From a chore to an opportunity: Geology embraces the web makeover

When Eileen Brunetto, Geology department coordinator, first took on the project of the department’s web page makeover, she thought it a pretty daunting task. Eileen admits that at first glance, the redo seemed like drudgery; however it didn’t take long for her to see the opportunity presented by having to rethink the department’s web presence.

Soon after receiving an e-mail from LIS with a workbook for her to put ideas about the new page down on paper, Eileen realized she wanted professor Ray Coish, “a walking history book when it comes to Middlebury Geology,” to join her on the team. “When Ray came on board, with his interest and his knowledge of the history of the department, we realized that yes, it will be a lot of work, but the new page will also be a way to show our personality,” says Eileen. Early hesitation quickly turned to excitement as Eileen and Ray thought more about the ways they could use the new web page to draw attention to the department and communicate its strengths to their target audience – prospective students and their parents, and students currently majoring in or studying geology.

The first step was meeting with their LIS project leader Mike Lynch. “It was a great idea for LIS to assign liaisons. Mike is our lifeline – he has allayed a lot of fears and lets us know we’re going along at the pace we’re supposed to be,” Ray says. Every week Eileen and Ray meet with Mike, who asked the pair first to concentrate on the larger concepts and philosophy of the department overall and how they would like to present them using the web page. They began with answering, “What would we like to do?” and moved from that to the more technical, “How are we going to do it?” At Mike’s suggestion they began by taking a look at the current site and deciding what they were going to keep and what they were going to change.

“The course field trips are a real department strong point, so we want there to be a lot of work, but the new page will also be a way to show our personality,” says Eileen. Early hesitation quickly turned to excitement as Eileen and Ray thought more about the ways they could use the new web page to draw attention to the department and communicate its strengths to their target audience – prospective students and their parents, and students currently majoring in or studying geology.

“(Article continues on pg. 3)”

Winter is Coming!
Buy Snow Bowl Passes Before October 31 and Save
Snow Bowl season passes cost $175 for an individual and $350 for a family this year, but you’ll save on the amount of tax you pay by purchasing them before October 31. Your taxable amount is based on the difference between the general public’s cost and your cost, and because the rate to the public increases significantly after October, you can save by making your purchase before October 31. During October passes are on sale in the pro shop at the golf course from 8-5 daily, or can be purchased by calling ext. 5125. Cash, check, VISA or Mastercard accepted. A MiddCard ID number must be provided to make the purchase (these discounts apply to employees classified as “benefits-eligible” by Human Resources).

Online purchases can be made any time at https://web.middlebury.edu/forms/campuslife/facilities/snowbowl/PASSES_FACSTAFF_form.php. Anyone interested in buying a lifetime pass to the Bowl should call Peter at 388.4356.

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- October Milestones
- “Mid-Career Presentation” by TIAA-CREF consultant
- Transitions

MiddPoints is online! Go to Human Resources, then click on MiddPoints.
Annual Winter Clothing Closet Seeks Donations

Please donate new, “like new,” or “gently-used” winter clothing and blankets (coats, hats, mittens/gloves, scarves/neck warmers, fleece, warm socks, thermal layers & blankets) for the College’s annual Winter Clothing Closet for new students.

Many of our students from warmer climates are not prepared to survive a Vermont winter. Please provide good quality, clean, and functional items to be given away to students at no charge. Any surplus items are donated to local community support agencies.

Collection of items begins Monday, October 19 through Thursday, October 29. (The clothing closet will open on Friday, October 30, so donations can only be accepted through the 29th.)

Drop boxes will be located at the following places on campus beginning 10/19:

Central Locations:
- Forest Hall - Registrar’s Office
- Main Library - Near the Information Desk
- McCullough Bicentennial Hall - Great Hall near staircase
- McCullough – Near the entrance to the Juice Bar
- Meeker House - Dean of the College Office (on Rte. 30 / off Porter Field Rd.)
- Public Safety - Harnest House on Rte. 30 (open 24 hrs/day, 7 days/week)

Commons Locations:
- Atwater Commons Office - Allen 153
- Brainerd Commons Office - Stewart Hall 214
- Cook Commons Office - Battell North 150
- Ross Commons Office - LaForce Hall
- Wonnacott Commons Office - Battell South 123
- The CRAs may also set up collection boxes in other areas of their Commons.

