Maria Sloan, Athletics, gains United States citizenship

On March 7, Maria Sloan, administrative associate for the athletics department, was naturalized as a United States citizen. “It felt good — like I completed a last step; it is an accomplishment,” says Maria of her citizenship ceremony in the district courthouse in Rutland. It means a lot to Maria that two of her close colleagues in the athletic department, Suzanne Cota and Carolyn Larose, came to the ceremony where 28 people were naturalized, most from Bosnia or Canada. Maria also thanks all of her colleagues in the department for supporting and encouraging her during this process.

Becoming a U.S. citizen was approximately a four-year process for Maria; she was lucky to work with the St. Albans Field Office because it is not as busy as others where it may have taken longer. Maria is passionate about history and politics, so all of the paperwork, fees and preparation were worth it to her. “I want to vote,” says Maria when asked what made her decide to earn her citizenship. Already holding a green card, it wasn’t necessary for Maria to attain U.S. citizenship to work here, but employment wasn’t enough. Maria says, “I’m trying to make myself heard.” Another motivator is that Maria did not have to give up her Romanian citizenship in order to become a U.S. citizen. “Romania is where I grew up, my family lives there — I don’t want to give that up,” she says. Very close to her family, Maria talks to her mother every day by phone or e-mail.

For some, the prospect of taking the citizenship test is enough to discourage them from applying. The test turned out to be more of an interview, and it was much easier than Maria thought it would be. She describes the interview: “I was nervous, of course, but I was finished in about five minutes. While the official was signing papers, he quickly asked me the ten questions, and I was done.” Once all of a prospective citizen’s paperwork is in order, s/he is given a booklet with the possible questions so they can be reviewed in the months while the paperwork is approved. Maria enjoys studying history and civics, so preparing for the interview wasn’t unpleasant for her.

Note of Thanks
The 15th Anniversary and Dedication Celebration took place back on March 6-9, but the afterglow hasn’t worn off here at the Mahaney Center for the Arts!

The MCFA Staff would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the staff and faculty who participated in the celebration. Your contribution—whether it was rehearsing scenes, preparing the food, plowing our parking lot during an ice storm, mounting an art installation, playing music, dancing, or any of the dozens of other activities we witnessed—resulted in an unforgettable weekend.

Stop by the MCFA sometime and check out the slide show of photos from the March 8 Celebration—it’s on view in the lower lobby. Thank you very much for a job well done.

~ The Mahaney Center for the Arts Staff, and the Community of Arts Faculty, Staff, and Students

Midd Points is online!
Go to Human Resources, then click on MiddPoints.
**Green Ideas, Local Foods, Workshops:**

**Come to the** _beinggreen@home_ **fair**

Where do I find non-toxic cleaners to use in my home?
What’s organic gardening and why is it so important?
Is my property well situated for solar power or wind power?
What does an electric car look like and is it the way of the future?

The answers to these “green” questions and many more will be offered at Middlebury Staff Council’s First Being Green @ Home Fair on Wednesday, April 9, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in McCullough. All members of the college community are invited.

A menu of locally sourced foods will be prepared by Dining Services and offered free of charge throughout the Fair, starting with venison sausage, eggs, muffins, and fruit for breakfast from 8 a.m. until 10:30 a.m., followed by beef chili, carrot-ginger soup, rolls, and pumpkin-cranberry bars for lunch until 1 p.m. Beverages including coffee, tea, and apple cider will be served throughout the fair.

In the Social Space there will be as many as 18 exhibitors representing Efficiency Vermont, the Addison County Solid Waste District (ACSWD), the Vermont Association of Recyclers, Northeast Organic Farmers Association, eVermont, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Addison County Transit Resources, the Middlebury Area Global Warming Action Coalition, Rural Vermont, Middlebury Farmers Market, the Vermont Association of Recyclers, and two crop-share farms, Singing Cedars of Orwell and New Leaf Organics of Bristol.

Members of the college community who will exhibit include: Emily May ’10 and Associate Professor Helen Young on creating a bee pollinator garden; Dean Ouellette from Facilities Services on solar and wind power for homes; Stephanie Winkler from College Advancement representing the Vermont Earth Institute; and Jack Byrne, the campus sustainability coordinator, on carbon neutrality.

