College Dining Pros Prepare for Local Chili Challenge

Five culinarians from various locations across campus will represent the College in the Better Middlebury Partnership’s (BMP) chili contest next weekend. Pat Peters, 2nd Cook in Atwater, will present all five creations at a table downtown on February 21, in one of many events making up BMP’s first annual winter carnival. Our five cooks will not compete against one another. Instead, they’ll try to best the other entrants in the category each enters based on type of chili: Justin Harrington (Ross), beef; Bill Perta (Grille), chicken; Ian Martin (Atwater), pork; Jason Ballou (FIC), game. Pat will enter her vegetable chili.

“I enjoy competitive cooking, so when I saw that there would be a contest, I asked Matt [Biette, Director of Dining Services] if the College was going to participate,” Pat answers when asked how she got involved. Matt put the ball in Pat’s court, and she asked around to see who of her colleagues would be interested, and the team was formed. Pat has a little bit of experience in cooking contests – when she worked for Foxwoods, the various restaurants in the casino would compete against each other to see which could create the best meal or best version of the same dish.

Pat will use a personal recipe for her vegetarian chili, not one she cooks at work, and she thinks the other cooks are using their own favorite recipes too. A butternut squash, chili peppers, and dark chocolate soup will be the base for her chili, and Pat will add beans and vegetables from there. “Squash and pumpkin give a veggie chili a good body, which is important when you don’t have any beef,” Pat says.

Jason Ballou will enter his moose chili in the game category. Jason Ballou will enter his moose chili in the game category.
Middlebury College will celebrate the official launch of its new biomass gasification plant with a reception, tours, and lecture by Middlebury Scholar in Residence Bill McKibben on Thursday, February 19, at McCullough Student Center.

The events begin with light refreshments from 4:30–5 p.m., followed by remarks from President Liebowitz and McKibben’s talk titled “What Gives a College Power: On Being a Learning, Teaching Community at a Moment of Change.” The evening will conclude with comments from Middlebury senior Billie Jayne Borden, who will introduce a video slideshow “tour” of the new facility, to be followed by walk-through tours. All events are free and open to the public.

The $12 million plant is the College’s most significant milestone toward its goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2016. The biomass boiler is expected to cut the College’s use of #6 heating oil in half – from 2 million gallons to one million gallons annually – and reduce our carbon dioxide emissions by 40%, or 12,500 metric tons. The gasification system converts regionally grown wood chips into gas, which then burns to provide steam for heating, cooling, hot water and cooking throughout the campus. The plant also helps cogenerate 20% of the campus’s electricity.

~ Stephen Diehl


Biomass Plant Fact Sheet

- New plant will replace 1 million gallons of #6 heating oil
- Will reduce carbon emissions by an estimated 12,500 metric tons
- Helps co-generate 20% of College’s electricity on campus
- Plant cost: approx. $12 million

- Expected pay back period: Less than half of the plant’s life expectancy (25 years)
- Fuel is wood chips, which are super-heated in an oxygen deprived environment, converted to gas, which is ignited to make steam
- Steam from power plant is sent throughout campus for heating, cooling, cooking, and hot water
- Estimated annual fuel consumption of biomass plant: 21,000 tons of wood chips
- Chips are sourced from area producers within 75 miles of campus by Cousineau Forest Products
- Ash is sent to a local fertilizer company
- College is currently experimenting with fast-growing willow shrubs as a possible means to provide a local, sustainable source of chips
- Students played a significant role in research and planning of the project

Click www.middlebury.edu/about/pubaff/news_releases/2006/news632951384540792349.htm#FAQs for a list of frequently asked questions.
Chili Contest, ctd. from page 1

meat in there,” she says. Pat wants her chili to be different from the others there, so she will stay away from a tomato base.

Jason Ballou, 2nd Cook in FIC, is using something unique as the game for his chili—moose. He was going to make a venison chili but decided to try using moose because it just became available to him. “I’ve been doing a lot of research. I melded a whole bunch of recipes – I picked them apart and took what I like from each and put it back together,” Jason says.

