College celebrates dedication of the Kevin P. Mahaney ’84 Center for the Arts on Center’s 15th anniversary

From Thursday, March 6, through Sunday, March 9, the college will host a dedication of the Kevin P. Mahaney ’84 Center for the Arts and a celebration of the center’s 15-year anniversary. Events are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted, and include lectures, exhibitions, performances, films and a symposium.

“Since 1992, the Center for the Arts has enriched the life of the college and its community as a focus and catalyst for thriving programs in the visual and performing arts,” said Director of the Arts Glenn Andres. According to Andres, this celebration acknowledges the 15th anniversary of the Center for the Arts and its rededication in honor of 1984 graduate Kevin P. Mahaney in recognition of his generosity and commitment to the arts as a key component of every Middlebury student’s education. The events will encompass performances and exhibitions showcasing every arts discipline on campus.

Featured activities on Saturday evening include the official dedication celebration at 7 p.m. in the upper lobby of the Mahaney Center for the Arts, followed at 8 p.m. by a choice of three performances: the Dick Forman Jazz Group in the Concert Hall; the Middlebury College Theatre Program’s cast of alumni and students in “Curtain Up” in the Seeler Studio Theatre; and Leyya Tawil and Dance Elixir contemporary dance in the Dance Theatre, for which tickets are $15 for general admission and $12 for seniors. The Dance Elixir performance will be repeated at 8 p.m. on Sunday evening.

After all the performances and symposium activities conclude for the day on Saturday, join in an after-hours celebration. Dress up, dance to the sounds of the Sound Investment Jazz Ensemble and enjoy festive food and drinks as we toast the dedication of the center and its 15th anniversary season in a “Beaux-Arts” style bash.

For a full schedule of events and their descriptions visit www.middlebury.edu/arts

Winter slip & fall safety
It’s the season when slips and falls occur in an increasing number here on campus. Facilities Services does a very good job of keeping the sidewalks and steps clear of snow and ice. However, there may be icy patches they have not had a chance to get to before you’ve walked to your office, classroom, or building. It is important to be aware of your footing and walk safely on ice and slippery surfaces.

Soul of a Citizen: Hope in a Time of Fear
Alliance for Civic Engagement, the United Way, and PACT present the 5th annual Civic Engagement Forum Lecture on: Thursday, March 13, 2008 4:30 p.m. in Mead Chapel

How can you make your voice heard and your actions count? Based on his award-winning books on civic engagement (The Soul of a Citizen, The Impossible Will Take a Little While, and Generation at the Crossroads), Paul Rogat Loeb explores how to act on our deepest beliefs-and make a difference despite all the obstacles. He describes what gets people involved in working for change; how community involvement can give us a powerful sense of connection and purpose; and how we can avoid burning out in exhaustion, and keep on for the long haul. Questions? Contact Ashley Calkins, jcalkins@middlebury.edu, x3099.
Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality: Working group explores renewable energy

In the February 8, 2008 issue of MiddPoints, we described the board of trustees’ resolution to become a carbon neutral institution by 2016. We also introduced the MiddShift Implementation Working Group (MSIWG), whose job it is to map out how the college can achieve the goal of eliminating its net greenhouse gas emissions over the next eight years in a way that is feasible, cost-effective, accessible, and flexible.

The goal of carbon neutrality will be achieved through a multi-pronged approach: shifting to renewable energy sources for heating, cooling and electricity, ensuring the most energy efficient buildings and vehicles, and developing a culture that values and supports the ethic of conservation. Beginning with this article, we will describe each of these in a little more detail, starting with renewable energy.

First, to begin with some definitions, renewable energy is derived from an energy source that is rapidly replaced or renewed, by a natural process. Some examples include biomass (for instance, wood chips), solar power, wind energy, and hydroelectricity.

This is contrasted with non-renewable energy that is not replaced, or is renewed very slowly (over millions of years). Fossil fuels – such as oil and coal – are primary examples of non-renewable energy sources.

