

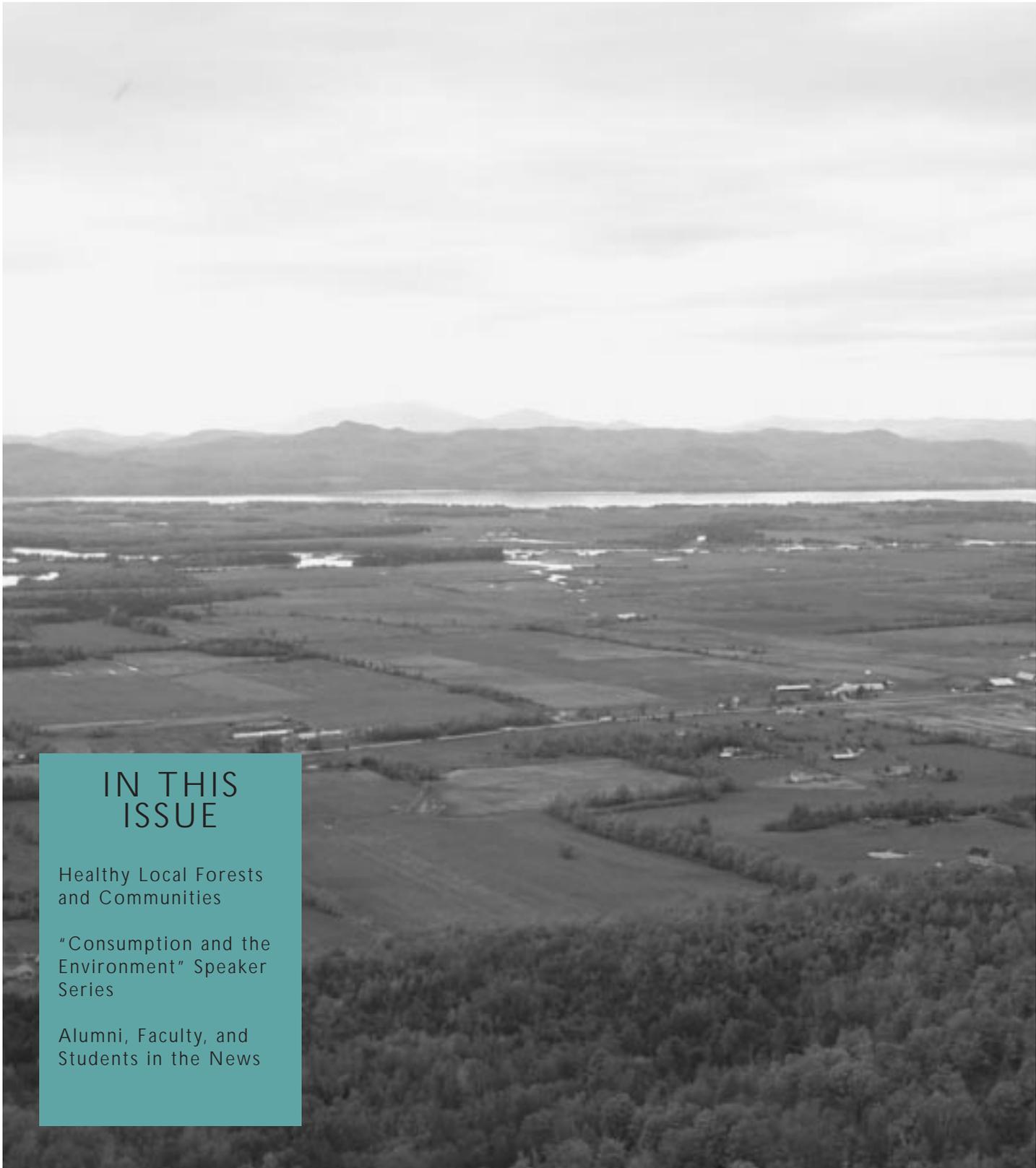


# ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

The Newsletter of the Environmental Peak at Middlebury

Fourth Issue • Spring 2003

Middlebury College • Middlebury, VT 05753



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## ALUMNI NEWS

**Edward Vine** '72 received a Masters of Science and Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of California at Davis after leaving Middlebury. Currently, he is Staff Scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and a program manager for the California Institute for Energy Efficiency (CIEE) at the University of California's Office of the President. He has been involved in the evaluation of energy efficiency programs and technology performance measurement for over 23 years. He has evaluated residential, commercial and industrial energy efficiency programs at the local, state, national, and international levels. Currently, he is providing technical assistance to the California Energy Commission's PIER Environmental Program in air quality, water resources, land use and habitat, and global climate change. Edward.Vine@ucop.edu

**Andrew Sidford** '82 heads his own architectural firm, Andrew M. Sidford Architects, PC, in Newburyport, MA. With his longstanding interest in green design, he's using the example set by Middlebury to address development issues in his own town. asidford@shore.net

**Jules Reinhart (Elkins)** '92, after becoming an "investment banking refugee" in 1994, has received an MA in Environmental Economics from the University of Oxford, and is currently finishing a Ph.D. in economics, focusing on environmental health and development, from UC Berkeley. Jules is also currently a visiting scholar at the University of Illinois in their Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics. reinhart@are.berkeley.edu

**Terry Kellogg** '94 worked in Bozeman, MT after graduation for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition before going to Yale for an MBA from the School of Management and a MEM (Master of Environmental Management) from the

School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Terry reports working with other Middlebury grads in the joint degree program—Phil Huffman and Dylan Simonds. Terry spent his summers working for Green Mountain Energy (renewable energy retailer) in South Burlington, VT and is now running environmental affairs for the Timberland Company in Stratham, NH. TKellogg@timberland.com

**Erin Harrington** '99 has been working as a commercial salmon fisherman in Kodiak, AK since graduating from Middlebury. Erin also works for a group called United Salmon Association—a fisherman's marketing organization—dedicated to the promotion of *wild* Alaskan salmon, protection of local fishery-based economies, and sustainable fisheries management. kodiak@unitedsalmon.org

**Derek Esposito** '00 served in the Peace Corps as a forestry volunteer in Benin, West Africa and is now beginning his Master's degree in Ecology at Colorado State University. His research will focus on the impact of cattle grazing on carbon sequestration of grasslands, as well as developing ways to integrate remote sensing and GIS technologies into his work, while still finding time to mountain bike, climb, and ski. dereke@cnr.colostate.edu

**Tyson Schoelzel** '02 resides in Litchfield, CT and works part-time, coaches high school track and is an active member of three municipal committees in his home town—the Inland Wetland Commission, Conservation Commission and Recycling Advisory Committee. He is currently lobbying his town to create an Environmental Coordinator position. tysoncanoe@yahoo.com

## ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Office:  
Farrell House, Middlebury College  
Middlebury, VT 05753

Phone: 802-443-5710  
Fax: 802-443-2458

www.middlebury.edu/~es  
www.middlebury.edu/~environment

### Program in Environmental Studies Mission

The Program in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College provides students with an interdisciplinary, liberal arts education. It focuses on diverse facets of the relationship between humans and the environment through study in breadth and depth.

### Environmental Peak of Excellence

Environmental Studies and Awareness was designated by President McCardell in 1994 as one of the College's six peaks of excellence because of Middlebury's long tradition of being on the forefront of environmental education in both the classroom and on campus.

