Richard Saunders, Museum of Art, Celebrates 25 Years

The oversized Easter Bunny Richard Saunders poses with at right is an object selected for an exhibition for the first-year seminar Richard taught in 2006 called “Searching for America in Contemporary Visual Culture.” In this seminar, students explored the objects we as Americans surround ourselves with and their cultural significance. Students began with a writing assignment about their rooms at home, answering the questions – what is on the walls, who chose them, and what do they mean to you and say about you? The group then looked more broadly at what we Americans surround ourselves with culturally and what it all means. As part of the seminar participants purchased objects at the Christmas Tree Shops in Williston and the course culminated in an exhibit of them in the periodicals reading room at the library.

First-year seminars serve as an introduction to Middlebury College, and the professor decides the focus of the seminar he or she teaches. “My goal was to give my group a positive, first college academic experience and help them develop the skills, especially in writing, that would get them through the rest of their college careers,” Richard says. The seminar is one highlight of Richard’s 25 years as the Director of the Museum of Art and Professor in the department of the History of Art and Architecture because it was an opportunity for him to bond with a small group of students, Febs in this case who just graduated three months ago. “They were so eager to get started,” Richard explains, and their enthusiasm made the workload worth it. As the students’ advisor, he enjoyed guiding them through their experience here, and all of the students except one who transferred to another college gathered at his house before their graduation, reminiscing about their first semester.

There have been many highlights for Richard over his long career at the College. As the director of first the Christian A. Johnson Memorial Gallery and now the Middlebury College Museum of Art, Celebrates 25 Years (Article continues on page 3)
Week-long event promotes transportation alternatives

Registration is now open for the 7th annual Way to Go! Commuter Challenge, which will take place May 17-21, 2010. This state-wide event encourages the use of cheaper, healthier, and more earth-friendly transportation alternatives to driving alone. Middlebury College will go head-to-head with businesses from across the state to see who can encourage the highest percentage of employees to walk, bike, telecommute, carpool or take the bus.

Over 100 people signed up from Middlebury College last year, and we received an honorable mention for businesses in our size category. This year we hope to have even more staff and faculty participate. Online registration is fast and easy at www.waytogovt.org. Simply select Middlebury College as your employer and fill out how you plan to change your commute.

Winning teams will be announced June 17. Additionally, everyone who registers will be entered in a drawing to win great prizes—iPods, a Neuton® battery-powered mower, Burton snowboards, overnight stays, restaurant gift certificates, yoga passes, spa treatments, bike tune-ups, golf and ski passes, and more.

Middlebury College faculty and staff have access to many alternative transportation options. They can ride for free on the Connector (bus route connecting Rutland and Middlebury), the Burlington LINK Express, as well as Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) buses to Ripton, Bristol, and Vergennes. ACTR’s College/Hospital Loop now includes an official stop at Kenyon Arena, and all ACTR buses are equipped with bike racks. Two Zipcars are parked on campus providing people who don’t drive to work access to a car if they need one during the day (http://go/zipcar). And for those who need to fix up their bike before riding it to work, the campus Bike Shop is open to employees as well as students (http://go/bikeshop).

“IT’s spring and time for a change. I hope a majority of the Middlebury community will change their commuting routine for a day or two, or more,” said Jack Byrne, Director of the campus Sustainability Integration Office.

Way to Go! started in Chittenden County and has grown to include many other towns across the state. Last year, in just one week, 3,552 Way to Go! participants saved an estimated 236,813 commuting miles, 206,000 pounds of carbon dioxide, and $33,000 in transportation expenses. Organizers have set this year’s goal to save at least 500,000 pounds of transportation pollutants, so be sure to register today at www.waytogovt.org.

Green Mountain Care Programs

Green Mountain Care is a family of low-cost and free health coverage programs for uninsured Vermonters. Offered by the state of Vermont and its partners, Green Mountain Care programs offer no or low co-payments and premiums to keep out-of-pocket costs reasonable.

One of the programs, Catamount Health, is designed for Vermonters age 18 or older, and families who are not eligible for other Green Mountain Care plans such as the Vermont Health Access Plan (VHAP), or the premium assistance programs. Generally to be eligible one must have been uninsured for 12 months or more — with exceptions for Vermonters who recently lost their insurance because of a life change such as a divorce and those who are no longer a dependent on a parent’s health insurance plan. Unlike other programs, recent graduates often qualify for Catamount Health.

