Peter Solomon: Creating an Aquatic Community

Now in his 13th year as the Swim Coach and Aquatics Director here at Middlebury College, Peter Solomon has an impressive list of coaching accomplishments. Peter has been named the NESCAC Men’s Swimming Coach-of-the-Year four times, his teams’ dual meet record is 142 wins and 72 losses, and he has coached dozens of NESCAC champions and NCAA All-Americans, including four national champions. But Peter’s accomplishments are not limited to his college coaching; many in the community are touched by his dedication to the sport as a way to motivate youth and adults and promote overall health.

When it comes to his job coaching a team of approximately 60 men and women athletes each year on the College team, the competitions are what come most naturally to Peter. “There’s nothing like getting on the bus to go to a competition or standing on the pool deck while the national anthem is playing to get my blood pumping. Coaching athletes to perform is what I love,” says Solomon, adding, “But to get ready for that point there are a lot of late nights writing work-outs, lots of recruiting, and many administrative details that have to be worked out.” Peter says he is fortunate to be able to delegate some of those administrative tasks to assistant Norma Leduc who does a great job.

Peter admits that some of those late nights are his own fault -- he likes to do things that make the program special for the athletes. Peter holds a recruiting weekend every fall for approximately 50 high school students who come to campus for presentations and activities. There are a lot of logistics involved to make that weekend run smoothly, and it’s pretty much 48 hours straight out for him. At the annual team banquet each April, Peter gives a season scrapbook to every swimmer and diver. The 200 page books include photos, highlights, top times and scores, newspaper articles and more.

Fuel Assistance Program
As we anticipate the upcoming heating season, Human Resources is pleased to announce that Middlebury College will again offer a fuel assistance program to all College employees. Fuel assistance applications will be accepted from December 1, 2009, through March 31, 2010. Employees may apply for assistance of up to $400 to assist with documented fuel needs. Assistance will be in the form of either a grant or a loan. Please contact Human Resources at x5465 for a 2009-2010 Fuel Assistance application. Applications are also available on the HR website.

United Way Early Bird Raffle Winners
Congratulations to the Middlebury College United Way of Addison County Campaign Early Bird Raffle prize winners. Many, many thanks for everyone’s support during this fall’s campaign for the United Way of Addison County: its member agencies and most importantly, the people they serve!

• $50 prize of Middlebury Money: Joy Pile
• $25 prize of Middlebury Money: Charlene Barrett, Megan Battey, Cynthia and James Slater
• $10 prize of Middlebury Money: Steve Goodman, Sylvia Manning, Peter Ryan, Karen Shackett.

Internal Job Board

When there are employment opportunities posted on the College’s internal job board, Human Resources sends all benefits-eligible staff an e-mail listing the openings so they have an opportunity to be considered for the position before advertising externally. It also supports our staffing reduction strategy by filling positions with existing staff whenever possible.

Internal openings are posted exclusively on the College’s Intranet for a minimum of 30 days, after which time positions may be moved to our external Staff Career Opportunities site. Please note that if you apply for a position on the internal site, your application will stay active and will remain associated with the position if it is moved to the external site.

Are you unsure if a position is right for you - or you for it?

Perhaps you see an opening but you’re not quite sure if you are right for the position or if it is right for you. Consider requesting an Informational Meeting with the hiring manager – it is brief, confidential, and may help you decide whether or not to apply.

An informational meeting is an opportunity for you to ask the hiring manager specific questions about the job and work requirements. It gives you a chance to identify and share your transferable skills and ultimately decide if you want to apply.

Here are some tips on how to set up and conduct an Informational Meeting:

• Contact the hiring manager via phone or e-mail and express interest in setting up an informational meeting.
• Request a reasonable meeting duration (30 minutes is standard); if the hiring manager offers more – that is fine. Be considerate by sticking to the time allotted, unless the person indicates that they are willing to talk longer.
• Provide a summary of your experience and transferable skills (this is not an interview so a resume is not necessary at this point).

