2010 Staff Recognition Award Winners Honored

The 2010 Staff Recognition Award winners were honored at a reception on Tuesday, June 8. President Liebowitz presented the awards that are endowed by Rudolf (Rudi) Haerle, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Sociology. After his retirement, Rudi established this program that recognizes members of the staff who make Middlebury College a better place to study and work through their record of leadership, stewardship, attitude, and community service.

At the reception President Liebowitz presented a plaque to each award winner and cited comments written by the colleagues who nominated him or her for the award. What follows is drawn from those nominations and the citations read at the award presentation.

Kristen Devoid, Barista at the Wilson Café, was described as not only a skilled barista with an impeccable work ethic, but also “a kind and patient person, brimming with warmth and good humor, who has a smile and pleasant word for anyone who walks into the café. Kristen makes a positive and long-lasting first impression for visitors to the Davis Family Library.” The café is an inviting place for study.

(Article continues on page 3)
Announcing Changes to MiddPoints

Beginning with its inception in 1983, MiddPoints has been the primary publication geared toward keeping the Middlebury College community informed about issues that matter to employees. Over the years, MiddPoints has continually evolved – originally produced as a monthly publication on newsprint, it has transitioned to a smaller newsletter format, and then to a more frequent bi-monthly publication. In the recent past, over 450 readers have subscribed to receive MiddPoints on-line. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Benefits to this format include: timely receipt of issues, easy access to the information from any computer on or off-campus, full color photos, and the significant savings of trees.

In response to staffing and budgetary changes within Human Resources, effective July 2010, MiddPoints will evolve once again. Future editions of MiddPoints will be distributed to all employees electronically via e-mail with a web link to the latest publication. Printed copies will be available in central locations for those departments whose employees do not regularly use computers during the work day. In addition, the bi-monthly publication schedule will be modified slightly to every three weeks (see schedule on page five for details).

HR is committed to maintaining the content and features for which you have expressed ongoing interest and appreciation. Our goal continues to be to serve the College community by keeping it informed. We welcome your input and story ideas, including contributions from campus programs and departments.

If you have a story idea, feedback, or news of interest to our community, please e-mail lcaroten@middlebury.edu.

Door wedges removed from campus buildings

Many of the doors inside buildings around campus are called “fire doors.” A fire door’s main purpose is to stop the spread of smoke during a fire. Stopping the spread of smoke will help keep exit pathways safe for building occupants exiting during a fire. Doors into stairwells and doors that divide long halls are almost always fire doors.

Fire safety code requires that fire doors are normally in the closed position. Facilities Services is making a renewed safety effort to keep those doors closed by collecting wooden door wedges from campus buildings.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our exit pathways safe.

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

5 YEARS

Philip Geier
Davis UWC Scholars Program

Jessica Isler
Library and Information Services

Debra Larocque
Facilities Services

Carrie Macfarlane
Library and Information Services

Robert Pekor
Library and Information Services

Marcia Provoncha
Theatre

Linda Schiffer
Commons Office – Cook

Tiffany Stowe
College Advancement

Zachary Twombly
Golf Course / Snow Bowl

10 YEARS

Lisa Boudah
Public Safety

Theresa Funk
Career Services

Lorraine Johnson
Facilities Services

Kathleen Schmitt
Library and Information Services
conversation, relaxation, and for getting things done, and Kristen was credited for being a big reason that the café is so popular. President Liebowitz read a quote from a nomination letter: “a cup of coffee shared with a friend is happiness tasted and time well spent,” and he told Kristen that for many people at the Wilson Café, she is that friend. The remarks about Kristen ended: “The Wilson Café holds a dear place in the hearts of faculty, students, and staff, and we know it’s not just because of the coffee.”

The president’s remarks to Norma Leduc began: “Everyone who swims at the college pool knows Norma. Assistant Director of Aquatics, assistant coach of the men’s and women’s varsity swimming and diving teams, water aerobics instructor, supervisor of lifeguards, CPR instructor—you are the backbone of the Middlebury Natatorium. For someone who started out 27 years ago handing out towels and checking IDs at the old Brown Pool, your professional growth at Middlebury is a testament to your dedication, work ethic, loyalty, and organizational skills.” Hundreds of swimmers and divers over the years have grown to appreciate Norma’s friendly smile and kind words. She was described as “Peter Solomon’s ‘go-to person’ for getting things done at the Natatorium” and “indispensable to the College and the aquatic community.”

