Liane Barrera, LIS, reflects on long relationship with the College

Joining the 25 Year Club this year, Liane Barrera has a relationship with the College reaching much farther back. She remembers playing on the floor and in the vault of Old Chapel as a child; her father was the Bursar when Liane was growing up. Her mother was on the staff as well, working in “Alumni and Placement” as it was called back then when alumni programs and career services were run out of one office.

Liane took some of the first computer courses the College ever offered when she was a math major here, even though the College didn’t have a computer yet. Programming back then meant physically punching holes of code into cards and sending the “deck” off to Dartmouth. “You really had to be careful not to drop the deck,” Liane laughs. “In the early days of computers you had to learn how the machines themselves worked and the ‘machine language’ of the computer – all of it from the bottom up.”

The summer she graduated from Middlebury College, Liane’s desire to explore the world led her to Poland and the Soviet Union, still behind the Iron Curtain at that time. Growing up in Middlebury and spending so much time at the College, Liane had always been intrigued by people from all over the world who came during the summer and “turned the campus into a different place.” That summer she was excited to travel and experience and appreciate people in far off places.

Liane worked as a computer programmer in Connecticut for an insurance company and in Boston at the Federal Reserve Bank where she was the only woman in the whole department. In 1968 Liane returned to Middlebury with her husband John, and she began her first job here as a programmer in “Data Processing” as it was called then. At that point in the evolution of computer technology, programming still meant punching holes in a deck of cards that was fed into a very large computer in the basement of the Service Building. “Computers were all big back then, and since then everything has gotten smaller and smaller,” Liane remembers.

Liane took a 12-year break from the College when she left in 1972 to raise her four children. When she came back in 1984, Liane found that technology had changed significantly. Liane realized that unlike when she learned about the whole computer from the bottom up, (Article continues on page 4)
Reception Honors

Early Retirement Program Participants

On June 1 over 300 employees gathered in the McCullough Social Space to honor the 59 staff members who opted for the early retirement program. President Liebowitz said the retirees represented 1,381 years of service to the College. He encouraged them to stay connected to the College, and reminded them that “Middlebury will always be your college, just as much as it is today.”

A delicious buffet was served, and when the president asked the retirees to assemble on the McCullough stage, the group received a hearty ovation from their admiring colleagues.

The crowd applauded for about one minute, maybe longer, to honor colleagues.

Milestones are determined by years of uninterrupted employment at Middlebury College. The following milestones were attained in June 2009:

5 YEARS

Jane Aube
College Advancement

Michael Glidden
Dining Services

Fikreta Hadzic
Dining Services

10 YEARS

Derrick Cram
Golf Course / Snow Bowl

Judith Jessup
Bread Loaf School of English

Machelle St. Pierre
Dining Services

Katie Tatro
Dining Services

Kathryn Weiss
Registrar’s Office

Staff Accomplishments

Carol Grant (College Advancement):
On Saturday, May 9, Carol graduated from Champlain College with a Bachelor of Science in business management. She earned the degree over the past five years, taking online classes. Carol says, “I already obtained an associate’s from Champlain and it felt only right to continue there for my bachelor’s degree.” Carol earned an AS in accounting in ’91.
Reception to honor 2009 Staff Recognition Award winners

Join your colleagues in honoring the 2009 Staff Recognition Award winners: Dawn Boise, Franci Farnsworth, Steve Goodman, and Linda Langeway.

Monday, June 22
4:00–5:30
Mitchell Green Lounge

More June 2009 Milestones

15 YEARS
Edward Hilton
Controller's Office
Eric Leno
Facilities Services
Rodney Luther
Facilities Services
Mari Price
Academic Affairs

25 YEARS
Patricia Hornbeck
Library and Information Services
Priscilla Latreille
Dining Services
Carrie Ryan
Facilities Services

30 YEARS
Megan Battey
History of Art & Architecture

Congratulations on reaching these Milestones!

MILESTONES

College Eliminates Printed Directory

Due to significant budget constraints, the College has decided to stop producing the hardcopy Directory. Anticipated questions and answers follow.

Q. Why is the College eliminating the printed Directory?
A. The College will save money and staff time; it will reduce our carbon footprint; the online Directory is more current; and the online Directory is fully searchable.

Q. Once the College stops producing a printed Directory, how will I find telephone numbers and other information?
A. Faculty, staff, and student telephone numbers and other information will continue to be available using the online Directory. The College also has an automated Directory available by dialing 443.5000.

Q. What if I don't know the person’s last name?
A. If you are looking for a faculty or staff member, you should be able to locate the person if you have the person’s department or office. The online Directory will also search by first name, job title, or any other field.

Q. What if I need a listing of all of the members of a department or office?
A. The online Directory has a drop-down menu that contains all of the departments and offices at Middlebury. Select any department or office, leave the other fields blank, and you will get a listing of every member of the selected area.