What’s the key to a good chili? In Pat’s opinion, a mix of different chili peppers makes a more well rounded heat than using a single ingredient. “It’s o.k. to break out in a little bit of a sweat around the forehead, but it’s not o.k. for the food to make your nose run… I want my chili to be hot enough to remember, but not be a painful experience for the person eating it,” Pat says with a laugh. “It’s a good sign if people want seconds.”

“I want my chili to be hot enough to remember, but not be a painful experience for the person eating it.” ~ Pat Peters

The contest has a “Best Presentation” prize, and Pat will use Midd colors on the table, cast iron pots, and perhaps include some cornbread muffins or cheddar biscuits to accompany the five entries from the College. She’s still thinking about the presentation part, but her priority is the chili.

Stop by and say hello to Pat if you’re downtown on Saturday, February 21, and try some of the chili your colleagues have cooked up. The contest will take place from 3-5 p.m. on the sidewalks of Main St. and Merchant’s Row, as well as in the park.

~ Liz Hammel

Employee Ski & Ride Day, Saturday, Feb. 28

Join fellow staff, faculty, and their families at the Snow Bowl or Rikert Ski Touring Center for a fun day of skiing and snowboarding on Saturday, February 28.

At the Snow Bowl
• Lift tickets for the day (for employees presenting their College ID and their immediate family members) will cost $15 each.
• Rentals of skis or snowboards will cost $10, and they will be available starting at 8:30 a.m. Cost to swap equipment will also be $10.
• Ski or ride lessons: Lessons will cost the following per person depending on group size: 1 person@$42; 2 people @$21 each; 3 people @$14 each; 4 people @ $10.50 each, etc. with a max of 6 in a group. People taking a group lesson must be of compatible abilities. Lessons will be offered at 9:30 a.m. only, and you must register in advance for lessons by calling the Ski School desk at 388.4356.
• Telemark lessons and gear are available from the Free Heelers club on campus. Contact them directly at heelers@middlebury.edu.

At Rikert
• Trail passes (for employees presenting their College ID and their immediate family members) will cost $5 each. Rikert is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
• Rentals, $5.30.
• Lessons, $20; at 9:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m.; call x2744.

Questions
Contact Beth Miller, HR, at x5465 or bqmiller@middlebury.edu.

Sponsored by the Snow Bowl, Rikert Ski Touring Center, and Human Resources.

Hot chocolate and make your own s’mores ongoing during the afternoon at the Snow Bowl

Staff Book Group Update:

We are pleased to report that the Staff Book Program has just concluded its fourth year. The program continues to attract a variety of staff members from across campus. We have enjoyed supporting this program and the opportunity it provides for staff to participate in the intellectual life of the College.

The economic downturn has forced us to review all expenses at the College. In collaboration with the Staff Book Group Committee, we have come up with a plan to keep the program going. Staff book groups will now meet twice a year rather than four times a year. A variety of books will continue to be offered in each round, and the program will continue to be underwritten by the President’s Office.

Please look for the next Staff Book Group flyer in the February 27, 2009, edition of MiddPoints!

~ Ron and Jessica Liebowitz
Pilates Classes with Nina Vila

For College ID card holders only: Pilates classes taught by Nina Vila of the Vermont Center for Classical Pilates. Pilates exercises focus on the deep core/torso muscles, with careful attention to breath and alignment of the spine, for a total-body workout. Great for strength, flexibility, and conditioning. Newcomers welcome!

Tuesdays and Thursdays
Starting February 17, 10 weeks total
12:30–1:20 p.m.
Mahaney Center for the Arts
Dance Studio (room 109)

Price: once/week $60 (can come on either day); twice/week $120

Registration: Register starting February 9 online at go/tickets (from off-campus: www.middlebury.edu/arts/tickets), or at either Box Office (McCullough or Mahaney CFA locations). Registration closes February 27.

