

# ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

The Newsletter of the Environmental Programs at Middlebury

Ninth Issue • Spring 2008

Middlebury College • Middlebury, VT 05753

## Dear Alumni and Friends:



Students organize in support of 350.org, a new international campaign “to make sure that the solutions the world proposes to climate change are to scale with the level of crisis”; Students, faculty, staff, and friends enjoy the annual Snake Mountain Hike; Students rallying in Washington, D.C. as part of the National Power Shift Youth Conference in Fall 2007.

Greetings all. There is no question that the highlight for the environmental programs at Middlebury this year has been our relocation to The Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest. During Commencement weekend in May, the new building was named in honor of Janet Halstead Franklin '72 and Churchill G. Franklin '71 who generously established the Green Fund in support of Middlebury's environmental programs (see page 8).

The sustainably restored 1875 Vermont farmhouse now houses the Dean of Environmental Affairs, ES Program, Office of Campus Sustainability Integration, Middlebury Fellowships in Environmental Journalism, and Environmental Outreach and Service Learning programs in one central location and has created a welcoming sense of community. In its first year, The Franklin Center at Hillcrest has received an enthusiastic reception, especially from students. A primary goal of the program committee was to create a range of spaces for students consisting of a study lounge, The Lintilhac Foundation Environmental Studies Studio upstairs—a dedicated space for the ES senior seminar, The Orchard smart classroom which is home to our three core courses each semester as well as the weekly Woodin Colloquium, thesis carrels, and informal gathering areas. Natural features such as wood and stone plus daylight streaming into the building make these spaces even more appealing. On Vermont spring days, the courtyard is converted into an outdoor classroom and the surrounding stone wall radiates warmth to the students leaning against it while reading in the afternoon sun (see pages 6–8). From now on, all ES majors will begin and end their careers in The Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest, while still ranging across campus and the world as they pursue their study of the environment.

As the solar array is being installed on the roof, we are reminded that many gifts

made this extraordinary conversion of an historic structure possible. It began with an important anonymous seed gift followed by others from the Lintilhac Foundation, the Lehner family's Orchard Foundation, Julie Robbins '79 through The Philanthropic Collaborative, the Class of 2007, and an additional anonymous gift. We are grateful to each of these donors whose generosity made it possible to create a physical space that provides a critical mass for ES affiliated faculty, staff, and students and serves as an environmental hub for teaching and programs.

On another exciting front, this May we will see the first students from the new and popular Architecture and the Environment focus graduate (see page 9). The ES Program also welcomed a new core faculty member this year. Nick Muller is an environmental economist whose work focuses on the costs and benefits of controlling traditional air pollutants. Nick gave an excellent Woodin Colloquium this spring. Several alumni joined us for colloquiums, including Anthony Flint '84 discussing green design at the community level; Pete Johnson '97 on his experience running an organic vegetable farm in Vermont (featured on the cover of the current *Vermont Life*); Phil Aroneanu '06.5, Will Bates '06, and Jeremy Osborn '06.5 on their experience organizing Step It Up and the new 350 campaign; Gretchen Elias '96 on the challenges of working with communities on sustainability issues in former communist nations; and Jonathan Berger '67 on researching and producing a canoe atlas of the “little north.”

We hope you enjoy reading more about our initiatives and accomplishments on the following pages.

Nan Jenks-Jay  
Dean of Environmental Affairs

Chris McGroary Klyza  
Director, Program in Environmental Studies

## Alumni News

**Brett Hulsey '82** (Independent Scholar in Political Economy with Northern Studies focus). After 17 years at the Sierra Club, Brett started Better Environmental Solutions, an environmental consulting firm dedicated to saving lives, jobs, and money. Areas of focus for his work include biofuels, climate change action planning, and smart growth. See [www.betterenvironmentalsolutions.com](http://www.betterenvironmentalsolutions.com) for more information!

**Alexander Lee '97**, (ES major, Honors Thesis) who wrote part of his thesis about Bill McKibben, has garnered major national and international attention with the media for Project Laundry List, an organization that he created when he was still a student and the President of Environmental Quality (EQ) on campus in 1995. McKibben and the woman who inspired the project, Dr. Helen Caldicott, still sit on the advisory board. Sabra Field '57 is also on the advisory board. With a full page story in *Time* magazine, a front page story in the *Wall Street*

*Journal*, four appearances in the *New York Times*, and two interviews on National Public Radio, as well as TV segments in South Korea and Germany, Lee hopes that Right to Dry legislation, which passed in Colorado this spring, will spread across the nation, helping the millions of Americans trapped in communities that prohibit green behavior. For more information on Project Laundry List see [www.laundrylist.org](http://www.laundrylist.org).

**Stephanie Hill Said '98** reports that she is living in Zanzibar, Tanzania with her husband and loves her ES/Con Bio degree every day! Their Rotary Club in Zanzibar recently donated money, goods, and time to over 10 environmental clubs in government schools around the island. She says, "Seeing the youthful energy and potential here is incredible!"

**Daniel Suman '72**, Professor of Marine Policy at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (University of Miami) is leading the development

of an Integrated Coastal Management plan for Bocas del Toro Province for the Panamanian Government. He will also be teaching a six week undergraduate course on Water Resources Science & Policy in May and June 2008 for students from the University of Miami and other ACC universities (Atlantic Coast Conference). This course will be held at the Asian International Rivers Center at Yunnan University in Kunming, China, as well as the Hanoi University of Technology in Vietnam.

**Peter Viola '06** spent his first year out of Middlebury as an intern with the Orion Grassroots Network, where he helped to coordinate plans for the Berkshire Grassroots Summit. Continuing to put those organizing skills to work, Peter is now an organizer with the Energy Action Coalition where he helped to orchestrate the first National Youth Climate Action Conference.