Also at the Fair, 30-minute presentations will be given in Mitchell Green Lounge (MGL) and the Juice Bar TV Room (TV) as follows:

- 8:30 a.m., Jay Leshinsky, college garden advisor, on organic gardening at home (MGL)
- 9 a.m., Asher Burns-Burg of ICF Consulting on carbon footprint calculations (TV)
- 9:30 a.m., Efficiency Vermont on rebates and home energy audits (MGL)
- 10 a.m., Two reps from the Biology Department (see above) on bee pollinator gardens (TV)
- 10:30 a.m., Maggie Bale ’10 on food mapping using geographical information system (GIS) software (MGL)
- 11 a.m., Jack Byrne on the MiddShift Carbon Reduction Implementation Working Group (TV)
- 11:30 a.m., Don Magliente from ACSWD on recycling, hazardous materials, composting, and mulch (MGL)
- 12:15 p.m., Charen Fegard from the state association of recyclers on using safe cleansers and safe products in the home (MGL)

Watch for an e-mail in early April from Staff Council or stop at the Staff Council table in the Social Space at the Fair to confirm the time and location of the presentations that interest you. Everyone who attends the Being Green @ Home Fair is eligible to win one of the “green” door prizes donated by exhibitors and presenters.

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The Environmental Council provided additional support for the Fair. For more details, contact a member of the planning group: Tiffany Stowe (chair), Jack Byrne, Robert Keren, Peg Myhre, Dan Stearns, or Kelly Trayah.

It was 2002 when Maria first came to the Maine coast through a work and travel program. “It’s hard to get a visa if you’re young, so the work and travel program is a great opportunity if you want to see other parts of the world,” she says. Previous summers, Maria had traveled to Italy, and she loves learning about different cultures and studying people. In August of 2003, she began working at Killington, and then started at the college in the spring of 2004. Maria says she feels at home here, like this is where she’s supposed to be. “I believe in instincts, and I’m following mine,” Maria adds.

“I believe in instincts, and I’m following mine.”

Maria’s only regret about leaving Romania is that her college degree doesn’t apply here in the U.S. Even though she studied law back home, here she is starting back at square one when it comes to higher education. Maria likes to be busy, likes to work; in addition to her job at the college she is a night manager at Shaw’s in Middlebury and in the summers helps with special events at Hildene in Manchester. In the future, Maria plans to get more involved in volunteering and charity work helping other countries, including her native Romania. She is also working toward her catering license, as she would like to start like a home baking business. Maria says, “It has been my dream for years and years, and I got this passion for baking and cooking from my mom.”

~ Liz Hammel

For more information about gaining United States citizenship, visit www.uscis.gov
Expert on Stress and Primates To Give Convocation Series Address on April 10

The Convocation Series will present Robert Sapolsky, an expert on stress and primate behavior, on Thursday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m. in Mead Chapel.

Sapolsky, a professor of biology and neurology at Stanford University, will deliver the lecture “Why Zebras Don’t Get Ulcers: Stress, Disease, and Coping” which stems from his work as a research associate at the Institute of Primate Research of the National Museum in Kenya. As someone who studied a troop of baboons for 21 years, he is an animated and humorous speaker.

The Convocation Series at Middlebury began in 2007 with an address by Paul Rusesabagina, the Rwandan hotel manager best known for saving over 1,000 fellow citizens from slaughter. The series is one of the recommendations in the strategic plan, Knowledge Without Boundaries.

The event on April 10 is co-sponsored by the Dean of the College, the Charles P. Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life, the Center for Counseling and Human Relations, and the ad-hoc Committee on Stress. For more information, contact Ellen McKay, x5626.

Cake to perform live in concert April 19

Cake will perform live at Kenyon Arena on Saturday, April 19. Doors open at 8 p.m. for a 9 p.m. concert. There will be an opening band. Advance ticket prices are $10 for students, $15 for faculty and staff, and $20 for the general public. All ticket prices will go up by $10 at the door.