Questions? Nina, 388.7400, ninavccp@gmail.com; or Liza, x3169 or liza@middlebury.edu.

Middlebury History

25 years ago • Trustees approved a plan to build a residence hall for 120-150 students between the Chateau and the Social Dining Units. President Olin Robison and Sir Fitzroy MacLean, a former member of British Parliament, delivered lectures on relations with the USSR. Ron McEachen, coach of the NESCAC-champion men’s soccer team, was named D-3 coach of the year for New England.

10 years ago • Over winter break Facilities Management and Telephone Services installed eight outdoor emergency phones on campus. Student Jill Santopietro, in cooperation with Dining Services, started a student-run restaurant called “Dolci” in the Chateau. Alicia Andreu (Spanish) and William Nash (American Literature) were awarded research fellowships by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

5 years ago • Kirsten Hoving (History of Art and Architecture) delivered her inaugural lecture for the Charles A. Dana Professorship on “Photography’s Burden of Truth.” Naturalists Barry ’74 and Warren King of Ripton received Spirit in Nature’s Eco-Spirit Award.

College Departments Host Students on Job Shadow Day

On Monday, February 2, eight Northlands Job Corps Center students shadowed College employees as part of National Job Shadow Day. Job Shadowing is designed to give students an opportunity to “shadow” an adult during his or her daily work activities. Hopefully, the day inspired the students to be enthusiastic about their studies by showing them the correlation between what they learn at Northlands and how it is used in the workplace. Beth Miller (Human Resources) matched up students according to their interests. Norm Cushman (Facilities Services) coordinated shadow opportunities for five students, one each in carpentry, electrical, plumbing, painting, and HVAC. Ron Dragon (Dining Services) hosted two culinary arts students in Ross Dining Hall. Franciska Drexel (Film and Media Culture) and JoAnn Brewer (Center for Teaching/Learning/Research) hosted a student interested in business technologies. We really appreciate the efforts everyone made to give these students an inside look at their jobs. The students had a great time and are more enthusiastic than ever about their chosen fields.
Summertime Job Extensions

Job Extension forms for the summer are due March 6. As you may know, all summer student jobs must end by Language School Commencement, which is August 14 this year. Occasionally students are needed to work after this date. As in the past, this must first be approved. Supervisors must submit a request now for the job extension, prior to hiring a student.

The extension request must meet the criteria listed below before being considered.

Criteria for Job End Date Extension:
• Position is needed to maintain open hours for the department (there is no staff coverage).
• Position fulfills duties that must be accomplished after August 14 that no staff position can fulfill.
• There are research-related reasons requiring that a student work past August 14.

Please keep in mind the time between the end of Language School and the beginning of the fall term is short for the work that needs to occur to get dorms and classrooms ready for September. Students that are housed during this time have to move several times, endure construction projects, and may not have water everyday due to renovations that are needed. Only those jobs absolutely necessary during that time period will be approved.

Contact the SEO to get a Job Extension form or just to say hello. The office is located at 23 Adirondack View. Call us at x5190 or sandrus@middlebury.edu to register.

February 19 (Thurs.) 10:00–11:00 a.m.
February 26 (Thurs.) 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Reminder to 2008 Flexible Spending Account Participants
You 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
  South 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. Please call HR at 443.5465 for Flexible Spending Account questions.

News from the Student Employment Office

Summer Job Extensions
Job Extension forms for the summer are due March 6. As you may know, all summer student jobs must end by Language School Commencement, which is August 14 this year. Occasionally students are needed to work after this date. As in the past, this must first be approved. Supervisors must submit a request now for the job extension, prior to hiring a student. The extension request must meet the criteria listed below before being considered.

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Contact the SEO to get a Job Extension form or just to say hello. The office is located at 23 Adirondack View. Call us at x5377 or visit us on the Web at www.middlebury.edu/administration/seo.

