New Friends in Dining Services

We all gathered around the conference table late one afternoon last week. It wasn’t one of those hot days, but the room was stuffy nonetheless. Once the laughter and chatter subsided, all eyes turned to me and seemed to say, “So, what do you want to know?” “Everything,” I thought, and began to pepper the nine strangers with questions. “What do you think of the U.S.?” “What do you like about working at the College?” They all responded, “The people!”

Middlebury College participates in a cultural exchange every summer. This year, nine young people from various countries went through a long process to work in Dining Services here at Middlebury. Perry Richards, Human Resources Generalist for Dining Services, coordinated their hiring and travel arrangements with three different agencies. After they arrived in the U.S., arrangements were made for picking them up from the airport and bus station, assuring their housing, and even finding alarm clocks and fans for their rooms. Says Perry, “Thinking of the diverse backgrounds and cultures of all of them, and how they are able to come so far from home to be with us for a few months, we try to make it an experience they will remember fondly for the rest of their lives.”

They arrived in Middlebury at different times and will be working into October. Ivan Turogin and Antonia Babkina are from Estonia. Antonia is known as the “Queen of Pancakes” at Arwater. They both speak many languages including Russian and have really enjoyed interacting with the students and faculty in the Russian Language School. Along with Oleksii (Alex) Popov, who is from the Ukraine, they’ve attended Russian concerts and even got to meet a famous Russian!

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For Your Benefit

Are you thinking of retiring and wonder what your options may be? When you retire there are several ways to receive your income. The following information may be of interest to you.

**Lifetime Annuities** pay you a monthly income for as long as you live. Because a one-life annuity pays income only to you, it provides the largest benefit. (Usually this is for a person who does not have a partner). Two-life annuities provide income for both you and an annuity partner (spouse) and therefore pay somewhat less, but they ensure that income will last through both your lifetimes, either at the same rate or at a reduced rate for the surviving partner. You get to choose whether you want 1/2 benefit, 2/3 benefit or full benefit to the survivor. Your choice makes a difference in how much you received monthly. Both Single-life and joint-life annuities offer guaranteed periods, which continue payments to your beneficiaries until the end of the period if you (or your annuity partner) die before that time. You can select guaranteed periods for 10, 15, or 20 years depending on your age when you retire.

**Fixed Period Annuities** pay out your entire accumulation over a specific number of years.

**TIAA Interest-Only Option** provides regular interest payments that otherwise would be credited to your retirement annuity accumulation in TIAA Traditional.

**Systematic Withdrawals** provide cash distributions of a set amount or percentage over the time period you specify, assuming the payments will satisfy minimum distribution requirements after age 70½. (There is a chance of running out of money by doing this).

For more information you may call TIAA-CREF toll free at 800-842-2776 or call Human Resources at x5465 to schedule an appointment to meet with the TIAA-CREF consultant.

TIAA-CREF will be on campus:
September 7 and 8
November 2 and 3
Call Human Resources at x5465 to schedule your individual session.

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Malgorzata (Gosha) Mizgarska and Patrycja Szczechowicz are from Poland. They have been friends since they were children and are excited about being here. Halil Ibrahim Karademir and Mehmet Kaya are both studying International Relations in Turkey. Marisol Castano Carranza teaches English and Spanish in Columbia. She has enjoyed the interactions with the Spanish School and being the only girl in Proctor kitchen.

The work visas have limits to the number of hours they can work. Although they jokingly pester Perry for “more hours,” many have enjoyed the extra time to read and attend some of the Language School’s concerts and lectures. “I’ve read as many books here as I’ve read in all my life” exclaims Antonina. She is impressed with the Library almost as much as the Middlebury dining employees. “We are like a family.”

Speaking of family, they truly miss the people they’ve left back home. “It’s hard - they are a long ways away,” Gosha says. She missed her sister’s 18th birthday. Antonia missed her brother’s wedding. They all talk on the phone as much as possible with their friends and families at home and will have many stories to share when they return.

They’ve been on a few field trips that included Burlington, Montreal, and Boston, or Baawwitin as they all chime. Their visas also allow them to travel for a month before returning home to their respective countries. Silvija Casar, who is from Slovenia, will be going to California and Ohio with two friends who are currently working in New Jersey. She is looking forward to seeing more of America.

They agree the culture is very different here, and Burlington is “fast.” But what was most evident that afternoon was how wonderful our dining staff is. Grins spread wide as employee names were rapidly rattled off. Folks in Proctor, Bread Loaf, and all over, really. Nice, friendly, funny, and … family, just to quote a few of the many positive expressions spoken around the table. I’m very proud to be connected to that impression of our campus community … and of our country.

~DG

Ripped from the Handbook

Floating holidays include Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. Some college offices remain open on floating holidays. Subject to the staffing needs of individual departments, a staff member may choose whether or not to work on a floating holiday if it falls on a regularly scheduled day of work.

Eligibility: Full and Part time staff who accrue CTO are eligible for floating holidays.

