Minding Waste: Middlebury College Recycling and Waste Management

If terms like “bale integrity” and “resin identification codes” don’t mean anything to you, then chances are you’ve never visited the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) just west of campus on Route 125. These terms that have everything to do with efficient recycling at the College mean a whole lot to Missy Beckwith, Supervisor for General Services and Waste Management. Resin identification codes, Missy explains, are the little numbers inside a triangle of arrows on the bottom of plastic containers that tell you what the material is made of. Since different numbered plastics are made of different materials, when they are recycled they come back as different products; for this reason, it is important to keep them separate so each can be combined into bales, a marketable commodity.

The second floor of the MRF has netted sections where plastics of different numbers are stored until enough of any given number is recovered to make a marketable bale (at least 600 lbs.). Once there is enough product (there is also a tin storage section), the containers are fed through a chute into one of the three balers on the first floor. Baled and tied, three bales are stacked on a pallet, weighed, and moved to the trailer to await transport. The truck stays put until it’s full, containing approximately 40,000 pounds of material our crew has diverted from the landfill and turned into a commodity we can sell. This is where “bale integrity” comes in. If the mill purchasing the bales finds that there is plastic within a bale of paper or a bale of #1 plastic is contaminated by plastic of another number or with food, mills become skeptical of Middlebury’s bales and will be reluctant to buy from us.

The facility’s five full-time staff and part-time student employees work hard to keep bale integrity high and to make (Article continues on page 2)

Midd Blurbs

Message from Public Safety

In order to increase efficiencies and reduce paper waste, the Department of Public Safety is encouraging the use of the online ticket appeal form whenever a parking violation appeal is filed. This form can be found on the Public Safety parking page at www.middlebury.edu/administration/publicsafety/parking/. The parking appeal form and other information relating to parking can also be found on the College Web page by using http://go/parking.

~ Department of Public Safety

Money-saving ideas

Staff Council’s “Your Financial Welfare Fair” on Wednesday, April 8, will offer dozens of ways to conserve money in these recessionary times. There will be about 25 booths and displays covering everything from home energy efficiency and how to “reduce, recycle, and reuse” to tax advice and flexible-spending options. Sponsored by Staff Council in the McCullough Social Space from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Comfort foods like oatmeal and vegetarian chili will be served. Everything is free. Please stop by!

Staff Recognition Awards Nominations Open

The Office of the Executive Vice President announces that nominations for the 2009 Staff Recognition Awards are now open. For those of you reading MiddPoints online, make sure to scroll past the classifieds to find the nomination form that is inserted in the paper copy.
(Recycling: Ctd. from page 1)

The first floor of the Material Recovery Facility has four sorting stations, one each for containers, paper, cardboard, and overflow. Staff make sure bags coming off the recycling truck get to their proper places. They check for contamination and sort through containers and paper, separating them by category (9 different categories for containers, one for paper, and one for cardboard). Glass is pulverized into a fine powder, gathered in a pile outside the southern end of the building and stored out at the composting area on South Street Ext. This sand can be used for anything natural aggregate would be used for; Facilities Services is hoping for anything natural aggregate would be used for; Facilities Services is hoping to save enough of it to use in a project on campus. Corrugated cardboard goes right into the baler, paper is piled, and the “real” trash goes out the door. Work in the facility is physically demanding – staff is constantly moving, lifting, and sorting inside, or driving around campus jumping in and out of the truck, hoisting bags from the many collection sites.

Changes to the recycling truck’s schedule of collection at the majority of buildings (dining halls excluded) to three days a week instead of five has reduced by 10 hours a week the amount of time the truck is on the road, saving on gas and wear. That’s one of the ways the team is trying to reduce costs. Check out the boxes on this page and page three to see how you can help contribute to the efficiency of our great recycling and waste management program.

Ways we staff & faculty can help the program run at its most efficient:

• Sort! When you take your recycling bin to the station in your building (recycling is your responsibility, not the custodians’), divide it up between the container & paper bins. “Dining does a great job of sorting overall,” Melissa reports, adding, “The custodians are a big help – in all buildings they bag up the trash and recycling and put it outside.” This makes it easier for the MRF staff to grab on their rounds.

• Take caps off your bottles and tops off containers. “Imagine 3,000 people each with a beverage bottle, and each removing the cap before recycling the bottle. Now imagine five staff at the recycling facility having to remove all 3,000 caps. That’s a lot of repetitive motion, and it takes a lot of time,” says Missy.

