Late August 1985 was a busy time for Phani Wunnava. He got married in Austin, Texas, and moved to Vermont with his new bride the very next week to begin teaching full-time. As he was trying to finish his Ph.D. in Economics at the State University of New York, Binghamton (he completed his doctoral studies in April 1986), Phani was hired into a one-year leave replacement position. “One year became two, and two became an eternity,” Phani jokes.

He remembers that the day after he and his wife Vijaya moved in to one of the Storrs Avenue apartments (since moved for the construction of the Davis Family Library), he was surprised to see David K. Smith, another professor in the department at the time, knocking on the front door to drop off fresh vegetables and invite the couple to dinner at their house in nearby Chipman Park. “I am very grateful to have known David and Carol Smith ever since we moved to Middlebury. I feel extremely blessed to hold the David K. Smith ’42 Chair in Applied Economics. David was a great teaching mentor for me,” Phani says.

Over the 25 years on the faculty here, Phani estimates that he has taught about 10 different courses. “First and foremost I’m a teacher. I get so excited walking into the classroom,” he says. The senior seminar “Applied Econometrics” is his favorite course, one in which students learn in-depth how to model and estimate causal relationships in economics using large datasets. Phani has coauthored with students a number of publications in scholarly journals based on research projects done in that course. Applied econometrics is Phani’s area of expertise, and he also has a background in labor economics.

The department has grown significantly since 1985. When Phani started teaching here, the Economics Department had seven or eight faculty, and now it is one of the largest departments on campus with more than double that number of professors and “overflowing classrooms,” Phani says. There were approximately 90 students graduating in 2010 who majored in economics, almost (Article continues on page 3)
2010 Twenty-Five Year Club Inductees Celebrate at June 8 Reception

Front row, from left: Tiffany Sargent, Peggy Fischel, Linda Knutson, Phani Wunnava, Martha Baldwin, Robert Schine, David LaRose, Richard Saunders.

Row two, from left: President Liebowitz, Wink Leno, Connie Fox, Marlou Packer (in front of Connie), Liane Barrera (2009 new member), Carolyn LaRose.

Top row: Stephen Trombulak, Penny Campbell, Stephen Ratcliff, Ron Quesnel.

Also inducted but unable to attend the reception were Eduardo Bejar, Richard Church, Christopher Laframboise, Tamar Mayer, Kevin Moss, Ellen Oxfeld, David Saward, and Sallie Sheldon.

25th Annual Summer Carillon Series

The melodic sounds of the carillon bells are a staple of summer life on campus. This season features a particularly fine group of musicians, performing from the tower high above Mead Chapel. Enjoy these free concerts from the Chapel or the surrounding lawns, Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

July 9
Elena Sadina of Middlebury's Russian School and Belgium Carillon School

July 16
Gordon Slater, Canadian Dominion Carillonneur Emeritus

July 23
Sergei Gratchev of Middlebury's Russian School and Belgium Carillon School

July 30
Julia Littleton, Associate Carillonneur, Arlington National Carillon

August 6
Alexander Solovov of Middlebury’s Russian School and Belgium Carillon School

August 13
George Matthew Jr., Middlebury College and Norwich University Carillonneur

Special concert in honor of Language Schools graduation.

Transitions

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

Janine McDonald

In June, Janine became a Circulation Services Specialist II for Library and Information Services. Since July 2007, she has been the Office Manager in the Career Services Office.
Faculty Grants

Jeff Buettner (Music) has been awarded a Lecture/Research grant from the Fulbright Scholar Program for the Fall of 2010. He will be based at Kharkov State University of Arts in Ukraine, and will teach American and African American Choral Music Studies (along with rehearsal and performance). In addition he will also conduct research in contemporary Ukrainian choral literature.

Larry Yarbrough (Religion) has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar Program grant for the Fall of 2010 for a research project titled, Ancient Alexandria and the Wisdom of its Sages. He will be based at Alexandria University, which is the site of Middlebury’s School in the Middle East.

Yumna Siddiqi (English & American Literatures) has been awarded a grant through Fulbright Scholar Program for the 2010-2011 academic year. She will be Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in North American Studies at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. Her research project is titled, It’s a Question of My Dignity – Narratives of Immigrant Workers in Montreal.

Michael Olinick (Mathematics) has been awarded a grant from the Academy for Inquiry-Based Learning of the Educational Advancement Foundation to develop text materials for a course on Infinity for first-year students in the liberal arts. The award provides support to prepare notes during summer 2010, revise over the 2010-2011 academic year, and classroom test in 2011.