• Come prepared with questions—here are some general ideas:
  Can you describe what the job entails?
  What are the most important skills needed?
  What is the workday like?
  What do you think is most challenging about the position?
  What is the department culture like? Is there on the job training? Can you describe how it works?
  What do you expect of the person in this position?
  Is there anything else I should know?
  Do you have any questions for me?
• Avoid asking for predictions or projections or “what if’s” – the hiring manager is not in a position to commit to anything. They can provide insight to job requirements and working environment.
• Follow up with a thank you note or e-mail.

Feel free to contact your HR Generalist at x5465 if you would like help preparing for the meeting or talking through whether you want to set one up or not.

If you have questions regarding employment opportunities, please contact Melissa Nicklaw at x2551 or Liz Kafer at x5466.

Introducing New Staff Council Representatives

Staff Council recently accepted the resignation of two Staff Council representatives, both due to personal reasons. The constitution allows Staff Council to appoint replacements for the remainder of the term to the district whose representative resigns. After seeking interest from the Library and Information Services District, we have appointed Terry Simpkins as their representative.

The other district is District C, which includes ACE, CCAL, CSO, Chaplain’s Office, Counseling and Human Relations, Health Center, Public Safety, Registrar, Vt. Campus Compact, and Institutional Planning and Research. Wayne Darling, Museum Manager and Events Coordinator, Public Safety, has accepted the position of District C representative.

Both Terry and Wayne will serve on Staff Council until June of 2010 when those districts are scheduled for elections. Thank you to both for stepping in and serving staff in this important capacity.

~ Staff Council

Gearing up for the season at the Snow Bowl

Snow Bowl lodge caretaker Darlene Rheaume on top of tower 2 on the Sheehan Chair during lift evacuation training.
articles, and championship results. “It's definitely a labor of love, to do that for each of the 60 individuals on the team, so the coaching staff and I have to be really organized to make that happen,” Solomon says. The work is worth it, though, as each person has something memorializing their hard work and fun as a member of the team that season.

A career highlight for Peter was the men’s swim team's 2002 NESCAC Championship win. The team beat Williams, who have won NESCACs every year since 1966 and who had been winning national championships since the 1950s. However, Peter admits that it has grown to over 70 swimmers this winter,” says Solomon, who is excited that the program has attracted excellent coaches, led by Monica Jaferian, Peter Bicknell, Tyler McGuire, & Andy Weinberg.

In 2006 Peter helped establish the Muffintops Masters Swimming Team, a Middlebury College club that gives community adults, among them many College faculty and staff, the opportunity to stay healthy year-round through swimming. “99% of the people on the Muffintops are there because of the health benefits, and also the camaraderie,” Solomon says of the 47 registered members on the masters’ team. Around 25 or so will show up for any given morning workout.

For the past decade, Peter and his College team also volunteer their time to teach the Special Olympic swimmers of Addison County. “Coaching this enthusiastic and appreciative group of athletes is something the whole team embraces and really looks forward to each spring,” says Solomon.

Besides his involvement in coaching and coordinating swimming programs, Peter is also an accomplished athlete. His successes as a Division I swimmer and captain at North Carolina State University include swimming in the 1980, ’81, and ’82 NCAA Championships and the 1980 Olympic Trials in the backstroke events. As an avid triathlete Peter has finished two Ironman Triathlons in 1992 and 1994, and a double Ironman-distance triathlon (the former Earth Journey Triathlon held by Vermont Sun) in 1993. Other outdoor pursuits include hiking the entire 2,100-mile Appalachian Trail in the summer of 1995.

Becoming a father to his three children with Andrea (Museum of Art) has turned his triathlon competitions into “Disney, diapers, and dishes” instead of the “swim, bike, run” of his youth. A very active family (Andrea is a talented cross country skier, triathlete, and long distance runner), Peter’s competitive swimming and triathlons have taken the back burner, but he thinks he’ll get back into them as his kids get older.

For now Peter is focusing on giving area families another option for fitness and a healthy lifestyle. “When I take my kids to their various sporting events, I’m in awe to see how many people in this amazing community volunteer their time for sports and children’s activities — I’m not doing anything other people aren’t already doing, donating their time to kids. In my corner I try to do the same through swimming,” Solomon says.

