Axinn Center at Starr Library Opens for Academic Year

The formal name of the building is the Donald Everett Axinn '51 Center for Literary and Cultural Studies at Starr Library, but it will be known as the Axinn Center at Starr Library, and it is beautiful. As he walked through the building on the Friday before classes started, Tom McGinn, Project Manager for Facilities Services, checked in with the electricians, computer technicians, media specialists, custodians and professors who were busy making sure Monday’s opening day of classes would go smoothly. The Language Schools used some of the nine classrooms over the summer, but this was the last opportunity to make sure everything in the “smart classrooms,” featuring wireless internet access and digital projection capability for multimedia lectures and presentations, was working as it should.

Planning for the center began back in the spring of 2004 with a competition among six architectural firms. After a series of architectural studies determined that the Axinn program could not be housed in the Starr Library as it existed when the new Main Library was built, the College gave each firm Starr’s floor plans and the new program for the space. Childs Bertman Tseckares (CBT Architects) from Boston “did the best job of blending the new with the old while accommodating the entire program,” Tom said. All six firms recommended a combination of demolition, renovation, and new construction in order to turn the former library into the new center.

The Meredith Wing of the old Starr Library, built in 1979 for shelving books, had eight foot ceilings and little natural light, two things that don’t transform well into a building for classrooms and offices, so that section was removed. Remaining are the original Starr Library building, constructed in 1900 for the College’s centennial and funded by a generous bequest of Egbert Starr, and the Abernethy Library room built in the 1920s to house a donated collection of books and manuscripts bequeathed to the College in 1923 by Dr. Julian W. Abernethy, class of 1876. Much has been done to restore these sections to their original beauty.

(Article continues on page 3)
Introducing the Middlebury College Unlimited Access Program

Effective October 1, 2008, Middlebury College will offer faculty and staff members free access to Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA) LINK and local buses for their commuting needs Monday through Friday.

In order to ride CCTA buses, employees will need to pick up a sticker for their ID cards. Stickers are available in the Human Resources office. When boarding the bus, employees will be asked to show the driver their ID, with the sticker displayed on the front. Employees who forget their ID will be required to pay full fare for that trip.

Those employees who need to use more than one bus to arrive to their destination (example: riding a local route and transferring to the Middlebury LINK Express to get to work) will simply show their ID to each driver.

CCTA bus schedules will be available at the Human Resources office and on every bus. The schedules contain maps for each bus route and information about riding the bus. Employees with questions regarding bus use are encouraged to visit the CCTA website at www.cctaride.org or call a CCTA Customer Service Representative at 802.864.CCTA (2282).

Bottom row: Jennifer Goetz, Psychology; Natalie Eppelsheimer, German. Row 2: Jeffrey Lunstead, International Studies; Sarah Stroup, Political Science; Christal Brown, Dance; Lorraine Besser-Jones, Philosophy; Fernando de Sousa Rocha, Spanish/Portuguese. Row 3: David Boucher, Chemistry/Biochemistry; Svea Closser, Sociology/Anthropology. Row 4: Boris Willis, Dance; Nader Morkus, Arabic. Row 5: Joyce Mao, History; Mark Silver, Japanese Studies. Top row: Hope Tucker, Film & Media Culture; Kai Zhang, Chinese; Nathan Devir, International Studies/Hebrew.

Tom McGinn calls the original library room “the first really grand space of the College. Everything you see in here looks pretty close to the way it was in 1900.” The woodwork needed extensive cleaning, as the conserver who did the work said it was years of nicotine, dust, and grime that needed to be removed. Pulling up carpeting and linoleum revealed hardwood floors that were then sanded and refinished. Old photos were examined in order to recreate the designs on the walls – originally burlap – using canvas. The two large fireplaces had always been there, but “you just didn’t see them when this was used as the library – there was too much paraphernalia in the room,” said Tom. The old Abernethy Library room is set up for readings and lectures and also has individual student carrels.