### Administration

Chris McGrory Klyza  
Director of Environmental Studies  
Nan Jenks-Jay  
Director of Environmental Affairs  
Connie Leach Bisson  
Campus Sustainability Coordinator  
Janet Wiseman  
Academic Program Coordinator  
Environmental Studies and  
Environmental Affairs

### ES Steering Committee

John Elder, English/ES  
Jonathan Isham, Economics  
Nan Jenks-Jay, ES  
Chris McGrory Klyza, Poli Sci/ES  
Kathy Morse, History  
Diane Munroe, ES  
Peter Ryan, Geology  
Amy Seidl, ES  
Steve Trombulak, Biology/ES

### Newsletter

Diane Munroe, Editor  
email: dmunroe@middlebury.edu

Connie Leach Bisson, Assistant Editor  
email: cbisson@middlebury.edu

Anne Bandy, Layout Design



## Dear Alumni and Friends:

The Environmental Peak is on track having achieved many of the goals identified in the 5-year strategic plan and also has addressed all the recommendations from the external review. Many programmatic initiatives have proceeded on schedule, but we have revised the timeframe and adjusted expectations for large capital projects in light of the economic times that have impacted so much of the country. We are proud of our current progress and remain optimistic about the future. We were fortunate to be financially stable in our operating budget, which was partially offset by a generous gift to the College's Alumni Fund for Middlebury in support of environmental studies from Katie Lange Dolan '77. And we will continue to sponsor a key annual lecture through the Margolin Fund and promote new endeavors through the recently established endowments including the Bicentennial Fund and the Gretchen Reilly Fund that specifically support the Environmental Peak.

We remain steadfast in our resolve to bring the best educational opportunities to our students and demonstrate leadership in sustainable college programs and partnerships. This year we seriously explored the feasibility of establishing an environmental field station and rustic retreat at the Bread Loaf campus, developed a proposed land stewardship policy, made steady progress towards a plan of action to reduce carbon emissions, and continued our commitment to having a home base for the Environmental Peak through a sustainably designed and renovated environmental center.

It has been another fine year for the ES major, which remains quite healthy. Last year 43 students graduated with an ES major—conservation biology, environmental geology, and geography were the most popular foci. In 2003 we will graduate 33 majors, with conservation biology again leading the way followed by environmental policy and environmental geology. Among current students, ES is the fifth largest major on campus.

In our continuing efforts to improve the major, this year we launched a new required humanities course as part of the ES core, ES 215 Nature's Meaning. This course replaces Visions of Nature in the core, but John Elder and John McWilliams will continue to teach a version of the course each year. Faculty support for ES remains strong, with over 40 faculty from twenty departments affiliated with the program.

It was an especially rich year for guest speakers. In addition to the flourishing weekly Howard Woodin Environmental Studies Colloquium Series, we welcomed Paul Ehrlich, Bing Professor of Population Studies at Stanford, as this year's Margolin Environmental Affairs Lecturer. We also sponsored a three-speaker series on Consumption and the Environment in the United States over the course of the year, featuring economist and author Charles Komanoff on energy policy, economist and author Juliet Schor on overconsumption in the U.S., and Betsy Taylor, executive director of the Center for a New American Dream.

Our students continue to excel in the classroom and beyond. This year three ES majors won Watson Fellowships—Robert Chisholm, Kaitlin Gregg, and Alexandra Wang. Chisholm also won the Ohio State National Undergraduate Essay contest in environmental economics for his essay on property rights in the Nova Scotia lobster fishery. And continuing a now seven year trend, Leah Koenig '04 won a Udall Fellowship in Environmental Studies.

Next year's letter will be co-signed by a new director of the academic program as Chris wraps up his three year term. Chris will remain on the ES Steering Committee and actively involved in the Program, but he looks forward to rotating the director's reigns to someone who will bring fresh visions for the Program and Peak. The newly appointed director is Peter Ryan in the Geology department who has served in the past on the ES Steering Committee, the Environmental Council, the Environmental Peak Committee and the Carbon Reduction Initiative Working Group, and has taught the ES 112, ES 360, and ES 401 courses for the ES major.

We are pleased to share with you the stories, achievements, undertakings, and awards from the past year that are described in this fourth edition of the environmental newsletter.

**Nan Jenks-Jay**  
*Director, Environmental Affairs*  
**Chris McGrory Klyza**  
*Director, Environmental Studies Program*



Andrea Olsen, Professor of Dance and faculty member in Environmental Studies, came to Middlebury College in 1983. Her affiliation with the Environmental Studies Program has resulted in many wonderful and unique opportunities for students and faculty alike and her more philosophical connections between art and the environment have provided us all with a new perspective on traditional issues.

The dialogue between art and the environment is fundamental to Andrea's work. She cites three basic connections: "First, art is about wholeness. It connects disparate parts into a unified view. Second, art explores the unknown. The creative process inhabits the edge between what is known and what is not known, a place of heightened possibility. Like an ecotone, the dynamic edge zone of ecosystems that offers the richness of two overlapping habitats, creativity is a place of great potential. And third, art sensitizes us; as we feel, we also care—becoming caretakers of body, caretakers of place."

Andrea's latest book, *Body and Earth*, published fall 2002 as part of the Middlebury Bicentennial Series in Environmental Studies, explores the many ways in which our relationship with our bodies affects our relationship to the earth. She explains, "Arranged as a 31 day program, the book offers not only a wealth of scientific information but also exercises for both exploring the body and connecting with place." The book

## Faculty Profile

### Andrea Olsen: Integrating Environmental Studies and the Creative Arts

grew out of the Body and Earth course (formerly Ecology and the Body) taught at Middlebury over the last decade.

"We are nature too, subject to the same physical laws as all other components of earth," Olsen writes. "A nerve branches in the same way a tree branches, because they are governed by the same forces. Body is home; it is the medium through which we know the earth. To inhabit place with integrity, we inhabit ourselves cell by cell, recognizing our role in larger systems." The stories of landscapes inhabited and visited by Olsen detailed in her book become "openings through which she and her readers, including the students who will use this book in environmental studies courses, may move more alertly into the landscapes they currently inhabit," states John Elder in the preface.

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*"We are nature too, subject to the same physical laws as all other components of earth."*

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This past summer, Andrea sponsored five Middlebury students—Ben Calvi '02, Laurie Richmond '02, Ben Brouwer '04, Joe Schine '03 and Andrea St. John '03—who undertook an ecological reserve study for the Downeast Lakes Land Trust in Grand Lake Stream, Maine. In addition to the scientific research study, the students were also encouraged to incorporate photography, creative writing, and painting/video making in their work to learn first-hand how to combine their

interests in art and science.

The results of the studies—which included biological inventories of dragonflies, plants, loons and other shore birds—were published in final reports, and statistics and photographs were utilized in various articles and funding brochures. Commenting on the experience intern Schine said, "We've been talking all summer about connecting ourselves with the landscape and you couldn't be more connected than when you are immersed in a swamp."

Next year, Andrea and John Elder will co-teach a new spring term course—Nature and Creativity—exploring the relationship between the creative and natural processes and phenomena. This course will be required for the Creative Arts focus in environmental studies and offers an upper-level investigation for majors with expertise in any of the studio arts (dance, theatre, music, visual and art, film/video).

During her time at Middlebury, Andrea has directed the Dance Program, the Dance Company of Middlebury, chaired the Department of Theatre, Dance and Film/Video, and served on the ES Steering Committee and the College's Diversity Committee. She is currently completing a Senior Fulbright Scholar in New Zealand, exploring the relationship between place and dance with Maori, Cook Island, and Samoan dancers.