~ Liz Hammel

“High school teams keep kids in a sport. We need high school swimming in Vermont because it gives young swimmers something to aspire to.”

there are also plenty of individual and team accomplishments over the years that have had nothing to do with winning titles, scoring points, or breaking records that make him just as proud.

Not only does Peter work hard coaching college athletes, but he also volunteers his time and expertise in the Middlebury area in his effort to create an aquatic community in Vermont. It is a long-term goal of Peter’s to establish high school swimming in Vermont because as he says, “High school teams keep kids in a sport. We need high school swimming in Vermont because it gives young swimmers something to aspire to.” To that end, Peter created the Middlebury Aquatic Club (MAC) in 2007 and has directed the club ever since. He also volunteers his time as the swim coach of the youngest age group, the Cubs. Presently, Peter coaches approximately thirty eight & unders a couple nights per week during the winter months, and five mornings a week with the summer town recreation program. The club trains youth swimmers and gives them the opportunity to compete year-round against other swimmers in their age groups from around the region and Vermont. “The team had 30 swimmers the first winter, and

Transitions
This column recognizes College employees who applied for and were hired for posted job openings.
Congratulations to:

Jeffrey Stauch
In September Jeff was promoted to the position of Leadership Gifts Officer in College Advancement. Since July 2007, Jeff was Assistant Director of Annual Giving.

Muchadei Zvoma
Muchadei was promoted to the position of Assistant Director, Marketing & Technology, in the office of Annual Giving in College Advancement in September. For the past year, Muchadei was the Young Alumni Program Coordinator in the Alumni & Parent Programs Office.
Milestones are determined by years of uninterrupted employment at Middlebury College. The following milestones were attained in November 2009:

5 YEARS

Diane Burnham
Commons Office – Brainerd

Chad Carpenter
Dining Services

Zlatan Harambasic
Dining Services

Emina Mahmuljin
Reprographics

Melissa Nicklaw
Human Resources

Stephen Smith
Snow Bowl

10 YEARS

Lynn Eisler-LeBeau
Facilities Services

Debra Ekdahl
Public Safety

MILESTONES

Wanted: An elliptical machine or treadmill. 388.1308.

Wanted: Used ping pong table in good shape. Call 382.9332.

Wanted: Middlebury Community Care Coalition, a 501(c)3 addressing local housing needs, requests donations of the following: 3 twin bed frames, 2 twin mattresses & box springs, 4 twin mattress covers, 4 twin quilts/spreads, 2 small, comfortable chairs, 1 TV, 1 DVD player, 1 coffee table, 1 TV stand. Please contact kfreedy@middlebury.edu.

WANTED:

For Rent: Very nice 3 BR apartment in Village setting, large LR, eat-in kitchen, den, 1-1/2 BA, wood floors, laundry hook-ups, heat/garbage included, off street parking, on site storage unit avail. for additional fee, no smokers/pets, $1,100/mo., first/last/security, references. 382.8522 (D) 734.1166 (C).

For Rent: House for rent, Sunset Lake Rd., Orwell. 1 BR cottage w/ views. Open living-kitchen area, washer/dyer, deck, snow removal & lawn care incl. $695/mo. 802.948.2002. We’d welcome commuters from across the lake and could negot. a flexible-term contract. Kitchenware and some furnishings available.

For Rent: 3BR/1.5BA furnished ranch-style house in Weybridge, 1 mi. from campus and downtown. Available Jan. 1 thru June, 2010. Large LR, family room w/ stove, renovated kitchen & BA, Two car garage, mowing & plowing incl. Major util. incl. $1,250/mo. + deposit. No smoking or pets. Contact Angela at abrande@middlebury.edu or 802.545.2719.

For Rent: Avail. Jan/Feb 2010. Charming 1825 stone farmhouse in Weybridge. 1.5 BR, 1.5 BA, LR, DR, kitchen, playroom. Cozy, quiet, convenient, and exceptionally beautiful location on the banks of Otter Creek. Owned by Midd alumni and rented to faculty and staff for years. A bargain at $1,200/mo. (heat & all utilities included). Call 545.2008 for more info.

