of a
15-foot bronze statue of a Bengal tiger—the
school's mascot—that was placed in the school's
courtyard. Brian's grandfather, father, and wife
also served at Ridley, leaving a 90-year legacy of
continuing service to the school. Congratulations,
Brian! He writes, "As we move toward a 40th
reunion, it's hard to believe how quickly the
decades go by. I have fond memories of room-
mates (Jeff and Sandy) who made me laugh, of
teammates with whom I spent countless hours on
fields, and in arenas and buses, and of a special
place I was lucky to attend. Regards to all." Brian's
new address: 13-141 Welland Vale Rd., St.
Catharines, ON L2S 3S7; e-mail: Brian_
igkulden@hotmail.com. ♦ And now, courtesy of
Mr. Iggulden, we offer our first commercial for
our 40th reunion, one year from now: "I can
credit Sandy Neilly for getting me to stop
smoking. I came back for a reunion (it was either
the 10th or 15th) and as I lit up a smoke in the tent,
She looked at me and said, "What the hell is that?"
I looked around and saw about six smokers in a
crowd of 300 and thought, 'Yes, what the hell is
that?' I put it out and never had another. So I
guess you can say reunions are good for your
health." —Class Correspondents: Barbara Lautenbacher Mosley (barbamosley@netx.net); Carolyn
Ungher Olivier (olivier@scove.net); Rob Waters
(roberwaters7012@mindspring.com).

Andy Merdek reports from Atlanta, Ga.,
that he is retiring as general counsel of Cox Enterprises after 17
years. "Don't know what my next challenge will be, but looking forward to whatever it is. I'll let you know what having discretionary time feels like, as it certainly will be a new experience—
more time for my garden. I've been getting up Monday through Friday, grabbing our bag full of papers, and going somewhere to sit
behind a desk and meet deadlines. Time for something different," He adds: "I'll be reachable at andymerde@gmail.com henceforth—and
plan to stop using words like henceforth." ♦ From Charleston, W.Va., comes this update from
Charli Fulton: "Things here are well but hectic,
as always. My husband and I stopped to see
Paul Paletti, a new friend from our last class reunion,
when we were in Louisville, Ky., at the end of
March—for my 60th birthday! We visited his
photography studio, which was surprisingly
teriffic, relatively new online source of news and
entertainment in the world of global financial crisis. The tale
combines murder, high finance, and the mystery of
how to portray the possibility of an international
m meltdown." ♦ Andy Jackson, Barry Schultz
King, and I had a very pleasant dinner at the
Waybury Inn with Sandy Meldrum and
counterparts. My Michigan corre-
respondent Andrea Thorne adds: At least
Deborah has something called "news" to contrib-
ute, so please help! I have been utilizing my
pedagogy background as a volunteer for
Everybody Wins!, a literacy and mentoring pro-
gram for elementary school students. This
summer I'm taking the bus to Maine for a few days
to visit some recently acquired birth relatives as
well as longtime family and friends. My Middlebury
French is a bonus for understanding the language
and culture of my birth ancestors.
—Class Correspondents: Deborah Schneider
Greenhut (terrieDSS@comcast.net); Andrea Thorne
(anderathorne8@yahoo.com).

Correspondent Greg Dennis reports:
Andy Gross's new book, Reckless, was
recently featured in the Washington
Post's "Political Bookworm" blog, while
Greenhut reports: All quiet on the
Western front, and the Eastern, and...well, we have nothing to report this quarters.
My news: I produced my 60th birthday! We visited his
Correspondent Andrea Thorne adds: At least
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(anderathorne8@yahoo.com).

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REUNION CLASS

As part of its 125th anniversary issue, Good Housekeeping featured 125
women who have changed our world in the last
125 years. One of those named in the area of
Women's Rights was Eve Enser. Her V-Day
organization has raised more than $45 million
for global programs working to end violence against
women and girls. Her current focus is on the
Democratic Republic of Congo, the most danger-
ous place in the world to be female. ♦ In April
the documentary about the work Rick Hodes
does in Ethiopia, Many Faces, Crooked Straight, aired
on HBO2. In addition, a book about his work,
This Is a Soul: The Mission of Rick Hodes, written

for Jennifer Muller | The Works, a 16-year-old
dance company in New York. This summer, a
play called He's Son Adam is getting married to
Boston College alumna Michelle Greenfield in
Virginia this summer. Looking forward to some
time in the Green Mountains. Hoping to hear
from 1973 alums in time for the next column so I
won't have to bore you with the news. ♦ Correspondent Andrea Thorne adds: At least
Deborah has something called "news" to contrib-
ute, so please help! I have been utilizing my
pedagogy background as a volunteer for
Everybody Wins!, a literacy and mentoring pro-
gram for elementary school students. This
summer I'm taking the bus to Maine for a few days
to visit some recently acquired birth relatives as
well as longtime family and friends. My Middlebury
French is a bonus for understanding the language
and culture of my birth ancestors.
by Marilyn Berger, was released by William Morrow. Rick and Marilyn were interviewed on ABC News and Rick was chosen as the "World News" person of the week. 
— Class Correspondents: Cristine Caffi (caffik@edralum.com), Rick Greene (greene@middlebury.edu).

Duncan Ralph writes, "Edward and I are happy and, so far, healthy. We still have a place in Maine but spend winters on Tortola, BVI, which is the best. We were civilly partnered in London four years ago—this spring Katharine Cashman gave us the idea of hiring a Shutter about the U.S. I retired at 50 but serve on a couple of boards, just to keep my hand in. The most recent big deal for us is that we bought a flat in London last year—for the shoulder seasons, don't you know. It was a toss-up between New York and London but London won because of Edward's roots and the proximity of Europe. However, we still love New York." This spring Katharine Cashman gave lectures at Southwestern Oregon Community College and Grand Valley State Univ. in Michigan about Mount St. Helens and its volcanic activity over the past three decades. Still at the University of Oregon, she serves as the head of the department of geological sciences.

Class Correspondents: Gene O'Neill (otis3042@optonline.net), Nancy Clark Herter (nherter@mss.edu)

At the New York Times, Trip Gabriel has left his post as the editor of the Sunday and Thursday Styles section to return to reporting as an education writer. He began his career at the Times as a freelance contributor 25 years ago.
— Jim O'Connell sent news about a gathering he attended to honor his fellow Colorado Springs Gazette coworker David Phillips '50, who was one of three finalists for a Pulitzer Prize in the local reporting category. It was a tremendous honor for Dave and their newspaper. Jim is the sports editor at the Gazette. 
— Class Correspondent: Bob Lindberg (td@lindberg.com)

Rick Cherashore reports that his daughter Laine graduated from the Tyler School of Art with a degree in graphic design and daughter Morgen graduated from Penn State with a degree in journalism and public relations. Rick continues to work in the ski industry and recently had dinner with fellow alum Gordie Eaton '62, and bumped into Ron Bierdeman '79 at Stratton. Rick can be reached at RicEC@aol.com. 
— Carey Field reports that she, Betsy Bradley Coughlan, Beezie Johnson Handy, Linda Greene Ortwein, Lucy Nóbrega James, and Liz Taytnor Gowell were planning a mini-reunion in mid-May at Betsy's house in Kennebunkport, Maine. "We try to get together every few years to catch up, but it's hard to find the time, between jobs, kids' activities, and life in general, and the fact that we're spread out all over the country." Carey's daughter, who just finished her junior year, is starting the college search process, and Carey says "it was much easier to get into college back when I was in high school, in what my daughter refers to as the dark ages."
— Helen Cooke Pyne has gone back to school—Vermont! She was an NFA in creative writing for children and young adults at Vermont College of Fine Arts in Montpelier. It's a low residency (but very full-time program), so I work from home and then travel to Montpelier to live in a dorm for 10 days of classes, workshops, and lectures twice a year, every January and July. It's one of the most incredibly stimulating, fun, and challenging things I've ever done, absolutely adore being back in school, although living in a dorm (and the one at VCCA isn't nearly as nice as Battell, if you can imagine that!) is challenging. As a California girl, I loved the fun of playing in the snow again (snow angels, snowball fights, basketball in the snow) this past January during our four week residency period. On the morning on campus, were all roused just after sunrise by a false fire alarm from someone's blow dryer gone amok and had to troop outside and stand in the snow in our pajamas until the fire department arrived. It was a riot." 
— Elizabeth Douglas Mornin writes, "I'm still in Dunedin, New Zealand, practicing medicine. Older son Joey has graduated from Reed College, and younger son Charlie (17) will probably stay at the Univ. of Otago. Kiwi life is good!! 
— Gov. Rendell of Pennsylvania recently picked lawyer Virginia Hinrichs McMichael to fill a vacancy on the Chester County bench. She is currently serving her second term as an East Whiteland Township supervisor.
— Class Correspondents: David Jeffrey (djaffay@mchs.net); Phyllis Wendell Mackey (phylmackey@hotmail.com); Anne Rowell Noble (annenoblemail@aol.com).

Joanellen Sullivan writes, "I'm happy to have reunited with so many Middlebury friends since my return to Massachusetts two years ago. Jane Hosie-Bouran '81 and I went to a Cantata Singers concert to hear the fabulous Majie Zeller. Joyce O'Donnell Moranoy '58 and I have walked many miles together between Swampscott and Nahant. I'm very happy that Jim '81 and Cindy Yasinoki Tenner '81 found me after all this time. (And of course since reunion, I've had dinners with Majie, Hamish Blackman, Kim Ulrich Whelan, Peter Hollands, and Randy '80 and Mary MacKenzie Corke. These get-togethers have been lots of fun. I have a very interesting job that occupies most of my waking hours as a property accountant for a real estate management company in Burlington. My kids are happy and loving college. So to sum it up I would have to say that my new life is full, happy, and going incredibly well." 
— Playwright Dana Yeaton's first musical comedy, My Ohio, premiered this spring at the Flynn Space in Burlington, VT., and the Town Hall Theater in Middletown. With only two characters—Bonnie, an evangelical kindergarten teacher and Neil, a gay atheist: chiropractor—the play explores the polarization in this country over social, political, and moral issues. Dana worked with Andy Mitton '01, a composer and filmmaker, on the musical score. 
— Peter Mandel has a new picture book out called Bon, Onon, Burger. Check out Book Marks, page 47.
— Class Correspondents: Mary MacKenzie Corke (macorke@verizon.net); Nancy Limbach Meyer (limbe79@yahoo.com).

REUNION CLASS 
Rich Sifton, Ellen Boyles Race, Lucy Nóbrega James, and Annie Cowherd Kallabar were present on campus last fall to represent the Class of 1980 at a dinner honoring Hugh Marlow '57 who retired June 30, 2009. Ellen reports she spends many a week at their new condo in Steamboat Springs skiing and is looking for some ski buddies to join her. When not on the slopes this winter, she was busy planning the wedding of her daughter for this summer. Lori says she loves her life with husband Duane Ford '78 at the Holderness School in New Hampshire. While Duane coaches football and lacrosse in addition to teaching math, Lori oversees girls in the dorm as well as coaches the ski team. 
— Peter and Sylvi Allen '81 Duncan enjoyed the Vermont-like weather in Annapolis, Md., this past winter. With over 80 inches of snow, they were in good shape to hold a Southern version of Winter Carnival and their family even built a monstrous snow sculpture dragon. Son Ian, a freshman at UVM, wanted to come home to ski because there was more snow there than in Vermont. Meanwhile, daughter Terry (17) and son Stephen (12) had a blast with an unexpected week off from school. 
— Sue Krehbiel came out with her debut CD last November with a release party at Steve's Gutters in Carbondale, Colo. The CD is entitled Dusty Cleveland and the songs are about slices of real life. 
— Class Correspondents: Anne Cowherd Kallabar (acowherd@cng-inc.com), Susanne Rohnted Stutter (stutter@videoton.ca).

Sidney Billingslea decided it was time to catch up from Alaska. "The past year has been busy and fun: my law practice continues to be entertaining and I've had the pleasure of being the president of the Alaska Bar Association for the past year. I got married in September '09 and moved from downtown to a house in the mountains in October. I also embarked on my first triathlon—the Lavaman—in Kona, Hawaii, on March 28. I run into Jim Renkert on the trails from time to time, and correspond too infrequently with Marcy Parlow Pomerance. Any Md person who comes north should give me a call or e-mail—we're always happy to extol the greatness of Alaska!" 
— Speaking of Alaska, Heather Vuillet Lende has a new book out called Take Good Care of the Garden and the Dogs: Family, Friendships, and Faith in small-Town Alaska. See the Book Marks section on page 47 to learn more about it! 
— H. John Walter III was recently appointed head of The Wellesley School in North Hollywood, Calif., effective July. 1Wesley is a K-8 independent school serving over 200 students from the greater Los Angeles area. John left his job as head of St. Timothy's Preparatory School in Apple Valley, Calif., in mid-June. 
— Last issue we had a report about a birthday mini-reunion with a group of 1981ers in Rhode Island. Check out a photo of it on page 78. 
— In March Phebe Jensen, professor of English at Utah State Univ., presented her Inaugural Professor Lecture as full professor entitled "Shakespeare's Clocks and Calendars." She was on sabbatical this past year working on a book titled Shakespeare's Seasons. 
— Kim Holfan sent the following tribute: "It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the death of Dr. Ricardo Davis Presnell on January 27. Ricardo died in an avalanche while backcountry skiing in the Wasatch Mountains outside of Salt Lake City, Utah. An avid skier for 45 years, Ricardo had extensive backcountry experience and avalanche training. He was passionate about winter sports and skied, hiked, and bicycled all over the world, often combining recreation with long overseas business trips. After leaving Middlebury, Ricardo earned his MS..."
Bob Cain '60 was lost. Not geographically, per se, but "lost" to us, lost to Middlebury. The alumni office had lost track of Bob, and over the course of a lifetime that encompassed a career as an Episcopal minister, the raising of two children, and various moves in the American southeast, he had lost touch with the College. We're not sure how long Bob was lost to us—he's not exactly sure, either—but not so long ago, he was "found," and the timing was apt. His 50th reunion was looming. The thing was, though—he didn't really want to come back to Midd. A lot of time had passed; what would it be like to reconnect with people, with a place that seemed like "time long gone by."