## Featured Speakers on Campus

### Consumption and the Environment in the U.S.

A three-speaker series that examined various aspects of how our consumption of goods and services affects the natural environment in the United States

October 10, 2002

Charles Komanoff—“Ending the Oil Age”

One day last fall, Charles Komanoff and his bike took the train from New York City to Port Henry, NY and cycled the 30 miles of rolling hills of the Champlain Valley to Middlebury College to kick-off the Consumption and the Environment lecture series. Basing his comments on his February 2002 report, “Ending the Oil Age: A Plan to Kick the Saudi Habit,” Komanoff shared his 5% and 10% oil saving plans—both of which he believes are easily achievable.

The result, in addition to the decreased consumption of resources, would be to “shrink the vast flows of oil

money that financed the September 11th attacks.” He strengthened his argument by pointing out that his 5% reduction plan would equal a 60–65% reduction of imports from Saudi Arabia.

To achieve a 5% reduction, in just 6 months, we would need to target driving, flying, heating and electricity. Up to 75% of these reductions, he stated, could be achieved by merely reducing the least essential car and air travel. For example, if everyone elimi-

nated one out of every 14 personal car trips through carpooling, public transportation or changing plans, the savings would be substantial.

In terms of heating, Komanoff pointed out that the majority of buildings in the Northeast are heated with petroleum. Similar to the College’s current carbon-reduction initiatives, great savings could be achieved by simply turning down thermostats by two degrees. Electricity reductions could be achieved by shifting to a more diverse portfolio of electricity generation—i.e. natural gas, solar, wind, and cogeneration—as well as reducing consumer usage.

As you can imagine, the 10% plan includes slightly higher reductions in the categories of the 5% plan, but it also incorporates targeted reductions in trucking / freight hauling and plastics and chemicals manufacturing. And as you can also imagine, Komanoff’s strategies gave us all a lot to think about.

For the full text of Komanoff’s report see:

[www.rightofway.org/research/newoilage.pdf](http://www.rightofway.org/research/newoilage.pdf)

March 18, 2003

Juliet Schor —

“Can Americans Consume Sustainably? Ecological Lifestyles for Everyone”

Answering the question posed in her title, Schor began her talk by saying that no, we as Americans cannot consume sustainability, at least based on historical evidence. She stated that we passed the point of sustainability, at least in terms of our ecological

footprint, back in 1978 and brought up the often

*“Perhaps the environmental movement needs to become a peace movement and vice-versa”*

quoted statistic that if everyone consumed at American levels, we’d need four earths. She countered this with optimism that we can change if we reject some fundamental paradigms.

Consumerism, she stated, as a set of values and way of life is deeply embedded in both the culture and the economic system. She then went on to detail the three main consequences of middle-class consumption and a vision of “an alternative lifestyle which is ecologically far less damaging, but which can also appeal to large numbers of Americans. It emphasizes quality of life and embraces what I call ‘ecological materialism.’”

The three main consequences of consumption are 1) a degraded state of the planet with all systems in decline, 2) global poverty and inequality and 3) imperial domination and increased military spending at the expense of domestic and social spending. Schor spent most of her time on the last two items. She first traced the historical and dramatic change in

Charles Komanoff is known internationally for deconstructing the failed economics of nuclear power, as author-researcher (*Power Plant Cost Escalation*) and expert witness for state and local governments throughout the U.S. He is also prominent in the pedestrian and cyclist movement in New York City, writes widely on road pricing and other traffic solutions, and runs the consulting firm Komanoff Energy Associates in New York City.

March 31, 2003

### Betsy Taylor—“How Much is Enough?”

globalization and how it affects our consumption patterns. Early investment in foreign markets focused on products staying in these foreign markets while current investment, based on a desire for cheap labor, results in products leaving foreign markets and artificially cheap prices for goods in the U.S. Schor stated that this “global sweat-shop based economy” will be hard to succeed given the unification of supporting political and economic powers.”

Moving on to imperial domination she described oil as *the* scarce commodity as well as the “platform of power” since the control of oil confers control of the world economy. This in turn drives our perceived need to secure oil supplies to meet growing domestic demand and consumption.

Her thoughts were timely and thought provoking given that her talk was on the eve of the US war against Iraq. Global equitable resource use equals peace, she stated, while unsustainable use equals war. Perhaps, she mused, the environmental movement needs to become a peace movement and vice-versa.

Schor’s research focuses on the relationship between work and family, trends in work and leisure, and consumerism. An economist by training, she taught at Harvard since 1984 before joining the faculty of Boston College in 2001. Schor is the author of numerous articles and books including *The Overworked American* and *The Overspent American*, and is a founding member of the Center for a New American Dream, an organization devoted to making U.S. lifestyles more sustainable.

While Juliet Schor addressed consumption issues from a more economic perspective, Betsy Taylor shared her thoughts along personal and political lines, touching on historical social movements, the impacts of overconsumption on communities and families, and on individual steps we can all take to make a difference.

Drawing on her involvement with the anti-nuclear movement and peace movements at the time of the Vietnam war, as well as historical civil rights and women’s suffrage movements, her message was one of hope that small groups can really affect change. From the success she’s witnessed through her work with the Center for a New American Dream, she confidently stated that we would see drastic changes in our capitalistic-based society in our lifetimes, both through the actions of a growing group of dedicated people and because simply, the current system is doomed for collapse if it continues on its current trajectory.

*“We are chronically exhausted and struggling with “time-famine”*

Taylor then turned to the rampant trends of overconsumption, overdoing, and overscheduling in our society, and the dramatic effects these have on our communities and families. Both individuals and our country as a whole are disconnected with our local and global communities, we are chronically exhausted and struggling with “time-famine,” families aren’t sharing meals together, we are cut off from activities that provide authentic sources of meaning, and we are anxious and fearful of falling behind and not having long-term safety nets—just to name a few. On top of all that, we get over 3,000 (!) messages a day telling us to buy more. These messages are quite effective when you consider that the two most popular activities to distract us from our anxieties and fears are watching commercial TV and shopping.

Instead of getting distracted, Taylor urged us to get involved by 1) being grounded and connected to the earth and one’s community; 2) examining our lifestyle and consumer choices; and 3) organizing oneself to change the system and to exert economic and political pressure.

All of these actions combined will not only lead to healthier environments and stronger local economies, but also to a much needed shift in the end product of all of our productivity—from more “stuff” to more time.

*For more information on the Center for a New American Dream, see: [www.newdream.org](http://www.newdream.org)*

Taylor, President of the Center for a New American Dream, has two decades of experience in the non-profit sector, serving as an executive director, trustee, and member of numerous non-profit groups and foundations. She has written op-ed articles, spoken before the United Nations, served as a member of the Population and Consumption Taskforce for the President’s Council on Sustainable Development, and managed many campaigns and policy initiatives.

## 2002 Scott Margolin Environmental Affairs Lecture

*"The BIG TEN Conservation Challenges for a New Century: Where Do We Go From Here?"*

### Michael Dombeck

*Pioneer Professor of Global Environmental Management and University of Wisconsin System Fellow of Global Conservation, Former Chief of the US Forest Service (1997–2001), Director of the Bureau of Land Management (1994–1997)*



Dombeck's opening comments focused on the September 11th tragedy and stewardship lessons that can be learned from our resultant national situation. Calling to mind images of the used and abused landscapes of the Middle East he urged the packed auditorium to help our nation by living within the limits of the land, diminishing our ravenous appetite for resources.