Although Cake’s music is often classified as alternative or indie rock, it combines multiple musical genres, such as funk, ska, pop, jazz, rap, and country. Cake’s music features droll lyrics filled with word play and syncopation (in a rap-like style by lead vocalist/guitarist John McCrea), catchy distorted guitar riffs, and a solo trumpet. Cake’s approach to arrangement, composition, and instrumentation has been compared to Soul Coughing, They Might Be Giants, Talking Heads, The Cars, Camper Van Beethoven and Lou Reed. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Box Office at x6433 or visit online at http://www.middlebury.edu/arts/tickets/.

April Technology Workshops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Workshop Title</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon, Apr 7</td>
<td>Creating Effective Documentation</td>
<td>1:00–3:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, Apr 8–May 6</td>
<td>Becoming Comfortable with Computers (5 sessions)</td>
<td>9:00–10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue, Apr 8</td>
<td>Advanced Google Earth</td>
<td>7:00–8:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Apr 9</td>
<td>Blogs and MMOGs and Wikis, Oh My!</td>
<td>3:30–5:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu, Apr 10</td>
<td>Library Research Basics</td>
<td>10:00–11:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, Apr 11</td>
<td>Excel Crash Course</td>
<td>2:00–3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Apr 14</td>
<td>WordPress</td>
<td>9:00–10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Apr 14</td>
<td>Content Management System (CMS) Basics</td>
<td>2:00–3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue, Apr 15</td>
<td>MackonMacs (Drop-in session – no signup needed)</td>
<td>Noon–1:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Apr 16</td>
<td>iPhoto: Image Editing Basics on Macs</td>
<td>9:00–10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu, Apr 17</td>
<td>InDesign: For Reprographics</td>
<td>9:00–10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Apr 21</td>
<td>Second Life</td>
<td>9:00–10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Apr 21</td>
<td>Advanced CMS</td>
<td>2:00–3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue, Apr 22</td>
<td>Excel-to-Go: Sorting, Subtotals &amp; Filters</td>
<td>3:30–4:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Apr 23</td>
<td>Advanced Google Earth</td>
<td>3:00–4:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Apr 23</td>
<td>Segue</td>
<td>3:30–5:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu, Apr 24</td>
<td>Excel-to-Go: Pivot Tables</td>
<td>3:30–4:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu, Apr 24</td>
<td>iMovie: Basic Video Editing on Macs</td>
<td>3:30–5:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Apr 28</td>
<td>Dreamweaver: Beyond the Basics</td>
<td>9:00–10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Apr 28</td>
<td>CMS Work Session</td>
<td>2:00–3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue, Apr 29</td>
<td>Excel-to-Go: Creating Basic Charts</td>
<td>10:30–11:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Apr 30</td>
<td>Illustrator: Beyond the Basics</td>
<td>9:00–10:30 a.m.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

April Technology Workshops

Registration required. Register via e-mail at helpdesk.middlebury.edu.
New Employees

Maria Farnsworth: Prior to joining Facilities Services as the Customer Service Coordinator early last month, Maria worked at Feed Commodities for 15 years. She lives in Middlebury with her husband Michael, a captain with the Middlebury Fire Department. Maria is an active member of both the Middlebury Volunteer Ambulance Association and the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad. She has two daughters; Jade is a hair stylist in Vergennes, and Whitney works for Home Health.

Stephanie Pierce: Stephanie joined Sciences Tech Support Services last month as an Assistant Animal Care Technician. She lives in Poultney and enjoys fishing and doing anything outside when not at work.

Clleveland (Billy) Pottinger: Originally from Jamaica, Billy joined the team at the Recycling Center in January. In his spare time, he plays cricket.

Gina Graham
Custodian
Facilities Services

Student wins prestigious Watson Fellowship

William Hunt, '08, an English major who graduated in February, won a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, an award that will fund a year of post-graduate travel and exploration. Hunt’s project, titled “Notes from the Underground: Unearthing the Stories of the Subterranean,” will include travel to a wide variety of historic underground sites throughout Europe, including France, Netherlands, Germany, Italy and Turkey.

To read more in Stephen Diehl’s April 1 press release, go to www.middlebury.edu/about/pubaff/news_releases/2008/pubaff_633426408771166670.htm.