## Notable News

- Some highlights from recent media attention focused on environmental initiatives at Middlebury College include coverage in *Newsweek*, *Inside Higher Education*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the *Boston Globe*, the *New York Times*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Forbes Magazine* as well as a local feature in *Vermont Life Magazine* entitled, "Practicing What You Teach" (Spring 2008). Other notable media features included rankings such as an **A- grade from the Sustainable Endowments Institute's Campus Sustainability Report Card**, a **#6 ranking from Sierra Magazine's article entitled, "10 that get it"**, and a **#2 spot on the Grist's "15 Green Colleges and Universities."** A full listing of news features will be coming soon to our web page—stay tuned!
- Middlebury College was one of the recipients of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE) annual **Campus Sustainability Leadership Awards**. Quoting from the award letter, "The judges were impressed with Middlebury's overall leadership and in particular its strong student leadership for sustainability and its climate neutral commitment...we hope that other schools will learn from and follow Middlebury's wonderful example."
- Middlebury College was invited to be one of 10 schools participating in the **Compton Foundation's Mentor Fellowship Program**, created to support the creativity and commitment of graduating seniors. The foundation shared that, "Middlebury was selected because of its impressive reputation and commitment to environmental sustainability, and in recognition of the fact that the campus community is engaged in developing exceptionally innovative solutions to the crisis of global climate change." **Emily Adler '08** and **Emily Peterson '08** were advanced to the national selection phase by the College's selection committee, and **Adler** was awarded a \$36,000 fellowship. She will spend a year at the Global Citizen Center in San Francisco, developing a new youth education and leadership 'green workforce' program aimed at training diverse, low-income youth in green community development.
- **Rebecca Kneale Gould**, Associate Professor of Religion and Environmental Studies, was awarded a Contemplative Practice Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies and Spirit in Nature's Eco-Spirit Award. The National Wildlife Federation recognized Scholar in Residence in Environmental Studies **Bill McKibben** with its National Conservation Achievement Award for exemplary leadership in the communications category.



**M**olly Costanza-Robinson, Assistant Professor of Environmental Chemistry and one of the newest faculty members to join the Environmental Studies Program, is providing our students with a molecular-scale perspective on human-environmental interactions as she leads the joint major program in Environmental Studies and Chemistry. Through the opportunities that Molly has already provided our students in this field, there is a strong and growing interest in environmental chemistry.

Molly shared that she views science through the lens of how it applies to our daily lives and why it matters. While she provides a strong foundation in the theoretical aspects of chemistry and has a very detail-oriented approach, it is all aimed at conveying to students the practical applications of these theories and details. This plays out in both her research and teaching.

Her research focus is contaminant transport—how pollution moves through the environment—in soils and groundwater. The two thrusts of this research are transport studies conducted in her lab at Middlebury to identify the specific processes governing the movement of pollution through soils, and some cutting-edge 3-D imaging of soil systems to see how fluids, and ultimately contaminants, are distributed. The latter has taken Molly and teams of students to Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois for some marathon imaging sessions, as visiting researchers are awarded facility time in round-the-clock blocks of time. A publication by Molly and student co-authors Katie Harrold '06 and

## Faculty Profile

### Molly Costanza-Robinson

Ross Lieb-Lappen '07 based on their sleepless imaging work at Argonne can be found in *Environmental Science and Technology* (2008: 42).

Molly thrives on the one-on-one research experiences with her students and getting them connected to the science she is passionate about. In addition to her thesis students, this enthusiasm has led her to assist in the advising of a diversity of other projects with an environmental chemistry component, ranging from the production and chemical analysis of biodiesel made from algae, to the chemistry of maple sap and how that may ultimately influence the flavor of maple syrup, to an investigation of the mercury content in clams from Ecuador.

This diversity carries over to the courses she offers. She teaches several core ES courses including Natural Science and the Environment, our junior level Environmental Science Practicum, and the Environmental Studies Senior Seminar on topics ranging from pesticide issues in Vermont to transportation & sustainability. Other courses she teaches include Chemistry & the Environment which is an introductory course for non-majors focused on the chemistry of environmental issues such as air & water pollution, climate change, and acid rain; an upper-level Environmental Chemistry course for majors that focuses on the molecular features that govern the environmental fate of organic contaminants; and Instrumental Analysis which trains students in using the major instruments used in chemical analyses. Her newest course was a co-taught winter term course dubbed “CSI: Middlebury”, where students not only got exposed to the chemistry of forensic science but also to aspects of the criminal justice system, such as the role of expert witnesses. To the greatest extent possible her courses expose students to the range of scientific inquiry—from experimental design to data collection to analysis—and to

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*“What I love about Middlebury is that not only do I have a new perspective to offer the program, I also have incredible opportunities to learn from my colleagues and broaden my expertise through interdisciplinary teaching and research.”*

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scientific writing where she draws on her forthcoming textbook on scientific writing and her lesser-known double major in German literature from her undergraduate days.

As you can see from her research and teaching endeavors, Molly has provided our students an exciting range of interdisciplinary opportunities. In her “spare” time, Molly enjoys the outdoor recreation opportunities Vermont offers with her husband Carl, their children Lia (3) and Tyler (almost 4), and their two dogs. Lia and Tyler hit the Vermont ski slopes this winter for the first time to very positive reviews! In addition to the available outdoor pursuits, the community ideals and values of Vermont have been a great fit for her family.

Reflecting on her time at Middlebury thus far, Molly comments that, “What I love about Middlebury is that not only do I have a new perspective to offer the program, I also have incredible opportunities to learn from my colleagues and broaden my expertise through interdisciplinary teaching and research.” She also shared that she has been particularly impressed by the balanced “breadth and depth” approach of our ES Program. Molly recently successfully completed her third-year review, and we look forward to her continued contributions to the strength of our program!



## Sustainability News and Notes

Following are a few of the highlights from the sustainability movie now playing at Middlebury College. For more details contact Jack Byrne, Sustainability Coordinator at 802-443-5043, [jmbyrne@middlebury.edu](mailto:jmbyrne@middlebury.edu) or see

<http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/enviro/> for more details!

### Addressing the Climate Change Challenge

#### *Carbon Neutrality by 2016:*

#### *Implementation Plan Nears Completion*

Middlebury's climate neutrality by 2016 goal is one of the most ambitious set by a college or university. To assure that the College meets this commitment, President Liebowitz appointed a broadly representative team of sixteen students, staff, and faculty to develop an implementation plan. The MiddShift Implementation Working Group (MSIWG) embarked on this effort in late November 2007 and completed its work in May 2008 with a set of recommendations. The current draft places emphasis on the importance of engaging the entire College community in the effort, working closely with the Master Plan implementation process (which has sustainability and carbon emission reduction as core elements), and creating a team responsible for measuring and reporting on progress toward the carbon neutrality goal. The draft describes a series of actions that should be taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy sources. It also outlines criteria and options for using carbon offsets for the emissions that cannot be directly eliminated. A final plan for implementation will be adopted by the President's staff over the summer and phase two will begin in the Fall of 2008. To read the draft go to [www.middshift.org](http://www.middshift.org).

