Martha Baldwin, Rohatyn Center for International Affairs, Celebrates 25 Years

When Martha Baldwin was last featured in *MiddPoints* in February 1997, she had been working at the College for about 12 years and was a purchasing assistant. This time, as she celebrates 25 years here, Martha is the Program Coordinator for the Rohatyn Center for International Affairs, and since September she also assists in the International Programs and Off-Campus Study office.

Back in 1985, Martha was looking for a change of career. A full-time mom to her five children for 12 years, Martha operated a home daycare for three years and took care of many children of College faculty and staff. “I had to hire help because most of the kids in my small group had little siblings born – it was exhausting work, but I had some great families,” Martha says. Then when her youngest went to kindergarten, Martha worked part-time at the nursery school at the vocational center for a few years, after which Martha was ready to return to work outside the home full-time. She remembers it as a tough job market, and Martha knew she had been out of the job market for a long time, so she put out lots of applications. “In May I was watching the kids arrive at the junior prom with a group of parents who were there to see the kids all dressed up, and Carol Bushey, the mom of another junior, told me she was moving out of the purchasing department,” Martha remembers. That’s when Martha applied for and accepted the job in purchasing at the College.

At the time, everything bought and used on campus, from academics to athletics, food services to facilities, was purchased through the one centralized office. Martha worked with the academic departments for the most part, and it wasn’t always easy to figure out what account to charge with the various states of completion in which requests would come to her. “I got really good at playing Sherlock Holmes in that job,” Martha says, adding, “I’d have a name, or a building, and I’d sleuth from there to figure out whose budget a purchase order would come out of – I got pretty good at being a mind reader and a handwriting expert too!”

In fact it was soon after that first *MiddPoints* feature that Martha transferred from purchasing to what was (Article continues on page 3)
Fabulous and Frugal Clothing Swap

Come on out to Staff Council’s Fabulous & Frugal Clothing Swap on Saturday, April 24, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Mahaney Center for the Arts. There will be gently-used, spring/summer women’s and men’s clothing and accessories, door prizes, light refreshments, and a “What Not to Wear” fashion show at 10 a.m. featuring familiar faces from campus.

Donations will be accepted at the former Rehearsal’s Café space beginning on Wednesday, April 21, during regular business hours. Please contact Shannon Bohler-Small (sbohlersmall@middlebury.edu) at x2961 if you have questions or need assistance. You may also bring donations directly to the swap.

You need not donate anything to attend, and there is no charge. However, if you are moved by the treasures you find, or didn’t get the chance to donate items ahead of time, we will be accepting contributions to benefit the Chaplain’s Fund (see http://www.middlebury.edu/offices/business/hr/staffandfaculty/emergency). Any unclaimed swap items will be gifted to H.O.P.E.

Volunteers are needed for the day of the swap. Go to http://www.middlebury.edu/offices/administration/studentcouncil/events/swap or contact Peg Myhre (myhre@middlebury.edu or 545.3060) for more information or to volunteer.

Staff Accomplishments

Associate Chaplain/Rabbi Ira Schiffer has been awarded a Legacy Heritage Jewish Communal Scholarship for the upcoming Summer Program at the Conservative Yeshiva of United Synagogue in Jerusalem. He will study Hebrew language, Jewish mystical texts and Hasidic thought.

Milestones

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

5 YEARS

George Coro
Facilities Services

Kimberly Gurney
Facilities Services

BonnieRita Hearthstone
Vermont Campus Compact

James Logan
Dining Services

Jennie Pockett
Dining Services

10 YEARS

Timothy Allen
Sciences Tech Support Services

Kimberly Bilodeau
Dining Services

Carolann Davis
Rohatyn Center for International Affairs

15 YEARS

Donna Blaise
Athletics

Winston Leno
Dining Services

25 YEARS

Carolyn LaRose
Athletics

Winston Leno
Dining Services
then called the Geonomics Center for International Affairs. In 1999 the “Geonomics” was dropped, and in 2002, the center was named for Felix Rohatyn ’49. In her role as Program Coordinator, Martha handles the logistics required to bring to campus speakers who enhance the international curriculum. Professors send proposals for speakers and events, and Martha coordinates the funding, budgeting, and all of the details to make the events happen. Since September, Martha has also worked for the Center for International Programs and Off-Campus Study, helping with data entry, processing applications, and corresponding with applicants. Martha describes this past year with its added work as an “interesting year of transition” with some weeks busier and harder than others.

“I’m not a terribly adventurous person. I’m the type of person who if I didn’t have to get up and go to work, I’d turn into a slug. I like to be busy, and I am!” Martha says. When asked what has kept her here for 25 years, Martha responds with a smile: “Middlebury is my home and my community. My church community is here; my work is here. Where else would I go?” She adds that “people will crab about Middlebury College, but there’s nothing to crab about. The benefits, the people, are all great.”

When she began working for the College, Martha had five school-aged children. Twenty-five years later, Martha has 14 grandchildren between the ages of 20 months and 20 years. All are boys except one granddaughter who lives in Colorado with her two brothers. Eight of the grandkids live in Vermont, and three are nearby in New Hampshire.