Questions? Please contact James Tresner, Wonnacott Commons CRA, at jtresner@middlebury.edu or x3353.

Sponsored by: The Commons Residential Advisers (CRAs), the Dean of Students Office, and International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) with support from the offices hosting a collection box.

Milestones are determined by years of uninterrupted employment at Middlebury College. The following milestones were attained in October 2009:

5 YEARS
- Michael Schuster
  Library and Information Services
- Hank Stowe
  Dining Services
- Elizabeth Ann Torrey
  Facilities Services

10 YEARS
- Richard Jenkins
  Library and Information Services
- Drew Macan
  Human Resources
- Bettina Matthias
  German
- Roger Norton
  Facilities Services

15 YEARS
- Michele McHugh
  Library and Information Services

20 YEARS
- Scott Lee
  Dining Services
- Brent Simons
  Dining Services

Milestones continue on pg. 3

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be many photos showing students out in the field. On the current site we noticed pages with all text, so that needs to change," Eileen says. They would like Geology's main page to include an image of a trip from a current course and some type of drop down listing all of the current courses with a photo from each. “We’d like to highlight student/faculty research, make the alumni link more useful for students, include students’ videos of their projects…” says Eileen. Ray adds, “The page needs to look nice and have functionality. We want to move some things so that people don’t get bored, frustrated, wonder if they are in the right place. We want visitors to the page to find what they’re looking for.”

Eileen’s description of the plans for the Geology pages illustrates her excitement that the web makeover has “surprisingly awakened a new vein of creativity and interaction” in herself and the department: “The faculty are a dedicated group of educators who have completed and continue to conduct exciting research. They love teaching. And they are fun! Everyone should know how cool we are, and we look forward to putting it all out there. We’re excited about the prospect of linking a DVD of our Oceanography course to our page. We can’t wait to feature stories and photos about our students who conduct their own research under the advisement of our faculty.” Many e-mails have gone back and forth between Ray and Eileen, each building on the ideas of the other; frequently Ray shows up at Eileen’s office door to discuss a fresh idea for communicating what the Geology department is all about.

There is a lot of work ahead – Eileen knows she must learn a new Web platform in order to edit the page and revise content – to turn what they envision in their workbook to actual, functioning web pages (LIS began workshops this week). The fall is a very busy time of year in the academic departments, and it is easy for the people responsible for making over a department’s page to feel overwhelmed at the thought of completing such a project. “Thinking about the technical side can cause a lot of stress right now because we don’t know how to transfer things over yet. So, I’m embracing the creative side of the project. This has been a good lesson for me in being positive. It’s good to stretch your mind creatively and with technology,” Eileen says. The Geology makeover team has decided that this is an opportunity to breathe fresh air into the College’s site and their department’s pages, and they embrace it with enthusiasm.

~ Liz Hammel

Winter Term Workshop Instructors Wanted

Do you have a hidden talent? Share it with your friends and peers! Sign up to teach a 2010 Winter Term Workshop. Deadline for submissions is Friday, Nov. 6. Contact Tammy Grant in the Events Scheduling Office at x3147.
New Employees

Andrew Bovell – Andrew began work in April as a Seasonal Groundsworker and became a Custodian in August. He is happy to be a part of the custodial department and says he has met a “good set of people, an outstanding community.” Andrew is thankful for all the help from faculty and staff. Formerly from New York, he now lives in Whiting.

Hannah Rose Rommer – Hannah became the Associate Costume Director in the theater department in April. She is a Middlebury College graduate, class of ’08.5. Hanna lives in Middlebury and in her free time enjoys hiking, contra dancing, and playing music.

Sheila Schwaneflugel – Sheila began as the French School Coordinator in May. A native Montrealer, she has lived in Vermont since the early eighties when she took a job as Green Mountain Coffee Roasters’ eighth employee! Since then she has worked with a number of progressive small businesses and non-profits, including Danforth Pewter, Shelburne Farms, and The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. During the past eight years, she has “juggled being a mum to my eight-year old son Angus, managing Black Sheep Bistro and coordinating the Addison County River Watch Collaborative.” Sheila is thrilled to be working at the College and has been dusting off her long-dormant French and her too-dormant bicycle. Sheila, her husband Bill, and Angus love to sail, bike, camp, skate, and travel.

