December 1, 2012

To: Class of 2016, Students Entering in February, 2013
From: Kathleen Skubikowski, Director of the First-Year Seminar Program

I am pleased to add my voice to those welcoming you to the Middlebury College Class of 2016. The 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 the 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 “First-Year Seminars, Spring 2013 Course Descriptions,” included on pages 2 and 3 of this booklet, and begin to identify the seminars that most appeal to you. 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” which is available on our website; information on accessing the 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 9-20) to identify some of the other courses that interest you and for which you might register when you arrive on campus. During Orientation, you will register for three additional courses, for a total of four spring semester classes.

Finally, check the times and days of those additional three courses to be sure they do not conflict with your seminar choices. Pay particular attention to conflicts between your seminar choices and courses such as Biology 0140 or 0145 or Chemistry 0103 or 0104 which may be important to your plans and which are offered at only one time of day. **Once you arrive on campus, you will not be able to change your first-year seminar, so be sure to check the times of the seminars you choose before you register.** Instructions to help you with the First-Year Seminar Online Registration can be found on the worksheet enclosed in this mailing. 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 (EST)
on Tuesday, January 8, 2013 and 5:00 p.m. (EST) on Monday, January 14, 2013. For your seminar this is the actual registration, and you will be notified about your seminar placement in late January. Actual registration for your remaining three spring semester courses will take place during Orientation, after you meet with your adviser/seminar instructor.

If you miss the seminar online registration deadline of January 14, 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 mail your registration form (with your PIN [personal identification number] deleted for security reasons) to:

Gloria Gottlieb  
Registrar’s Office  
Middlebury College  
Middlebury, VT 05753

You may also respond by faxing the registration form to Gloria Gottlieb at (802) 443-2030, or by emailing her at ggottlie@middlebury.edu. As long as you register between January 8 and January 14, 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 January 14 will be treated equally. After January 14, students will be registered in seminars on a space available basis.

Enjoy exploring the course offerings in this booklet; this is a chance to imagine the beginnings of your academic career at Middlebury. You might want to visit the First-Year Seminar website at http://www.middlebury.edu/~fys or the advising website at http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/resources/advising.

Meanwhile, I wish you a pleasant holiday season and look forward to meeting you in February.

KS/ja

PLEASE CONSULT THE REGISTRATION WORKSHEET FOR BANNERWEB REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS