Faith & Reason

Is the language of religion encouraging moral debate at Middlebury?

Or is it a conversation stopper?

Does God Exist?
ACADEMIC MATTERS
With China on the verge of achieving superpower status, knowing what makes the country tick has never been more important.

OLD CHAPEL
President Ronald D. Liebowitz sits down and chats with several groups of students. And they had a lot to say.

CLASS ACTION

PURSUITS
Lynn Jennings '65 is all about pulling strings to get things done.

BOOK MARKS
He's back: Griffin Mill, the protagonist of Michael Tolkin's hit novel, The Player, returns after a 20-year hiatus.

Cover by Dennis Curran
Contents and insert photograph by Bridget Besaw
GOD ON THE QUAD
Some say that religion will emerge as the center of intellectual energy in academe. What does that mean for Middlebury?

RUSS LENG’S MIDD-LIFE EXPERIENCE
With his retirement on the horizon, an “absent-minded professor” reflects on a 40-year journey.

THE VOYAGE OF THE TERN
A group of alums decided to sail from Puget Sound to Alaska. But first they had to build the boat.
MY GRANDMOTHER PASSED AWAY RECENTLY AT THE AGE OF 94.
I write about it here because lately I’ve been thinking a lot about Rose Rudin Adams, the life she led, the choices she made, and the impact it had on my life.

In 1939, Rose, then a registered nurse at Wyckoff Heights Hospital in Brooklyn, met Dr. Vincent Adams, a young cardiologist fresh out of Georgetown Medical School and an intern at Wyckoff. Actually, as the story goes, Vincent spied Rose at a candy store around the corner from the hospital and remarked to a colleague that he was going to ask her out. Easier said than done. Rose ignored Vincent that afternoon—nurses didn’t fraternize with doctors in those days—continued to do so for several weeks. However, Vincent was persistent, and romance eventually blossomed, but still their courtship was conducted in secret. Professional mores may have had something to do with the secrecy, but so too did religious strictures of the time. Vincent was Roman Catholic; Rose was Jewish.

Professional mores may have had something to do with the secrecy, but so too did religious strictures of the time. Vincent was Roman Catholic; Rose was Jewish.

In the summer of 1940, they got married, though many in Rose’s family did not attend the wedding. Rose and Vincent raised a family—two boys and a girl (my mother)—in Forest Hills, Queens, and while Rose attended temple without Vincent, and Vincent attended Mass without Rose, they taught their children to learn about and appreciate both faiths, Judaism and Catholicism.

Growing up in Virginia, I benefited from this religious pluralism. My sister and I were baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal Church (my father’s church). We also celebrated Passover each spring, unpacked a menorah along with our Christmas ornaments in December, and wished one another a happy New Year each fall.

I never talked to my grandmother about her faith, though I always received a card at Rosh Hashanah—along with a card at the start of Hanukkah, followed by Christmas presents a few weeks later. I’d like to think she enjoyed the fact that my family attended Passover Seders as well as Easter church services, but more than anything, I’d guess that she thought this was, well, normal. (My mom used to put dreidels and chocolate Hanukkah geld in our stockings each Christmas, which makes me laugh now, but seemed perfectly normal at the time.)

When my grandmother died 12 years ago, Rose remarked to the priest after the funeral: “That’s the loveliest homily I’ve ever heard, though I haven’t heard many.” (As far as I know, it was the first and only time she attended a Catholic service.) It was an intensely sad day, but this made me smile, not just because the moment was the perfect illustration of my grandmother’s acute sense of humor, but because, in one sentence, Rose spoke to the spiritual DNA I had inherited.

I haven’t attended a Passover Seder in many years; nor, for that matter, have I been a regular churchgoer. Yet as I researched this issue’s cover story, I found myself thinking more and more about this spiritual DNA. This past Christmas I was visiting my parents in Virginia, and one morning I began rummaging through the desk in my old room. I came across a stack of greeting cards I had accumulated over the years—“Happy 17th birthday!”—and was quickly flipping through them, when one gave me pause. It was more than 15 years old (September 1990), and the inscribed greeting wished me a happy New Year. It was a Rosh Hashanah card from Rose. —MJ
Cutting the Cord

The cover of the fall 2006 Middlebury Magazine reminded me of the perfect gift my friend Chip received on his 18th birthday. He and I were working at a summer camp when he turned 18. On his birthday, he had the usual cake and ice cream. His mother (who worked there as an assistant director) presented Chip with a small box, wrapped in masculine paper. He opened it to find two long, narrow strips of patterned cloth tied in a neat bow. The symbolism of his mother giving him neatly cut apron strings has stayed with me for almost 50 years. That revealed a special relationship between Chip and his parents. More parents should develop that kind of relationship and cut the apron strings, the earlier the better.

David J. Bahn '62
Jacksonville, Florida

How Close?

As a retired secondary school English teacher, I’m aware of a gradual escalation in parental participation in the writing and proofreading of high school papers. In order to receive written work created by our students without assistance from either the Internet or a family member, some of us increased the amount and weighting of in-class writing. But conversations with former students and parents of college students suggest that parental collaboration on papers and projects, all made possible by the magic of e-mail, continues unabated at the college level.

Back in the dark ages of the late 1950s, my friends and I never even conceived the possibility of such collaboration. Given our habit of last-minute writing, we would have had no way to send drafts back and forth anyway. But leaving that detail aside, our newfound independence and academic machismo would never, ever permit us to write home for that kind of help (financial, yes; scholarly, no).

And even in the late 1980s, my own son and daughter would never have stooped to such an exchange, despite Dad’s academic credentials.

I’m curious whether Elena Kennedy '06 or Barbara Hofer has investigated this aspect of family ties at Middlebury; if so, how widespread do they feel the practice has become? I won’t take a moral position in this letter beyond suggesting that parents who help work on their daughters’ and sons’ projects should certainly add their own names to the work.

Dutton Foster, M.A. English ’68
Saint Paul, Minnesota

True Value

Thank you for the article on the cost and value of a Middlebury education (“The $44,000 Question,” fall 2006). One way of reducing cost would be to have students do more campus service work in exchange for reduced tuitions. Students now work in food services and other areas, but more could work in places like the athletic equipment room (see “Life in the ER.” in the same issue). An extensive student work program could lower College labor costs and thus ease the tuition burden. Such a program might promote a stronger community ethos, which also has potential for reducing College prices.

A strong community ethic would foster sharing and cooperation, which could reduce College costs by promoting more efficient use of books, computers, and other resources. Middlebury scholar-in-residence Bill McKibben in recent issues of The New York Review of Books and Sierra Magazine has attributed today’s “hyper-individualism” to our fossil fuels technology, which makes us independent of neighbors and community and requires ever-greater expense to maintain. The implication of that analysis is that we need more cooperative social structures if we are to free ourselves of the immense expenses of fossil fuel dependence. The point applies, as well, to lessening college costs. Cooperation presents opportunities for efficiencies and savings needed to lower college expenses. And teaching kids
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how to work together for the common good gives them one more way of contributing to society, enriching their own lives, and deepening the value of their educations.

It is true that one cannot measure the value of a liberal education in widening the spirit, stimulating interests, or sharpening curiosity. But colleges can measure how well faculties promote student writing skills, improve speed and span of their intellectual grasps, and sharpen their abilities to analyze and synthesize. The Collegiate Learning Assessment and the National Survey of Student Engagement are two testing programs that indicate how well students learn essential thinking techniques. Middlebury should have its students participate in these. While testing can determine neither value nor personal merit, aggregated test results can show where skills are strong or weak and point to areas for improving teaching. If a liberal education includes development of a thinking mind, evaluation of student thinking skills and actions for improving teaching based upon evaluation will add value to that education.

Dave Corkran '57
Portland, Oregon

Don't Diss the Midd Music Scene!

My name is Ted Parker '08. I am the president of the Middlebury Musicians' Guild (MMG), which for two years has been striving (quite successfully, thus far) to represent the interests of musicians on campus. I have read Bob Gulla's article in the fall 2006 issue entitled "Dispatch Is Dead! Long Live Dispatch!" and I respectfully must take issue with Mr. Gulla's treatment of the music scene at Middlebury—specifically: "With apologies to the D8 and the Mischords, Middlebury is hardly a musical hotbed." On the contrary, I believe that a look at the activities of the MMG over the past two years, and the huge amount of musical activity on campus this semester, demonstrates quite the opposite of Mr. Gulla's assertion.

Most notably, in January the MMG opened a humble recording facility in the Freeman International Center, filling (at least partially) a previously gaping hole in the musical community at Midd. Students have already produced a number of recordings, and many more are on the way. Furthermore, the MMG has collaborated with the Dean of the College's office and the music department to create the weekly TGIF Music Series in the library atrium, highlighting on-campus talent, in addition to a new weekly series of MMG shows by student performers at the Grille. It is my understanding that Middlebury has always had a slew of talented musicians—Philip Hamilton '82 comes to mind as a dynamic performer whose time at Midd would have coincided with Mr. Gulla's—and rather than invigorating a dead music scene, the MMG is bringing Middlebury's musicians the attention they have long deserved. The payoff is that we've seen an explosion of new music groups on campus in the past semester, which are happily devouring all of these new opportunities.

Rather than treating Dispatch like an anomaly, I believe strongly that we must
LETTERS

continue to encourage musicians at Middlebury, with Dispatch’s success as a prime example of the rewards that can follow hard work and dedication. A recording studio, in particular, is something for which Middlebury’s musicians had petitioned for decades. We are very proud of our facility, but it is indeed humble—suited only to small-scale, amateur-quality projects. Alumni should know that their support could do much to promote this project, and perhaps encourage lightning to strike a few more times at Midd.

Ted Parker ’08
Middlebury, Vermont

Who Was First?

In reference to the article titled “Safi’s Choice” in the fall issue of the magazine: The author refers to Zohra Safi as “the first female student from Afghanistan to attend Middlebury.” There has been at least one other that I know of. She was a member of the class of ’72, and her name was Rona Kayeum. I’m not sure where she went from Middlebury or when. I don’t believe the class secretaries know her address either, nor has Rona been heard from in a long time. I don’t believe the class secretaries know her address either, nor has Rona been heard from in a long time. I hope she’s well and happy, wherever she is today.

Tom Chesrown ’72
Chicago, Illinois

Editors’ Note: Mr. Chesrown is correct. Rona Kayeum ’72 was the first female student from Afghanistan to attend Middlebury. We apologize for the error.

Then and Now

In the fall 2006 issue of Middlebury Magazine, I read the fact that Middlebury was recognized as one of the best campuses for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered students. As a student at Middlebury in the mid-1980s, I started to come to terms with my differences in what felt at the time to be a very scary place. My first year, I befriended a gay man who feared for his life because of the bullying that was unofficially tolerat-
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ed. He chose to leave Middlebury because there seemed to be no alternative. At that time, there were no out lesbians, no role models—certainly not anyone who could be seen as publicly supportive.

I came from a religious family when I was growing up never even hearing the word “lesbian.” I did feel very fortunate while at Middlebury to be able to go to a counselor where I could talk freely, but it took me years to come to terms with being different.

Today, I live in Canada. I feel a great sense of gratitude that I live in a country that recognizes me as an intelligent human being, capable of choosing the person I want to marry.

Middlebury College has since become more open to diversity both visible and invisible. It is my hope that students at Middlebury today no longer have to feel fear for being who they are, one of God’s children.

Lisa Van Buren ’90
Ottawa, Ontario

Happy Trails
I just read Jay Heinrichs’s wonderful story “Walking George to School” (fall 2006), which instantly took me back to my days with the Middlebury Mountain Club and our time spent hiking the Long Trail.

When we were students in the 1930s, the Mountain Club was in its infancy, but was easily the most popular extracurricular activity on campus. (I had long suspected this, but recently proved it while scanning the 1938 Kaleidoscope, which lists all the activities of our class when we were seniors. Of the 136 students in our class, 100 participated in the Mountain Club, which—if my math is correct—accounts for more than 73 percent of our class!)

In recent years—in an attempt to generate more news for our class notes column—I have asked my classmates to recall their favorite memories of life at Middlebury. Several have referred to the Mountain Club.

“In April of our sophomore year,” Alice Crosby Loomis ’37 wrote, “the Mountain Club climbed up Camel’s Peak.”

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Hump. It was warm and sunny on campus, but we encountered six to eight inches of snow before we reached the summit. Then it began to rain.

Gladys Caldron "37, in her final note to us before her death, spoke of "the beauty of the hills" and her enjoyment of the Mountain Club hikes.

For me, I count one personal experience as probably the most memorable outdoor event of my life—an overnight hike up Mount Abe, in which we found ourselves above the clouds in bright moonlight, while the world around us was wrapped in white ice.

What a memory. Thanks for prompting it.

Marshall Sewell '37
Whiting, New Jersey

Corrections, Please
I want to thank you for printing in the fall edition an obituary for my sister, Michele Whitney '63, who died this past July. However, I do want to correct some misinformation which you included when you changed the obituary that I
sent to you. You state that Middlebury survivors include Michele’s uncle, Julius W. Whitney ’35. He died in 1995. Her cousin Barbara Whitney Wilson ’51 died about three years ago. I have no clue who Eileen Whitney Wilson ’37 is; she is not a relative of ours. Shirley Whitney Juneo ’58 is, indeed, alive and well.

As an American literature major, Michele learned from Doc Cook, Howard Munford, and Horace Beck that you “always check your facts.” That served her well as a writer-researcher for Time and Money magazines. Might I suggest that when you choose to change an obituary someone has sent to you, that you contact that person and check your facts?

I hope you take this suggestion in the spirit of helpfulness that is intended.

Pat Whitney Messler ’69
Rockport, Maine

Editors’ Note: Due to omissions in our database, we had incorrect information for Barbara Whitney Wilson ’51 and Julius W. Whitney ’35. We regret the errors. It is our understanding that Eileen Whitney Wilson is a distant cousin of the Whitney family, but if that is not true, we regret that error as well.

Remembering Sarah Smith Vuillet
My classmate, Sarah Smith Vuillet ’56, passed away in April. Her obituary in your summer issue gave the “nuts and bolts” of her life.

Perhaps a few lines from a eulogy given by a colleague at Friends Academy, where she taught and was an administrator for 30 years, will tell you why Sally made such an impact on others’ lives.

“She was someone central to the school’s
Letters

Life in every imaginable way... She had a mix of sophistication and genuineness balanced by a wry sense of humor.

After work and family, Sally's dogs were her love. A lifelong golf champion, she was a fierce competitor. In building her English garden from scratch, she consulted books and catalogues, and visited nurseries in three states to find just the perfect plants to add to her garden.

Her life was so full, and she touched so many people. She was a credit to the Middlebury College community. "Sweet Sal," as her husband called her, is missed by all who knew her.

Karl A. Burtisgan, Jr. ’56
Norwalk, Connecticut

Weddings Plus...

I wonder if you would consider giving at least a page each in the magazine—with photo captions and historical comments—to the 25th and 30th year reunions? Although wedding pictures are nice, I believe it would also be nice to see how classmates have weathered the years and include a little history. For instance, 50 years ago we had great hockey teams under Duke Nelson, great ski teams, and great teachers, such as Cook and Munford in American literature, "Beowulf" Brown, Cubeta in Shakespeare, and former Lafayette Esquadille aviator Heinrichs among other distinguished faculty. Also, of course, fraternities and sororities.

Bill Simpson ’58
Pleasanton, California

Correction

In the fall 2006 feature story "The $44,000 Question," we reported that Middlebury's comprehensive fee of $44,000 per year is $13,600 less than the actual cost to educate a Middlebury student. That differential is incorrect. It should have been $29,000 less than the actual cost.

Letters Policy

Letters addressing topics discussed in the magazine are given priority, though they may be edited for brevity or clarity. On any given subject we will print letters that address that subject, and then in the next issue, letters that respond to the first letters. After that, we will move on to new subjects. Send letters to: Middlebury Magazine, 5 Court Street, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753. E-mail: middmag@middlebury.edu.
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CONTRIBUTORS

Bridget Besaw ("Of Faith and Reason," p. 30) is a photographer based in San Francisco. Her work has appeared in National Geographic Adventure, Smithsonian, and Yankee.

Ben Brouwer ’04 ("The Voyage of the Tern," p. 40) is a dancer, boatbuilder, sailor, and photographer from Lopez Island, Washington.

Michelle Chang ("Russ Leng’s Midd-Life Experience," p. 36) is an illustrator in New York City. Her work has appeared in Entertainment Weekly, the New Yorker, and Rolling Stone.

Elisabeth Crean ("Second Acts," p. 48) is a writer in South Hero, Vermont.

Andrea Cobb ("Tracks on the Red Kelly Trail," p. 88) is an illustrator in North Carolina.

Dennis Curran (Cover; "Opening Night," p. 22) is a photographer in Waitsfield, Vermont.

Max S. Gerber ("The Puppet Master," p. 46) is a photographer in Los Angeles.

Elliott Golden ("Abroad View," p. 24) is an illustrator in New York City.

Ben Gore ’04 ("The Voyage of the Tern," p. 40) is currently interning at Harper’s magazine in New York City.

Cynthia Jenson-Elliott ("The Puppet Master," p. 46) is a California-based freelance writer.

Sally West Johnson ’72 ("All Gather ‘Round," p. 18) is a writer in Middlebury.

Tim Johnson ("Abroad View," p. 24) is a writer in Burlington, Vermont.

A political science professor, Russ Leng ’60 ("Russ Leng’s Midd-Life Experience" p. 16) is retiring after nearly forty years of teaching at Middlebury.

Sheila McGrohy-Kiyya ("Sunday Night Live," p. 20) is a freelance writer in Bristol, Vermont.

Brett Millier ("Tracks on the Red Kelly Trail," p. 88) is the Reginald L. Cook Professor of English and American Literatures at Middlebury.

Zach Trenholm ("Hail to the Chief," p. 16) is an illustrator in San Francisco.

Gordon Wiebe ("All Gather ‘Round," p. 18) is an illustrator in Toronto.

Bruce Wood ("Opening Night," p. 22) is a freelance writer in Etna, New Hampshire.

Middlebury Magazine is pleased to announce the 5th Annual Middlebury Magazine Fiction Contest

Current Middlebury students and all Middlebury alumni (undergraduate or graduate) are invited to submit unpublished manuscripts of 3,000 words or fewer. The first-place selection winner, as chosen by a panel of judges, will receive $300, and the story will be published in the summer magazine.

• Manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced, and include a cover sheet with story title, author’s name, address, and phone number.

• Submissions may be e-mailed to mjennings@middlebury.edu or mailed to Middlebury Magazine, Attn: Fiction Contest, 5 Court Street, Middlebury, VT 05753

Deadline: April 2, 2007
HIDE AND SEEK
A child sneaks into a classroom in a small Tibetan village in Songpan, China. Though 30 students are in the class, there are only enough seats for 15, necessitating covert action to snag a seat.

This photo captured the 2007 Study Abroad photo contest. Photograph by Louise Griffin '07
At around 7:00 on the evening of October 24, students—with the occasional faculty, staff, and community member mixed in—began a slow, steady procession into Mead Chapel that didn’t stop until the 750-capacity building was full thirty minutes later. Those fortunate enough to gain entry had been standing outside the Chapel for hours, braving a cold, constant drizzle—the first student arrived outside the doors at 4:30, and by 6:30 a line five across stretched three-quarters of the way down Storrs Walk to Old Chapel Road. (Viewing sites had been set up in Dana Auditorium and Bicentennial Hall to accommodate the overflow crowd.)

With 45 minutes or so still to go until the night’s main event—the John Hamilton Fulton Lecture in the Liberal Arts—was to begin, undergrads began to pull books (God on the Quaid, The Odyssey) from their backpacks and settled as comfortably as they could into Mead’s wooden pews. A few people noodled over crossword puzzles, and a number of students plugged into their iPods. One young woman sitting in the balcony picked up a program for the lecture and upon seeing a picture of the speaker on the cover said to no one in particular, “What a babe.”

Now, in the 218 years since the United States Supreme Court was established, it’s probably safe to say that not many people have said such things about the Chief Justice of the United States, but John G. Roberts Jr. is the youngest chief justice in 200 years. He also has a great sense of humor, appears rather approachable, and exudes a normalcy that one doesn’t expect coming from the highest judicial officer in the land.

All of the above traits were on display that October evening as Roberts delivered the Fulton Lecture—reading from handwritten notes on white, lined paper—a speech he described as a tribute to his predecessor on the court, William H. Rehnquist. (Before Roberts took the dais, it was announced that Middlebury had established an endowed faculty chair named in Rehnquist’s honor.)

Roberts is a natural storyteller, and his history lesson on the 16th chief justice was peppered with humorous anecdotes, citations from the likes of Emerson, and a closing exhortation that “these times demand a greater emphasis on the study of American history and culture.”

With his prepared remarks finished, Roberts opened the floor to questions (with the caveat that he wouldn’t comment on cases that either were before the court or might come before the court). For about 25 minutes, he touched on the impact of modern technology on established legal rules (“perhaps the most important issue the Supreme Court will have to decide in five years”), legal precedent (“a reflection of the challenge of the job”), and universal jurisdiction for heinous crimes (“Whose rule of law would ascend to become the global rule of law? I understand the concept. I don’t know how it would be implemented.”).

To close, one student approached the standing microphone placed in the middle of the center aisle and pulled a recent issue of The Atlantic from his back pocket and began to read excerpts from a somewhat tongue-in-cheek piece written by a pair of writers (from the National Journal and Washington Post) that asserted that few jobs were as cushy as that of Supreme Court justices. “So, has it gotten too cushy for justices?” the student asked, while somehow managing to arch one eyebrow.

“I like my job a lot,” Roberts responded with a chuckle, “but I don’t know if I’d call it cushy.”

—Matt Jennings
Judging Rehnquist

In the fall, Middlebury President Ronald D. Liebowitz announced the establishment of an endowed professorship named in honor of Justice William H. Rehnquist, the late chief justice of the United States. The professorship—funded by an anonymous donor to honor the legacy of the nation's 16th chief justice—is devoted to furthering the study of American history, literature, and culture, and the first holder of the chair is history professor James R. Ralph '82, a teacher and scholar of American history whose research focuses on the civil rights movement.

"Jim Ralph's book, *Northern Protest: Martin Luther King Jr., Chicago, and the Civil Rights Movement*, made an important contribution to our understanding of a critical period in the nation's history," Liebowitz said. "I can think of no more fitting holder of the inaugural Rehnquist professorship."