Carolyn Conner – After 25 years in the private sector as a certified veterinary technician, Carolyn is delighted to be at Middlebury. In June she came on board as Assistant Animal Care Technician in Sciences Tech Support Services, and she looks forward to working towards her certification in lab animal research. Carolyn likes to ride her Morgan UVM Virgil and walk with her Shetland sheepdogs in her spare time.

Jonathan White – In July, Jonathan was hired as Head Bartender at 51 Main. He is also acquiring his Associates degree in acting. Jonathan enjoys playing music and skate boarding.

Dilanthi Ranaweera – In July Dilanthi joined the Admissions Office as an Admissions Counselor. She graduated from Middlebury College in May with a major in economics and a minor in mathematics. Dilanthi’s home town is Kandy, Sri Lanka, and she is thrilled to be back at Middlebury, a place she loves dearly.

Jacob Chamberlain – Jacob became a Public Safety Officer in June. Prior to that, he worked at McIntosh College in Dover, NH. Jacob is a 20-year Navy veteran who grew up in Salisbury, VT.
TIAA-CREF consultant to give “The Mid-Career Presentation” on campus

Erik Moreau, Consultant, Individual Client Services from TIAA-CREF will offer:

The Mid-Career Presentation
Tuesday, October 20
12 noon to 1 p.m.
Mitchell Green Lounge
(bring your lunch!)

The presentation has three main topics:
Retirement: How am I doing?
My Finances: How am I doing?
How we can help you get it done.

We will explore the value of starting now, the Middlebury Retirement Plan, investment ideas like diversification and Lifecycle Funds, tax implications, envisioning your retirement, income options, and finally how TIAA-CREF can help you get there. This will be a well-spent hour, packed with information.

Please register by calling Human Resources at x5465.

Benefits Open Enrollment

Benefits open enrollment is being conducted electronically again this year. Again HR has worked with LIS to improve and enhance the electronic open enrollment process from last year. You will be receiving an e-mail at the end of October detailing our 2010 benefits, as well as step-by-step instructions on how to enroll using BannerWeb. Human Resources will gladly help you through the process; if you have questions please call x5465.

All benefits eligible Faculty and Staff are required to complete Open Enrollment between November 1 and November 15.

Want to save Money on medical or dependent care (daycare) expenses? Now is the time to start thinking about the College’s Flexible Spending accounts. Visit the benefits web page for information on these accounts, an expense worksheet, and a list of eligible expenses:
http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/hr/Benefits/

Remember, per IRS rules, money in flexible spending accounts that is not used during the plan year must be forfeited. Please budget wisely.

Faculty Grants

Quinn Mecham (Political Science) has received funding from the U.S. Department of State that partially supports his 2009-2010 leave. He was selected to be a Franklin Fellow and in that role is leading policy planning at the State Department for global political Islam and for diplomatic strategy towards the Arab Gulf. His writing projects include policy documents on engagement with Islamist groups, building institutions that support ideological moderation, and strengthening state governance and the rule of law.

Molly Costanza-Robinson (Chemistry and Environmental Studies) has received a supplement from the National Science Foundation to extend her project, Measurement and Microtomographic Imaging of the Air-Water Interface in Unsaturated Porous Media, through collaboration with a colleague at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. They will develop a computer model that simulates surfactant effects on solute transport in soils, to gain further insight into which mechanisms are most important in transporting environmental contaminants.

John Schmitt (Mathematics) has been selected as a participant at the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IPAM) for its Fall 2009 “Program on Combinatorics: Methods and Applications in Mathematics and Computer Science.” IPAM is an NSF national research institute based at the University of California, Los Angeles, whose principal objective is to encourage cross-fertilization between pure and applied mathematics and other disciplines. This program will focus specifically on several major research topics in modern Discrete Mathematics.
Auto
For Sale: 1990 Volvo 740 GL (240K miles). Body and engine in great shape, interior shows age a bit more. This car has always been reliable, modest amount spent for upkeep, indestructible! Perfect for new (young) drivers. $800. Call 388.1308.