For more information on the qualifications, covered services, and rates for the Green Mountain Care Programs call 800.250.8427 or visit their Website at http://www.greenmountaincare.org/about/green_mountain_care_programs.html.
Museum of Art since its opening in 1992, Richard has, with the help of faculty and staff colleagues, built a meaningful permanent collection that connects faculty members’ work across the curriculum and enriches students’ academic experience of college. The legacy of the permanent collection is that it will still be here for future generations of Middlebury students. As Richard explains it, “The Museum is the College’s largest classroom—that’s the way the Museum functions if it’s doing its job correctly.”

A recent highpoint for Richard and the Museum was The Art of Devotion, an exhibition that for him is an example of what a college museum is all about. In 2005 Richard bought at a London auction the devotional panel painting Virgin and Child Enthroned with Saints John the Baptist and Nicholas of Bari, attributed to the Florentine painter, Lippo d’Andrea, for the Museum’s permanent collection because it was an important acquisition in terms of teaching art history.

The object became an inspiration for the exhibition that followed, thanks to Katy Abbott, Assistant Professor of Art History and Architecture. “It was a meaningful exhibit about the creation of religious paintings for the home in Renaissance Italy,” Richard says, and it explored the motivations of the families who commissioned the paintings. “The Museum was able to borrow works for the exhibition from institutions who otherwise would not have loaned us their art, it showcased a faculty member’s expertise, became the focal point of a first-year seminar and a second art history course, and now the exhibition is on view at the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum.”

Richard and his wife Barbara have longstanding ties to Vermont—when his father taught at UVM’s College of Medicine, the family lived in Burlington’s New North End. Barbara went to UVM, and in her family are Middlebury College alumni going back to 1822 when they overlap with Alexander Twilight’s time as a student here. Kit Wilson (Humanities) and Richard were in the same graduate school class at Yale.

In 1985 when Richard and Barbara moved from Texas to Vermont for Richard’s positions here, they had a five year old, a seven year old, and Barbara was nine months pregnant but able to joke on the drive north that she didn’t want the baby born in Harrisburg (their third was born at Porter Hospital). The children are all grown and living in Vermont, Washington, DC, and Nepal, and Barbara and Richard’s first grandchild was born in late April.

Richard is a long-time runner who has completed the Vermont City Marathon 12 times. Unfortunately he isn’t training for the event later this month because of a torn Achilles that has him sidelined for a while longer. Running has been a fun way for Richard to get to know some of the coaching staff, and he would like to run at least one more VT City Marathon before “retiring” and running a leg as part of a team when the 26.2 miles get to be too many.

Since 2002, Richard has been the Walter Cerf Distinguished Professor of Art. When he first arrived in 1985 he became aware of Cerf, whose name appeared on a list of donors to the Johnson Gallery. Richard and Walter, a retired Professor of Philosophy at Brooklyn College and resident of Leicester, VT, became good friends. Eventually Richard became Walter’s legal guardian and was responsible for the oversight of the Walter Cerf Fund during the last years of Walter’s life. From 1994-2000 the Fund gave away approximately $1.5 million dollars a year to 50-80 charitable organizations in Vermont. The Walter Cerf Fund is now overseen by the Vermont Community Foundation. The philanthropist also left his art collection to the College and provided the endowment to fund the professorship Richard now holds.

Between directing the museum, teaching, and writing Richard is kept both busy and happy. Right now he is working on a social history of portraits in the United States. “I get to do my three favorite things, running a museum, teaching, and writing,” says Richard, adding that if he were at a larger museum he would have to give up something. “Since I can combine several jobs here, it is very satisfying. Middlebury is a fabulous place to be.”

~ Liz Hammel
Classifieds, ctd. from page 6

Real Estate, ctd.
For Rent: Easy-living, 2 BR (or den), 1-1/2 BA, fully furnished house in Cornwall (7 min. from campus). Available late Aug. 2010 – Aug. 2012 (possibly longer). Glass sunroom faces west to views of pastureland, the Adks., sunsets galore. Large windows throughout, great light! New appliances, upstair laundry, deck, fenced backyard, fireplace, garage, ping pong table in basement. $1,000/mo. + utilities/heat + security deposit. Lease and references required. No smokers please. Call 802.324.1404 or jrosebor@middlebury.edu.

For Rent: Two-story 1920’s house usually rented by relatives. Dining/living room w/ fireplace, fully equipped kitchen, 4 BR. Large screen porch fronting on lake w/ rocking chairs, dining table and ping pong. Kayaks, canoe, fishing boat. Two docks, yard w/ hammock. At the end of a quiet lane, wonderful hiking to Falls of Lana, Silver Lake. Rents Sat. to Sat. Avail. weeks of May 15, 29; June 5; Sept. 18, 25; Oct. 9, 16. $425/week. Call 388.8317.