The naming of a chair in honor of Rehnquist was not without controversy. A few weeks after the announcement, nearly 30 students and faculty members converged on Old Chapel to protest the naming. "Many see Rehnquist as a scholar of the Constitution," said junior Louis Lobel '08. "I respect [him] for his scholarly works, but a number of his views are immoral."

Eds and letters to the editor of the *Middlebury Campus*—both supporting and decrying the naming—followed and it was reported that the administration would work with student leaders to create an endowed professorship that would be named after a figure of the students' choosing.

At the December faculty meeting, roughly one-third of eligible voting members cast a ballot on a "sense of the faculty" motion stating that the faculty "wish[ed] to reaffirm our commitment to diversity at Middlebury College," as the recent naming of an endowed chair for William H. Rehnquist "undermines Middlebury College's ability to promote diversity among its faculty, students, and staff." The motion cited "the documented pattern of hostility Judge Rehnquist demonstrated toward historically underrepresented groups and the negative effects his judicial decisions continue to have on the individual members of these groups, namely people of color, women, gays, and lesbians."

"According to [the College's] mission statement," the motion continued, "diversity includes 'the integration of [these] historically underrepresented groups into the campus community.'" The motion passed with 52 in favor, 43 opposed.

In a January letter to the *Campus*, Liebowitz expressed disappointment in the contents of the resolution, writing that it "diminishes, quite ironically, the very thing it seeks—the institution commitment to 'diversity'!"

Allowing that the chief justice's political leanings differed from his own, Liebowitz argued that a political litmus test should not be used when accepting a gift honoring an individual. "To do otherwise narrows the range of ideas and perspectives a campus like ours is willing to entertain and debate.

Hail to the Chief, Part 2

William Jefferson Clinton, the 42nd president of the United States, will deliver the 2007 commencement address at Middlebury on May 27. Clinton's appearance marks the first time a U.S. president has delivered an address at the College. He will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters and will be joined by six other honorary degree recipients—Robert De Cormier, Janet Tiebout Hanson, James Gustave Speth, Mark and Dana Lim, and Huda Y. Zoghi.

Observed

*John G. Roberts Jr.*, the chief justice of the United States, delivered the 2006 John Hamilton Fulton Lecture in the Liberal Arts before a standing-room-only crowd in Mead Chapel on October 24. Despite the cold, raw day, students began lining up outside the chapel at 4:30 for the 8:00 lecture (doors opened at 7:00), and those unable to get into the chapel were able to watch the lecture remotely.

*Bill McKibben*, a Middlebury scholar-in-residence and recognized authority on environmental affairs, was tapped to direct a fellowship program in environmental journalism, which will be based at the College. Each year, the program will select 10 journalists—two of whom will be Middlebury seniors—and will work with them to produce news stories for print, the Internet, and radio.

*Also on the environmental front,* Nan Jenks-Jay, the College's director of environmental affairs since 1997, was named the dean of environmental affairs in December.

Illustration by John Pritchett

Winter 2007
On a glorious Saturday in early October, the Middlebury College Classics Department staged an experience in education that harked back to the early days of ancient Greece and Rome. Beginning on Friday evening and extending through the day Saturday, a dozen or so students and faculty took turns donning a garland of faux laurel leaves to read—in English—Virgil’s *Aeneid* from the first page to the last.

For those who skipped those lectures in Classical Literature 101, *The Aeneid* is Virgil’s account of the adventures of Aeneas, who survived the destruction of Troy by the Greeks and set sail with his men, seeking a new home. In the spirit of Odysseus, he endured all manner of natural and man-made disasters in his seven years before the mast, settling finally near the site of what would later become Rome.

The setting for the modern reading seemed fitting. The listeners sat on the steps of the College library while the readers stood in the shadow of the huge marble walls that demarcate the library’s grand entry, not unlike the walls of an ancient marble temple where Greeks might have gathered to listen to a reading of *The Iliad* or *The Odyssey*. The event was refreshingly low-tech. There were no modern accoutrements—no PowerPoint slides, no multi-media presentations, not even a microphone.

On the other hand, it should be noted that lack of technology can be a handicap in these noisy times. Spanish Professor Roberto Veguez was forced to rely on his voice to do audio battle with a cranked-up boom box, whooping sports fans at the stadium down the road, a helicopter hovering overhead for a time, and a seemingly endless parade of parents and prospective students. He struggled mightily to make himself heard as he implored the gods to show favor to poor Aeneas as he attempted to arrange a sacrificial feast in honor of the bones of his ancestors. (At least I think that’s what Aeneas was doing. It was hard to hear.)

Admittedly, it is tempting to poke fun at such an enterprise as the last stand of the Luddites. Tempting but unworthy. After all, the fact there exists a sizable branch of the publishing industry dedicated to "talking books" strongly suggests a significant resurgence of public interest in the oral tradition.

The audience never numbered more than a dozen or so at any given time, including at the two-hour Friday evening session that kicked off the marathon. Some of those in the audience were signed up to read; some appeared to be friends and roommates of the upcoming readers or perhaps students hoping to boost their grade point average in a classics class. Still others cast furtive glances this way and that, then sidled up to the plates of luscious Italian pastries that had been set out, grabbed a handful and were soon gone. Last but not least were the parents of prospective students, smiling and nodding encouragingly at their offspring, imagining in some misguided moment that Joey Jr. might prefer to spend his Saturdays listening to Virgil instead of sucking down brewskis at the football game. As fantasies go, this one is harmless.

Roberto Veguez was followed by Pavlos Sfyroeras of the Classics Department (a Cuban succeeded by a Greek), who took his turn at wearing the laurel garland. At noon, student Sara Helmers ’09 was scheduled to take over the podium. The marathon was planned to last until dinner time.

In the end, of course, what the *Aeneid* proves yet again is that old adage about there being nothing new under the sun. Replace Trojans and Greeks with Sunnis and Shias or Palestinians and Israelis, or Catholics and Protestants—it all amounts to the same thing: war, political strife, treachery, wandering refugees, and ultimately the making of history. Is it a plague or blessing to know that several thousand years later, *plus ca change*...

—Sally West Johnson ’72
Half a World Away

In the fall of 1976, 11 students became the first to study the Chinese language at Middlebury. The chaos of China’s 10-year-long Cultural Revolution was only beginning to abate, and the country had been closed to most Americans for more than a quarter century; studying Chinese seemed a strange choice, worthy at least of a raised eyebrow.

Today, China is a hybrid of Western capitalism and socialist ideology, and while the Communist Party remains in firm control of the country’s political apparatus, a liberalized economy is changing the face of the world’s most populous nation. And half a world away, Middlebury’s Chinese department has grown during the past 30 years—like China itself—in leaps and bounds.

The program’s accomplishments were cause for celebration during the course of a weekend in October, when graduates living in Beijing, New York, and many spots in between returned to Vermont for the department’s 30th anniversary reunion and conference.

“I think it’s fair to say we do represent something of a success story,” a beaming John Berninghausen, the department’s co-founder and Truscott Professor of Chinese, told a packed crowd of alums at the start of the event.

Modest words.

Today, more than 50 students are enrolled in first-year Chinese, while 43 others are in their second year. And the department’s signs of growth are visible elsewhere.

When Berninghausen and the late Gregory Kuei-ke-Chiang launched the department in 1976, the only courses offered were first- and second-year Chinese and Chinese literature in translation. Today, more than a dozen courses make up a curriculum rich in Chinese culture and linguistics, and 13 students take classes at Middlebury’s Chinese school in Hangzhou, China, a bustling city some 100 miles south of Shanghai—and more than 7,200 miles from the department’s home in Votey Hall.

At the reunion, people marveled at the growth of the department and compared experiences—both as students and as professionals. Of course, there were panel discussions and freewheeling conversations about China and Chinese (from conducting business in the People’s Republic to teaching the country’s language and history in the United States), and, as such events always do, the gathering also provided opportunities to reminisce: about late nights practicing characters for an upcoming tingqie (literally, “listen and write”) quiz; of January’s spent not on the slopes, but inside cramming for class (Berninghausen decided to make Chinese study in the one-month winter term mandatory in 1979; other departments soon followed suit).

“In our Chinese language courses, from the beginning level to our most advanced senior seminars, all seven faculty members in this department work hard to provide our students with dynamic and intensive instruction,” Berninghausen says, when asked to explain the program’s strength. “That is all in the service of a clear goal: to help each individual student thoroughly and rapidly attain strong proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and cultural background.”

Tim McCahill ’05 is writer at Men’s Journal in New York City and a former Chinese major.

Past Tense: February 1877

Isn’t the present appearance of Painter Hall rather a disgrace to this institution? Why will the students break out all the windows in the halls and throw ashes and slops all over the front steps? Some means ought to be taken to stop it.

—Middlebury Undergraduate, February 1877
Go Figure

741
New items received by the Middlebury College libraries in October

574
Number of books received

19
Number of musical scores received

3
Number of libraries at Middlebury

25,444
Number of items checked out in October

20,715
Number of items checked out at the main library

3,072
Number of items checked out at the music library

1,657
Number of items checked out at the Armstrong (science) library

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Sunday Night Live

"KEEP VERMONTERS WARM WILL BE BACK IN THIS CORNER," someone shouts, gesturing toward a spot near the fireplace in the Grand Salon of the Château. "Biodiesel will be out in the hall," someone else bellows.

It's Sunday evening, and 50 Middlebury students—give or take a few—have descended on the Château for the weekly gathering of the Sunday Night Group (SNG), a student collective working in various ways to combat climate change. It's raining outside and mid-terms are looming, which may explain the lower-than-normal turnout (70-plus students usually attend each meeting), but those who are in attendance are diligently breaking into groups of eight or nine to discuss issues they want to tackle or initiatives they want to launch. (Last spring, one such SNG brainstorming session culminated in the formation of a 130-student delegation that traveled to Montreal for the UN Climate Change Negotiations.)

SNG has the feel of something that's been part of campus life for a while, yet it's only two years old. Founded in January 2005, SNG had a simple beginning: a group of students in a Winter Term course on global warming began meeting independently outside of class on Sunday evenings, a time when little else was scheduled. They've been meeting every Sunday evening since, often drawing faculty, staff, and interested townspeople into their activities.

"I've spoken on hundreds of college campuses in the last decade, and there is no question that SNG represents the most active and engaged college environmentalists in the country," says author, environmentalist, and Scholar-in-Residence Bill McKibben. "They have a dozen good ideas at any given moment, they push them hard, and they learn from successes and failures. It is a self-taught school of environmental activism."

One of those good ideas has been commanding a lot of attention on campus lately: SNG's Carbon Neutrality Initiative (CNI). The term 'carbon neutral' has been receiving a lot of buzz—it will be added to the New Oxford American Dictionary in 2007—and it essentially means that an entity's net carbon emissions must be zero. "First and foremost, that means increasing energy efficiency and developing innovative ways to produce or purchase clean power from local sources," explains Jamie Henn, a senior history major and co-founder of SNG. "Second, the College would purchase 'carbon offsets,' meaning investments in emissions cutting programs elsewhere that compensate for the remaining emissions on campus."

Last fall, CNI launched an innovative PR campaign, blanketing the campus with its hip, eye-catching logo, middSHIFT (and its accompanying slogan, "Shift into carbon neutrality"). Then they followed that up with an educational session, all in the hopes of gaining crucial campus support for their cause—that the College will commit to being carbon neutral by 2017. (The group will make a formal presentation to the Board of Trustees at its next meeting in February. The students are hoping that the trustees will be as receptive as they were in early October when a small group pitched the idea and the board agreed to endorse CNI.) If the initiative is successful, Middlebury
could become the first college to achieve carbon neutrality.

“If Middlebury wants to remain an environmental leader, we need to be out there making bold steps,” Henn says. “The College has a real opportunity here to walk the talk. Biomass is a huge step in the right direction.”

“SNG has the image of a bunch of crazy, environmental hippies,” says Chester Harvey, a sophomore geography major, “but we want CNl to be feasible from a business perspective, to have the support of the suits and ties.”

To that end, the group has used brainstorming sessions to fine tune business language and develop branding concepts. And while these activists don’t exactly work within the system—they prefer to be “dynamic and quick, not stuck in the bureaucracy,” as Henn says—they recognize the need for coordination with the “key players” on campus, from the manager of the Snow Bowl up to the treasurer of the College.

Sierra Murdoch, a sophomore environmental studies major who has been involved with the group since she arrived on campus, has been instrumental in bringing together these key players. Their insights and those of some outside consultants will all contribute to the final plan that is presented to the Board, she says, but “in the end, the Initiative will involve the input of everyone on campus because everyone contributes to our carbon footprint.”

Clearly they have impressed those at the top and have earned their support and praise. “I admire and appreciate how they pursue what is important to them, and do so in such an effective manner,” says President Ron Liebowitz. “They have built something from the ground up without existing infrastructure, but smartly identified resources around them who assist them in thinking through how to get from A to B. This is a skill they will use all their lives, and is something we should be inculcating in all Middlebury students: identify what is important to you; pursue those interests and passions; take intellectual risks to achieve what you seek to accomplish; know your strengths and limitations; reach out to all available resources; and go for it.”

Perhaps it’s this “go for it” mentality that has led them to be called the most influential student group on campus. However, the group prefers to be dynamic and quick, not stuck in the bureaucracy, as Henn says. “We’re not even an official student group,” Harvey says. “We’re not recognized as one and we receive no funding from the College. We don’t want to be official. Then we’d have to follow the rules.”

—Sheila McGorry-Klyza

- November was Religious Life Awareness Month at Middlebury, the first time the event has unfolded over an entire month rather than one week. More than 1,000 people participated in the myriad events, which included a symposium on social justice sponsored by the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship.

- During exam week, three students spent 72 hours living in the library, an “event” covered by the Middlebury Campus. No word on how cozy the accommodations were.

- The women’s cross-country team captured its fourth national title, edging NESCAC rival Amherst, 144-143, at the NCAA championships in November. The championship was the College’s 27th since its teams began competing in NCAA post-season play in 1995.

- Thirty-four Middlebury students were named 2006 NESCAC Fall All-Academic selections. Only Amherst, Bowdoin, and Williams had more selections.

- Tragedy befell the Middlebury campus with the death of a first-year student, Norbert Vaughn ’10. Vaughn withdrew from the College in mid-October when he was diagnosed with a brain tumor. He died in mid-November due to complications from brain surgery.

- A pair of longtime Middlebury professors—Kim Sparks and D.K. Smith—passed away this fall. Their obituaries can be found on pages 80 and 81. They will be greatly missed.
THE CLACK OF STICK ON STICK and the scrape of skates on ice. The dull thud when a puck hits the boards. Voices echoing off empty seats.

A familiar potpourri of sound greets former Middlebury skater Jon Parr '92, who has flown in from Chicago with his girlfriend to catch the Panthers' opener against Tufts and the next afternoon's contest against Connecticut College.

While the women's team wraps up practice, Parr studies a plaque on the wall of Chip Kenyon '85 Arena. He runs his finger over a picture of the 1990-1991 ECAC championship team and stops at a younger version of himself sandwiched between Dave Fritzsche '92 and Chuck Hibbett '92.

“This will be the first time I've seen a game in this building,” a reverential Parr says with a look around the still-empty arena two hours before game time. “It’s almost a cathedral. I joke with my friends that this is a school of 2,100, and you could hold an Olympics here.”

At ground level of the eight-year-old arena, Parr's successors have shed the shirts and ties they wore to their 3:30 team dinner. Some are stickhandling balls in the hallway outside their locker room. A few will ride a stationary bike. Others will simply stretch, alone with thoughts of the impending season.

Upstairs, fans who queued up long before the doors open, renew acquaintances and marvel at how children have grown since last year.

“It's really a special environment,” Coach Bill Beaney says. “It's friends meeting friends after not having seen each other for a while. It's the anticipation of a new season, of everybody starting off with a perfect slate. Opening day is special, so full of promise.”

Seated on the floor at the head of the line waiting to enter the arena are Martha and Richard Venable of Salisbury, Vermont, along with Martha's son, 12-year-old Will Varno.

“We like to sit behind the home bench, because Will likes to lean over the glass and listen to the coach,” Martha says. “We get the same seats every game, except sometimes in the playoffs.”

Although Kenyon seating is general admission, an informal protocol has developed over the years. “Seats have kind of been reserved through continual usage,” explains Beaney. “If you're there early and the other person isn’t, you don't sit in their seat. Not that it always works 100 percent.”

Mike Funk of New Haven isn’t taking chances. He has placed newspaper sections over the Panthers' bench, where fans hope to catch snippets of Coach Beaney's instructions to his team.
seven top-row seats for friends. “It’s not preplanned which of
them will sit where,” he says, “but you don’t want someone
who leans sitting next to you.”

With 20 minutes to go before faceoff, Mike McGill’s
WCAX-TV standup drifts over the hum of the crowd.
“The Panthers don’t take anyone lightly, knowing as the
champs they get everyone’s A game;” McGill says, in a TV
voice back to the studio.

While McGill finishes up,

young eyes return to the ice
where Butch Atkins is cele-
brating 25 years aboard the
Middlebury Zamboni. “The
main thing is you don’t want
to pay attention to the fans
watching you when you are
out there,” he explains later.

“I’ll flash my lights and wave
to the kids once in a while, but
you’ve got to pay attention.”

Meanwhile, a short walk
away at the Center for the
Arts, Sally Swallow ’07 is fin-
ishing her half-hour of scales
and exercises in preparation for
singing both “O Canada” and
“The Star-Spangled Banner.”

“The American national
anthem is more challenging
musically,” she explains. “I
think it’s important to remain
true to the music that was
written, but I like to bring
some of myself to it. It’s amaz-
ing, hearing the arena hum-
ming along.”

Well before applause
drowns out Swallow’s final
notes, the teams are champing
at the bit to get going. “Doing
both anthems takes a little
longer, so you are trying to
focus your energy that whole
time,” says senior Brett
Shirreft’s. “Then you try to let
it really go in the first couple
of shifts.”

Before they do, Beaney
savors a moment with his
thoughts.

“I try to look around and
take it all in,” he says. “It’s a
healthy thing to do. To really
step back and say ‘You know,
this is a special day and a really
special place.’”

At the southwest end of
Kenyon, the student section
has started to chant, “Midd,
Midd, Midd,” and is still filling
in when a Ryan Scavy ’10
goal at 14:43 of the first period
elicits a roar. With that, senior
Leland Davis takes a lap
around the concourse carrying
a large M flag. When Shirreft’s
scores a few minutes later,
Davis—dressed in white shorts
and exercises in preparation for
the rink for the sixth and final
time. Before he returns, the
student section rattles keys,
chanting, “Warm up the bus.”

When time runs out, sev-
enth-year goal judge Allan
Duclos relaxes. “No mistakes
tonight,” he says. “Sometimes
you can get led by the crowd,
but you can’t anticipate.”

Following a cool-down jog
outside the locker room, the
Middlebury players knot their
ties and head to Kenyon
Lounge for a postgame meal.
The arena is quiet now.
Middlebury’s Director of
Athletic Communications
Brad Nadeau has scurried off
to file reports on the game.
Radio and video crews are
breaking down their equip-
ment in the press box.

In the empty stands, mem-
bbers of the Middlebury crew
team clean up popcorn boxes,
paper cups, and losing raffle
tickets to pay for their spring
trip to Georgia.

Deep in the bowels of the
building, Tanya Lizotte goes
about her business in the ath-
letic laundry room. If things
go as planned, she’ll have the
uniforms washed and dried by
midnight. Ready to do it all
again the next day.

—one lightly, knowing as the
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this is a special day and a really
special place.’”

At the southwest end of
of children turning him into a
blue-and-white Pied Piper.

Davis is leaning over the
railing sucking wind when
Mack Cummins makes it 3-0
just 36 seconds later.

“This is my third season
doing this,” Davis says between
periods. “After Mike Kirkland
’04 graduated, somebody had
to step up. Nobody did, so I
said, ‘Why not me?’”

While a parade of junior
high girls strolls the concourse
around the concourse carrying
a Middlebury hockey sweater,
cape, and white bandanna—
takes off again, a trailing group

Kenyon, the student section
has started to chant, “Midd,
Midd, Midd,” and is still filling
in when a Ryan Scavy ’10
goal at 14:43 of the first period
elicits a roar. With that, senior
Leland Davis takes a lap
around the concourse carrying
a large M flag. When Shirreft’s
scores a few minutes later,
Davis—dressed in white shorts
and exercises in preparation for
the rink for the sixth and final
time. Before he returns, the
student section rattles keys,
chanting, “Warm up the bus.”

When time runs out, sev-
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Bruce Wood is a writer in Etna,
New Hampshire.
Abroad View

Understanding China—and its primary language—has never been more important.

By Tim Johnson

Soon after North Korea tested a nuclear weapon this past fall, the students in Chinese 425 started their discussion of the crisis-in-the-making by considering Beijing's official reaction.

The jumping-off point for their classroom dialogue was a news account from an officially sanctioned Chinese wire service, quoting the likes of President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao, just as the text had appeared in the Chinese press.

The students noted that Hu said the sorts of diplomatic things one might expect a national leader to say: that China "resolutely opposes North Korea's nuclear test" but would strive for a peaceful, negotiated resolution and a resumption of six-nation talks to defuse the situation.

Moving on to a more general discussion of the North Korean problem, Hang Du, assistant professor of Chinese, presided over what proved to be a fairly lively interchange. She maintained a swift conversational pace—here questioning a student on a phrase or concept, there injecting a joke or a serious comment and inviting others.

What's noteworthy about this course, Contemporary Social Issues in China, is that it's conducted entirely in Chinese. Not just the readings, but all the class discussions, the individual student presentations, the essays, and other written work—all are in Chinese. In fact, when Du arrives in the classroom, the custom before the session begins is for everyone to stop speaking English and revert to Chinese, even in informal banter. ("What did you do last night?" or "Could I borrow your car?") This comes almost naturally to these students, most of whom have been through the Middlebury summer language school and a semester's language study at the Middlebury school in China, located in Hangzhou—programs that both entail a pledge to speak nothing but Chinese.

The fall semester's readings—from newspapers, journals, and other current Chinese sources—have covered a heady array of topics: Chinese college life, student suicide, sex and homosexuality, national demographics (the problem of caring for pensioners, the growing male-female imbalance), China's role in global warming, the legal system and the death penalty, Sino-Japanese relations.

Now and then Du would throw something utterly unacademic into the mix. In the run-up to Halloween, there were some contemporary Chinese ghost stories.

