The Alliance for Civic Engagement celebrates five years enriching the undergraduate experience

The Middlebury College Alliance for Civic Engagement (ACE) facilitates so many projects that it will be impossible to mention all of them in this article. Created in 2003 with the generous gift of an alumna from the class of 1953, over the past five years ACE has “connected liberal arts learning to hands-on involvement in communities – local, national, and international,” as Tiffany Sargent, Director, states in the Fall 2008 issue of the ACE Reporter.

The mission of ACE directly supports one of the key goals recommended in the College’s strategic plan, Knowledge Without Boundaries, which calls for “more openness to relating a liberal education to the needs of society.” This direct relationship is one of the things that Tiffany Sargent finds so exciting, because the College has embraced this goal and whole-heartedly supports ACE’s work to achieve it. Tiffany writes that students’ experiences through their projects with ACE “put a human face on classroom theory and bring it to life, challenging students to develop tangible skills and to apply their learning through practice.”

Through ACE, students can identify problems and projects in the community, apply what they are learning in their coursework, and come up with solutions. “It’s similar to work in a campus laboratory where students carry out simulated experiments, except these are real, present-day problems they’re working on,” Tiffany explains. Ideas for projects come from a variety of places. Sometimes it is a professor who comes to ACE with an idea how students might apply the theories they’ve studied in a course to a real-world situation or need, and other times students think of an initiative that will combine their learning with their desire to make a positive difference. At times, community organizations approach ACE with problems they’re hoping to solve. (Article continues on page 3)
Notice of Change in Payroll Deadline for the First Payroll of 2009

The College will close for the holiday break at noon, Wednesday, December 24, 2008, and reopen Monday, January 5, 2009. The first payroll of 2009 falls within the week we are closed, with a pay date of January 2, 2009. The following change has been made to the time entry deadline and paycheck distribution:

Deadline for submitting/approving time: Friday, 12/19/08, 5:00 p.m. (includes Web time entry, student timecards AND ALL APPROVALS).

Paychecks and direct deposit stubs will be dated Friday, 1/02/09.

Paychecks will be available for pickup on Friday, January 2, 2009, from 9:00–1:00 in the Human Resources Office. (Please bring your College ID with you to pick up your check. Any checks not picked up by 1:00 p.m. will be delivered through regular campus mail on Monday, January 5, 2009.)

Direct deposit stubs will be delivered through regular campus mail on Monday, January 5, 2009. (Pay information can be viewed on Banner Web at the following link: https://emerald.middlebury.edu/PNTR/twbkwbis.P_WWWLogin)

Please inform all your staff of this change in the payroll schedule.

~ Payroll/Human Resources

Commuting Alternatives

The College has been working to make employee commutes to and from campus more cost effective and less carbon intensive. The Rutland-Middlebury bus, Burlington-Middlebury bus, and ACTR links within the county and town are all supported by the College to encourage the use of public transportation.

The College understands these ways of commuting do not work for everyone, and that these buses don’t provide service to all locations. Carpooling is a good alternative to bus travel. Listed below are links to Vermont Ride Share and Vermont Commuter Web pages.

Before starting a carpooling arrangement, have a discussion with your supervisor; while approval is not required, a good discussion up front could avoid problems later on.

- Link to CCAL transportation page: www.middlebury.edu/campuslife/activities/travel_info.htm
- Link to Vermont Ride Share: www.connectingcommuters.org/Carpool.htm
- Link to state of Vermont commuter’s page: www.connectingcommuters.org/default.htm

Here’s another chance to win one of five OneMidd coffee mugs

Answer the following three questions correctly and you can win a blue and white OneMidd mug.

Send your response to middpoints@middlebury.edu. All entries received by 4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 8, will be considered. One entry per person please. If more than five people answer correctly, winners will be selected at random.

1. The daily newsletter published by the Bread Loaf School of English and the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference is called a) The Ripton Report, b) The Mountain Ear, c) The Crumb, or d) Battell’s Bugle.

2. The Schools Abroad director with the most years of service to Middlebury is a) Rosa Cuda, School in Italy, b) David Paoli, School in France, c) Heike Fahrenberg, School in Germany, or d) Kim Griffin, School in Spain.