Classmate Vcevy Strekalovsky convinced Bob otherwise. It took some cajoling, but Bob Cain, once lost, returned. He and his classmates had a wonderful time, and then a few days later, Bob penned a poem. It's titled "In Retrospect: Fifty Years," and we are publishing it here. Whether one is five years out or 50, we think Bob's sentiment could apply to all.

We shared each other's company once Some half a century past While seeking out who we would be, What in our lives might last—

We lived and laughed and lost and loved Back then, and since, and now; We grew into what we could be, Found others to endow—

We gave our best and met our worst And found through all the years A ripening marked by gravitas, A wisdom washed in tears.

We joined our company once again Now half a century's gone Sharing who we had become In lives now nearly done.

Reunions had not attracted me Until our recent 'Fitermity'— May we all be called with those we love To our last one in Eternity...

But please, not quite just yet! —GRC

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Reunion by the Numbers

1,782
Total number of attendees

1960, 42%
Class with the highest percentage of alums returning

44
Number of states represented at reunion

42
Number of student hosts
1. Members of the class of '00 share a laugh during their class photo.
2. Convocation Parade.
This page: 1. Alumni listen to speeches at Convocation. 2. Middlebury past and future. 3. The parade up the hill provides more time to catch up with friends. 4. A playful moment. 5. The Class of 1960 celebrates as they receive one of their many awards at Convocation.
from the Univ. of Michigan and his Ph.D. from the Univ. of Utah. He worked as an exploration geologist for more than 25 years and was highly respected not only for his vast knowledge and experience but also for his passion, focus, energy, and ever-present sense of humor. On the weekend of March 12, friends and family from across the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Central America gathered in Salt Lake City to celebrate their friendship with Ricardo and each other.

Following a sunrise ceremony at the top of the Snowbird Resort, about 40 people (a third of them Middletowners) skied down the mountain, had breakfast at the lodge, and then skied together for the rest of the day. In the evening, they joined many others for a Life Celebration party. Ricardo lived with his wife in Salt Lake City. To read about Ricardo online, see www.ricardopresnell.blogspot.com for personal remembrances; the Salt Lake Tribune article at www.sltrib.com/utah/ci_14290845; and the January 28 news release at www.fullmetalmillerals.com. —Class Correspondents: Elaine King Nickerson (eknick@adl.com); Sue Dutcher Wagley (sue@sogeyrunch.com)

This year's advisory board for the 2010 Ypulse Youth Marketing Mashup included Tom Unger, CEO of AllDorm. The Mashup is a chance for marketers, media professionals, educators, and nonprofits to share strategies for marketing to youth with technology. AllDorm is a collegiate marketing agency that has grown under Tom's leadership. Based on the principle that the best person to market a product or service to a college student is another college student, they represent a variety of industries from cable to fashion to cars.

—Class Correspondents: Wendy Belanger Nelson (gomenog@bellsouth.net); Caleb Rick (ckb@northcommon.com)

Fred Taylor called to say that on June 12 he married Claudia Garza in Steamboat Springs, Colo. In Princeton, N.J., Peter Nalen was profiled in the newspaper, U.S. I. His company, Compass Healthcare, a digital communications company for the pharmaceutical industry, has been growing and recently moved to a bigger space. Peter has been part of the movement towards getting all prescriptions to be written electronically. John Wight Watchers International announced that Ricardo lived with his wife in Salt Lake City. To read about Ricardo online, see www.ricardopresnell.blogspot.com for personal remembrances; the Salt Lake Tribune article at www.sltrib.com/utah/ci_14290845; and the January 28 news release at www.fullmetalmillerals.com. —Class Correspondents: Elaine King Nickerson (eknick@adl.com); Sue Dutcher Wagley (sue@sogeyrunch.com)

85 REUNION CLASS

Dans Cantor says life is good. In April he and wife Mami welcomed baby no. 2, who joined Lena (5). He writes, 'I'm in the middle of writing and producing music for a few awesome projects. First are song demos for a young artist that Paul McCartney has taken under his wing so we're sending Paul the tracks. I also recorded and produced the Trinity International Hip-Hop festival in April featuring KRS-One and politically articulate Nomadic Natives. Lasty, the Oympia Campaign has been using some of the tracks I wrote for Nomadic Wax artists. I'm generally involved in 10-12 records at any moment and performing and writing with the band, Jim's Big Ego. The studio work is crazy so I always have interns and the best one right now is Middletown graduate Omar Olson '08.' Check out Dan's Web site at notalbe.com.

In March Karen Heggen was appointed first assistant district attorney of Saratoga County, N.Y. Originally appointed to the district attorney's office in 1993, she became the chief trial assistant district attorney in 1998. Elizabeth Attridge Melville not only helped bring Bill McKibben to her area in Connecticut to speak, she also helped to organize an event on the town green in Redding last October 24 when 350.org had a day of international events to raise awareness about global warming and climate change.

—Class Correspondents: Ruth Lohmann Danis (ekais@comcast.net); Denah Lehtomin Toupins (denaht@comcast.net)

Greetings Class of '86! Hopefully all of you are beginning to think about the 25th reunion in June 2011. Discussions are beginning and we actually have a committee now! Please contact Kate and Torsten with ideas. John Aicher writes, 'I've practiced law for 20 years in Garden City and NYC—18 years running my own firm. I'm a commercial litigator—I fight for and against people about money. I've represented crooks and nuns and everyone in between. I've been married for 18 years to Stacey and have Aidan (14), Jillian (13), and Kipse (German shepherd, 3). I taught my son religion once a week at the living room table for 12 years. My daughter teaches me beauty every day. I've been a Little League and basketball coach, Squatchin' ski boat driver, ice cream go-getter, kids' homework head scratcher—mostly, I'm joyfully exhausted. For fun I run, fish, hunt, and write poems and hand-bind them into books. (Go English majors! Go Bread Loaf School/Lincoln College, Oxford, summer schoolers!) I've taken to watercolors, but they've not yet taken to me. Maybe soon.' Jeff Berkman reports that he has joined the board of directors of Carmike Cinemas, a leader in digital and 3-D cinema, and one of the largest film exhibitors in the U.S. 'I'm general counsel of the venture firm Bigfoot Ventures Ltd., and very excited to announce that I recently opened the Berkman Law Firm, PLLC, focusing on venture capital and various corporate matters. Witch Dana and I and kids Leah (11) and Jack (9) are living on Long Island and spending our time at soccer, wrestling, and karate, while I squeeze in practice with my band, The Overlooked.' From Pete Anderson we heard, 'Through the summer of 2009 I served on the faculty of St. Georges School in Newport, R.I., teaching South African and U.S. history, coaching squash team and helping in admissions. I also instituted an exchange program between St. Georges and the Bishops School (a now integrated British boarding school) in Cape Town and accompanied and oriented two students to the Western Cape as they began their five-week summer term at Bishops. The trip culminated with a visit to Cape Town and meet and greet with Desmond Tutu, the former Archbishop of Cape Town and titular head of Bishops. Previous grants had permitted me to revisit Port Elizabeth, the site of my arrest and interrogation for anti-apartheid activities in 1985. (I was pleased to discover that the site of my interrogation is now a furniture showroom!) In August 2009, I left SG to become the director of admission at Lancaster Country Day School, a delightful independent school. My children Adelynn (9) and Chase (7), my wife Kerry, and I have settled not far from family in Baltimore.' Glenn Gellert reported all is well in Alaska and that his relatives in Chile emerged from the earthquake safe and sound. Check out Book Marks on page 47 to read a summer review of Phil Hanrahan's book, Life After Fare. Please send us your news!

—Class Correspondents: Torsten Garber (skytog@verizon.net); Kate Wallace Perretta (piperetta@verizon.net)

87 Corporation Service Company recently announced that Rod Ward had been elected president and CEO. He has served as a board member for over 15 years and is a fourth generation descendant of one of the company's founders. Since 2002, he's been president and CEO of Speakman Co., a supplier of faucets, showerheads, and related plumbing fixtures. He lives in Wilmington, Del., with wife Gina, and kids Carolyn, Julia, and Robby.

—Class Correspondents: Tom Font (tfont@timberlineinnensive.com); Elizabeth Ryan O'Brien (obrien@bigwhoop.com)

88 Chris Wood, who had been serving as the chief operating officer of Trout Unlimited, was recently appointed CEO of the company, which is the largest cold-water fisheries conservation organization. Chris joined TU after serving as senior policy and communications advisor to U.S. Forest Service chief Mike Dombeck during the Clinton administration. He and wife Betsy have three sons, Wylie, Cass, and Henry. He has served in leadership capacity in Washington, D.C., where Chris also coaches Little League.

Jeremy Fryberger and Tess O'Sullivan (Yale, '95) welcomed first child Duncan Brady on July 15, 2009. Along with two retired ranch dogs, the O'Sulli-bergers continue to call Ketchum, Idaho, home. Jeremy designs and builds houses, while Tess runs the conservation program for Lava Lake Land and Livestock Co., a large sheep-ranching operation. Looking for deep powder and extreme terrain, Tess and Jeremy toured Vermont for 15 days in January—February '09 and may one day move to the Green Mountain State. Andre Berot Sprin writes that he is serving on the board for the Middlebury College Alumni Association (MCAA) and she encourages our classmates to send us your news.

Please send us your news!
continue the leadership we exhibited as undergraduates now as alumni. There are a lot of great options for staying connected as an active alum including the alumni admissions program, serving as a class agent or reunion agent, or getting involved with your local chapter. If you're interested you can e-mail the MCAA past president, Susie Patterson Nichols -nichols.ma@comcast.net. Jim Taylor writes, “Wife Beth (Loring) ’89 and I live in Yarmouth, Maine, with our children Jack (14), Emily (12), and Clara (5). We enjoy seeing other Midd alumni in the area and cheering for the College sports teams when they travel east. We keep busy with the kids’ schedules and our Boded Cow Company, which just celebrated its five-year anniversary.” Correspondent Beth Zogby writes, “After 16 years in university advancement, I’m now working for George Eastman House, a museum devoted to photography and film. One of my hobbies outside of the office is rescuing senior beagles, and I currently have two old ladies named Margaret and Louise. I want to encourage everyone to send me your news when you can—you don’t need to be married with kids and have a fancy job to report on something interesting in your life. In today’s world, I personally think that every day we’re alive is a triumph! So, I hope to hear from you soon.”

— Class Correspondents: Claire Guatkin Jones (guatko@yahoo.com); Beth Zogby (zogby@alumni.middlebury.edu).

89 Karen Taylor Mitchell was recently appointed executive director of the Governor’s Institutes of Vermont, a provider of educational enrichment experiences for motivated high school students in Vermont. She earned a master’s degree in public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School.

— Class Correspondent: John Mutterperl (john@ baldyconsulting.com).

90 In Alaska, the Anchorage Daily News recently reported that Ted Cole had joined the staff of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church as associate rector for family and youth. Previously he was at Christ Church in Plymouth, Mass., where he served as a dean and priest since 2005. He graduated from Harvard Divinity School in 1993. Annie Janeway was recently appointed the executive director of the Vermont-New Hampshire Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, an organization dedicated to the fight against breast cancer. Universal Sports recently announced that Perkins Miller had been named COO of the company. Formerly he was senior VP, digital media for NBC Sports and Olympics. He has overseen some of the biggest digital events, in a two-time Emmy Award winner, and was ranked no. 3 in Sports Business Journal’s Top 20 “Most Influential in Digital Sports” for 2008. Class Correspondents: Dawn Cagley Drew (dmd_pfr@hotmail.com); Elizabeth Toder (etater@ gmail.com).