Robert Preseau, Receiving Coordinator for Facilities Services, was told his “knowledge about the College is legendary and his willingness to help others is renowned among his coworkers in Facilities Services.” One admirer said that Bob comes to work early everyday so all the supplies that everyone else needs will be ready when they arrive. Another said, “there are about 60,000 parts in the College stockroom and you know where everything is, how it is used, and when to order more.” Bob has worked at the College for 36 years and he never forgets to smile, say “thank you,” or offer a kind word to others. His service to the Bicentennial Parade in the year 2000 earned him a Middlebury Letter of Commendation, and his community work with the Masons, Friends of Panther Hockey, American Legion, and other organizations were listed as reasons Bob has “helped make Addison County such a fulfilling place to live and work.”

Liz Ross, Associate Director of International Programs and Off-Campus Study is “invaluable to the success of the Schools Abroad.” She was called “a constant source of guidance and solutions in helping students at the C.V. Starr–Middlebury Schools Abroad stay safe, secure, and fully immersed in the culture of their host countries.” She was referred to as the “unsung hero” of the Schools Abroad, even though her office is here on campus and the schools are spread out over “34 sites in 13 countries on five continents.” The directors of the Schools Abroad consider Liz to be their “lifeline to Middlebury, and not just during those critical times when accidents, natural disasters, nationwide strikes, or acts of terrorism affect our students.” The directors rely on Liz’s wisdom and experience all throughout the calendar year and wrote that they appreciate her voice of reason, positive attitude, and knowledge about budgets, technology, and finance.
Scholarship Luncheon Brings Donors and Recipients Together

On May 8, Middlebury hosted its inaugural scholarship luncheon, bringing together donors and recipients for a celebration of the impact of financial aid. While donors have received letters and pictures from their scholarship recipients, this event allowed them to interact with the remarkable young people who benefit from their support.

For students, the luncheon was an opportunity to express their gratitude in person and learn more about their sponsors, many of whom are alumni and trustees of the College.

The event also gave graduating senior Emily “Em” Allison, recipient of the Barbara and John Tormondsen ’82 Scholarship, the opportunity to deliver a powerful message on behalf of her peers. In her moving remarks, Em explained how her own life was transformed by the gift of an education and how her Middlebury experiences taught her the value of giving back to her community. Her speech was a striking affirmation of the critical importance of financial aid. Please visit http://go.middlebury.edu/scholarshipevent to read her remarks in their entirety and to view a picture slideshow of alumni and trustees posing with students.

Middlebury would like to thank faculty and staff members who have supported the Faculty Scholarship over the years. Zachary Giustra ’10, the four-year recipient of the scholarship, graduated last month with salutatory honors. He is pictured at the scholarship event with John Emerson, Charles A. Dana Professor of Mathematics.

HOT Summer ZUMBA hits Middlebury College in COOL Mahaney Center for the Arts Dance Studio

Mondays @ 4:30 and Wednesdays @ 5:00
Starting June 21 for six weeks
CFA dance studio on lower level, room #109
Price: once/week $36, twice/week $72, drop-in rate $8
Once-a-week participants can come either day

Zumba is a high energy fitness dance class with easy to learn dance moves to a variety of music that includes salsa, merengue, cumbia, bellydance, cha cha, and more. Come join us for a great aerobic workout that doesn’t feel like work.

For all College staff and faculty.
Register ahead by e-mailing Liz Cleveland at liz_cleveland_vt@hotmail.com or in person on first day of class.

No street shoes in studio – bring clean, sneakers or dance shoes only that have not been worn outside. Bring a water bottle and a towel/yoga mat to stretch on afterwards. Call or e-mail Liz Cleveland (989.5977 or at the e-mail address above) with any questions.

Transitions

This column recognizes College employees who applied for and were hired for posted job openings. Congratulations to:

Kimberly Gurney
Kimberly joined Library and Information Services as a Circulation Services Specialist I earlier this month. Since 2005 she has been a Team Leader in Facilities Services.
Remaining 2010 MiddPoints Publication Dates

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MiddPoints Seeks Story Ideas

Is there a person on campus who you think would make an interesting profile for MiddPoints? What about a department or program that you’ve always wondered about or that is doing something different? Please pass along your story ideas to Laura Carotenuto at lcaroten@middlebury.edu or by calling x2012.

Do Something Good for Yourself! Attend a Class at ESI College

Summer Session begins July 6, 2010

Elderly Services announces the Summer term of ESI College beginning on July 6, 2010. A wide variety of classes and seminars is available to all those over 60 who want to enjoy stimulating information and the company of others engaged in learning. This term the offerings include a seminar and delicious supper with Dr. Michael Kiernan, an ER doctor at Porter Medical Center discussing “The Crisis in Haiti.” Popular Instructor John Hunisak will discuss opera in “Bohemia Three Times: Murger, Puccini and Leoncavallo.” Computer expert Beverly Wyman, of the Top Floor, who loves teaching beginners, will offer a class called Basic Computer. There are many other classes in law, politics, travel, psychology, and more, so call us at 388.3983 for an ESI College brochure, e-mail college@elderlyserservices.org or visit our website www.elderlyserservices.org and click on “Lifelong Learning at ESI College.”