For Rent: Large 1 BR in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn avail. for 3 mo. sublet (perhaps longer, willing to negot.) Dec ’09 through and including March ’10. Wood floors, beautiful light, tall ceilings, large BA w/ bath/shower, BR w/ queen sized bed. Completely furnished, linens, towels, cooking equipment. Very near subway and great restaurants, shopping, fantastic bike/walk run near river. $1,000/mo. + utilities. outschmitz@gmail.com or 718.208.9283.

WANTED:

William Hill
Facilities Services

Richard James
Library and Information Services

Susan Levine
College Advancement

Thomas McGinn
Facilities Services

Dean Ouellette
Facilities Services

Curtis Parent
Facilities Services

Myron Selleck
Facilities Services

Terry Simpkins
Library and Information Services

Michael Moore
Facilities Services

Cindy Wemette
Controller’s Office

Cheryl Burnham
Theatre

Jacob Dapsis
Facilities Services

Congratulations on reaching these Milestones!
The National Science Foundation has awarded a Major Research Instrumentation grant to Middlebury College for acquisition of a set of complementary instruments for use in lake and paleoclimate studies conducted by geology department faculty and their students. Under the direction of Jeffrey Munroe, this collaborative research equipment project also involves Patricia Manley and Peter Ryan. The grant provides funding for three undergraduate summer research assistants and the following equipment: a freeze dryer for preparing sediment samples, Carbon-Nitrogen-Sulfur Analyzer for measuring those elements in sediments and soils, and a pycnometer for precisely measuring bulk density of sediment samples.

Amy Briggs (Computer Science) is one of the principal investigators on a major grant from the National Science Foundation to the College Board. Together with a colleague at Duke University, she is leading a team charged with designing a new Advanced Placement course, AP Computer Science: Principles. This course will focus on the principles and practices of computing. The goal of this effort is to foster a wider appeal for the computer science discipline and better prepare students for future work in computing and other science and math disciplines. The grant supports development of the new course as well as design of pilot tests in both secondary and post-secondary settings.

Jeffrey Munroe (Geology) has received an award from the National Geographic Society to expand his research into the recent history of alpine glaciers in Glacier National Park, Montana. The funding will support retrieval and analysis of sediment cores from lakes immediately downstream from three glaciers that have retreated dramatically over the past century. Analysis of the sedimentary records by Jeff and his students will provide a long-term context in which to evaluate the significance of recent glacier recession.

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**MiddPoints Seeks Story Ideas**

Is there a person on campus who you think would make an interesting profile for MiddPoints? What about a department or program that you've always wondered about or that is doing something different? Please pass along your story ideas to Liz Hammel, MiddPoints Editor, at middpoints@middlebury.edu or by calling x2565.

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**Library Book Sale**

Tuesday, November 17 – Sunday, November 22
Main Library, 110 Storrs Ave.
Open at 9:00 a.m. on first day, continuing during regular library open hours thereafter

The Middlebury College Main Library will offer withdrawn and duplicate copies of books, VHS tapes, and other media for sale at great prices. Choose from a wide variety of items for scholarly work or recreational reading and viewing. All proceeds from the sale will be added to the library’s materials replacement fund. For more information contact Joseph Watson at x5487 or jwatson@middlebury.edu.

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**Faculty Grants**

**H.R. news**

2010 MiddPoints Publication Dates

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Classifieds

Ads must be submitted seven days prior to the publication date. Guidelines for ads can be found on the MiddPoints section of the HR Website. Please send ads to Classifieds, MiddPoints, HR, Service Building, or e-mail to middpoints@middlebury.edu (electronic submissions preferred).

Auto, etc.

For Sale: 1990 Volvo Wagon 740 GL (perfect for new drivers as this car is solid). $499 obo. Call 388.1308.

For Sale: Double snowmobile trailer, tilt bed and front shield, $700 obo. 1995 Polaris Indy Triple 600 XCR snowmobile, lightweight, has reverse, $1,000 firm. 1968 14’ Feathercraft aluminum boat w/trailer. Boat has a 10HP Mercury Outboard, needs work. New Mnn Kota front bow mount, foot control, trolling motor. Eagle Cuda 168 ex fish finder and 4 nice fold down seats. Great fishing boat, $1,000 obo. Please e-mail jabe@middlebury.edu for more information or pictures.