91 In March Jeff ’92 and Holly Beadwood Noordsy, specialists in early American antique bottles and glass, gave a talk in Hartford, Conn., entitled “Early Connecticut Glass Houses and Their Wares 1750-1850.” Based in Cornwall, Vt., they are members of several antiques dealers’ associations, including Vermont and New Hampshire’s. In the Plainview-Old Bethpage Herald (N.Y.), columnist Stanley Greenberg wrote recently about his nephew, Dr. Gene Gincherman. Gene was in Haiti after the earthquake and he reflected on the experiences he had from the life-saving moments to the moments of tragedy and despair. Gene and with Mary, Brian (27) and Eliza (5). It was not surprising to hear that Chris Waddell had been inducted into both the Paralympic Hall of Fame and the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame this spring. He was acknowledged for his athletic excellence, history of fair play, and commitment to community service. He’s the most decorated male skier in Paralympic history.

— Class Correspondents: Bill Driscoll (william.driscoll@hi.com); Kate J. Kelley (katejkelley@gmail.com).

Broadway performer Matthew Saldivar has been playing the part of Luther Billis in the touring company of South Pacific. He says the hardships of living on the road and performing eight shows a week are outweighed by the excitement of being on the stage. In Syracuse, N.Y., Bond Schoeneck & King recently announced that Colin Leonard had been elected a partner to the firm.

— Class Correspondents: Tammy Caruso Dalton (dalton.tammy@gmail.com); Sara Garcia McCormick (smg70@gate.net).

93 Karen Taylor Mitchell was recently appointed executive director of the Governor’s Institutes of Vermont, a provider of educational enrichment experiences for motivated high school students in Vermont. She earned a master’s degree in public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School.

— Class Correspondent: John Mutterperl (john@ baldyconsulting.com).

92 Erik Carlson writes, “I moved my family from Seattle to Virginia this past winter and started a new job at OPOWER driving energy efficiency in homes across the country. To top it off, I recently met President Obama when he came to my company’s office, met our staff, and held a press conference on creating jobs in the clean energy economy. It’s been quite a year so far!” Tracy Jacobs writes to say she’s living in Baltimore with her fiancé, Greg, two cats (Leroy and Sydney), and a boy dog named Sue. She works as the director of marketing for the continuing studies offices at Maryland Institute College of Art. Mystical Seaport recently announced that Sarah Cahill has been named its new director of museum education and outreach. In addition to leading the education department in expanding its public historical educational programs, she’ll focus on strengthening the partnerships between the museum and schools.

— Class Correspondents: Maria Diaz (latinarvitic@gmail.com); Laura LeClair Grace (elogyavce@gmail.com).

94 Peter Savodnik was on campus in April to talk about “The Decline of the Russian Village and Its Impact on Russian Politics and Identity” at the Rotman Center for International Affairs. He is a journalist based in NYC but was formerly based in Moscow and has traveled extensively in the former Soviet Union, Asia, and the Middle East. He’s now working on a book on Lee Harvey Oswald’s two-and-a-half years in the Soviet Union.

— Stephen and Andrés Beck ’98 Pettitbone are excited to announce the birth of their third daughter, Parker Leigh, on October 19, 2009. She was welcomed with lots of love by sisters Hannah and Kellogg Claire. “We never knew a house filled with girls could be so much fun!”

— Class Correspondents: Mary Sterle Cairns (macairns@middlebury.edu); Gene Swift (geneswift@ gmail.com).

95 Great news comes from our 15-year-reunion Midd friends. We’ll have news from Reunion Weekend in the fall issue. Keep the updates coming to JP or Emily. Jeff Inglis writes, “I’m still in Maine, editing the Portland Phoenix, the state’s alternative weekly paper, and enjoying rocking sticks at unskilled public officials and corporate thieves. I have also enjoyed the Midd alumni Allagash Brewery tours and meeting up with other local Midd Kids there, including classmates Dave Nalcbajian and Wendy Russell Tracy. I’m in touch with other ’95s, including Amy Young, Denise Kmetzo, and Julie Fisher Roads. My wife Crystal and I, and our dog Scooby, live in South Portland and welcome any visitors who want a Maine Coast getaway!” You may not believe it (I didn’t at first), but Jeff and Jan Rodda were guests on NPR’s “Talk of the Nation” in the weeks before the
November 2008 presidential election. They were discussing their newly formed Political Action Committee, RicketyPAC, whose sole purpose was to encourage Eric Wiener (nickname at Midd: Rickety) to vote. RicketyPAC, and the resultant media attention, is the brainchild of Jeff, Jim, Doug Perkins '94, Terei Reilly, Janine Hetherington. Becki Plonza Peterson, Jay Robison '94, and Jonathan Freirich '92. Check out the NPB show: www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=65222778. In the end Eric did, in fact, vote! * Dave Mitchell has his hands full in his new book, "I'm still living in Brooklyn with my four kids, all under age 5. Total chaos, which I guess serves me right. I'm in charge of sales at MetTel, a nationwide provider of voice, data and wireless service." * It's been a while since we heard from Amy Young. She says: "I'm in touch with husband Carl and daughter Devon (3) and son Alex (2). I'm teaching geology and chemistry at Dominican Univ. of California, which is a lot of fun—it's nice to spend time with college kids. I keep in touch with Diana Gregory Horner, my freshman roommate, who lives in San Francisco with daughter Caroline (2). * All is well and busy in the household of Spencer and Kerry Sawatzky. Williams. Kerry runs around after two-year-old Kieran, who is attempting to learn to play the fiddle with his older brother Caleb, who just finished kindergarten. Spencer remains hard at work running Wet Paws Design, a pet toy and bed manufacturing company which designs and builds its eco-friendly products in Bozeman. The business is in the midst of doubling its production floor and has been recognized for its success by being named 2009 Exporter of the Year for the state of Montana. Spencer was honored to testify before the Senate Committee on Finance earlier this year regarding export trade issues for American small businesses. * Bethany Saulpaugh Fitzgerald and husband Joe welcomed daughter Brittia Helena in February. Big sister Gretchen (5) has been extremely affectionate. * This spring Eloise Prickett Pontbriand was named Teacher of the Week in the Cape Codder. Living in Wellfleet, Mass., with her husband and three-year-old daughter, she teaches sixth grade English language arts at Nauset Regional Middle School in Orleans. * Working in the business law practice group at Downs Rachlin Martin, Trey Martin joined their legal affair team this past winter while the Vermont Legislature was in session. * Wendy Russell Tracy sent in a photo of a mini-reunion last summer in Maine. Check out page 78. —Class Correspondents: Emily Aleenkhead Hannon (hannon.emily@gmail.com); JP Watson (ipwatson@athensaacademy.org). 

96 Christi Sizemore Behrend is working part time as the community relations coordinator for Homewatch Caregivers, in order to spend time with Sam, who just turned a year old in April. Sam sometimes goes with her on calls to meet folks! * Todd Barnes writes, "My brother Brad '94 and I made a movie called Home wrecker this year that stars Ana Reeder '91 and Anselm Richardson. We won the Best of NEXT prize at Sundance. The movie also won the Maverick Award at MethodFest and the Special Jury Prize from the Florida Film Festival. We screened at the North Carolina Independent Film Festival in June after a personal invitation from Owen Brainard. We may change the name to The Locksmith for distribution, but haven't decided yet. Check us out and find out what the movie is up to at www.facebook.com/homewrecker. * In other film news, Scott Carroll has produced Small Town Big Dreams: Lake Placid's Olympic Story. In February it had its big-screen debut in Lake Placid's Harbor Theater as part of a 70th anniversary celebration of the 1980 Olympics. It tells how the village developed into a winter sports capital and hosted the Winter Games in both 1932 and 1980. * On July 1 Michelle Powell Alexander began her new job as the head of Carroll’s School for junior kindergarten through fourth grade near Charlotte of NC. Previously she was the director of diversity programs and community outreach at the Seven Hills School in Cincinnati, Ohio. She and husband Raymond have three children. * The law firm of Nutter McClennan & Fish recently announced that Eliza Zug Cox has been elected partner. She's a member of the firm's real estate and finance dept. and works out of their Hyannis, Mass., office. —Class Correspondents: Amanda Gordon Fletcher (angyfletcher@yahoo.com); Megan Shattuck (meganshattuck@gmail.com). 

97 Craig '96 and Jocelyn Nill Beni welcomed Louisa Anne last September 15 at Nantucket Cottage Hospital. Jocelyn, Craig, and big sister Sophia are all doing well and are having fun with the new addition to their family. * Nellie Fox Savage still lives in South Portland, Maine—but it's a little more crowded at her house as she and her husband had triplet girls! Reese Carrington Savage, Maizie Wright Savage, and Charlotte Meadow Savage made their debut on December 16. Nellie writes that she and Nathan are loving life as parents. * Tim Cron writes, "I'm still here in Idaho where I came after graduation and I can't foresee living anywhere else. I live in Stanley (pop. 100), a pretty remote mountain town 60 miles north of Sun Valley. I'm really excited about the opening of our new bed and breakfast, Sawtooth Hotel. I've spent the past three years remodeling this old log building. My wife and I also own a cafe here called Stanley Baking Co. I've worked for the past seven years for Sun Valley Ski Patrol, along with my best bud, Shawn Tierney. He and Alyson (Witmer) own a restaurant in Ketchum, and have two kids, Jack and Liliyan. (Jack is my godson.) * Sara Gregg and husband Ben Hayes were pleased to welcome son Alden Thomas on April 19, 2009. Alden enjoys spending as much time as possibleromancing his neighbor Scarlett Gabriella Mackenna, daughter of Cara Gabriel and Adrian Mackenna, who was born on May 30, 2009. * Ray and Helen Froelich Plummer have welcomed Robert Froelich Plummer into the world on February 16. Big brother John (3) is looking forward to showing his baby brother around Beijing, China, which the Plummer family calls home. * Mike Bender's book, Awkward Family Photos, is out! Check out Book Marks on page 46 to learn more about it. * Finally, we are excited to report that the Class of 1997 is alive and well on Facebook! * Stephen '94 and Andress Beck Pettibone are excited to announce the birth of their third daughter, Parker Leigh, on October 19. She was welcomed with lots of love by sisters Hannah and Kellogg Claire. "We never knew a house filled with girls could be so much fun!" From California Todd Champagne writes, "Our family moved south to a coastal ranch in Big Sur where we help with the garden and orchard and marvel at true silence. We continue to make bomb pickles and founded the first canning collective in the Bay Area called the Food Preservationists. * If you happen to see the movie Repo Men, check out the credits. Jon Mone is one of the executive producers. A senior VP at Stuber Pictures, he was also the executive producer for The Welfnnan and is working on Your House. * Trail & Space.com had a feature about Cam Brensinger's company, NEMO Equipment, where his inflatable-tent design has taken off and they now manufacture a full line of backpacking and mountaineering tents and shelters. One of their two-person tents is made almost entirely from recycled or recyclable materials. * Last December, Chad Stakes Urmston hosted his second annual Calling All Crows Benefit Show at the Center for the Arts at the Armory in Somerville, Mass. The benefit, "music for a good reason" as Chad said, was a partnership with Oxfam America to raise awareness for The Stokos for Sudan Project, which distributes fuel-efficient stoves to women living in refugee camps in Darfur.

98 Carla Naumburg and Josh Herzig-Marc '99 are living in Newton, Mass. Daughter Frieda Lucia was born in October 2008. Carla is working on her Ph.D. in clinical social work while decidedly not training for her first marathon. Josh got his MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business in 2008 and has since launched a marketing technology firm called IncentiveTargeting. * Carol McMurrich and Greg Reynolds are beyond delighted to announce the birth of their fourth child, Fiona Clementine, on November 13. Fiona was born with her eyes wide open, ready to face the world with siblings Liam (6) and Audrey (4). (See this in 2005.) Greg continues to love teaching high school French and Carol runs a nonprofit pregnancy and infant loss support organization in Northampton, Mass. * Big brother Clayton Urbano, son of Dan and Becky Walldroff Urbano, welcomed Kaitlyn Jean Isabelle on December 17. She was born 10 minutes after his parents arrived at the hospital. Fortunately, his dad did not get caught driving 90 mph down the highway. * Tetyana Bisyk Denford lives in London with husband Tom and daughter Lilijana (5 mos.). She works as a commercial director for a media firm, so she no longer raises any London Mild Kids. * Kim Schauman writes, "I'm still loving Hawaii—it's been over 10 years now. I can't believe it! I teach one class a semester in Chinese history at Chaminade University and work full time for the Hawaii Council for the Humanities as its director of grants. The rest of my time, I paddle with friends via the Amauane Canoe Club, and a group of us continue getting worked out at Cliffs and, depending on the crowds, cruise out at Pops. The Midd-related highlight of the year was spending some time with Maria Sartori Clayton '97 and Abby Potter Stucker '99, who took a day off from being moms so we could catch a few waves in Maine together. I'd love to catch up with more of you so if you're heading out this way, definitely find me on Facebook!"

Becky Ruby Swansburg was appointed to the board of directors for the Keene Community Commerce Executive. Becky Ruby Swansburg was appointed to the board of directors for the Keene Community Commerce Executive. Becky Ruby Swansburg was appointed to the board of directors for the Keene Community Commerce Executive.