Human Resources • Service Building, 2nd floor • 802-443-5465 • hr@middlebury.edu

MiddPoints is published approximately twice per month by Human Resources for the faculty and staff of Middlebury College. The issue schedule and deadlines are listed on the Human Resources Web site. MiddPoints is mailed without change to regular full time and part-time employees. MiddPoints is Human Resources’ primary communication vehicle on policy changes, upcoming events, news, and other items of interest to employees. Entities outside the campus may not advertise in MiddPoints.
Classifieds

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

For Sale: 1999 Volvo V70 wagon. 127K miles. One owner, non-smoker. Standard trans. Includes both winter and summer tires/rims. Tow hitch. Asking $3,100. Contact Meg: mgroves@middlebury.edu or 462.2030.

For Sale: 4 year old female Siberian Husky. Black/white, spayed, up to date on shots. Have all paperwork when we bought her and all vet records. Asking $400. E-mail aclavis@middlebury.edu.

For Sale: 4 year old female Siberian Husky. Black/white, spayed, up to date on shots. Have all paperwork when we bought her and all vet records. Asking $400. E-mail aclavis@middlebury.edu.

Other

For Sale: Antique Oak Dresser. Solid Oak, no veneer or particle board. 3 drawer. Original solid brass ornate drawer pulls & keyhole covers. $395. Call x5093.

For Sale: Bloch women’s tap shoes, “tap flex” size 11.5, black, w/ taps, almost new. $20. Please call 462.3281.

For Sale: Snow chains for lawn tractor, ATV, etc. 1 pair, size 14 inches wide, 4 feet long. Used less than a season. Like new. No rust. $60 (list for over $125). Call Erik, x5093.

For Sale: Decorative cast iron fire back. The design, Four Seasons-Autumn, was created by artist J. Del Connor and made by Pennsylvania Fire Backs. Fire back safety boots are included. $40. Chimney cover: 13-1/2” wide by 18-1/2’ long w/ stainless steel cap painted black. $35. Call Mary at 462.2899.

For Sale: Ab-Lounge in excellent condition, $50. E-mail mfarmswo@middlebury.edu or call x5473.

Real Estate

For Sale: Charming 3 BR cape on 1 acre lot in “The Woodlands,” a desirable Middlebury neighborhood 10 min. from campus. Approximately 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 443.2331.

For Rent: Middlebury in-town house. Fully furnished, newly built 2 BR home, located on Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. at Weybridge St., designed and owned by local architect. Local artisan-built fireplace, beautiful views, environmentally efficient. Walk to College & town. Bordered by 16-acre Otter View Park w/ meadow paths & boardwalk to Otter Creek. $1,800 (heat/hot water included). Contact 917.531.2121 or jmcleod@middlebury.edu.

For Rent: Classic 4 BR Vermont farm house on 5 acres w/in 3 mi. of College w/ 2 car garage. Stunning views to the Adks. 2-1/2 BA, washer, dryer. 2 classic stoves (1 wood, 1 gas). No pets. $1,300 plus utilities. Contact David x5255 or 802.989.8135.

Wanted

Wanted: Solid wood armoire (for clothing, not a TV/entertainment armoire), in very good condition. angel@middlebury.edu.

Wanted: Used or “pre-owned” treadmill (folding preferred) in good condition. Call Michael at 462.2899.

Wanted: Basic, two-drawer metal file cabinet in decent condition; doesn’t need to lock. Contact Scott @ x5166 or satherto@middlebury.edu.

Student Employee of the Year Nominations

Nominations from supervisors for the Student Employee of the Year are due March 1. Please assist us in recognizing the outstanding work of student employees by sending in a nomination. The student employee must be a Middlebury College undergraduate and have been employed by you for at least three months. More information can be found in the January 30 issue of MiddPoints or on the SEO Website, go/seo.

College Book Store

Stop by to purchase your Valentine’s Day cards.

We also have lots of warm hats and clothing for your Winter Carnival shopping.