The façade of the new sections are a blend of five different colors of Champlain stone from Quebec. Some of the new construction houses offices for the American Studies, English & American Literatures, History, and Film & Media Culture departments. The new, fairly large offices are energy efficient with air-conditioning on demand, high ceilings with fans, and large windows. There is a film production and editing studio in the basement, and a large Mac lab on the first floor with huge flat panel monitors. Entering the building from Old Chapel Road, one finds a lobby with a stone water feature gurgling a soothing white noise, and the south-facing glass-enclosed “winter garden” with comfortable chairs and ceiling fans.

The 1927 addition that previously housed the library special collections is now a 65 seat screening room with 16mm, 35mm, high definition digital, and digital projection and two screens. “The quality of the film projection and sound are great,” Tom said. The old Starr Library Reading Room adjacent to route 30 has been transformed into two classrooms.

It has been about 10 years since Don Axinn ’51, “poet, businessman, pilot, and great friend of Middlebury College,” as Tom describes him, approached the College with his idea to create a humanities center for literary and cultural studies. This semester, that idea became a reality, thanks to Mr. Axinn’s leadership gift, the careful planning and oversight of project manager Tom McGinn, the construction crew, and everyone in Facilities Services who brought the whole project to completion for the start of this academic year.

~ Liz Hammel
MILESTONES

5 YEARS

Dean Bachand
Dining Services

Caitlin Brome
Admissions

Nathaniel Caldwell
College Advancement

Morgan Connor
Library and Information Services

Claudia Cooper
Teacher Education

Elissa Denton
Commons Office - Brainerd

Colin Mackenzie
History of Art & Architecture

Petar Metrevski
Library and Information Services

David Shaw
Athletics

Rebecca Gould
Religion

Barbara Hofer
Psychology

Virginia Logan
Center for Counseling / Human Relations

Ian Martin
Dining Services

Patricia McCaffrey
Dining Services

Jennifer Quesnel
College Advancement

Steven Reigle
Dining Services

Peter Ryan
Geology

Pavlos Sfyroeras
Classics

Marcella Smith
Library and Information Services

Carlos Velez-Blasini
Psychology

Roman Graf
German

Jean Gross
Controller’s Office

William Hart
History

Guntram Herb
Geography

Michael Newbury
American Studies

Theodore Sasson
Sociology/Anthropology

20 YEARS

Jane Burton
Snow Bowl/Golf Course

Sergei Davydov
Russian

Franci Farnsworth
Academic Affairs

Bill Mandigo
Physical Education

Elaine Marro
Dining Services

Barbara McBride
President’s Office

Donna McDurfee
Academic Affairs

Charles Nunley
French

Mark Witkin
Classics

(Milestones continue on page 5)
Staff Accomplishments

On Monday September 8, 2008, Ximena Elizabeth Mejía, Middlebury College’s newest member of the Center for Counseling and Human Relations, participated in the US naturalization ceremony at the Montpelier State Capitol. Judge William Sessions officiated the ceremony, and Governor Jim Douglas shared some words of encouragement and strength for the newest American citizens in Vermont. Judge Sessions and Governor Douglas celebrated the rich diversity that new US citizens bring as they become part of our community. Ximena was one of 98 people representing 33 countries around the world who were sworn in as United States citizens.

Staff Appeals Panel Elections

It is time to hold the election for the Staff Appeals Panel. The panel consists of 15 members, eight of which are elected positions (the other seven are appointed by the President).

This year we need to replace three of our elected staff. If you are interested in serving on the panel, please call Patti McCaffrey, ext. 5229, or Mack Roark, ext. 2328, or better yet, e-mail the Staff Council mailbox at scouncil@middlebury.edu. The deadline is Friday Sept. 26 by 5 p.m. All staff, except those who are already members of the Staff Appeals Panel, will be listed on the nomination ballot, but those indicating interest in advance will be highlighted.