(Classifieds, ctd. from pg. 6)

Free

Free Kids’ Clothing Exchange: Sat., April 5, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., Mary Johnson Children’s Ctr. Sizes newborn – 6. Drop off clean, sorted clothing & outerwear and pick up things that will fit. Those w/out things to drop off are welcome. Drop off at Mary Johnson Fri., 4/4, 3 -5 p.m. on cov. porch or bring w/ you to the exchange. Questions - contact Tiffany, tjstowe@middlebury.edu.

Wanted

Wanted: College student electric guitar instructor for a 10 year-old boy. Tyler has had some lessons and is very serious about learning. If interested please contact Donna at x5141 or dstark@middlebury.edu.

Wanted: Used wooden swing set. We will buy & remove your old wooden frame swing set that is still in good condit. Please contact Kelly at krizzo@middlebury.edu.

Wanted: Community Members - On Sat. April 12 from 7-11 p.m. the Starline Rhythm Boys will provide fabulous swing music at the Midd. American Legion. Come dance, eat & participate in the 3rd annual silent auction to benefit the Bristol Family Center! For more info. or to reserve tickets: 453-5659 or bfc@gmavt.net. Advance tix: $15 single/ $25 couple. At door: $20/$35.

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

Wanted: Summer rental for Bread Loaf student and family. Must be fully furn. & at least 3 BR. Rental ideally avail. from roughly June 15 thru Aug. 15. Searching from afar, so any leads would be helpful! Contact Kristin at awsumbluu@gmail.com.

Wanted: House Swap or Rental. Couple coming to Midd. for 2008-09 acad. year seeking house to rent or swap for our house in Wash. DC. Ours is 3 BR, 3 BA in safe, attract. area of N.W. DC. 5 min. walk to Metro, walking dist. of stores, schools, etc. Contact Jeff: jlunstea@middlebury.edu, sharpelunstead@yahoo.com or 202-362-2630.
**Second annual Spring Student Symposium scheduled for April 18**

On Friday, April 18, 2008, the College will host its second annual Spring Student Symposium in McCardell Bicentennial Hall. The event will celebrate the research experiences of our undergraduate students as individuals, in classes, and in collaboration with faculty and staff members.

More than 100 students will present brief synopses of their research in oral and poster sessions throughout the afternoon, followed by a reception for all symposium presenters, advisers, and attendees. Their topics include the future of biofuels, the structure of instant messaging, MiddCORE, play readings, Ethiopia, and a wide range of additional subjects.

We warmly encourage all members of the Middlebury faculty and staff to visit the Undergraduate Research Office Web site at http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/uro/symposiums to learn more about the schedule for the day and the exciting range of topics our students have been exploring. We hope you will choose to attend some or all of the Symposium’s events and that you will join us in celebrating the academic accomplishments of our students and their advisers.

~ Pat Manley, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Research

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**Start Smart Workshop**

On Monday, April 14 at 12:15 p.m. in Warner Hemicycle, students, staff and faculty members can learn what they can do to narrow the wage gap. Anne Houle, National Director of Campus and Community Initiatives for the WAGE project, will teach a workshop on negotiating skills. The $tart $mart Campus Initiative aims at empowering women to obtain the skills necessary to receive fair and realistic compensation. Participants will also be given the resources for benchmarking reasonable salaries and wages and to develop a “bare bones” budget. To register, please contact Karin Hanta at khanta@middlebury.edu.

*Sponsored by the Women’s and Gender Studies Program-Chellis House, the Career Services Office, and Human Resources.*

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**where on CAMPUS?**

Fran Meehan, Facilities Services, is the only person to respond to the last Where on Campus photo. Fran knows that the “trophy” sits on the windowsill of Dave Saward’s office, a memento of the men’s soccer team’s trip to Disneyworld where they won the Division III National Championship last fall.

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**Middlebury History**

**25 years ago**: The Student Forum focused on the proposal to add a Chinese major to the College curriculum. Hillel presented two perspectives on the Holocaust with a lecture by survivor Aharon Appelfeld and a screening of the film *To Bear Witness*. Woody’s, a new restaurant, opened on Bakery Lane.

