It is hard to believe how much time has passed, but I am entering my 15th year in the Geology Department at Middlebury. As the environmental geochemist in the department my teaching includes Environmental Geochemistry (GEOL 323), Surface and Ground Water (GEOL 255), Soils, Geology and the Environment (GEOL 257), Sedimentary Rocks [in rotation with Pat Manley] (GEOL 321), a new course called The Geology of Climate [co-taught with Will Amidon] (GEOL 221), as well as occasional introductory geology courses and a regular rotation of introductory and senior-level environmental studies courses. Two classes worth highlighting are Environmental Geochemistry because I am also in the process of writing a textbook on that topic for Wiley-Blackwell; so, when I taught GEOL 323 last fall I used the nearly-completed chapters as the text for the course. It was a great opportunity for me to get feedback from the target audience, and for the students it was a neat opportunity to get an inside look into the publishing process. Will Amidon and I taught The Geology of Climate for the first time this past spring and we developed the course with a few important objectives in mind: (1) to quantitatively understand controls on the climate system; (2) to understand and critically assess paleoclimate proxies, (3) to take a stab at modeling climate (past, present and future), and (4) to examine climate through Earth’s history, from zircon-based evidence for early Archean climate through late Proterozoic glaciations, Cretaceous greenhouse conditions, late Cenozoic cooling, and modern changes to climate. In terms of research, I am trying to maintain a focus on two main areas; one is the geochemical and mineralogical analysis of bedrock-derived arsenic and uranium in Vermont ground water (and associated research on trace elements in minerals, especially clays), and the other is the mineralogy and geochemistry of soils developed on terraces along the tectonically active Pacific coast of Costa Rica. A recent article on arsenic in northern Vermont was recently published in *Applied Geochemistry* with six Midd geology alums (Ryan et al., 2011), and research on tropical soil mineralogy and geochemistry has resulted in a pair of papers with Midd alums (Kautz and Ryan, 2003; Fisher and Ryan, 2006) as well as papers with colleagues from Scotland (Hillier and Ryan, 2002) and Spain (Ryan and Huertas, 2009). Speaking of Spain, I had the great experience of spending my previous sabbatical in Granada Spain doing research at Estación Experimentál del Zaidín, and in January I will return to Spain, this time to do research at the Instituto Andalúz de Ciencias de la Tierra. I feel privileged to be part of this department, with its great history of hands-on teaching and faculty-student research, and I love hearing from our graduates, so please keep in touch!