For Sale: 4 Nokia Hakkapelitta snow tires 195/70 R14 used 2 seasons, $100. Please contact me at murphy@middlebury.edu.

For Sale: 8 piece Nojo Jungle Baby bedding. Like new. $80 obo. For more info. or pics. e-mail nduquett@middlebury.edu.

Real Estate
For Sale: Circa 1813 brick Colonial on 13 acres in Addison w/ outstanding Adk. views. 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 2 fireplaces, large rear sun porch. Many upgrades: new cherry kitchen w/ oak floors, new windows, antique woodstove. Extensive gardens, attached 2-car garage w/ storage above. 20-25 min. from campus. Price just reduced to $350,000. Call Sarah at 802.989.3403 or x5794.

For Sale: 3BR/2BA house 4 mi. from downtown Middlebury in great neighborhood. Upstairs: kitchen, 2 BR, living, BA, deck. Downstairs: kitchen, 1 BR, BA, office, and living area. One car garage. $1,300/mo. Includes mowing/plowing. Renter pays all utilities. Also an option to rent upstairs or downstairs (separate entrances). No smoking, no pets. Please contact Manuel: 802.989.3616 or mcarball@middlebury.edu.

For Rent: Duplex house in Middlebury w/in walking distance of town. Newly refurbished, 1st floor has kitchen, living area, 2 BR & BA. Finished basement has living area, 2 BR, and BA. There is a garage, mowing and plowing included. Currently available, $1,200/mo. + all utilities, deposit required. Contact Emina at emahmulj@middlebury.edu or call 802.388.1145.

For Rent: 3BR/2BA 4 mi. from downtown Middlebury in great neighborhood. Upstairs: kitchen, 2 BR, living, BA, deck. Downstairs: kitchen, 1 BR, BA, office, and living area. One car garage. $1,300/mo. Includes mowing/plowing. Renter pays all utilities. Also an option to rent upstairs or downstairs (separate entrances). No smoking, no pets. Please contact Manuel: 802.989.3616 or mcarball@middlebury.edu.

For Sale: Sunny, modern dining set for $150. Table is beech veneer w/ frosted glass. $55 x32” (seats 4-6). Four chairs made of beech and rope. Picture on request. Contact Natasha at x5432 or nchang@middlebury.edu.

For Sale: A dresser for a baby/young child’s room (the dresser contains 3 small drawers, a small closet for baby clothes & a larger drawer). $40. Call 388.1308.

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For Rent: Midd. restored barn for rent from Jan. 1 to end of May, 2010. 2669 South St. Ext. A few min. from campus, but in countryside, w/ Green Mtn. views. 2nd level master BR/BA separate from upper loft BR/ study & mid-level sitting room. Downstairs: country kitchen, DR, LR w/ wood-burning stove, full BA, laundry, screened porch. Storage. Oil furnace, baseboard hot H20 heat. Rental: $1,500/mo., all major util. incl. Car rental avail. for local commute. Contact Carrie at 388.0436 or x5703, or Bob & Betty at 388.3960.

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Free
Free: If you can take it out of my basement, a full size freezer. And if you act now, large leftover sheetrock scraps. Dry, uncracked, stored safely, & waiting for you to take them away. Meas. & # of pieces provided when you inquire. Sue Kavanagh, kavanagh@middlebury.edu, 802.453.7976 (home in evenings), x2322 office.

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Free Car Seat Safety Inspection: Saturday, Oct. 24 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. there will be a car seat safety inspection at the Middlebury Volunteer Ambulance Association (MVAA) on Elm St. in Middlebury. Appts. are not necessary—anyone wishing to have their car seat checked must bring their child with them, unless the child is unborn. This is a free community service event.

Wanted

Wanted: Come to a Halloween benefit dance at the American Legion, Middlebury, on Sat., October 31, 8 p.m.-midnight (door opens at 7:30 p.m.). $10 at the door. All proceeds benefit the MUMS basketball program. Questions: Lakers32vt@yahoo.com.


College Book Store
Stop in and check out our new clothing arriving daily.

Homecoming Weekend Hours
Saturday, October 17
10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 18
10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.