Meet the Department of Event Management

Departments all over campus are consolidating and reorganizing in order to adapt to the staffing reductions that resulted from the College’s voluntary retirement and separation programs. The renamed Department of Event Management is a bit ahead of the curve. Changes in what had been the Event Scheduling and Information Office began about 18 months ago when the financial crisis reinforced what director Lisa Ayers had already identified as necessary: the process of how events on campus are planned and executed needed to be streamlined and made more efficient.

Prior to Ayers and the College administration teaming up to reorganize the events scheduling process, there were 11 people in 10 departments scheduling events on campus. This system put strain on many campus resources in areas like dining, facilities, media services, and public safety because often events scheduled by different departments would unintentionally compete for their services, not to mention an audience. Another problem with the old system is that there wasn’t support for all of those people scheduling events – there was no resource guiding them, helping them navigate everything that must be taken care of to make an event a success. As Ayers says, “planning an event is so much more than scheduling a room.”

In 2004 Ayers and Marie Winner (Events Scheduler) began the work of developing the Events Scheduling Office, created as a separate entity when course scheduling duties were transferred to the academic administration. During the past several years, Ayers and Winner have focused their energies on events scheduling for the administrative and academic departments.

When the Dining Events office closed last year as part of the cost-saving measures recommended by the budget oversight committee, Mary Reed (Events Catering Coordinator) joined Ayers and Winner.

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Women of Color Presents What is Color?

Mentioning the word color, unless it is immediately followed by discussion of preferences regarding a sweater, sneaker or bag, will always heighten the anxiety level in a room. At Middlebury, whether it is because of diversity fatigue, fear of offending anyone, or worse, coming across as racist, people shy away from the topic of color and race by any means necessary.

Women of Color feels it is time to address this taboo and bring all the issues surrounding it to the table. We have collaborated with other groups on campus in order to bring speakers and panelists to Middlebury to educate our student body on the topic. We hope all come out, regardless of pigmentation.

- March 4, 4:30 p.m., Abernethy Room
  On being the Model Minority: A Panel Discussion, facilitated by Rachel Joo
- March 10, 7 p.m., Château Grand Salon
  Julia Alvarez reading and discussion
- March 10, Time TBA, Orchard Room and 51 Main
  DMC hosts poet Aja Monet, for workshop and Verbal Onslaught Performance

Look for more events in the series in the next issue.
Free Home Energy Visits Available in Middlebury Area

Middlebury, and some other participating Addison County towns, will begin free Home Energy Visits to local households this month in partnership with Efficiency Vermont as part of its Vermont Community Energy Mobilization (VCEM) project. VCEM Middlebury is being spearheaded by the Middlebury Energy Committee as part of its “Button Up Middlebury” efforts.

Two weeks ago Efficiency Vermont trained 20 local Addison County volunteers on how to conduct free home energy visits. Volunteers will install free ENERGY STAR® compact fluorescent light bulbs and water-saving and heating devices and provide information and special incentives to save more energy. The volunteers will identify homes that would be good candidates for a professional energy audit and comprehensive energy efficiency home improvements, and will inform homeowners of local incentives for energy improvements such as Efficiency Vermont rebates, Acorn Energy Co-op Partners Program discounts, and Neighborworks of Western Vermont 0% loans for weatherization and solar domestic hot water systems.

A home energy visit takes about one to two hours. The program ends April 30. Middlebury residents who are interested in having a free home energy visit can call Laura Asermily at 388.9478. Ripon residents can call Warren King at 388.4082. Lincoln residents can call Stephen Taylor at 453.3225. Cornwall residents can call Gary Barnett at 462.3669. Check listings in local papers for contacts in other area towns such as Brandon and Charlotte, which are also providing free home energy visits through VCEM.

Many gathered at McCardell Bicentennial Hall on Friday, February 12 to honor the members of the faculty and staff who have published articles or presented creative works in 2009. Attendees enjoyed refreshments while perusing the works on display.

Milestones are determined by years of uninterrupted employment at Middlebury College. The following milestones were attained in February 2010:

5 YEARS

Maria Allen
Rikert Ski Touring Center

Allan Curtiss
Dining Services

Marion Davis
Public Safety

Kenneth Pierce
Dining Services

10 YEARS

Matthew Dickinson
Political Science

David Groshans
Facilities Services

Ene Piirak
Center for Counseling / Human Relations

15 YEARS

Holly Allen
American Studies

Alisa Cutter
Student Financial Services

David Kerin
Dining Services

Congratulations on reaching these Milestones!

MILESTONES
Carrie Pratt - Carrie is an Americorps VISTA member working with the Alliance for Civic Engagement (ACE). Originally from Essex Junction, VT, she is a 2009 graduate of St. Michael’s College with a degree in English. Carrie lives in Middlebury and enjoys yoga, running, skiing, and spending time outside.