#### *Measuring Monterey's Carbon Footprint*

Jack Byrne worked with Professor Jason Scorse, Nikki Hodgson, and Natalie Berland from the Sustainability Council of the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS) to organize a day long workshop for twenty MIIS students in March 2008. The workshop taught participants how to use the Middlebury greenhouse gas inventory tool to measure the carbon footprint of the Monterey Campus. After an introduction to greenhouse gas inventory principles and practices and an overview of the Middlebury tool, they formed two teams and worked on calculating MIIS' emissions. The result: an estimated 2006–2007 total of 1,350 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents (MTCDE). This contrasts with about 30,000 MTCDE for the Middlebury–Bread Loaf Campus and Snow Bowl for the same period.

#### *Voluntary Offset Program Sees Big Increase in Participants*

The number of students participating in a voluntary carbon emissions offset program nearly tripled for the 2007–2008 school year—from 64 in the previous year to 161. The students responded to an offer by the Office of Sustainability Integration to offset three tons of greenhouse gas emissions for the academic year through Vermont-based Native Energy which is financing the construction of wind turbine and methane digester projects in rural areas. That equates to a total of 466 tons of offsets!

### Summer Interns for Sustainability

This past summer the Office of Sustainability Integration hired four interns to work on several major projects. Billie Borden '09, Chester Harvey '09, Ian Sanders-Fleming '09, and Bobby Levine '08 tackled these projects with great energy and talent. They completed the 2006–2007 Greenhouse Gas Inventory, developed a reporting template, and drafted a “How-To” guide for conducting future inventories and reports. They also assessed the dorm energy contests that have been held in the past and developed a concept paper for the development of a “cap-and-trade” project that could be applied to residential halls. The students also worked closely with residential life staff members and developed a plan to embed the sustainability message more deeply in the activities that take place during orientation week. And if that weren't enough, they also conducted research and made recommendations about how the College could go about developing its own internal carbon offset program in conjunction with the goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2016. Thanks to these hard-working and productive students for doing a great job!

### Sustainability Abroad

Environmental Council (EC) members have been working with the Middlebury Study Abroad program to make sustainability a more visible and active part of the abroad experience. Nan Jenks-Jay and Jack Byrne have worked with Jeff Cason and Stacy Thebodo to establish a mini-grants program (up to \$500) for students to do a sustainability project in-country while abroad. Nine students applied this past Fall and seven were funded. Students were also offered the option of offsetting their air travel emissions and three did this. Orientation materials for Study Abroad students have been modified to help students be more aware of how they can integrate sustainability into their experience. Charlotte Tate, co-chair of the EC, and Jack are also working with the Study Abroad program to develop a pilot project that would encourage and support students in assessing the sustainability of their school abroad. Stay tuned for more!

### Being Green at Home Fair

With support from the Environmental Council and others, Staff Council's “Being Green @ Home Fair” on April 9 attracted about 300 people to McCullough for exhibits, workshops, and demos presented by community members, local businesses and non-profit organizations. The emphasis was on sustainable living and exhibitors covered topics including energy efficiency, solar and wind power, wildlife conservation, recycling, gardening and community supported agriculture, and public transportation to name a few. Response to the event was overwhelmingly positive and many attendees asked for a repeat in 2009.

# Sustainability News and Notes

## Food Mapping Project

Where does my food come from and how did it get here? That's the question raised by former student Chris Howell '04.5, Kayla Race '08 (ES/Studio Art) and several current students about what's being served in the Middlebury dining halls. Staff from the Office of Sustainability Integration, Dining Services, and the Organic Garden Manager got together with GIS Specialist Bill Hegman in the Geography Department to discuss how this might be answered using GIS mapping. The outcome is a creative application of the Google Earth mapping tool available to anyone with a web browser. This project is about helping people visualize connections to their food system in a fun and compelling way and to raise awareness that our food choices impact our environment as well as the local and national economy.

### For more see:

[http://geography.middlebury.edu/applications/Food\\_Mapping/](http://geography.middlebury.edu/applications/Food_Mapping/)

## Environmental Council News

### Paper Purchasing Policy Implemented

The Environmental Council's (EC) recommendation to adopt a policy regarding 100% recycled content paper used on campus was accepted by the President and put into effect in late 2007. As a result all paper used in printers and copiers on campus is 100% post consumer waste (PCW) and process chlorine free (PCF). The policy also recognizes that there are likely to be a few machines and/or locations where the 100% PCW paper may not work properly and for those situations, 30% PCW is available. This summer we will experiment with 50% PCW in such places. And, many of our mass-printed publications—such as the College Viewbook—are now being printed on paper that is 100% PCW, PCF and/or certified by the Forest Stewardship Council as sustainably

produced. The EC will continue to focus on the issue of paper in the coming year by turning its attention to how we can minimize our use of paper. Thanks to Pam Fogg for being a champion on this front.

### Land Stewardship Process Established

The College has endorsed the Lands Stewardship Guidelines developed by the Lands Committee of the Environmental Council over the last several years, and a Land Stewardship Advisory Group has been created to assist the college with implementing the guidelines. The Advisory Group, which will be composed of faculty, staff, and students, will provide advice to the President on land-use decisions that fall within the purview of the Guidelines. The Advisory Group will begin their work in the coming year by initiating a project to develop a comprehensive GIS database with which to evaluate the ecological, social, and economic attributes of College lands.

### Light Bulb Survey and Replacements

The EC conducted an all-campus survey to discover where incandescent bulbs are still in use and to ask for volunteers to replace them with energy-saving compact fluorescent bulbs. As a result, close to 130 new CFLs were delivered to 28 different buildings with the help of Linda Ross and Kelly Trayah of Facilities Services.

### Environmental Grants Awarded

The EC's grants program received 18 responses to its request for proposals from faculty, staff, and students in October 2007. Thirteen diverse projects—including an eco-book bag project at the library, developing a native pollinator garden, and producing biodiesel from microalgae—were funded. A full list of the projects funded can be found at <http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/enviro>.

## NEW FACULTY

Dan Brayton has been appointed Assistant Professor of English and American Literature, specializing in Environmental Literature, beginning in fall 2008. Dan completed his doctorate at Cornell in 2001 and has taught at Middlebury ever since. He will teach several courses each year in Environmental Studies as well as advising students pursuing the Environmental Non-fiction and Literature foci of the ES Major.

## FACULTY BOOKS

Klyza, Christopher McGrory and David Sousa, *American Environmental Policy, 1990–2006: Beyond Gridlock* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2008).