For Sale: 235/70 R16 Hakkapeliitta Sport Utility tires - 4 used tires - good tread, $150. E-mail dbernier@middlebury.edu or call 948.2348.

For Sale: 4 Nokia Hakkapeliitta snow tires 205/70 R15. Very good cond. Used 1-2 seasons. 3,000-6,000 miles. $160. gharder@middlebury.edu.

For Sale: 16 inch used Jonsered chain saw; includes an extra, brand new Carlton chain, $65. 1 barely used Kelly M & S P205/75 R14 tire - $25. Evenings 247.0985, daytime x5570.

For Sale: Road bike (Stumpjumper) Specialized OMB. Direct MaxDrive. Dark blue aluminum 20” frame. Very good condition. $500 obo. Call 462.2899.

For Sale: 4 solid wooden farmhouse chairs ($12 each or $40 for all 4). 388.1308.

For Sale: A child’s wooden high chair for the dining table (not a traditional highchair) - good for 3 years and up. $10. 388.1308.

For Sale: A bin of kids wooden play blocks. $5. 388.1308.

For Sale: Great deals! Panasonic KX-FP101 compact paper fax machine $25; Cannon usb flatbed scanner for photos, negatives, slides $30; Velux V5606 skylight window, brand new in box rough opening 46-7/8” by 44-3/4” $300. E-mail asolomon@middlebury.edu if interested.

For Sale: Three tickets for the Boston Bruins vs. Tampa Bay Lightning on 12/2 @ 7:00 p.m. in Boston. The price is $120 for the three tickets, which is face value. If interested, e-mail nadeau@middlebury.edu.

For Sale: Ariens Snow Thrower, model 93900, 195 cc, 5 hp, 2 stage, electric start. 2 years old, infrequently used, in good condition. Suggested MSRP $689, asking $300. x3169 or liza@middlebury.edu.

For Sale: Fish tank - 20 gallon glass tank w/ all accessories. Excellent condition. Asking $80. Call 382.9332.

Real Estate

For Sale: Lovely Weybridge home on 12 acres w/ Green Mtn. views. Open floor plan; spacious kitchen; 3 BR; 2 BA; large workroom/office/studio; sunroom & screened porch; deck, terrace. Energy effic.: solar hot H20; extra insulation, many triple-glazed windows; sunroom provides solar gain. Dry basement w/ walkout door. Attach. garage, 3-level barn. Close to Otter Ck., Lemon Fair, & Snake Mtn. Quiet side road; 6 mi. to Midd. Great community & schools. $475k. Contact wolfson@middlebury.edu.

For Sale: House in Weybridge on corner of Sheep Farm Rd. & Terrace Hghts. Formal LR w/ fireplace, DR, kitchen, media room & family room w/ wood burning stove, + 1/2 BA downstairs. 4 BR & 2 full BA upstairs. 4th BR makes a great office w/ built-in bookcases! Screened porch in back, open porch in front. 1 car attach. garage. Owner retiring/moving, $345,000. Contact sharris@middlebury.edu or call x3340.

For Rent: Faculty house for rent from February (January, if needed) through June 2010. Beautiful home in Cornwall: 3 BR, 3 BA, 2 studies. Lovely, private setting, view of the Green Mtns., only 10 min. from campus. Rent includes care of 2 friendly cats. $800/mo. plus utilities. Call 462.2899 or e-mail mkatz@middlebury.edu.

For Rent while on the market: Custom-built 2 BR house on 250 acres, north end of Lake Bomoseen (1/2 hour from Midd.). A quiet forest retreat overlooking brook; 2-car attach. garage, mud room, screened porch, wood-burning stove. Avail. now: $900/mo. + utilities (pre-bought 90 gal. propane included in rent, covering heat/hot water/steam/dryer) on a month-to-month basis. Snow plowing incl. No smoking; no dogs, cats fine. Photos avail. upon request: contact Annie at adolber@middlebury.edu or 802.989.5190.

(Classifieds continue on page 4)

College Book Store

HOLIDAY BOOK SELECTION

BOOKS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

CHECK THEM OUT BEFORE THEY’RE GONE.

