Davis Scholarships Strike a Chord

More than 1,000 applicants vied for 100 scholarships to attend either the Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, or Russian Schools at Middlebury this summer. The scholarships—made possible by a $1 million gift from noted philanthropist Kathryn Wasserman Davis—will cover the cost of tuition, room, board, and other program incidentals at the five schools.

The KWD Scholarships, as they are called in and around Sunderland, are part of the 100 Scholarships in Critical Language Study. The scholarships are meant to address today's need for more effective language proficiency. The Davis grants are merit-based and intended primarily for exceptionally qualified individuals.

Applications Skyrocket

Since moving to an online application system for the 2007 summer session, the Language Schools have already seen a large increase in the number of applications. This year, admissions officers have processed 3,660 applications—compared to 2,230 applications last year at this time.

Applicants have shown a record interest in the Portuguese School. As of late April, 65 students—drawn from an applicant pool of nearly 200—have been accepted to the School for the summer of 2007. At the same time last year, the School had received 34 applications.

Schools Abroad to Egypt

Middlebury has established its first Schools Abroad program in the Middle East.

The C.V. Starr-Middlebury Schools Abroad has chosen to affiliate with Alexandria University in Alexandria, Egypt, and will begin offering classes in the fall of 2007. Nehad Heliel, a faculty member at Alexandria University, will serve as the School's first director.

Chinese School to Offer an M.A.

Recognizing that Chinese is one of the fastest growing areas of language study in the United States, Middlebury has announced that it will offer a master of arts degree in Chinese beginning this summer.

The degree program will consist of 12 courses and culminate in a required teaching practicum conducted at the Chinese School. Students may choose to complete the degree over four summers on the Vermont campus or in two summers at Middlebury with an academic year in between at the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

Russian School Named

For the first time in its 92-year history, one of the Language Schools has received a commemorative name. At last summer’s Language School commencement exercises, President Ronald D. Liebowitz announced that the Russian School would be named the Kathryn Wasserman Davis School of Russian, in honor of the longtime philanthropist and Russian scholar.
French School Director to Address Multicultural Issues

Her presentation will address how globalization and advances in information and communications technology have extended educational possibilities to a wide group of learners and has increased the attention paid to the impact of culture on learning. This interactive session will offer an online, self-paced learning module designed to assist post-secondary instructors in integrating and managing the cultural dimension in e-learning.

Artists in Residence
This summer, the Kathryn Wasserman Davis School of Russian will host writer-in-residence Dina Rubina, an Israel-based author of numerous novels and short stories, including the recent collection of stories *A Cold Spring in Provence* and the novel *On the Sunny Side of the Street*.

The Russian School will also be hosting actor Veniamin Smekhov, clarinetist Julian Milkis, and pianist Nina Kogan in an evening of poetry and music, as well as concert performances by the folk ensemble Zolotoi Plyos.

Spanish School Anniversary
The Spanish School celebrates its 90th anniversary this summer. In celebration, the School will host an indigenous festival—“Fiesta del Sol”—honoring the cultures of Perú and Ecuador. In addition, the summer’s curriculum will reflect this focus, featuring classes on both indigenous history and the contemporary struggles of identity within a diverse Latin America.

Diamond Anniversary for Italian School
The Italian School will be celebrating its 75th this year! Special events will include a program on the execution of anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti. Film director Peter Miller (“Sacco and Vanzetti”) will be on hand to talk about his recent documentary on the duo, which is making festival rounds this spring.

New Center for German Studies
Last August, Middlebury celebrated the opening of the Max Kade Center for German Studies, which is located in the recently renovated Deanery on College Street.

The Kade Center provides residential and social space for the College’s German department and international studies program during the undergraduate academic year and for the German School during the summer.

Clinton to Speak at Commencement
William Jefferson Clinton, the 42nd president of the United States, will deliver the Middlebury College undergraduate commencement address on May 27.

Clinton, who will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, is the first president or former president to speak at Middlebury.

Middlebury Sparks Wiki Discussion
When Middlebury’s history department announced that it would not allow students to cite the online resource Wikipedia as a source in exams and papers, academia—and the general public—took notice.

Since the announcement in February, the blogosphere has been abuzz with opinions on the matter, while the national media has weighed in with stories, as well. *The New York Times*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, the *Associated Press*, and the *NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams* all filed stories on the issue. Please consult their various web sites for their accounts.