• Break down cardboard boxes. Boxes that aren’t broken down take up more room on the truck. Remove packaging peanuts & plastic packaging from boxes before recycling them.

• Food in the recycling bins: make sure things like orange & banana peels, tea bags, candy wrappers, and paper towels end up in the trash, not recycling (think bale integrity!). Empty your recycling bin sooner rather than put that plastic container from the Grille into your trash because there’s no room left in your recycling bin.

• Give your containers a rinse before recycling. (Editor’s note: The courtesy of rinsing will be quite apparent to anyone who visits the recycling facility.)

• Check out the “Recyclable Materials” list at http://go/recycle to see what things (even computer discs and cds) can be recycled and how to go about it.

• Before ordering office supplies, check out www.middbay.com. This SGA site links up things College folks have with other College folks who need them. Passing unwanted office supplies directly from office to office saves the manpower time to collect it and saves you a trip to the reuse trailer.

“Waste going to the landfill hit a ten year low in 2008.”

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~ Liz Hammel
Help is a two-way street, and Missy wants to make sure everyone knows about some of the things Recycling and Waste Management can offer staff & faculty:

- **Confidential document shredding:** The recycling staff will collect boxes of materials marked for shredding from your office. Simply fill out a service request form online at [http://blogs.middlebury.edu/facilities/online-forms/service-request/](http://blogs.middlebury.edu/facilities/online-forms/service-request/). Please give advanced notice for large jobs.

- **Office moves:** If your office or department is moving and you’re cleaning out, call John at x3087 or e-mail jgosseli@middlebury.edu for extra waste totes (they’re on wheels and can be moved more easily) and boxes.

- **Reuse trailer:** Gently used items are diverted to a reuse trailer that is accessible to the College community from 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m., Monday–Friday. Books, plates & kitchen gadgets, office supplies, clothing, and occasionally larger pieces of furniture, lamps and rugs are available for a small charge. If you’re moving or need to package up something fragile, come down and get boxes and packing “peanuts.”

- **Faculty:** Send your seniors down to the reuse trailer for free thesis binders.

- **Faculty:** Missy Beckwith loves to lead tours of the facility. Bring your class down for a tour – there are lots of academic links (social, economic, psychological!). Students have fun getting the whole class on the scale at once! Contact Missy to schedule a tour at beckwith@middlebury.edu or x5267.

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**Back by popular demand! Here’s another chance to win a OneMidd coffee mug**

Answer the following three questions correctly and you can win a sturdy, 15-oz., blue-and-white coffee mug. Send your response to middpoints@middlebury.edu. All entries received by 4 p.m. on Monday, March 16 will be considered. One entry per person please. If more than five people answer correctly, winners will be selected at random.

1. From 1931 to 1950, the German Summer School was located in what city or town? a) Barre, b) Bristol, c) Albany, or d) Hanover.

2. In the 1970s, what development occurred in the Schools Abroad? a) the Language Pledge was instituted, b) disco dancing was banned, c) the schools began accepting undergraduates, or d) internships were required.

3. The student newspaper at the Monterey Institute of International Studies is called a) *The Foghorn*, b) *The Institute News*, c) *Cannery Row*, or d) *The Portal*.

There will be more win-a-mug opportunities in future issues of MiddPoints.

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**LIS WORKSHOPS — MARCH/APRIL 2009**

To sign up for workshops of interest please send an e-mail request to: helpdesk@middlebury.edu.

**Essentials – Core Software**

- Tue, Mar 17, Excel Crash Course, 3:30–5:00 p.m.
- Tue, Mar 24, Office 2007 Preview, 9:30–10:30 a.m.
- Thu, Mar 26, Discovering Online Education at Middlebury, 4:00–4:30 p.m.

**Multimedia and Social Software**

- Tues, Apr 7, Create a Simple Map for Your Presentation, 4:30–6:00 p.m.

Course descriptions are available on the web – simply type [http://go/lis?events](http://go/lis?events) or [http://go/techworkshops](http://go/techworkshops) in your web browser’s address field.