3. The Monterey Institute of International Studies has specialized Master’s degree programs that combine study at the Institute with service in the a) U.S. Army, b) Peace Corps, c) AmeriCorps, or d) Department of State.

Don’t be discouraged if you don’t win this time. There will be more win-a-mug opportunities in future issues of MiddPoints. “OneMidd” signifies that Middlebury encompasses the Language Schools, Schools Abroad, Bread Loaf School of English, Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, Monterey Institute of International Studies, and Middlebury-Monterey Language Academy.

Answer: 1. a) The Ripton Report 2. b) David Paoli, School in France 3. b) Peace Corps

Ski Shop Manager Peter Burton (right) assists a customer.
PreSeason Tune-up
Specials and Wax Card at the Snow Bowl!!

Get your skis/boards tuned up and ready for the season for only $25! Until December 19 you can get a stone grind and hot wax for $25, a 44% discount over the regular price! Get ‘em gliding and turning like you won’t believe. Or, get a quick edge and hot wax for just $15, and binding torque tests are only $15 as well.

New this year is the WAX CARD, which gives you a free hot wax after 10 are paid for. So bring the boards in to Derek and Jake for a preseason tune-up and get your first WAX CARD punch at a discount! The Bowl ski shop is open for drop off and pickup from 8:30-4:00 on weekdays until the Bowl opens for the season, and seven days a week from opening day through Dec. 19. For more info call 388.4356 and ask for the ski shop.

Tiffany Sargent can recite many other examples of the collaboration between community agencies and the College through ACE that have resulted in a deeper investment by students in their learning, as well as demanded a higher level of teaching from their professors. She says, “When you can combine experience with a theory, the learning is profound.”

Another major initiative for ACE is work on poverty, as part of a national grant that has been approved and is awaiting funding through the allocations and appropriation process. Pending this funding, the Education Affairs Council has approved the addition of a poverty studies minor. Students involved will learn about issues of poverty and explore how to counter poverty’s effects by enabling more people to meet their basic needs. They also will engage in summer internships where they will work on poverty-related issues, here in Addison County as well as throughout the eastern U.S. The students will bring the value of what they learn in their coursework to their engagement in fighting poverty, working with the United Way, for example, on responding to food and fuel crises. ACE already has funding to support four of these paid internships and students have been involved in these for the past five years.

Peggy Burns, Associate Director of ACE, is responsible for ACE’s international programming. She works with the Off-Campus Study office to advance civic engagement opportunities for students studying abroad. When students on campus want to act in response to world events (Darfur, Burma, earthquake in China), ACE helps them in their fund- and/or awareness-raising efforts.

Through the Middlebury Alternative Break Trips advised and coordinated by ACE, this year a record 53 students will travel on service trips to places like El Salvador and Mexico, and 18 will work in the Dominican Republic. Those in the D.R. will either work directly on Julia Alvarez and Bill Eichner’s Café Alta Gracia organic coffee farm or work on a digital storytelling project at the farm’s literacy center. “Lots of times students come back from the MALT trips and change their major or their career plans based on their experiences,” Peggy says. A recent partnership with the World Leadership Corps has provided the opportunity for some students to live in and provide service to countries around the globe the year after they graduate.

“"When you can combine experience with a theory, the learning is profound."
Middlebury History

25 years ago President Olin Robison announced that actor Burgess Meredith would deliver the 1984 Commencement Address. “Eat so much as is sufficient for thee” was the new slogan for the Middlebury Inn’s $5.75 Sunday Brunch. Benjamin F. Wissler, who taught in the Physics Department from 1930 through 1970, passed away at the age of 78.

10 years ago Twenty-six people went on a one-day excursion to Montreal sponsored by Staff Council’s Events and Publicity Committee. The May Belle Chellis Women’s Resource Center announced that singer-songwriter Kevy North would perform in The Grille. Richard “Ziggy” Livingston, local broadcaster of high school and college sports, passed away at age 65.

5 years ago Maggie Paine ’79 held a workshop on “The Essence of Middlebury and How Do We Communicate It?” Travis Jacobs (History) received a Fulbright fellowship to teach an American history course at the University of La Manouba in Tunisia. ESPN’s SportsCenter presented “Picking Up Butch,” a seven-minute segment on the connection between local resident Butch Varno and Middlebury athletes.