Q. Will I still be able to determine what personal information of my own is displayed in the online Directory?
A. Yes; for example, if you don’t want your home telephone number or home address to appear, then it will not appear.

Q. What if I don’t have access to a telephone or a computer and I need Directory information such as someone’s campus address?
A. There are public computers and telephones in many locations on campus such as the library, Sunderland, and McCullough.

Q. How much will the College save by eliminating the Directory?
A. The 2008-2009 Directory cost $11,316 to print and consumed 330 staff hours to produce. Virtually all of that time and money will be saved.

If you have a suggestion about how the online Directory or the College’s new Web site can reduce the impact of losing the hardcopy Directory, go to http://blogs.middlebury.edu/webredo/?p=72 and post your ideas. If you’d prefer to voice your ideas by e-mail, send them to Robert Keren in Communications at keren@middlebury.edu.
During the difficult time of layoffs at the College in the early 1990s, Liane became active in Staff Council and served as its president. She was concerned that people were not being treated well. Liane believes that through their work on a wage and salary program and developing grievance and appeals processes, we as an institution grew and got better. “We are a community here, a pretty amazing community, and we all need to support and work with each other. Faculty, staff, and students should be on every committee. All three must be viable, critical members of this team in order to make this place the best that it can be,” Liane says.

One of the many other programs to which Liane has devoted her time and energy is the Sister-to-Sister program, a group bringing together College student mentors with middle school girls. Liane describes it by saying it’s “a way to allow all types of kids to come to this campus and talk with older ‘sisters’ about questions and issues not addressed in any other forum.” Another is the College’s United Way effort, which has shown Liane how wonderful people here are as they step up to the plate and help make this a better community, generous even in these difficult times.

Some might recognize Liane from the Vermont Beads and Fiber store in Middlebury where she works part-time. “I love problem solving,” Liane says, referring both to her work for LIS and her work at the store, adding, “I like to see people succeed! Everybody has a creative side to them, and I love helping other people create.”

As Liane reflects about her years working at the College, she concludes, “I’ve come to realize I’ve been very blessed to be a part of a school of such excellence. I never cease to marvel at the amazing people we have here.” She was excited to attend her 45th college reunion in May, knowing that she is “so different from the meek, intimidated” student she says she was so many years ago.

~ Liz Hammel

### Faculty Grants

**Sunhee Choi** (Chemistry & Biochemistry) has received an NSF-RUI grant from the National Science Foundation, an award that funds research in undergraduate institutions. For this project, titled Oxidation of Purine Derivatives Coordinated to Pt(IV) and Ru(III) Complexes, Sunhee and six students will study the mechanisms by which platinum and ruthenium transition-metal complexes oxidize DNA. The findings will ultimately help design better anticancer drugs.

Vermont EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) has awarded grants to three Middlebury faculty members for research during this summer and the academic year. **Sallie Sheldon** (Biology), with GIS Specialist **Bill Hegman** (Geography), will work with two students who have been awarded their own individual grants on a project titled Improving the Quality and Usability of VT-EPSCoR Streams Data for Teaching and Learning. They will develop multilayered GIS maps for the Streams Project, improve its database, and create a prototype for displaying and using the data online. The goal is to enhance the utility of the database for teaching about water-quality and land-use issues. **Noah Graham** (Physics) and one of his students will pursue a project titled Large-Scale Simulations of Oscillon Formation in the Early Universe, using computation to determine whether oscillons (solutions to nonlinear equations of motion that oscillate regularly in time) are formed in particle-physics models of the early universe. This study may shed light on the processes that formed the matter we see today. **Tim Huang** (Computer Science) will pursue his project titled Integrating Neural Networks and Stochastic Simulation in Computer Go during his 2009-2010 leave. His goal is to improve a computer program’s ability to evaluate power relationships in playing go, a strategy game, to show how neural networks could improve simulation of complex systems’ evolution over time.
Staff Salary Letters

Employees who are eligible for July 1 pay increases can expect to receive confirmation letters at their home addresses within the next few days. Employees who are not eligible for increases will not receive letters this year. If you expect a letter and do not receive one within the next week, please contact your HR Generalist.

2009 Dates for On-Campus Counseling with TIAA-CREF Consultant

If you are interested in scheduling an on-campus, one-on-one visit with Erik Moreau, consultant with TIAA-CREF, to discuss your retirement plan investments, he has confirmed dates he will be on campus during the second half of 2009.