The conference room in the Robert A. Jones ’59 House is one of Martha’s favorite places on campus because “you feel like you’re in the treetops.” She also really likes the waterfall lobby in the Axinn Center. “I like walking on campus – it’s just a beautiful place to walk,” says Martha, who walks to work or during her lunch hour.

Martha responds in her characteristic upbeat manner when asked about her plans for the future: “I hope when I’m a retiree that I’ll maintain my health and my sense of humor – and I’d like to travel.”

~ Liz Hammel

Martha Baldwin, continued from page 1

Facility Grants

Catharine Wright (CTLR) and Susan Burch (American Studies), along with colleagues at Vassar, DePauw, Denison, Harvey Mudd, Scripps, and Furman, have received funding through the Mellon Foundation’s Faculty Career Enhancement grant for an inter-institutional initiative titled Writing Beyond Borders: an Inter-Genre Collaborative for Faculty. Through workshops at Middlebury’s Bread Loaf campus and collaboration using social software, this initiative will enable faculty from diverse disciplines to share their scholarship with non-specialist audiences, both in print and online.

Tara Affalter and Jonathan Miller-Lane (both Education Studies), Susan Burch (American Studies), and Kathryn Morse (History and Environmental Studies) have been awarded Mellon 23 Faculty Career Enhancement grants to fund collaborative workshops at Middlebury. This summer, Jonathan and Tara will lead a workshop on Shaping the Future of Teacher Preparation Through the Liberal Arts. Susan and Kathryn will lead a workshop in October titled Nature, Race, and Ethnicity: Curriculum and Pedagogy. These workshops will gather faculty from more than 20 liberal-arts colleges to brainstorm, spark scholarly collaborations, and share methods of introducing these topics to undergraduates.

Febe Armanios (History) has received a grant from the University of Southern California’s Center for Religion and Civic Culture and the John Templeton Foundation under the Center’s Pentecostal and Charismatic Research Initiative. The goal of this two-year research project titled Coptic Charismatic Renewal in Egypt: A Modern History, is to chart the history of charismatic trajectories within the Coptic Christian community in Egypt, to examine their diverse expressions among believers, and to discern their effects on the formulation of a Coptic religio-political identity.

Louisa Burnham (History) has been awarded a grant to participate in a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute titled Cultural Hybridities: Christians, Muslims and Jews and the Medieval Mediterranean, which will be held in Barcelona, Spain. She will spend the month of July attending lectures and workshops and scouring the libraries and archives of Barcelona for heretical and alchemical texts that will inform two nascent writing projects.

Steven Viner (Philosophy) has been awarded a grant to participate in a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute titled Philosophical Perspectives on Liberal Democracy and the Global Order at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Steve will spend four weeks researching and critically assessing how liberal democratic values relate to the way States should treat their own citizens and interact with other States, and how meaningful self-government is possible in a globalized world.
New Employees

Kay Freedy - In August, Kay joined the Middlebury College community as an Americorps VISTA member in the ACE office. After graduating from Furman University in 2006, Kay spent the last two years teaching English in Spanish secondary schools. Her Americorps responsibilities include coordinating the Community Friends mentoring program and volunteer recruitment for Charter House emergency shelter.

Meaghan Mason - In September Megan joined the International Programs & Off-Campus Study department as its Coordinator for Schools Abroad in France, Germany, and Italy. She worked at The Ohio State University with international affairs scholars while earning a master’s degree in higher education and student affairs, and her BA in international studies is from Miami University. Meghan enjoys running, travel, and hiking.

Jarrod Wright - Jarrod began work as a Heating Plant Operator in September. He worked in the power plant at the International Paper Co. for 14-1/2 years prior to coming to work for Middlebury. Jarrod lives in Ticonderoga NY with his wife Michelle and their two sons, ages 13 and three, and he enjoys hunting, fishing, and sports.

Behind-the-scenes scramble in the Arts recounted

This tale is about the behind-the-scenes scrambles that sometimes happen in the Arts at Middlebury—and how we deal with them. Last month, on the night of a performance, we got a call that our artists, the Hugo Wolf Quartet of Vienna, missed a connecting flight due to a customs snag. Now normally that’s not a big deal, but these particular artists were already cutting it VERY close with their schedule. Now, instead of arriving in Middlebury at 2:30 for an 8:00 concert, they were going to arrive, if all went well, at 7:55. So our MCFA administrative staff jumped into action, brainstorming about how we could still pull off this very well-sold event. First we called the artists’ agent; “are these the kind of artists who can roll with the punches so much that they can get off a plane, jump in a taxi, and play 10 minutes after they arrive?” The agent assured us that as long as they had time to change their clothes and tune their instruments, they’d be good to go.

Then there was the pre-concert lecture by faculty Jay West and Greg Vitercik. We told them what was going on and asked them to stall by extending their lecture a bit. Later we heard from one of our student box office workers that this was a great idea, because he has Greg for one of his classes, and he NEVER gets out on time . . . the student will remain nameless to protect the innocent.

