2009 Feminist of the Year Awards

On May 9, the Chellis House’s annual end-of-the-year picnic, the Chellis Fest, was enlivened by a thunderstorm that turned off all the power and set the alarm system ringing throughout the presentation of the annual Feminist of the Year Awards. Bonnie Rita Hearthstone, the Interim Director of Chellis House this past year while Karin Hanta is away, competed with the alarms to spend a moment honoring each of the 15 nominees and sharing brief excerpts from their nomination letters. The recipients of the awards this year were Kamakshi Murti for faculty, Ximena Mejia for staff, and Rayna Rogowsky for student Feminist of the Year.

Kamakshi Murti (German), who is retiring this year, was nominated by several people for her “long years of wonderful teaching, inspiration, and service to the WAGS program,” her work in town with the women’s shelter, and of particular note, her course “To Veil or Not to Veil,” in reference to Islamic women. This course integrates issues of race, class, gender, migration, and diaspora, and creates an epiphany for a diverse group of students as they confront their own and each other’s stereotypes, beliefs and prejudices about women and women’s roles.

Ximena Mejia, Mental Health Counselor at the Center for Counseling/Human Relations, was nominated particularly for her huge role and tremendous work this past year on the Sexual Assault Oversight Committee. Ximena “has a history of working with and supporting women,” previously with Mexican migrant women in Florida. Her “expertise in the areas of sexual assault, gender and racial identity, and eating disorders” are all important facets of feminism, through which she “encourages students to gain valuable language and insights.” Ximena was one of the “found ing mothers” of Middlebury’s Sexual Assault Oversight Committee from the working group in Spring 2008 through the present, taking on

Italian Lessons for Children

Are you looking for something fun and educational for your child to do this summer? The Italian School will offer Italian Lessons for faculty/staff children ages 8–14. Not only will they learn the Italian language, but they will also learn about Italian culture. Songs and games will also be part of learning Italian. Lessons will be taught by Italian School graduate interns from 9:00–11:00 a.m., Monday–Thursday, July 1–August 7. Space is limited to 20. If you are interested, please contact Kara Gennarelli, Italian School Coordinator, italian-ls@middlebury.edu or x5727.
This May, the Monterey Institute celebrated both our traditional spring commencement and the inauguration of President Sunder Ramaswamy with a series of events that drew hundreds of visitors to the campus.

The two-day series of events kicked off on Friday, May 15 with an inaugural brunch, followed by the inaugural symposium, which featured a keynote address from President Ramaswamy and three faculty- and student-led sessions spotlighting Institute initiatives. Stations outside the main meeting room also highlighted a number of programs and hands-on projects that Institute students continue to participate in as part of their experiential, immersive learning approach.

Saturday, May 16 dawned sunny and warm for the Institute’s spring commencement, celebrating the accomplishments of our 299 spring 2009 graduates. The ceremony also featured the formal inauguration of President Ramaswamy and the awarding of honorary degrees to MIIS grad and U.S. Congressman Sam Farr, as well as keynote speaker and former Egyptian Ambassador to the U.S. Nabil Fahmy. Middlebury President Ron Liebowitz and MIIS Board Chair William H. Kieffer also offered comments on the significance of the day and the future of the Monterey Institute under the leadership of our thirteenth president.

~ Jason Warburg, Executive Director, Communications, Monterey Institute of International Studies

50th Anniversary of the C.V. Starr-Middlebury Schools Abroad in Germany

On May 11, 2009 the C.V. Starr-Middlebury Schools Abroad in Germany and the Johannes Gutenberg University celebrated the 50th anniversary of the School Abroad in Mainz. An afternoon event included words from faculty and students about their extremely positive experiences with the Schools Abroad in Germany, and addresses from both Middlebury College president Ron Liebowitz and Prof. Dr. Georg Krausch, president of the Johannes Gutenberg University, that highlighted the vibrant relationship between the two institutions.

Heike Fahrenberg, Middlebury’s director of the Schools Abroad in Germany, organized an evening dinner at the Hyatt in Mainz. After greetings from the two presidents, faculty and alumni gave heart-felt and touching toasts during the dinner celebration attended by more than 140 people.

~ BonnieRita Hearthstone, Interim Director, Chellis House

Feminist of Year, ctd from p.1

Rayna Rogowsky ’09 was nominated for her “sustained commitment to improving the status of women.” For all her time at Middlebury, Rayna has “embodied the principles” and has linked “direct volunteer service to larger societal issues” as an “advocate for social justice.” Rayna has been a WomenSafe volunteer and intern, attending statewide advocacy trainings, and as the Social Justice chair worked “to combat rural poverty and domestic violence.” Rayna was such an “extremely active leader and organizer,” she was chosen to be one of only five students on the College’s Task Force on the Status of Women. For her research project while abroad in Croatia last year, she examined and chronicled the fate of Bosnian women after the Balkan wars. Rayna’s “passion for gender issues . . . extended into her academic studies.” In her final project Rayna “studied feminist disability theory,” and for her senior thesis she “researched the [historical] development of domestic violence services in Vermont.” Rayna “has dedicated her energy . . . to the advancement of women’s rights and the struggle to eliminate domestic abuse and sexual violence.”