China Rising

With China emerging as the world's next superpower, the study of societal issues within the Asian giant takes on added import.
Perhaps the most unconventional reading assignment was a poignantly elegant essay, an arresting declaration of love titled “I Want to Hold Your Hand”—composed by a nameless applicant in Shanghai on a written portion of this year’s Chinese college-entrance exam.

Yet for all the time Du and her students spend talking about issues, Chinese 425 is still fundamentally a language class. Du’s Ph.D. is in linguistics and, while her assigned readings reflect her interest in other fields as they pertain to China (sociology, international relations), the main thrust of her work in the classroom is to help students master the key phrases in the texts they read.

“Xian mu, what does that mean?” she asked during the session on the “Hand” essay, referring to two characters she’d highlighted in the text. The expression is normally translated as “to admire,” but the definitions she invited, of course, had to be in Chinese. “Yan hong,” one student suggested. This literally means “red eye,” or figuratively, “to envy.”

“Not quite,” Du replied, and then explained the distinction: one compound has a positive connotation, the other, negative.

The “Hand” essay demanded an unusual amount of nuanced interpretation and inference. Neither the gender of the writer nor the gender of the object of the writer’s affection was explicit. The best inference was that both were male, and that the piece was, in fact, an avowal of homosexual love. Some students figured this out in their first reading; others reached the “Ah ha” stage later, as the class went through the piece.

Whoever had to grade the essay in China apparently read it the same way. It purportedly received a score of “zero” in the college-entrance exam, Du said.

When the students in Chinese 425 speak in general terms about the China they’ve experienced, one of the recurrent descriptions they use is bao shou, by which they mean “socially conservative.” China is a place, after all, where sexual freedom is commonly frowned on—where an essay like “Hand” can get a failing grade and where a collegiate one-night stand can be grounds for expulsion.

On the other hand, China’s breathtaking economic growth is leading to societal changes nobody could have predicted a few years ago. A common observation among the Middlebury students is that government control of personal expression is much less severe than they had anticipated.

During one class, Kate Leyland ’07 said that while in Beijing, she had seen a private showing of a film on the 1989 Tiananmen Square protest—including the iconic scene of the man standing up to the advancing tank.

That such a film could be shown in China came as a surprise to Du, who is from Beijing. “I never saw that movie when I was in China,” she said later. Now in her third year teaching the course, she added: “Every year, I learn something new from the students in this class.”

Something else that’s new to her—but old hat to the students who have lived in China in the past year—is the phenomenon of the wang ba. These are Internet cafes, often smoke-filled dives, where many Chinese young people hang out. Leyland suggested that blogging would be a force for social change.

Leyland’s comments came during a class presentation on her impressions of China. Every fall, students are assigned a 10-minute oral discourse on their personal views of China. Most accounts were heavily anecdotal, drawing not just from experiences in and around the university at Hangzhou, but from travels, from temporary jobs, and from encounters on the street.

One undercurrent in most of these talks was a fondness for the country and for people the students had met. They repeatedly mentioned that their language facility paved the way for insights, contacts, and understandings they could never have achieved as mere tourists. Most of them said they wanted to go back.

Leyland concluded her talk with an anecdote that, she said, was emblematic of the public face that China likes to present to the world.

When she went to visit Mao’s tomb in Beijing, it was closed for the day. The public face in this place, a national showcase, belonged to a security guard who told her to come back another time.

He was, she told her amused classmates, the most handsome man she had seen in China.
Listening to Students

During a series of meetings, the president learns what is on their minds.

By President Ronald D. Liebowitz

During the fall semester, I organized a series of nine student lunches and held expanded office hours in an attempt to hear our students’ opinions on issues related to their Middlebury experience. These meetings provided me with a refreshing and thought-provoking picture of our students and the education they are receiving at the College.

Though they are, as I learned, very content at Middlebury, most of the students loved the opportunity to speak openly and critically about many aspects of life at Middlebury that they would like to see improved or changed.

Here is a brief summary of a few of the issues covered in the lunches, along with some thoughts I take forward from those encounters. I should note that the gatherings were not with specific groups of students, such as the student government leadership, the Campus editorial board, or the Commons Councils. Each meeting consisted of a random mix of students; in many cases, few students knew other students at their particular lunch. These random compositions produced discussions that included diverse opinions from students whose voices are not typically represented by official student organizations.

In the category of “not surprising, but heartening to hear,” students were nearly unanimous in praising our faculty for their commitment to undergraduate teaching and their ability to convey effectively the excitement and relevance of their fields. Such a reaction by the students supports the flattering, albeit unscientific, top ranking our faculty received this past year from The Princeton Review in the category “Professors Get High Marks.” Only one of the approximately 100 students who attended the lunches voiced criticism of the quality of teaching and level of engagement of our faculty.

I heard many examples of faculty extending themselves to help students understand the subject matter, help them write and argue more precisely, and guide them in effectively communicating findings from independent or collaborative work to peer and external audiences.

Students voiced concern more than once about the academic workload, claiming some assignments in too many courses seemed gratuitous. This issue was raised during the strategic planning process, and there was much discussion about the pressures some faculty—especially the younger faculty—feel to assign a certain quantity of work to avoid the reputation of being too easy, even if the marginal gains for students are minimal.

The extra work, students argue, promotes a self-fulfilling “work hard, play hard” mentality that results in irresponsibility and limited social endeavors. It also, students claim, reduces the amount of time available for reflection and to pursue

meaningful activities outside the classroom.

Students asked when the Monterey initiative would provide opportunities for them. Many would like to see a semester or yearlong program through which students would take international-oriented courses not offered at Middlebury, including courses in, and related to, business. They would also like to see the establishment of a “4+1” program through which students would earn a B.A. from Middlebury and an M.A. or M.B.A. from Monterey in one of a number of internationally focused areas. In addition, students are seeking summer and winter term internships and research assistant opportunities at Monterey’s world-renowned Center for Nonproliferation Studies. All of these programmatic ideas will be engaged this year by Middlebury and Monterey administrators and faculty, and we are hopeful we can turn these ideas into opportunities next year.

I heard a number of students voice concern over the College’s formidable bureaucracies—about offices with staff eager to help, but which, the students maintain, has the unintended consequence of stifling student initiative and
Many students have been able to cut through such bureaucracies (the Organic Garden founders, the Sunday Night Group, the Middlebury Musicians Guild), but far too many, apparently, have not. This issue was a theme particularly of students who visited during office hours.

Students questioned the College community's commitment to diversity, tolerance, and mutual respect. Many said they would like to see a more racially and socioeconomically diverse student body to enrich Middlebury's learning environment. Some students said they believe their views are not welcome in class or in general discussions around campus, and that the strong support for diversity efforts excludes a desire for a learning environment that fosters and welcomes diversity of thought. The recent controversy over the College accepting a gift to establish an endowed professorship in honor of former Chief Justice William Rehnquist was the most recent example cited by the students.

There were many thoughtful comments and important questions raised about our Commons residential initiative. Students, in general, are far more supportive today of the Commons system than they have been at any time since it was introduced. The good work of the Commons heads and deans in establishing a richer environment for learning beyond the classroom and in strengthening communication with faculty about student issues has contributed significantly to this more positive attitude. Yet, the student body remains divided when it comes to the soundness of the philosophy that lies behind the system, and to its prescriptive nature.

The strongest supporters of the system point to the benefits of creating smaller communities within the larger 2,350-student body; to the decentralization of the dean of students office and the greater personalization that has come with having a dedicated dean in each Commons; to the greater likelihood of students that trying to build continuing residential communities across all four classes when such a large percentage of the student body studies away (around 60 percent of juniors) seems incongruous.

Several students asked about College finances and the cost of completing the Commons infrastructure. With the infrastructure of two of the five Commons in place, completion of the system will require adding three new dining halls and at least three residence halls. Students wanted to discuss what the College might not be able to do in the future if it were to allocate such a significant commitment of resources to complete the Commons infrastructure. They asked if such an investment is more worthwhile to the College than using the funds for other purposes identified in the College's new strategic plan: improving access to Middlebury through increased financial aid, adding faculty to ensure small(er) classes and more student-faculty collaborative work, and enriching our existing academic and co-curricular programs.

And finally, I heard from several students about our student body's "hidden" or "underground" talents.

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To reach Ron Liebowitz, e-mail officeofthepresident@middlebury.edu
FROZEN IN TIME
Snow, ice, blue skies, and a pristine campus lend a timeless quality to this winter scene.
Photograph by Dennis Curran
Is the language of religion a conversation stopper or an avenue to further intellectual and spiritual inquiry at Middlebury?

By Matt Jennings • Photography by Bridget Besaw

Of Faith and Reason
The question seemed to hang in the air for an eternity.

"Why should anyone care?"

James Davis, an assistant professor of religion and an ordained Presbyterian minister, paced at the students, faculty, and local clergy seated in rows of folding chairs in the garden behind the president’s house. The question was directed at him, and he let the weight of the query sink in—it was, after all, why roughly 75 people had gathered at 3 South Street on a warm and sunny September afternoon—before he finally answered it.

“I think it’s fairly straightforward,” he said. “I believe that no less than the future of moral discourse is at stake.”

For the past hour, Davis and Laura Lieber (an assistant professor of classics and religion and an ordained rabbi) had challenged the use of an expression that has roiled the waters of the so-called culture wars: the notion of a Judeo-Christian ethic—specifically, Is there one?

In back-to-back lectures at an event convened by Middlebury’s Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life, the religion scholars debunked a phrase that has recurrently popped up on the airwaves, in editorials, and between hard covers of bestsellers and has been used to define “social values.” And while their speaking styles differed—if you were to close your eyes during Lieber’s presentation, which was laced with humor and self-deprecation, you’d swear you were listening to an NPR commentary; Davis sounded like, well, a speaker delivering a lecture from a podium—their conclusions did not diverge.

After Lieber had rejected the term as exclusionary and divisive and framed entirely from the Christian perspective, Davis concurred, stating: “I agree with Laura that the answer to the question, ‘Is there a Judeo-Christian ethic’ is a resounding ‘No.’” It’s bad history, it’s bad theology, it makes no sense on either side of the hyphen, Davis continued. Later, during a question-and-answer session, Davis was asked if the phrase was so attractive because it demonstrates a moral compass. “Perhaps,” he replied. “But if so, it is appealing to the lowest common denominator.”

Though lots of people nodded along with Davis and Lieber, not everyone agreed. Skepticism was etched on the faces of several students, and one professor challenged Lieber’s interpretation of the Ten Commandments. Still, what was not in dispute was the under-lying premise of the gathering: why the debate should be engaged at all.

In a January 2005 essay titled “One University, Under God?” in the Chronicle of Higher Education, Stanley Fish, an emeritus dean at the University of Illinois-Chicago, posited that religion would succeed “high theory and the triumvirate of race, gender, and class, as the center of intellectual energy in the academy.” It is a theory that Gus Jordan does not dispute.

Jordan is the director of Middlebury’s Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life, a position he has held since the center was opened in 2004. He is a slender man of medium height, has blond hair that has all but receded from his forehead, and wears oval rimless glasses. A native of Georgia, he still speaks with a soft, Southern lilt.

Jordan says that the Scott Center was created to facilitate the development and integration of religious and intellectual prac-

tices—to bring ethical and moral conversations back into the fabric of the community. “If you think about the Chaplain’s Office providing a direct spiritual role with the students and the community, the Scott Center is broadening that mission to interact with the intellectual life of the College,” Jordan says. (The Chaplain’s Office is part of the Scott Center, and Jordan’s wife, Laurie Macaulay Jordan ’79, is the chaplain. It was Laurie who conceived the idea for a center for spiritual life when she assumed the role of chaplain a decade ago.) “We’re cross-disciplinary, cross-divisional. Our purpose is to address the practice of faith traditions in one’s life and integrate it into the intellectual life of the community.” The Davis-Lieber lecture at the president’s house was the first of what he hopes will be many opportunities where the Middlebury community can congregate to discuss and debate the great moral and ethical issues of the day.

Yet as Fish wrote in his essay, “it is one thing to take religion as an object of study and another to take religion seriously. To take religion seriously would be to regard it not as a phenomenon to be analyzed at arm’s length, but as a candidate for truth.”

Jordan, who is an ordained Methodist minister and has a Ph.D. in psychology, says that his biggest challenge is to convince busy students that ethical questions impact them. But there is also the culture of the academy itself. In a recent survey conducted by the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles, 62 percent of college juniors nationwide reported that their professors never encouraged discussions of spirituality or religion, and 56 percent said their professors had never provided opportunities to discuss the meaning of life. It’s an issue that mirrors one of society’s more pertinent questions: Can religion contribute positively to moral debate or is it a conversation stopper?

“Thats what college is for, right?” Jordan says, tilting his head. “If we can’t question convention and explore these kinds of issues here…”

Last fall, a task force at Harvard University recommended that the Ivy League institution revamp its undergraduate curriculum to incorporate the required study of religion. Louis Menand, the noted essayist and a professor of English and American literature at Harvard (and a co-chair of the task force), championed the proposal, telling the Chronicle of Higher Education that “if we’re looking to help students prepare themselves to be ethical citizens for democracy and a global society—characterized by rapid change and conflicts between reason and faith and by massive social change and changes in quality of life introduced by science and technology—these are areas we want to make sure they have an understanding of…. Twenty years ago, we might not have thought it was important that students need to understand something about religion, but we felt that it is something secular universities may not be preparing students to deal with.”

Justin Stearns, a visiting instructor of religion at Middlebury, couldn’t agree more with Menand’s assertion that the study of religion is vital to the understanding of the world around us, but he gives a little more credit to what he calls the “secular majority,” which, he says “has come to terms that they need to understand the motivating force of the religious.”
Of course, it's not as if the study of religion has ever been absent from higher education. Courses on the history and literature of religion (think Old Testament, metaphysical poetry) have been staples of academic curricula for generations. Now, however, many religion scholars are paying close attention to the way faith intersects with modern society.

Stearns, who specializes in Islamic thought, conducted a seminar this fall on the Qur'an. "With so much pressure being put on the text," he says, "it's exciting to be teaching it now. Yet it takes a while for the students to get comfortable, it's easy to fall back into Manichean (black and white) thinking. There's a lot in the Qur'an that does not sit right with the students. But it's my hope that we can move past this impatience, this thought of 'this is wrong,' because the Qur'an can teach us a great deal about being human—think about how many people it has influenced. The significance of the book is not words on the page but how people have given them meaning."

Toward the end of the semester, Stearns's seminar focused on the Qur'an and modernity. On a chilly afternoon in early December, the class gathered in its regular meeting place, a seminar room on the fourth floor of Old Chapel, directly above the president's office. Six students sat around a large conference table, while Stearns stood before a white dry-erase board, black marker in hand. The discussion was centered on a pair of Muslim scholars from the 19th and 20th centuries—Mohammad Abduh and Sayyid Qutb—who held opposing views on the role of Islam in the modern world.

For nearly an hour, Stearns feverishly tried to keep pace with the discussion, noting the students' thoughts and ideas on the white board—"Renaissance = Enlightenment = modernity?? ...Abduh (d. 1905) pro-modernity, Qutb (d. 1966) anti-Western, anti-modern?"—while also subtly encouraging the students to dig deeper.

"So Qutb sees parallels between the Muslim Brotherhood movement in Egypt in the 1950s and the Prophet," Stearns said. "What are the implications here? Some of them are scary."

Silence.

"Qutb found Egyptian society to be living in spiritual ignorance, right?" Stearns presses. "Why was this so?"

"Because they were caught up in modernization," one student offered.

Stearns nodded.

"Qutb is seeing emerging capitalism," the student continued, "it's Adam Smith via Marx to Said Qutb."

Stearns smiled.

Outside, snow flurries began to drift past the windows, and while Stearns and his class continued their discussion of the Qur'an in the modern world, the sight of snow drew a visitor's attention to the setting of the seminar itself and the cognitive dissonance of an intense discussion on Islam taking place in a former Christian chapel. Electric candles burned in the windows, which offered views straight out of Currier and Ives; in one, the white spire of the Congregational Church was centered perfectly in the window's frame.
A few days later, James Davis, the religion professor who spoke at the president's house, convened the final meeting of his course on religious ethics. It was a few minutes before 8 o'clock on a Monday morning, and students were slowly trickling into the Gifford Hall classroom. With the enthusiasm of a coach, a clapping Davis exhorted—"Let's go! Let's go!"—the last few stragglers to hustle into the room before he shut the door.

"OK," he began. "We spent the whole semester looking at the range of Christian, Jewish, and Islamic perspectives on moral issues; hopefully by now there's no way for you to say 'the Christian perspective on abortion is ______.' Now I want to talk about the role of religion in the public moral debate. It's an issue of critical importance in the American experience."

Despite the early hour, Davis was brimming with energy and his dynamism quickly awakened what moments before had been a sleepy bunch of students.

"What's the religion clause of the First Amendment?" he asked.

After some shuffling of papers, a student in the back read aloud: "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

"Right," Davis said, before adding theatrically, "Wait a minute. You missed something. Where were the words 'separation of church and state'?" Feigning surprise, he continued: "What, it's not in there?"

The class chuckled.

"It's not in there because the term 'separation of church and state' does not occur in the First Amendment," Davis said. "That phrase did not enter the American lexicon until Thomas Jefferson included it in a letter to the Danbury Baptist Association in 1802. And the point to this is, the First Amendment seems to dictate the protection of free expression and the prohibition of government from imposing a state religion on the people."

After establishing that the Framers of the Constitution had never explicitly proscribed the intermingling of religion and politics, Davis laid out a series of arguments both for and against the exclusion of religion in politics (For: You can't legislate morality; against: excluding religion robs public morality of valuable insight). Glancing at the clock, which showed that it was near the top of the hour, he began to wrap up: "So, what are our options? On the one hand, the esteemed political philosopher John Rawls suggests that religious reasons are not broad enough to consider when arguing for or against a political position. And I've just made three compelling arguments for why religion should be excluded from politics. But if religion and politics is wrong, what do we make of this?"

As he asks this final question, Davis punches a few buttons on the podium at the front of the room. The lights dim, a screen drops down in front of the blackboard, and a projector mounted on the ceiling whirs to life.

And there on the screen is Martin Luther King, Jr., standing in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial.

"I have a dream today."
James Davis is sitting at a table in the Juice Bar and is talking about how he came to be teaching religion at a liberal arts school. The fall semester has ended, and he's taking a break from grading papers, but if he's tired or worn out, you'd never know it. There's an All-American—Everyman-quality to Davis, whose boyish face, somewhat goofy sense of humor, and way of speaking calls to mind the actor Tom Hanks. He's the first in his family to graduate from college, and he always assumed he'd go into the ministry—in fact, after earning a master's in divinity, he spent five years in the pastoral ministry while a doctoral student at the University of Virginia. However, he found that he was more interested in teaching and decided to pursue a faculty position in a seminary. "I assumed that was how I'd connect my ecclesiastical loyalties with a desire to teach," he said, but then he learned of a position in the religion department at Middlebury, teaching American religious history.

"For a person who was thinking about going into the ministry...." The sentence trails off as Davis laughs, but the implication is clear. A liberal arts school in Vermont where secularism is predominant is a long way from a House of God, but Davis adds, "I can't imagine being anywhere else. In a sense, Middlebury is a microcosm of society. In class, we study the role of religion in public debates, and a great place to start is right."

"I think students seem quite free and courageous to express their views in class. Outside, it's a little harder for them to find their voice. There are cultural reasons for this. There's an ethos associated with academia, generally, and liberal arts schools, specifically, that leads to an intolerance of views rooted in faith."

A number of people who were interviewed for this story expressed a similar sentiment, which speaks to the core mission of Gus Jordan's efforts at the Scott Center and reflects Stanley Fish's contention that legitimizing the study of religion is one thing; welcoming religious viewpoints into campus discussions and debates is something else entirely.

Marie Lucci '08 is a Spanish and religion major, and she serves as the president of the Newman Club, the Catholic student organization. Lucci says that she goes through periods when she feels comfortable talking about her faith and periods when she doesn't. "There are places where I feel so comfortable—within the religion department, among other people of faith. But in other situations, if people are less informed about and therefore less sensitive to the importance of religion in someone's life, then religion is dismissed. Many of those times I feel that Catholicism, especially, is stereotyped. I've had people come up to me and say, 'You're Catholic? But you're so normal.'"

"But the potential is there," to really engage the larger questions of faith and values, she adds. "Middlebury seems to be saying, 'We want to empower people to tackle these issues.' But it's on us to do it."

Karina Arrue '07 is an English major from Jersey City, New Jersey. For her senior project, she is examining the role religion and spirituality plays in the lives of students at Middlebury. Arrue is also a devout Christian and says that before she arrived at Middlebury she had never really thought about how her faith, along with her mind, could inform her stance on issues, such as the environment and foreign affairs. "I simply assumed as a Christian, I was supposed to think a certain way," she wrote on her blog, Upsurge: Contemplations of Religious Life at Middlebury. "I was shocked when not all the Christians I met on campus shared the same point of view on such key issues. It's really uncomfortable when you find that things are not as you always thought they should be."

"A certain level of discomfort is healthy," Arrue says when asked about this notation in her blog. "But that doesn't make it easy." Like Lucci, she says there have been times when she's censored herself when issues of faith come up in conversation—"I find myself walking on eggshells not to say something to stop the conversation"—but she'll be the first to say that this aversion to conflict doesn't serve the larger purpose of engaging the community. "It's in the conflict of confrontation where prejudices are exposed," she says, "but that can be a good thing. Because once something is exposed, it can be addressed. Until then, it's just hidden. And it can breed resentment."

Sometimes an event occurs when an issue looms so large that the community would be derelict not to address it. Take the controversy surrounding the 2005 publication in a Danish newspaper of a series of editorial cartoons depicting the prophet Muhammad. The initial reaction was muted, but when the cartoons were reprinted in other newspapers around the world, protests ensued, including many violent demonstrations in the Middle East. At Middlebury, a group of students, including several members of the Islamic Society, organized a panel discussion to facilitate conversation about the controversy.
Febe Armanios, an assistant professor of history who specializes in the Middle East, moderated the panel. She remembers the early March day as one of those days when it was really cold outside, but broiling inside. The room in the Robert A. Jones '59 House was packed, with people lining the back wall and sitting on the floor.

Armanios gave a brief opening presentation in which she gave the background of the controversy, and then she opened the floor for discussion.