Daryn is an adjunct professor at the Rohatyn Center for International Affairs. Entitled "The Digital Duel: Resistance and Repression in an Online World," the talk looked at how emerging digital tools and online communication impact the ways people struggle nonviolently for human rights and social justice around the world. Daryn is an adjunct professor at American Univ. and the director for knowledge and digital strategies at the International Center for Education and Development.

Kyle Wheale MacDougall gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Dylan, last January. Kyle, husband Cameron, and Dylan reside in NYC. Penelope Wall married Colin Alger! The perfect snowy wedding was held at the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, VT, on January 23. Sarah Brooks Minardi and Bilkis Walle were bridesmaids. Penelope is a Web producer at EatingWell magazine and she and her husband live in Burlington, VT, with cats Aui and Suki. Kelly Lauter is going to Harvard Medical School for her residency at Mass General Hospital, where she will train in medicine and continue her groundbreaking endocrinology research (on the parathyroid). Anne Alfano is in her third month of culinary school at the Culinary Institute of America and almost cut off her thumb in her knife-skill class! She claims she is just trying to keep the drama alive for Midd magazine.

Ganga Chengappa graduated from Case Western Reserve Law School with her joint degree in law and a masters of public policy. She lives near Washington, D.C., with husband Sebbi Astrada. Katharine Wolf recently returned from a Stanford-sponsored trip to rural Ethiopia. Kat plans to attend the Kennedy School at Harvard this coming fall (no more Taco Bell!).

Hilary Patzer finished her training in alternative medicine (acupuncture) and has opened her own practice (Jada Holistic Healing) in Minneapolis, MN. Justin Knox graduated this spring from Columbia Univ. with his master's in public health.

Yuri Lawrence graduated from Tufts Univ. Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine in May and started an internship in small animal medicine and surgery at NC State Univ. College of Veterinary Medicine in June. Visitors and pets welcome! Word has it that Cara McKenney won a smoking hot Emmy Award for her work on the hit TV show, Mad Men. She and her company, Imaginary Forces, designed and produced the show's opening title sequence. So awesome.

Mike Moran earned his MS in biomedical visualization from the Univ. of Illinois at Chicago in December. Mike now spends his time filming surgeries, drawing kidneys, and beating back the beat with fellow Chicagoan Mo Chang. This year, Mo Chang was photographed in the 23rd Annual Mountain Sports Festival and it set all sorts of records: 54 varsity lacrosse teams participated, attendance was over 10,000, and more than $150,000 was raised. Since it began, the festival has raised over $1,000,000 for the Katie Samson Foundation. In May, the foundation was named the Magee Rehabilitation Hospital’s 2010 Champion in the Community for its constant support of Magee’s Wheelchair Sports Program.

— Class Correspondents: Katie Whitley Comstok (katie.comstok@am.jfl.com), Nace Johnson (nate.johnson@mac.com)

LEADERSHIP


Becky Ruby Swansburg was appointed to the board of directors for the Keene Community Commerce Executive. Becky Ruby Swansburg was appointed to the board of directors for the Keene Community Commerce Executive. Becky Ruby Swansburg was appointed to the board of directors for the Keene Community Commerce Executive.

Daryn is an adjunct professor at the Rohatyn Center for International Affairs. Entitled "The Digital Duel: Resistance and Repression in an Online World," the talk looked at how emerging digital tools and online communication impact the ways people struggle nonviolently for human rights and social justice around the world. Daryn is an adjunct professor at American Univ. and the director for knowledge and digital strategies at the International Center for Education and Development.

Kyle Wheale MacDougall gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Dylan, last January. Kyle, husband Cameron, and Dylan reside in NYC. Penelope Wall married Colin Alger! The perfect snowy wedding was held at the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, VT, on January 23. Sarah Brooks Minardi and Bilkis Walle were bridesmaids. Penelope is a Web producer at EatingWell magazine and she and her husband live in Burlington, VT, with cats Aui and Suki. Kelly Lauter is going to Harvard Medical School for her residency at Mass General Hospital, where she will train in medicine and continue her groundbreaking endocrinology research (on the parathyroid). Anne Alfano is in her third month of culinary school at the Culinary Institute of America and almost cut off her thumb in her knife-skill class! She claims she is just trying to keep the drama alive for Midd magazine.

Ganga Chengappa graduated from Case Western Reserve Law School with her joint degree in law and a masters of public policy. She lives near Washington, D.C., with husband Sebbi Astrada. Katharine Wolf recently returned from a Stanford-sponsored trip to rural Ethiopia. Kat plans to attend the Kennedy School at Harvard this coming fall (no more Taco Bell!).

Hilary Patzer finished her training in alternative medicine (acupuncture) and has opened her own practice (Jada Holistic Healing) in Minneapolis, MN. Justin Knox graduated this spring from Columbia Univ. with his master's in public health.

Yuri Lawrence graduated from Tufts Univ. Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine in May and started an internship in small animal medicine and surgery at NC State Univ. College of Veterinary Medicine in June. Visitors and pets welcome! Word has it that Cara McKenney won a smoking hot Emmy Award for her work on the hit TV show, Mad Men. She and her company, Imaginary Forces, designed and produced the show's opening title sequence. So awesome.

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On September 6, 2008, Fernando de Oliveira married Leslie Edwards '01 at her parents' farm in Burnsville, N.C. Middlebury friends who joined them included (all '01 unless noted) Julie Russell, Jaymie Gross, the newlyweds, Emily Delias, Chris Cheang, Chuck Edwards '98, Amy Lowell, Alison Bowe '00, and Nick Reeb. Missing from photo: Tim McCarthy.

Holly Briggs '04 and Jason Cathcart were married on September 6, 2008, in Saranac Lake, N.Y. Friends and family helping them to celebrate included (all '04 unless noted) Tim Sinnott '02, Hannah Reid, Susan Reagan, the newlyweds, Martha Crooof Uhl, Christine Gould, Duncan Ralph '76, and Trudy Harder Briggs '77.

Matt Elder '00 married Megan Plunkett in Seattle, Wash., on July 25, 2008. Friends who joined them to celebrate included (all '00 unless noted) Eric Shoik, Brian Deese, Kara Arenault Deese '02, Dave Ault, the newlyweds, Jeff Pelabonsi '02, Jess Howe Thomson, Jim Thomson, and Maureen Nowlan Principe '99.


Spencer Taylor '04 married UVM grad Serena Hollmeyer on September 6, 2008, in Grand Isle, Vt. Plenty of Midd folks helped them to celebrate: Zack Taylor '99, Mark Davis '05, the newlyweds, Celia Meyer '03, Dana Allen '94, (second row) Alex Kinsey '03, Maribeth Long '03, Will Cleveland '04, Sara Stranczovsky '04, Andy Rossmoell '05, Parker Diggory '04, bill Boykin-Morris '02, (third row) Jelena Ignjatovic '03, Chris Ahern '04, Tracy Young '98, Anna Viel '07, Ellen Smith '05, Alex Fuller '05, Jess Sorelmo '02, (fourth row) Scott Barnicle, Atwater dean, Matt Coons '04, Louise Lintilhac '05, Bing Taylor '67, Lindsey Johnson '07, Nathaniel Vandal '06, and Remy Mansfield '06.
On September 13, 2008, Bradley Corr '02 and Sara Horvitz were married in Beaver Creek, Colo. Celebrating with them were (all '02 unless noted) Tyson Schoelzel, Heather Beal, Elizabeth Hoeschler '05, Matt LaRocca, the newlyweds, Drew Bennett, Patrick Duffy, Maurice Chang, Megan Kumpf Duffy, (second row) Zach Hefferson, Cary Costello, Evan Moppert, Marion Malgieri Stotzer, MA Spanish '72, and Peter Park.

Middlebury friends gathered in York Harbor, Maine, for the September 13, 2008, wedding of Emily Newick '01 and Steve Gaughan '94: (kneeling) John Nesbitt '01 and Kate Newick '04, (standing) Ethan Lacy '01, Susanne Fogt '01, Amanda Fiedler '01, Bill Johnson '69, Shari Galligan Johnson '68, the newlyweds, Elsa Palanza '01, Helen Gemmill '00, Lindsay Dormer Robinson '01 (with son Liam), Kelly Steele '01, Brian Guercio '01, Lara DuMond Guercio '00, and Gretchen Stuppy Carlson '02.

Laura Allen '02 and Drew Swift were married September 4, 2008, at the Nonantum Resort in Kennebunkport, Maine. They were joined by fellow Midd alumns (all '02 unless noted) Greg Engert, Lee Berkley Rowland, Jen Driscoll, Claire Wyckoff '04, (second row) Justin Cambria, Drew Bennett, Greg Wiener, the newlyweds, Colby DiSarro '00, Rob Tod '91, (third row) John Strachan, French School '97, Jesse Hooker, Bill Perkins, Josh Richards, Philip Walker '00, Carlos Fenwick '00, and Blake Whitman '93.


At beautiful Shelburne Farms in Vermont, Laura Marlow '01 and Jackson Latka were married on September 13, 2008. Many Middlebury friends and family joined them in celebration: (kneeling) Barbara Marlow, Hugh Marlow '57, (second row) Tina Gluck Henderson '82, Chris Eaton '93, Elizabeth Hackett Robinson '84, Caroline Bodkin '01, the newlyweds, Dave Gurtman '01, Sashi Weiss '01, Serena Peck '01, Kathy Batty '01, Brooke Beaney '00, Carolyn Bennett Jackson '61, Ingrid Punderson Jackson '88, (third row) Jim Robinson '84, Betsy Mitchell Etchells '75, Paul Henderson '82, Tim Etchells '74, Chris Marlow '94, Eliza Cameron Eaton '05, Molly Witters '01, Molly Holmberg '01, Andrew Sharp '00, Christina Cinelli '02, Jim Wilkerson '01, Patrick Berry '91, Damien Saccani '95, Emily Israel '00, Emily Baker '01, Gordon Eaton '62, Will Jackson '61, Dick Crumb '59, Ann Einsiedler Crumb '71, and Woody Jackson '70.

Don Graham '01 married Reanna Lavine (American Univ. '02) on August 19, 2008. They were married in a private ceremony in their backyard on the banks of the Ompompanoosuc River in Post Mills, Vt.
Megan Gremelspacher '02 and John Swindal '02 were married in Granby, Conn., on August 23, 2008. In attendance were fellow Midd grads (all '02 unless noted) Cara McKenney, Harriet Menocal, Emily Shiozono Gerne, Caitlin Burditt, Kelly Brant, the newlyweds, Dana Gordon Domrowski, Brett Dorman Guillard, Melissa Reid Bradley '01, Lisa Warren Herbert, (second row) Simon Gore, KC Anthony, Zach Herbert, Devon Magee, Marshall Boyd, Chris Fanning, Mike Suarez, Andrew Domrowski, Derek Chianelli, Noah Bickford, and Ben Williams.

On August 31, 2008, Andrea Hersh '02 and John Kannas Jr., were married at Mountain Meadows Lodge in Killington, VT. Midd friends who celebrated the occasion were (all '02 unless noted) Whitney Creed '06, Doug Dagan, Elissa Burnell '01, Kristin Wilson, the newlyweds, Holly Carlson, Steph Farnham Puchalski, Emily Kerner, and Lynette Cassidy.

On August 23, 2008, Kate Prouty '02 married Alden Woodrow '02 in Pittsfield, VT. They celebrated with Middlebury friends: (all '02 unless noted) Josh Howe, Nathaniel Shoaff, Wayne Rapp, Pat Duffy, (second row) Jenny Levin, Heather Beal, Matt LaRocca, Susan Batchelder '01, the newlyweds, Adam Stewart, Morley McBride, Kate Seely, Sam Dabney, (third row) Geordie Rybeck Lynd '08, Scott Morgan '06, Kelly Stevens Riedel, John Oliver '04, Pete Hennessy '03, Hannah Reid '04, Zach Hefferen, (fourth row) Tim Riedel, Lindsay Gardner '03, Craig Hine, Grant Thies, Andrew Corrigan, and James Jung. Missing from photo: Tim Sinnott.

Carmen Tedesco '01 and Nowell Strite were married on September 27, 2008, in a small, outdoor ceremony in a field in Lincoln, VT. They celebrated with family and friends at the Inn at Baldwin Creek in Bristol: (all '01 unless noted) Mike Stockwell '02, Tamlin Pavelsky, the newlyweds, Dave Selkowitz, and Andy Baron.

Lindsey Whitton '05 and Matthew Christ '05 were married on August 2, 2008, in Wilton, Conn. Middlebury friends and family in attendance included Kim Collins Porzio '79, Kimberly Adams Klintworth '80, Mayo Fujii '05, Tyne Pike-Sprenger '05, Katie McConomy '05, Catherine Foster '05, the newlyweds, (second row) Bob Dahl '78, Claudia Strong Fulton '78, Dave Irwin '05, Colby Hewitt '05, Alex Rittenhouse '05, Pierce Graham-Jones '05, Sarah McGaughey '06, Kate Harvitz '06, Louise Whitton Yock '88, John Whitton III '78, Linda Foster Whitton '80, (third row) Adam Sinoway '05, David Salem '78, Danny Greenstein '78, John Whitten Jr. '51, Susan Whitton Goodenough '79, Andrew Goodenough '77, Jim Whitten '80, Kyle Goodenough '10, Middlebury Magazine editor Matt Jennings, non-Midd guest, Taylor Davis '05, Prof. Travis Jacobs, Connie Carroll '75, and President Emeritus John McCardell Jr.