Lance Ritchie
Sciences Tech Support Services

Ian McCray
Admissions

Alexander Manshel
Communications

New Employees

Department of Event Management, ctd. from page 1

Winner. “With Dining Events closed, we had to figure out how to manage events’ catering needs. Mary has been instrumental in helping navigate how to handle catering provided by Dining Services and how to arrange for outside contractors to come on to campus,” Ayers says.

The final step in the consolidation of event management came when Tammy Grant (Student Events Coordinator) moved over from Campus Activities and Leadership this fall to bring the planning of all student events into the one department as well. Now instead of 11, there are six people scheduling events, three of whom are in the Department of Event Management (Athletics, Mahaney Center for the Arts, and Mead Chapel schedule the events those departments host in these specialized facilities). The Department recently took over Convocation, Commencement, Phi Beta Kappa, and Senior Awards ceremonies planning as well.

“We have a much better idea of what is going on all over campus now, and this has proven very helpful in coordinating services, calendars, and proactively managing the high-impact events that need a lot of people to support them.”

Change is still underway. The Web-makeover project brought to light the desire of departments to have customized event calendars on their Web pages, and 25 Live, a new web-based version of the College’s scheduling software, will make that happen. The database is managed off-site by the software vendor, so tech support will come from there, easing a bit of the burden on LIS. The new software will also create a consistent data source – all time, date, and room changes will be input at one source, the Department of Event Management – reducing the potential for human error and ensuring that all departments and service providers involved in an event have the same information.

Ayers is confident that the new streamlined process of event management has created efficiencies and improved communication. The Department of Event Management’s facilitation will do just that, it will make planning and executing events easier and more staff-efficient, thereby reducing cost and stress campus-wide.

~ Liz Hammel
Free “Come Try It” Zumba Classes on Campus for Faculty & Staff

The Optimal Health Initiative Committee invites you to try a fun new aerobic class next week for free. This is a way for the Committee to see if people are interested in having a class like this on campus.

5:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 23
3:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 24
3rd Floor Studio, Field House

Get a great aerobic workout with fun, easy-to-learn dance moves and a variety of energizing music that includes salsa, hip hop, merengue, cumbia, pop, bellydance, and more. From beginners to those with dance experience, this Zumba class is for everyone. Bring a friend and come give it a try. Don’t you deserve to have a little fun at the end of your work day?

Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers that you can dance in. Bring a water bottle and towel or yoga mat to stretch on afterwards. Any questions call Liz Cleveland 989.5977.

Upcoming Events Sponsored by Women’s and Gender Studies / Chellis House

Life of the Mind Talks at Chellis House
Lunch provided

• Monday, February 22, 12:30 p.m.
  “The State of Queer Families in the Netherlands: Discrepancies Between Intentional and Legal Three-Parent Families.” Student talk by Lark Nierenberg (‘11) on her gender research project at SIT and the University of Amsterdam.

• Tuesday, March 2, 12:15 p.m.
  “What Women’s Work Does to Men: A Crisis of Masculinity from 19th Century America.” Amy Morsman, Associate Professor of History.

• Tuesday, March 9, 12:15 p.m.
  “Bombay’s Cruel Months.” Yumna Siddiqi, Associate Professor of English, reads from her most recent creative work.

• Tuesday, March 16, 12:15 p.m.
  Poet Karin Gottshall reads from her most recent work.

• Wednesday, March 31, 12:15 p.m.
  “Takin' It Like A Man: Troubling Gender in Japanese Martial Art.” Discussion on power/gender dynamics in the practice of Japanese martial art (aikido) with Jonathan Miller Lane, Assistant Professor of Education, and Linda White, Visiting Assistant Professor of Japanese Studies and WAGS.

Activist and Academic Events for Women’s History Month

• Monday, March 1, Helen Benedict Campus Visit
  12:15 p.m., Chellis House (lunch provided)
  Helen Benedict reads from her novel The Edge of Eden
  Helen Benedict, professor of journalism at Columbia University, is the author of four novels and five books of non-fiction. The Edge of Eden is an elegant, often wickedly funny novel about a British family’s disintegration in the last-gasp colonial outpost of the Seychelles Islands in 1960.

  7 p.m., Axinn 229
  “The Lonely Soldier: Women at War in Iraq” Lecture by Helen Benedict
  More American women have fought and died in Iraq than in any war since World War II, yet as soldiers they are still painfully alone. In Iraq, only one in ten troops is a woman, and she often serves in a unit with few other women or none at all. This isolation, along with the military’s deep-seated hostility toward women, causes problems that many female soldiers find as hard to cope with as war itself: degradation, sexual persecution by their comrades, and loneliness, instead of the camaraderie that every soldier depends on for comfort and survival.
  Sponsored by WAGS-Chellis, the Creative Writing Program, and Womensafe.