Free
Free: Cuisinart coffee-maker replacement charcoal water filters: fit models DCC-1200, DCC-1000, and DCC-900. We no longer have the coffee maker, and it seems a waste just to throw away the filters I had for it! We have 2-1/2 boxes (= 5 filters). 1st e-mail gets them, sent through campus mail! Annie Dolber: adolber@middlebury.edu.

Wanted
Toddler Car Seat Wanted: We are looking to buy, beg, or borrow a forward-facing car seat in good condition for a toddler (approx. 30 lbs.) for visit by grandchildren in August. Please contact Frank or Janet at 388.6855, or e-mail winkler@middlebury.edu.

Roommate Wanted: A young professional and his dog seek a clean, respectful, and a non-smoking roommate to share a large (1,100 sq. ft.) two-bedroom apartment on the river in East Middlebury. Includes covered parking, in-unit laundry, dishwasher. $550 rent, $150 utilities. Please contact J.S. Woodward (jwoodwar@middlebury.edu) for more details.

Middlebury History

25 years ago ● Two hundred high school students gathered on the Bread Loaf campus for the first New England Young Writers’ Conference. With a grant from the Charles A. Dana Foundation, the College announced the hiring of Robert Schine from the Jewish Theological Seminary to teach Biblical Hebrew and two religion courses the next fall. The Student Forum urged the Board of Trustees to divest in South Africa.

10 years ago ● The U.S. Postal Service commemorated the College’s Bicentennial by issuing a 20-cent stamped post card. Gail D. Smith, assistant director of athletics, received a Salzburg Seminar Presidential Fellowship for the summer of 2000. R&D Magazine named Bicentennial Hall, Middlebury’s new 220,000 sq. ft. academic building, as its “2000 Lab of the Year.”

5 years ago ● The College received a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to construct a wind turbine to offset its use of electricity. Rudolph Giuliani, the former mayor of New York City and Time’s 2001 Person of the Year, delivered the Commencement Address. The College Orchestra, Community Chorus, and Chamber Singers performed at Mead Chapel to honor the 50th anniversary of the College chapter of Hillel.

New Employees

Curt Lyford – In January Curt began work as Assistant Director of Annual Giving in College Advancement, his first job in higher education. He graduated from Bates College in 2004 and worked as a customer service manager in Boston for the past five years.

David Berthiaume – David started as a Seasonal Landscaper back in April and since January is now a full-time Crew Chief Landscaper. On the weekends he works as a mobile disc jockey for various functions.

Warren Fageley
Sciences Tech Support Services

Wesley Doner
Facilities Services
Important Reminders for Parents of Older Children

Graduating Students

Graduation season is right around the corner. If you have a dependent graduating soon, please remember that along with the pomp and circumstance may come a change in your child’s status in terms of our benefit plans:

If your child is graduating from high school, s/he can remain on your health and dental plans so long as s/he is:
- under 19
- unmarried
- still eligible to be claimed as a dependent on your federal tax return

An older child can remain on your health and dental plans so long as s/he is:
- under 25
- enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited secondary school or college
- unmarried
- still eligible to be claimed as a dependent on your federal tax return

If your child is graduating from college (or simply taking time off from his/her studies) please note that the child’s coverage under your health and/or dental plan will end on graduation day, or the last day of class attendance if the student is leaving school without graduating.

It is very important that you notify Human Resources in a timely manner if your child will be graduating or leaving school. Remember, under IRS rules if you fail to notify us within 30 days of the event, we will be unable to reduce your premium until the end of the calendar year, even though your child is no longer covered by the health and/or dental plans. This means that you may have to pay for coverage that you do not have. In addition, you may be personally liable for medical expenses incurred by a person who does not qualify as your dependent under the terms of the plan. And, under COBRA rules, if you fail to notify Human Resources within 60 days of the event, the child will have forfeited the right to COBRA continuation.

A child losing coverage due to leaving school (or aging off the plan) will be eligible to continue coverage under COBRA, at his/her own expense (assuming that Human Resources has received timely notification of the event). Currently, monthly single person COBRA rates are: $528.01-health, $47.83-dental. Children losing coverage as a result of leaving school or becoming too old to remain on their parent’s plan should consider options other than COBRA. Catamount Health is an excellent and affordable option for many Vermont residents (see box on page 2).