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<td>Tue. June 23</td>
<td>Thurs. Sept. 3</td>
<td>Thurs. Oct. 29</td>
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<td>Tue. July 7</td>
<td>Tues. Sept. 15</td>
<td>Tues. Nov. 10</td>
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To schedule an appointment online for one of the dates, go to http://go/hr and click on “Benefits,” then the “TIAA-CREF Microsite” link. Click on “Set up a Meeting” in the blue bar on the bottom of the main microsite page, and select “Vermont” in the drop down box. If you do not have easy access to the internet or if you want to call to schedule an appointment for a meeting time, feel free to call Erik’s assistant Melissa, toll free, at 866.904.7801.

“Scene” on Campus

The College ERT (Emergency Response Team) prepares to enter a hazardous environment dressed in level “A” chemical suits. This June 4 drill was part of the team’s monthly training program.

Staff Council election results are in

Meet your new Staff Council Members for 2009-2011!

District A: Naomi Neff, Academic Coordinator, Mathematics and Women’s and Gender Studies.
District B: Catherine Tester, Assistant to the Associate Vice-President for College Advancement.
District E: Valerie Costello, Assistant Graphic Designer, Reprographics
District F: Mary Carr Stanley, Space Manager, Facilities Services.
District Custodial: Gene Tougas, Custodial Supervisor, Facilities Services.

Retuning representatives are:
District C: Derek Doucet, Outdoor Programs Director, Center for Campus Activities and Leadership.
District D: Suzanne Cota, Assistant to the Director of Athletics.
Dining: Patti McCaffrey, Assistant Banquet Chef.
LIS: Mack Roark, Educational Technology Specialist, Advanced Applications.
Member-at-Large: Julie Rheaume, Custodial Supervisor, Registrar’s Office.

A special thank you to the outgoing representatives: Ed Mayer, Christa Clifford, Tiffany Stowe, Kelly Trayah, and Dan Stearns.
Classified ads are free for members of the staff, faculty, student body and alumni of Middlebury College. Ads must be submitted seven days prior to the publication date. Guidelines for ads can be found on the MiddPoints section of the HR Website. Please send ads to Classifieds, MiddPoints, HR, Service Building, or e-mail to middpoints@middlebury.edu (electronic submissions preferred).

Auto


Other

For Sale: Off-white metal daybed frame w/ distinctive scrolled design, 4 round finials, trundle, 2 twin mattresses. Trundle mattress frame stores neatly under daybed frame. Slides out & elevates easily into pop-up posit. to align w/daybed mattress. Transforms from twin size daybed into king size bed, or can be used as two single beds. $400 complete. lschiffe@middlebury.edu or 388.4263 after 5:30 p.m.

For Sale: Various sizes of kids hockey skates and ski boots, call for more information & sizes (mostly for kids 6 and under). 388.1308.

For Sale: A wooden child’s seat that is supposed to be used at a dining room table (to give them more height -- best for age 2 to 5 year olds), $20. 388.1308.

For Sale: Dining room set. Amesbury Chair farm table, 3’ x 5’, and 4 Windsor side chairs. Hardwood w/natural & dark green finish. Very good condition, 6 years old. $200. Please contact eadavis@middlebury.edu or call x5061.

Real Estate


For Sale: House for sale in very desirable Weybridge nbhd. Walking dist. to College & downtown. Three BR and an office or 4th BR, two-and-a-half BA, screened porch & open front porch. New Buderus furnace plus new windows. $419,000. sharris@middlebury.edu.

For Lease w/ Option to Buy: Twin Circles, Middlebury. This 2 BR, 2 BA condo is bright, cheerful & fun! Many wonderful upgrades: granite countertops in kitchen (old kitch. “recycled” to lower level for great laundry area), lovely Otter Creek sunroom on back overlooking lovely pond, beautiful paladium window in LR, spacious study w/ BA on lower level. Condo Assn. will not allow future expansion of living space on basement level, but this unit’s space is “grandfathered.” Comes w/ a garage. Sale price: $218,500. Call 802.388.2324 or e-mail kmurti@middlebury.edu.

For Rent: Lake Dunmore, Salisbury. 2 chalets available. Each chalet has 2 BR, sleeps 6 on water. Walking distance to store, snack bar, laundry mat. No pets/smoking. $750 weekly. Summer rentals Saturday to Saturday until Sept. 1, 2009. Monthly rentals Sept. 1 to June 1. Call Dolly at 989.3693 after 4 p.m. or 352.4378.

Wanted

Wanted: A newer exercise bike or elliptical machine, 388.1308.

Wanted: A washing machine in great shape, 388.1308.

Wanted: Women’s telemark gear, 388.1308.

Wanted: A bench or church pew, good for an entryway/mudroom, 388.1308.

Wanted: A weed wacker, 388.1308.

Wanted: An umbrella for an outdoor table, 388.1308.

Let’s trade toys: Looking to trade one very underused windsurfer for a one-person kayak of roughly comparable value. x5207 or skibum@middlebury.edu.

College Book Store

Stop in and check out our new clothing and merchandise arriving daily.

Parking is plentiful right now!