Dombeck framed his comments in a historical context, highlighting the first lands set aside for conservation in the early 1800s and discussing some of the great achievements of our former leaders. One unique perspective was McKinley's assassination in 1901—which allowed Theodore Roosevelt to take office—ushering in a wonderful period of time for land use policy and conservation. His point was that unexpected outcomes often result from tragedy and he hoped that the events of September 11 would have a similar beneficial effect.

While leaving out the large overarching issues of population growth and global warming, and focusing mainly on public lands issues, Dombeck highlighted the 10 most pressing conservation issues facing us today. Woven into Dombeck's elaborations on these issues were rich quotes from Aldo Leopold and other influential environmental thinkers.

- 1) **1872 Mining Law:** An archaic hard rock mining law that remains free from environmental scrutiny.
- 2) **Wildland Fire:** All fire is not bad. Forests evolved with fire and the problem is that we as humans have not. Be engaged in the fire policy debate.
- 3) **Exotic/ Invasive Species:** These biological pollutants are likely a greater threat to our waters than chemical or agricultural pollution. Native habitats are the strongest resistors of invasion.
- 4) **Land Fragmentation and Urban Sprawl:** The rate of land lost to development is 87,000 acres a day. The resources protected in the majority of our parks are "rock and ice" and this is not diverse enough—some of all of the diverse native landscapes need to be preserved.
- 5) **Old Growth Forest:** Any remaining stands of old growth forest need to be protected.
- 6) **Loss of Biodiversity:** Do not to destroy the wealth of species diversity in our native habitats.
- 7) **Off-Road Vehicles:** This issue is the most pressing and also the most complicated because it involves citizens' rights and freedom. Public discussion and debate are needed.
- 8) **Private Lands Conservation:** Since such a large percentage of the landscape is in private ownership, private lands conservation will be a very powerful and important tool.
- 9) **Water:** This is both a quality and a quantity issue. Watershed function needs to be a key management goal.
- 10) **Education:** Connecting people to the land and educating about land functions will help people make informed decisions.

Closing comments stressed a need to erase the dichotomies between the rural and urban sectors of our society, connecting all people to the land and heightening their understanding of what it is, how it works, and why it is so important. He felt that water would be the one unifying issue that everyone could rally around since it is so central to our existence.

Dombeck shared much wisdom gleaned from his experience. He stated that there is often more common ground on issues than one may think, and that compromise and educated decision making were certainly the best solutions he could think of for meeting these "Big Ten Conservation Challenges."

# G R E E N C E R T

One sunny afternoon in early May, people began to gather in the red oak paneled Great Hall of Bicentennial Hall. Hands shook across small groups of people, smiles and nods were exchanged, and stories began to unfurl as this entourage wound their way through the College's science center and Ross Commons Dining Hall. Many had never met nor been on the Middlebury College campus before, yet a bond between each person and the College was evident and intensified as the afternoon advanced. What was the unifying force that had brought more than fifty people from across the state as well as Massachusetts, Quebec and New

Hampshire to this place—not an alumni nor prospective student event—no, the link was wood. From woodlot owners and loggers to truckers, sawmill and kiln operators, architects, and building material and furniture manufacturers, Middlebury College was holding a “Celebration of Wood and Community,”

honoring an extensive network of individuals and businesses who had combined their expertise with that of the College to help launch a green certified wood industry in Vermont.

Hosted by Environmental Affairs, it was our goal through the event to express the College's gratitude to those with whom we had partnered over the past five years, celebrate the commitment to sustainable forestry and local communities, share how the certified local wood had been a catalyst for students' learning, and encourage collective reflection. “Today, I feel the satisfaction of seeing what I've done,” shared logger Bill Torrey.

It was a remarkable afternoon in which sawmill operators thanked the College for helping them take new steps and College administrators expressed gratitude to every guest for his or her unique

role in accomplishing “conspicuous excellence” as President McCardell called it. Students shared thoughts on the direct influence the wood had had on some aspect of their Middlebury education from a special project and J-Term course to an ES senior seminar.

“The stories embedded in every panel, every molding” as Eric Skovsted '02 put it, have enhanced their understanding of the possible synergies of economy, community, and environment.

“Middlebury College has improved the vitality of our community,” expressed Addison County Forester David Brynn. “People have been paid well for excel-

lent stewardship; people who live in the community have taken something formerly considered lower quality and raised it to high quality; architects have been able to think outside the box to recognize what a

forests wants to yield—there's a lot to celebrate.”

The journey of discovery of sustainably harvested wood began with Bicentennial Hall where 125,000 board feet (b.f.) of green certified wood were utilized. Seven species of wood common to the northern hardwood forest, with red oak being the dominant species, were intermingled by building wing throughout the six-story science facility. Amidst the College's rethinking of the source and harvesting techniques of the wood it uses, its consultants also agreed to expand specifications from the traditional uniformly clear wood standard to a broader standard that highlights natural characteristics including grain patterns, coloring, and sound knots.



Eric Skovsted '02 photo documented the wood used in Ross Commons from tree to ceiling panel. The photo display hangs outside the dining hall.

Dave Ginevan, Executive Vice President of Facilities Planning, remembers early design meetings for BiHall at architect Bob Payette's office where they introduced the concept of sustainably harvested wood. “I understood the words, but not what it meant,” he reminisced.

Seventy percent of the wood for Bi Hall came through Vermont Family Forests (VFF) member woodlots within 33 miles of campus. Middlebury's specification for certified wood was Bristol-based VFF's first project. VFF's community based forestry model supports five principles:

- 1) maintain or enhance the ecological health of the forest,
- 2) provide sound economic return,
- 3) pay high-quality forest stewards excellent wages,
- 4) use existing local businesses and services, and
- 5) deliver high-quality branded products and services on time at attractive prices.

In addition to VFF's eco-forestry program, the wood was certified by an independent third-party organization, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

The next benchmark involved enrolling 388 acres of Middlebury College's own forest land at Bread Loaf in VFF's program and obtaining FSC certification in 2000. The College plans to enroll additional forest land into green certification through VFF.

## I F I E D W O O D

Sixty percent of the certified wood used in the Ross Dining Commons and adjacent LaForce Hall (a sixty-seven bed residence hall) was harvested from the newly certified parcel at Bread Loaf. This harvest, plus that from four local VFF member woodlots produced 58,000 b.f. of beech and birch that comprise approximately 95% of the architectural wood in the buildings. Beech and birch were selected, despite the architect's original plans for clear cherry, because they were the two locally available species in readily available yields. For the Ross/LaForce facilities, the College also set a goal of using local services wherever possible. Two foresters, three loggers, four sawmills, four kiln drying operations and six truckers—all from Vermont and most from Addison County—cut, moved, milled and dried the lumber that accentuates the walls, ceilings and floors throughout Ross and LaForce. Three local woodcraft businesses added value to this lumber by shaping it into a thousand sets of ceiling panels, radial display cabinets for the food service islands in the dining hall, and a strikingly unique set of horizontally sequenced panels for the Commons Lounge where one can actually trace the internal pattern of individual trees around the perimeter of the room.

Middlebury's leadership and exploration didn't stop here. "What about furnishings?" asked staff from Facilities Planning and College Operations. Local furniture and cabinet manufacturers—Beeken-Parsons, Pompanoosuc Mills and Neudorfer—crafted tables, chairs, couches and sideboards for the library, lounge, seminar room, residential suites and dining hall.

