

# WONNACOTT COMMONS



**2018-2019**

## **Welcome to Wonnacott**

**We're here to help – your Commons Team and Res Life leaders can provide you with support, guidance and administrative processes. We can help you figure out your next steps and who you should seek to contact. We are here to listen and create a comfortable place to hang-out, vent, or laugh. We have loaner items so that you can engage in hobbies, games, sports, and leisure activities. We can help if you face illness or injury that leads to prolonged absenteeism from your classes. Our mission is community building, mentoring, and personal support – we're here to help students chart their best path at Middlebury.**

**So if you need to obtain, gather information, or get advice in any of these areas --**

**Time management  
Choosing a major  
Add/drop cards  
Exam conflicts  
Early returns  
Home address change  
Housing  
Missed classes  
Facilities concerns  
Residence life concerns  
Illness  
Injury  
Discipline issues  
Handbook policy  
Printing  
Supplies  
Arts and Crafts  
Movies  
Games  
Puzzles  
Music  
Magazines  
Baking supplies  
Kitchenware  
Pots and pans  
Office equipment  
etc**

**WE ARE THE FOLKS TO COME SEE --**

## The Commons

Middlebury's residential system is the backbone of student life at the College. It embodies the College's conviction that an excellent liberal arts education takes place around the clock—as easily over dinner as in the classroom.

The residence halls are grouped into “living-learning communities,” called Commons, which combine the academic, social, and residential components of college life. They also foster close and abiding relationships among the student residents and among the faculty and staff who are part of their Commons.

### The Commons Teams

A dedicated team of faculty, staff, and recent graduates advises and supports students in each Commons and guides the cultural and intellectual life of their community:

The **Commons Head** is a tenured member of the faculty who serves as the administrative director of the Commons. The Commons head is responsible for programming (lectures, field trips, parties, dinner discussions, and other events) involving students, faculty, and staff and for setting the academic and social tone of the community.

The **Commons Dean** is a student-affairs professional who administers the daily operations of the Commons and handles all residential issues, as well as academic and personal advising. Any concerns about a student's attendance, academic performance, or personal concerns are referred to the dean.

The **Commons Coordinator** manages the Commons office, handles student questions, assists with organizing and planning events, schedules Commons spaces, and much more.

**Commons Residential Directors** are Res Life professionals who live near the residence halls. They serve as an on-call resource, mentoring students through social and academic challenges, helping organize events, and advising administrators on student opinion.

### Commons Programming

The Commons work actively to integrate students' academic experiences with their residential lives, creating an atmosphere that encourages the free exchange of ideas and builds a robust intellectual community. This integration begins with the first-year seminar: students enrolled in a particular seminar are assigned to live in the same Commons; as a result, they bring their classroom experiences into the residence halls and share them with their peers. Each Commons also offers enhanced programming, often inspired by academic events taking place on campus. One of the most popular Commons-based events involves hosted meals, over which spirited, in-depth discussions take place.

The success of these programs and the College's commitment to the facilities that support the Commons—residence halls, dining halls, and program space—mean that many social and academic activities are centered in the Commons.

## Our Namesake



Erica Wonnacott

Each Commons is named after someone who has made a remarkable contribution to the College. Erica Wonnacott dedicated twenty years of service to Middlebury College from 1968 to 1988. She was the first “Dean of Students” at Middlebury and was one of the first women in the country to hold such a position. Erica was best known and respected for connections she forged with students and her desire to spend time with them. She was involved in students’ lives and had a great understanding of student culture, which she also worked to improve. She was an academic and personal counselor, she fought for a student center, helped raise the status of women’s athletics, pushed to increase minority enrollment, and worked for, and with, students to achieve their wants, needs, and desires. Erica was respected and loved among students. Some even referred to her as “Mother Wonnacott;”, surely she was too professional for such a title but her warmth and demeanor with students made many feel close to her. It’s even believed that a number of students she helped and supported during her years at Middlebury named their daughters Erica.

Erica Wonnacott is described as a role model for administrators. She defined the role of dean of students at Middlebury and her hard work did not go unrecognized. She has received numerous awards for her dedication, achievement, success, and service to Middlebury College, the town of Middlebury, as well as her contributions to higher education. Even after her retirement, Erica has helped literacy projects in the area.