Knowles, Anne Kelly, ed., *Placing History: How Maps, Spatial Data, and GIS Are Changing Historical Scholarship*, with a digital supplement edited by Amy Hillier (Redlands, CA: ESRI Press, 2008).

McKibben, Bill, *The Bill McKibben Reader* (Holt Paperbacks, 2008).

McKibben, Bill and the Step it Up Team, *Fight Global Warming Now* (Holt Paperbacks, 2007).

McKibben, Bill, ed., *American Earth* (Library of America, 2008).

Sheridan, Michael J. and Celia Nyamweru, eds., *African Sacred Groves: Ecological Dynamics and Social Change* (Oxford and Athens, OH: James Currey and Ohio University Press 2008).

Wolfson, Richard, *Energy, Environment, and Climate* (W.W. Norton, 2008).

Byrne, Jack, *Chapter 11—Responding to Climate Change: Making It Happen at Middlebury College in The Green Campus: Meeting the Challenge of Environmental Sustainability*, Walter Simpson, Ed., (APPA, 2008).

# The Franklin Environm

*The Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest—a restored 1875 Vermont Farmhouse—was completed, at Middlebury. We hope the below snapshot of sustainability features, artistic enhancements, dedication*

## Sustainability Features

The Franklin Center at Hillcrest marks a new gateway in bringing Vermont vernacular and historic buildings up to the sustainability standards so critical to our future. In renovating the nearly 10,000 sq. ft. building, Middlebury is for the first time testing the feasibility of third-party certification for its sustainable building practices by registering for certification from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. A small sampling of sustainability features include:

- Original wood floors in much of the remaining structure were refinished and architectural woodwork is from forests certified by the Forest Stewardship Council as sustainably managed, including maple from Middlebury's Bread Loaf forest and Vermont Family Forest lands.
- Local materials are used throughout the building—slate floors and roofs, Panton stone and Champlain marble for the site wall and stone foundation veneer, Barre granite for the kitchenette counter, high-efficiency windows from a Rutland company, and furniture in offices and classrooms from four local woodworkers.
- Paints, urethanes and other finishes are low in volatile organic compounds to protect air quality in the building and human health, and the use of plywood was minimized in favor of local wood. Paperstone, made from recycled paper and cashew nut resin, was used for the lobby counter. Furnishings include many recyclable items with a high percentage of recycled content including: carpeting, chairs and fabrics, slate and wood flooring, and acoustic ceilings.
- The building envelope is extremely tight and was accomplished without disturbing historic exterior trim and siding. Key features include chlorofluorocarbon-free insulating foam in the walls and ceilings, energy efficient wood windows, insulation below the slabs and at the foundation walls, and air & vapor seals around all wall penetrations and airlocks at major entrances.
- Offices have individual temperature controls and occupancy sensors that automatically turn lights on and off.
- Ceiling fans and mechanical ventilation supplement the natural ventilation in occupied spaces. Windows can be opened so that each room can benefit from cross ventilation.
- A geothermal groundwater system is used to cool The Orchard classroom space in summer and an environmentally friendly refrigerant new to the market is used as a coolant.
- High efficiency lighting is used throughout the building, the placement of windows and glass transoms over office doors is designed to allow natural light



to reach indoor spaces reducing the consumption of electricity for lighting.

- The project includes covered bike racks, a shower for people who commute by bike or foot, walk-off mats at all major entrances and dedicated parking for an alternative fuel vehicle.
- Low water use fixtures are used, including a waterless urinal and automatic flush toilets to conserve water. Hot water is provided by an energy efficient "on demand" system.

*Thank you to the many dedicated individuals whose hard work allowed us to attain our multi-faceted goals for the Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest: Architect: Steve Smith, Smith Alvarez Sienkiewicz, Architects; Contractor: Mike Hulbert, H.P. Cummings; Project Manager: Mark Gleason; Program Committee: Glenn Andres, Asher Burns-Burg '05.5, Jack Byrne, Rebecca Gould, Nan Jenks-Jay (chair), Chris McGrory Klyza, Carl Larson '03.5, Kevin McAteer, Beth McDermott, Kathy Morse, Pete Ryan, Steve Trombulak, Janet Wiseman*

## Solar Panels & Monitoring

A 7-kilowatt bank of solar panels was installed on the south roof of Franklin Center at Hillcrest in early May. It is estimated that the electricity from this source of renewable energy will provide 20% of the power used in the building. A pyranometer was also installed to collect data on the solar radiation falling on the roof which will be used for research on the performance of the panels under varying climatic conditions. In addition, a building dash board system is in the works which will display the real-time consumption of electricity,



water, and steam. It will also show the generation of solar electricity and provide live weather data, forecasts, and trends. The system will show users how each element of the building's energy system works and provide information on how to reduce consumption of resources.

The system will be visible on a kiosk inside and on the web. Historical data from the consumption/production modules will also be available to students and faculty for teaching and research purposes.

# Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest

*commissioned and occupied in June 2007 and serves as the new center of environmental leadership and learning celebrations, and student reflections gives you a sense of the vibrant community and learning environment here!*

## Reflections on Use

The Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest houses Middlebury College's Environmental Programs, including the office of the dean of environmental affairs, the Environmental Studies (ES) academic program, campus sustainability program, fel-



lowships in environmental journalism program, office of the dean of environmental affairs, office of environmental scholar in residence Bill McKibben, and environmental outreach and service learning programs. The structure features 14 faculty and staff offices, study lounge, student study carrels, the Lintilhac Foundation Environmental Studies Studio, and The Orchard—a technologically advanced lecture hall for the entire College's use and the space for the weekly Howard E. Woodin Environmental Studies Colloquium Series.

