Greetings Alumni!

My name is Will Amidon. I am a new addition to the family of geology faculty. I am just finishing up my 2nd year of teaching at Middlebury. It has been a busy but wonderful first two years and I am very much enjoying the intellectual challenge of teaching Middlebury students.

I grew up and attended high school in Vermont, before shipping off to Carleton College, followed by an MSc at UCSB with Doug Burbank and a PhD at Caltech with Ken Farley. Along that path my research interests have included neo-tectonics, geomorphology, and quaternary geochronology, with a specific expertise in cosmogenic isotope dating. Since arriving at Middlebury I have spent much of my time teaching Environmental Geology and Tectonics, but have also had the chance to develop two new courses. Last fall I taught ‘Remote Sensing in the Geosciences,’ which focused on using satellite-derived data to solve geologic problems. I am currently co-teaching another new class with Pete Ryan titled ‘Climate Change through Earth History,” which has been a lot of fun for everyone.

I will be working with three students over the coming summer on a variety of projects. Annalise Carington and I will collaborate with Dylan Rood using cosmogenic dating to establish the EQ history of normal faults in the Hat Creek Graben, CA. Daniel Hobbs will be working on a collaborative project with Bruce Watson to determine the retentivity and production rates of $^3$He and $^{21}$Ne in calcite. Finally, Lisa Luna will be working on a collaborative project with Doug Burbank and Midd-alum Burch Fisher using foreland basin sediments in eastern Argentina to reconstruct the pattern of paleo-erosion rates in the Andes over the last 15 Myr. The most important project will be with my wife as we spend the summer moving into an old schoolhouse we just bought in Cornwall!

I am very excited to be a part of the Middlebury geology family, and I hope to continue meeting geology alums in coming years. If you are in town for reunion or otherwise, please stop by Bi-Hall and say hello.

Best wishes,

Will