Wonnacott Commons is fortunate to have Erica Wonnacott, as our namesake, for all she has given. We are also fortunate because she is the only individual still living for which a Commons is named after. Former Dean Wonnacott resides in nearby Weybridge; is a mother of three, and also a grandmother. While her name now lives on through Wonnacott Commons, everything that she contributed, the example she set, and the connections she built, have always been, and will always be, a part of the College.

(From *The Middlebury Magazine*. Katherine Follert '87 – Spring 1988. Pgs. 9-15.)  
please note\*\* Erica Wonnacott passed away in March of 2002

## Wonnacott Residence Halls

Wonnacott Commons is fortunate to boast strongly desired housing positioned centrally within the College. We have resident halls (i.e. Gifford, Painter, Voter and Battell South), language houses (i.e. Japanese, Italian and Spanish), townhouses and small houses as well as 115 Franklin Street (Wonnacott House) where our Commons Head resides.



**Battell Hall** is located on the north of Route 125 behind Carr Hall, and was originally built in 1950 and then added onto in 1955 and then renovated in 1998. Is named after Joseph Battell who bought most of the north campus for the College. It houses first-year students. Battell South and Central are parts of Wonnacott and consist primarily of doubles.



**Gifford Hall** is located at the top of the quad's hill directly north of Mead Chapel, and was built in 1940 as a memorial to James M. Gifford, 1877, a benefactor and trustee of the College. Gifford houses mostly Sophomores and Juniors in singles and four and five person suites, and houses the Gamut Room, a student-run coffeehouse open five nights a week, in the basement.



**Painter Hall**, a member of Old Stone Row and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is the oldest extant college building in Vermont built in 1815. It is named for Gamaliel Painter, the founder and patron of Middlebury College and the town of Middlebury. Painter has housed students for its entire existence and is now home to mostly Seniors in spacious single and two-room doubles.



**Voter Hall** is located along Old Chapel Road and College Street next to Munroe Hall, and named for Perley Voter, the longtime Chair of the Chemistry department. Voter houses Seniors in suites of singles on the top floors, and computing facilities in the bottom two. It was built originally as the chemistry building, and was renovated in 1970 to its present state.

### Townhouses



South, Center, North

### Small Houses



i.e. 70 Hillcrest, PALANA

## Our Team



### **Matt Longman '89**

**Commons Dean** – Wonnacott  
Battell South – Room 122  
longman@middlebury.edu  
443-3350

Matt Longman graduated from Middlebury in 1989, having majored in Environmental Studies and minored in Theatre. He went on to complete a masters in higher education at Harvard University in 1993.

Matt has worked as a dean at Middlebury College for the last 20 years, and he welcomed the opportunity to become a Commons Dean in Middlebury's evolving residential life system when the opportunity arose.

It is especially meaningful for Matt to have been appointed the dean of Wonnacott Commons, given that Matt and the late Erica Wonnacott, longtime dean of students at Middlebury, were very close friends. Erica was an amazing person, and an exceptional dean. Matt does his best to try to sustain her legacy.



### **Jonathan Miller-Lane**

**Commons Head** – Wonnacott  
Associate Professor of Educational Studies  
Battell South – Room 124  
jmillerl@middlebury.edu  
443-3459

Jonathan Miller-Lane earned his Ph.D. in Secondary Education from the University of Washington in Seattle under the guidance of Professor Walter Parker. His research focused on the facilitation of disagreement in discussion and whether the principles and practice of Aikido might help foster facilitation skills. He also has a M.Ed. from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and a BA in Middle Eastern and African History from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.



## **MariAnn Osborne**

**Commons Coordinator – Wonnacott**

Battell South, Room 123

mosborne@middlebury.edu

443-3350

MariAnn Osborne is the coordinator in the Wonnacott Commons office. She has worked for Middlebury College directly since 2003 and indirectly since 1998 as assistant to Professors Steven and Barbara Rockefeller. Additionally, in her 30th year as an instructor, she is currently coaching the Middlebury College Figure Skating team, the College's club program for faculty/staff families and directs the annual Winter Carnival Show. Originally from Toronto, and a graduate of Seneca College, she is the mother of two adult daughters. She and her husband, Peter '77, spend far too much time at the course claiming to be better golfers than they really are.