*"The Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest has successfully drawn together the cozy small town farmhouse feel with a stimulating educational and global atmosphere, while demonstrating the simplicity of living a sustainable and environmentally friendly lifestyle."*

—Leland Davis '08

*During late-night study sessions, you can often find Julie Erickson '08 in the first-floor study lounge. She describes the Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest as a perfect meeting between the old and the new, the traditional and the inno-*

*vative. "I love that even with the new updates, the building hasn't completely lost its old quaint country vibes," she said. "You really have the feel of being in an old farmhouse."*

*Senior thesis meetings for ES/non-fiction major Katie Flagg '08 were always enlivened by watching Professor John Elder unknowingly slide across his sloped office in the middle of a conversation. Much of the flooring throughout building is original wood floors, which were*



*refinished and patched during the renovation. The choice to recycle the wood floors not only*

*conserved valuable forestry resources but also added a distinctive personal touch to the building. For Katie, such charming quirks lend the Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest a unique character that distinguishes it from other buildings on campus.*

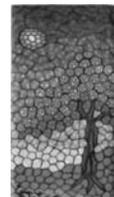
*Marty Schnure '10.5 hopes that the building's sustainable features might even influence individuals' environmental behavior. The shower on the second floor, for example, offers commuters the option to walk or bike to campus. "My favorite feature about the Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest is the shower on the second floor," Schnure said. "I like the idea that perhaps more people will commute by bike or foot if they know they can still be clean for their workday."*

—quotes gathered by  
Emily Peterson '08

## Artistic Enhancements

In addition to the beauty of the local and natural materials throughout the Franklin Center at Hillcrest, users' experience of the space is enhanced by bathroom tiles made by local Burlington Vermont artist Marie Davis, who has a studio on Pine Street in Burlington. These small accent tiles (about the size of a domino) provide slices of the Vermont landscape in the forms of pollywogs, starry nights, and a riverside image.

The Committee on Art in Public Places selected New York artist Deborah Fisher and her work—**Solid State Change, 2007** for the Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest. The piece was inspired by the geology and topography of Vermont and alludes to the metamorphic bedrock beneath Middlebury. Working with architects Steve Smith and Bren Alvarez of the Burlington firm Smith Alvarez and Sienkiewicz, Fisher conceived the sculpture in relationship to the exterior curved wall of the building. Recognizing the multi-faceted approach to learning in the Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest, and seeking to juxtapose a broad range of references, Fisher created an artwork from discarded—and hence recycled—materials. Working from the ground up, she assembled strata of rubber tires intermixed with colorful strips of plastic insulation that were once used to sheathe copper wire. Composed of materials that are not biodegradable and not accepted at most landfill sites, the 6000-pound structure incorporates the processes and products of industrial activity, yet it appears to have emerged naturally from the earth (see photo on page 8).



## Dedication Celebrations

Over the fall homecoming weekend, October 25–26, 2007, inaugural events were enjoyed. These included an illustrated lecture from artist Deborah Fisher (see above), a "Conversation on Sustainability" panel with Jack Byrne, Campus Sustainability Coordinator; Steve Trombulak, Mead Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies; and Tizianna Dominguez '09. Chris McGrory Klyza, the Environmental Studies Program Director and Stafford Professor of Public Policy, Political Science, and Environmental Studies moderated the session and President Ron Liebowitz and Dean of Environmental Affairs Nan Jenks-Jay provided the opening and closing remarks.

*A celebration of the naming of the Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest took place on May 23, 2008 (see page 8 for more details).*

## Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest



## The Middlebury Initiative Selected Gifts and Grants to Middlebury's Environmental Programs as of May 2008



Photo by Ted Merrick

Three generations of the Halstead-Franklin family (including Janet's mother who lived in Hillcrest as a freshman) in front of the dedication plaque.

### **The Churchill and Janet Franklin Family Foundation**

Gift to establish the Janet Halstead Franklin '72 and Churchill G. Franklin '71 Green Fund to support environmental programs at Middlebury, particularly those that are taught in or connected to the Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest; celebration of the naming of the Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest took place on May 23, 2008, with remarks shared by President Ron Liebowitz, Nan Jenks-Jay, Chris McGrory Klyza, Katie Flagg '08, and Janet and Churchill Franklin.

### **Class of 2007**

Gifts from members of the class established The Green Fund at Middlebury to ensure that the College's environmental initiatives will continue in perpetuity by providing an annual income stream to support related priorities, including sustainable campus efforts, academic programs, and student life.

### **The Lintilhac Foundation**

Grant to advance Middlebury's carbon neutrality efforts, with the initial focus on supporting the acquisition and installation of photo voltaic panels at the Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest.

### **The Orchard Foundation**

Grant to establish the Lehner Environmental Program Fund to support environmental programming and initiatives.

### **The Philanthropic Collaborative**

Grant to support acquisition and installation of a monitoring system in the Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest (see page 6 for more information).



## Alumni in Action

### Ashar Nelson '90

*Project Architect at Bread Loaf Architects, Planners, and Builders*

Ashar Nelson '90, is a LEED-accredited Project Architect at Bread Loaf Architects, Planners, and Builders in Middlebury, Vermont, and a founding board member of the Vermont Green Building Network (VGBN). In considering issues of sustainability, he says that, "it's the small advances that allow me to operate with hope in the face of the enormous environmental challenges we face." While he notes his profession is a contributor to these environmental issues, he has worked hard to foster advances within the building community in Vermont.

His efforts to raise awareness have paid off—he notes that not too long ago, "the idea of green building or sustainability was seen as fringe or unnecessary, but today, standard building practices from five years ago are considered unacceptable, because they do not meet basic 'green' criteria." And the VGBN—founded in 2002—is now a thriving community of over 200 member businesses committed to "promoting the environmental, financial, community, and health benefits of green design, construction, and building operation practices."

Nelson, who grew up in Salisbury, Vermont, came to Middlebury thinking he would major in computer science, but, after quickly realizing the need for an outlet for his creativity, shifted to an art major with a focus on architectural history—a nascent program started by Glenn Andres that has become the Architectural Studies Program today. Nelson intermittently took two years off from Middlebury working on various building ventures.

"My experience at Middlebury—as well as my upbringing—set me up to continue learning and asking questions and seeking a broad base of knowledge, because information from many different fields all has a bearing on my work as an architect. One of the beautiful things about architecture is that it encompasses issues of health, art, technology, social issues, environmental issues, issues of human organization, policy, and economics."

*"...it's the small advances that allow me to operate with hope in the face of the enormous environmental challenges we face."*

On his time away from Middlebury he notes that, "if you are looking to pursue design, get some experience in the 'making' of what you design. It will be invaluable. It is only in the last century or so that we have specialized so much that we have individuals that may design things without ever having to construct them."

After Middlebury and some early stints at Bread Loaf as a carpenter and environmental designer, he obtained a Master's in Architecture from University of Oregon—a school he chose because of their strong environmental design program. He spent a good deal of his graduate school time teaching, which is something he has been returning to at Middlebury through providing guest critic time for the Architectural Studies Program, teaching "Architecture and the Environment", and through teaching an upcoming planning course in Winter Term '09 "that will incorporate environmental issues as they relate to planning."