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**where on CAMPUS?**

A dozen readers knew that the patriot, Mr. William Douglas, rests peacefully just off the TAM trail, next to the 11th tee on the Ralph Myhre Golf Course. The headstone reads, “Mr. William Douglas, born June 22 1735 was killed in[f]tantly by the fall of a tree Dec 19, 1783.” The irony of Mr. Douglas’s surviving action in the Revolutionary War only to be killed by a falling tree was not lost on many of the people who responded.
**Faculty Grants**

**William Poulin-Deltour** (French) has received funding from the Spencer Foundation to support research during his 2009-2010 academic leave which he will spend in France carrying out ethnographic research for a project titled, "A ‘Double Bind’: Diversifying France’s Grandes écoles." He will examine recent French efforts to foster socio-economic diversity in educational institutions traditionally reserved for a small and homogeneous elite. While the focus of this project is France, he hopes that his work can provide a backdrop to shed light on the taken-for-granted assumptions shared by various actors in other national contexts, particularly the United States, who shape public policies that aim to diversify and democratize higher education.

**Michael Katz** (Russian) has been selected for a grant from the Fulbright Scholar Program to teach literature courses in Brazil during Spring 2010 at the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina in Florianopolis, which is one of the sites for Middlebury’s School in Latin America. He will offer a graduate seminar (in English) in the Program in English Literature, "The Realist Novel in the Old World and the New,” and he has also been invited to conduct a translation workshop for faculty members of English and other languages.

**Robert Schine** (Religion and Classics) has been selected to participate in the Schusterman Center’s Summer Institute for Israel Studies at Brandeis University this coming summer. This is an all expenses-paid, three-week long intensive interdisciplinary workshop; the first half of the workshop is on the Brandeis campus while the second half is held in Israel. As part of the workshop, he will be developing a new syllabus for his seminar on Zionist ideology.

**Jeffrey Byers** (Chemistry & Biochemistry) has received a fifth NSF-RUI grant from the National Science Foundation’s Research in Undergraduate Institutions activity. In this project, titled “Radical Reactions of Transition Metal-Arene Complexes,” Jeff and his students will be modifying the behavior of a wide variety of hydrocarbons by binding them to transition metals to see if they might be developed into more synthetically useful building blocks for more structurally complex substances. Recent discoveries in his lab indicate that this approach might be useful for a variety of applications ranging from conducting polymers to pharmaceutically relevant substances.

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**NEW! OHIC Sponsors Meditation Class**

The Optimal Health Initiative Committee introduces a new stress-relief technique! Come sit for half an hour on Wednesdays and learn breathing and imagery techniques to calm and heal body and mind. Guided meditation geared for beginners, but great for experienced meditators too.

**NEW! OHIC Sponsors Meditation Class**

March 18, March 25, April 1
12:10 – 12:40
Mitchell Greene Lounge

Meditation is led by Chessy Kelley. Chessy has 20 years of experience studying and practicing Tibetan Buddhism (however, this meditation class is nondenominational). Chessy has led meditation classes in India, Land of Medicine Buddha in California, and at Rutland Mental Health, Vermont Sport and Fitness Club, and currently at Living Well Care Home in Bristol.

Contact Alexa Euler at aeuler@middlebury.edu for questions.

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**Middlebury History**

**25 years ago** Coach Mickey Heineken and his wife Carol ice skate to “Stepping Out at the Ritz” at the Winter Carnival Ice Show. The College is in negotiations with Digital Equipment Corp. to purchase Rainbow 100 personal computers for faculty and staff. Trustees approve a plan to initiate snowmaking at the Snow Bowl.

**10 years ago** Three bakers in Dining Services – Pat Broughton, Keith Payne, and Bob Stowe – have 108 years of combined baking experience. *Abroad View*, the student-run travel and culture magazine, publishes its second issue. The women’s hockey team holds onto its number one ranking nationally with victories over Augsburg and Gustavus Adolphus.

**5 years ago** Students collect about 2,500 signatures at the Web site “www.savejterm.com.” The faculty votes 97-70 to preserve Middlebury’s Winter Term. Christian A. Johnson Memorial Art Building Week includes guided tours led by the building’s architect, Jean-Paul Carthian of France.
Do you still have money left in your FSA account? If so, time is running out! Only 2 days left to submit claims!

2008 Flexible Spending Account Participants have until March 15, 2009 to submit claims for services provided in the calendar year 2008. All claims should be sent to CBA Blue via:

- Fax at 888.291.0920
- Mail to: CBA Blue, PO Box 2365, S. Burlington, VT 05407-2365

Claim forms can be found in the HR office or on the HR Website by clicking on Benefits, scrolling down to Forms, and then clicking on Flexible Spending Account Claim Form.