Description of the Staff Appeals Panel:

• Purpose: “Middlebury College has established the staff appeals procedures to provide a fair and impartial process of which staff employees under certain conditions may avail themselves to appeal grievance decisions.”
• Staff Appeals Panel members serve a three-year term.
• Staff Appeals Panel members are provided release time from other duties to participate in relevant training as well as to serve as an active member of the Staff Appeals Panel.
• A Staff Appeals Board consists of five people, three of whom are selected from the 15 member Staff Appeals Panel, (the other two consist of an Administrator appointed by the College President and a Staff Council member).

Process:
Grievances are first heard by the Grievance Review Committee (GRC). A five member Staff Appeals Board is only formed when a person appeals the GRC’s decision.

For a full description of the Staff Appeals Panel and the Grievance Process, see the Human Resources web site: www.middlebury.edu/administration/hr/Procedures/Grievances.htm.
LIS Technology Workshops – Sept/Oct 2008

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

Mon. 9/22  Advanced CMS  2:00–3:30 p.m.
Tue. 9/23  RefWorks: Introduction & Review  Noon–1:00 p.m.
Wed. 9/24  BannerWeb for Budget Viewing  9:00–10:30 a.m.
Thu. 9/25  Protect Your PC  3:30–5:00 p.m.
Thu. 9/25  RefWorks: Introduction & Review  4:00–5:00 p.m.
Mon. 9/29  CMS Work Session  2:00–3:30 p.m.
Mon. 9/29  RefWorks: Introduction & Review  9:00–10:00 p.m.
Tue. 9/30  Getting Started with PowerPoint on a PC  9:00–10:30 a.m.
Wed. 10/1  RefWorks for Faculty  Noon–1:00 p.m.
Thu. 10/2  RefWorks: Introduction & Review  Noon–1:00 p.m.

For your convenience, our workshops and course descriptions are included in the Events at Middlebury campus events calendar. To display our offerings, simply type go/lis?events in your web browser’s address field. Use go/techworkshops if you prefer the grid format.

New Employees

Mark Zelis – Mark joined Communications as a web producer in June. He graduated from Rhode Island School of Design with a degree in film/animation. Mark worked for the advertising company Leo Burnett on campaigns for McDonald’s, the U.S. Army, Kellogg’s, and Disney. He volunteers his time with arts after-school programs. Mark lives in Brandon with his wife, who also graduated from RISD in jewelry and light metals and now makes jewelry for galleries across the country, and their two children.

Brent Barnes – Brent was hired in July as an Assistant Football Coach in Athletics. Prior to coaching at Middlebury, Brent was at the University of Chicago. He lives with his wife Stacy Cormier and his two cats.

Starrin Ricupero – In July Starrin joined the team at 51 Main as 2nd Cook. Starrin is a graduate of New England Culinary Institute and is originally from Pennsylvania. He has worked in kitchens for 18 years and enjoys everything about working with food and different cultures around the world.

Special Health/Fitness Opportunity for Staff and Faculty

Interested in improving your full-body strength and flexibility? Pilates may be right for you. Nina Vila from the Vermont Center for Classical Pilates offers a special class for the College community on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This is an amazing opportunity to take classes from an energetic, insightful, certified master teacher. Best of all, the classes are a bargain—and they meet right on campus (at the Mahaney CFA).

Pilates with Nina Vila, Vermont Center for Classical Pilates Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:30–1:20 p.m.
Mahaney Center for the Arts, Dance Studio

Open to Middlebury College Students/Faculty/Staff. PE credit available for students.

Classes start Tuesday, September 16; registration continues through September 25. $60 for 1 class per week / $120 for 2 classes per week (10 weeks total). Cash or check due at your first class.

Questions? Nina at nina@wildblue.net or 388.7400, or Liza, liza@middlebury.edu or x3169.