(Continued on page 10)

### **Architecture and the Environment—and update on the joint major between the Environmental Studies and Architectural Studies Programs**

The Architectural Studies Program reports that the affiliation with ES has been significantly responsible for a recent upsurge in majors. They now have between 40 and 50 majors in the Architectural Studies track (spread over 3 years), about half of whom at the sophomore and junior level are ES/Arch. In service of the joint major, they have added a highly successful course, "Architecture and the Environment," taught by LEED-certified architect Andrea Murray (who has recently won several state and national awards for her green architecture). They also continue to make environmental issues an important theme in the "Architecture & ..." lecture series, which has benefited from co-sponsorship with Environmental Studies and Environmental Affairs. Last fall, they sponsored a lecture on Biomimicry, and this spring on "Green Strategies for Historic Buildings." In January, when senior majors traveled to New York, they visited the environmental engineering firm "atelier 10," and had a session with the head of real estate for the Hearst Corporation, who discussed how Hearst's decision to have Norman Foster build them a sustainable skyscraper has led to change in the Hearst corporate culture—from utilizing recycled paper in their publications, to a cafeteria featuring local foods (where the chefs prepare and test seasonal recipes that are then published in Hearst magazines), to a weekly farmers' market for employees that utilizes the local food network developed for the cafeteria.



**2008 Scott A. Margolin '99  
Lecture in Environmental Affairs  
Monday, April 21**

***The Coming Transformation: America,  
Capitalism and the Environmental Future*  
Gus Speth, Dean, Yale School of Forestry  
& Environmental Studies**

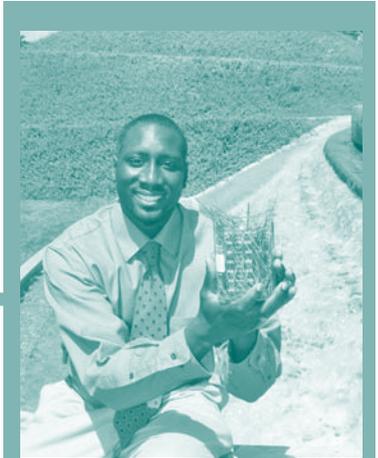
James Gustave Speth has had a distinguished career as a leader or founder of several major environmental institutions over more than three decades. Speth co-founded the Natural Resources Defense Council, chaired the President's Council on Environmental Quality under President Jimmy Carter, was president and founder of the World Resources Institute, acted as a senior advisor to President-Elect William Clinton's transition team, and oversaw the United Nations Development Program as its chief executive officer. In 2002, he was awarded the prestigious Blue Planet Prize for "a lifetime of creative and visionary leadership in the search for science-based solutions to global environmental problems and for pioneering efforts to bring these issues, including global climate change, to broad international attention."

What he brought to *our* attention during his lecture was a strong sense of urgency, making a potent case for immediate changes needed in both the environmental movement and our system of growth-centric, modern capitalism. Drawing from his latest book, *The Bridge at the Edge of the World: Capitalism, the Environment, and Crossing from Crisis to Sustainability*, he began his talk with the "admittedly unpleasant" task

on a beautiful spring evening in Vermont of detailing how perilously close we are to ruining the planet. With that sense of environmental tragedy as a launching point, Speth then indicted both the modern system of capitalism—and its "profound indifference" to natural and human values—as well as the modern environmental movement for its singular focus on the environment to the exclusion of social & economic inequity and needed political reform.

His suggestions for the urgently needed transformations in both systems included an upwelling of a powerful grassroots movement—starting with the environment, but also embracing social justice and political reform, a proliferation of examples of people doing things differently, and a "national epiphany"—fostered by wise leadership—that our consumptive lifestyles are detrimental to both the environment and our spirits.

He ended his talk quoting George Barnard Shaw, "All progress depends on not being reasonable," and urging us to build on the impressive leadership in the environmental arena he has seen at Middlebury with a call for "civic unreasonability".



**James Mack '94**

On Friday, October 26, 2007 University of Cincinnati Assistant Professor of Chemistry James Mack, a Middlebury College 1994 graduate, gave a lecture titled "Green Chemistry," which was sponsored by the Middlebury College Office of Institutional Diversity as part of the Twilight Scholar Lecture Series. Dr. Mack, a physical organic chemist, shared with us his work on developing environmentally benign chemical reactions and processes. His talk was one of several inaugural events celebrating the opening of the Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest that took place over Homecoming weekend.

**Alumni in Action** (continued from page 9)

Nelson also spends a lot of time teaching his clients—"Part of my job is educating clients about *why* we need to pay attention to sustainability issues." Some of this is in the form of modeling that predicts energy & cost savings over time, but most is in the form of an ongoing dialog over each piece of the design-build process. And having influence and buy-in at each stage of the process is critical—Ashar explains, "it has become obvious that an integrated team is a basic requirement to achieve higher performance from our buildings, with engineers, estimators, and construction managers firmly engaged in a project during the design phase so that the 'green' elements are in the project from the get-go."

One local success story of this integrated approach is The Middlebury Police Station that he designed four years ago.

While costs were constrained and the client wasn't seeking "green," he was able to include a high performance building envelope that has resulted in energy and heating savings above and beyond what their models predicted.

On a more personal note, Ashar shares that his knowledge base about how humans impact our environment has been strengthened with help from his wife Amy Sheldon '88, a Natural Resource Planner and strong conservationist. Ashar is also a longtime board member of the Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op, a member of the "River Group"—an outgrowth of the Middlebury Creative Economy forums with a focus on celebrating and protecting Otter Creek, and he and his wife are avid users of Vermont's rich natural environment.

# Civic Engagement in Environmental Studies

## 1Sky Interns

This January 2008, 10 Middlebury students interned for 1Sky ([www.1sky.org](http://www.1sky.org)), a new coalition at the forefront of our nation's call for a clean-energy future. Their work included the following five projects focused on the moral, ecological, political, and economic understandings of global warming:

- Religious Messaging
- Clean-Energy Investment for Jobs and GDP
- Mapping Coal Communities with Green-Job Potential
- Primary Visibility for Mountaintop Removal
- Cap-and-Rebate by Region

For more details see: <http://www.1sky.org/general/2008/01/1sky-interns-at-middlebury-invite-your-climate-wisdom>



## Power Shift

On April 19–21, 2008, college and high school students from across Vermont converged on Middlebury College for the Power Shift Vermont Youth Climate Conference. Power



Shift Vermont focused on empowering and educating Vermont youth with the tools they need to take action on the climate crisis and find solutions. The conference was followed by a trip to Montpelier (see photo) to lobby for strong legislation aimed at combating climate change. All events were organized by Middlebury College's Sunday Night Group, a student organization dedicated to finding solutions to global climate change.