Don’t miss out! Classes fill quickly.

Friends of International Students (FIS) is seeking hosts for the incoming class of 2010 and exchange students

Are you interested in befriending a Class of 2014 international student? International Student and Scholar Services will be hosting a series of informational meeting on the Friends of International Students (FIS) Host Program in the coming weeks. The FIS Host Program is a friendship program that offers faculty, staff, alumni, and community members a chance to welcome and assist an international student with his or her adjustment to life at a residential college in the U.S. The time commitment can vary depending on what you and your student are interested in making of the program.

If you are interested in exploring another culture, we encourage you to join us for a meeting to learn more. Afghanistan, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Greece, Senegal, and Zimbabwe are some of the countries that will be represented on campus with the Class of 2014. All meetings will be held as follows in McCullough Social Space:

- Wed., July 14, 12:15–1:00 p.m.
- Fri., July 23, 12:15–1:00 p.m.
- Wed., August 4, 12:15–1:00 p.m.
- Tue, August 17, 5:30–6:15 p.m.
- Wed., September 15, 12:15–1:00 p.m.

If you are interested in the program but are unable to attend one of our scheduled meetings, please contact our office to schedule an appointment at ext. 5858.

Space is limited in order to keep the meeting to 45 minutes. To register, please contact ISSS at ext. 5858 or isss@middlebury.edu. Feel free to bring your lunch to meetings held during lunch hours.
Real Estate

For Sale: Charming, recently renovated, light-filled 3 BR, 1-1/2 BA, 1,400-sq. ft. house on the edge of Middlebury’s campus. Architecturally designed screened-in back porch, sky lights, new tall casement windows, hardwood floors, laundry cubby, mudroom w/work sink, 2 pantries, mechanical room, 3-zone heating, new insulation, ample storage, free standing barn. Great location, very quiet, on 1/4 acre. $289,000. Contact wbhart424@gmail.com or jhart@jhartcolor.com or call 802.989.8970.

For Sale: Single-family house in Weybridge. Very close to elementary school – take advantage of desirable school system. 4 BR, 1.5 BA, finished basement with family room and study, large porch on a .6 acre lot. $240,000. Short driveway, shed. Call Karin or Darien for more info: 545.4039.

Misc.

For Sale: Frigidaire room air conditioner. 5000 BTUs. Limited warranty still in service. Used 6x. Excellent condition. Comes with remote control. $75. clancy@middlebury.edu.

For Sale: Pottery Barn round Kirkwood dining table. Paid $599. We will sell for $399 FIRM (brand new, used once)! Contemporary farm house round/oval – seats 4 or w/ leaf 8 people. Can view the table online at Pottery Barn Website. Call 802.388.1308.

For Sale: 2 solid wood (small) living area end tables. Could be easily refinished. Both for $25 obo. Call 802.388.1308.

For Sale: Yamaha guitar, early 70’s FG110. Good condition, very sturdy, easy to play, good tone, small folk size. Perfect guitar for learner or camping. $50. E-mail vfaust@middlebury.edu for pics or more info or call x2391.

Wanted: Staff interested in campus committees and boards

Staff Council is looking for staff who may be interested in serving on any of the following committees and/or boards. There will be 12 open positions. These positions are presidential appointments for various term lengths, and President Liebowitz looks to Staff Council to make recommendations for nominees to these positions. Please contact Staff Council at scouncil@middlebury.edu by June 30 if you have any questions about or interest in any of the following:

Community Council: term, 1 academic year; meets weekly during academic year; 1 regular member and 1 alternate member

Benefits Advisory Board: term, 2 years; meets as needed; 2 regular staff members

Community Judicial Board: term, 1 academic year; meets as needed, some training involved; 1 regular member, 1 alternate member

Environmental Council: term, 1 year renewable; meets monthly; 1 reg. member

Ombudspersons: term, 3 years; called upon as needed; 2 reg. members. The president of the College appoints ombudspersons each year to help employees with problems related to employment at Middlebury College. They are available at all times.

Staff Appeals Panel Members: term, 3 years; called upon as needed; 3 regular members. There are times when a staff employee who has followed the informal and formal procedures may believe that satisfactory resolution was not attained. Middlebury College established the staff appeals procedures to provide a fair and impartial process of which staff employees under certain conditions may avail themselves to appeal grievance decisions.