Then we called Deborah Young in the music department. “We need a student musician to entertain our audience!” She gave us the names of several upperclassmen music majors who were preparing for recitals this semester. But could any of them be on deck to play in the lobby for half an hour? After contacting six students, senior violinist Anne Willborn ’10 was the first to volunteer—she agreed to play Bach’s unaccompanied violin solo works. And she’d do it on short notice, even though she had just played in the Orchestra concert the night before. We could pay her a little, the same rate we’d usually pay our page-turner. Meanwhile we made last-second arrangements to throw a modest reception (cookies, fruit, coffee) for our patrons while they waited and listened.

Then there was the flight. Ok, the four artists were all confirmed to get on that last flight into BTV… but the cello was on standby. Yes, it’s true, a cello needs its own seat on an airplane. The instrument is too sensitive to changes in temperature, humidity, and pressure—never mind baggage handlers—to ride in the luggage compartment. And the cellist wouldn’t leave it behind . . . all we could do was tell them to get dinner at Dulles, wait by the gate, and cross their fingers.

So in the end, they made the flight, the lecturers went overtime, the student performer shone, and our patrons were really pleased by the pre-concert reception (so much so that Commons Heads Pavlos and Maria Sfyroeras asked if Ross Commons could help fund receptions again in the future). The artists made a miracle turnaround and played beautifully despite the rush. No one in the audience would have known if we hadn’t told them . . . and that’s just the way we like it.

Later we chatted with Performing Arts Series Director Paul Nelson about the hub-bub, and he rattled off several similar tales of last-second craziness when an artist barely made it on stage. Take Slovenian pianist Dubravka Tomsic—way back in 1996, she arrived here at 2:57 and went on at 3:00, after a very fast and bumpy ride over the Green Mountains from Dartmouth, where she had performed the night before. No one was the wiser (except for the behind-the-scenes folks at the MCFA who were all tearing their hair out). And strangely enough, it was 14 years ago to the day—both concerts took place on the date of March 12! This was just one of many, many stories Paul could tell.

Oh, and by the way, in the end, we learned that the cello always had a confirmed seat—it was the cellist who was on standby.

~ Liza Lloyd
Jennifer Conetta - Jennifer graduated from St. Michael’s College in May 2009, and she came to College Advancement as Assistant Director of Annual Giving in October. Originally from Connecticut, Jen lives in Middlebury.

Kelly Boe - Kelly came on board in Facilities Services in December as a Heating Plant Operator. He has a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Miami University in Ohio, and he worked for International Paper for 16 years in both Ticonderoga and Oswego, New York. Most recently, Kelly worked for Durasol Awnings in Middlebury. He grew up in the Midwest and lives in Middlebury with his wife and two daughters.

Weight Watchers At-Work to begin next session with a special offer

The next session of the Weight Watchers At-Work program at Middlebury College will begin on Thursday, May 6. The group meets on Thursdays at 12:15 in the Mitchell Green Lounge in McCullough.

The program costs $144 for a 12-week series (can be paid in three $48 payments). Cash, check, or credit cards accepted. People may join anytime during the session (at a prorated cost after week two).

Right now Weight Watchers has a special offer for this series – 8 weeks of FREE eTools with the 12-week session, with 15 paid members. eTools is Weight Watchers’ internet weight-loss companion that provides online tips and resources to help keep members on track between meetings ($25 value).

For more information contact Danica Stein, meeting leader, at 802.287.5704 or e-mail danicasteinWW@comcast.net.
The Sound of Music features faculty and staff

When the Middlebury Community Players present The Sound of Music from April 22–May 2, there will be many names and faces familiar to the College community. The cast includes several Middlebury College employees, including Associate Dean of the College Katy Abbott, Dean of Admissions Bob Clagett, CTLR coordinator JoAnn Brewer, and Mack Roark from LIS. Jessica Allen, who directs the women’s glee club, stars in the lead role of Maria. Music professor Larry Hamberlin is conducting the orchestra, which includes Michele McHugh from LIS and Stephen Diehl from the Communications Office, Jennifer Ponder, lighting and tech director for the Dance department, is doing the lighting design. So come see your friends and colleagues in this charming, classic show by Rodgers and Hammerstein. Tickets are available at the Town Hall Theater Box Office at 382.9222 or online at www.townhalltheater.org.

The College Bookstore

Saturday Hours:
April 17, 24, and May 1
11:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M.
After School Science Fun

What? An opportunity for K-6th elementary students to sample age appropriate science investigations designed and facilitated by Middlebury College Education Studies students (EDST0315 Teaching Elementary Mathematics and Science: Instructor, Gregg Humphrey).

When? Tuesday, April 27th and Thursday April 29th
3:15 – 4:15 p.m.

Where? Bicentennial Hall Room 305

How? Your child is welcome to attend on either or both of these days. Please call or e-mail Trish Dougherty(x5013 or pdougher@middlebury.edu) to register. You are welcome to attend with your child.