## Student Recognition

**Emily Peterson '08** (ES major/nonfiction focus) was a finalist for the Madeleine M. Kunin Public Service Award, honoring a student from a Vermont Campus Compact member institution for his or her outstanding public service and leadership, demonstrated through a spectrum of efforts. Peterson, a native of New Orleans, was noted as a cofounder of Middlebury's Hurricane Relief Coalition, as well as for her involvement over the years with the College's organic garden, and her aid to a family in Thailand in constructing an organic garden to serve as a model for their village. She was also an assistant for Ark for Children in Botswana, serving adolescent AIDS orphans.

## Middlebury featured in the 10th edition of Making a Difference Colleges

(Miriam Weinstein, SageWorks Press)

This publication highlights numerous aspects of Middlebury College including student initiatives, International Studies, Environmental Studies, language programs, off-campus study, post-graduate pursuits, Winter Term, diversity issues, green building, "buy local" initiatives in the dining halls, the Alliance for Civic Engagement, and more. Some excerpts pertinent to our commitment to civic engagement include:

*"...Middlebury College surpasses all expectations. Its students are among the most engaged activists, volunteers, and civic-minded citizens in the nation, cultivating a sense of community wherever they go to study or work—literally around the world."*

*"Middlebury is second to none in its commitment to the environment."*

*"In all areas of life, Middlebury College teaches skills and strategies for leadership and activism...From all corners of the globe, students come to Middlebury to engage the world."*

## ES 401 SENIOR SEMINAR PROJECTS

### Fall 2007 (Steve Trombulak)

With a focus on *Managing Land for Nature and Culture*, students worked with the Middlebury Area Land Trust to explore a possible extension of the North Country Trail from the Crown Point Bridge in New York to Vermont's Long Trail; partnered with the Lewis Creek Association to investigate land use issues and opportunities within the river corridor; and assisted the Hinesburg Land Trust with integrating the community voice into the management plan for a conserved parcel of land.

### Spring 2008 (Molly Costanza-Robinson)

Partnering with Addison County Transit Resources, students undertook three projects related to the course theme of *Transportation and Sustainability*. These included life-cycle analyses for alternative fuels and emerging bus technologies; extensive survey work to determine why people are and aren't utilizing public transportation; and building the capacity for enhanced town engagement and funding support for public transportation services.

## EC 265 ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS

### Spring 2008 (Jon Isham)

This year, the student projects in EC265 included work with three businesses who want to expand their production of local food, two projects designed to further lower the greenhouse gas footprint of the College, and a project designed to enhance sustainable development in China. The projects were presented during the last week of classes at Carol's Community Coffee Shop (another community partner for the class!), featuring local food and good cheer.

## Student Awards, Independent Study Projects, and Theses

The 2008 Margolin Award, given annually to an outstanding senior Environmental Studies Major, was awarded to **Katie Flagg '08**. **Lisa Gerstenberger '07.5** (ES/Human Ecology) received the 2008 Andrew E. Nuquist Award for Outstanding Research on a Vermont Topic for her project "Changing Attitudes Towards Farmland Conservation Easements in Addison County, Vermont."

### 2008 Theses

**Ashley Gamell '08**, *The Imaginary Landscape: Artwork of the New York City Outdoors*

**Kathryn Flagg '08**, *Dead Reckoning, or On the Impulses of Early Cartographers: Selected Poems*

**Emily Peterson '08**, *Louisiana's Vanishing Wetlands: The Quiet Crisis*

**Claire Polfus '08**, *Thawing the winter, Wintering the thaw: Vermont's coldest season in the face of climate change*

**Gus Goodwin '08**, *The impact of Environmental Change in the Adirondack Lowland Boreal: Creating a Monitoring Plan*

**Adam Lovell '08**, *A Balancing Act: The Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act of 2008*

### 2007-08 Independent Studies

**Margaret Bale '10**, *Food Mapping*

**Allison Bard '08**, *California Investor Owned Utilities: Energy Efficiency Program Analysis*

**Ian Burgin '08**, *The Wolf in Western Massachusetts*

**Rosalind Chaplin '09**, *Thoughts to Actions, Actions to Thoughts; Philosophy in Hangzhou's Environmentally Responsible Enterprises*

**Clare Crosby '09**, *Assessment of regional land-use planning initiatives: selected case studies*

**Hubert D'Autremont '07.5**, *Garden Classroom*

**Lisa Gerstenberger '07.5**, *Food Mapping with Google Earth*

**Hannah Panci '08**, *Clay Plain Forest Aging Study*

**John Pepper '08**, *Becoming a LEED Accredited Professional*

**Clayton Reed '08**, *The Viability of Biodiesel for Vermont Maple Sugar Farmers*

### 2007-2008 Internships

<b>Nathan Ackerly '10</b> .....	MWH Global
<b>Hannah Burnett '10</b> .....	Holcomb Farm Environmental Center
<b>Beth Connolly '10</b> .....	Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens
<b>Nicholas Dickerson '08</b> .....	Urban Ecology Institute (UEI)
<b>Bonnie Hemphill '08</b> .....	Climate Summer
<b>Stephanie Joyce '10</b> .....	NorthStar Trekking
<b>Catherine Klem '10</b> .....	Appalachian Mountain Club
<b>Andrew Law '11</b> .....	Adventures West Associates
<b>Stephen McCombe '10</b> .....	Ecobarrier
<b>Nick Meiers '10.5</b> .....	WI Department of Natural Resources
<b>Kara Muraki '08</b> .....	Lucid Design Group
<b>Jennifer Ridder '10</b> .....	Glen Canyon Institute
<b>Derek Sakamoto '10</b> .....	Center for ReSource Conservation

*This January 2008, 10 Middlebury students interned for 1Sky ([www.1sky.org](http://www.1sky.org)), a new coalition at the forefront of our nation's call for a clean-energy future. See page 11 for more details.*

### The Nature Conservancy Internships

Internships with The Nature Conservancy have been made available exclusively to Middlebury College students through generous donors, including Katie Lang Dolan '77 and her husband Peter Dolan, as well as Mark Collins '79 through the The Dillon Fund. Other individuals who have been crucial to making the internships happen through their TNC connections include Harry Drucker '80, Bruce Boyd '79, Brian McCurdy '03, and the staff of the Career Services Office.