Kareem Khalifa (Philosophy) has been awarded a Visiting Fellowship at the Center for Philosophy of Science at the University of Pittsburgh for 2010-2011. He will be working on research that examines how explanatory understanding, the structure of scientific communities, and theories of truth interact in successful scientific practices.

Phani Wunnava, continued from page 1

15% of the class. He remarks, “I am very impressed with the students we have at Middlebury. Kudos to our Admissions Office for doing such a wonderful job of attracting a diverse student body.”

When not in the classroom Phani might be found in the library, his favorite place on campus where he can get away from the action to research. Or maybe you will find him playing cricket. He is one of the founding members of the Middlebury Cricket Club, which like the Economics Department has grown substantially since its founding almost 20 years ago. The club is made up of “mostly international students from Commonwealth nations [countries formerly part of the British Empire], some baseball players, and almost all economics majors,” he says.

Phani and his family are very active with the Sai Center of Vermont, a service-oriented group that, among many other projects, cooks meals at the Salvation Army in Burlington once a month. The Sai Center is a spiritual organization that is based in the universality of all faiths. This interdenominational group is a good fit for Phani who “grew up Hindu, went to a Baptist high school, and graduated from a Methodist College.”

Besides David K. Smith, Phani counts among his mentors his current colleague David Colander. “Not too many people know that David Colander was my former professor when I was an economics graduate student at the University of Miami, and he has had a profound influence on me,” says Phani. He considers himself fortunate to have had many role models in his life. M.C. Paul was his undergraduate statistics lecturer whose dedication for his students Phani tries to emulate, and a mentor from graduate school is Solomon Polachek, his dissertation advisor. Subbarao Wunnava, Phani’s brother, is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Computer Science/Electrical Engineering at the Florida International University and one of Phani’s admired role models.

“I have my dream job. I’m a teacher and I get excited by the classroom environment. I get to do a good amount of research and involve students in that research. I don’t feel professionally isolated because I get to collaborate with others in economics. The College, especially the administrations of McCardell and Liebowitz, has provided the resources for me to be a good teacher and researcher,” he says. Phani pushes students – he believes that everybody has to earn their success. He remains in touch with many former students and enjoys catching up with them at reunions and homecoming or when they call to check in.

Phani and his wife are parents of two college students right now. Their daughter is a computer science major, a senior at Wellesley College; their son just finished his first year at Duke University and plans to major in neuroscience. When asked about his plans for the next 25 years, Phani replies, “Try to be a better parent, husband, teacher, researcher, community member, human being.” He would like to get involved in a service project in a third world country, bringing his expertise to a community in need, perhaps on a future leave year.

~ Liz Hammel

Staff Accomplishments

On June 24, Sarah Ray, Director of Public Affairs, gave a presentation, “Getting Coverage for Your Institution,” with a colleague from TCU (Texas Christian University) at an annual college media conference.
On-Campus Consulting with TIAA-CREF Representative

Middlebury College’s TIAA-CREF representative Erik Moreau has scheduled dates he will be on campus for one-on-one meetings with retirement plan participants. All Thursday meetings are in the Human Resources office, room 201. The August 18 and December 14 meetings will be in the Davis Family Library, room 150B:

Thursday August 5
Wednesday August 18
Thursday September 2
Thursday September 16
Thursday October 7
Thursday October 28
Thursday November 11
Thursday December 2
Tuesday December 14

To schedule an appointment with Erik on one of these days, go to www.tiaa-cref.org and select Services. Then select Meetings and Counseling, then Schedule a meeting or locate a seminar in your area, and select Vermont from the drop-down menu. Hit the submit button. You will then see a list of dates that Erik is available for appointments at Middlebury. Select a date that works for you and then an appointment time. You may also schedule an appointment by calling his assistant Melissa, toll free, at 866.904.7801 x275142.

Middlebury History

25 years ago ● Patricia Starr Bromfield presented to the College a 200-year-old bible containing genealogies of the Starr and Painter families dating back to 1760. David Stamshkin, a dean at Franklin and Marshall College, published “The Town’s College: Middlebury College, 1800-1915” as a result of his doctoral work.

10 years ago ● Susan Watson (Physics) received a National Science Foundation grant to support her research at Harvard’s Center for Imaging and Mesoscale Structures. David Dorman (Mathematics), Missy Foote (Athletics), and Chip Winner (ITS) completed the 40th running of the Mt. Washington Road Race. The College donated $3,500 to community organizations on behalf of students receiving Public Service Leadership Awards.

