Larry Yarbrough, Religion
25 Year Club

One fall morning almost 25 years ago, Larry Yarbrough spoke with the chairman of the Religion Department. In his first year at the College, Larry was concerned about having just delivered a lecture that he knew was not very good. The chair listened carefully but didn’t seem too concerned. The next morning, approximately 50 drop cards awaited Larry outside his office door. “There goes my career,” he thought, “I knew the lecture was bad, but I didn’t think it was that bad.” He went back to the department chair’s office, drop cards in hand, in a panic about what to do. After several minutes, the chair asked to see the cards and then asked, “Have you noticed that the handwriting is the same on all these cards?” This practical joke has become somewhat of a Middlebury urban legend—a joke that many wished they had thought of and sometimes claimed they took part in.

Larry can laugh about it now, as he reflects on that first year of his career at the college. He came here in 1983 as a one-year leave replacement for Charles Scott, the longtime chaplain and professor of religion. Larry took a chance by accepting a one-year position, with no guarantee that there would be further work for him here. “That was a wild year, one I wouldn’t want to repeat,” says Larry. He was finishing his doctoral dissertation from Yale, writing lectures and developing the courses he was teaching for the first time, and while Larry was so busy here, his wife Amy Hastings was working in Boston. Although it was an exhausting and emotionally draining year, his decision to take the job here paid off. During the year his position was converted to tenure track, and Amy was offered a job as director of development, a position she held from 1984 to 1990. She now works for the Salzburg Global Seminar.

While Larry has taught a range of religion courses over the past 25 years, the focus of his teaching is Biblical studies. His Introduction to Biblical Literature is a popular course, one he has taught every year. In addition to drawing many majors, it is a feeder for literature and art majors, as it helps them understand so many of the allusions and images they encounter in their studies. The biblical literature course is one of Larry’s favorites because the
2008 Student Employee of the Year Announced

On a sunny afternoon in mid April approximately 30 students and supervisors gathered in Hepburn Lounge to recognize student employees for their hard work and dedication. Several departments were represented including CTLR, Rikert Ski Touring, Language Schools, the ADA Office, College Advancement, LIS, and Admissions.

Seventeen students were nominated by their supervisors in February and early March. The nominees were judged on their reliability, quality of work, initiative, attitude, and contribution to the department. A top ten list was formed, and those nominees, their supervisors, and staff colleagues participated in the awards ceremony on April 15th.

“It was great to hear the variety and high level of quality work going on campus wide,” a student supervisor was overheard saying. Sarah Franco, member of the student employment office, presented each nominee a small trophy. Dean of the College Tim Spears presented the nominees with recognition certificates and to the winner, Erin McCormick, an engraved plaque.

Congratulations to all of the nominees listed below and to Erin McCormick, 2008 Student Employee of the Year.

Sid Baveja ’09
Crystal Correa ’08
Lucas Dunn ’09
Sarah Emmons ’09
Sarah Luehrman ’08

Alison Mehravari ’10
Eva Nixon ’09
Claire Polfus ’08
Priscilla Sinclair ’08

~ Dee Gilbert, Student Employment Coordinator

Admissions by the numbers

Last month brought to a close a very busy application season for the Admissions Office. Here are some statistics:

7,823
Total Applicants
9% 
Increase over last year’s number of applicants

600
Approximate number of spots in the class of 2012

18%
Acceptance rate

1,404
Number of international student applicants. This represents a 21% increase over last year. Applications came in from 114 different countries, and students were admitted from 69.

13%
Increase from last year in number of applicants who identify themselves as students of color.

90%
Applicants who applied online

Middlebury History

25 years ago ● Major improvements in the physical plant, student-faculty ratio, and the intellectual atmosphere were recommended in the Ten-Year Report of the Faculty’s Financial Long-Range Planning Committee. The campus May Day celebration included live bands, a picnic dinner, and a Maypole dance.

10 years ago ● Human Resources staff members Tom Corbin, Mary Hurlie, Kathryn Bryne, Sandy White, and Marty Thompson presented the first Legal Side of Supervision program, together with Ed Sullivan, safety officer, Yonna McShane, sexual harassment educator, and college legal counsel.

5 years ago ● The Women and Gender Studies Program named Janine Clokey (staff), Heidi Grasswick (faculty), and Gillian Finocan (student) as recipients of the 8th annual Feminist of the Year Award. Paula Schwartz of the French Department received a research grant from the Fulbright Scholars Program.
Staff Recognition Award Winners Announced

I am very pleased to announce the winners of the Staff Recognition Awards for 2008:

Renee Brown, CAOS/Academic Dept. Coordinator in American Studies
Phil Cyr, Delivery Worker, Facilities Services
Priscilla Latreille, DIS Steward, Dining Services
Donna M. Paquette, Custodial Team Leader, Facilities Services

The award recipients were selected by the 2007 award winners from nominations submitted by members of the faculty and staff on the basis of their contributions to the College community, and their leadership, stewardship, and community service during their years at Middlebury College. These awards have been endowed by Rudolf K. Haerle, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Sociology, as a way of recognizing the many members of the Middlebury College staff who contribute to the vitality of the College community and support the College’s academic mission.