#### Summer 2007 Interns

**Nick Dickerson '08.5**  
TNC Illinois chapter headquarters in Chicago: Marketing Intern

**Sam Tormey '09**  
Massachusetts Islands Program, Martha's Vineyard: Conservation Intern

**R. Tyler Cotton '08 & Chi Zhang '08**  
Kunming, Yunnan, China: Communications and Philanthropy Interns

**Julie Erickson '08**  
Maya Forest/Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico: Conservation Intern

**Caitlin Littlefield '07.5**  
Monterrey/Chihuahuan Desert, Mexico: Conservation Intern

#### Intern Reflections

"I now have a deeper understanding of the issues pertinent to China's environment and growth, as well as a clearer view on the position and fate of foreign NGOs in China."

—Chi Zhang (Kunming, Yunnan Province, China)

"I got a good feeling for how a conservation organization like TNC operates on quite a few different levels, and that experience will be helpful in any sort of conservation-based career."

—Sam Tormey (Martha's Vineyard)

"I definitely was able to achieve an understanding of how community-based conservation pans out on the ground...I even feel it gave me a better perspective not only on a potential career in conservation, but also a better international and environmental perspective."

—Julie Erickson (Yucatan, Mexico)

## Faculty and Staff News

**Molly Costanza-Robinson** (ES/Chemistry) received funding from the National Science Foundation and Petroleum Research Fund to involve students in her work on the movement of contamination through soil systems. This work has already spawned one paper published in *Environmental Science and Technology* that was co-authored with ES-Chemistry graduates, Katie Harrold and Ross Lieb-Lappen. She also received funding from a private foundation for a collaboration with Middlebury and University of Vermont researchers to examine the place-based chemistry of maple sap and syrup. Molly enjoyed leading the Spring '08 Environmental Studies Senior Seminar on the topic of "Transportation and Sustainability".

**Matthew Dickerson** (ES/Computer Science/Writing Program) has co-authored a new book due out in November with the Univ. Press of Kentucky's series on New Agrarianism, to be titled *Narnia and the Fields of Arbol: the Environmental Vision of C.S. Lewis*. In the Spring of 2008 he taught a new course with the Writing Program titled "Essay Writing on Nature and Ecology" that examined works from W. Berry, A. Leopold, J. Muir, G. Snyder, J. Elder, S. Halpern, B. McKibben and others. He is currently working on a new interdisciplinary book project on Appalachian stream ecology.

**John Elder** (College Professor) wrote an essay called "A Teacher on the Long Trail," about taking classes on literature and writing into the woods, for the collection *On Location: Adventures in Place-Based Teaching*. He also participated in the Roundstone Conversations on literature and place in Ireland and in the "Terra Madre" gathering of Slow Food in Torino.

**Rebecca Kneale Gould** (ES/Religion) gave several invited lectures over the past year, on topics ranging from consumption, Judaism and the environment, to the nature of time. In addition to her American Council of Learned Societies award (see page 2), she was a co-recipient of a Mellon Foundation inter-institutional grant entitled, "Bringing the Sciences and the Humanities Together to Study Environmental Fragility and Environmental

Ethics in the Galapagos."

**Chris McGrory Klyza** (ES/Political Science) published a co-authored book this year. Written with University of Puget Sound Professor David Sousa, *American Environmental Policy, 1990–2006: Beyond Gridlock* argues that despite the gridlock in Congress, environmental policy making has flourished on other pathways, such as in the states and the courts. Chris and David also published an article and book chapter related to this theme. Chris also directed the ES Program for the year.

**Matt Landis** (Biology) has been developing population models to guide management of rare tropical timber species, especially big-leaf mahogany. Early stages of this have resulted in two co-authored publications in the journal *Forest Ecology and Management*. In addition, he has recently been satisfying his need for GIS by working on global-scale analyses of water and agriculture sustainability with ISciences, LLC of Burlington, VT. This past summer he presented results of his work on climate and the spruce-fir forests of the Green Mountains at the Ecological Society of American meeting in San Jose, California.

**Marc Lapin** (ES) is continuing his long-term project on Champlain Valley clayplain forest conservation and ecology; he is currently collaborating on conservation implementation and outreach efforts with The Nature Conservancy through a State Wildlife Grant and with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department through the Landowner Incentive Program. Additionally, Marc is working with the Vermont Nongame and Natural Heritage Program on a study of the state's oak-pine-hardwood forests. He also continues his forest ecology research with the Colby Hill Ecological Project and manages the project's scientific research and conservation education and outreach.

**Jeff Munroe** (Geology) began a new project studying the history of alpine glaciers in Glacier National Park. Together with a recent ES-Geology graduate, Logan Duran, Jeff retrieved several sediment cores from a lake below one of the largest remaining glaciers in the park. Analysis of this core is expected to yield a record of past glacier

fluctuations that will be useful for placing the observed contemporary retreat in context. Congratulations to Jeff who received tenure this May!

**Andrea Olsen** (Dance) directed the third annual Body and Earth training program in Pen Pynfarch, Wales; published "Returning to Empty: Protecting Open Space for Making in Community" in *Contact Quarterly*; and will travel to the Galapagos Islands (with Heidi Grasswick, Rebecca Gould, and Helen Young) on a Mellon-Funded inter-institutional grant in June.

**Peter Ryan** (ES/Geology) is spending his 2007–08 sabbatical as a visiting research scientist in the Department of Environmental Geochemistry at Estación Experimental del Zaidín in Granada, Spain. He is studying tropical soil mineralogy by numerous new analytical methods (to him), including fourier-transform infrared analysis and high-resolution transmission electron microscopy. He is also writing an environmental geochemistry textbook to be published by Wiley-Blackwell and a manuscript on Ordovician volcanic ash in Vermont with colleague Ray Coish (Geology) and others.

**Rich Wolfson's** (Physics) book *Energy, Environment, and Climate* was published by W.W. Norton in February 2008. This book is an undergraduate text for environmental studies majors that explores Earth's energy resources, energy technologies and their environmental impact, and—more so than competing texts on energy and environment—devotes a significant part of its content to climate change and the energy-climate link. Rich also re-introduced ENV5 0240, "Global Climate Change," after a three-year hiatus, in Spring 2008.

**Helen Young** (Biology) published two new papers in the *American Journal of Botany* and *Oecologia* on work done with students on the pollination of jewelweed. She is also developing a new course for Fall 2008 focused on plant-animal interactions.

(see pages 2 and 5 for faculty news regarding awards and publications.)

## ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

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Middlebury, Vermont 05753

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