Christina Fulton – Chrissy joined the Admissions Office in July as an Admissions Counselor after four years as an undergraduate here. While a student, she majored in English and minored in Psychology and American History. She kept herself busy by running cross country and track and working at several different campus jobs. In her free time Chrissy loves running on all the trails Vermont has to offer and reading everything she can get her hands on.
2008 Summary Plan Description

In order to reduce paper waste, Human Resources did not automatically send out paper copies of the 2008 Summary Plan Description (SPD) for the Middlebury College Health & Welfare Benefits Plan. Please note, however, that this information is available on-line. From the Middlebury College Home page, click Administration, then Human Resources, then Benefits, and lastly Summary Plan Description 2008. Check out the Benefits page for other helpful information like the 2008 Benefits Summary (only 2 pages long), claim forms, and links to our providers’ websites.

Human Resources does have hardcopies available for those who prefer a paper version of the document. The SPD contains very important information about your current benefit programs – medical, dental, life, disability, EFAP, and the flexible spending accounts – and participants are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the document in either electronic or paper form.

If you have questions about our benefit plans or would like to pick up a paper copy of the SPD, please contact Lisa Hoff at lmhoff@middlebury.edu, or at x3372. Lisa has recently joined the Human Resources team as a Benefits Specialist and is looking forward to meeting more of our plan participants.

The Human Resources Employee Relations Team

Last month, MiddPoints featured the four HR Generalists (Laura Carotenuto, Alexa Euler, Deborah Francis, and Perry Richards) who support specific areas of the College in providing a wide range of human resource services. There are two other members of the Human Resources employee relations team:

Sheila Andrus - As Training Manager, Sheila is responsible for the development and implementation of employee training and professional development programs. She provides support and resources for continuous learning to promote individual, team and organizational effectiveness.

Liz Hammel - The Editor of MiddPoints, Liz writes copy, edits, and produces the College’s internal employee newsletter. She also supports the Human Resources department by participating in various special projects.

Weight Watchers At-Work

The 12th session of the Weight Watchers At-Work program will begin as soon as there are a couple more members signed up. Meetings will be on Thursdays at noon in Mitchell Green Lounge. The cost is $144 for 12 weeks, which can be paid in two $72 payments. Cash, check, or credit card payments accepted. People may join at any time during the series. For more information or to register, call Danica Stein, meeting leader, at 802.287.5704 or e-mail danicaWW@comcast.net.

(Classifieds, ctd. from page 8)

Free: Free to a good and loving home, Sam, a Golden Labradoodle. 19 months old and very smart. If you would like to see photos & get more info. please contact Shawn at sonei@middlebury.edu or call x3286.

Wanted

Wanted: A boy’s 20” or 24” bike with gears. Call 802.388.1308.

Wanted: An elliptical machine/treadmill in good condition. Call 802.388.1308.

Wanted: weight bench. E-mail nnccbbn@gmail.com or call 545.2070.

Wanted: Would anyone have or know of a record player for sale? Just a plain old record player (not a stereo set w/ speakers) so I can listen to a few old records that have come down to me over the years. Contact Linda Williams, lwilliam@middlebury.edu or 388.0401.
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: Full set of four Nordman-2 snow tires, with studs, size P205/70R15 96T. Used only one season for less than 2k miles. $250. Contact ayuen@middlebury.edu.

Other

For Sale: TV cabinet, cherry wood, pocket doors, one drawer. Holds 32” regular TV. $200. Comes w/ free TV in great shape. E-mail nnccbbn@gmail.com for pics or call 545.2070.

For Sale: 2-drawer metal file cabinet. $35. E-mail nnccbbn@gmail.com or call 545.2070.

For Sale: Antique steamer trunk, needs refurbishing. $50. E-mail nnccbbn@gmail.com or call 545.2070.

For Sale: Large double room tent. Barely used, great for car camping. $75. E-mail nnccbbn@gmail.com or call 545.2070.