In the same harvest from the Bread Loaf woodlot, 16,000 b.f. of spruce were cut to be used as rough-sawn board and batten siding for the exterior of the College's new Recycling Center that opened in May 2002. This smaller project moved from purchase order to paint contractor in six weeks.

The kiln-dried siding was pre-primed in southern Vermont before being installed.

The College has created a groundswell of activity with its certified wood initiative supported by a plethora of partners. It has shared this experience extensively and hopes to see other institutions within and beyond state borders follow its lead. An organization known as Cornerstone, of which Middlebury is a founding member, encourages institutions to purchase environmentally sound Vermont goods and services. They have focused on promoting the use of sustainably harvested certified wood from Vermont forests. Both Fletcher Allen Health Care and the State of Vermont are incorporating certified wood into current building projects.

On Earth Day, the College received an Environmental Merit Award in Boston from the US Environmental Protection Agency honoring Middlebury's institutional leadership and commitment to creating environmentally and economically sustainable communities in Vermont based on the College's role as a catalyst in the use of local, green certified wood. As accolades continue, so do the ideas and possibilities for continuing along this path that synergistically entwines environmental stewardship and local economic benefits.

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*"I believe that Middlebury has accomplished the ultimate achievement of sustainability—highlighting what was once considered substandard wood by building trade standards and converting professionals from architect to woodworker to instead celebrate the character of this wood and the local connections."*

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—Mark McElroy, Project Manager  
Barr & Barr, Inc.

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### Leveraging the Local Economy through Purchasing Decisions

Last fall, Middlebury College learned that a group of talented woodworkers, unemployed when the former Ethan Allen furniture plant closed its doors in the Northeast Kingdom, was trying to secure the financing to buy the facility and form a new company. A group of individuals met with Director of Environmental Affairs, Nan Jenks-Jay and Vice President for Facilities Planning, David Ginevan, who provided a letter of intent to the group to bid on a project to manufacture



*Island Pond woodworkers have begun crafting study carrels for Middlebury's new library.*

study carrels and book stack end panels for the College's new library and technology center. The College's letter of intent was used as convincing evidence to financial institutions that they could be a viable company by showing \$500K in receivables, based on their projected sales of \$1.5 million. This commitment from Middlebury enabled the group to re-establish a furniture manufacturing company that is now co-operatively owned.

In December 2002, Middlebury awarded a \$509,000 contract to the newly formed Island Pond Woodworkers, Inc. (IPW) to use 55,000 board feet of sugar maple and beech harvested in Vermont, and much of it green certified, to build the the carrels and end panels for the library. "Middlebury [was] the keystone to this project. Without them, this project would have died on the vine," said Bruce Wilkie, V.P. for IPW.

## Alumni in Action

### Chris Wood '88 —His Story and Contributions



Chris Wood '88, an alumnus of the Political Science Department, said he knew little to nothing about Middlebury's Environmental Studies Program when he was a student here. Now, he has made fantastic contributions to the ES Program—a program he calls aggressive and exceptional, and one he wished he knew more about when he was here.

Fresh out of college, Chris at first spent his time making ice cream and coaching high school football. A trip to Alaska roused a deeper calling where he encountered salmon—deformed, sick, injured—that had just fought their way back to their spawning grounds. Enthralled by the salmon's story, Chris quit his job and began to volunteer for a research branch of the Forest Service in Idaho gathering comparison data between undeveloped and developed watersheds. While in Idaho, Chris spent two and a half years researching the Snake River sockeye salmon, and then moved back to DC and began working with American Rivers. With a growing interest in public policy, Chris took a job with the Bureau of Land Management where he met Mike Dombeck (see page 7). He followed Dombeck to the Forest Service, acting as Senior Advisor for Policy and Communications during Dombeck's time as Chief. Staying with Dombeck until the end of his tenure, Chris is now currently employed with Trout Unlimited as the Vice President of Conservation Programs at their Arlington, VA office. Linking his fishing and forestry interests, one current focus of his work is to push for the incorporation of aquatic indicators into industrial forest certification programs.

Chris was first officially involved on campus with the ES Program as a speaker in the 2001 Howard E. Woodin Colloquium Series. Then, in 2002 Chris not only team-taught a Winter Term class with Chris Klyza, entitled, "*Public Lands,*"

but he also coordinated arrangements to bring Mike Dombeck to campus as the Margolin Lecturer. Hopefully these are just the beginnings of future collaborations between Chris and the ES program.

Two factors support this budding partnership. Filled with great friendships, a love for the area, and ice-fishing on Lake Dunmore, Vermont is a special place for Chris. Last winter, he even managed to work in proposing to his now wife (Betsy) during their annual ice-fishing pilgrimage. Imagine Betsy's surprise when she found an engagement ring tied on to the hopefully high-test line instead of a perch!

The second reason to suspect that Chris will be a continuing collaborator is the high esteem he has for our students and faculty. Commenting on his J-Term students he said they were amazing and that he was blown away by how perceptive they were. He continued, saying that whether the students choose to be environmental reporters, lawyers, work on Capitol Hill, or hopefully go into public service, that they will have a huge advantage and head start coming out of Middlebury's ES Program. In terms of our faculty he says they are of exceptional quality. The ES Program is honored by his praise, grateful for his contributions, and looks forward to working with him in the future!

### Julie Campoli '80— Making a Difference in the Vermont Landscape



Julie Campoli—currently a landscape architect, land planner and principal of her own practice with a groundbreaking

new book about sprawl and the Vermont landscape—has brought her wealth of knowledge and experience to bear on one of the most critical environmental issues facing Vermont. While her path hasn't been a direct one, we're fortunate that it has led her back to Vermont.

Graduating from Middlebury with a degree in American Literature, Julie's travels in Europe during her time at Middlebury got her thinking more seriously about the "built environment." Following these interests, Julie and her now husband John Kassel '79 got teaching certificates and took jobs at the American School of Bucharest in Romania following their graduation.

Julie recalls, "At the time, the Romanian government, in pursuit of some idealized notion of communist progress, was demolishing whole sections of Bucharest and replacing ancient neighborhoods with Stalinist style housing blocks. This made a big impression on me. The places they created were miserable and the loss of historic urban fabric was tragic. It became clear to me that, for better or worse, urban design plays a huge role in people's quality of life."

Upon returning to the States Julie got a Masters' Degree in Landscape Architecture from Cornell, spending one year at Harvard's Graduate School of Design, and then moved back to Vermont in 1987. Finding herself drawn away from traditional landscape architecture, Julie founded her own practice—Terra Firma Urban Design based in Burlington, VT to deal with broader issues of land use planning. "In the 1980s Vermont was in the midst of a construction boom. The pastoral landscape I had fallen in love with as an undergraduate and the farm economy that had sustained it were beginning to slip away. Sprawl was emerging as the threat. I was disturbed by the changes I saw and wanted my work to address the growth problems faced by Vermont communities." For the past fifteen years Julie has worked on a variety of projects including build out analyses and growth plans, streetscape plans, visual simulations, and site plans for municipalities, non-profits, foundations, and the occasional developer. She also gives workshops and lectures on various design issues including a series on "Visualizing Density" for the prestigious Lincoln Institute for Land Policy.