5 years ago ● The College, along with Senator Patrick Leahy, unveiled a new, eight-foot-long bathymetric map of Lake Champlain’s underwater terrain, the work of Middlebury students and faculty. The Language Schools conducted a lecture series titled “Life After the Apocalypse: Rebuilding Nations After World War II.”

Friends of International Students (FIS) Program is seeking hosts for the incoming class of 2014 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.

If you are interested in exploring another culture, we encourage you to join us for a meeting to learn more. All meetings will be held as follows in McCullough Social Space:

Wednesday, July 14, 12:15–1:00 p.m.
Friday, July 23, 12:15–1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 4, 12:15–1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 17, 5:30–6:15 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 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, x5858.

Space is limited in order to keep the meeting to 45 minutes. To register, please contact ISSS at x5858 or isss@middlebury.edu. Feel free to bring your lunch to meetings held during lunch hours.

MiddPoints is published approximately twice per month by Human Resources for the faculty and staff of Middlebury College. The issue schedule and deadlines are listed on the Human Resources Web site. MiddPoints is mailed without charge to regular full time and part-time employees. MiddPoints is Human Resources’ primary communication vehicle on policy changes, upcoming events, news, and other items of interest to employees. Entities outside the campus may not advertise in MiddPoints.
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: Mercedes ML320 AWD 2000, leather, sunroof, keyless entry, V6, automatic, cruise control, power seats, new summer tires, new snow tires, 162,000 ml, silver/gray, $6,500 obo, call Jim at x5453, 388.9725, larrabee@middlebury.edu.

Misc.
For Sale: Delta 10” radial arm saw, model 33-990, on locking wheels. All accessories included, $300. Call Rick: 802.989.3300.

Misc.
For Sale: Toro riding lawn mower, 3 years old and recently completely serviced, have record of the service, $550. Call 989.8135.

Misc.
For Sale: A beautiful solid oak butcher’s block. Height is about 3 feet and is as solid as a rock. Takes two people to lift it. Would look great in any kitchen. $300. Call 989.8135.

Misc.
For Sale: Computer with monitor, keyboard, and CPU ($125); small HP Deskjet D1341 printer ($10); Electrolux floor and carpet cleaner ($30); and Electric bed (give us an offer). Call Liane at x5659 or 388.7421.

Real Estate
For Sale: House in Weybridge on corner of Sheep Farm Rd. and Terrace Hgts. Formal LR w/ fireplace, DR, kitchen, media room & family room w/ wood burning stove, + 1/2 bath downstairs. 4 BR and 2 full BA upstairs. 4th BR makes a great office w/ built-in bookcases! Screened porch in back, open porch in front. 1 car attach. garage, $299,900. Contact sharris@middlebury.edu.

Real Estate
For Sale: Large, charming 4 BR (plus study) house in Middlebury, on 4 acre lot set far back from road, surrounded by dairy farms, gardens. 2 mi. to campus. Furnished, includes all appliances, fireplace, wifi, utilities. 3 BA. $1,300/mo. Available from Jan. 1 – June 2011, maybe longer, can negotiate. Call 802.388.5057 or e-mail cohen@middlebury.edu.

For Rent: Historic Ferrisburgh farmhouse (3 BR, 2 BA) available for rent August 15, 2010 through July 1, 2011. $1,300/mo. Please call Meg or Charlie at 877.3217 or e-mail cmlangwo@myfairpoint.net.

For Rent: Large, charming 4 BR (plus study) house in Middlebury, on 4 acre lot set far back from road, surrounded by dairy farms, gardens. 2 mi. to campus. Furnished, includes all appliances, fireplace, wifi, utilities. 3 BA. $1,300/mo. Available from Jan. 1 – June 2011, maybe longer, can negotiate. Call 802.388.5057 or e-mail cohen@middlebury.edu.

For House Share Rental: Professional educator looking for mature, serious student, staff or faculty member as house-mate in beautiful house in Ferrisburgh from August 2010 through July 2011. Call Jen at 989.6606.

For House Share Rental: Professional educator looking for mature, serious student, staff or faculty member as house-mate in beautiful house in Ferrisburgh from August 2010 through July 2011. Call Jen at 989.6606.

Lost
Lost: Black Wrangler wool felt cowboy hat. Lost during the week of May 31–June 4. Last known location was my office in the Davis Family Library (but I wore it other places…). If found, please notify Arabella Holzapfel at x5284 or by e-mail at holzapfel@middlebury.edu.