"Of all the panels I've done since I've been here, it was the most uncomfortable yet engaging," Armanios says. "It got heated at times. People came at the issue from extreme points of view, both in condemning the publication and defending it. I thought it was one of those issues where it was important to be critical of all sides, but I can see how from a belief standpoint, this could be hard."

For all the discomfort, Armanios says, it's critical if Middlebury is to be a place that welcomes debate. "I think there's an interest to sustain it, but there's an incumbency on the student body—a diverse student body—to make it happen."

Gus Jordan expects the College's Religious Life Council to play a leading role in furthering such efforts. Comprised of members of various religious organizations on campus, the Religious Life Council has evolved from a club of students interested in interfaith efforts to a leadership organization committed to addressing moral issues, says Chaplain Laurie Jordan.

This year, the Council worked with the Scott Center and the Chaplain's Office to organize a Religious Life Awareness month at Middlebury—the first time such an event had unfolded over the course of an entire month (previous awareness events were weeklong affairs). More than 1,000 people participated in programs ranging from a symposium on social justice to prayer group meetings. Afterward, Associate Chaplain Ira Schiffer said that he felt that the monthlong event did a great job in furthering interfaith understanding. He pointed out that in December, members of the College's Jewish organization, Hillel, joined with the Christian fellowship organization, in promoting and attending each other's weekly meetings.

Yet this interfaith commingling shouldn't come as much of a surprise. Marie Lucci, the Newman president, says that she feels much more comfortable talking about her faith with others of faith, regardless of their religion. "Sometimes I need the comfort of being in a religious community." Though Catholic, Lucci attends Hillel meetings just about every week—"I see a lot of similarities between the Catholic and Jewish liturgies"—and one of her closest friends is Rachel Bearman '08, a co-president of Hillel. Over lunch recently, the two spoke passionately about what it means to be a person of faith at Middlebury—Bearman was so involved in the conversation that she didn't touch her hamburger over the course of an hour—and they both agreed that interfaith relations on campus were vibrant and strong.

Schiffer agrees. "There's a strong sense of support and camaraderie among the various religious organizations. And, in a sense, I think our office has been programming for our core group—the religious groups on campus. But that's changing."

Each fall, incoming first-years participate in a comprehensive survey, a portion of which measures religious beliefs. Over the past five years or so, about 30 percent of all first-years have indicated that they have no religious preference. (This year's incoming class was slightly higher, with 39 percent responding that they had no religious preference.) These percentages are twice the national average of around 15 percent of matriculating freshmen who indicated they did not have a religious preference.

Schiffer says that the September 11 terrorist attacks sparked somewhat of a spiritual awakening at Middlebury. But still, he says, the College remains "an a-religious, secular, and at times anti-religious place." If the mission of the Scott Center is to succeed—and if Stanley Fish's premise that religion will truly be the center of intellectual energy in the academy—boundaries will need to be stretched, beliefs challenged, and an ethos of inquiry embraced. "There's too much at stake not to strive for this," Schiffer says.

Sitting at his desk one December afternoon, he spins around to face his computer so he can read an Umberto Eco quote that perfectly illustrates this position.

"Only educational institutions, among them universities, are still the places where mutual confrontation and discussion and better ideas for a better world can be found," Schiffer reads. "In my wildest dreams, there is the image of the academic milieu where even the most insolvable problems of our time can be peacefully discussed."

"Worth striving for," Schiffer says, "don't you think?"

Many students of different faiths and beliefs were interviewed for this story. Due to space constraints, not all appear in "Of Faith and Reason." These stories can be found at www.middleburymagazine.org
On the eve of his retirement, a longtime political science professor and Middlebury alum riffs on fraternities, anxiety dreams, the Vietnam era, and the perils of missing a scheduled exam.

My scariest moment as a Middlebury undergraduate began on a sunny May afternoon in my sophomore year, not long after I arrived at the Field House to take my last final exam. (All final exams were proctored in the Field House in those days, and seats were assigned.) As I scanned the bulletin board to find my seat, not only could I not find my name, I could find no mention of the course. I had arrived at the wrong time; the exam had been given that morning. I dashed off to find the instructor, only to be told that he was out of town. I soon found myself attempting to explain the situation to an unimpressed department chair. Finally, he looked up from filling his pipe and told me that he did not see what the problem was. The exam had been given at the appointed time; I did not take it; therefore I would receive a grade of zero. As I left his office, my imagination conjured up a bleak image of the future. I would fail the course, I would lose my scholarship, I would be forced to leave Middlebury, and then what? Disaster was averted by the intervention of the dean of men, who allowed me to take a makeup exam. But the last thing that would have occurred to me on that day was a future of 40 years of teaching at Middlebury College.
A boy who is repeatedly called “the absentminded professor” by a mother exasperated by his daydreaming is not likely to view college teaching as a glamorous profession. But I liked school, and I remember back in grammar school telling my father that I would like to be a teacher someday. To my innocent mind, teaching did not look like work, at least not the kind that took place in the business world, and there were those nice long holidays, not to mention having the summer off. Today it seems natural that I ultimately became a teacher; that I ended up as a professor at Middlebury had more to do with luck.

When I began looking at colleges, my father suggested Middlebury as one of a number of what he called “good New England liberal arts colleges.” My interest was piqued when I noticed that Middlebury was coed and had its own ski area. I applied, and during the spring recess of my senior year, a high school friend and I headed north from New Jersey to visit Middlebury and Dartmouth, and to do some skiing. It was going to be a great adventure, especially as neither one of us knew how to ski. We got as far as Connecticut before we had to turn back because the absent-minded professor had forgotten his ski boots. It was the first of many missteps along the way. We frequently got lost; I did not get an interview at either school; and our attempt to ski at the Snow Bowl was derailed by a wrong turn in Ripton. Nevertheless, after a one-on-one campus tour by a genial retired professor, Middlebury became my first choice. My mother liked to tell her friends that her son was admitted to the college of his choice, “a nice liberal arts school in Vermont, with skiing and girls.”

I arrived on campus in September 1956 with two suitcases and a radio. (Today most students arrive with U-Haul trucks.) My two roommates were an outgoing and idealistic Vermonter and a worldly-wise preppie from Massachusetts. I happily discovered that I was not as ill-prepared for college as I feared—or as my prep-school-trained roommate told me I was. But, beyond the first few lines of the Canterbury Tales, which all freshmen were required to memorize, I remember little about my courses that year. My most vivid memory of my first course in political science—the field that would be my major and career choice—was that of mooning over the upperclasswoman who sat next to me. She knitted her way through the lectures, seemingly unaware that there was anyone at all sitting to her left. My major triumph that year was winning $15 by placing second in a public-speaking contest. (There were three entries.)
One professor tried to start an “anti-apathy” movement, but it died from lack of interest.

The sexes were geographically separated by a fault line that ran down the center of College Street, which was patrolled by the College’s single security officer. The women were on the wrong side of the street, insofar as social freedom was concerned. Outside of the classroom, men were on their own, although the *Handbook* specified that we were responsible for the consequences of our actions, “drunk or sober.” The women were shackled with petty restrictions, including “parietal hours.”

Women had to be back in their dorm rooms by 10:00 P.M. during the week, and 11:00 on weekends. (Today most college parties do not get under way until after 10:00.) I remember the sad incident of a classmate who sneaked into his girlfriend’s room on the second floor of Pearson Hall, only to find himself trapped there after hours. He decided to make a dash for the exit out the front door by holding a blanket over his head to avoid being recognized by the dorm mother, who sat at a desk at the base of the staircase. He managed to race down the stairs without tripping but, when he reached the lobby, the blanket blinded his vision. He missed the door, hit the wall, and knocked himself unconscious.

It was also the era of compulsory chapel and Saturday morning classes. Both were failures. Students brought reading material to Sunday evening chapel services, and there was a thriving black market in the cards that were handed out to certify attendance. Attendance at Saturday classes was not much better, with some male student attendees too hung over to function. Heavy drinking and its consequences, including deadly automobile accidents on trips back from New York state, where the drinking age was lower, were major problems. Too many former classmates who were heavy party drinkers in college later became alcoholics.

My father died shortly before Christmas of my freshman year. He had little life insurance and no retirement benefits. Family friends advised me to drop out of college, get a job, and consider night school. But the College came through with a full-tuition scholarship and campus jobs. It was then that I began to think of Middlebury as part of my extended family. One of my benefactors was the fraternity that I joined during that year, DKE, which provided the waiter’s job that covered my room and board.

Fraternities dominated Middlebury’s social scene in those days and, as on all campuses, they were a mixed blessing. Their worst feature was that they were inherently discriminatory, although some of the Middlebury frats fought and, in the case of my own, won battles with their national organizations to admit minority students. Middlebury’s fraternities were no different from those on other campuses in encouraging boorish male behavior, particularly toward women. But they also provided a supportive family atmosphere where maturing young men could relax and feel socially secure. In an era when there were scant student support services, we relied on each other.

It was a male-dominated era in general. Outside of a few language instructors, the faculty consisted of white males of varying competency. But Middlebury had its share of star teachers, and it seemed, more than its share of characters. I was particularly in awe of a gruff, shambling, chain-smoking English professor nicknamed “Beowulf.” I glowed with pride when he mentioned me by name to my classmates one day, even if it was to single me out as a holder of radical views because I once parroted a theory of the French Revolution, which I had picked up from my history professor. It was not unusual for one professor to comment on the views of another, usually in a lighthearted way. One of the most wonderful characters to grace the faculty was Arthur K. D. Healy, an accomplished watercolorist who also taught art history. Once, when showing a slide of an ancient statue of a centaur, he remarked to the class that he used to keep a pair of centaurs on his farm to help with the spring plowing. Unfortunately, he said, Professor Hitchcock, in biology, told him that there was no such thing as a centaur, so he had to let them go. On another occasion, Healy came to class with his fly half open. When he noticed some giggling, he glanced down and said, “Oh, I was in a bit of a hurry this morning.” He continued the lecture without zipping-up any farther. Legend has it that he did not do so for the rest of the day. That, in our eyes, was the epitome of cool.

Despite my chosen field, I was not politically active during those days; few of us were. One professor tried to start an “anti-apathy” movement, but it died from lack of interest. To the extent to which there was a counterculture, it identified with the Beats, especially with Kerouac and pot. Rejection of the power structure was expressed by withdrawal, or finding a way to beat the system, as opposed to trying to change it. The atmosphere did not change until Kennedy’s election in 1960. By then I was on my way to Taiwan, as an ROTC second lieutenant. It was there that I got my first taste of teaching. I found that even lecturing to sleepy enlisted men on the military code of conduct could be stimulating. After seeking the advice of my favorite Middlebury professors, I applied to graduate school.

Middlebury was a different place when I returned six years later. I had been working at the Congressional Research Service and finishing my Ph.D., when I happened to run into the political science chair, my former teacher, Harris Thurber. He suggested that I apply for a one-year leave replacement position that...
was becoming available. I did so, although the position in political philosophy was outside of my international politics specialty. A week before I was interviewed, however, the department interviewed and decided on another, better qualified, candidate. My visit was politely endured, and I returned to Washington, determined to put Middlebury out of my mind. But then luck, in the form of the preferred candidate's draft board, intervened on my side. I was hired for one year at a salary of $7,700.

The Night Before My First Class, I dreamed that my graduate adviser was sitting in the back of the classroom. As I began to lecture, he started nudging students and passing notes. Soon he had everyone laughing uproariously. Then, shaking his head, he left the room, with the rest of the class following him. The dream stayed with me the next morning as I headed to breakfast, where I nervously spilled a glass of pineapple juice on my new wool pants. When I finally arrived at Sunderland Auditorium, I found myself standing on a stage and looking out at 120 expectant students. It was the Vietnam era and I was teaching the first class in international politics that had been given in several years. But as soon as I began the lecture, the nervousness evaporated.

That year, I discovered the demands of college teaching, like teaching at any level, are a far cry from the easy life I had imagined back in grammar school. During my first year I was up late most nights, trying to keep my lectures one step ahead of the student’s reading. It got easier after that, but the frequent holidays and long summers were consumed by research projects, which generated their own deadlines. On the other hand, I found that teaching was even more exhilarating than I had imagined it would be. Someone once said that true teachers feel more alive in the classroom than anywhere else. It was true in my case. That spring, the administration decided to make my position permanent to meet the demand for courses in international politics. I was back to stay.

During the Vietnam era, there was no need for an “anti-apathy” movement. Students had strong feelings about American foreign policy, and they did not hesitate to express them in class. Some students would stand when offering comments in my foreign policy classes—not to show respect, but to be on equal footing. The students even had the audacity to publish pre-registration booklets evaluating courses and the faculty teaching them. The evaluations made for gossip, if not always enlightening, reading. The evaluation for a course on Shakespeare’s tragedies, for example, rated the professor as “excellent,” but the readings as merely “average.” The faculty soon took over the course evaluations, which are now confidential.

Saturday classes, mandatory chapel, and parietal hours for women were eliminated. Fraternities went into a steady and irreversible decline, less from administration pressure than from lack of student interest. I found myself on committees to consider the implementation of coed dorms and the future, or lack of it, of ROTC on campus. Whatever opinions one may have of these changes, there is no doubt that they reflected a degree of self-confidence and a willingness to adapt to change on the part of the College leadership, as well as the students, which was absent back in my student days. It was the beginning of a pattern of steady growth in quality that has made my career on the Middlebury faculty so rewarding.

Whatever nostalgia I have for the Middlebury of my student or early faculty days, today's Middlebury is a better place. Today it would be hard to think of what more a student could desire in terms of academic, social, and psychological support services, physical luxuries, entertainment, and opportunities for challenges, intellectual as well as outside of the classroom. The size, quality, and diversity of the faculty have grown with the rest of the College. Although the faculty is more professional, both in attitude and scholarly accomplishments, teaching remains its highest priority.

People often ask me to compare Middlebury students today with when I first joined the faculty. I sometimes miss the feistiness of the students of the sixties, and I think that the best of my students from those days compare favorably with the best of today’s students. But overall there has been a steady upward trend in the talent and motivation of Middlebury students. Today's students also seem to be very happy about being here. That was not always true when I was an undergraduate, or even in the sixties. The increased diversity is another plus. My courses have attracted a lot of international students, who provide a welcome additional perspective to discussions of international issues, as well as being exceptional students.

Today’s students still have some of the same problems that we faced back in my student days. Binge drinking remains a problem on campus, and an unfortunate side effect of women’s liberation is that now it affects more women. Despite the diversity of the student body, there is not as much integration among groups as one would wish. I also have the feeling that some of our most talented students are so obsessed with building credentials for the next step in their career path that they fail to appreciate the intrinsic joy of learning. But on balance, it would be hard to find a more attractive group of young men and women. Working with them has been the best part of a wonderful career, and it has gotten better as the years have passed.

Last May I gave my last international politics exam. It was in my introductory international politics class, a course that I had been teaching for 40 years, and it happened to be in the same Munroe lecture hall where I took my first political science course half a century ago. Afterward, as I sat at my desk sorting through the exams, there was an anxious knock on my office door. A flustered student entered the office and approached my desk. He had managed to get the time wrong and missed the exam. After listening to his woeful explanation, I slowly looked up at him and said, “How about taking it at 11:00.”

Russell Leng 60 is Professor Emeritus of Political Science and Director of Alumni College.
The Voyage of the Tern

So a group of young alums decide to build a wooden boat and sail it from the Pacific Northwest to Alaska.

Crazy? Bold? Naive? Confident? All of the above?

By Ben Gore

The Tern, her yellow cedar frames gleaming under deep blue skies, slid slowly from behind the sheltering lee of Malcolm Island. I stood on the aft bench, my hand on the tiller, and looked north towards the gray water of Queen Charlotte Strait, which separated us from mainland British Columbia.

Six of us were onboard the boat—a 24-foot-long wooden vessel we had built over the course of a year—and at that moment, the afternoon was sunny and warm, and all was right in our world. Isaac Pattis ’05, his big Greek face growing darker as the summer progressed, was kneading bread dough in our cast iron Dutch oven. Becca Leaphart ’03 was reading aloud to us from Steinbeck. Terray Sylvester ’05, our willowy, wild-bearded mountain man, was minding the sails with Cedar Charnley, a dark, wiry fellow from Evergreen College. Ben Brouwer ’04, the expedition leader, dozed amidships.

It was mid-June, several weeks after we had set sail from the San Juan Islands, and we were slowly making our way along the Canadian coast via the Inside Passage—bound for Ketchikan, Alaska. White caps bubbled cheerily out in the strait—a wide-open space of ten nautical miles without any shelter—and I gazed ahead, blissfully ignoring what those whitecaps foretold.

A minute later, we left the last of the island’s shelter, and the wind immediately picked up, blowing strongly and steadily in our faces. The boat began to heel. Lazy afternoon activities came to a quick halt, as the crew scrambled to duty, trimming the sails and shifting weight to keep the Tern upright.

Within five minutes, what had been flat calm seas was now rough water, with waves three feet (and rising) pummeling the boat. The tide was going out, which meant all of the water from the myriad fjords and channels was flowing north out to sea; a new moon meant the ebb was at its most powerful. The wind was blowing against the water, tearing it to a violent chop. A gust hit
our already straining sails, and the rail nearly went under. I gave Brouwer the tiller; my four weeks of sailing experience were not sufficient to keep the *Tern* on course (or upright for that matter).

Crawling forward toward the yawing and pitching bow of our open vessel, I retrieved my wetsuit and pulled it on. On top of that went my clothes, then a jacket, then plastic foul weather gear (affectionately dubbed “foulies” by the Northwesterners on our crew), then my life jacket. The others were pulling on rain clothes.

I made my way aft, where Brouwer was straining at the tiller as the waves batted us about. There was a commotion next to me and suddenly the rudder was floating free in the water. (We had designed a catch to keep the wood rudder from floating off its open hinges, and I had been charged with machining this little bronze mechanism. Normally, I would have been deathly embarrassed by my substandard craftsmanship, but there was no time.)

Brouwer took full command, as we had discussed back on land. He barked orders, more like a drill sergeant than the dancer he is. Cedar, who has sailed ships many orders of magnitude larger than the *Tern*, took charge of steering the boat into the wind and waves, using the sails like a windsurfer.

The seas rose to four feet, and Cedar struggled to keep us in line; turning broadside to the waves now might have swamped or capsized the boat. With the sea heaving beneath us, Brouwer and I wrestled the rudder back into place. When it was on, I leaned far overboard with a pair of pliers to wrench the catch—just a little tab of bronze held into the soft wood with a single wood screw—back into shape. We could steer again, but the wind was still rising, the masts were bowing visibly, and white water was crashing over the bow.

Strangely, it never crossed our minds to turn around and return to our friends in Alert Bay, a little town just a few miles south. Although we were only halfway into our 42-day voyage from...
Washington to Alaska, we had on this day run aground, had a brutally honest discussion about the expedition’s leadership, and rowed feverishly through treacherous rapids just to get this far—all before three in the afternoon. And while the air temperature was in the seventies and the sky a brilliant blue, I was already soaking wet. With the wind blowing over the cold water, I began to shiver.

Brouwer hollered the order to reef—to shorten the sails to reduce the strain on the boat. Terray and Cedar dropped the sheets (the lines that control the sails) and suddenly we could hear nothing but  agitated Dacron (the nylon canvas that has supplanted cotton and hemp). We worked smoothly, aware that mistakes here had very real consequences. Cold, swollen, salt-pruned fingers untied and retied bowline knots, hauled the halyards (the lines which raise and lower the sails) taut, sheeted in the sails. The uproarious cracking of loose sailcloth quieted.

Yet the wind kept rising—up to twenty miles an hour—and the waves got bigger. Spare wooden parts floated in standing water beneath the floorboards and clanked against the hull. The pounding seas kept knocking us off course, killing our momentous islands of the Inside Passage, a protected waterway stretching from Puget Sound in Washington to Glacier Bay in Alaska. There, the coastal mountain ranges tumble into the Pacific Ocean, and the resulting archipelagos form a maze of narrow channels sheltered from the powerful swells of the North Pacific. Human settlements have existed along this band for as long as people have inhabited North America, but neither the First Nations nor the European usurpers have managed to crowd it much. It is a rugged, wild, and empty stretch of coast, 1,500 miles long, filled with bears, old growth cedars, and rocky shores.

Never content to do things the easy way, Brouwer envisioned a journey without internal combustion. All power would be provided by wind on sailcloth and oar on seawater. Because the crew would need to row, there couldn’t be a cabin; the necessary ballast would make the boat too heavy. Rowing also meant it would have to be large enough to seat all the necessary muscle power. So Brouwer asked his father, Steven, where he might find a suitable craft. Being a wooden boatbuilder, Steven suggested that the crew could build its own, thereby making the whole endeavor that much more adventurous.

I landed squarely in the middle of this scheming when I swung south from Vermont to Rhode Island in the winter of 2005 to visit Brouwer and Becca. I was acutely aware that I would soon be adrift in the post-graduation doldrums, so I jumped aboard without hesitation. It was of little matter that I knew nothing about boats or sailing. The chance to do something bold, live with good friends, and explore a wondrous new place was more than enough incentive to downplay my ignorance.

Later that winter, seven of us descended on Lee Purlow’s homestead in Waltham, Vermont, where reggae hummed from the stereo as we sat around his octagonal living room and planned our adventure.

Present were Isaac Pattis, a passionate giant with a love of English literature who, at six foot seven inches, stood more than a head taller than anyone else; the whip thin, wall-climbing Zen lunatic Terray Sylvester, his gaunt frame topped by a mop of unruly blond hair; Lee Purlow, heavily bearded, dark haired, and short, more of a mountaineer than sailor, and a computer nerd to boot; Lee’s willowy, quiet girlfriend, Nicki Morris ’04; Becca Leaphart, an actress and educator, keeper of journals, and perhaps the most creative nun in the group; and, of course, there was Brouwer, a modern dancer, photographer, cyclist, and purveyor of radical geographic theories. (Missing were Alana Sagin ’04, who would have been sitting quietly in the corner waiting for the chance to murmur a very dirty joke under her breath, and Cedar Charnley, a woodworker, singer of chants, and the other elfin offspring of Lopez Island.)

Eight people would participate at any one time. (Finding the communal life in Washington State was not for them, Lee Purlow and Nicki Morris left in late July.) We would camp on the Brouwer sheep farm on Lopez and live communally. Four people at a time would work in the shop, with Steven as instructor, building the boat. Four people would labor on the farm to repay Steven
Tern, Tern, Tern

Above, Left, Right, and Below: Over the course of eight months, the Tern evolved from an idea into a sea-worthy vessel. And a handsome one, at that.