President Ron Liebowitz will host a reception in honor of the award winners on Monday, May 5 at 4:30 to 5:45 in Mitchell-Green Lounge. Please save the date.

~ John Emerson, Secretary of the College

(Larry Yarbrough, continued from page 1)

students have such tremendously diverse backgrounds. That range of experience makes teaching the class “challenging in a good way,” says Larry. Increasingly, he must determine how to present the material to people with no background in religion. It forces him to go back to the fundamentals of the text.

“You have to learn to listen as well as talk,” Larry explains, discussing how to reach students from so many different backgrounds and belief systems. When teaching religion and biblical texts, which can be so personal and powerful, it is easy to offend students. “There’s just no way around it,” says Larry. But he adds, “if you take the students and the material seriously, they will give you an awful lot of leeway.” Questions from a Hindu or a Muslim student, or from a student who knows nothing at all about the text often make Larry go back and ask himself, “What do I mean by that?” and examine the topic from a new angle.

Among Larry’s most rewarding experiences over the past 25 years is the development of the Charles P. Scott Symposiums, beginning in the late 1990s. The symposium brings in guest scholars each year who speak about a religious theme. Larry says of the symposium, “It is a lot of work, but it brings together students, faculty, staff, and people from town to think about and discuss important issues around religion.” It has been a programmatic highpoint for Larry because some of the topics for the symposium have grown out of his own travel and research.

“...art and architecture has given him new insight and depth to his teaching...”

In addition to his work in the classroom, Larry has chaired the Department of Religion for some fifteen years and served on every major committee at the College.

~ Liz Hammel

Lunch Invitation from Faculty and Staff Initiative Co-Chairs

Dear Colleagues,

We hope you will join us on Monday, May 5, for lunch and a discussion about the Middlebury Initiative. President Liebowitz will provide an overview of the Initiative and of Middlebury’s future as the global liberal arts college, and answer any questions that you might have about it.

You’ll also have a chance to watch the Initiative video, which showcases the work of our students, faculty, and staff, and to meet those of us involved in the Initiative.

12:15–1:30 p.m.
McCullough Social Space
A buffet lunch will be available beginning at noon.

We look forward to seeing you on May 5.

Best regards,

Jeff Dunham (Professor of Physics)
Brett Millier (Reginald L. Cook Professor of English & American Literatures)
Peg Myhre ’79 (Staff Nurse, RN, Parton Health Center)
Carol Peddie (Associate Dean, LIS)
Luther Tenny (Assistant Director, Facilities Services)

~ Liz Hammel
Are Your Beneficiaries Up to Date?

When you first started contributing to your retirement plan, you named a beneficiary or beneficiaries for your contracts. Your beneficiaries are the people or entities (such as trusts, charities or estates) that will inherit your retirement assets when you die. Your beneficiary designations have significant legal standing. They even supersede whom you name to receive funds in your will.

As a result, you should ensure your beneficiary designations are up to date for your employer-sponsored retirement accounts, IRAs, life insurance policies and trusts. Failing to update these designations could mean your money does not go to whom you wish at your death. In fact, your assets could get tied up in probate court—resulting in unfavorable tax treatment of your funds.

Here's a checklist to use when reviewing your beneficiaries for different financial products:

- **Don't forget your spouse or partner.** If you have a change in relationship status, revisit your designations. Otherwise, your money may go where you don’t want it to—e.g., a parent whom you listed as a beneficiary before you married, or an ex-spouse. Note that most retirement and tax-deferred annuity plans (except for government plans) are subject to joint and survivor requirements that ensure at least 50% of the value of a married participant’s account goes to his/her spouse unless that spouse signs a waiver; these joint and survivor requirements supersede any contract beneficiary designations.

- **Name each of your children.** Sometimes people forget to add all of their children’s names to their designation forms. This often happens when children are born after the initial designation or in cases of remarriage. So make sure you list all of your children properly.

- **Be contingent.** It’s important to name contingent beneficiaries—the persons, trusts, charities or estates that will inherit the money if the primary beneficiary(ies) dies before you do.

- **Make beneficiary changes online.** You can change your beneficiaries for TIAA-CREF products online. To do so, go to www.tiaa-cref.org and select the “Log in” box on the upper right-hand corner of the screen. Once you’ve provided your user ID and password, select “My Portfolio,” then “Beneficiaries.” You can then make the necessary changes.

TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, and Teachers Personal Investors Services Inc. distribute securities products. Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association (TIAA) and TIAA-CREF Life Insurance Co., New York, N.Y., issue insurance and annuities.

© 2007 Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association – College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF), New York, N.Y. 10017

(Classifieds, ctd. from pg. 6)

**For Rent:** 4 BR, 1-3/4 BA unfurnished house in great Weybridge neighborhood, 1 mile from campus. Recently renovated kitchen/DR/LR/mudroom. 1/2 acre lot with veg. garden & fruit trees, deck, 2 car garage. Available beginning mid to late summer for long-term lease. $1,350/mo. + utilities. 545-2196.

**Wanted**

**Manure Wanted:** Manure needed for veggie garden! If you know of anyone w/ farm animals who would like to clear out some manure, e-mail me at dkjeller@middlebury.edu or call x5107. My garden thanks you!

**Wanted:** House sitting jobs for summer and fall 2008. I’m a 2008 Midd. grad. interested in house sitting from end of May through December in the Midd. -Cornwall–Shoreham area. I will take care of pets, plants, etc. Contact Emery at ehard@middlebury.edu or 999-8650.

**House/Dog Sitter Wanted:** Seeking house/dog sitter June 17–July 25 (or portions thereof). Come stay in our rural retreat in hills above Bristol & hang out w/ a friendly, fun beagle. 25 min. to campus, 30 min. to So. Burl. Cooler than Midd! Country walks. Compensation. Call 453-6377 (eves), x3412 or e-mail lburnham@middlebury.edu.

**Help Wanted:** Part-time employment for a reliable person to assist w/ farm chores and milking at our goat dairy & cheese-making operation in Cornwall. Sunday afternoons a must, other days flexible. No exper. required. Some heavyish lifting. 3 mo. minimum commitment. Contact Emily at twigfarm@shoreham.net for more info.

**Attention Midd adoptive families:** Would you like to connect with other families in the college community that were formed (at least in part) by adoption? Curious about how many other adoptive families might be out there but not sure how to find out? We are gauging interest in a low-impact group that could get together 1 or 2x a year for an informal gathering. Send an e-mail to Elizabeth Davis at eadavis@middlebury.edu.
Is Your Grad about to lose his or her health insurance coverage?

Is your son or daughter about to graduate off your health insurance plan or a plan offered by his/her school? Will s/he live in Vermont? Now is the time to check out health coverage options before graduation!

Green Mountain Care is a family of comprehensive low-cost and free health coverage programs offered by the state of Vermont and its partners. Even if your son or daughter gets a job right after graduation, s/he may get assistance from the state to help pay his/her portion of the premiums. Health insurance typically costs upward of $400 per month, while coverage under Green Mountain Care is available for little or no cost.

Check out the health coverage options through Green Mountain Care.

Call 1-800-250-8427 or visit www.GreenMountainCare.org

Important Reminders for Parents of Older Children

Graduating Students
Graduation season is right around the corner. If you have a dependent with an upcoming graduation, please remember that along with the pomp and circumstance may come a change in your child’s status in terms of our benefit plans:

If your child is graduating from high school, s/he can remain on your health and dental plans so long as s/he is:
- under 19
- unmarried
- still eligible to be claimed as a dependent on your federal tax return

An older child can remain on your health and dental plans so long as s/he is:
- under 25
- enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited secondary school or college
- unmarried
- still eligible to be claimed as a dependent on your federal tax return

If your child is graduating from college (or simply taking time off from his/her studies) please note that the child’s coverage under your health and/or dental plan will end on graduation day, or the last day of class attendance, if the student is leaving school without graduating.

A child losing coverage under these circumstances will be eligible to continue coverage under COBRA, at his/her own expense. Monthly single person COBRA rates are currently: $492.62-health, $44.96-dental.

It is very important that you notify Human Resources in a timely manner if your child (over age 19) will be graduating or leaving school. Remember, under IRS rules if you fail to notify us within 30 days of the event, we will be unable to reduce your premium until the end of the calendar year, even though your child is no longer covered by the health and/or dental plans. And, under COBRA rules, if you fail to notify Human Resources within 60 days of the event, the child will have forfeited the right to COBRA continuation. In addition, you may be personally liable for medical expenses incurred by a person who does not qualify as your dependent under the terms of the plan.

On-going Students
If you have a child over age 19 who will be attending an accredited secondary school next year, be on the lookout for a letter from CBA Blue asking you to verify that your child will be a student next academic year. To insure uninterrupted health/dental coverage for your dependent, please provide the requested information and return the form to CBA Blue promptly.

As always, please feel free to contact Human Resources at x5465 if you have questions.
Auto
For Sale: 1989 Pop-up camper, needs work, $500 obo. 1994 mini van, runs good, $1,000 obo. 1995 mini van, runs good, $1,500 obo. 1995 Subaru Legacy 4 door, automatic, runs good, $1,500 obo. Call 802-377-0456 or call Proctor Servery, x5962, and ask for Pat Chaffee Sunday thru Thursday.