**10 years ago**: A racist ad in the April Fools issue of *The Campus* triggered a protest outside Old Chapel. Author John Irving spoke at Mead Chapel. Lynn Lewis began her appointment as the coordinator of the German School and assistant to the Spanish and Italian Departments.

**5 years ago**: Rob Cohen of the English Department received a Guggenheim Fellowship to work on his new novel. A new study by Northern Economic Consulting Inc. showed that the College pays $45.6 million in wages and $13.7 million in benefits to Addison County residents.

This month in *Middlebury History*

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**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 charge 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

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: 1996 Jeep Cherokee $3,500 firm. White, standard, 4x4. New: all-terrain tires, battery, radiator, belts, breaks (drums and pads all 4 wheels). Oil changed every 3-4K mi. No rust on body, runs perfectly. 148K miles. cadavis@middlebury.edu or x2319.


For Sale: Tires. Set of 4 Kumho Ecsta AST 205/50R16 high-perform. all-season tires. Will fit most 16" wheels. Tires have 10K miles on them and are in great shape. $100 for the set. Dave, x3143 or 462-2548.

For Sale: Car audio – Rockford Fosgate 15" subwoofer, 500 watt, 2 channel amp w/ base nole. JVC 200 watt deck w/ remote & digital screen. All instruct. mans. incl. Asking $300 OBO. Call Justin, 802-247-3120.

Real Estate
For Rent: Avail. July 1, ’08. Cozy and bright 1 BR house on 14.6 acres 10 min. south of Midd. 20 min. north of Brandon. Remodeled kitch. w/ DW, W/D, walk-in closet in BR. Trails, quiet dirt road, surround. by conserved farmland. Cats ok, well-behaved dog w/ addit. pet deposit. No smokers. $1,200/mo. includes local phone, electric, trash, recyl., lawn care, plowing, wireless DSL, sat. w/ Tivo DVR. Photos avail. Contact Jenn, 802-388-4378 or ponder@middlebury.edu.

For Rent: Avail. next acad. year from late August to late May, dates negot. Beautiful 2 BR, 2 BA house, w/ large deck, big yard. In town. 5 min. walk to dwnown. and 15 min. walk to College. No smoking, no pets. $1,200 + util. & heat. Photos avail. E-mail: mayer@middlebury.edu.

For Rent: 3 BR newly renov. house on Cider Mill Rd., Cornwall, w/ spectac. views of Green Mtns. on 6 acres. New master BR w/ new private BA. New kitchen, W/D, DW. Newly fin. hdrwd. floors. Connects to walking and x-country ski trails. Detached garage & storage space. 3 mi. from campus. Pets negot. 1-5 year lease avail. 1 mo. sec. deposit. Avail. July 1. $1,400/mo. + util. Unfurnished. Must see. E-mail cfranklin@acadian-asset.com.

For Rent: Cozy, 1 room private cottage in New Haven, 8 mi. from Middlebury. Partially furnished, no smoking/pets. $500/ month + utilities. References and deposit required. 802-453-6032.

For Rent: Cornwall apartment - private house - 2.5 mi. from Middlebury 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, cable tv, utilities incl. No smokers, pets negot. $950/mo. Avail. June. Photos avail.: angielalex1@mac.com; 802-989-9540.

For Rent: Charming guest house in Cornwall in private country setting w/ pond and gardens. 2 BR, 1 BA, W/D, DW, electric heat w/ wood-burning Vermont Castings stove, garage bay, storage or studio space. Only 5 min. drive/15 min. bike to College. No smokers/pets. $900/mo. + util. Contact Tracy, x5102 thimmell@middlebury.edu or Jon, x3238 jisham@middlebury.edu.

Other

For Sale: Love seat in good condit., brown and black, $100; HP office jet series 700 printer (HP model 710) w/ install. cd & manual, $50; numerous movies on VHF cassette (from children’s to horror ) that must go, 50 cents each or $20 for box of 50. Contact Kara, kgenrare@middlebury.edu or x5727.

City College Book Store
ATTENTION FACULTY
THINKING ABOUT PURCHASING REGALIA FOR GRADUATION WEEKEND?