Enjoying opportunities to combine client-generated work with grant-funded research, Julie undertook a study of the traditional compact neighborhoods of Vermont villages. "I was looking for ways

to convince Vermonters to choose a house in town over a ten acre spread in the country. I developed plans showing how to subdivide land in and around existing villages and build housing that fit the character of the neighborhood yet supported a contemporary lifestyle.”

A second series of grants in the mid–90s enabled her to extend her scope to rural areas, studying the differences between traditional settlement patterns and post-war development. “I was becoming increasingly aware of the environmental implications of our low-density development pattern. This, combined with the realization that no one seemed to like sprawl but everyone seemed to be causing it, led me to write *Above & Beyond*.”

*Above & Beyond* is a study of density in residential neighborhoods based on the premise that good design, rather than acreage, determines the quality of a place. Working with colleagues Elizabeth Humstone and Alex MacLean, a planner and a photographer respectively, a primary goal of this book is to explain how development happens and how the choices that we make as individuals and communities shape the landscape. “We used aerial photography, computer-enhanced images, diagrams and other graphics to help readers understand what was causing changes in small towns and rural areas and how everybody’s decisions combine to transform meadows into strip malls.”

Julie concluded the thoughts she shared with me by saying, “I have a real sense of urgency about using land efficiently so we can leave as much as possible for wildlife, farming, forestry, and recreation.”



*Above and Beyond: Visualizing Change in Small Towns and Rural Areas*, APA Planners Press, 2001.

## Carly Vynne '97—Making a Difference for Worldwide Conservation Efforts



Carly graduated from Middlebury in 1997 as an Environmental Studies major with a focus in environmental policy. One of the particularly influential experiences of her time at Middlebury was an ES symposium she attended when she was trying to choose a concentration. The symposium, led by Professors Steve Trombulak, Chris Klyza, and John Elder, showcased the various approaches to working on environmental issues—through science, policy, and nature writing. “It was eye opening to someone entering the major to have three prominent thinkers in the movement lay out these various approaches to environmental issues. This was just a start for what the [ES] program enabled students to do—to become thinkers in all three realms. We must be able to understand science as well as policy, and be able to communicate and express ourselves in order to be most effective at conservation,” Carly reflected.

Carly’s specific interest in environment-development issues was sparked in a class with Professor Tamar Mayer focused on international issues and the struggle of people and the environment in developing countries. Following these interests, Carly went on to study abroad in Madagascar, which she says, “still remains one of the best experiences of my life.”

While planning on entering graduate school this fall, Carly has had a lifetime of experiences since graduation and has made her mark on global conservation efforts. Carly spent one year in South Africa teaching at a field station and then working with the Provincial Parks Board on a lion introduction project, after which she moved to California to work as a Staff Scientist for a small non-profit organization in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. While she was able to spend a lot of time doing much-loved field work, she decided to leave after two years because of a pull to get back into international issues, and found work with Conservation International (CI).

Carly says that, “Conservation International is a very dynamic and flexible organization so I was fortunate in that I had a lot of opportunity to change the scope of my job.” Especially since her initial job involved working strictly in GIS and data management. While not her favorite course during her time at Middlebury, she remains indebted to Professor Klyza for pushing her to take a GIS course (which wasn’t required at the time) and to Professor Bob Churchill for his patient teaching.

Carly was able to move from GIS work to a broader scope of conservation planning efforts within just a few months. “Basically, I focused on working with our regional programs (in 30 countries around the world) to establish targets for conservation—the key species, sites, and corridors where we and the broader conservation community need to focus our work if we’re to be successful.”

For Carly, the most exciting projects are those that are linked to integrated planning efforts. “Once, the head of a provincial planning office in China stood up in a planning meeting in Western China and told us that they had all these roads and dams planned, but that they wanted to know where the environmentally sensitive areas were or how they could otherwise relocate the projects to reduce their impact. Realizing that the specific knowledge we’d been compiling had the ability to influence major decisions like this was a real highlight of my time at CI.”

This fall, Carly is entering a Ph.D. program in Conservation Biology at the University of Washington. She hopes to research an ecosystem with wide-ranging, rare carnivores to assess the health of individuals both within and outside of protected areas to look at their stress levels and reproductive health using novel techniques such as cameras, dogs trained to find hair and scat, and lab work looking at hormone levels. She’s drawn to this topic because, “as our natural world continues to change, I think we’ll need to understand the landscape matrix as a whole if we are to ensure survival of wide-ranging species. Protected areas are the most useful tool for preventing extinction, but many species will not survive by protected areas alone.”

## Awards, Internships, Independent Study Projects, and Theses

### 2002-2003 AWARDS

The 2003 Margolin Award, given annually to an outstanding senior Environmental Studies major, was given jointly to **Kaitlin Gregg '03** and **Rob Chisholm '03**. **Susan Ludwick '02** and **Dane Springmeyer '02** were the 2002 recipients.

Morris K. Udall Scholarships, awarded annually to approximately 75 students in the U.S. who are majoring in a field related to the environment and who demonstrate a commitment to a career in the environmental field were awarded to ES majors **Kaitlin Gregg '03** in 2002 (Kaitlin also won the award in 2001) and **Leah Koenig '04** in 2003.

The prestigious Thomas J. Watson Fellowship Program funds a year abroad to pursue an in-depth innovative project. In 2002, one of the three Watson Fellows awarded to Middlebury College students was an ES major, and in 2003, three of three were ES majors.

### 2002 INTERNSHIPS

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Kelly Hines     | Green Corps  |
| Haley Olinger   | Land and Water Fund of the Rockies                   |
| Leda Smith      | Audubon Vermont—Green Mountain Audubon Center        |
| Susan Strife    | North Branch School                                  |
| Jen Watters     | The Dolphin Institute                                |
| Maria Young     | North Branch School                                  |
| Rob Chisholm    | Gulf of Nova Scotia Bonafide Fisherman's Association |
| Gabe Epperson   | Middlebury College Environmental Affairs             |
| Julia Randall   | New England Wildlife Center                          |
| Joseph Schine   | Downeast Lakes Land Trust/New England Forestry       |
| Susan Simpson   | Student Conservation Association                     |
| Andrea St. John | Downeast Lakes Land Trust/New England Forestry       |
| Kira Wozmak     | ECO  |

### 2002 THESES

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Ben Calvi         | "Stories of Home: A Seasonal Exploration of Family and Place," John Elder and Andrea Olsen, Advisors.   |
| Nicola Kieves     | "A Temporal and Spatial Analysis of Six Vermont Bird Species," Steve Trombulak, Advisor.  |
| Jennifer Marlow   | "Science and Women's Ways of Knowing: Jane Goodall, Vandana Shiva and Rachel Carson," John Elder and Andrea Olsen, Advisors.                          |
| Sarah Olinger     | "Managing Growth in a Rural Environment: How the Ideal Image of the Green Mountains is Shaped by the Ski Industry," Chris Klyza, Advisor.             |
| Warren Sinsheimer | "Reviewing the Last 21,000 Years: Paleoclimate Reconstructions and a Search for Modern Berungian Analogs in Northern Mongolia," Steve Young, Advisor. |
| Leda Smith        | "Paleoecology of Northern Beringia Reconstruction based on Macrofossil Plant Remains from Zhocov Island, Siberia," Steve Young, Advisor.              |
| Jacob Stern       | "Not Another Starbucks! The Effects of Post-Rent Control Era Gentrification in Cambridge, Massachusetts," David Stoll, Advisor.                       |

Here are the fellows and their projects:

**Dane Springmeyer '02:** "Following Flyways: Exploring Global Raptor Migration" including study and travel to Spain, Egypt, Madagascar, Mongolia and Zimbabwe.