Per IRS Regulations, all remaining balances after March 15th will be forfeited. Don't let this happen to you!

Please call HR at 443.5465 for Flexible Spending Account questions.

The Economic Stimulus Plan and Your Paycheck

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the IRS has implemented the Making Work Pay income tax credit. The provision of this new act will provide a refundable tax credit of up to $400 for individuals and $800 for married taxpayers filing joint returns.

This credit will be calculated using new withholding tables that will take effect beginning with the last paycheck in March (check date 3/27/09), and will continue until the end of the year. This change may result in an increase in take-home pay. Please note, IRS guidelines state "higher-income taxpayers will see little or no change in their take-home pay as the tax credit will phase out for individual taxpayers with an adjusted gross income between $75,000 and $95,000, or between $150,000 and $190,000 for married couples filing jointly."

Employees do not need to fill out a new W-4. The new withholding tables have been developed to apply for withholding for all employees. Withholdings will be calculated based on the current W-4 on file in Human Resources. Please see the IRS “Notice to Employees” at right for additional information.

- If you have questions about your tax withholdings, please consult your tax accountant or refer to IRS Publication 919, How Do I Adjust My Tax Withholding? at the following link: www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p919.pdf.
- If you have questions or need further information on the Making Work Pay income tax credit or the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), please refer to the following website: www.recovery.gov/.

~ Payroll Office

Commencement Speaker Announced

Late last month it was announced that Gary Hirshberg, “chairman, president and CE-Yo, as he likes to be called,” of Stoneyfield Farm will deliver the commencement address at the College’s May 24 graduation ceremony. To read about Mr. Hirshberg, see the press release at www.middlebury.edu/about/pubaff/news_releases/2009/pubaff_633712533955910243.htm.

Notice to Employees

Changes in Income Tax Withholding

New withholding tables may reduce the amount of income tax withheld from your wages.

The new tables, prescribed by the Department of the Treasury, reflect the Making Work Pay credit and other changes resulting from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

You do not have to submit a Form W-4, Employee’s Withholding Allowance Certificate, to get the automatic withholding change. If you do not want to have your withholding reduced (because, for example, you have more than one job or you are married and your combined income places you in a higher tax bracket), you may want to file a new Form W-4 with your employer. You may claim fewer withholding allowances on line 5 or request additional amounts to be withheld on line 6.

For additional help, get IRS Publication 919, How do I Adjust my Tax Withholding? or visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov and use the “Withholding Calculator.”
Ad

For Sale: 1997 Volvo 850 sedan, dark green. 120K miles. Two owners, the last one since 1999 & a non-smoker (maintenance records available). Automatic trans. Includes both winter & summer tires. Asking $3,000. Contact Annie: adolber@middlebury.edu or 989.5190.

Other

For Sale: Twin Captain’s bed, extra long, solid wood, natural finish. A lot of storage, four large drawers, one small drawer and a cubby, under-mattress storage space also. Two twin mattresses included. $300 OBO. Photo available. E-mail Diane at dburnham@middlebury.edu or x3320.

Huge Multi-Family Rummage Sale:
Lots of infant/toddler/children clothes of all sizes, adult clothes, books, games, toys, household items, office desk, changing table, and more. One day only, rain or shine, Saturday March 28, 9:00–5:00 at Aurora School, 238 Peterson Heights, Middlebury. Questions: tdegray@middlebury.edu.


Real Estate

For Sale: 3 BR town house, Twin Circles, Middlebury. 2 and ¾ BA, 1 powder-room, sun-room. 1 car garage. Basement ¾ finished. New: black granite counter-top, stainless-steel sink, refrigerator w/ ice-maker, dish-washer, track-lighting, tiled backsplash in kitchen; spacious window between Otter Creek room and living room. Contact 802.388.2324.

Other

For Sale: Two bamboo chairs. Dark brown finish w/ back and seat cushions. Pier 1 Imports. Like new condition. $119 for the pair. Call x5093.

For Sale: Texas Instruments calculators. One TI-36X Solar Scientific Calculator (for algebra, geometry, trig, calc, bio, etc.), $10 ($25 new). Two TI-30XIIS Scientific Calculators (for general math, algebra, geometry, etc.), $9 each ($18 new). All in excellent condition. Children have moved on to the humanities. x5044.

