Middlebury’s New Online Community: September 2009
Make the most of your Middlebury connections

We are pleased to inform you that Middlebury has enhanced its online community, now named Middlebury Online. This new interface offers an expanded array of online tools to help you stay connected with the Middlebury community, both personally and professionally. As part of this overhaul, we are adding more of our constituents to the shared database, which will include all Language Schools and Bread Loaf attendees. If you are new to the community and do not want to share your information, you may opt out by registering and “hiding” your info, by calling the Alumni Office at 802.443.5183, or by e-mailing middleburyonline@middlebury.edu.

Enhanced new features include:

- **Searchable Directory** Find and reconnect with classmates and other Middlebury friends.
- **MiddNet Career Center** Post and search for jobs and share career advice.
- **Classifieds** Advertise goods and services to other community members.
- **Events** Learn about and register for Middlebury events.
- **Class Notes** Enter your class notes and read up on classmates.
- **MyPage** Customize your own page, create a Middlebury-specific network of friends, and send out messages and invitations to your own events.
- **Facebook Application** Update your information in Middlebury’s database, within Facebook.
- **Lifelong E-mail** Set up a Middlebury branded e-mail forwarding account.

To get started, please follow these instructions: Go to the Middlebury Online home page: www.middleburyonline.com. Click on Register Now to join the community. Follow the on-screen instructions for registration; please note that your eight-digit Middlebury ID number is available on the mailing label for this letter.

There will be ongoing enhancements, so please visit the site and return often to make the most of your Middlebury network. If you have any questions about Middlebury Online, please contact us at middleburyonline@middlebury.edu.

Middlebury Language Schools Honor Roll Available Online

As part of Middlebury’s commitment to environmental sustainability, the 2009 Language Schools Honor Roll of donors is now available online. Please visit go.middlebury.edu/honor-roll to see your name and those of your classmates who helped enhance the Language Schools for all of our passionate learners this summer and for years to come.

Financial Aid Need

Providing financial aid to our students in need is our top fund-raising priority. Please help us continue to attract outstanding students who are passionate about language acquisition and cultural exploration, and give them the same opportunities you had at the Language Schools. Your gift can be designated directly to the Language School you attended. Please help today by making your gift online at www.middlebury.edu/supporting.

Language Schools Graduate More Than 160

The 95th commencement ceremony for the Middlebury College Language Schools was held in Mead Chapel on Friday, August 14. Middlebury College President Ronald D. Liebowitz and Vice President of the Language Schools, Schools Abroad, and Graduate Programs Michael Geisler awarded degrees to approximately 160 Master of Arts candidates in Chinese,
French, German, Italian, Russian, and Spanish, while three candidates received doctorates in modern languages. Awards for distinguished study were given to select students in the schools of Hebrew, Japanese, and Portuguese.

### Former Director Seiichi Makino Delivers Commencement Address

Seiichi Makino, Princeton University Professor of Japanese and Linguistics and former director of the Middlebury Japanese School from 1978–1988, delivered the commencement address at the ceremony. Focusing his address on the importance of language learning, Professor Makino explained his approach to language acquisition with a metaphor: “Language is water. It flows like a river.”

A professor at Princeton since 1991, Professor Makino currently researches linguistics and teaches courses on East Asian studies and the Japanese language. He received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English literature from Waseda University, his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in linguistics from the University of Tokyo, and a doctorate in linguistics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has also published numerous books about linguistics, culture, and language study.

Professor Makino was the president of the Association of Teachers of Japanese from 2003–2005 and has been the academic director of a three-summer master’s program in Japanese pedagogy at Columbia University since 1996. In 2001, he received the ADFL Award for Distinguished Service in the Profession, as well as the award of the Society for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language, in 2007.

### First Summer of Middlebury at Mills a Success

The Language Schools, once again, set a record for enrollment this summer with 1,483 students, including the 229 students enrolled at the new Mills campus location in Oakland, California. This location housed the entire Arabic School and offered additional sessions in French and Spanish. The Language Schools established Middlebury at Mills in response to the increasing demand for admission to our language programs.

Pierre-François Mourier, consul general of France in San Francisco spoke at the Middlebury at Mills convocation ceremony. “It was a great and fitting honor to welcome Pierre-François to celebrate the opening of the Middlebury at Mills French and Spanish Schools,” said Vice President of Language Schools, Schools Abroad, and Graduate Programs Michael Geisler. Middlebury at Mills held its closing ceremony on Friday, August 7.

### Middlebury Honors Saint-Exupéry’s 1939 Visit to French School

In 1939, the French School welcomed the legendary author-aviator Antoine de Saint-Exupéry to campus. His visit coincided with the translation of his acclaimed work, *Wind, Sand and Stars*. Howard Scherry, from the organization Remembering Saint-Exupéry, was instrumental in working with Middlebury to install a commemorative plaque in the Château honoring the 70th anniversary of Saint-Exupéry’s visit to Middlebury. The declaration of World War II hastened Saint-Exupéry’s return to French military service. Coincidentally, the father of Aline Germain-Rutherford, director of the French School, was among the men present as Saint-Exupéry embarked on his final fateful flight, never to be seen again.

“What place would you advise me to visit now?” he asked. “The planet Earth,” replied the geographer. “It has a good reputation.”—Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince*

### Kathryn Wasserman Davis Continues Fellowships for Peace

For the third year, philanthropist Kathryn Wasserman Davis funded 100 Fellowships for Peace: Investing in the Study of Critical Languages. This program grants 100 scholarships to cover tuition, room, board, and a small stipend to students in need, for a summer of study in any of six critical languages and related global issues. The initiative is intended to challenge Middlebury College and its affiliate, the Monterey Institute of International Studies, to use the institutions’ combined expertise in language acquisition and policy studies to recruit and train future potential peacemakers. The Kathryn Wasserman Davis Fellowships for Peace will be offered again for the summer of 2010.