At Middlebury, heating and cooling account for about 75% of our carbon output (often referred to as our “carbon footprint”) and currently rely on the use of #6 fuel oil — a non-renewable resource. Middlebury College has made a very significant commitment to renewable energy through the construction of the biomass plant, scheduled to go on-line in late 2008. The idea behind biomass is to replace the burning of oil with the burning of renewable sources. The March 21 issue of MiddPoints will have a complete description of the biomass project, but for now, it is important to understand that the new plant will enable us to reduce our use of #6 fuel oil by one-half – or one million gallons. A key to Middlebury’s carbon neutrality will be answering the question, “what about the other million gallons?” The MSIWG Steering Committee is exploring other options to generate clean energy.

Biofuel – that is, liquid fuel derived from renewable sources, is one option for replacing the remaining heating oil needed in the physical plant, as well as heating those outlying buildings not served by the central heating line. Since biofuel emits 86% fewer carbon emissions than the #6 oil, it could provide significant carbon savings. Biofuel could also be used instead of gas and diesel in some of the vehicles on campus.

We also want to look at how we can use the power from the sun. Solar thermal technology might be an option for heating and cooling, particularly in the buildings not served by the central plant. Solar cells, known as photovoltaic devices (or PVs) installed on the roofs of some buildings might be an efficient way to generate our own electricity.

Wind power is another source to study. Many of you are aware that we have a small wind turbine in operation by the recycling center. This turbine provides enough power to meet the demand of an average Vermont household and has been providing approximately 25% of the electrical needs of the recycling facility (please go to www.vtwindprogram.org for actual operating data for our wind turbine and others like it in Vermont). We need to explore whether larger scale wind projects could be feasible. Likewise, our proximity to Otter Creek suggests that it might be worth pursuing hydroelectricity – that is, generating power through the movement of water.

As we have said, achieving carbon neutrality by 2016 will be a community effort. Several teams of students will help us assess the feasibility of the projects described above, as well as some of the other initiatives to be covered in future articles. We also want to hear your thoughts and perspectives on these options.

In addition, for many of us, the concept of carbon neutrality sounds good, but there is still a lot to learn. Please feel free to contact me (cmacan@middlebury.edu), Jack Byrne (jmbyrne@middlebury.edu) or any member of the MSIWG Steering Committee with ideas about how we can help all members of the community engage in this conversation.

~ Drew Macan

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Reminder to 2007 Flexible Spending Account participants:
You have until March 15 (only one more week!) to submit claims for services provided in the calendar year 2007. Claim forms can be found in the HR office or on the HR website by clicking on “Benefits,” scrolling down to the Flexible Spending Accounts section, then clicking on dependent care or health care “FSA Claim Form” (valid for claims incurred prior to 01/01/08).

All claims should be sent to Ceridian via fax to 1-877-488-6454 or mail to Ceridian FSA Services, PO Box 534134, St. Petersburg, FL 33747.

Middlebury History

25 years ago ● Fred Neuberger, director of admissions, reports a five percent drop in applications for the Class of 1987 as compared to one year before. Lack of snow forces the moving of the Winter Carnival ski races to Pico. Fraternity affiliation is up to 40 percent among men, and Karl Lindholm, dean of students, has formed task force to study the issue.

10 years ago ● William Hart of the history department receives a fellowship for 1998-1999 at the Center for the Study of American Religion at Princeton University. Staff Council sponsors a bus trip to Boston for 36 people. Will Melton, vice president of external affairs, announces that the Bicentennial Campaign has cleared the $90 million mark.

5 years ago ● Ian Martin ’84, commons chef, receives a silver medal in the American Culinary Federation’s chef’s competition. With a grant from the Environmental Council, “VendorMiser” energy-saving devices have been installed on cold drink vending machines on campus. Christopher McGrory Klyza is the first recipient of the Robert and Helen Stafford Professorship in Public Policy.

Technology Workshops

A complete listing of technology workshops for March and early April is available on the LIS website. Get there by typing “go:techworkshops” into your browser.


Following the tables with the workshop schedules, you’ll find descriptions of each course. To sign up for workshops of interest, send an e-mail request to helpdesk@middlebury.edu.