For Sale: Casio CT 625 electronic keyboard with 210 Sound Tone Bank, 61 keys, padded carrying case. In excellent condition. Large array of pulse modulations, rhythms and tone bank. $60. x5044.

For Sale: Charming 3 BR cape on 1 acre lot in “The Woodlands,” a desirable Middlebury nbrhd. 10 min. from campus. Approx. 1,500 sq. ft.; recently built, well-insulated, fuel efficient. White birch hardwood floors, woodstove, skylights; nice natural views. Asking $250,000. Call Will at x5337 or x2331.

Wanted

Wanted: A clothes washer that is in good shape. 388.1308

Wanted: Windows 2000 Repair/Install disc or Install disc wanted (to buy or borrow) to revive older Dell Notebook computer. x5044.

Wanted: Spring cleaning? Save the clothing your children have outgrown for a Kids’ Clothing Swap! As part of Staff Council’s upcoming Financial Wel-Fair, we will accept donations of children’s clothing size 0-3 month–14. Bring donations to the White Metal Building (located behind the Service Building) on April 2 from 3:15–4:00 p.m. Then, be sure to come to the swap to re-stock your child’s closet with the next size up! All are welcome; even if you do not donate clothing we hope you will come to get some for your children. Financial Wel-Fair and Kid’s Clothing Swap: April 8, 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., McCullough Social Space. Questions or offers to help: clgrant@middlebury.edu or tjstowe@middlebury.edu.
Middlebury College
Staff Recognition Award Nomination
Recognizing outstanding members of the College staff through the generosity of
Rudolf K. Haele, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Sociology.

Nominations for the 2009 Staff Recognition Awards are invited. These awards have been endowed through the generosity of Rudolf K. Haele, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Sociology, who wished through his gift to recognize the importance of staff to the Middlebury College community. Professor Haele hoped especially to recognize dedicated employees from the dining and facilities areas of the College with these awards.

Four awards are presented each year – one to a staff member in Dining Services, one to a staff member in Facilities Services, and two to staff members in all other areas of the College. Each winner will receive a cash prize of $200, and their names will be engraved on a plaque that hangs in the Grille.

Nominations for these awards may be submitted on the enclosed form or in response to the electronic version of the form, previously circulated to all faculty and all staff via email. The deadline for nominations is Friday, April 3, 2009.

The winners will be chosen by a selection committee consisting of the recipients of the 2008 awards: Renee Brown (Department Coordinator, American Studies and Literary Studies and CAOS, Academic Affairs); Phil Cyr (Delivery Worker, Facilities Services); Priscilla Latreille (DIS Steward, Dining Services); and Donna M. Paquette (Custodial Team Leader, Facilities Services).

Please complete nomination form on other side.
Fold form in half, staple and send via campus mail to:

Bob Huth, Executive Vice President
Old Chapel 104

Staff Recognition Award Nomination
Deadline: Friday, April 3, 2009
Staff Recognition Award Nomination

Recognizing outstanding members of the college staff through the generosity of Rudolf K. Haerle, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Sociology

- **Leadership** – initiative, innovation, spirit, offering encouragement and setting an admirable example for others to follow; leadership not necessarily part of a job description, but rather an inherent quality of a co-worker, someone from whom we learn

- **Stewardship** – demonstrates concern for the comfort and beauty of the environment that the College Community shares; stewardship of our resources suggests a person who considers his or her actions and weighs the impact on the greater community

- **Attitude** – good will, patience, tolerance, abiding concern for others, a voice of reason; attitudes of our co-workers can set the tone for a civil and more enjoyable community

- **Community Service** – volunteer service can make a tangible difference within our College Community and in our surrounding area; the College relies heavily on volunteers to fill committees; volunteers are vital to our local fire departments, rescue squads, humane societies, schools, and myriad other organizations

I would like to nominate: ____________________________ of (department): ____________________________

Because he/she has notably demonstrated any or all of the above qualities by:

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(You may add extra pages.)

Submitted by: ____________________________

Nominees must have been employed by the College for a minimum of three years as of May 1st in the year for which they are nominated for the award. Middlebury College faculty are not eligible for these awards. Family members may not nominate family members for awards (partners, spouses, children, siblings, parents). Award recipients are ineligible for four years after they have received an award. Nominations for the 2009 awards should be submitted on this form by e-mail (or send by campus mail) to the Executive Vice President mailbox at ooftevp@middlebury.edu by Friday, April 3, 2009.