Log On

Below right: Over time, the Tern crew proved adept at salvaging. This 34-foot old-growth douglas fir was turned into a raft, which the sailors used to putter around Lopez Island. Pictured, left to right: Cedar Charnley, Becca Leaphart '03, Ben Gore '04, Nick Gehling, and Isaac Patti '05.
for his time. The groups would switch every two weeks. When the boat was done we would sail to Alaska and back.

Which is how I found myself on the passenger deck of the M/V Yakima with Pattis in June as the ferry cut through the coastal fog en route to the San Juan Islands. South of the city of Vancouver and east of Vancouver Island, Lopez Island is the first stop on the westward journey from the mainland at Anacortes, Washington, ninety miles north of Seattle. It is just one of the hundreds of shaggy islands in the San Juan Archipelago, lodged in a pocket of dark water on the Canadian border north of Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. In the first half of the 1900s, Lopez was a prosperous fishing and farming community. Then the salmon population went into decline and big agribusiness made small farms less tenable. The early 1970s saw an influx of young people moving to the country to get back to the land, to live peacefully and communally, to grow food and work in wood. Now the economic base of the islands has shifted to tourism and second homes, the economy propped up by affluent Seattle. Much has changed since the Brouwer family moved to Lopez in 1983, while many things—indigenous artisans, locally harvested food, background—remain the same.

On the Yakima's passenger deck, Brouwer bounded up to me wearing preposterously huge pants (he was fresh off the plane from performing an interpretive dance routine in New York City), and he greeted me with a huge bear hug. When the boat docked, we jumped into my truck and drove south, towards Blunter Bay. People began to drift away. Terray was already long gone, departed for more education in Vermont. Alana left soon afterwards to work.

And slowly, the skeleton of a boat grew. After two weeks of struggling, the first planks went on, and then after a few more weeks another set of planks and then another. Brilliant summer faded into a moody fall. Soon there was school to attend, rain to escape, and jobs to work.

People began to drift away. Terray was already long gone, departed for more education in Vermont. Alana left soon afterwards to work on med school applications in Santa Fe. I returned to the East Coast in October, followed shortly thereafter by Isaac, who decamped to Connecticut. Becca managed to stay into December, before retreating to her native Montana, leaving just Brouwer and Cedar, to continue building.

In Steven's woodshop lay the Tern, a skeleton with half its skin off, growing slowly, piece by piece, waiting for the spring.

The Tern was bucking more waves, my teeth were chattering, and my wetsuit was soaked. A log, as big as a telephone pole, surfed past us, followed by another and another—a virtual horizontal forest threatening to batter a hole in the Tern's planking. Cedar steered deftly through the maze of wood. And then as quickly as the log onslaught had begun, it stopped. The logs were caught in an eddy line created by Broughton Island, and we were on the far side of Queen Charlotte Strait. We cruised slowly into Cockatrice Bay, adrenaline at an ebb, and scanned the densely wooded shore for a place to tie up. The forest was far thicker and more deeply green than on Vancouver Island sixteen miles south, but soon we saw a landing spot and approached the shore. That night we grilled a salmon and slept deeply.

For the next five days we inched up the northern coast of Queen Charlotte Strait towards Cape Caution, where the protecting barrier islands of the passage give way for fifteen miles. (There the waves fetch all the way from Japan and smash themselves on the sand of Burnett Beach.) The two days following our crossing we got ourselves caught in dangerously strong north winds again, so strong that at one point we couldn't make any forward progress at all. But eventually we caught on. In foul weather, the seas around Cape Caution can build monstrously high—as high as the lighthouse on the cliffs of nearby Egg Island—but we rounded it in a quiet, deep fog with long low swells ten feet high and a rocking cradle.

The days blew away in the wind. Skin peeled from our hands. Migrating gray whales breached around the Tern. The salmon began to run, and we started to see eagles soaring above the shoreline by the dozen. Smacks of jellyfish—ten thousand strong—drifted in the fjords. One night we kept on rowing, well after sunset, when the water began to glow a fluorescent pale green. We began to sing old Kwakiutl canoe chants and rowed until our arms gave out.

A few days later, Ben Gore would return to his life on the East Coast, but not before standing on the deck of a cannery manager's boat and watching his friends pilot the Tern through Revillagigedo Channel toward Alaska's Misty Fjords.

The Tern would eventually circumnavigate Revillagigedo Island, before embarking on the return journey southward. Back in the Gulf Islands, she sailed in the Shipyard School Raid, a revival of the old European tradition of racing with small workboats. The Raid, sponsored by Tad Roberts, who designed the Tern, finishes at the annual wooden boat festival in Port Townsend, Washington, where the Tern was a big hit and everyone partied like rock stars. Or pirate rock stars. The crew has now dispersed, and the Tern lies in dry dock on the Brouwer farm on Lopez Island, awaiting more adventures in other summers.
PERFORMING ART

Lynn Jennings ’85 has been breathing life into inanimate objects for more than four decades—to the benefit of audiences far and wide.

Photograph by Max S. Gerber
The Puppet Master

For Lynn Jennings '65, pulling strings is simply a way of life.

BY CYNTHIA JENSON-ELLIOTT

From the looks of her, the woman must be in her mid-80s—and no AARP model for elderly wellness, either. Her shoulders are hunched and her walk is more of a shuffle, clumsy black shoes trudging toward a rickety rocking chair. Her snow-white hair, fluffy and fine as feathers, stands out as if she has been shocked (it has clearly not been styled in a long time), and her black eyes pinch in concentration as she painstakingly reaches for the rocker and grasps it with gnarled hands. Slowly, she turns, shifts her weight, and lowers herself into the chair. She settles back, mopping her brow in relief.

Lynn Jennings '65 steps back and stands up straight. “Great!” she says, clapping her hands as five adult student puppeteers release the handles of Jennings’s elderly tabletop puppet and mop their own brows. “How was that?” she asks.

The students chime in—“Hard!” “Slow!” “Painstaking.” They have each been responsible for moving a separate body part of the 10-inch-tall puppet—an arm, a leg, the head—working in harmony while Jennings guided their movements. It is cooperation of the most intimate sort, five people hovering in Twister-like poses over the puppet, while moving in microscopic increments as one.

Jennings knows the drill well. A professional puppeteer for more than 35 years, she has worked with every type of puppet imaginable. And as board president and executive director of the San Diego Guild of Puppetry/Puppetry Center of San Diego, she has not only brought puppets to life herself, she has spread the seeds of puppetry into arts and education communities around the world. But to see Jennings in action, it is evident where the greatest benefit has fallen: Jennings is as alive as her puppets—and that is a compliment. She is as alert, open, and curious as a child.

Jennings began her puppetry career—or “addiction,” as she calls it—when she was little more than a kindergartner. She had not seen many puppet shows—only Kukla, Fran, and Ollie on television—when her fourth-grade Girl Scout troop decided to put on a puppet show about great American heroes. Jennings chose Huckleberry Finn and created his puppet head of papier-mâché pasted over a light bulb. Huck was a hit. The show was a hit. Jennings was hooked.

At Middlebury, she became part of a band of itinerant puppeteers, Sigma Kappa sorority sisters who roamed the countryside, performing

ALTER EGOS

Without their puppeteer, Jennings’s puppets would be lifeless objects. Yet without them, Jennings insists, she would be just as lifeless.
first at a local nursing home, and later for special events.

Over the years, Jennings honed her puppetry skills. She learned to build puppets from master craftsmen, studied the art of storytelling, developed esoteric art form that entails breathing life into inanimate objects.

scripts, and traveled frequently to attend festivals and workshops—all in the pursuit of an art of storytelling, developed master craftsmen, studied the learned to build puppets from and later for special events.

Jennings recently received a grant from the prestigious Henson Foundation and is developing a puppet show for adults titled “Goldilocks, the Nursing Home Version.” For more information, visit www.sandiegoguildofpuppetry.org.

Cynthia Jenson-Elliott is a freelance writer based in San Diego.
Hollywood Loves a Sequel

By Elisabeth Crean

Nearly 20 years after making his debut in The Player, Griffin Mill has returned.

Griffin Mill, first surfaced in Grove Press, 2006).

The fictional studio shark, Griffin Mill, first surfaced in the pages of Tolkin’s savage satire, The Player (1988). Tolkin also penned the Academy Award-nominated screenplay of the story for the late director Robert Altman’s 1992 film. The delicious send-up of the unscrupulous studio system—which the famously iconoclastic Altman scupulously avoided throughout his career—became one of the director’s most popular and successful films.

On-screen, Tim Robbins portrayed Griffin Mill unforgottably: slick, seductive, and sinister. On the page, Tolkin’s character is even richer: an endearing sociopath who constantly tinkers with the basic laws of physics governing his moral universe. For Griffin, getting away with murder isn’t a metaphor. It’s a slightly unusual day at the office.

When The Return of the Player opens, 15 years have elapsed in the life of Griffin Mill. The thirtysomething rising star is now 52 and frustrated, with one ex-wife, a second marriage on the rocks, and a vexing allergy to Viagra. The Player’s neuroses have multiplied since his career stalled a few steps short of the pinnacle of Hollywood power. His failure to become a studio boss signifies more than loss of influence or status: it means he hasn’t attained financial security.

Down to his last six million dollars, Griffin can barely support his current obligations. And he sees a dying planet all around him. To survive, and protect his family, he needs to own a small South Pacific island—with sufficient elevation to accommodate rising sea levels caused by melting polar icecaps. To earn an island-buying income, he casts his net beyond the movie-making world. He targets a business alliance with Philip Ginsberg, a wealthy fellow parent at his children’s private school. Griffin knows an ostentatiously large donation will catch the almost-billionaire’s eye.

Plenty of outlandish scheming takes place along the way. Griffin’s gambits lead to a job with Ginsberg, who commissions the ex-movie man to come up with the Next Big Idea to make megamoney. But Griffin soon comes to wonder if he has made a megastake. Griffin is capable of ruthless-ness and rationalizing that would make Machiavelli blush. In Ginsberg, however, Griffin is consorting with—a mercenary and morally-bankrupt monster of mythic proportions.

Tolkin’s acid pen cuts deep as he parodies a parade of modern excesses, extremes, and obsessions. Among his targets: plastic surgery junkies, dangerous Internet liaisons, lavish bar mitzvahs and rampaging materialism. The author’s eye is unsparing; his language, vivid and blunt. For example, Ginsberg “was mean and worked alone like a troll under a bridge, demanding a tax of everyone who passed: money, gold, cattle, a first-born child.”

Against this background of cultural decay, the remarkable twist is that Griffin turns out to have a bit of a soul after all. His years spent developing screenplays have conditioned him to analyze his own life like a script: seeing crises, failures, and needs as a series of plot points. But he is determined to be the hero of his own journey, to resolve everything by the decisive third act.

No Hollywood executive would buy the breathtakingly improbable humdinger of an ending that Tolkin has scripted to Griffin’s story. And yet somehow it works, maybe because we find ourselves so utterly charmed by this very bad boy, turned just a tiny bit good.

Medical education is so rigorous that doctors learn procedures they will never perform and memorize conditions they will never encounter. Even budding psychiatrists and dermatologists take 300 hours of obstetrics training and study infectious diseases that do not occur in North America.

Yet during years of med school, internship, and residency, physicians receive virtually no preparation for the one
thing that 100 percent of their patients will eventually face: death. In *Lost Rights: Rescuing the End of Life from the Medical System* (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2006), journalist Stephen P. Kiernan ’82 demonstrates that medical advances have made dying in America more painful, not less, in part because doctors are woefully trained in end-of-life care. A startling disconnect has arisen between the peaceful passage Americans say they want and the tumultuous final days many endure.

The book opens with a chilling account of a doctor hastening his patient’s demise. An elderly woman with severe lung disease is on a ventilator against her express, written orders. The extra drug that her longtime physician slips into the final injection—is it mercy, or manslaughter?

Ultimately, the doctor receives a modest slap on the wrist and major community support. And while the hot-button topics of physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia remain outside his book’s main scope, Kiernan argues that the very existence of these issues on our cultural radar screen represents an indictment of the current system. Neither would be necessary if dying were handled compassionately in America today.

Kiernan admits the difficulty of maintaining “traditional journalistic objectivity” while reporting on such an emotionally freighted subject. He spent time with dying patients and their families, whose stories illuminate the issues more powerfully than the alarming statistics the author has also amassed.

A key numerical shift—in the 1920s, 75 percent of Americans passed away at home; by the 1990s, 75 percent died in a hospital. The comfort of one’s own bed gave way to beeping machines and invasive tubes. Kiernan elucidates the complex systemic and psychological reasons for resorting to “heroic measures” far past the point where any meaningful improvement is possible. Families sometimes “have confused medical persistence with love.” Doctors view death as defeat.

Ironically, better treatment is simpler and less expensive. Palliative care focuses on effective pain and symptom management. Hospice treats the needs of the patient and family together—from helping run errands to healing emotional wounds. Even though these approaches align closely with what research shows Americans want, many elements of the medical system stand firmly entrenched against their widespread use.

The only thing more difficult than dealing with death is not dealing with it until it’s too late, argues Kiernan. The failure to prepare—to make decisions and communicate wishes in advance—vastly increases the potential for emotional distress, physical pain, and financial devastation. It’s impossible to read *Lost Rights* without reflecting on personal experiences, and Kiernan shares his own. His father died in a prolonged and pointless ICU ordeal. “We were textbook cases of the American approach to death. We were completely unprepared, unschooled, and unassisted.” Four years later, his mother died peacefully at home, with “nothing left undone” and “her bright character... undimmed.”

Kiernan’s message is clear. “Death is something we can indeed bear to face, and should face—because if we do, we can shape its meaning and effect.” He wants families to talk: communicate final needs and wishes well ahead of time, and prepare advance directives. And he also urges Americans to rally as “noisy consumers” to force public policy changes—from medical training to Medicare rules—that support dying well.

**Recently Published**

- *Marine Metapopulations* (Academic Press, 2006) coedited by Peter Sale and Jacob Kritzer ’95
28 Good wishes to all from the five members of the class of 1928. Helen M. Bailey and Elizabeth Hayes Balch celebrated their 90th birthdays with family and friends. (I join them in January 2007.) Helen Revere Hatch celebrated her 100th birthday in stride as she attended a series of events honoring her. A wonderful picture of her in the newspaper had this caption: "The Venetian Nokomis Woman's Club held a 100th birthday party for longtime member, Helen Hatch. The former French teacher was surprised with a visit from the mayor and two of her former students who recalled some of their memories of her teaching days. Best heartfelt wishes were sent to Helen from the Class of 1944 at Mararnonck High School who described her as "their beloved French language teacher." Louise Thompson looks forward to 102 in April 2007. It was the sound of their voices as I called each class member that convinced me to put down my class notes pen with this column and share our "length of days" experiences among our selves.

The 1928 class notes column began in the fall of 1928 with our first secretary, Edna Allyn White, Prof. Raymond (Pa) White's wife, writing from campus for a tiny alumni magazine. Secretaries began to work in pairs to contact both men and women and were elected at each reunion. The only time we responded as a class was for our 50th reunion. John Walker and Adelma Hadley Lardner published our responses in a reunion yearbook. Fast forward to our 70th reunion when I visited the 1928 Paul Dwight Moody Area in Kirk Alumni Center. William (Bill) Donald made a donation to establish this room in memory of his co-secretary, Jane Carrick Oviatt. My longtime partner, Napoleon (Nap) Blanchette and I were elected for many terms as class secre­ taries, and in these later years I have been working "without portfolios." I am very proud of my classmates. I have been delighted to report of their accomplishments and services in their corners of the world. Perhaps the highest honor was the con­ ferring of Middlebury's Doctor of Letters degree upon William Storrss Lee, by former President John M. McCordell Jr. Storrs wrote the twice-published definitive account of Gamaliel Painter, Middlebury's founder. To all who have responded and to everyone who has helped me, especially the editors of our now huge magazine, Dotty McCarty, our former class notes editor, and present class notes editor, Sara Marshall, MY THANKS. It has been a privilege. Everyone thanks our e-mailer and typist, Edna Wagner. With much appreciation, Mimi.

—Class Secretary: Mrs. J. D. Coombs (Mirmi Sweet), (978)-369-5599, 13 Highland St., Concord, MA 01742.

[Ed. note: We would like to thank Mimi for her many years of dedicated service as class secretary for the Class of 1928. Her columns were always beautifully written and informative.]

31 Our classmate, Ruth Atwood Miller, passed away October 31. Ruth was a member of the Tri Delta sorority, a field hockey player, and a member of the Drama Club. Her classmates often chided her about her boyfriend and their constant correspondence; we thought the paper industry would be devastated if they broke up! Ruth and I had a mutual acquaintance in our retirement years and we recon­ nected through them. She and her husband lived in Harvard, Mass. The class sends its sympathy to fam­ ily and friends.

—Class Secretary: Mr. E. Parker Calvert (calverte@aol.com), 6251 Old Dominion Dr., #225, McLean, VA 22101.

35 Please send me your news so we can all keep up on each other's activities! I'd love to hear from you.

—Class Secretary: Alma Davis Struble (Mrs. Robert), 1977 Manhono Rd., Kennett Square, PA 19348.

36 Two classmates have left us. Anna Mayo passed away on August 28. Anna graduated from Middlebury with a degree in sociology and an interest in social work (thanks to Pappy Sholes), a career path she followed all her life. We extend our sympathy to her family and friends. * Reina Lewis Blackmore passed away on September 20. While at Middlebury, Roxana lived for three years in the Château and recently shared this memory: "We had to dress for dinner twice a week and Dr. Freeman had to listen to us play the grand piano!" We send our condolences to her children, John and Betty.

—Class Secretary: Mrs. Louise Hubbard McCoy, 865 Central Ave., #1403, Needham, MA 02492.

37 REUNION CLASS

Put this important date on your cal­endar: June 1–3, 2007. It's our 70th reunion on the Midd campus. We hope you'll be able to make it and look forward to seeing you there. * Mary Lance Osborn is living in a retirement center in Marion, Ill. Her two sons live nearby and visit regularly. She has three grandchildren and two great-grandsons. * We regret to report the passing of a good friend and classmate, Robert W. Robinson, in Largo, Fla., on August 13. Robbie, as he was affectionately known, was our class agent for many years. He spent a lifetime career in education; earned a doctorate at their cottage in Old Lyme, Conn. A lobster spoke with her last August, she was looking forward to their annual family gathering and a feast of lob­sters to their cottage in Old Lyme, Conn. A lobster fest is one of the special annual occasions we have here at Wake Robin as well. * Since my last column, I have learned that Al Pritchard died on May 22. A memorial appeared in the fall issue. Belatedly, our class sends condolences to Allie's family.

* I hope some of you remember a Saturday those many years ago when Prexy Moody walked across the football field with Sir Wilfred Grenfell. Do you recall that at that time the Dog Team was a team and that Sir Wilfred had a mission in Labrador? The Dog Team was where the hooked rods that were handcrafted at the mission were sold. For the past 60 years, we have known it as the Dog Team Tavern. Many of us enjoyed dining there when we were in the area—and oh those famous sticky buns! Much to our sorrow, the Dog Team burned to the ground Labor Day weekend, and with it went a lot of memorabilia. * If memories of years past inspire you to send news to the College or to me, please do so. I close to say that I am here visiting Janet Randall Morgan in Quonochontaug, R.I. What a great time we are having.

—Class Secretary: Mrs. Charles M. Hall (Margaret Leslie), 510 Wake Robin Dr., Shelburne, VT 05482.
Frances Barrett Johnson has a full house with daughter Signe, her grandson, a dog, and two cats. Signe is looking for a house and hopes to find one soon. Frances has given up the thought of ever moving to be near her family in Michigan and was planning to come at Christmas with her three children. Peg recalls freshman year when she lived downtown and found it difficult to get acquainted and feel a part of the class.

Charlotte Gilbert Lightfoot enjoyed good results from recent cataract surgery. She has hearing aids, but has found lately she does as well without them! How great it would be if some of the rest of us had the same experience! She had knee surgery in early summer then spent six weeks at their place in Dorset, Vt. Most of her family is nearby in the Northwest. She and Mary Kidy White exchange letters at holiday time. Debbie Mayo Beattie is now at the nursing home next door to the Mayo Retirement Community where she had been living. Her new address is 71 Richardson St., Northfield, VT 05663. She seems to be pleasantly situated. We send our sympathy on the death of sister Anna '36. Regrettably, we missed the obituary for Jack Deeds with the deepest sympathy goes to Edith '44 and to their family.

We were also sorry to learn of the death of David Goodell '40, husband of Polly (Mary Ruby Goodell). He was well known to most of our class and he and Polly were at most of our reunions. We missed them in June. Our warmest thoughts and prayers are with you, Polly, and all your family. From our own class, we were sorry to learn of the death of Sid Thomas on June 28 and we send condolences to his family. This past July, Ruth Hardy Scheidecker enjoyed the lovely wedding in Ludlow, Vt., of her granddaughter. Jean Connor really “keeps on the go!” Last spring, she combined a reunion of poetry friends in Wisconsin with a visit to her nephew and family in Minneapolis. On a June weekend trip to Cape Cod, she met poet laureate Ted Kooser and heard him give a reading. Late in August she vacationed with a friend and visited three museums in the Williamstown, Mass. area. Westie (Helen West Burbank) and Packy represented our class at the Alumni Leadership Conference at Bread Loaf. Westie received recognition for having attended all 30 of the annual conferences.

Roger Griffith writes, “My best year at the College was the last one. The summer before I was a reporter at the Rutland Herald, a job I loved. I told the editor I decided not to go back to college. He said quickly, ‘You’re fired.’ Then he added, ‘Come back after you graduate and get your job.’ Back to college I went and found a letter from the Army saying I was being drafted into a job that paid $21 a month. Soon after college, I was at Fort Devens, then was shipped to D.C. for classes, then boarded on a boat trip to Africa. Hundreds of us getting off the ship heard one fellow say, ‘This war doesn’t seem so bad.’ Then German planes flew over, firing at us. I led my intelligence team to Italy where we became part of the British Eighth Army for the rest of the year. Then back home where I joined the Vermont National Guard. My years in the Army ended on July 10, 1972, with me leaving as a lieutenant colonel, Signal Corps. I still miss it in many ways.”