~ BonnieRita Hearthstone, Interim Director, Chellis House
Are you interested in befriending a Class of 2013 international student? International Student and Scholar Services will be hosting a series of informational meetings on the Friends of International Students (FIS) Host Program in the coming weeks. The FIS Host Program is a friendship program that offers faculty, staff, alumni, and community members a chance to welcome and assist an international student with his or her adjustment to life at a residential college in the U.S. The time commitment can vary depending on what you and your student are interested in making of the program.

If you are interested in exploring another culture, we encourage you to join us for a meeting to learn more. Afghanistan, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Nepal, and New Zealand are some of the countries that will be represented on campus with the Class of 2013.

The meetings will be held on the following Wednesdays from 12:15–1:00 p.m. in the McCullough Social Space:

- June 10
- July 8
- July 22

If you are interested in the program but are unable to attend one of our scheduled meetings, please contact our office to schedule an appointment, ext. 5858.

Space is limited in order to keep the meeting to 45 minutes. To register, please contact ISSS at ext. 5858 or isss@middlebury.edu. Feel free to bring your lunch.
Classifieds

Other
For Sale: Two-person kayak. Perception model Sundance II. Color red, model year 2003, polyethylene hull. Length 15’, width 29”, weight 69 lbs. Includes two paddles. Converts to one-person. All in very good condition. $400 obo. Also, a PFD Extrasport Vapor XL, lightly used for $25. Contact fischel@middlebury.edu, x5033, or 453.4108.

For Sale: Woman’s road bike -- Cannondale R300, 48 cm, Shimano components, Mavic rims. Lightly used, excellent condition. Asking $350. Contact Lynn at ldunton@middlebury.edu or 787.7673.

For Rent: Coastal cottage in Maine. Classic simple cottage in mid-coast Maine, perfect for family. 3BR, 1 BA, large LR, sun room & ping pong table! Outdoor firepit, picnic table. Avail. June, some July and late August. $500/week. Call Blair x5483.

For Rent: Charming village cottage, virtually on campus, to share for summer. Looking for female non-smoking roommate for June, July, & August. $550/mo. for large BR, shared full BA, in fully furnished home: wifi, complete kitchen, screened in porch, washer & dryer. Please write jhart@middlebury.edu or call Jessica 802.989.8970 for more information.

For Rent: 2-3 BR, 2 BA condo in Middlebury. Large balconies, beautiful views, private, but only 1 mi. to College or downtown, cathedral ceiling in the kitchen. Includes snow/lawn services, all appliances. $1,200 plus utilities. Available August 1. Tania 802.989.2483 or 453.4108.

For Rent: For the 2009-10 academic year (mid August through mid June), dates negotiable. Comfortable, furnished 4 BR, 3 BA home, renovated kitchen & family room. In town. 5 min. walk to town & 15 min. walk to College. No smoking or pets. $1,500 + utilities & heat. Photos avail. E-mail dry@middlebury.edu.

For Sale: Custom-designed house in Castleton (35 min. S on Rte. 30). 2 BR, one ensuite w/ large office, 1.5 BA, walk-in pantry, 2-car att. garage w/mud/storage/wood rooms. Large bay windows both 1st/2nd floors; dry walkout bsmt.; screened porch; 2nd-fl. laundry. Radiant floor heat + wood stove; all-propane heat/water/dryer. Refriger, stove, washer/dryer, wood stove, built-in sofa included. 2.47 acres in protected 242 acres of woodland, on bluff overlooking creek 1/2 mi. from bridge, N end of Lake Bomoseen. $315,000. Contact adolber@middlebury.edu.

Wanted
Wanted: Writer/professor seeks part-time assistant w/ versatile skills, including computer literacy, managing & organizing files, making travel & speaking arrangements. Self-starter with very flexible hours. Please submit resume & cover letter as attachment to ja@middlebury.edu.

Real Estate
Lake Dunmore Rental: Cottage located on the water with 4 BR (1722 Lake Dunmore Rd.); $950/week; max. occupancy of 7 people; no pets; no indoor smoking. Saturday-to-Saturday rental. Avail. weeks beginning 6/6; 6/27; 7/4; 7/25; 8/15; 8/22; 8/29. Call Liane at x5659; John at 388.6371 or 388.7421.

For Rent: Cottage located on the water with 4 BR, 3BA, large LR, sun room & porch table! Outdoor firepit, picnic table. Avail. June, some July and late August. $500/week. Call Blair x5483.

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Middlebury History

25 years ago ● Golf pro Dud Phinney held a free clinic for the alumni and alumnae golfers who returned for reunion weekend. Wayne Broughton (Food Service), Betty Dudley (Business Manager’s Office), David Prouty (Psychology), and Alice Sumner (Library) were inducted into the 25-Year Club.

10 years ago ● Peter Ryan and Pat Manley (Geology) received a grant from the National Science Foundation to acquire a particle-size analyzer for the department. Fred Neuberger, dean of admissions emeritus, shot a hole-in-one on the 14th hole at the Ralph Myhre Golf Course. Dining Services won the Ivy Award given by Restaurant and Institution Magazine for offering the best college food in the country.

5 years ago ● Staff Recognition Awards were presented to JoAnn Brewer (Learning Resources), Rick James (LIS), Rita Pelkey (Dining), and Harold Strassner (Facilities Management). The Admissions Office announced that the Class of 2008 will include students from 70 countries and all 50 states. Facilities Management began operating two riding lawn mowers powered by a biodiesel fuel mix of used vegetable oil and alcohol.

This month in Middlebury History

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