For Sale: 2006 Chevrolet Silverado 4x4 short-box truck; 27K miles in excel. condit. w/ factory warranty. 4.3 V6 automatic w/ Tonneau cover, step tubes, bed liner. $12,900 obo. Call Bonnie at x5180 or Mike at 352-4610.

Other
Huge Multi-Family Rummage Sale: Lots of infant/toddler/children clothes of all sizes, adult clothes, books, games, toys, household items, & more. One day only, rain or shine, Saturday, May 10, 9:00–4:00 at 238 Peterson Hts., Middlebury.

For Sale: Adirondack Guide Boat. 15’ long; 3-seater, bright-red Kevlar with ash trim, caned seats (front & rear w/ backrests), cherry oars; weighs 75-79 lbs. Bought from the builders in Ferrisburgh; used about 6 times, like new. Cost $3,850; asking $3,500. Contact cmedeiro@middlebury.edu or 388-3082.

For Sale: GE Washer and Dryer reasonably new, low use, $300 obo. Light-weight Husqvarna chainsaw + four extra blades, runs great, $75. Full & queen-sized futons w/ frames, $25 each. Ultra-large bean bag chair, $10. Call Ashley at 802-989-3820 or e-mail asemarey@middlebury.edu.

For Sale: Cycling Equipment. Mountain bike in great cond.: Haro Escape 8.1 Hardtail, blue 19.5” 7005 welded alum. frame, 29.5” standover hght., Manitou ‘Axel’ 100mm travel front fork, Quad QMD-5 disc brakes, Shimano Alivio rapid fire shifter & Deore derailer, Maxxis M80/ignitor 2.35” tires. Lightly used & well maint. MSRP $620, asking $300 obo. Size 11.5 Pearl Izumi Vagabond R4 road shoe, great intro level shoe w/ very little use. MSRP $85, asking $50 obo. Shimano PD-R540 clipless pedals: easy entry & exit, work w/ most shoes for improved rid- ing effi. & power. MSRP $60, asking $40 obo. Contact cwirene@middlebury.edu, x3355, or 315-525-2773.

Real Estate

For Rent: Available next academic year from late August through late May, dates negot. Beautiful 2 BR, 2 BA house, w/ large deck, big yard, garage. In town. 5 min. walk to dwtn. & 15 min. walk to College. No smoking or pets. $1,200 + utilities & heat. Photos avail. E-mail: mayer@middlebury.edu.

For Rent: Lovely, furnished country home avail. for summer rental, early June to 1st week of August (negot.). Located 4 mi. from campus along Otter Crk. in Weybridge. Hardwood floors, open kitchen / DR / family room layout; 3 BR upstairs, 1.5 BA, woodstove, deck, yard. Quiet. 10 min. drive to campus. $1,000/mo., utilities included. No pets. Contact Scott Atherton at x5166 or sattherto@middlebury.edu.

For Sublet: Large 1 BR apt. in Bay Ridge (Brooklyn) from June 9–22, ’08. High ceilings, wood floors, very near subways in lovely nhrhd. Will leave bedding, bath & kitchen supplies. Great view of Verrazzano Br. Must be very responsible, willing to water plants, & take in mail. Very near R subway line- 25 min. into city. Price: $950. For more info. contact Peter Schmitz at 718-208-9283 or outschmitz@gmail.com.

For Rent: Cornwall apt. - private house - 2.5 mi. from Midd. on beautiful road w/ views of Adks. and Green Mtns. Open loft-like apt. w/ own entrance & lit path, garage parking, washer/dryer, high-speed wireless internet, cableTV & utilities incl. No smokers, pets negot. $850/mo. Available June. Photos avail.: angelalex1@mac.com; 802-989-9540.

For Rent: 3 BR furnished home w/ finished basement in Weybridge. Close to elem. school & 5 mi. from College. Aug. ’08–Aug. ’09 (1-year lease during acad.leave). $1,200/mo. includes heat & some utils. 2 car garage, 1/2 acre yard, big deck. No smokers, no pets. Contact khanta@middlebury.edu or 545-4039.

For Rent: One room in a huge Farmhouse beginning June. 10 min. north of Middlebury. Long-term rental possible. House is shared w/ 3 other Midd. College grads. Rent $300 + utilities (approx. $50). Shared washer/dryer, kitchen, LR, DR, 2 BA & a huge barn & yard/garden. Swimming hole 100 yards from back yard in the New Haven. Contact Christopher at cnielson@middlebury.edu or 802.989.9163.

... (Classifieds cont. on page 4)

College Book Store
Don’t Forget Mother’s Day!
Stop in and check out our great selection of Mother’s day cards and gifts.