CLASS SECRETARY: Roger Griffith (mgrbob@aol.com), 75 Skyline Dr., Essex Junction, VT 05452; and Ruth Packard Jones (Ms. Claites), 4106 Wake Robin Dr., Shelburne, VT 05482.
We note with sorrow the death on October 10 of classmate Jim Ferren. We hadn’t heard from Jim in a long time, but were sorry to hear of the loss of another classmate. In college, Jim was a member of Chi Psi and participated in track, football, and dramas, and the literary club. At the time of our 50th reunion, he and second wife June had just moved from California to Bose, Ariz., and were enjoying two sets of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Our 5th reunion (June 1–3, 2007) is fast approaching, and we’d like to make it memorable. Please consider giving us a hand. We will be looking for volunteers to, among other things, act as greeters at registration, organize a memorabilia display, and give suggestions in general. So get in touch with us by telephone, e-mail, or snail mail. Contact your friends and plan to be at reunion in June! A note from Joan Calley Cooper in San Francisco let us know that she spent her usual summer in New Hampshire where she had a chance to meet with Sue Hulings Ottinger and Peggy Woods Eriksson. They report that they all expect to be at reunion in June. Joan has agreed to coordinate ideas for class activities, so if you have any suggestions or plans of your own, please let us know, and we will look forward to seeing you all there.

Class Secretaries: Dr. and Ms. Neil Atkins (Marylu Graham) (mualbits(at)gmail.com), 70 Hilltop Pl., New London, NH 03256.

Class Secretary reports.

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REUNION CLASS NOTES

Secretary Dare reports Margaret Bullock Marti and husband Don recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary and live happily in the same house they have occupied for the last 55 years. Peg was thrilled to welcome their first great-grandchild on October 10 of classmate Jim Ferren.

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While they were in Rockland, Hugh and Barb visited the Jamien Morehouse Wing of the Farnsworth Art Museum honoring Dick and Lee’s daughter, Jamien ("j3, a mother, artist, teacher, entrepreneur, and community enthusiast who died tragically at age 48. Leaving Rockland, they drove north to Bar Harbor and a little exploring of Acadia Park and Mt. Desert Island. Their Hostess partner, now deceased, was born and raised. “They relished their colorful stories of life among the former rich and famous summer residents, all of whom were 'from away' as Maine folk say. Now most of their mansions are gone, destroyed in the forest fire of 1947. Hugh says he would visit again, especially if you enjoy lobster!” As for Neil and Marylu Graham Atkins, they spent last March in Sarasota, Fla., with our daughter and her recently retired husband and welcomed our two little great-grandchildren (ages 4 and 2) and their parents from Minneapolis in July. Since then we have wondered why we don’t hear more from you for this column!”

—Class Secretaries: Dr. and Ms. Neil Atkins (Marylu Graham) (mualbits(at)gmail.com), 70 Hilltop Pl., New London, NH 03256.

Secretary Dare reports the July 4th picnic along with Sue Hulings Ottinger and Peggy Woods Eriksson. She reports that they all expect to be at reunion in June. Joan has agreed to coordinate ideas for class activities, so if you have any suggestions or plans of your own, please let us know, and we will look forward to seeing you all there.

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after a week in the hospital, she was moved to a rehab center where she remained for a month and a half, and, surprisingly, replaced her regular reading with reminiscing about Middlebury. I think we all would approve of that. Finally she was discharged from rehab to her home with a parade of helpers. Now she has only one more week of her physical therapy and with that prospect and the happy activities she is already enjoying, we can feel sure that she is almost as good as new. • Fall here at Medford Leas was busy with an annual flower show, opening up the Haddon Greenhouse, and my senior citizen's advisory board commitment.

—Class Secretaries: Ann Robinson Walker (awalker@perldeals.com), 181 Medford Leas, Medford, NJ 08055; and Alan Wolfley (awolfley@satelol.com), 22 Canaan Ct., New Canaan, CT 06840.

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Kathy Rowley Tuttle reports with great happiness that son Charles has returned safely from Iraq where he was a chaplain for the armed forces. Good news, indeed. • Jean Schwab Schork writes that she was most disappointed to miss reunion, but her happy activities she is already enjoying, we can feel sure that she is almost as good as new. • Fall here at Medford Leas was busy with an annual flower show, opening up the Haddon Greenhouse, and my senior citizen's advisory board commitment.

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Class members seem to have had a relatively quiet time since the last notes were collected. Few news items were received by me, but those few cover many subjects and activities. • The saddest news was the death of two class members. On July 13, Bonny Morse Richson Heisler of Charleston, S.C., died after a fall that broke her arm and hip, which apparently led to a blood clot that took her life. She will be remembered for her artistic talent, eager mind, and intellectual curiosity. The sympathy of her classmates goes to Bonny's son, two daughters, grandchildren, and sisters. She will be especially missed by the children who knew her when she was a teacher. We will also miss Johnstone (Jack) Law who died on July 28. Jack is survived by wife Mary Jane, a daughter, a son, and two grandchildren, as well as brother Duncan '49 and his wife, Connie Kelly '49.

We offer sympathy to Jack's family. • A lively news note came from Lois (Bussie) Southgate Badger in Kinnebunkport, Maine, for she and her husband sold their yacht more than a year ago and are enjoying a happy and more relaxed life with family and friends, including eight grandchildren.

Delightedly, Bussie reports that her oldest grandson is now the captain of a yacht in the Caribbean. She sees Joanna Buckridge Book booth occasionally, or else she talks on the phone. Jo loves living in Portland, Maine, and keeps busy with many activities.

* Phyl Burke Cunningham echoed the happy sentiments of Jo and Bussie, for she lives in Middlebury and enjoys many activities herself such as concerts and lectures at the College. Sometimes she sees Alice Neef Perine at a meeting or College event. Alice appears to be busy and well.

* Phyl said more condos are developing in and around Middlebury, and she thought others might be interested in moving near the College. • A call to Mary (Mickey) Pitz Hunt, who lives just over the border in New Hampshire, found that she had moved into a new apartment in downtown Concord. She had been recovering from her class meeting in the spring before, enjoying lunch and conversation together before the winter weather arrived. Mickey said the group was small this time, but Alice Perine, Jean Davis Battey, and Anita Strassler Tiemann were there and they enjoyed catching up on one another's news since their last meeting in the spring. They all hope and plan to be at our 60th reunion. • Knowing that Mickey had met with Alice (Candy) De Lorenzo Stansbury earlier in the summer, your reporter called Candy for her news. She said her summer's highlight was a bus tour to Yellowstone Park, Grand Teton, and on to Salt Lake City. • I caught Muriel (Moo) Mack Lappert just after she had returned from a trip to Cape Cod. She enjoyed being there but also said it was very good to get back home. She found the long drive especially tiring; she thought maybe having had both hips and one knee replaced contributed to that! As Moo lives in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, she was interested in new joints and she deserves credit for doing it. • A last note from this reporter is to share news of attending a WWII 58th Bomb Wing reunion with husband Bill at Bradley Field Air Museum in Connecticut. We went up into the restored B29 bomber there, a huge bomber that served in the India, China, and Tinian Island area late in the war. The B29 at the Air Museum was among the planes almost totally smashed by a freak tornado at the airfield in 1997 or so, and the complete restoration of it has just been finished. To Jonny Stowell James it is a marmouth piece of history as well as a miracle of restoration! • We close with a reminder to save the first week of June 2007 for our 60th reunion.

—Class Secretary: Virginia Stowell James (jannajw@att.net), 373 Reeds Gap Rd., Northfield, VT 05662.
About 300 founders of a new retirement community, sharing the grounds (happily called a campus) with a long existing nursing home, assisted living, a chapel, rehab, and other wonderments. Food and programs are tops. I'm hoping to adjust to the erratic air conditioning system in the fabulously decorated country winters begin. I'm easy to visit, but I also expect that the floors are always cold. I'm probably going to have spare meal credits to treat you! Quirkie's new address is 88 Masonic Home Rd., Rte 116, Charlton, MA 01579.

Class Secretaries: Robert P. Whittier (bobwhit@comcast.net), 33 Waltham Rd., South Hamilton, MA 01982.

Not having laid eyes on Nancy Warnam Pihlaranctz for some 15 years, Elinor Brown Phillips and Anna Sherwood Young decided to stage a mini-reunion last June on Nancy's half a century in Traverse City, Mich. And what a lovely reunion it was! In Charlotte, Vt., Betty Ann and Don Lockhart's company, Perceptions, Inc., of which Don is president and producer/editor, has completed several in the past two years including Pure Vermont: Maple—A Proud Tradition—Voices from the Sugarbush. The Historic Quinlan Schoolhouse; and Downeast Lobsterman. For more information, see www.perceptionsvermont.com. Betty Ann says Don also enjoys sailing on Lake Champlain and cross-country skiing. When I (Lois) sent a note to Bard Lindeman, he said it reached him after passing through the Confederate lines arrayed outside Atlanta. “It is good to hear from the Union forces. We do not get to far-off Middlebury, a school I now barely recognize, yet recall with great fondness and amazing clarity: Look, over there, it’s Prof. Reginald Cook on his afternoon walk, long-striding past the football field, where cows watch us practice. Bard and wife Jan are now enjoying the caretaker's life in the Skagit Valley.”

Barbara Kraft Packer writes, “A year ago January, Tod and I sold our house of 30 years and moved to a condo where we can walk most places. My sister, Marcia Kraft Goin ’54, persuaded us to attend the March Alumni College out of Monterey, Calif. It had five weeks of courses and a week of cruise to the Panama Canal and the Mediterranean, all the wonderfril creatures in the water. We were also impressed with our guided tour of the Monterey Institute for International Studies. More Alumni College work came on the Bread Loaf campus at the end of August, where I had a chance to learn about civil liberties and the Constitution in wartime (covered seven wars). That came after a two-week Cruise West tour of Alaska where we got ‘up close and personal’ with beautiful glaciers and whales.”

Class Secretaries: Lois Rapp McWhinny (gmwhinny@comcast.net), 6 Post Rd., Marlboro, VT 05344; and Philip W. Donnellon (spc@wesleyan.edu), Kendal at Hosmer, #203, 80 Lyne Rd., Hanover, NH 03755.
The first response to our request for news came from Japan! Malcolm MacGregor, visiting there for the first time, found Tokyo sophisticated and civilized, the people great observers of life. He is currently living in Fort Lauderdale as usual. • John and Helen Reid Gilmore had a mini-reunion with son James '81 and wife Cameron, son Bob and wife Amy, and Liz Nelson, and later took part in some of our reunion weekend before heading to a granddaughter's graduation from St. Paul's School. Also seeing there son-in-law Mark Gordon '79. They also report that they are the proud grandparents of twins, babies of Bob and Amy! Helen says they are in touch with Renton Bond, still in western Pennsylvania, and reports that Jean and Dick Perry now live in a retirement village in Utah. • Bob and Lee Webster McCarthy missed reunion; Bob was recovering from a stroke. As of the end of September, they were in Hilton Head for a couple of months, looking forward to seeing Beth Huey Newman. • Bill and Phyllis Cole Deming attended the groundbreaking ceremony in Middlebury for the Donald Everett Axinn '51 Center for Literary and Cultural Studies at Starr Library. It was a fall day of Vermont weather legend—sandwiched between two days of Vermont 2006 legend—rain! Will Jackson was there with wife Carolyn (Bennett) '61, having missed Alumni College. Instead they opted for birding and national park visiting in Brazil and Will added, glowing in the beautiful beaches of Rio Jim and Ann McGinley '53 Ross were there, Jim telling of his life “in the booth” for Middlebury football games since 1966, first in charge of the scoreboard and currently devoted to the game clock. • After seeing Bill and Phyllis at the ceremony, Don Axinn '65 sent them this update: “I have two new books of poems, El Sueno del Halcon, published in Peru, and Walking Through the Night, published in Mexico. One page is in Spanish, the other in English. I have just been asked to join the Smithsonian Woodrow Wilson Scholars’ Mexican Institute board, which will be very challenging and stimulating. Their biannual meeting takes place in December in Mexico City, and coincidentally, through our State Department, my books are to be ‘launched’ during that time with a reading and reception. In other news, Jamie Redford and I are making an important documentary on the Ramapough Indians who live up in the mountains in New Jersey on the New York state line. Ford Motor Co., from their plant in Mahwah, has dumped toxic wastes on the Ramapough’s lands for 30 years, polluting water and the ground, causing terrible cancers and early deaths. The area has been reclassified as one of the worst Superfund sites by the EPA. We’ve been selected to do the documentary, and if done well, it should be in theaters. Interest has been strong from overseas.” • Phyllis and Bill Deming went to Alumni College at Bread Loaf in September and enjoyed friends old and new, scrumptious food, fun brain—stretching classes, and a location perfect for walking. Adirondack chair-sitting and, says Bill, practice fly-casting at the pond. Two weeks later they were at Bread Loaf for a session on how to be a class secretary, including ways to beg (Phyllis’s translation) for cards, letters, e-mail, phone calls—anything you want to send at any time of the year, even a Christmas letter. • We would love to hear from you too and would love to share, and thank you to those who heard from this time.

——Class Secretaries: William and Phyllis Cole Deming (bdng@verizon.net), 143 Marrett Rd., Shelburne, VT 05482

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REUNION CLASS

Your secretary Jeanne met with Joan and Bob Woodbury the day before they were to fly home to Colorado. They spent a wonderful afternoon and evening in Essex, Mass., enjoying many days at beautiful Good Harbor Beach in Gloucester. • Joe Davis reports that he was the only member of the Class of 1952 to attend the Gordon C. Perine ’49 Alumni Golf Tournament in September. • In July Ruth Shonoyo-Trask and Bill Trask attended a Shonoyo family reunion at the Barton (Vt.) golf club. Following the evening barbecue, while driving daughter Laurie’s car, Bill grazed a bull moose when it ran into the driver’s side door. Fortunately, no harm was done. They also spent a mini-reunion with son Terry and his family in a lovely Victorian overlooking Newport Beach, R.I., and the cliff walk. They are looking ahead to our 50th on June 1–3, 2007. We hope you are as well.

——Class Secretaries: Jeanne Parker Cadott, 10 Old Planted Rd., PO Box 19155; and Joe Davis (secret@cadott.com), PO Box 3, The Ridge, Oxford, NH 03777.

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Please send us your news! We want to be able to report on all the interesting activities of the Class of 1953.

——Class Secretaries: Mrs. Joseph W.S. Davis Jr. (ấna@salley.net), PO Box 3, The Ridge, Oxford, NH 03777; and Vine Goddard (weepygirl@yahoo.com), 4410 Columbia Dr., Vail, CO 81657.

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We’d love to hear from you! Send your news so we can all stay up to date on each other’s activities!

——Class Secretaries: Mrs. Robert B. Ninderwoh, Nancy Wintenberg (nancywp@prodigy.net), 140 Oxnard Ln., Mystic, CT 06355; and Thomas C. Ryan (tmo@juno.com), 3 Knupp Rd., Houston, TX 77024.

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Bill Blair sent the following on a wonderful 55 gathering in New York: “On April 23 Bob Fleming Alan Frese, Anthony Mangione, Bob Murphy, Ed Thomson, and I enjoyed a reunion at the home of John and Kathy Hughes von Hartz. After a delicious dinner prepared by Kathy and a fabulous mango dessert, we continued lively conversation and finance. The Class of ’55 attendees were Bruce and Sue Byers, Judd Zecher (Tournament organizer), reported that the following will definitely be coming to Vail: Dave and Sally Dickerman Brewer, Sylvia and Gordon Brown, Bruce and Sue Heyer Byers, Judy Zecher Colton, Caleb and Sidney Brock Gates, Scotty MacGregor Gillette, Pat Himnan Makin, George and Ann Limbach, Linda and Frank Punderson. All classmates are encouraged to join in this lively mini-reunion. For classmates who don’t want to spend time on the hill, other activities can be found at Vail such as cross-country skiing or village walking. The dates are February 24—March 3. Contact George for further information on lodging and evening activities. Sue Byers reports that Alumni College in September was a booming success. The Class of ’55 attendees were Bruce and Sue Byers, Dick and Mary Lou King Wollmar, Kathy and John von Hove, Frank and Linda Punderson, Mave and John Field, Midge Van Leuven, Nancy Walker Falkun, Judd Colton, and Nancy Carpenter Ellis. “Some were grinding through Supreme Court cases on freedom of speech in wartime, others dabbling in the occult and witchcraft, and a few ‘lightweights’ stressing out about having to make pesto and espresso in a course on Italian cuisine and culture. I suggest our classmates consider attending next year, thereby creating a mini-reunion in the atmosphere of Bread Loaf.” • For anyone thinking of visiting Alaska, Esther and Roy Craig say do it! Nature unspoiled, animals in their habitat, scenery everywhere to stop you in your tracks. A very memorable trip for them. • After doing some research on his Midd relatives, Robert J. Wiley has developed quite a list! Apparently it all began with Charles Jolls Ormsbee, class of 1896, who “was killed in the Civil War, fighting with a Vermont volunteer unit in Virginia.” Robert has his ancestor’s Civil War tin document box containing three medals and other items. Then there was Edgar (Cap) Jolls Wilev, class of 1913, who held various administrative positions at Middlebury, including dean of men. Cap’s wife, Pruda Hartwood Wiley, class of 1912, was a co-writer of Middlebury song “Camelot Painter’s Care.” Other family members included Gordon Edward Wiley ’28 (who captured the football team), Peggy Wiley Thomson ’31 (Cap’s daughter), David Paul Thomson ’51 (husband of Peggy), Mary Louise Wiley Bond ’51 (daughter of Gordon), Robert John Wiley (son of Gordon), James Gordon Wiley ’64 (son of Gordon), David P. Thomson II ’68 (son of Peggy), and Laura Bond Beegsano ’80 (daughter of Mary Louise). Another ancestor, Ellen Elizabeth Wiley, graduated from St. Lawrence, but became an associate prof. of mathematics at Middlebury. Then, of course, there was Elizabeth Hack Simmons ’27, who passed away last fall at age 100. A very venerable Middlebury family indeed.

——Class Secretaries: Sally Dickerman Brewer (sdrew@prodigy.net), 140 Oxnard Ln., Mystic, CT 06355; and Linda and Frank Punderson. All classmates are encouraged to join as your new class secretaries. We invite you to share whatever is going on in your lives: your passions, family, travels, projects, reflections—at any time, and by any means. E-mail is the easiest method so please be sure the College has your latest e-mail address or send it to us. We also welcome snail mail! • Judy attended the 2006 Alumni Leadership Conference; one of the things that really stood out was how the trees were turning and the people were wonderful as always. “The ’56ers present were class agents Pat Hunter Highley, Heloise Gilmore Depew (with husband Chuck), Cynthia Holt Hunt, Hawley (Jonessie) Jones, and Stan Hayward. Ned and Ellie Maier. MacDowell were also there, as well as Charlie and Heather Hamilton ’57. The class of 1957 Robinson and Mona Meyers Wheatley, our cheerleader extraordinare. The spirit of our 50th still surrounded us. Most of us stayed in a little cottage across from the Bread Loaf Inn and shared a tiny bathroom at the end of the hall. Cozy and remarkably workable!” • Walt retired in 2001 after almost
45 years at the AP including stints as Washington bureau chief and executive editor. He spent much of his 35 years in the Washington bureau as the wire service’s political writer, and won the Pulitzer Prize for national reporting for his coverage of the 1979 Iran hostage crisis. He is the author of Deadlines Past, a memoir of his coverage of 11 presidential campaigns for AP. Commenting on this honor, Wurt said, “I told people it was a citation for being old and still standing. And that as Carl Yezieremski once said, if you play the same long Lens a few!” Congratulations, John and Wurt! Dick Catlin will once again host a mini-reunion at Timberloch, his resort in the Adirondacks, September 6-7, 2007, but needs to know as soon as possible if you want to attend. Contact Dick dick@timberloch.com. Finally, we are saddened to have heard that R. Hamilton “Tony” Rice passed away on August 12. Fred Parsons and Bob Santomenna sent this lovely remembrance of Tony. “We learned of Tony’s death from Ellen Child Berry. Fred goes way back with Tony, to their early years in Goftown, N.H., where he met the twins across the street—Anne and Tony rice. It was clear from the start that everyone adored Anne, a pretty, straight-A student, taller than her twin brother. So Tony did just about anything he could to offset her envious position, except for equaling her academic achievement. Tony and Fred became ‘Toni Sawyer and Huck Finn friends.’ Anne, Tony, and Fred all became members of the Class of ’56. Tony, Fred, and Bob pledged KDR and the three of them roomed together at the House in their sophomore year. From the beginning Tony was a large presence, figuratively speaking, in the fraternity scene, and the representative to the IFC, where he made his mark. Over four years Fred watched the emergence of Tony, from the shadow of his sister, as a very good student with a confident, just short of swashbuckling, persona—especially on the ski slopes. Fred, Dwight Sturrock, and John Catlin instrumental in bringing new life and vigor to the Ski Patrol at a time when ‘the Bowl’ was energized by the installation of the first Poma Lift in the U.S.” Dick Powell remembers Tony as a ‘special guy with a very wise sense of humor and always a comeback.” Bob recalls those qualities being ably applied as Tony commented on Bob’s failure to equip his 1947 Ford with snow tires—the result was the sale of a pair of “Rice Mud and Snows.” Fred expresses it best: “Tony, probably unconsciously, would always endeavor to make his mark. I imagine as a result he touched many people. He surely touched me forever.”

57 REUNION CLASS
At Vermont’s 10th annual Women’s Economic Opportunity Conference in October, author Sabra Field gave the keynote address. The conference offers everything from personal growth to financial management and during your own business to learning how to relax. The focus this year was on Vermont’s creative economy and Sabra’s studio is an example of success in that area. In September, Francis Hall represented Middlebury at the inauguration of a new president at the U of Mary Washington. “Don’t forget that our sot is coming up June 1-3! We hope to see you there!”

—Class Secretaries: Mary Ellen Bushnell (bushnell@mit.edu), P.O. Box 504, Pheonix, NH 03458; and S. Wyman Ralph (wyrlph@yahoio.com), 788 Weeden Rd., Winton, NY 05089.