Faculty Grants

Jeffrey Munroe (Geology) has received a Franklin Grant from the American Philosophical Society and a grant from the National Science Foundation’s SGER (Special Grant for Exploratory Research) program to study the recent history of alpine glaciers in Glacier National Park, Montana. The funding will support laboratory study of sediment cores retrieved in 2007 from a lake below one of the largest remaining glaciers in the park.

Molly Costanza-Robinson (Environmental Studies and Chemistry & Biochemistry) and Jeff Munroe (Geology) received research funding from the Cornelius King Charitable Trust, through a sub-award from the University of Vermont, to continue work on a project titled The Taste of Place in Vermont. As part of this interdisciplinary Vermont Maple Terroir project, an undergraduate student will be characterizing the sugarbush-scale variability in sap chemistry.

Erik Bleich (Political Science) has been awarded funding for his 2008-2009 leave through the American Philosophical Society’s Sabbatical Fellowship program. His book project, Making it Hard to Hate: Limiting Freedom in the Name of Cohesion, analyzes the periodic incompatibility of promoting cohesion across racial, ethnic, and religious boundaries with maintaining deeply held values of freedom of speech and association. Focusing on the dangers—but also the qualified successes—of how liberal democracies have managed these conflicts aims to foster informed discussion among citizens about where to draw the line between these two vital public values.

Sallie Sheldon (Biology) has received funding from the Vermont Experimental Society’s Sabbatical Fellowship program.

(Faculty Grants continued on page 4)
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: Baby items. Six-panel 15’ Superyard XT ($25); Graco Harmony highchair w/toy bar ($25); two 42” doorway safety gates ($10); Kolcraft inner-coil crib mattress, used by one baby ($10); wooden Kinderkraft crib, well used but meets current safety standards (free). Photos avail. by e-mail. Call or e-mail ckuebler@middlebury.edu; 802-398-1420.

For Sale: PA System - Peavey XR-600B mixer amp, 800 watts, 6 jacks; 2-3’ Peavey speakers, low impedance, 08 OHMS; two 50 ft. speaker cords. Great condit. $500. Call Sue at 388-7026 or cell 989-5614.

For Sale: Peavey Guitar Amp - Classic Chorus, 130 stereo series, 400 Watts. Great condit. $300. Call Sue at 388-7026 or cell 989-5614.

Real Estate


For Rent: House available August 15, 2008-August 2009. 1830’s cape overlooking the Green Mtns. 2 BR, 2 BA, w/ deck, pond, in country setting. Five min. from Middlebury, 20 min. from Bread Loaf campus. No smoking, $1,200/mo. plus heat and utilities. Photos avail. Call 802-388-3830 or e-mail Olsen@middlebury.edu.

For Rent: Middlebury house for rent, summer 2008. Old 3 BR farmhouse w/ one acre of land on dead-end street in downtown Middlebury. Grassy yard w/ garden space. Very safe for kids, walking dist. to town pool and playground. Summer rental only, ideally June 1-August 31, but exact dates negot. $1,250/mo., plus utilities. Call Gregor or Gaen at (802) 388-3877.

Other

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

Wanted: Two Middlebury grads seeking housing for May and June. Willing to pay room and board or exchange for house sitting or caring for pets. Please contact Izzy Marshall at emarshal@middlebury.edu or Logan Duran at lduran@middlebury.edu. For references, please contact Beth Ross at eroess@middlebury.edu or Jeff Munroe at jmunroe@middlebury.edu.

(Faculty Grants, ctd. from pg. 3)

Program to Stimulate Competitive Research as a consultant to their new “Streams Project” which is dedicated to collecting and sharing data from streams in the Lake Champlain Watershed. The data gathered by this project will serve the needs of VT-EPSCoR’s Complex Systems Modeling Group.

Frank Winkler (Physics) has received funding from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s General Observer Program for a project entitled SN 1006: The Millennium Supernova Remnant, which involves collaborators from the Space Telescope Science Institute, North Carolina State, and the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. They are using the Spitzer Space Telescope in an attempt to measure for the first time infrared radiation from the remains of the 1006 A.D. supernova, brightest star ever witnessed in recorded human history.