If you have a child over age 19 who will be attending an accredited secondary school next year, be on the lookout for a letter from CBA Blue asking you to verify that your child will be a student next academic year. To insure uninterrupted health/dental coverage for your dependent, please provide the requested information and return the form to CBA Blue promptly.

As always, please feel free to contact Human Resources at x5465 if you have questions.
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. 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: 2003 Toyota Corolla, white, automatic, 87,000. Florida car, never driven in VT. Perfect condition. $6,800. Call Tanja 802.989.2483, or e-mail tsmorodi@middlebury.edu.

For Sale: 2009 Subaru Forester 2.5X automatic with premium/all weather package - red. Excellent condition, and recently detailed clean. 16,000 miles. If interested, rderizan@middlebury.edu.

For Sale: Plug in this used Goldstar dehumidifier with 30-pint capacity and dry out your basement. Dependable, on wheels, with manual. $75. keren@middlebury.edu.

For Sale: Collection of porcelain dolls, with boxes. $5 and $10. Call 802.989.0547 and ask for Dottie.

Real Estate
For Sale: 3 BR Cape (1,500 sq. ft.). 25 min. SW of Midd. in Orwell. Open floor plan, LR, DR, mudroom, eat-in kitchen, 1-3/4 BA (recently remod.), addit. w/ office, laundry, addit. storage. Stainless steel appliances in kitch. Just under 1 acre on hill w/ Adk. views. Barn, swing set, perennial flowers, fruit trees, lots of gardening space, close to lakes - Champlain, Sunset, Bomoseen. $155,000. Photos avail. Contact Stacey at x5898, 802.989.1309 or stlbodo@middlebury.edu.

For Sale: 40” flat-screen LCD t.v. Samsung Model LN46D650XAA. 1080p/60hz. $400. Contact simongscott@yahoo.com.

For Sale: Beautiful custom-made solid cherry buffet w/cabinets, drawers, laminate top. 9’ L, 21” D, 33” H. Right end unfinished, abuts wall; left end curved open shelves. Perfect shape, too big for new home. $400, you pick up and take away. Pictures, other info. : oconnor@middlebury.edu, or 802.388.2010.


Garage Sale: Saturday, May 8, 8:00-4:00, no early birds. One day only, rain or shine. Moving, so lots of stuff must go! West St., Cornwall (just off of Rte. 125).

For Sale: Sleeps up to 6: 2.5 BR up, 1 down, 2 full BA. Easy walk to College and dwntwn. Large yard. Parking space, close to lakes - Champlain, Sunset, Bomoseen. $186,000. Rent $1,200. Avail. end of July. Call Tatiana 802.989.2483, or e-mail tsmorodi@middlebury.edu.

For Sale: Furnished Middlebury apartment 4.5 mi. from campus on road w/ beautiful mtn. views. Walk-out basement apt. has a BR, LR, kitchen, BA, 2 closets. Rent: $650/mo. includes utilities (electricity, heat, water, trash, plowing, wireless internet). Avail. September 2010 for academic or full year lease. No smokers, no pets. E-mail cmyers@middlebury.edu for information and photos.

For Rent for Academic Year 2010-11: Three-bedroom (+ office) house w/ mountain views on scenic Sheep Farm Road. Lots of light, new wooden floors, and open floor plan. 2 miles from Middlebury College. Rent $1,500/mo. Contact jstearns@middlebury.edu or 802.349.0188.

For Rent: Furnished house for rent Sept. 2010 (or later) - May 2011. One mi. from campus/downtown. 3 BR, 2 BA, washer/ dryer. Big private yard. $1,100/mo. plus utilities. No smokers or pets. Please. E-mail apenuel9@gmail.com or call 843.971.2999.

For Rent: House for rent Commenc. (May 21–23), and Reunion Weekend (June 4–6). In-town 1850s home in prime Midd. location. Sleeps up to 6: 2.5 BR up, 1 down, 2 full BA. Easy walk to College and dwntwn. Provided: fully equipped kitchen, bedding, towels, freshly bought ingreds. for breakfast. Included: heat, use of washer, dryer, dishwasher, cable TV, internet. 2-night min. $75/person/night; if a party of 6, $400/night for group. Dog negot.; no cats. Contact mambovt@gmail.com.

For Rent: Converted carriage barn on Lake Champlain in Bridport, 12 miles to Middlebury campus, available graduation weekend and other weekends and weekly. Sleeps eight. Call for pricing 508.237.2912.

The College Bookstore
Don’t Forget Mother’s Day!

Check out our great selection of gifts and books including Bill McKibben’s new release
eaarth