**Rob Chisholm '03:** "Fishing Places, Fishing People: Inshore Community-based Fisheries Management," including travel and study in the Philippines, Costa Rica, Australia, and Kenya.

**Kaitlin Gregg '03:** "Harnessing Hope: Sustainable Cities and the Earth Charter," including travel and study in Australia, Costa Rica and Italy.

**Alexandra Wang '03:** "The Role of the Violin and its Indigenous Variations from East to West," including travel and study in China, Mongolia, Turkey and Austria.

### INDEPENDENT STUDIES

#### Spring 2002

**Michael Cretella '02** (adviser: Rebecca Gould) Mike undertook a study of the 13th century Buddhist philosopher, Eihei Dogen, one of the early thinkers to bring Ch'an (Zen) Buddhism from China to Japan.

**Craig Sweet '02** (adviser: Jon Isham) "Social Spirituality: Addison County Churches and the Formation of Social Capital."

**Abigail Ward '02** (adviser: Andi Lloyd) Abby wrote a children's book entitled "The Curious Rhythms of Ikaika, Humpback" that incorporated realistic biological and ecological information into a fictional account of the life and adventures of a young humpback whale.

**Lee Perlow '03** (adviser: Steve Trombulak) "An evaluation of landscape-scale ecological contributions to the Green Mountain National Forest of proposed wilderness areas."

#### Fall 2002

**Michael Romankiewicz '03** (adviser: Glenn Andres) "Environmental Architecture: Retrofitting Weybridge House."

#### Douglas Dagan '03

(adviser: Lori DelNegro) "Middlebury College and Global Warming: Assessing Green House Gas Emissions."

#### Spring 2003

**William Roush '04** (adviser: Jeff Munroe) "Tracking Changes in Alpine Treeline through Historic Rephotography in Glacier National Park."

## 2002 ES 401 Projects

**Spring 2002—Nan Jenks Jay**

### ***Redefining the Pedestrian Campus: Moving Towards a Comprehensive Transportation Plan for Middlebury College***

This report explored and discussed transportation at Middlebury College after a series of College discussions about transportation focused primarily on campus parking issues. Arguing that while cars and parking are undeniably a part of transportation, there needs to be an equal if not greater discussion of pedestrians, bicycles and shared forms of motorized transit, the students set forth their recommendations for dealing with transportation issues in a way that would improve community, safety and access, and environmental quality at Middlebury.

**Spring 2002—John Elder**

### ***Know Your Food, Know Your Farmer: Highlighting the Connections Between Middlebury College & Local Food Providers***

With the primary goal of educating the College community about local sources of food in a fun, informative, and visual way, one group of students traveled around Vermont, primarily in Addison County, to profile some of the local people and places and ways we get our food. Working closely with Dining Services to identify local vendors, they profiled 12 farms, processors, or distributors. In addition to a great website, next time you're on campus stop by one of the dining halls—you'll find clusters of posters framed with Vermont Family Forests wood that highlight these local vendors and feature original landscape art by student Morley McBride '02 (see page 3 header).

### ***A Proposal to Unplug the Middlebury College Snow Bowl***

A second group of students worked to design a website that consists of an interactive proposal to reduce Middlebury College's carbon emissions through the utilization of alternative energy resources based on preliminary research which revealed that the Middlebury College Snow Bowl would provide an excellent location to install wind turbines. The main goal of their proposal is to have the wind energy produced from these turbines directed toward the Snow Bowl and replace the nonrenewable electricity inflow currently purchased from the power grid.

### ***Environmental Education: A Proposal for the Future***

The third group from this seminar followed their passion for environmental education to a proposal to add environmental education as one of the ES foci. Tracing trends in environmental education both nationally and in Vermont, the students worked closely with the Teacher Education Program here on campus to design a proposal that stresses community linkages, new internship opportunities, and a rigorous and balanced course of study.

**Fall 2002—Nan Jenks-Jay**

### ***Ecological Stewardship of College Lands***

As a College that boasts environmental awareness as a Peak of Excellence, Middlebury has a responsibility to take an active role in managing its lands in an environmentally mindful way. This project looked at management of non-campus College lands in three areas: research and teaching sites, agriculture, and forestry. Stated project goals included raising awareness of College land holdings and how they are used/managed; holding the College to a higher standard of environmental leadership in land stewardship; raising awareness related to environmentally responsible land use and innovative practices; and promoting ecological integrity of College lands.

## 401 Projects Translate to Action

After his work on the Spring 2002 ES 401 project on comprehensive transportation planning, Gabe Epperson '02.5 received a Ron Brown Internship to broaden his class' research on College-related transportation to an investigation of the transportation issues facing the town of Middlebury. One of his many accomplishments was to work with Addison County Transit Resources to redesign the local shuttle bus routes and to more clearly mark and sign routes and bus stops. The result—a 34% increase in ridership for the Middlebury Shuttle and a 20% increase for the Tri-town shuttle serving Middlebury, Bristol and Vergennes! Gabe is now employed by Envision Utah, a public/private partnership tackling smart growth and transportation issues.



Several other 401 projects are being taken up and pursued by groups on campus and beyond:

- Through the increased publicity of our Dining Services' local purchasing efforts that the 401-designed web page provided, these efforts have been highlighted at a recent Local Foods Symposium at Vassar College and in the newsletter of *Eating Fresh*—a dynamic new company that connects home cooks, professional chefs, restaurateurs, food enthusiasts, and consumers to local agriculture.
- Plans continue to progress to install a meteorological tower at the College Snow Bowl to assess the site for its appropriateness for a wind turbine.
- And lastly, the latest 401 report on College lands stewardship served as a great starting reference for the Lands Subcommittee of the Environmental Council, which hopes to draft a comprehensive land stewardship policy for the College.

A list of all ES 401 projects is available on the ES 401 web site - [www.middlebury.edu/~es/es401.htm](http://www.middlebury.edu/~es/es401.htm). Links to some of the final research products are available through this site and hard copies of all projects can be obtained by contacting Diane Munroe, Environmental Teaching Associate, (802) 443-5925 or [dmunroe@middlebury.edu](mailto:dmunroe@middlebury.edu).

## Faculty and Staff News

### AWARDS AND HONORS

**Andrea Lloyd** (Biology) was the recipient of the 2003 Perkins Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award honors outstanding teaching performance in science and mathematics.

**Chris McGrory Klyza** (Political Science/ES) will be the first to serve as Stafford Professor in the newly established Robert and Helen Stafford Professorship in Public Policy. The position is named for former Vermont Senator Robert T. Stafford and his wife, who are members of the Middlebury College classes of 1935 and 1938 respectively.

**Jacob Tropp** (History) won the American Society for Environmental History's Rachel Carson Prize for best dissertation in Environmental History.

**David Bain** (English) finished an historical travel memoir, "The Old Iron Road," which Viking will publish in 2004. He co-produced a PBS "American Experience" documentary, "Transcontinental Railroad," and appeared in Bill Moyers' documentary on the Chinese in America.

**John Elder** (English/ES) is the incoming President of the Association for Literature and the Environment. His book *Vallombrosa*, on George Perkins Marsh and the evolution of stewardship, will be published by Harvard University Press in the coming year. Essays in *Orion*, *Tricycle*, and *Wild Earth* will also be appearing. Rita, John, and their two sons continue to revel in sugaring, and are anticipating oceans of sap next season.