## **Holly Ange**

**Commons Residential Director- Wonnacott**

Battell South, Room 126

hange@middlebury.edu

443-3353

B.A. in Linguistics Minors in Justice Studies and Forensics-- University of New Hampshire 2014

M.Ed. in Educational Studies – University of New Hampshire 2016

I am passionate about student development and mental health, and I'm always looking for opportunities to get more involved in student affairs!...

## Leadership in Wonnacott Commons

2018-2019 First Year Counselors, Resident Assistants and Community Assistants

<b>FYCs</b>	<b>Mailbox #</b>	<b>Dorm / Room</b>
Helene Rowland '20	4490	Battell Center –first floor
Britney Lux '21	3749	Battell Center –first floor
Shamar Walker '21	4633	Battell South –first floor
Brigid Connor '21	2906	Battell South –first floor
John Cambefort '21	2769	Battell South –second floor
Alitzel Villanueva '21	4619	Battell South –second floor
Britnney Ron '21	4308	Battell Center –third floor
Anthony Salas '20	4509	FebYC '22.5 - away fall semester

<b>RAs</b>	<b>Mailbox #</b>	<b>Dorm / Room</b>
John Schurer '21	4374	Gifford -First
Sophie Clark '21	2880	Gifford -Second
Matt Danner '21	2962	Gifford -Third
Joanne Park '21	4104	Gifford -Fourth
Mireille Becerra '21	2638	Gifford -Fifth

<b>CAs</b>	<b>Mailbox #</b>	<b>Dorm / Room</b>
Brian Ketchabaw '20	3819	Townhouse North –Unit 1
Minhaj Rahman '19.5	3061	Townhouse South –Unit 4
Laura Castillo '19	2944	Voter –Suite C

## Commons Council

The mission of Wonnacott's Commons Council is to provide students with the ability to program events that they would like to see happen. The council allows individual students to have agency within the commons, as portions of the student activities fee are allocated through the Council to individual student initiatives.

Commons chairs run commons council meetings, plan commons events, and work closely with the residential life staff to create a vibrant community. Collectively, the chairs of the five commons make up the InterCommons Council (ICC) which allows for activity planning to occur between the commons. Chairs can support individual student initiatives, so contact them if you have a great idea that you'd like to see happen.

Past events: Raise the Volume Benefit Concert, Family Style Dinners in Atwater Dining Hall, Apple and pumpkin picking, Midd's Got Talent, Snack Nights, Laser Tag, The Wonnacott Award, The Zak Award.

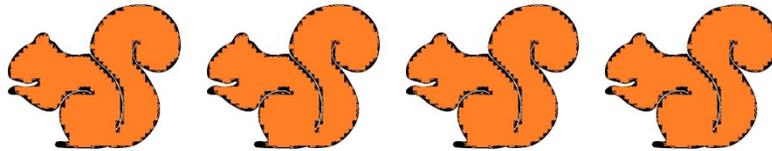
Tri-Chairs

Karl Lin '20, Maria Ramirez '21, and additional Chair TBD from incoming class.

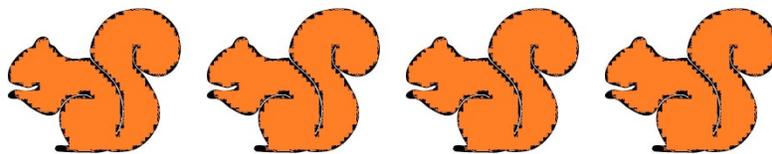
## Our Mascot

### “The Mighty Squirrel”

The Mighty Wonnacott Squirrel is the beloved mascot of Wonnacott Commons. The Squirrel is an active participant in the life of our Commons. He has been known to accompany students on numerous adventures such as; hikes to Snake Mountain, intramural sporting events, and the skydiving trip to which he lost his right ear. The motto of Wonnacott Commons, “parva sed potens”, which translates to “small, but powerful,” is believed to be inspired by the Mighty Squirrel



### Wonny Wonnacott



# FUN IN OUR COMMONS





**WONNACOTT**