6
As always, books will be provided to participating staff members at no charge. The facilitator of your book group will contact you in December to determine a convenient date and time to meet. To join, please send a completed form to Susan Grivno, College Advancement, Munford House, an e-mail to sgrivno@middlebury.edu, or call extension 5630. Responses must be received by December 4, 2009.

Underwritten by the Office of the President

Please choose from the following:

**Brandenburg Gate** by Henry Porter
(Historical Fiction, Suspense / 448 pages)

This brilliant, multilayered, espionage thriller captures the tense final moments before the fall of the Berlin Wall. September 1989. The Communist government in East Germany is on the brink of collapse. Even the Stasi, one of the most formidable intelligence agencies of all time, can’t stop the rebellion that ends in the fall of the Berlin Wall. Dr. Rudi Rosenharte, formerly a Stasi foreign agent, is sent to Trieste to rendezvous with his old lover and agent, who the Stasi believe has vital intelligence. The problem: Rudi knows she’s dead. As collateral for this mission, the Stasi have imprisoned Rosenharte’s family. But the Stasi is not the only intelligence agency using Rosenharte. Soon the British and Americans encircle him, forcing him to choose between abandoning his brother to a torturous death and returning to East Germany as a double agent. As the political pressures against the East German government rise, Rudi must face his own crises.

"...the novel's engrossing plot, convincing tradecraft, and vivid depiction of a ruthless totalitarian regime losing its stranglehold all place Porter in company with Gerald Seymour, Robert Littell, and other top-notch writers who are proving that the golden age of spy fiction isn't over yet." (Booklist)

**Unaccustomed Earth** by Jhumpa Lahiri
(Fiction, Short Stories / 352 pages)

These eight stories by Pulitzer Prize-winning and bestselling author Jhumpa Lahiri take us from Cambridge and Seattle to India and Thailand, as they explore the secrets at the heart of family life. The gulf that separates expatriate Bengali parents from their American-raised children—and that separates the children from India—remains Lahiri’s subject for this follow-up to *Interpreter of Maladies* and *The Namesake*. In this set of stories, the results are again stunning.

"Lahiri’s emotionally and culturally astute short stories (ideal for people with limited time for pleasure reading and a hunger for serious literature) are surprising, aesthetically marvelous, and shaped by a sure and provocative sense of inevitability." (Booklist)

**My Life in France** by Julia Child
(Memoir / 368 pages)

Julia Child single handedly awakened America to the pleasures of good cooking with her cookbook *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* and her television show *The French Chef*, but as she reveals in this bestselling memoir, she didn’t know the first thing about cooking when she landed in France.

Indeed, when she first arrived in 1948 with her husband, Paul, she spoke no French and knew nothing about the country itself. But as she dove into French culture, buying food at local markets and taking classes at the Cordon Bleu, her life changed forever. Julia’s unforgettable story unfolds with the spirit so key to her success as a cook and teacher and writer, brilliantly capturing one of the most endearing American personalities of the last fifty years.

"Lively, infectious. . . . Her elegant but unfussy prose pulls the reader into her stories." (Chicago Sun-Times)
Staff Book Groups

Return to Susan Grivno, College Advancement, Munford House
Or send an e-mail to sgrivno@middlebury.edu, or call extension 5630.
Responses must be received by December 4, 2009.

Name:_____________________________________________________________
Department:_________________________________________________________

I am interested in participating as a book group member. My book choice is
Brandenburg Gate by Henry Porter
Unaccustomed Earth by Jhumpa Lahiri
My Life in France by Julia Child

I am also interested in leading the group for _____________________________________________
(New and returning leaders are encouraged to volunteer. They are critical to the program.)

The best way to reach me is: Phone: _________________ E-mail: __________________________

I would not like to participate in this round of staff book groups but am interested in participating in the future, because:
I am currently too busy
I do not like any of the current selections
Other: ___________________________________________________________________________

I would like to suggest a book(s) for a future book group selection:
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

I am not interested in participating in the Staff Book Group program because (not required to give your name):
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

A reminder:
Middlebury College has a book swap, located in The Juice Bar. Drop off a book (in good shape) to share with other readers or take a book that interests you. Another way to reduce, re-use, and recycle (and make good use of your book group books!).