Karen Fox and Ian Wolfe ’96 were married in Aspen, Colo., on September 15, 2008. Joining the couple in celebration were (all ’96 unless noted) Greg Guido, Jenny Fisher, the newlyweds, Amy Atwood Kvaal, Andrew Kvaal, (second row) Brad Corrigan, Steve Koca, Charlie Whinery, and Stuart Salyer. Missing from the photo: Alan Smiley ’87 and Ken Gart ’78.

Madelyn Carpenter ’98 and Todd Ruffner were married on September 28, 2008, in Colorado. Friends from the Class of 1998 who joined in the celebration were Andrea Breault Mosher, Amanda Gonzalez Winn, and Karu Kozuma.

On September 27, 2008, Andrea Gissing ’05 and Peter Yordan ’04 were married in Seattle, Wash. Celebrating at the Seattle Harbor Club were (seated) the newlyweds, (second row) Andrew Kimball ’04, Josh Williams ’04, Gabriel Real de Azua ’04, Isabel Yordan, Jeff Stauch ’05, Molly Russell ’05, Aidan Bird ’04, Hilary Eisen ’06, Terray Sylvester ’05, (third row) Dan Shea ’04, Chris Loeffler ’04, Heidi Rothrock Loeffler ’02, Russ McCracken ’04, Mike Stevens ’04, and Andrew Gustafson ’04.

On October 3, 2008, Jenny Masiak ’01 married her childhood sweetheart, Mike Yanczak, at the National Shrine of St. Rita’s of Cascia in Philadelphia, Pa. Many of their friends and family shared in the celebration, including Jenna Sutton ’03 and bridesmaid Melanie Rausch ’01.

Erin Lechner ’01 and Yona Belfort were married on September 14, 2008, at the Colony Hotel in Kennebunkport, Maine. Friends and family joined them for the happy occasion: (all ’01 unless noted) Michelle Lazarre, Julie Hand, the newlyweds, Laura Matety Sealton, Kristin Behr Otten, Courtney Quish Meyers, B.J. Otten, (second row) Ian Zenica ’02, Gabi Belfort ’96, Susan Angst Rymko, Yasmin Matial, Kiki Helfenstein, Lauren Cullings, Amy Lowell, Annie Kloppenberg, Faith Peters James, Ellen Whitman Stoddard ’97, Ross Sealton ’99, and Dan Meyer ’99.
To celebrate their collective "Jubilee" birthdays, 1981 classmates got together for a weekend in Newport, R.I., in October 2009: Kathy Leary McCarthy, Wendy Bassett Patrick, Cammy King, Cyndy Strong, Elaine King Nickerson, and Sally Barnes.

Friends from the Class of 1963 had a mini-reunion in Trinity, Newfoundland, last fall: Carol Miller Whitlock, Carmen Colly Gorud, Linda Patton Mengers, and Lynn Stafford Glase.

In Laconia, N.H., a group of Midd friends took a hike on New Year's Day: (kneeling) Michelle Labbee Hunter '01, Erin Lechner Beifort '01, Kristin Belar Otten '01, B.L. Otten '01 with Bear Otten, (standing) Ross Seaf 1on '99 with Parker Seaf 1on, Laura Matey Seaf 1on '01, Gary Hunter, and Yona Beifort.

Midd friends and their families gathered in Maine last summer for a mini-reunion: John Sterling '96, Lindsay Lutton Sterling '95, Riley Sterling, Ell Sterling, Caroline Tracy, Hannah Wilkoff, Nick Wilkoff '97 with Peter Wilkoff, (second row) Wendy Russell Tracy '95, Eric Tracy with Julia Tracy, Shannon Detwiler Nguyen with Sydney Nguyen, Hieu Nguyen '92 with Holden Nguyen, Amy Flanders Harris '97, Jed Harris '99 with Skylar Harris, and Becky Cowgill Wilkoff '97.

Alumnae basketball players returned to campus January 15-16 to play some basketball, watch the women's team beat Bates and lose a close one to Tufts, and enjoy the local establishments: Katie Fehsenfeld '06, Carrie Harrington '07, Lani Young '08, Ashley Barron '09, Emily Johnson '09, Dana Weissman '07, Elyse Carlson '06, (second row) Erica Moody '92, Kathy Dultzinski McDonald '90, Heather Langlois '00, Sarah Rauneske '92, Alexis Batten '04, Micaela McVary '06, Megan McCosker Mandigo '01, Sue Parsons Ritter '83, Meg Storey Graves '85, Carrie Harasimowicz Sullivan '92, and Kelly McCarthy Bevere '99.

At Devil's Thumb Ranch in Tabernash, Colo., Ben Russell '02 and Chelsey Hood were married on September 13, 2008. Many Midd friends joined them in the beautiful setting: (all '02 unless noted) Adam Minnick '97, Caitlin Wagner, Dana Chapin, the newlyweds, Elisabeth Warman, Luke Coppelidge, Len Wagner '72, Robin Reilly Wagner '74, (second row) Pete Albro, Myles Sibley '00, Matt Blake '01, Ian Bailey '03, Jake Steele '98, Josh Gladding, Greg Carroll, Leah Cumisky Whitlock '03, Brian Lovin, John Boynton, Brad Holden, Dave Seely, Mike Hacker, Bob Clarke '53, Trent Nutting, (third row) Zach Herbert, Tripp Donelan, Brian Reilly, and Clay Moorhead.
**GRADUATE SCHOOLS**

**Arabic School**

An adjunct assistant professor, Reginald Heefner ('06, '07, '09) will be teaching Chinese and Arabic classes, being offered for the first time in the college's history, at Wilcon College in Chambersburg, Pa. He has also started the first-ever Arabic classes at the Gettysburg campus of Harrisburg Area Community College.

**Breath Loaf School of English**

Although his nine collections of poems tell much of his life's story, poet Wesley McNair (MA '68, M.Litt '75) has put together My Life as a Poet: A Multimedia Memoir using a collection of his papers, including photographs, letters, manuscript pages, and old record cards. This spring he gave a talk about the memoir at Colby-Sawyer College, where he taught from 1968 to 1987 and really became a poet. He also read from his latest book, *Lovers of the Last New and Selected Poems.* This spring Dom Degnon (MA '71) gave a talk to benefit the Dorset Players at the Dorsen (VT) Playhouse. Titled "Adrift on a Sea of Stories: Around the World in Seven Years," the presentation included stories and slides about his adventures circumnavigating the globe. He also captured the stories in his book *Salti Full and By.*

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**French School**

In May Maxine Atkins Smith (MA '50) received an honorary degree from the university that turned her away in 1957 because of her race. Asked to join the board of the Memphis (Tenn.) Branch of the NAACP after Memphis State Univ. refused to admit her, she credits the school with turning her into one of the South's best-known civil rights leaders. Nancy Means Wright (MA '65) has a new novel out called *Midnight Fins,* See Book Marks on page 46. In February Yvette Small Holder (MA '68) and husband led a group of supporters to their orphanage in Merti, Kenya, where 60 street children being cared for are thriving. Dr. Paulette Maggiolo (DML '76) was recently recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for showing dedication, leadership, and excellence in creative writing. After 43 years in education, she has published four novels in both English and French and is working on a fifth. Barbara Stansbury Oliver (MA '76) taught a class this spring for the Senior College program (30 and over) at the Univ. of Southern Maine's Lewiston-Auburn College called "Survival Spanish: Introduction to Pas Tenses." Howland & Spence, an educational consulting firm, recently announced that Don McMillan (MA '91) and wife had been named managing partners. They joined the firm, now called Howland, Spence & McMillan, in 2009 after serving many years as teachers and administrators at various schools. Sadie we must report that Anne Slack, who taught at the French School in the mid-1980s, passed away on February 12 at the age of 94.

**German School**

EasternSlopes.com recently announced that Barbara Butz Thomke (MA '69) has joined their staff as a writer and editor of the "Active Seniors" section. An avid outdoorswoman, she'll add her perspectives, insights, and adventures to the site.

**Italian School**

In Rochester, N.Y., Stella Plutino-Calabrese (DML '79) was honored at the Italian American Community Center Awards Dinner as the Educator of the Year. She teaches Italian and is the director of the Casa Italiana at Nazareth College.

**Spanish School**

At their annual banquet, the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, Inc., honored Ruth Lugo (MA '73) for her leadership and numerous achievements in the academic arena. She is the dean of the Andrey Cohen School for Human Services and Education at Metropolitan College of New York. Jeff Judge (MA '80) is currently the dean of humanities at Normandale Community College in Minneapolis, Minn. He is also working on his doctorate in education.

A professor of Spanish at Washington and Lee Univ., Ellen Mayock (MA '92) received the 2010 Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the state's highest honor for faculty.

Bruce Campbell (MA '93), associate professor of Hispanic Studies at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's Univ. in Minnesota, received the Robert L. Spath Teacher of Distinction Award at the Academic Affairs and Recognition Ceremony in May.

Gisela Gugger (MA '00), a Spanish and French language teacher at Livingston (N.J.) High School, gave a talk at the Livingston Historical Society about her memoir of her childhood experiences in Cuba under the Castro regime.

Geoffrey Moorhead (MA '06) married Cristina Almansa Menchero on August 1, 2009, in Ballesteros de Calatrava, Spain. They live in Jacksonville, Fla., where she does medical research and he is a financial representative at Fidelity Investments.

Sadly we must report that Kathryn Robertson ('59) passed away on February 7 in The Dalles, Ore.
of Campbell, Campbell, Edwards and Conroy, where he is an associate in the litigation dept.

Last October Lauren Currier married Christopher Coots in New York. She is an account planner at R/GA, an advertising agency.

Tina Dimitrova was excited to attend Republicans in 2010 and connect with old friends, classmates, favorite professors, her old boss Rory Rigs ’75, and the Class of 1965, who gave her a scholarship to study chemistry. She is halfway done with her Duke MBA, loves Fuqua School of Business, and witnessed the Blue Devils win two national championships this year. Currently she’s an intern in business development in San Diego, where as a former New Yorker, she is also learning to live life the California way. Upon graduation, she hopes to stay involved in biotechnology and focus on cancer therapeutics in honor of her mother, a two-time cancer survivor and a continual source of strength and inspiration.

—Class Correspondents: Martha Dutton (martha.dutton@gmail.com); Dena Simmons (dena.simmons@gmail.com)

Very exciting news! May Boeve and Kelly Blinn ’07 were honored with Elle Gold Awards this spring. Profiled under the “at 25” column, they were described as “young environmentalists who, only a quarter of a century old, are already gold stars.” Their work with 350.org was described as well as their efforts with the British 10:10 campaign. This October 10 activists will host “work parties” to break ground on new sustainability projects and get the attention of politicians. As May says, “10:10 is about urgency.” Several weddings have happened in the past year. Last August Megan Gambino and Ryan Reese were married in Skaneateles, N.Y. In October April Butler married Michael Lane in Erasburg, Vt. And on June 26, Andrew Barringer and Megan Guffin were married in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. Andrew proposed to Meg last fall during a romantic (though muddy) picnic outing in Napa. Meg will be starting law school in the fall. They live in San Francisco.

—Class Correspondents: Tristan Arcott (warcott@alumni.middlebury.edu); Jess Van Wagenen (javanwagenen@gmail.com)

After winning the IS senior thesis prize for her work on clam communities in coastal Ecuador, Laura Kuhl recently had a peer-reviewed article version of that project published in Ecological and Environmental Anthropology. Written with Michael Sheridan, it’s called “Stigmatized property, claims, and community in coastal Ecuador.”

Jamie Staples sent news about his work as an ecotourism Peace Corps Volunteer in Guatemala. He has been working in a protected area called the Refugio del Quetzal, a pivotal link in a chain of protected areas for the national bird, the quetzal, which is classified as a threatened species whose numbers diminish every year due to deforestation. Jamie has also been elected president of the Volunteer Advisory Council (VAC) for Peace Corps Guatemala. The VAC represents the Peace Corps volunteers in policy issues, and organizes professional development conferences and group outings.

Lindsay Linton recently had a photography exhibit called “Been Here for Generations” on display at the Homesteader Museum in Powell, Wyo. Lindsay has spent the last two years in the Northwest.

College photography program and her exhibit is the culmination of a project to photograph farmers and ranchers around Powell whose families have lived and worked on the same land for generations.

Last November Elspeth Pierson married Alex Hay in the 90-year-old Dunbar Barn in the historic shipbuilding neighborhood of Pennsmere in Brunswick. They live in Wellfleet, Mass., with their black lab, Fisher.

