To: Class of 2017, Students Entering in September 2013  
From: Kathleen M. Skubikowski, Director of the First-Year Seminar Program  
Date: June 1, 2013

I am pleased to add my voice to those welcoming you to the Middlebury College Class of 2017. The First-Year Registration materials in this mailing will allow you to register online for your first-year seminar, the first course for which you register and one of the requirements for graduation from the College. All entering students take a first-year seminar during their first semester on campus. These seminars are writing intensive courses, limited to 15 students each, and they are taught by regular, full-time faculty members who also serve as your academic advisers for your first three semesters at Middlebury. Seminar topics, which change from year to year, 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, and to encourage you to pursue a focused interest in depth. 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 “Course Descriptions: First-Year Seminars, Fall 2013,” included on pages 2-8 of the Registration booklet, and begin to identify the seminars that most appeal to you. International students might be particularly interested in FYSE 1066 “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 five seminar choices.

Next, check the times and days those seminars are offered on the “Course Schedule” (the link to our web course schedule is available at the back of the booklet). Then, look over the other courses open to first-year students as listed under “Departments of Instruction” (pages 14-29) to identify other courses that interest you and for which you might register when you arrive on campus. During Orientation Week, you will register for three additional courses, for a total of four fall term classes. Finally, check the times and days of those additional three courses to be sure they don’t conflict with any of your top five seminar choices. Pay particular attention to conflicts between your seminar choices and courses such as Biology 0140 or 0145 or Chemistry 0103-0241 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. **Once you arrive on campus, you will not**
be able to change your first-year seminar, so carefully check the time of the seminars you choose before you register. The registration worksheet should help you through this selection process. Please read it carefully.

You will register for your first-year seminar using BannerWeb, our online registration system, available from the Middlebury home page between Noon Thursday, June 13 and 5:00 p.m. Thursday, June 20, 2013 (EDT). For your seminar, this is the actual registration, and you will be notified about your seminar placement in July. Actual registration for your remaining three fall term courses will take place during Orientation Week, after you meet with your adviser/seminar instructor.

If you miss the online registration deadline of June 20, do not despair. Specific first-year seminars are not required for specific majors, and there are enough spaces for every student to have some choice. If you have missed the deadline, please fax your registration worksheet (with your PIN [personal identification number] deleted for security reasons) to Gloria Gottlieb at (802) 443-2030, or email her your five ranked choices at ggottlie@middlebury.edu. After June 20, students will be registered in seminars on a space available basis.

Please do not try to register before June 13. You will not be able to access the registration system until then. As long as you register between June 13 and June 20, it does not matter what day or time you submit your choices. No information will be processed until after registration has ended, and all requests received by the June 20 will be treated equally.

Enjoy exploring the course offerings in your “Registration” booklet; this is a chance to imagine the beginnings of your career at Middlebury. Over the summer you might want to visit the First-Year Seminar website at http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/fys, or Middlebury’s online advising website at http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/resources/advising, or its searchable course catalog at http://catalog.middlebury.edu/catalogs/view/catalog/catalog%2FMCUG. Meanwhile, I wish you a pleasant summer and look forward to meeting you in September.