CONTACT THE CITY COLLEGE BOOK STORE AND ORDER EARLY TO ENSURE TIMELY DELIVERY.
SPECIAL SPRING OFFERING

THE LAST DUEL

Julia Whelan'08 will be hosting a conference called “Writing History” on May 8 and 9. She will be bringing two authors of historical fiction and nonfiction to speak to the College community. We are offering staff the opportunity to read The Last Duel by Eric Jager. Eric is participating in the Conference and will be giving a presentation on May 8 at 4:15 in McCardell Bicentennial Hall. Please see the backside of this flyer for more information about the Conference. This wonderful work of creative nonfiction is a quick and entertaining read set in Medieval France. Based on extensive research in Normandy and Paris, The Last Duel brings to life a colorful, turbulent age and three unforgettable characters caught in a fatal triangle of crime, scandal, and revenge. It is at once a moving human drama, a captivating detective story, and an engrossing work of historical intrigue.

If you are interested in participating in this book group, please contact Lynn Dunton by e-mailing ldunton@middlebury.edu, calling extension 3085, or returning the form below to Lynn Dunton, College Advancement, Munford House. Responses must be received by April 11, 2008.

If you cannot join at this time, stay tuned to MiddPoints for the next round!

Underwritten by the Office of the President

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Name: _________________________________________________________________________________

Department: ___________________________________________________________________________

☐ I am interested in participating as a book group member.

Detach and return to Lynn Dunton, College Advancement, Munford House. Responses must be received by April 11, 2008.
Writing History: An Exploration
The Craft, Benefits, and Perils of Making History Literary

Thursday, May 8th - Friday, May 9th, 2008

Contact Julia Whelan, class of 2008
(jmwhelan@middlebury.edu)

Summary
This symposium will seek to explore the ways in which history is written, and, in turn, how it impacts contemporary society. Is making history accessible and enjoyable to a wider audience inherently dangerous? Does popularizing historical events blur the line between reality and fantasy? Where does the writer’s loyalty lie, in narrative or truth? As the symposium explores different historical-writing genres (scholarly, nonfiction, and fiction), are these responsibilities seen to shift? Beyond grasping at the moral issues tied to writing and interpreting history, this symposium will provide an outlet for leading historical writers to discuss research, craft, inspiration, and the philosophical importance of making history literary.

Participants
Avi - Having published over fifty books for children and young adults, Avi is synonymous with early reading. In addition to his contemporary works, his historical novels, such as The Fighting Ground and the Beyond the Western Sea series, continue to engage young readers. Avi’s historical novels The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle and his latest series, Crispin, have garnered him Newbery Awards for outstanding children’s literature. His focus on making history enjoyable brings him to schools and libraries across the country, where he promotes literacy and the study of history, and encourages children to pursue writing.

Eric Jager - After teaching at Columbia for nine years, Eric Jager joined the UCLA English faculty in 1996. He specializes in Old English and Medieval literature, and the history of the book. He is the recipient of a research fellowship from the American Council of Learned Studies and the Weiss/Brown Award from The Newberry Library. His latest work, The Last Duel, a work of creative historical nonfiction, has sold in six languages, was the basis for a BBC documentary, and will soon be adapted for the screen.

Teofilo F. Ruiz - Currently spending the year on a Guggenheim Fellowship writing his latest scholarly history of festivals, rituals, and power in late medieval and early modern Spain, this UCLA professor continually packs 500 seat lecture rooms for his courses on Medieval history. He has been selected by the Carnegie Foundation as one of four Outstanding Teachers of the Year in the United States, and was Princeton’s 250th Anniversary Visiting Professor for Distinguished Teaching. Three of his lecture series are currently available on audio and video through The Teaching Company.

Events
Thursday, May 8th, 2008:
4:15 - McCardell Bicentennial Hall, Room 216

7:30 - TBD
Writing History: A Roundtable
Avi, Eric Jager, Teofilo Ruiz, and Middlebury faculty members David Bain and Jay Parini will discuss the pleasures and pitfalls of writing history. Reception following.

Friday, May 9th, 2008:
4:30 - Dana Auditorium
Avi: Reading, Lecture, and Q&A on The Relevance of Crafting History for Young Readers