—Class Correspondents: Andrew Everett (andreweverett@gmail.com); Brett Svensen (brettsvensen@gmail.com)

The Class of ’08 continues to keep itself busy all across the country and the world! Casey Prentice started a real estate development firm that specializes in urban green building development and consulting. He also just purchased a boutique hotel—the Chebeague Island Inn—on an island in Casco Bay, near Portland, Maine. He’s having a lot of fun overhauling the business. This past winter Liana Sidell was at Sugarbush Mountain in Vermont, coaching freestyle skiing and working at a restaurant. She’s in Tanzania this summer, leading an Overland Field Studies program for high school students.

Dave Campbell is still at the College, focusing his work in marketing and enrollment for the Middlebury-Montrey Language Academy. In his free time, he’s helping to get Lacrosse the Nations up and running. Reid Berrien also works for Lacrosse the Nations and the two made a trip to Nicaragua in February. Dave is playing with the German national lacrosse team in the World Games in Manchester, England, this summer. Mimi Schatz has been working as an assistant lacrosse coach for Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, N.Y., the past two years. She’ll be leaving this fall to attend Boston Univ. where she’ll pursue a master’s degree in sport psychology. While teaching in New Canaan, Conn., Kristian Fraser is also pursuing a dual master’s in childhood general and special education at Bank Street College of Education in NYC. Heather Harken and Mary Roberts ’09 also attend the school. Jack Loshib is also in NYC, working at Morgan Stanley Wealth with Douglas Walker and Ridge Clew. Rowan Morris, who frequently sees the group, recently traveled to Hong Kong to visit Matt Doyle and Andrew Goodwin.

Nick Monier finished his Teach for America experience in June and graduated from Pace Univ. with his master’s in May. He’s heading to law school this fall. Alexandra Peterson works at the G3 Investment Group in NYC and frequently travels to China. Anna Furney works at Phillips de Pury and Company, a contemporary art auction house in Chelsea in NYC. She recently completed a photo research project for a 2011 Dia Vreeland retrospective at the Costume Institute of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Erica O’Brien received her MA in art history in February and is now working towards her doctorate at the University of Bristol, England.

After moving to Austin, Texas, to pursue his doctorate at the Univ. of Texas, Garrett Salpeter opened ARFwave Austin, a clinic for healing injuries through a revolutionary Performance system.

Michael Stefanik is in the doctorate program on science and research of alcohol, drugs, and substance addictions and their effects on the brain at the Medical Univ. of South Carolina, Charleston.

Ezra Axelrod was on campus in April to give a performance as part of his East Coast tour, “The Lust for Wisdom.”

“cowboy turned classical pianist,” as he describes himself, played songs from his 2009 debut album, Around How. That’s the way to remember to continue to keep in touch!

—Class Correspondents: Michelle Cady (michelle.elizabeth.cady@gmail.com); Laura Lee (laurarachellee@gmail.com).

After a fruitful nine-month career as a diner waitress, Rachael Carrasquillo is living in Berlin, Germany, and working as an English teacher. Berlin is just as great as it was when she was there as a Midd student two years ago. After a nomadic eight months of various nonprofit internships and waitress jobs in New York, New Jersey, and Washington, D.C., Sarah Kirk has taken a position with AmericaCorps VISTA at an economic development organization in Manhattan. At the beginning of March she moved to the East Village, and she’s enjoying the thrills of city life, procrastinating on registering for the GREs, and running into fellow Middlebury alums all over the city.

Graeme Rosenberg finished his first year at Yale School of Medicine and loved it! He thought he’d most likely be in Jackson Hole this summer, unless he gets involved in medical research.

Richard Saunders and Sam Libby are living together in D.C. Sam is working for ESRI, a software company in northern Virginia, working on a federal contract doing mapping work for Homeland Security. Alex Yule ’08 is also working for ESRI, but living in Redlands, Calif. He recently spent two months traveling through Central America and did a cross-country road trip. Andrew Mamgian and Will Clary are living together and teaching in Bangkok, Thailand.

Brett Woelber is still working as an instructor at the Teton Science Schools in Jackson Hole, Wyo.

Grace Duggan is finishing up her Fulbright Grant while living in Madrid and teaching English and art to elementary school kids.

Christopher Mutty recently joined Encore Redvelopment in Burlington, Vt., as a project analyst. He spent last summer as an intern there.

Aaron Krivitzky was recently hired as an associate at Decision Science. In Nebraska Halley Ostergard is working as a staff assistant in Ben Nelson’s Lincoln office and is considering graduate school.

Mason Graddock finished his first season playing professional hockey for IFK Arboga in Arboga, Sweden. He hopes to go back to Sweden but his agent is also looking at leagues in Norway and Germany.

The Campus featured Kevin O’Rourke in a January issue. Not only does he work in the lab at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute researching proteins that could serve as “tumor suppressors,” he also trained to run in the Boston Marathon and solicited donations for an organization that funds cancer research.

Class Correspondents: Chandler Kogmeier (chandler.kogmeier@gmail.com); and Eva Nixon (evanixon@gmail.com)

Alice Ford and Johnny Williams have agreed to serve as your class correspondents! You can send Alice news at aliceamarieford@gmail.com and Johnny news at jonathan@middlebury.edu.

09

08

07

06
Jane E. Griswold, 99, of South Kingston, R.I., on September 19, 2009. After graduating from Simmons College, she did an internship in dietetics. She worked at a variety of places including several hospitals, the American Red Cross, Penn State Univ., and UNH, where she was the director of dining services. She is survived by a niece and several nephews.

Janette Phelps Walling, 93, of Rochester, N.Y., on January 27, 2005. She attended secretarial school and worked at Scott Foresman and Co. textbook publishers. She also worked with opinion and market research and was a lab assistant at the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institute in Washington, D.C. In 1944 she went to work for Shell Oil Co. as a junior paleontologist then spent 39 years with Exxon, retiring in 1986 as senior professional paleontologist. She enjoyed playing the piano and organ and singing. She is survived by two nieces and a nephew.

Eleanor T. Cadwell, 91, of New Orleans, La., on November 29, 2009. After earning her master's in geology from Smith College, she worked during WWII as a cartographer for the O.S.S. and a lab assistant at the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institute in Washington, D.C. In 1944 she went to work for Shell Oil Co. as a junior paleontologist then spent 39 years with Exxon, retiring in 1986 as senior professional paleontologist. She enjoyed playing the piano and organ and singing. She is survived by two nieces and a nephew.

Carol Miner Gustafson, 91, of Brookside, N.J., on November 23, 2009. After graduating she worked at the National Industrial Conference Board and the McCann Erickson Advertising Agency in NYC, and Martinsdale-Hubbell in Summit, N.J. While living in Brookside, she worked for Mendham Township as an assistant township clerk, secretary to the planning board, and municipal court clerk and she was the first of two female township committee members. Active in the community, she volunteered for many organizations, including the local library, the PTA, and the local AFS chapter. A loyal alumna, she was class secretary from 1969–1974. She is survived by husband Thor 93, daughter Gwenda Malnati 87, sons Gregory and Thomas, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

George W.F. Cook, 90, of Rutland, Vt., on September 26, 2009. During WWII, he served in the Army Air Corps as a navigator. He graduated from Columbia Univ. Law School in 1948 and worked as an attorney with the General Counsel’s Office of the Navy before moving to Minneapolis, Minn., on October 25, 1949. He is survived by daughter Deborah.

Paul J. Liehr, 88, of Grass Valley, Calif., on September 5, 2009. A retired lieutenant colonel, he served with the 50th Troop Carrier Wing. He worked for Merrill Lynch as a stockbroker for 25 years. In retirement, he loved to play golf at the Alta Sierra course. Predeceased by son Kevin, he is survived by wife Katherine (Gardner), daughter Susan, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Robert G. Crooks, 86, of Durham, N.C., on September 7, 2009. During WWII, he served in the Army Air Corps as a pilot, flying 18-hour combat missions in the western Pacific, seeking out and destroying submarines. After graduating from MIT with an engineering degree, he attended law school at George Washington Univ. and practiced law as the chief patent and trademark counsel at American Standard Corp. in NYC. Moving to New Hampshire, he opened a private practice. He is survived by wife Jane (Gilbert), children James, Wendy, and Elizabeth, stepchildren Pamela, Douglas, and Gilbert, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Deceased Middlebury relatives include brother Grosvenor Crooks ’30.

Gail Dawley Leonard, 86, of Falmouth, Mass., on October 15, 2009. During WWII, she served in the Red Cross in Germany. A gifted word-smith, she wrote poetry throughout her life. She loved tennis, golf, and skiing, but her greatest love was sailing. Predeceased by first husband Alexander Shaw III, second husband Robert Leonard, and son Alexander Shaw IV, she is survived by sons Jeffrey and Eric, daughter Alison, and four grandchildren.

Harold P. Parker, 88, of Peterborough, N.H., on November 10, 2009. During WWII, he taught survival skills to U.S. Army Air Corps B-17 and B-26 combat crews before their deployment. He continued to serve in the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard for 32 years, retiring as a major. He earned a master’s from Columbia Univ. and completed doctoral work in sociology at Syracuse Univ. His academic career included teaching at Middlebury until 1963 and teaching in the community college system in New York and Massachusetts. He also played, taught, coached, and officiated golf, swimming, track and field, lacrosse, and skiing. Survivors include wife Edith (Voderberg), daughter Cynthia, son Stuart, and two granddaughters. Deceased Middlebury relatives include uncle Kenneth ’31 and aunt Linnea Wall Parker ’31, brothers Francis ’39 and Jackson ’48, and cousin Jeanne Parker Cahill ’52. Surviving Middlebury relatives include cousins Edward ’78, William ’82, Michael ’83, Sean ’85, Robert ’87, Timothy ’91, Matthew ’90, and Peter ’14 Cahill.

John D. Worcester, 89, of Naples, Fla., on October 2, 2009. He served in the Army during WWII as a second lieutenant at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. He had a long and successful career with the New England Carbide Tool Co., retiring as president in 1975. He was an aviator, yachtsman and accomplished equestrian and participated in polo matches as a youth. Predeceased by wife Margaret (Herzig), he is survived by sons Charles, John, and Bill, and daughter Patrice.

Maggie Crooks, 86, of Durham, N.C., on September 7, 2009. During WWII, he served in the Army Air Corps as a pilot, flying 18-hour combat missions in the western Pacific, seeking out and destroying submarines. After graduating from MIT with an engineering degree, he attended law school at George Washington Univ. and practiced law as the chief patent and trademark counsel at American Standard Corp. in NYC. Moving to New Hampshire, he opened a private practice. He is survived by wife Jane (Gilbert), children James, Wendy, and Elizabeth, stepchildren Pamela, Douglas, and Gilbert, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Deceased Middlebury relatives include brother Grosvenor Crooks ’30.

John W. Laramie, 88, of Addison, Vt., on November 7, 2009. During WWII, he taught survival skills to U.S. Army Air Corps B-17 and B-26 combat crews before their deployment. He continued to serve in the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard for 32 years, retiring as a major. He earned a master’s from Columbia Univ. and completed doctoral work in sociology at Syracuse Univ. His academic career included teaching at Middlebury until 1963 and teaching in the community college system in New York and Massachusetts. He also played, taught, coached, and officiated golf, swimming, track and field, lacrosse, and skiing. Survivors include wife Edith (Voderberg), daughter Cynthia, son Stuart, and two granddaughters. Deceased Middlebury relatives include uncle Kenneth ’31 and aunt Linnea Wall Parker ’31, brothers Francis ’39 and Jackson ’48, and cousin Jeanne Parker Cahill ’52. Surviving Middlebury relatives include cousins Edward ’78, William ’82, Michael ’83, Sean ’85, Robert ’87, Timothy ’91, Matthew ’90, and Peter ’14 Cahill.

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Roger L. Beach, 83, of Quarryville, Pa., on August 4, 2009. His college studies were interrupted by his enlistment in the Army and being sent to Salzburg, Austria, to work for the Counter Intelligence Corps. After graduating, he attended Princeton Theological Seminary and for 37 years was the pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Gilbertsville, N.Y., before retiring in 1990. Predeceased by daughter Katharine, he is survived by wife Virginia (Dunn) 49, daughters Deborah, Sarah, Martha, and Susan, 20 grandchildren, and two great-granddaughters.

Julia Friend Bradley, 85, of Middlebury, Vt., on November 28, 2009. After working in a public library a few years, she returned to school to become certified as a teacher for early childhood and kindergarten through eighth grade. For 10 years she taught four- and five-year-olds. Predeceased by husband Benjamin, she is survived by daughter Sue Jahnke, sons Peter and Douglas, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Joseph B. L’Episcopo, 84, of North Baldwin, N.Y., on October 13, 2009. After leaving Middlebury, he went to Roosevelt Aviation School and earned his aircraft mechanic license. In 1949 he began working at Trans World Airlines in the operations department. He worked at TWA 35 years, retiring as a flight dispatch officer in 1983. A member of the Civil Air Patrol, USAF Auxiliary, he was the inspector general for the New York wing with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He is survived by wife Betty (Simmonds), son Joseph Jr., daughter Susan, and sister Joan L’Episcopo Muset 48. Surviving Middlebury relatives include nieces Joan Muset 77, and cousins Bart Lombardi 84 and Dame Lombardi Rice 88.