• Wednesday, March 10, 7 p.m., Chateau Grand Salon
  Julia Alvarez reads from her work for women’s history month.

Reminder to 2009 Flexible Spending Account Participants

You have until March 15, 2010 to submit claims for services provided in the calendar year 2009. All claims should be sent to CBA Blue via fax at 888.291.0920 or mail to CBA Blue, PO Box 2365, South Burlington, VT 05407-2365.

Claim forms can be found in the HR office or on the HR Website under Staff and Faculty, Forms, Benefits Forms.
Facilities Services and Dining Services Host Students on Job Shadow Day

On Tuesday, February 2, six Northlands Job Corps Center students shadowed College employees as part of National Job Shadow Day. Job shadowing is designed to give students an opportunity to “shadow” an adult during his or her daily work activities. Hopefully, the day inspired the students to be enthusiastic about their studies by showing them how what they learn at Northlands is used in the workplace.

Many thanks to Robert Cameron, Wayne Hall, Bruce Costello, Ernest Laframboise, Daniel Stearns, Raymond Gale, and Bradley Lambert, all from Facilities Services, and Dining Services’ Ron Dragon and the Proctor Kitchen Staff for hosting this year. We really appreciate the efforts everyone made to give the students an inside look at their jobs. The students enjoyed experiencing a workday-in-the-life of their chosen fields.

Beginning Tai Chi Chuan with Chris Kiely

Designed as an introduction to the practice of learning Tai Chi Chuan, this class will focus on the fundamental principles and basic movements of this time-honored discipline for increasing life. Tai Chi Chuan is a system of simple yet graceful exercises that combine gentle calisthenics with focused concentration in such a way as to create a near-perfect balance of vitality and tranquility. Considered by many to be the heart of ancient Chinese wisdom, Tai Chi Chuan provides a direct and harmless path to maintaining a clear mind, a strong body, and an inspired will. Anybody can learn. No experience is necessary. There’s no harm in trying.

Wednesdays, February 24 – April 28
12:15 – 1:15 p.m.
Field House, third floor classroom

Register on the HR home page at http://www.middlebury.edu/offices/business/hr.
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).

Real Estate

For Sale: 3 BR Cape, 1,500 sq. ft. Great country locat. 25 min. SW of Middlebury in Orwell. Open floor plan, LR, DR, mudroom, eat-in kitchen, 1-3/4 BA (recently remodeled), addition w/ office, laundry, & addit. storage. Kitchen has stainless steel appliances. Property just under 1 acre on hill w/ beautiful Adk. views, surrounded by woods & farmland. Barn, swing set, perennial flowers & fruit trees, lots of gardening space, close to Lake Champlain, Sunset Lake, Lake Bomoseen. $155,000. Photos avail. Contact Stacey at x5898, 802.989.1309 or sthebodo@middlebury.edu.

Misc.

For Sale: 3 piece living room set - matching chair, loveseat, sofa. Blue floral print with wood accents. Very good condition. $400 obo. Photos avail. Contact Laurie at x5200, 802.345.2995 or lcelik@middlebury.edu.

Services

Get Your Odd Jobs Done: The Intervarsity Christian Fellowship is fundraising for a service trip to New Orleans during spring break, and we’re offering to do odd jobs – scraping cars, filing, shoveling snow (if we’d only get some!) – anything that needs to be done. Donations accepted! Please contact Shalyn Getz at sgetz@middlebury.edu or 410.598.1016, or Alex Bertagnolli at abertagn@middlebury.edu.

Wanted

Housing Wanted: Second year Bread Loaf student looking for summer housing for my family of four, ideally a 3+ bedroom in East Middlebury or Middlebury, but we would certainly consider other locations if they are convenient to the Bread Loaf campus. We’d like to rent from roughly June 15 - August 15, but can be somewhat flexible. We are very responsible and would take wonderful care of your property. Please contact Kristin Liu at awsumbliu@gmail.com.

Not too late to join Pilates with Nina Vila

It’s not too late to join the Pilates classes taught by Nina Vila of the Vermont Center for Classical Pilates. Pilates exercises focus on the deep core/torso muscles, with careful attention to breath and alignment of the spine, for a total-body workout. Great for strength, flexibility, and conditioning. Newcomers welcome. Questions? Nina Vila at 388.7400 or ninavccp@gmail.com; or Liza Lloyd at x3169 or liza@middlebury.edu.

Tuesdays and Thursdays
12:30-1:20 p.m., starting February 16; 10 weeks total
Mahaney Center for the Arts, Dance Studio (room 109)
Price: once/week $60*; twice/week $120
* Once-a-week participants can come on either day

Register online at http://go/tickets (from off-campus: http://www.middlebury.edu/arts/tickets), or at either Box Office location (McCullough or Mahaney CFA). Registration closes February 26.