For Sale: 12x12 screen tent. Barely used. $50. E-mail nnccbbn@gmail.com or call 545.2070.

For Sale: Female ferret, 4 yrs. old, to good home. Includes large cage, hammock, & supplies. Call Karen at x5914 or 247.4905.

For Sale: American Girl doll, “Molly” made by Pleasant Co. Excellent condit., w/ original outfit. $40. Call Karen at x5914 or 247.4905.

For Sale: Electric Meat Grinder and sausage maker (Northern Tools and Equipment). Used once. 1,000W, 176 lb. per hour, 16”x13”. Plates and attachments included. $50. Call Tania 802.989.2483.

For Sale: New 16 x 17 off-white, 100% wool textured carpet. Paid $3,000, asking $1,500 obo. 802.453.4525.

For Sale: Media Center/Cabinet - solid wood, modern “Scandinavian” style, clever design expands to fit your space, $100. Lg. baker's rack w/ antiqued metal frame & caned shelves, $25. Ergonomic office chair, grey cloth upholstery, $25. 3 director's chairs, wood w/ green seats, $15 each or $40 for all 3. x3169 or liza@middlebury.edu.

Real Estate

For Sale: 15 acres of beaut. wooded land in Midd. w/ 500' road frontage. Loc. off Burnham Dr. in a great nbhhd., 5 min. from dwtn. Midd. A driveway & 1 acre are cleared for ideal home location. Covered lot w/ beaut. walking trails & deeded access thru short path to GMNF. Septic permit in place for convent. septic system, a rarity in Addison Cnty. Priced to sell at $155,000. For more info. call 802.989.8395.

For Sale: 10 South St., charming well-maintained home, built ca. 1800, w/ an addition added later. 2,100 sq.ft., 0.3 acres, backs up to College. 3 BR, 1-1/2 BA, 2 LRs, screened porch, private backyard, beautiful original wood floors. $375,000. For sale by owner for limited time. Call 388.2006 or e-mail stetsonc@sover.net.

For Sale: Beautiful, sunny, spacious house on Morgan Horse Farm Rd. in Weybridge. 4 BR + office (or 5 BR), gorgeous sunroom, deck, hardwood floors. Very quiet locat. on 6 acres w/ pond for swimming/skating, lots of walking/x-country skiing, large barn. Only 5 min. to town or College! Washer/dryer and DW, 2 BA, 2 car garage. $1,500/mo. + utilities. Contact John at 453.4929, or e-mail jspackma@middlebury.edu.


For Sale or Rent: Charming, well-maint. family house for rent or purchase in New Haven, 15 min. from College. House built 1780s. Spectac. views of Adks., 5 acres of land, deck, landscaped sitting area, 4 BR, large L/D area w/ wood stove, separate formal sitting or DR w/ fireplace & adjoining reading nook, 2 BA, kitchen, washer/dryer. Wood floors. $1,200/mo. rental, or $350,000 purchase. No pets or smokers for rental. For more info. or viewing, contact Marion at mwells@middlebury.edu or 802.453.4929.

For Sale: Lake Dunmore waterfront, Salisbury. 2 BR winterized chalets. Fully furnished. Walking dist. to store/laundromat. No pets/no smoking. Includes electric, and cable. References & security deposit. Available NOW thru June 15 or end of school year. Call 802.352.4378 or 802.989.3693 after 3 p.m.

For Rent: Homeshare w/ owner in large house right in Middlebury. Private rooms w/ shared living and kitchen facilities. Owner away a lot. Non-smoker. $750/mo. incl. utilities. Phone 413.597.4629 for info. or e-mail lwilliam@middlebury.edu.

Free


(Classifieds continued on page 7)

College Book Store

Environmental journalist and author Alan Weisman to speak 9/24 at 4:30 p.m. in The Orchard (Room 103) at Hillcrest.

Stop in at the Bookstore and pick up Alan’s two books The World Without Us and Gaviotas.