Sarah Peck Littlefield, 82, of Greeneville, R.I., on September 21, 2009. With a master’s in educational administration from SUNY at New Paltz, she had a lifelong career in education. She taught for 50 years in the English dept. in Goshen, N.Y., and served as chair for 10 years. From 1965–1985 she wrote syllabi and texts for the Board of Cooperative Educational Services Moving to Shoreham, Vt., she served one year as interim principal at the elementary school and was on the school board. An environmentalist, she was a charter member of the Lake Champlain Restoration Assoc. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Evan 48, daughter Gail Littlefield Doebert ’73, son Gary, and four grandchildren.

Janet Rice Smith, 82, of Essex Jct., Vt., on October 28, 2009. For seven years, she served with her husband as codirector of the Rock Point Episcopal Summer Conferences in Burlington, Vt., and as he taught math at Rock Point School, working with troubled teens. Active in her community and church, she had a long tenure as treasurer of the Ronald McDonald House and volunteered at the Brown’s River Library a few years, she returned to school to become certified as a teacher for early childhood and kindergarten through eighth grade. For 10 years she taught four- and five-year-olds. Predeceased by husband Benjamin, she is survived by daughter Sue Jahnke, sons Peter and Douglas, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Hope Redington Chapin, 80, of Bellevue, Wash., on October 14, 2009. After graduation, she worked four years at a small investment firm in NYC before moving west with her husband. Once she had raised her children, she joined a real estate firm and following that, worked for several years as a developer. She later worked as coordinator for a nonprofit emergency feeding program. She is survived by children Cary, Bruce, and Nancy, and three grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include grandfather John Redington, Class of 1860.

David L. Peet, 81, of Bethel Park, Pa., on October 22, 2009. Before beginning his career in food sales, he spent time in the Navy, worked in ads for a newspaper, and worked in the IBM dept. of Bell Aircraft, doing R&D work on guided missiles. In 1955 he joined Sunskist Growers where he stayed for 17 years before working for various wholesale produce and food service companies. In 1969 he became the volunteer executive director of the Ligoneri Highland Games and the next 40 years developed them into one of the top Scottish celebrations in the U.S., drawing over 10,000 attendees each year. He also served on the Bethel Park library board and the Bethel Park Community Foundation. Survivors include wife Virginia, daughters Amy Shetrom, Martha Kohl, and Melinda Sage, and six grandchildren.

Sidney Nordschild Jr., 80, of Wolfeboro, N.H., on September 26, 2009. For 40 years he was a partner in the textile brokerage firm of Heineman and Co. in NYC. Moving to Wolfeboro, he served as board member and interim director of the Wright Museum, volunteered at Huggins Hospital, and was an active member of the Kingswood Golf Club. Predeceased by brother Frank ’43, he is survived by wife Patricia, sons David and John Davis, daughters Carol Moser, Linda Davis, and Cynthia Guttman, and six grandchildren.

Suzanne Goyne Crowell, 79, of Tequesta, Fla., on October 10, 2009. A natural artist, she formed a small business selling her own crafts and also designed beautiful quilts to be sold to benefit her church. A lifelong skipper, she was the only female on the Middlebury sailing team in her day. An excellent golfer, she competed at country clubs in Florida and Massachusetts where she spent summers at her family’s cottages in Mt. Washington. Survivors include husband Walter 52, sons Andrew and James ’84, and four grandchildren.

Kate O. White, 78, of Kansas City, Kan., on October 17, 2009. She lived in Paris from 1954 to 1973, studying and working as an interpreter and editor of English-French translations sponsored by UNESCO. She also taught adult religious education. Returning to Kansas City, she continued to teach French at different institutions. She is survived by sister Juliann Group.

Nancy Drummond Riger, 78, of Orlando, Fla., on October 22, 2009. With a master’s and doctorate in education from Ball State Univ., she taught at every educational level from elementary to college. She also worked as an editor at Harcourt Brace Jovanovich and coauthored several textbooks. Predeceased by son Mike, she is survived by daughters Laura Woodyard and Katherine Kiger.

Timothy J. Linehan, 84, of Rochester, N.Y., on September 11, 2009. During WWII, he served in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific. His career as a chemist at Eastman Kodak Co. spanned 30 years. He enjoyed golf and was a 35-year member at Oak Hill Country Club. He is survived by wife Julie (Lewis).

Peter W. Reed, 78, of Jaffrey, N.H., on October 14, 2009. After graduating from Cornell Univ., he served in the Army and went on to work as an engineer for Fauth Bell Bearing Co. in New Britain, Conn. He enjoyed building and flying model airplanes and was involved in the National Miniature Pylon Racing Assoc. Survivors include wife Tinka (Risk) ’54, sons Michael and Barry, daughter Wendy Johnson, and six grandchildren.

James F. White, 77, of Pascoag, R.I., on October 1, 2009. For 40 years he worked for the
Pacong Fire District Water Dept., retiring in 1996 as the treasurer. He is survived by his wife Gloria, sons James and Patrick, daughters Cheryl, Shelley, Lynn, Jerilyn, Cindy, Caren, and Peney, 23 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

55 Seward T. Highley, 76, of Middlebury, Vt., on September 5, 2009. While at Middlebury, he was one of the founding members of the Dissipated Eight. After two years in the Army and after earning a master's from Simmons College, he taught biology at Williston Academy in Easthampton, Mass., and at The Millbrook School in Millbrook, N.Y., where he also served as the chairman of the science dept. Predeceased by grandson Jamien Tate, he is survived by daughters Deborah '80, Susan '83, and Carolyn '86, sister Helen Highley Matel '50, seven grandchildren, and former wife Patricia Hunter.

56 June Higgins Fischer, 75, of Mystic, Conn., on October 21, 2009. While raising her family, she did extensive volunteer work with the American Red Cross, the local elementary school and library, and the Girl Scouts. After moving to Mystic, she was a member of Mystic Seaport, the aquarium, and volunteered for Child and Family Services. She worked in real estate for George Boyer Real Estate until she retired in 1992. She is survived by son Mark, daughters Cynthia and Pamela, stepchildren William, Scott, and Cindy, four grandchildren, and four step-grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include father Harold '27 and mother Ethel Palmer Higgins '28, aunt Viola Palmer Houghton '26, and uncle Paul Higgins '28. Surviving Middlebury relatives include brothers Harold '35 and Norman '61 Higgins.

Julia A. King, 75, of Keene, N.H., on November 12, 2009. An educator and a mathematician, she taught at all levels from elementary school to the graduate level, including teaching education at New England Antioch Graduate School. With an MA from UPenn, she pursued her doctorate in mathematics before returning to teaching. She was the coauthor of Exploring Everyday Math, a teaching resource. A loyal alumna, she served as class secretary from 1986–1991 and was awarded the Outstanding Class Secretary Award. She was predeceased by husband Jack Maxson.

Margaret Proper Powell, 75, of Scottsdale, Ariz., on October 28, 2009. After working in retail for B. Altman & Co., she raised her family in Palos Verdes Estates, Calif., and was involved in arts, camping, and teaching nursery school. After a move to Arizona, she ran the Four Cs Community Childcare Center in Phoenix and worked for Newfields in Scottsdale. She volunteered for several different museums. Survivors include husband John, sons Wally and Donald, and daughter Maggie.

57 Corliss Knapp Engle, 73, of Chestnut Hill, Mass., on November 26, 2009. With a passion for horticulture, she was involved for 30 years with the Garden Club of America as a horticulture judge, chair, and director of numerous committees. She was also a New England Flower Show entrant and judge and was a member of countless plant societies. Her contributions to the Begonia Society led to a begonia named in her honor. Her writings and photographs appeared in local and national publications. She is survived by husband Ralph, sons Ralph and Arthur, and six grandchildren.

58 H. Langedon Bell Jr. 73, of Branford, Conn., on November 30, 2009. After leaving Middlebury, he served in the U.S. Air Force until 1969, then embarked on a banking career in banking. He retired in 1991 as chairman, president, and CEO of The Bank of Hartford. He continued his career as an international consultant for management services in former communist and socialist countries. He is survived by wife Judith (Working), sons Stevens '50 and Jeffrey, stepchildren Kimberly and Kenneth, and three grandchildren.

Robert I. Katz, 72, of Bryn Mawr, Pa., on October 21, 2009. After graduating from Howard Univ. Medical School, he served three years in the service before going into private cardiology practice in Atlantic, N.J. In 1979 he moved to Philadelphia to work at Presbyterian Medical Center. Predeceased by son David, he is survived by wife Mimsye (Wilson), sons Adam and Daniel, and one granddaughter.

59 Phillip L. Miller, 71, of Chicago, Ill., on November 20, 2009. After earning an MS in chemistry from the Univ. of Minnesota and studying business at the Univ. of Chicago, he had a career in banking. He worked in New York and Paris before returning to Chicago. He also served for 31 years as the president of the George M. Pullman Educational Foundation, which awards need-based scholarships. He was very involved with the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago and the board of trustees for Graceland Cemetery. He is survived by wife Bonnie, daughters Kimberley and Jennifer, and four grandchildren.


Stephen G. Beebe, 66, of Great Falls, Va., on September 16, 2009. After receiving his MBA from the Univ. of Chicago, he received a commission in the U.S. Army and served in an air defense unit from 1967–1969, achieving the rank of first lieutenant. His career was spent working for various communications companies, including Global One, Sprint International, and GTE. He retired in 2003 as CFO of Priority Telecom, a Dutch company. He is survived by wife Odiorne (Woodman) '65, daughters Kristin, Ollie, and Taylor, and son John.

B. Craig Smith, 66, of East Greenwich, N.Y., on October 20, 2009. He served honorably as a lieutenant junior grade EOD officer in the Navy during the Vietnam era. With an MBA from Wayne State Univ., he worked as VP of human resources at Boston Whaler Boats in Massachusetts and director of human resources at Orvis Co. in Manchester, Vt. Most recently he was a partner at Pentangle Group in Arlington, Vt. Survivors include wife Edna (Barbara), sons Eric and Randal, and four grandchildren.

61 Anne Sykes Hoffman, 62, of Peru, Vt., on November 20, 2009. She earned her master's degree from Columbia Teachers College and worked as a teacher and a realtor. She also earned a contractor's license and developed real estate. An accomplished sailor, equestrian, and bridge player, she enjoyed working with young adults as a sailing and bridge coach. Predeceased by husband Anthony, she is survived by daughter Jean and son Geoffrey.

78 Peter B. Culman, 83, of Lexington, Mass., on October 27, 2009. After earning his MBA from Harvard Univ., he worked as an investment professional at Harvard Management Co. and Wellington Management Co. before founding his own investment and financial planning firm in 1996. He was a board member of the Cary Memorial Library Foundation and a member of the investment committee of the Lexington Education Foundation. Survivors include wife Susan (Carmody), children Teddy and Kate, his parents, and sisters Tina and Kate '82.

86 Jacqueline Ballenger Tawastsjerna, 85, of Middleburg, Va., on September 9, 2009. She received her master’s in English from the Univ. of Toronto and also worked for a time at North Sails Yachts in Annapolis, Md. In 1978, the Ballenger Computer Center, named for her and her father, was opened in Voter Hall at Middlebury. She is survived by husband Greg, daughter Chloe, and son John.

98 Philip D. Andette, 33, of Aliso Viejo, Calif., on October 28, 2009. After earning his Juris Doctorate from Loyola Univ. Law School, he worked as an associate attorney in mergers and acquisitions at O'Melveny and Myers in Newport Beach, Calif. He is survived by wife Ashley (Brown), parents Richard and Gerri, and sister Jaime.

FACULTY

Thomas H. Reynolds, 88, of Newcastle, Maine, on September 22, 2009. In WWII he enlisted in the Army and served as a unit commander in a tank battalion that fought in North Africa and Italy. After earning his master's and doctorate in history from Columbia Univ., he joined the faculty at Middlebury in 1949, becoming head of the history dept., dean of men in 1958, and dean of the college in 1964. In 1967 he left to become the fifth president of Bates College, where he stayed until 1980. In 1990 he took the helm of the Univ. of New England, retiring in 1995. He was a member of several organizations, including the National Assoc. of Independent Colleges, and he held honorary degrees from several schools including Middlebury. Predeceased by son David, he is survived by wife Mary (Kirtland), son Thomas '71 and John, daughter Tay Simpson, and their mother, Jean Fine Lytle.
MIDDLEBURY MAGAZINE

STAFF
Ronald A. McKinnon, 63, of Middlebury, Vt., on January 22, 2010. After earning his MS in chemistry from Middlebury College, he taught at Vergennes Union High School from 1972 to 1979 and was named Vermont Chemistry Teacher of the Year in 1978. In 1979 he joined the staff at the College as an assistant in the Science Center library and in 1980 he began his long tenure with information technology as a programmer trainee. Over the years he served in many capacities, most recently as the director of administrative systems integration and effectiveness in Library and Information Services. Active in the community, he volunteered with the United Way and the After Dark Music Series, supported the Festival on the Green, and served as a trustee of the Ilsley Library. He is survived by wife Janet (Forand) and son Roy '94.

