2011-12 Alumni News

*We encourage updates from all our alumni that can be shared in future versions of this newsletter. Please send your contributions to the Department at midd_geology@middlebury.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!*

Perhaps the most exciting news from all our alumni this past year is that Kathy Cashman ('76) was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. You can see the full list of new fellows at: [http://www.amacad.org/news/alphabetlist2012.pdf](http://www.amacad.org/news/alphabetlist2012.pdf). Congratulations to Kathy!

**Lee Corbett** ('07) writes: Since graduating from Middlebury in 2007, I've been busily unraveling the climate history of western Greenland through a variety of approaches including cosmogenic exposure dating, lake sediment cores, and ice cores. I finished my MS at University of Vermont in 2011, and have just completed the first year of my PhD at Dartmouth (with advisor Erich Osterberg, Middlebury '99). I'm chiefly interested in warm periods during the past 10,000 years, how these warmer climates impacted the extent of the Greenland Ice Sheet, and how rapidly the ice margin retreated. However, the highlight of my graduate school career was returning to Middlebury last winter to co-teach a J-term class with Dave West, which focused on the evolution of the Vermont landscape and involved weekly winter field trip adventures.

**Jeremy Shakun** ('03) is a NOAA Climate and Global Change Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard University. He researches the paleoclimate record to better understand the mechanisms of past climate change, and is currently studying ice sheet history in projects based in the Gulf of Mexico and Greenland. Jeremy and colleagues recently published a study in the journal *Nature* showing that rising CO2 was the primary driver of global warming at the end of the last ice age.

**Andy Wall** ('99.5) is a postdoctoral fellow with the DOE’s National Energy Technology Lab stationed at the University of Pittsburgh. He is working on projects assessing the impact of Marcellus Shale development on surface and ground water in western PA using natural isotope tracers (e.g. Sr, Fe, Cu). Andy and his wife Heidi are happily kept busy by their two sons, Henry (3) and Ellis (0.7).

**Chris Sinton** ('98) writes: I am finishing my first year as an assistant professor of geology in the Environmental Studies and Sciences department at Ithaca College. I am the only geologist on campus but I do visit Cornell to hang out with other geo-people. My students and I have been working on regional water quality projects as well as research on submarine seamounts near the Galapagos Islands.

**Jade Star Lackey** ('97.5) writes: As the newest faculty member in the Geology Department at Pomona College, I continue to build the petrology and geochemistry research program. We've recently acquired an XRF instrument and got the fluid inclusion stage operational this spring. You'll find me mostly working in the Sierra Nevada these, studying records of evolving magma
systems, although Acadian granites are special for other reasons and, I and students recently published studies of garnet-bearing granites in south-central Maine and Nova Scotia. Even more recently, I've turned my attention to the fluid flow history of skarns in the Sierra Nevada batholith, as well as hydrothermal cementation in younger sandstones of the Long Valley Caldera. I am now advising a student studying acid mine drainage in Peru, which reminds me of our trip into Elizabeth Mine back in Ray's Geochemistry class. In Claremont I am often reminded of Midd, bumping into teams coming out for tennis finals in the winter; Pomona hosts one of the Middlebury-Monterey summer language program, we often have scores high schoolers on campus in the summer donning Middlebury-Monterey gear. Kathy Cashman also visited a couple years ago as the keynote speaker for our annual Woodford-Eckis lectureship. On the home front, Hilary and I now have two kids, Finn (5) and Sigrid (2), who often get to join us on field trips in CA and environs. If any Midd Geo folks are floating through, stop by and let's catch up over coffee and/or a trip into the San Gabriel Mountains.

Emily Walsh ('97) writes: I received tenure last year at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, IA. Cornell is a small, liberal arts school (~1200 students) nestled in the pleasant, rolling hills of eastern Iowa. We have a 3-person department, in which I represent all things hard rock, and we have an active group of majors—this year we are graduating 14. Cornell is run on the block plan, meaning that each course is 3.5 weeks long and students take just one course at a time. While there are drawbacks to this system, it is really great for planning fieldtrips! I can also get students involved in research for short but intensive chunks of time. My research revolves around subduction zone processes; mainly I have worked in the ultrahigh-pressure terranes of Norway (Western Gneiss Region) and western China (North Qaidam Mountains). This summer I will co-lead a Keck project on Santa Catalina Island, CA.