October 2012

Welcome to Middlebury College! Though you aren’t due to arrive for another few months, as the Senior Co-Chairs of February Orientation, we wanted to take this opportunity to give you a bit more information about what it means to be a Feb and what to expect when you arrive at that desolate community college your extended family has reluctantly congratulated you for matriculating to in January (“No, it’s February, Uncle Charles!”).

Perhaps you have been wondering over the past few months what awaits you at Middlebury while you’ve been sitting pondering Camus’ existentialism in some dimly lit café in the south of Paris or bumping on the back of a rickety 4x4 Pathfinder in rural Malawi. Perhaps you’ve been serving up cappuccinos, pastries, and delightful conversation as a barista at your local coffee shop, getting to know all of the wonderful people that inhabit your hometown beyond their drink orders. Perhaps you’ve been training as a cyclist, writing a book of poems, or learning about the constellations. No matter what your adventure, you’ve probably been wondering if anyone at Middlebury has been thinking of you or knows you exist. Rest assured, your energy and enthusiasm along with your engaging stories will be a bright spot on this campus during the cold Vermont winter. We can’t wait for you to arrive in February and look forward to getting to know you! (And, have no fear—we will do our best to deflect the anguish of those endless queries about what you did over your gap semester/semester off/looking-for-work-semester/Febmester, or whatever you call it to make Uncle Charles understand what you’ve been up to.)

Right now, we are currently fielding applications from students wanting to volunteer to be your orientation leaders. By December, we will have selected 26 of the most warmhearted, good-humored, and fired-up sophomore Febs who each have a winning combination of enthusiasm, creativity, leadership, and Feb pride to guide you through the orientation process. We promise to keep the Kumbayah singing and what-is-your-favorite-color-circle-game-playing to a minimum. But do be ready to dance like it’s 1989 and carry yourself with Duran Duran dignity and cowboy confidence during orientation.

As your Middlebury acceptance letter should have told you, as Febs you are a special and talented group. You should be very proud not only to have been selected for this program but also trusted by one of the best colleges in the nation to pursue your individual talents, interests, and dreams on your own this fall. It is for an exceptional combination of leadership, character, personality, and hard work that you have made it here, and even though the idea of going to college may seem distant, stressful, or daunting, always know that you will be at Middlebury for a reason.

Congratulations! We can’t wait to meet you!

See you sooner than you know,

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