Sandra L. Vivian, 57, of Middlebury, Vt., on November 30, 2009. With a BA in math from Smith College and an MBA from Western New England College, she began her career at Middlebury in 1991 as assistant director of financial aid. In 1997 she was promoted to bursar and in 2006 to associate director of Student Financial Services. She sang in the Community Chorus, served on the Human Relations Committee, and played in the employee golf tournament. She is survived by mother Olga, sister Linda, and lifelong friend Kate Sonderegger.

HONORARY DEGREE
Charles S. Houston, 96, of Burlington, Vt., on September 27, 2009. While attending Harvard and earning his MD from Columbia Univ., he began a lifelong love of mountaineering. He then joined the Navy, where his studies of high altitudes contributed to the ability of pilots to fly at higher altitudes. He practiced medicine in New Hampshire and Colorado, where during a mountain rescue, he recognized altitude-related pulmonary edema. In 1962 he became director of the Peace Corps in India and after two and a half years, went to Washington, D.C., to develop a medical Peace Corps. In 1966 he joined the faculty at UVM as a professor of medicine, continuing his work in high altitude physiology. He was the author of numerous articles and books, and he served with the documentary Brother of the Rope, about his expeditions to K2 in 1925 and 1933. Middlebury awarded him an honorary doctor of science degree in 2005. He is survived by daughter Penny Barron, sons Robin and David, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

GRADUATE SCHOOLS
Osmil Sebarian Gallucci, 85, MA French, of Glen Falls, N.Y., on September 13, 2009. She taught French for several years at Lake Placid (N.Y.) High School and pursued her love of languages with courses in Spanish at Columbia University.

Jane Rittenhouse Smiley, 90, MA French, of Kennett Square, Pa., on April 27, 2009. For 30 years she taught French at Lancaster County Day School and the Wilmington Friends School. After earning an MS in library science, she worked as a librarian and archivist at Swarthmore’s Friends Historical Library.

Gloria Maulsby Clements, 90, MA English, of Buffalo, N.Y., on April 15, 2009. She taught English at Buffalo Seminary and Clarence Central High School. For over 20 years she was an instructor at the Buffalo Science Museum, sharing her love of Native American culture and of birds.

Shirley Hughes Lentz, 79, MA English, of West Friendship, Md., on October 18, 2009.

Rose D. Nash, 84, MA Russian, of Laguna Woods, Calif., on August 13, 2009. With a doctorate in linguistics from Indiana Univ. and postgraduate research in England, the Soviet Union, and Mexico, she taught at universities in the U.S., Israel, and Puerto Rico. She was also the coauthor of several dictionaries for Spanish and Russian languages and the author of numerous articles.

John F. Daly, 75, MA Spanish, of Philadelphia, Pa., on June 26, 2009. He taught French and Spanish at various high schools around Philadelphia, then was a professor of foreign languages at Camden County College.

Dorothy F. Barberio, 79, MA Italian, of Newton, Mass., on September 13, 2009. She taught in various locations in Europe as a civilian teacher for the U.S. Air Force and also taught kindergarten and first grade in Massachusetts and California.

Leicester Warren Rogers, 85, MA English, of Washington, D.C., on September 15, 2009. While teaching at the Holtan-Arms School in Bethesda, Md., for 34 years, she chaired the English dept. for over 20 years. She was a poet and authored the children’s book, Pickwick Penguin and Willy Walaby Discover America.


Inese E. Ozols, 69, MA German, of Oklahoma City, Okla., on May 29, 2009. Born in Latvia, her family fled to Germany in 1944 ahead of the Russian invasion and spent several years in a displaced persons camp. She arrived in the U.S. in 1950. In Oklahoma City she worked in various bookkeeping jobs and was the staff accountant for Children’s Medical Research Foundation.

Richard G. Caram, 70, MA English, of Altoona, Pa., on August 11, 2009. He taught English at various colleges before earning a Ph.D. in American literature and a master’s in theater. He then taught creative writing and literature in the Midwest before becoming a tenured professor of theater at Penn State Univ. He was also a playwright and published poet.

David G. Griffiths, 70, MA English, of Williston, Vt., on July 20, 2009. While teaching at Randolph High School and Castleton College, he played guitar and sang around New England. He earned another master’s in theology from Union Theological Seminary and taught literature, writing, public speaking, world religions, and the Bible as literature at Champlain College.

Sr. Miriam J. Sweeney, 71, MA French, of Baltimore, Md., on October 20, 2009. Entering the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1959, she taught French in several high schools within the archdiocese and also served as a school counselor.


Elsa A. Zambosco, 68, Spanish ’71, of Houston, Texas, on April 1, 2009. Born in Argentina, as a member of the University of St. Thomas faculty from 1968-2008, she taught Spanish, Latin American and Spanish literature, creative writing, and Hispanic theater and cinema. A lover of theater, she founded the Hispanic Theatre Workshop in Houston and directed and produced over 70 plays.

David A. Dooley, 55, MA French, of Andover, Mass., on July 21, 2009. He was a teacher and foreign language dept. chairperson at the Manchester Essex Regional Jr./Sr. High School. For many years he coached high school drama and served as a consultant for the Mass. High School Drama Guild’s Annual Festival.

Mary J. Kneift, 52, MA French, of La Crosse, Wis., on April 5, 2009. With a love of learning, she attended many cultural, musical, and intellectual events at Viterbo Univ. and the Univ. of Wisconsin while living in La Crosse.

Rebecca Trezevant Hutter, 91, MA, Litt. English, of Memphis, Tenn., on July 12, 2009. She taught at Lemoine-Owen College and at Lausanne School. An active volunteer, she worked at the Child Guidance Clinic and the Street Ministry at Calvary Episcopal Church, among other organizations.

Gloria Gaspoli Caliendo, 57, MA Spanish, of Dayville, Conn., on July 30, 2009. A professor at Central Connecticut State Univ., she was also the director of Professional Studies in Modern Languages and associate director of the Center for Caribbean and Latin American Studies. She was the founder of the Teaching Education Centers in El Salvador and Ecuador.

Victoria Rathburn Gill, 57, MA French, of San Francisco, Calif., on May 30, 2009. She worked at two different law firms in San Francisco and wrote poetry, which was published in books and poetry journals. Twice she was a judge for the French National New Fiction Award, sponsored by Club Med.

Carol A. Moore, 58, MA English, of Pennington, N.J., on May 7, 2009. She taught in several school districts in New Jersey, including Robbinsville schools, Lawrence Middle School, and Trenton Central High School. She was also a certified massage therapist.
who are more like the proverbial frog, acclimating so naturally to water that gradually increases in temperature.

And so as you leave here tomorrow, think about what you will take with you. For sure you are far more knowledgeable and accomplished than when you arrived, thanks to the exceptional faculty with whom you have studied and to the general excellence of our academic program. You will no doubt take with you the subject matter you have mastered by studying deeply within your major, the critical skills you honed by engaging different modes of inquiry across the curriculum, and a passion for lifelong learning that a liberal arts education ignites in so many.

In addition, I encourage you, urge you, to be conscious of the less evident, yet consequential, gift this College has given you: the spirit, knowledge, and talent to bring the best out of the people around you—the ability to collaborate and work well in teams—to create a special kind of community that has nurtured you for four years, and done the same for Middlebury alumni for more than 200 years.

And you shouldn’t take this aspect of your Middlebury education for granted. Even though many of you are likely to leave the remoteness—or let’s call it the serenity—of this campus and begin your careers in large urban centers, you will make the world a better place if you take with you what you learned here about building as comprehensive a community as possible that aims to make the most of the people and resources in it.

Know that the essence of Middlebury—that which comes from the core of its history and the nature of its place—cannot but remain unchanged and will continue to exert the same positive influences on future generations of students as it exerted on you. Middlebury’s soil will continue to be its intelligence. Good luck, members of the Class of 2010. Your College wishes you the best, confident that you are eminently prepared to make your mark on the greater world. You have left a great imprint on this College, and, perhaps unknowingly but unmistakably, on this past year’s first-year class.

Thank you.
A HOME FOR ALL SEASONS

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LEAVES OF GRASS
Built in 1865, this beautiful two and a half story Victorian house on 68 Washington Street Ext in Middlebury, Vermont has been tenderly improved over the years and kept in immaculate condition. It is on the National Register of Historic Places and has a permit for a Bed and Breakfast from the Town of Middlebury.

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C E D A R  F A R M
14-acre estate w/700± ft. of lakefront. Charlotte, VT $3,950,000

L E A V E S  O F  G R A S S
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v e r m o n t v i c t o r i a n . c o m
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Amiel Painter was not an idle being. Born in New Haven, Connecticut, on May 22, 1742, he eventually migrated to Vermont and cofounded the town of Middlebury. Not content with this trifling accomplishment, Painter went on to serve as a member of the Constitutional Convention, a judge of the County Court, sheriff of Addison County, and representative of Middlebury in the state legislature. Just when you start to feel inadequate, I should interject that he also cofounded our dear Middlebury College.

When Painter died in May 1819, he bequeathed $13,000 and his four-foot-long cane made of oak and ivory. With this gift, Painter not only saved the institution from financial ruin, but also left us with two centuries of cane-related customs.

Starting in the 1880s, the freshmen and sophomore classes sparred in the cane rush, an event so boisterous the College eventually instituted rules prohibiting slapping, pinning, punching, and the wearing of spiked shoes. The May 1927 edition of the Middlebury College Newsletter tells of another custom in which “the President may carry [the cane] only after an athletic victory over Middlebury’s chief rival, the University of Vermont.”

But the tradition with which recent alumni are most familiar is the giving of canes to graduating seniors at Commencement. This occurred in fits and starts over the last century, and then became a consistently observed tradition after 1995. (Lest anyone who graduated prior to 1995 feel neglected, the College gave canes to alumni when they returned for reunion until 2000.)

With thousands of replicas dispersed throughout the world, I wondered: What do alumni do with their canes now? This inquiry flashed across my mind as I vacuumed the cobwebs from the canes my husband and I have stashed in the corner of our bedroom. Do alumni do as Kate Winslet has done with her Oscar and keep it in the bathroom? Or do they erect shrines in homage to our alma mater? I decided to find out.

Alumni like Narnik Kliblic ’03, Mark Barber ’06, Hannah Washington ’08, and her spouse Elizabeth Gordon ’09 are in good company and stow their canes in their bedrooms. Philip Picotte ’08 claims to be in possession of Painter’s original cane, which resides on his parents’ hearth with all the fireplace tools, including “the big puffer thing,” Elizabeth Robinson ’84 gives her grandmother Alla Fitzgerald Smith’s cane a less incendiary location. Bestowed in 1929, it has a silver top and ivory tip and hangs above Robinson’s mantel, out of reach of the conflagration.

Olly, an otherwise charming canine who unfortunately mistook the memento for a chew toy, destroyed the cane Chris Dayton received in 1987. However, Levi, Mary Mendoza’s four-legged companion since childhood, hangs his own mortarboard upon her cane, having “graduated” from Middlebury on the same day, in May 2006.

Shawn Rae Passalacqua ’93 writes from California, “It’s hanging on one of the walls in my college counseling office. Hopefully, a symbol and inspiration for my college-bound high school students.”

Closer to home, Christian A. Johnson Professor of Music Peter Hamlin ’73 says, “It is watching over me in my office.” He pauses before adding, “It’s nice to think that one of the College’s founders so long ago is still remembered in this vivid, idiosyncratic, and very physical way.”

Hamlin’s closing thoughts remind us that while Painter’s cane may have lost its original utility, it has gained a position more befitting the history reflected in its cerulean ribbons.

By Sarah Franco ’08

Illustration by Marian Richardson
Charles F. Johnson, MD, wanted new generations of students to experience the Middlebury his late wife, Leigh Updike Johnson ’36, had loved. The scholarship fund the Johnsons established in honor of Leigh has helped Emma Garl Smith ’10, from Evanston, Illinois, achieve an exceptional liberal arts education. She’s now a researcher for Daubert Tracker, an electronic information system for the legal profession. This fall, a new Johnson Scholar will enter Middlebury.

“Meeting my scholarship donor has been a great opportunity to recognize the scholarship money as a gift. Being able to put a face to the name of the man who has helped me financially made me appreciate it even more.”

—Emma Garl Smith ’10

“Leigh shared Middlebury’s goal of bringing to campus those who wish not only to learn about themselves and their own traditions, but to see beyond the bounds of class, culture, region, or nation. Middlebury enriched Leigh’s life, my life, and our life together. That is a gift I will always appreciate, and one that I am honored to try to share with Middlebury students today and into the future.”

—Charles F. Johnson, MD

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