New Employees

Sam Morrill – A 2008 Middlebury College graduate, Sam is Digital Media Assistant for the Film and Media Culture department. He was born and raised in New York City, graduating from Stuyvesant High School in 2004. Sam loves traveling, speaking Spanish, and sitting in the bleachers at Yankee Stadium.

Manon Prévost-Mullane – From Jay, New York, Manon is the new Japanese School Coordinator. A French-Canadian, she moved here two years ago to join her husband, an English teacher in Lake Placid. Having lived in Japan working as a French and English teacher as well as an international youth exchange specialist, Manon is very excited to be here. Manon is committed to training for an Ironman triathlon, and any encouragement is appreciated!

Nelson Caldwell – In August Nelson joined the Language Schools as Marketing, Recruiting, and Admissions Assistant. Previously Nelson was a coffee roaster, an EFL teacher, and most recently was the Web Coordinator in the Alumni Office at Middlebury. Raised in NYC, Nelson lives in Burlington, and in his spare time he is a performing musician (rock, classical and improvisation) and enjoys bicycling, skiing, and swimming.

Pam Billings – In August Pam began work as Language Schools Administrative Assistant in July. She grew up in Addison and Vergennes and just moved back to Vermont in May after living in Waltham, MA, and San Diego, CA, for four years each. Pam enjoys gardening (when it’s not raining).

Zoe Wright-Neil – Zoe joined the wait staff at 51 Main in July. She lives in Bristol and attended Sarah Lawrence College. In her spare time, Zoe enjoys reading and swimming.

Jessie Jerry – Jessie started work as Language Schools Administrative Assistant in July. She grew up in Addison and Vergennes and just moved back to Vermont in May after living in Waltham, MA, and San Diego, CA, for four years each. Jessie enjoys gardening (when it’s not raining).

David Butler Dining Hall Attendant, Dining Services
Midlife Issues

Joanne Corbett, Executive Director of Elderly Services, Inc., will give a talk on “Midlife Issues” Friday, December 12 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m., Axinn 219.

What is midlife? Age 40–60? 35–65? Join us for an exploration of the emotional, social and physical experience of middle age.

Issues that people may need to address in midlife are physical, emotional, social and spiritual. You may be facing physical changes such as less energy, short term memory loss, weight gain, worsening eyesight, etc. While physical changes may impact your emotional life, issues like stress from overload of responsibility, grief over the loss of a loved one, anxiety over one’s ability to cope, etc., are emotional issues that can result in physical repercussions.

As we get older we may experience an increased awareness of our mortality and a desire to find more meaning in life. Midlife often brings concerns about aging parents. These are often coupled with the demands of growing children. You may find yourself part of the “sandwich generation,” caught up in being responsible to both a younger and older generation with conflicting needs and priorities. Divorce, career changes, the “empty nest” and retirement are only a few of the issues we may face in midlife.

How can we travel this stage of life’s interesting, but sometimes confusing and stressful journey and still maintain our equilibrium? Come join us for the discussion!

Bring your lunch...cold drinks and cookies will be provided. Please register by contacting Sheila Andrus at sandrus@middlebury.edu or x5190.

Benefits Open Enrollment 2009 – Follow-Up

Human Resources would like to thank all of the faculty and staff who completed the Open Enrollment process on-line this year. Over 95% of all benefits eligible employees completed the process by the deadline. The on-line process has greatly improved the completion rate over the paper forms. Two years ago when we were still using the paper forms, the completion rate was only 65% by the deadline.

Facilities Services took the lead this year for getting the highest percentage completed. Great job!

Please remember, the benefits you elected during Open Enrollment will go into effect on January 1, 2009.