58 Shirley Whitney Jeneoe writes that last year her daughter and sisters surprised her with a “Red Hat” 70th birthday party at the Waybury Inn. One of the reasons was such a surprise was that the party happened in July and her birthday is in November! Dick Johnicke and Fred Lensch, who attended their daughter’s 75th birthday, offer their congratulations. At Vermont’s 112th reunion, Don Johnicke was in attendance and wrote, “We learned of Tony’s death from Ellen Child Berry. Fred goes way back with Tony, to their early years in Goftown, N.H., where he met the twins across the street—Anne and Tony rice. It was clear from the start that everyone adored Anne, a pretty, straight-A student, taller than her twin brother. So Tony did just about anything he could to offset her envious position, except for equaling her academic achievement. Tony and Fred became ‘Toni Sawyer and Huck Finn friends.’ Anne, Tony, and Fred all became members of the Class of ’56. Tony, Fred, and Bob pledged KDR and the three of them roomed together at the House in their sophomore year. From the beginning Tony was a large presence, figuratively speaking, in the fraternity scene, and the representative to the IFC, where he made his mark. Over four years Fred watched the emergence of Tony, from the shadow of his sister, as a very good student with a confident, just short of swashbuckling, persona—especially on the ski slopes. Fred, Dwight Sturrock, and John Catlin instrumental in bringing new life and vigor to the Ski Patrol at a time when ‘the Bowl’ was energized by the installation of the first Poma Lift in the U.S.” Dick Powell remembers Tony as a ‘special guy with a very wise sense of humor and always a comeback.” Bob recalls those qualities being ably applied as Tony commented on Bob’s failure to equip his 1947 Ford with snow tires—the result was the sale of a pair of “Rice Mud and Snows.” Fred expresses it best: “Tony, probably unconsciously, would always endeavor to make his mark. I imagine as a result he touched many people. He surely touched me forever.”

59 For this issue, your class secretaries asked for book recommendations as well as other news. Some book suggestions appear here and some will be in the spring issue.

Pascal Schosberg recommends two books. One is The Bonus Army: An American Epic, by Paul Dickson and Thomas B. Allen (Walker and Company, 2004): “an immensely readable account of how WWI veterans navigated a political battle-field as treacherous as any they faced in Europe, without which the GI Bill might never have been passed.” The other is Last Night, by James Salter (Random House, 2006), a collection of short stories. “Susan Sontag said of Salter. ‘He is among the best in the business. We are fortunate to live on the site of the old Lake Jefferson, N.Y. Paul Schosberg writes, ‘In the fall Jane and I took our eighth safari in Africa, a trip with notable differences. For one, I took part in the first African Wildlife Foundation seminar on wildlife conservation, helping them meet learning criteria for kindergarte.”

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couples to cruise the Dordogne and Lot river systems. Earle and Betty Layer Hoyt traveled again to Alaska in the late summer and once again photographed bears (see the class Web site). Mike Freeman (cabin photo, mistakenly cub). 

* Bob and Polly Philbrick 60 Ray have built a new house in Westerly, R.I., and will move there from New Hampshire in February. Stu Purdy writes, "I have not retired and wish I had more time to read books. Spent the first week of September in a rented cabin on Lake Dunmore, where I did find time to do some reading; also climbed Mt. Moosalamoo. By the time I reached the top I was ready to be airlifted back down. I'm sad to report that, the day before I arrived at Middletown, the Dog Team Tavern burned to the ground. I drove out there but there was little to see but a pile of ashes and haunting memories."

We are saddened to report the death of Col. Joel Roberts on July 2. We send our sympathy to wife Ginny Arets Roberts and to all his family and friends. Visit the Class of '59 ongoing Web site: http://www.middlebury.edu/alumni/class_pages/1959/default.htm.

—Class Secretary Bill Henry (billhenryclass59@AOL.COM), 203 E. 72nd St., #6B, New York, NY 10021; and Lucy Payne Kezar (lkpkezar@int.net), 134 Mass St., Kingston, NE 68948.

With Bill Stritzler at the helm, Snuggler's Notch Resort was named Ski Magazine (for the seventh time) as the number one place for families to ski in North America. Since retiring from the Stinehour Press two years ago, Fletcher (Duke) Manley and a lady friend have been living in northern New Hampshire. Springtime usually finds them exploring the backcountry in the Southwest. In summer, they belong to an active group of "60-something" cyclists. Working with an associate at the Riverbend Studio, Duke's digitally reproducing artwork for publishers throughout New England. He still ski and has been connecting with Al Lamson, Peter Swallow '65, Spencer Jackson '62, and John Sinclair '62 at Sunday River in Maine. In July, Brud Folger sailed to Northeast Harbor, Maine, with John and Nancy Sinclair. Brud still flies for Penobscot Island Air to the islands off the Maine coast. At the Sinclair farm, Brud attended the biennial "Cow Sh— Party" along with A.D., Ralph Cobb, Sherm Russ, Duke Manley, and David and Sue Goodwin Hopkins, plus about 65 Midd Kids and friends. As development coordinator for the Loon Preservation Committee in New Hampshire, Ali Macpherson Hodges had the usual hectic summer in the Lakes Region. Although she didn't know him at Middletown, she likes or kayaks frequently with Chuck Brox '62, who volunteers at the Loon Center. Tom Irwin and his wife enjoyed the changing colors at their northern Vermont camp before returning to their home in Essex, Vt. During summer, Tom hikes, bikes, and kayaks while his wife does quilting. Their son and wife are living in Morrisville, Vt., where their son Brian teaches history at Lake Region High School in Orleans, while his wife is curator of the ski museum in Stowe. Daughter Rebecca '96 (who teaches biology at Dartmouth) and her husband do summer research at the Rocky Mountain Biological Lab in Gothic, Colo. They purchased a home in Norwich, Vt. Tom and his wife enjoyed helping them paint and move in. Dotty Cattell made a good recovery from a total knee replacement in February 2006. In March her church choir did Mendelssohn's Elijah, complete with orchestra. In June they went on a two-week singing sightseeing tour in Ireland and Wales. They sang in marvelous venues, saw beautiful scenery, Dotty works with Habitat for Humanity, on both local projects and Hurricane Katrina rebuilding. Lee and John Howard have moved to Sausalito, Calif., to be close to some of their kids and grandchildren—quite a change for lifelong New Englanders. John passes the time working on the house, bumbling work in the workshop, and trying to keep the TR4 going. He had a good time with Bruce Burnham, Leon Vancini, Dick Atkinson, Bob Hall, Art Myles, and Bill French at their 50th Loomis reunion. Lee was in Tuscany last March, visiting a stepdaughter staying in Florence for one semester of junior year. In August Ann and Lee Farnham took their granddaughter (9) to western Mexico for 10 glorious days without TV, radio, newspapers, or cell phones. The camp Lee attended in the early 70s, near Thoreau, N.M., had a series of trips to El Malpais (lava fields) National Monument, El Morro (Inscription Rock) National Monument, Chaco Canyon National Historical Park, and the Zuni Pueblo, where they saw a rain dance. On their return they had a nice tour of Hawaii with Stu Purdy '50. They marked their 20th anniversary with an October trip to Monterey, Calif., where they toured the Monterey Institute, went on a pelagic birding trip, and visited the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Still working full-time, Ann is a self-employed landscape architect and Lee is a financial advisor with Wachovia. Reporting from Perth, Australia, Sally Porter Hoedemaker was interested in news of our reunion but missed it. She missed Tennis, badminton, and first-and-only granddaughter Joseph Pieter (1.5) keep her busy. She hopes to make it to the States in 2007. John Coombs reported from Macon, Ga., that they attended two 50th high school reunions last spring. John Karlak and his wife retired three years ago, he from the Montgomery County (Md.) schools and John from the International Monetary Fund. Their son, a mechanical engineering senior at MIT, will enter the Navy, hopefully to fly. Their daughter is a premed junior at Brown. The Karlaks divide their time between their home in Bethesda and a cabin on Deep Creek Lake in far western Maryland. He postpones physical deterioration by occasional windsurfing and sailing, and cutting and splitting wood to heat the cabin. Noting that it is easy to focus excessively on international disasters and the failures of U.S. policy, he recommends getting involved in a few organizations, avoiding the news once in a while, and continuing to fish. John and Ted Buhl planned to ski together in December at Vail. Jan Fisher Barstad reports the Newport (R.I.) City Council approved their archaeological excavation in Touro Park to discover who built the Newport Tower. Although they know Gov. Benedict Arnold (ancestor of the traitor) owned the Tower, he did not build it. After a ground-penetrating radar survey discovered building foundations nobody knew about, their dig was finally approved. (Info available at www.chronologic.org.) Polly Philbrick Ray and husband Bob '59 recently met Breck and Sue Hibbert Lardner for lunch near Essex, Conn., where they live. (Sue and Polly were freshman-year roommates.) While building a year-round house in Westerly, R.I., where they have summered for many years, the Rays are hunkered down in their beach cottage. Bob grew up in the area and they have long wanted to return. Attending Alumni College in September, Amy and Mike Robinson ran into Skip Ingold, who was back for his umpteenth Alumni College session. Mike, along with Peter and Jean Enrich Battlel and Jean Seeler-Gifford, was at Bread Loaf for Alumni Leadership Conference in September. Jean had just gone to her 20th high school reunion, where she reconnected with Anne De Sola Paust. Lindy Hill Reed cannot transfer her old address list to her new computer, so she would appreciate it if classmates would send her a note so she can update her address book. Her new address is mkiimove@comcast.net. Libby Kelley spent the summer caring for first grandchild Faith (20 mos.), when her daughter had a C-section delivering #2 grandchild Joshua. At her 50th high school reunion in Washington, D.C., last spring, Libby was amazed how classmates felt like family, despite the lack of contact with each other for 50 years. Dr. James Coward gave a talk entitled "Mechanism: Biochemistry and the Design of New Drugs" on campus last November. Jim is a prof. of chemistry and medicinal chemistry at the Univ. of Michigan.

Dad '59 and Nona Lyons Livingston are fortunate that daughter Stephanie and her family live nearby in Big Sky, Mont., as does son Josh. Son Scott is in Milwaukee. They ski 100 days a year, fish and golf in the summer, and love it in Big Sky. They leave during the mud season and spent three weeks last May in Greece, where they chartered a 46-foot sloop and sailed the small Greek islands along the Turkish coast. We are very sorry to report the deaths of Nancy Sharp Van Vranken this past summer and Allyn Moorman Sullivan on September 5. Our condolences are extended to their families and friends.

CLASS SECRETARIES: Jeannine, Gifford (jeannine@mindspring.com), 1529 Spleef Ct., Trinity, FL 34655, and Vary Starchild (varya@chadisetc.com), 47 Fearing Rd., MA 02354.

Secretory Crampton sends this report about '60ers who couldn't make it to reunion Phil and Eileen Glasee '62 Lateville attended Chuck Gately's '62 annual golf outing in Chicago where they got to spend time with '62ers Tom and Marren Ward Meehan, and John and Betty Allen Hornbostel, among others. The Latevilles, who have wintered at Harbour Ridge in Stuart, Fla., since 1987, have had dinner with Mike '59 and Lynde Siddharth Karin '62. Susan and I were looking forward to seeing Phil and Eileen this winter, but unfortunately missed them at the Messiah Annual Winter Music Festival in Portland, Maine. "We both look forward to seeing them at the next reunion," Phil wrote. Phil's wife, Elaine, sent us a note, too. They moved to Vero Beach for golf outings. Jeff Foran was sorry to miss reunion, but delighted to hear the campaign results, due in part to his efforts. Still teaching at A/H Secretary Crampton sends this report about '60ers who couldn't make it to reunion Phil and Eileen Glasee '62 Lateville attended Chuck Gately's '62 annual golf outing in Chicago where they got to spend time with '62ers Tom and Marren Ward Meehan, and John and Betty Allen Hornbostel, among others. The Latevilles, who have wintered at Harbour Ridge in Stuart, Fla., since 1987, have had dinner with Mike '59 and Lynde Siddharth Karin '62. Susan and I were looking forward to seeing Phil and Eileen this winter, but unfortunately missed them at the Messiah Annual Winter Music Festival in Portland, Maine. "We both look forward to seeing them at the next reunion," Phil wrote. Phil's wife, Elaine, sent us a note, too. They moved to Vero Beach for golf outings. Jeff Foran was sorry to miss reunion, but delighted to hear the campaign results, due in part to his efforts. Still teaching at
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Judy Roessel reports, "After a hiking for two months in Telcel, Austria, where I should meet up with an American family from Harrogate, England, where classmate Bonnie Bonnivat lives. In walking one day with the son, Mike, I discovered that she had been his French teacher! She has retired, but he said she was a terrific teacher! Another instance of what a small world!" • An update from Jim Bernene related, "We are about to welcome our seventh grandchild into the family. Three of these are the children of son Chris '90 and wife Holly '90 so we are doing our best to raise Middlesex legacies. I am planning to step down from my job as Chief of Medicine at the Hospital at Central Connecticut effective January 2008, but I will stay on part-time to teach and see some patients. I was awarded a Mastership in the American College of Physicians, and I've always heard that this designation is the first sign of "brain death" so I thought it was time to step aside. We will split our time between Avon, Conn., and Palm Springs, Fl. We just completed a sabbatical in Napa, both in California to continue to travel as often and as long as we can. I see a few classmates periodically and we played golf with Pete and Janie Bachelier '63 Johnson in North Carolina recently. Life is still full and good and I'm looking forward to seeing our classmates next year for our 43rd!" • In Connecticut, Superior Court Judge Howard Scheinblum was recently transferred from the Enfield Superior Court to the Meriden Judicial District and G.A. 7 Courthouse. Prior to being sworn in as a judge in 1990, Howard received his law degree from Boston Univ. and worked in Hartford as a defense lawyer for 26 years. That's not what he told his wife he was ready for a change. "I'm going to become a judge or move to Florida and sell shoes!" For 16 years, Howard has loved being a judge. • Liza Fisher reports, "After overcoming a few health issues including ankle and knee surgery, I am back to an active life including tennis. With my husband, we are doing all the usual wonderful things —visiting family, enjoying grandchildren, and travel. We're planning to take a walking trip to Costa Rica this winter. We especially enjoy our one-room log cabin on Lake Superior where I spend hours walking the shore and collecting rocks. My home is full of rocks, and Chris brought some to you. As you may know by now, I am your social chair for our 45th reunion in June. Sure hope you have it on your calendars for June 1-3!" —Class Secretaries: Liza Dumphrey Fisher (fhitch@mind.edu), 11630 Center Rd., Bath, MI 48808; and Janet Brevoort Allen-Spencer (jfalleft@snjford.com), 147 Duck Cove Rd., Buckport, ME 04416.

63 In breaking news from Utah, well- loved professor Dave Hanscomb has retired after 24 years at the School of Computing at the Univ. of Utah. In addition to teaching undergraduate courses, Dave served as director of undergraduate studies, overseeing admissions and counseling for all undergraduate computer science and computer engineering students. He was active in outreach programs targeted at attracting high school math and science students to computer science. The university is establishing a scholarship fund in his name to honor his legacy, which includes a tribute from his colleagues (and surely his Midd classmates) to his endurance and eternal good nature. As professor emeritus, Dave will maintain his ties to the university, while having more time to enjoy hiking, mountain biking, and, of course, cross-country skiing with wife Mary Leslie Hanscomb and sons Brett '92 and Greg '95 and their families. They can be reached at hanscomb@cs.utah.edu. • In Massachusetts, William Delahunt was reelected to another term in the U.S. House of Representatives from the 10th Congressional District. He is a 10-year veteran of the House. Congratulations, Bill! • A class secretary comes out of hibernation! Jan Brevoort Allen (now also known as Jan Allen-Spencer since marrying Jeff Spencer in February 2000) may be one of the few who has not yet retired. After three years teaching English in a NYC high school (a chance to experience a dysfunctional bureaucracy firsthand), she has joined the much-smaller Suffolk Community Council as project director working with countywide programs to help persons with mental illness obtain and retain housing. She notes that it feels great to be back in the nonprofit arena. Her sons are moving up in the world—after leaving Boulder, Jonathan lives at 9,300 feet in Silverton, Colo., using that as a base for skiing and rock climbing worldwide. Older brother Thomas and wife Leslie, both attorneys, moved from SFO to London and are working at Marsh McLennan, within walking distance of the Tower of London on the Thames. Last summer, with the New York Choral Society, Jan traveled to China to sing with the Shanghai Opera and Conservatory choruses. If you are coming to NYC, check for her concert schedule at Carnegie Hall. She also has a guest room! —Class Secretaries: Janet Brevoort Allen-Spencer (jfalleft@snjfordcommunitycouncil.org), 2 Arizona Pl., Huntington Station, NY 11746; and Christopher J. White (cnwhite@comcast.net), 347 Duck Cove Rd., Buckport, ME 04416.
Jane Isaacs Toussaint is found at last! Many of you inquired about her at the 40th and that inspired her to write. She and Jim Fenn married in August 2003. Jane has retired so they are able to divide time between Tucson, Ariz., and Boston, Mass. She and Jim have immersed themselves in taking classes and being politically active. They also manage to get back to France each year. Daughter Karine is working on a Ph.D. dissertation, which involves interviewing women over 40 who have lost a parent and who are voluntarily serving at Hospice. Son Paul is coaching hockey. Jane is enthusiastically happy with life. * Posie Merritt Taylor is checking in with the news that she is a “Grammy.” Granddaughter Kate lives near Posie and Bill so they see a lot of Kate and her mother Jenny Randolph Merrill ’59. They live in White River Junction, Vt., and travel to visit Bill’s sons in California and Arizona. Posie is semiretired from the Ahold Foundation but still serves on the American Camp Association National Board, so she hasn’t hit the front porch rocker just yet. * Our two Class of ’65 reunion fund scholarship recipients have checked in with us; they are grateful for our assistance and are giving back to Middlebury as much as they are learning. They are remarkable young men headed for very bright futures. * Pete Branch has taken over as class agent for annual giving and he is lining up volunteers to help contact classmates. He takes over from * Fred Stetson, who was passing quite a torch to Pete. Let us support Pete’s effort as we have supported Fred all these years. * Class Secretaries: R. W. ’T’ll Jr. (alh@shoreham.net), 204 Clark Rd., Cornell, VT 05753, and Polly Moon Walters (Mrs. Kenneth) (polly@frii.com), 100 Grandview Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80521.

We were pleased to receive notes from people unable to make reunion last June. * Joan Lardner Paul, director of leadership at Moravian College in Pennsylvania, wrote to say that she and husband Dave had two professional conflicts with us: “Judy Nonthample Reynolds and I had hoped to enjoy this special reunion together until I realized that my biggest Steinway Piano fund-raiser was Friday evening, June 2. Then I thought we’d try to scramble north early Saturday morning for some festivities until I found out that Dave’s Merrill Lynch trip was to sail on the Queen Mary 2 from New York Sunday afternoon.” * Martha Synerholm McSherry’s horse got sick, so she missed the dinner Saturday night at reunion. Carol Gillen June writes that Martha “has a pretty major horse farm with a full riding arena. She also raises her own beef cattle, and we had yummy hamburgers (homegrown) for our Sunday house party on Lake Champlain.” * Kay Patterson Rodriguez Side reports that Kathy Baker Worden and husband Doug ’68 visited her in Seattle while attending granddaughter Kate’s first birthday party. * George Walker, who retired from EPA last summer, sends his best regards to all. He’s dealing with a new (2001) shoulder and a newer (2000) hip and may have to limit his sports to golf and doubles tennis. (Progressing? I hope so. A lot of us can do with our original parts!) He’s also been taking art courses for the last 10 years and may well be displaying his paintings locally now, so if you get to Severna Park, Md., look him up! * After an earlier career in real estate, Shirley Frobes is now working in editing. * John and Sue Glauner Swartz had a busy summer. After a new county jail was built around the 120-year-old one, John trained the new officer recruits to run the much larger facility. John intends to retire this July after 32 years with the sheriff’s office, so he was happy to get the chance to work in the new building before he left. He may continue working as a part-time contract employee if there is a need. Sue keeps occupied with volunteering for the Leverett (Mass.) senior lunch program and Franklin County Nutrition Council. She also takes seniors to medical appointments and shopping when they need a driver. Local groups want to get to know her neighbors. After doing a dozen cruises, Sue and John continue to enjoy their favorite vacation occasions, occasionally dodging hurricanes in the Caribbean while making new friends from all over the world. They live on 15 acres in rural Leverett where they enjoy seeing the varied wildlife drop by, including ducks, hawks, owls, wild turkeys, and deer. A neighbor sheep farmer graces his 50 ewes and their lambs on their pastures to keep them trimmed down. Sue was sad to learn her Middlebury biology professor, adviser, and friend, Toby Gaunt, passed away last March 30. * George Voland retired from his “day job” in 1999, after 53 years of teaching English, 25 of those years at South Burlington (Vt.) High School. He then worked for five years as a marketing writer at the Physician’s Computer Company. During that time wife Anne retired from teaching so that she and George could start a bed and breakfast, the Elliot House B&B (elliothouse.com) in Shelburne, Vt. High School. He then retired from PCC last summer. He is found at 700 Red Rock Rd., New City, IL 60056; and John Vecellia (vecchiolla@jmuio.com), 193 Byram Rd., Greenwich, CT 06830.

In the midst of the first snowstorm of the season. Colorful leaves were still glistening through the rain, sleet, and frozen snow. But all was warmth and smiles and laughter “round the blazing log fire in Earthworm Manor. We had several first-timers: Carol Conklin Wheelock, Lee Powers Smith, Margaret Clark Jackson, and Karen Unsworth, some from especially far away: Robin Flint Ballenger from Tulsa (and Lee from Louisville); those who had changed plane tickets and left other conferences to join us: Margot Childs Cheel and Helen Martin Whyte; as well as newcomers to come “Carolinian” Little, Marion Bouldbee, Elaine Dunphy Foster, Kathie Towle Hession, Joanne Hal Johnston, Jervis Lockwood Anderson, Freddy Mahlmann, Sue Rugg, Parmenter, Judy Van Nostrand Sturgis, Livvy Barbour Tarleton, Cathy Clement, and Susie Davis Patterson. Our Saturday was packed with a hike through the Otter Creek Gorge, a visit to the College Center for the Arts Museum, a shopping spree in downtown Middlebury, an insight into our “personal colors” (provided by Carol Wheelock), and much sharing of good food, and the affirmations of interest and friendship in and among each other. Sunday was particularly special; we hiked on Bread Loaf trail to the Frost Cabin where we met Gary Margolis, our guide through Frost’s little world there and our mentor in reflecting on our own connections and experiences with Robert Frost and his poetry, especially as entering-first-year students. Afterward, most of us walked back; the Frost Waters were so clear, so we read aloud the Frost poems staked along the route. In some ways, it felt like we had come full circle from 1963, but even better to be where and who we are...
Dr. Sharon Smith says she is still doing neuropsychological assessments and studying memory loss in younger elderly, most on Medicaid. “Welfare for the ultrarich has resulted in desperate straits for the impoverished people I see. I wish I could walk selected nonpoor people through the everyday lives of the poor. ‘Would their hearts soften, or are they immune?’”