**Jon Isham** (Economics) has had several newly published articles and book chapters since our last newsletter in *The Vermont Law Review*; *Economic Development and Cultural Change*; *Journal of African Economies, Democracy and Development*; *Social Capital and Economic Development*; *Well-being in Developing Countries*; and *The Role of Social Capital in Development: An Empirical Assessment*.

**Chris Klyza** (ES/Political Science) published a recent article in the journal *Polity* and has been busy presenting papers at a variety of conferences throughout the year.

**Bill McKibben's** (Scholar-in-Residence in ES) new book, *Enough: Staying Human in an Engineered Age* was published in April of 2003 by Times Books and tackles genetic manipulation, robotics, and nanotechnology.

**Don Mitchell's** (English) new novel, *The Nature Notebooks*, will be published in 2004 in the UPNE "Hardscrabble" series. The novel imagines a California ecoterrorist relocating to Burlington, Vermont and radicalizing various members of a nature writing workshop.

**Jeff Munroe** (Geology) received a grant from the NSF International Program that supported fieldwork for Jeff and a Geology/ES senior, Daniela Salaverry '03, on the Tibetan Plateau of western China, as well as Daniela's thesis. Jeff's recent publications can be found in the journals *The Holocene*; *Journal of Glaciology*; and *Arctic, Antarctic and Alpine Research*.

**Lori Del Negro** (Chemistry) was involved as a co-presenter during one of the workshop sessions at the Green Chemistry in Education Workshop that took place July 20–25, 2002 at the University of Oregon.

**Pete Nelson's** (Geography) most recent publications can be found in *Society and Natural Resources* and *The Professional Geographer*. Pete has also received two recent grants, one from the Department of Agriculture's National Research Initiative to examine the impacts of the aging of the baby boomers on nonmetropolitan population change, and the second from the Social Security Administration through Boston University's Center for Retirement Research to examine the implications of baby boomer retirement on flows of Social Security income to metropolitan and nonmetropolitan regions.

**Andrea Olsen's** (Dance) book, *Body and Earth: An Experiential Guide* was published in November of 2002 as part of UPNE's Middlebury College Bicentennial Series in Environmental Studies.

**Amy Seidl** (ES) arrived at Middlebury in the Fall 2002 after working at UVM as a visiting lecturer in the Environmental Program while finishing her PhD in Biology. At Middlebury, Amy teaches the lab portion of ES112 and is preparing her dissertation for publication while conducting new research on butterfly diversity in Vermont and the effects of climate change on butterfly species' range and distribution.

**Pete Ryan** (Geology/ES) spent the summer in Scotland at the Macaulay Institute studying natural sources of trace metals in soil and groundwater associated with ultramafic rocks. He has also developed and taught a new J-term class on the Geological History of Climate Change, facilitated student research on natural sources of uranium and lead in Champlain Valley groundwater, and has had several papers published in the journals *Clays and Clay Minerals* and *American Mineralogist*.

**Steve Trombulak** (Biology/ES) has had two recent publications in the *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America* and in *Reconstructing Conservation* (Island Press 2003).

**Rich Wolfson's** (Physics) book *Simply Einstein: Relativity Demystified* was published in the fall of 2002. His introductory chapter, "Understanding Climate Science," coauthored with Stanford's Steven Schneider, appeared in *Climate Change Policy* (Island Press 2002). Rich and Steve Trombulak are beginning collaborative work on climate change in the New England states. Rich has lectured on global warming and energy issues at a variety of venues.

## Students In Action

### Rob Chisholm '03 Wins National Essay Contest



Rob Chisholm '03, an environmental studies major with a focus on policy, was one of the two co-winners of the 2002 Ohio State University's National Undergraduate Essay Contest in Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics, a national recognition for his paper which applied the theory of Elinor Ostrom ("Governing the Commons") to an in-shore fishery in Nova Scotia and drew on his experiences growing up in a small, lobster-fishing town in Nova Scotia. "The management system used in my hometown is a 'common-pool' resource system," said Chisholm. "It limits access to the resource and assigns property rights to individual fishermen, informally establishing who fishes in the area immediately around the local wharf, and allowing some fishermen exclusive access to large areas on the water. This decreases potential for over-fishing in those areas."

Essays were ranked upon such considerations as the importance and clarity of the economic problem presented, the appropriate use of economic concepts and theory, strength of conclusions and implications drawn from the analysis, and evidence of student creativity and originality. The winning papers will be recognized and published by Ohio State University within the next six months.

Impressed with Middlebury College's Environmental Studies program, Chisholm transferred from Princeton to Middlebury to take advantage of the strength of the College's program. At Middlebury, he sought and received a Ronald H. Brown internship that allowed him to pursue his thesis research with the Gulf of Nova Scotia Bonafide Fishermen's Association in Antigonish, his hometown in Nova Scotia. Chisholm spent last summer studying local fishery issues and interviewing fishermen for an independent project that became part of his senior thesis. Chisholm will continue to study these issues through the Watson Fellowship he was recently awarded (see page 12—Awards, Internships, Independent Studies and Theses).

While not working on his thesis studies, Chisholm—who started skating "late" in life when he was six years old—devotes a huge amount of time and energy serving as this year's captain of the men's hockey team, leading the top-10 Division III team in a winning season. He and his teammates also volunteer in the local Middlebury community as mentors and goal-setting program leaders for area schools in conjunction with the Cornwall, Vermont based Foundation for Excellent Schools.

(for full article see: [www.middlebury.edu/pubaff/news\\_2003/chisholm.html](http://www.middlebury.edu/pubaff/news_2003/chisholm.html))

### Commons Environmental Liaisons

New this year are the positions of Commons Environmental Liaisons. These positions provide great point-contacts for Environmental Council efforts and environmental education events. Students holding these positions include:

|                   |                                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Atwater:</b>   | Cory Lowe                          |
| <b>Brainerd:</b>  | Skye Borden and Andrea Larosa      |
| <b>Cook:</b>      | Kathryn Hayo                       |
| <b>Ross:</b>      | Asher Burns-Burg and J.S. Woodward |
| <b>Wonnacott:</b> | Lynne Zummo                        |



### SGA Environmental Director

The Student Government Association has created a new cabinet position entitled "Director of Environmental Affairs." The first person to serve in this position was Michael Silberman '02.5 and the post is now held by Asher Burns-Burg '05. One of the first activities of this position was a Fall 2002 summit of the various student, faculty, and staff environmental leaders on campus to begin a dialog on how to work as a coalition rather than independently and to expand the environmental community on campus. An example of one of the new ideas that came from this event and was implemented on a trial basis is the "Blue-Green E-Newsletter." This e-newsletter has over 250 registered recipients and will include information about what the College community is doing to promote sustainable living, green tips—things you can do on campus and at home to reduce your impact on the Earth, and notices of environmental events/lectures happening on campus and nearby.

### College Awards and News

**2002 VT Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence and Pollution Prevention** for old science center deconstruction and recycling project

**2002 EPA Environmental Merit Award** for use of green certified wood in campus construction

The College has also been featured in The New York Times and on the Osgood File—a national radio program with 12 million listeners—for the old science center deconstruction and recycling project; in The Chronicle of Higher Education for furniture locally manufactured by Beeken and Parsons from green certified wood; and through the CNN web page for a student Bio-Bus initiative ([www.projectbiobus.com](http://www.projectbiobus.com)).

# ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

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