Safe Winter Driving

Whether you drive on the job or just commute to and from work by car, safe driving during the winter months is a major safety concern. Here are some safe winter driving tips:

- Carry snow and ice removal equipment and traction materials in your vehicle, including a container of sand or cat litter for traction; an ice scraper, snow brush, and snow shovel; and a blanket to keep warm while waiting for help after a breakdown.
- Clear snow and ice off windshield, windows, hood, roof, and lights before driving.
- Use windshield wipers and defroster to keep windows clear while driving.
- Reduce speed and stay at least four seconds behind the driver in front in wet, icy, or snowy conditions.
- Brake gradually, pumping your brakes gently to slow down. (With anti-lock braking systems [ABS], however, drivers should apply steady pressure to the brake pedal during the entire stop. ABS will automatically pump the brakes, if necessary, to keep the wheels from locking.)
- Watch out for icy patches. Bridges tend to ice up faster than other road surfaces. Shady spots stay icy longer. Winter roads are most dangerous when the temperature is just above freezing, since ice and snow melt, leaving a wet surface on top that is especially slippery.
- If you start to skid, take your foot off the gas and steer gently into the skid. Keep your foot off the brake.
- Watch out for other drivers. Many people drive poorly in snow or ice.
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


Other

For Sale: Children’s riding clothes in excellent condition. Brown leather paddock shoes (On Course), women’s size 6, barely used (usually $65), $20. Brown leather paddock shoes, women’s size 7-1/2, $10. Navy child’s breech (Miller’s), size 12, $15. Beige child’s jodhpur (On Course), size 12, $15. Green child’s breech (Devon Aire), size 30, $15. Beige child’s breech (Miller’s), size 10, $15. Would make great Christmas gifts. x5044.

For Sale: Get into college! SAT I Wordmaster Vocab flashcards (2 sets); Official SAT Study Guide for New SAT; Princeton Review Cracking the AP World History Exam (2008 edit.); Princeton Review Cracking the SSAT and ISEE (2004); Real SAT II: Subject Tests; SAT II Success Bio E/M (2002); Cracking the New SAT (2005). $25 for these ageless volumes. x5044.

For Sale: North Face down jacket, new (worn twice), navy, men’s medium. $60. E-mail roastra@middlebury.edu.

For Sale: Double-bed futon w/ solid wood frame & removable cover in good condition, from a pet-free, smoke-free home, $75. Photos available by e-mail. Avail. for pick-up only in Middlebury; e-mail or call ckuebler@middlebury.edu or 398.1420.

Real Estate

For Rent starting February: Classic 4 BR Vermont farmhouse 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 woodstove and 1 gas stove. No pets, $1,300 + utilities. Contact David, x5255 or 802.989.8135.

Free

Free to a good Subaru owner: One set of snow tires 205/70 R15. Bought at County Tire two winters ago. Good tread left. Pick-up in Middlebury. E-mail rsaunder@middlebury.edu.

Free: Queen sized mattress and box spring in good condition. Also the bed frame. Perfect for camp, guest room or kids room. Come haul it away, please. jburton@middlebury.edu or call 802.388.6876.

Wanted

House/Pet Sitter Wanted: Live in our Ripton home and care for 2 dogs and 3 cats from 12/23-12/29. Call 802.989.0891 or e-mail bkloman@middlebury.edu.

Wanted: Looking for an elliptical machine, a washing machine in good condition, and women’s telemark skis. If you have any of these items please call my cell 802.377.8453 or home 388.1308.

Snow Bowl Ski Shop Used Equipment Sale

The Snow Bowl Ski Shop currently has many pairs of used skis and boots for sale, consisting of a variety of sizes for both kids and adults. Skis are from $60 to $200, boots from $20 to $65, & packages of skis and boots ranging from $80 to $265 (this includes the binding adjustment)!

We also have a few of our used Burton Boards for sale. Our boards include bindings and are only $200!

Our used gear has all been well cared for and has years of life left to give, we just need to make room for our incoming ’08-’09 gear. It’s the perfect opportunity to set up your family in time for the holidays with quality gear that won’t break the bank, and of course it is all freshly tuned and ready to hit the snow! The Bowl Ski Shop is open weekdays 8:30–4:00 from November 17 until the Bowl opens for the season, and then seven days a week.

Questions? Give us a ring here at the shop 802.388.4356.

College Book Store

Bookstore Holiday Sale

Faculty & Staff holiday sale from Friday, Dec. 5 through Friday, Dec. 12.

25% discount on Middlebury clothing and gifts (some exceptions apply) with your MiddCard ID.