Welcome New Students!

The materials in this mailing will assist you in registering online for your First-Year Seminar in June. This is the first course for which you will register and is one of the requirements for graduation. All entering students take a First-Year Seminar during the first semester on campus. These seminars are writing-intensive courses, limited to 15 students each, and are taught by faculty members who also serve as your academic advisor for your first three semesters at Middlebury. Seminar topics are selected by the individual faculty and generally reflect that faculty member’s research interests or an area of expertise not directly addressed in departmental courses. These are not survey courses, rather they are designed to pique your intellectual curiosity in a particular subject. Many of the seminars offer interdisciplinary perspectives; most include activities outside the classroom; all will help you develop your thinking, writing, and speaking skills.

Look over the “First-Year Seminars, Fall 2014 Course Descriptions,” included on Page 2 of the enclosed booklet, and identify the seminars that most appeal to you. International students might be particularly interested in FYSE 1145 “Voices Along the Way” which is especially designed for students who are not familiar with the American educational system and for whom English is not their first language. Ultimately you will want to prioritize your top six seminar choices. Pay particular attention to conflicts between your top six seminar choices and courses such as Biology 0140 or 0145 or Chemistry 0103-0204 which may be important to your plans and which are offered at
only one time of day, and introductory language courses like Spanish 0101 which meet five days a week.

Instructions to help you with the First-Year Seminar Online Registration can be found in the enclosed booklet. Please read the instructions carefully before online registration opens Thursday, June 12. Most notable is that this is not a first-come first-served registration. You must submit your seminar choices online by June 19th. If you do not have access to the web, please submit your seminar choices to Gloria Gottlieb in the Registrar’s Office, as noted on the enclosed instructions. All seminar choice requests received by June 19th will be treated equally.

Once you are notified of your seminar assignment in mid-July, you can then begin to build your schedule of classes to bring with you to your first advising session during Orientation in September. Check the days and times of those additional three courses to be sure they don’t conflict with your seminar assignment. During Orientation you will meet with your advisor/seminar instructor to discuss your choices before you register online for your three additional courses. Typically students take a total of four classes in the spring and fall semesters. I encourage you to use the following websites to help you explore course offerings and prepare for your academic career at Middlebury:

**First-Year Seminar Program** website at http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/fys
**Advising** website at http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/resources/advising
**Course Catalog & Schedule Planner:** http://catalog.middlebury.edu/
**Course Schedule:** http://go.middlebury.edu/courses?fall

Enjoy exploring the course offerings.

Sincerely,
Robert Cluss
Robert Cluss
Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Dean of Curriculum, Director of First Year Seminar Program