This year Labor Day is September 5th.
Employees

George E. Coro
General Maintenance Worker
Facilities Services

Kimberly S. Pratt
Team Leader
Facilities Services

David F. Gratton
Heating Plant Operator B
Facilities Services

Emerging Leadership: Moving Forward Program

Front Row: Donna Jewell, Sandra Laird, Patricia McCaffrey, Julie Dow
Back Row: Mike Pixley, Bill Saunders, Penny Moulton, Kimberly Pratt, Chris Norris, Tanya Lizotte, Liz Whitaker-Freitas, George Traverse
Not Pictured: Marguerite Corbin and Cindy Cagle

Faculty Grants

William Pyle (Economics) has received a Teaching Fellowship from the Eurasia Program of the Social Science Research Council for development of a course entitled, “Legal Institutions and Post-Soviet Economic Development.”

The National Science Foundation has awarded a Major Research Instrumentation grant to Middlebury College for acquisition of an LC/MS System (mass spectrometer interfaced with a liquid chromatograph). This project, under the direction of Jeffrey Byers, will support the research efforts of four faculty members in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and approximately 10 undergraduate students a year.

Pat Manley (Geology) received funding from the U.S. Geological Survey to support Lake Champlain research expenses related to a USGS project titled, “Abrupt Climate Change in the Eastern United States.”
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. Please send your ads to: Classifieds, Midd Points, HR, Service Building, or via Outlook to: Middpoints Editor (electronic submissions preferred).

Real Estate

For Sale: Spacious country home on 5.5 acres, 6 miles from Middlebury. Built 1989. Great room with woodstove and high windows; hardwood floors & many other wood touches; very large study lined with bookshelves; 1st floor laundry; attached garage; detached garage/workshop. 3 BR, 2-1/2 baths. $335,000. Keenan, 802-334-1470.

For Rent: Spacious and bright 2-bedroom Middlebury apartment, adjacent to campus and walk to downtown. Quiet neighborhood on dead end street. Off street parking. Large rooms, hardwood floors. Storage and laundry on site. No dogs, no smoking. $965 per month. 388-8350 or 545-2149.

For Rent: One bedroom upstairs apartment with porch in Middlebury. $575 per month, plus one month deposit. Heat included. Walking distance to downtown and Middlebury College. No pets, no smokers, please. Call 388-7402 after 6 p.m. References requested.

Condo For Sale: 2 BR, 1 ½ baths, full garage w/remote door, spacious open living/dining area, office, loft & utility room. All appliances and copious storage/closet space. Vergennes subdivision, walk to shops. $174,000. (802) 989-1913.

Enjoy the beauty of Lake Champlain! For Rent: Three Bedroom House from 2nd week of September through 2nd week of October. $800 per week; 2 or more weeks $600 per week. All utilities included. Contact Mike at 802-877-6404.

Auto

Perfect for Cruising on hot summer nights! For Sale: Classic 1967 Lincoln Continental Convertible. Light mint green with black top; white leather interior; “suicide” doors. Runs well but needs work on body, interior, and top mechanism. On the list of projects I’ll never get to! Asking $1,750. Call 545-2703 or 443-5616.

For Sale: 1999 Pontiac Grand AM SE, black, 2 door, CD, power locks, cruise, AC, 82,000 miles. $5,500. Call 989-9241.

For Sale: 1993 Subaru Legacy Wagon-Engine well maintained, new clutch, some rust. 157k. $1,700 or best offer. 802-578-7250.

For Sale: 2000-2001 John Deere 425 garden tractor with 138 hours of metered use (typical 425s will have over 1500). List price was $8,499. 20hp Kawasaki liquid cooled gas V-twin engine, hydrostatic transmission, hydraulic PTO, cruise, differential lock; compatible with many front and pull behind attachments. Garaged and winterized every season. Asking $5,500. Please contact Hieu at 388-6852 (eve) if interested.

For Sale: 1993 Mercury Villager Minivan. Good condition, well maintained, original owner. 175K, $1,950 OBO. Contact Steve at 388-0040.

Other

For Sale: 2004 Sony Vaio PCG-GRT250P Intel Pentium 4 laptop in excellent condition. 2.4GHz, 40GB, 512 RAM. WiFi, TFT XGA, CD-RW/DVD combo, Windows XP Professional. $1,000 or best offer. A cover case and a wireless mouse will be included. Please contact Namik Kirlic at nkirlic@middlebury.edu, or by calling x5161 or 802.989.1440.

Camera For Sale: Canon 35 mm EOS Rebel 2000 w/28-80 mm lens, filters, padded case. In great condition. $150. 802-578-7250.

For Sale: 4 Full length mirrors. 1 ~ 5 ft. by 3.5 ft. bathroom mirror. These are not cheap mirrors. They are extremely heavy and great quality. Best offer. 989-8838


For Sale: Comfy smallish floral-pattern armchair, $10; Royal manual typewriter. Heavy-the real thing. Still works fine. $10. Call Kate 388-6258

For Sale: Beautifully crafted Italian leather woman’s shoulder handbag. Purchased at the Straw Market in Florence. Used 6 times. 15” W, 11” H, 2 long shoulder straps, 2 inside zipper pockets, one is key size, the other is 11” x 15 “. Still has that rich leather smell... $50. x5052


Lost and Found

A pair of prescription glasses were found on the second floor of the Service Building in the Accounts Payable Department. Please call the Midd Points Editor at x5338 to identify.