Susan and Ben Gregg were pleased to have daughter Sara ’97 marry Benjamin Hayes on July 22 in Stowe, Vt. Numerous Middlebury alums were in attendance, including Sam Levin (a friend of Ben’s since 4th grade!), as well as some Middlebury faculty and mentors of Sara’s, Travis Jacobs and Paul Monod and Jan Albers. Ben Gregg was happy to see Barbara Ensmin<;ger Stoebs@/aoicom), and Linda Mason-Smith at the Alumni Leadership Conference at Bread Loaf in mid-September. Linda’s sister, Kathy Mason Lindsey, was also at Bread Loaf briefly over the weekend, leading a workshop in alumni interviewing. Kathy is in the College’s Admissions Office, and Linda is in the College Development Office (for about the past three years). We should all be proud of our two classrooms—the gals we knew as the Mason Twins are now essential employees of the College on the Hill.

While at ALC, your classmates were also happy to meet Eric Ambrette ’04, son of classmate Kurt. He’s been at the College Development Office (for about the past three years). We should all be proud of our two classrooms—the gals we knew as the Mason Twins are now essential employees of the College on the Hill.

Class Secretaries: Dr. David Deschenes (davandelss@email.syr.edu), PO Box 207, Gilmanton, NH 03237; and Peter Reynolds (perryj@vassar.com), 126 Pothc Bay Dr., Addison, VT 05443.

Dave Deschenes reports he works in sales and has been on the board of Directors for the Colorado chapter of the National Kidney Foundation. His wife, Brasti Sceley, and friend Jim Hamburn, have both been on the board of Directors for the Colorado chapter of the National Kidney Foundation. His wife, Brasti Sceley, and friend Jim Hamburn, have both been on the board of Directors for the Colorado chapter of the National Kidney Foundation. His wife, Brasti Sceley, and friend Jim Hamburn, have both been on the board of Directors for the Colorado chapter of the National Kidney Foundation.

Your new secretaries report that our reunion last June was such a wonderful time—we were all able to reconnect with old friends and in part because it felt so natural to connect with people that we didn’t know as well. We laughed, reminisced, and shared our current lives and thoughts with classmates who had always been a part of our lives. A number of our classmates took a Saturday morning walk to the Middlebury Farmers’ Market, where they had a surprise visit with Francie Marbury, who was selling goat cheese for Hannah Sessions, daughter of Bill ’69 and Abi Procter Sessions! Francie is principal of the Marlborough (Vt.) Elementary School, having moved back to Vermont from Colorado via Costa Rica. With the Château and Allen as headquarters, the only reminder of our advancing age was the nearby Class of 2001, who kept us awake until all hours partying like we used to. The College had a full schedule of events and the Class of ’71 was well represented. Our own Julia Alvarez completely filled Warner Hémicycle, twice, reading from her new novel Saving the World. Saturday night Charlie Rockwell and one of his bands, Crisp, provided music for dancing in McCullough. And, in a burst of reckless enthusiasm, Carolyn Underberg Oliver, Robert Warren, and Barbara Ladenburger Mosley volunteered to assume responsibility for the gathering of class notes. We thank Sue Thornton for her many years of excellent service to our class, and ask your patience as

Their two daughters both attend Chadwick School in Palos Verdes, Calif., where they see John Fiske, who is the director of the Chadwick Middle School. Tom also speaks fairly regularly with Jan Reynolds, who has been living life in New York as an empty-nester.” This past summer, Hersey (Pete) Egginton became the new director of development for major and planned gifts at Purchase College, SUNY. He came to Purchase from Columbia Univ., NYC, where he was the director of development at the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation. Previously he also had worked in development at the Culinary Institute of America and Baruch College, and was the assistant director of the Columbia College Fund. Pete holds an MBA in marketing and finance and also an M.A. in higher-education administration from Columbia Univ., and an M.A. in journalism from Syracuse Univ. * Poet Sue Ellen Thompson read from her fourth book of poetry this past summer at Other Tiger in Westerly, R.I. Six of the poems from The Golden Hour won the 2004 Pablo Neruda Prize, one was selected by Billy Collins for “Best American Poetry 2000” and two have been read on NPR. * In Maine, Elizabeth House Sky- Mellvain offered an experimental course in 21st-century literacy to eighth graders in laptop classrooms at Freeport Middle School, and provides teachers with training and support for integrating technology into the curriculum through Least Tern, a company she runs with husband and fellow educator Betsy. Betsy was a guest columnist in Education World, with a column offering a simple rubric for administrators, teachers, and parents to use when evaluating their school’s readiness for one-to-one computing. * Your secretaries, Kate and Dave, are working to increase participation in the class notes. Please send in your information!

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we take over this role. Speaking of Julia Alvarez, last summer she was honored by NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg as part of a celebration of the rich cultural contributions of the Dominican community in NYC. She was presented with a crystal apple and also with a key to the city, a recognition for her achievement in literature. Julia’s response: “Nearly 50 years ago I was a small girl coming to this great big city. Thinking back on those early years—struggling to learn English and adapting to a new life and culture—I never could have imagined the storyline that would bring me here this evening.” Also honored last summer was Jim Keyes, president of Citizen’s Bank in Burlington, Vt. Jim was selected as the 2006 winner of the SBA Financial Services Champion of the Year. A banker for 27 years, Jim says one of the reasons he loves banking is it gives him the chance to help people and give them opportunities to be successful. He is committed to community reinvestment.

Nan Krumm

Sicherl remains very involved with church, singing, garden club, and sitting on the board of a chamber music organization that brings world- renowned artists to Connecticut. She and husband Joe have a big way of life and accepted an early retirement package. They recently visited Italy, Nova Scotia, and Quebec City. In May, they head to a wedding in England; in summer to New York City. In May, they head to a wedding in England; in summer to New York City.

Vinal Farnsworth (who works at the College) came up to eat lunch with us all and catch up on news. When Skip and I were on campus Saturday to see the new library (gorgeous, by the way), who should come up to his car but Keith Oberfield, who was dropping off his son for MOO (Middlebury Outdoor Orientation) as a first-year student. Although he had no time for chatting at that moment, Keith and his wife drove up to Bread Loaf a bit later and were able to spend a few minutes with us before they had to zoom off to their next destination. We also saw Mike Schoenfeld, who dropped by while Keith was there. So there were six of us classmates up at Bread Loaf—practically a mini-reunion.

Deborah Schneider

Greenhut has a new position—on September 27, she officially became associate dean of humanities and social sciences at Hudson County Community College in Jersey City. “It’s a thrill to be joining a growing school and to have a chance to watch this part of the city blossom around us.”

Dan Gillmor is encouraging people to write their own news on citizen media Web sites. As the founder and director of the Center for Citizen Media, Dan has been the prime mover on this front. The New York Times Magazine did a feature on Wendy Mogel and her 2001 book, The Blessing of a Skinned Knee: Using Jewish Teachings to Raise Self-Reliant Children. With an original print run of 5,000 and little publicity, the book has become a popular parenting tool that has sold about 120,000 copies at a pace of more than 20,000 a year. Not confined to Jewish settings, the book is used all over the country as a text for classes and discussion groups. Wendy gives about a speech a month and has been a keynote speaker at the National Association of Independent Schools, the American Camp Association, and the National Association of Episcopal Schools. Her second book, The Blessing of a B Menu, will be published by Scribner in 2008 and is about everyday ethics for parents of teenagers. Wendy and husband Michael Tolkin ’74 live in Hollywood. U.S. House Representative Frank Pallone was reelected with 67 percent of the vote from the 6th District of New Jersey. Congratulations, Frank! Terry McGuirk serves as chairman and president of the Atlanta Braves where he has executive oversight of player personnel, team operations, and Turner Field. His involvement with the Braves dates from Ted Turner’s 1976 purchase of the team. The Vermont Symphony Orchestra’s “Made in Vermont Festival” this fall included a world premiere commission, Green Mountain Variations, by Peter Hamlin. This piece plays with a variation on Vermont folk themes. Peter is an active composer who has written works for orchestra, band, choir, chamber ensembles, solo instruments, solo voice, music theater, and electronic media.

Class Secretary: Deborah Schneider Greenhut (writercsg@comcast.net).

The 1973 Class

Janet Frey DeVito writes: “I went to Alumni College at Bread Loaf with husband Skip ’72. Walter Newman and Foster Osborne were also at AC. Franci”

Class Secretary: Deborah Schneider Greenhut (writercsg@comcast.net).
family and visit them in New Hampshire in the summer. Steve Miller ’73 remains our oldest friend, godfather to the girls.”

—Class Secretaries: Greg Dennis (gndennis@vconet.com), and Barry Schulte King (king@together.net)

75 Chris Graff, former chief correspondent for the Associated Press, was recently named VP of communications for National Life Group, which includes National Life Insurance of Montpelier, Vt. The job moves him from the journalism side of communications to the public relations side. With his new responsibilities, Chris decided to step down as the popular host of Vermont This Week, the reporters’ roundtable panel show aired on Vermont Public Television. He did take time in September to return to campus to moderate a debate on foreign affairs among the candidates for the Vermont seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Chris also published a book this past fall titled Distinctive Vermont: Covering and uncovering the newsworthy stories that shaped a state—and a nation.  

At Winter Carnival in 2005, Debbie Shadd gathered together a group of classmates and had a mini-reunion. They watched ski racing at the Snow Bowl, cheered the men’s hockey team as they beat Wesleyan in the NESCAC quarterfinal game, walked the Robert Frost poetry trail, and had a group dinner at Fire and Ice on the beach. Michael Cushman missed the trip due to a snowstorm and illness, respectively, but the following made it: Peter Kunhardt, Diana Stoianovich Revson, Betsy Mitchell Etchells, Tony MacDonald, Becca Gustafson Brown, Nancy Maurer, Wes Brooks, Burley Dickerson, and Steve Townsend.  

Nick (17) is a top squash player at St. Luke’s, in downtown NYC. Claire takes the subway to pretty much every event she can. tent. Définis (dennis@optonline.net).  

77 REUNION CLASS  

Dennis Parker is the new director of the ACLU’s racial justice program concerned with the School-to-Prison pipeline, immigrants’ rights, rules on English proficiency in schools, and more. With a law degree from Harvard, Dennis comes to the ACLU from the office of New York attorney general, Eliot Spitzer, where he worked on enforcing anti-discrimination laws in housing, employment, voting, public accommodations, and credit. He also worked for 14 years with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund and teaches race, poverty, and constitutional law at Columbia University’s School Law Institute.  

Class Secretary: Bob Lindberg (cll@lindberg.com)
that the experience of going through a divorce, even an amicable one, is draining. Things began looking up about a year later when he met Vicky Kahn (through J.Date.com!) and after two years together they wed in July. The next day they closed on a condo in Wayland, Mass. With all the commotion they delayed their honeymoon until October when they cycled along the coast of Tuscany with friends. • Diane Nastri and children Joseph (10) and Julie (8) relocated to West Hartford, Conn., from Concord, Mass., in August 2003. Diane has been in sales with Avaya for the past three years. Diane and Kim Wihe have enjoyed mini-reunions in the south of France the past two summers. • Mike ‘77 and Karen Divalentino McGown live in Norwalk, Conn. Karen says that she has returned to her Middlebury roots and is now teaching middle school Spanish. Karen and Mike enjoy sailing on Long Island Sound and skiing at Sugarbush with children Justin (14) and Kali (11). • Anye Dale reports that she is living in the Washington, D.C., area with her husband and 7-year-old son and that while celebrating living in the Washington, D.C., area with her husband, they delayed their honeymoon until closing on a condo in Wayland, Mass. With all the commotion they delayed their honeymoon until October when they cycled along the coast of Tuscany with friends. • Diane Nastri and children Joseph (10) and Julie (8) relocated to West Hartford, Conn., from Concord, Mass., in August 2003. Diane has been in sales with Avaya for the past three years. Diane and Kim Wihe have enjoyed mini-reunions in the south of France the past two summers. • Mike ‘77 and Karen Divalentino McGown live in Norwalk, Conn. Karen says that she has returned to her Middlebury roots and is now teaching middle school Spanish. Karen and Mike enjoy sailing on Long Island Sound and skiing at Sugarbush with children Justin (14) and Kali (11).
James C.E. Burke, partner in entertainment production company, had the world premiere of his most recent movie, Aurora Borealis, at the 2005 Tribeca Film Festival. The movie, which stars Joshua Jackson, Donald Sutherland (P. 95, Honorary P. 95), Juliette Lewis, and Louis Fletcher, also picked up Best Film nods from the Fr. Lauderdale International Film Festival. Set in Minneapolis, it recently showed at Edina's (Minn.) Landmark Theater and received a great review in the Star Tribune.

Class Secretaries: Kimberly Schlegel Bosow (kobosow@pcm.net); and Andrew Zelen (andrew.zelen@gilzees.com).
brother and family. After several years in the restaurant business and then working as a Montessori method teacher of preliminary students aged 18 months to three years, Liza Weekes became the head of school at the Pioneer Montessori School in the town where she grew up. She loves her job. "It's definitely where I belong," she says. "I'm trying to give back to the community that raised me." Many of her family members have also been teachers and brother Harry is the head of science at another local school.

—Class Secretaries: Tom Funk (tank@1818bear.com), and Elizabeth O'Brien (ebri@bigpond.com)

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Cohen and Steers, Inc., announced last summer that Leonard Geiger was joining its global real estate securities team as senior VP and director of European research. He's based in the firm's London office but also works with the firm's global investment team located in New York, Brussels, and Hong Kong. With both an M.A. in international affairs and an MBA from Columbia Univ., Lenny has 14 years investment experience. * At age 39, Timothy Farrell took over the job as executive director of the Port of Tacoma, making him one of the youngest executive directors of a major U.S. port. His master's degree in port and marine transportation management from the Univ. of Washington, as well as work in other ports, including a job with the Mass. Port Authority, have helped to give him the experience he needs to lead the rapidly growing Port of Tacoma. * Carolyn Graw has joined the faculty at William Mitchell College of Law as an associate professor. She teaches family law, writing & representation (advice & persuasion), and also in the clinical program. Carolyn earned her J.D. from Brooklyn Law School. * After being promoted last winter to senior VP Todd Forner was recently promoted to the position of chief risk officer and chief investment officer at RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. * Marianne Graveline Purushotham is a research actuary, products research, at LIMIRA International. Prior to joining LIMIRA, Marianne spent eight years at New England Financial in Boston, and two years at MassMutual. She earned her master's in applied mathematics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. —Class Secretaries: John Sciaud (jfsciaud@gmail.com), and Claire Guatzen Jones (guatzen@gmail.com), 334 N. Oakland St., Arlington, VA 22203.

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This past September, Tim O'Shea was a guest on the radio show, Speaking Volumes, on WSCA, Portsmouth, N.H. The show featured a discussion of his book, Don't Think Less of Me. * Penny Post wrote this update: "Callum Addison Post Chang joined us and big sister Abigail (4) in October 2005. (Not only because of the fact that Deron Chang '90 and I met in Addison County, Vt.) We are all doing well. I am currently the director of quality and regulatory affairs for Protein Sciences Corporation, a biopharmaceutical company in Connecticut. Deron is a science teacher at the boarding prep school Chocorua Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, Conn., where he runs the science research program. He works among many Midd alumn teachers and administrators! We hope to make it back for my 20th reunion—yikes!" * Nicole Paul writes, "After working as a translator and medical writer for the last 11 years at Merck, I started veterinary school at UPM in August 2006. Horse dissections, fetal pig cross sections, histology slides, and wildlife medicine are now part of my daily routine. My main interests are veterinary public health and zoonotic diseases, which could certainly involve international travel and continued use of my languages. I would love to hear from classmates and professors at nikalynne@yahoo.com." —Class Secretaries: Keith Brossell (brossell@jhu.edu), and Jeff Soures (jfs@williamandmary.edu)

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After nearly five years of living overseas (first in Paris, then Hong Kong, then Singapore), Adlai Hardin moved back home to New York in March 2002. About six months later he joined the corporate restructuring group at Skadden Arps. Ad married Elizabeth Besio in 2004 in Washington, D.C. Midsummer wedding guests included John Hurst, Ian Kelley, John Rice, and Matt Stewart '91. * Winona Dorschel and Patrick McCarthy married on August 12, 2005, at Canandaigua Lake, NY. The couple resides in Singapore. Several classmates were in attendance at the wedding including Pam Adelman, Kristen Peterjohn Brown, Stephanie Cooper, Tizz Strachan Miller, Schuyler Garrett Ryan, Gillian Skovron, Beth Soanes O'Brien, Elizabeth Toder, and Betsy Winchester. * Kelly Kennedy is a substitute teacher at the Denver school system and plays and officiates ice hockey. * Tizz Miller and husband Scott own 16 steer (for Scott's roping practice), 16 chickens (number varies depending on fox forays into the chicken coop), two goats, and four dogs at their home in Bellevue, Idaho. * After 11 years living in San Francisco, last summer Kelly Kennedy moved to sunny Marin County. Kelly works for Williams-Sonoma, Inc., in San Francisco as VP of investment representation (advice & persuasion), and also in the clinical program. Carolyn earned her J.D. from Brooklyn Law School. * After being promoted last winter to senior VP Todd Forner was recently promoted to the position of chief risk officer and chief investment officer at RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. * Marianne Graveline Purushotham is a research actuary, products research, at LIMIRA International. Prior to joining LIMIRA, Marianne spent eight years at New England Financial in Boston, and two years at MassMutual. She earned her master's in applied mathematics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. —Class Secretaries: John Sciaud (jfsciaud@gmail.com), and Claire Guatzen Jones (guatzen@gmail.com), 334 N. Oakland St., Arlington, VA 22203.

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This past fall, Patrick Berry joined the College staff as a major gifts officer. Previously he served as the policy director for the Vermont Natural Resources Council. He also sits on the Vermont Commission for Supportive Housing as a commissioner relating to conservation and the environment. Patrick earned his master's in environmental science from the Univ. of Montana. In his spare time, he is an accomplished banjo player, fly-fisherman, triathlete, and refurbisher of homes. Patrick and wife Brooke have sons Quinn (5) and Willum (2). * Global George Geiger '91, along with Fred Pitt, ran a sustainable design architectural competition for the areas of New Orleans devastated by Hurricane Katrina. * Drew Lang's entry, "The Levees," was one of six finalists chosen out of 3,000 registrants. The goal of the contest was to demonstrate how green design and good design can be brought together in an innovative way, thus ensuring that housing is truly affordable and healthy. * Lane Powell recently added Jonathan Norling as a shareholder in the firm's real estate and land-use practice group. Jon earned his J.D. from the Lewis & Clark College Northwestern School of Law and was a partner at the Portland, Ore., firm of McFarland, Kaufman LLP before joining Lane Powell. * After earning an M.S in operations research from Columbia Univ., Kiran Datar went on to work with the treasury department of ABN Amro in Chicago and then moved to Credit Suisse. At that point he decided he would rather work for himself and in 1995, with three friends, he moved to India and started CyberBazaar in 1996. CyberBazaar is a leading teleconferencing service provider. Four years later, they were bought by U.S.-based WebEx, which is now one of the leading providers of videoconferencing, webcasting, and web conferencing in India. Kiran is managing director of WebEx Communication India. The company originally started with just four employees and now employs 100, which Kiran is looking to double.

—Class Secretaries: Bill Driscoll (william.driscoll@thai.com), and Kate J. Kelley (k_kelley@comcast.net).

REUNION CLASS

Eva Martin has a full and happy life in Princeton, N.J., where she took her time finishing her doctorate (Princeton, 2006) to concentrate on building a family. She and husband Jim (married October 2001) welcomed second daughter Ella Céleste on November 25, 2005. Ella's older sister, Chloe Madeleine (born March 17, 2003), attends the École Française de Princeton (New Jersey's only French preschool) and her parents are proud to say, is fully bilingual. Éva began another phase this fall, commuting two times a week to NYC, where she is an assistant professor of French literature and culture at Columbia. Thankfully, husband Jim works from home as computer whiz and "making ends meet" genius. Eva sends her love to all her old Midd friends and would welcome any of their news! * Amy Randall Hazel, owner/operator of the Deschutes Angler Fly Shop in Maupin, Ore., and Kingman Gordon spent a beautiful September day fly-fishing through the deep gorge of Central Oregon's mighty Deschutes River—a.k.a. Am's "office." Kingman hired fly-fishing guide and classmate Am to teach him the ropes of steelhead fishing. Am managed to keep Kingman and a colleague fairly dry as the driftboat plunged through the rapids, and Kingman marvulously well managed to avoid hooking himself in the face as he learned a new facet of fly-fishing known as spey casting. In pursuit of the elusive...
Petersons, celebrated the release of their CD, *Update.* In her position as a senior editor at *Vogue,* Alexandra Kotur was recently interviewed for *Avenue* (NYC edition). Duties at *Vogue* include working with photographers such as Annie Leibovitz and Jonathan Becker, and working as editor of the "Talking Fashion" feature. On her latest pages, Alexandra came to *Vogue* from an apprenticeship at Ralph Lauren then a stint at *GQ* in London. As editor for photo shoots, she has been everywhere from George W. Bush’s office in Houston, to Condoleezza Rice’s Watergate apartment (where she listened to Condoleezza play piano). Her most difficult shoot was with Jonathan Becker in Afghanistan for a story about the historic women of Kabul Beauty School. In between photo shoots, Alexandra also published *Carolina Herrera: A Portrait of a Fashion Icon.*

—Class Secretaries: Fred Lawton (fredlawton@ipas.org); and Sam Wilde (samwilde@springpond.com).

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Blakely Murrell-Liland has joined her father’s veterinary practice in South Woodstock, Vt. After completing vet school at the Veterinary College at the University of Edward Island, she first did an internship in small animal medicine and surgery at Tufts Veterinary School, then went to work at the Dover Veterinary Hospital in New Hampshire. But the idea of taking over an established practice lured her back to Vermont, where she grew up. She will slowly build up her hours (as her dad reduces his) especially since she is busy with son Finn, born to her and husband Jon on July 1. *Neil* and Alyssa Sweden ’93 Sinclair welcomed Ian Timothy Sinclair on August 26. He joins big sister Harper. Sinclair is also in the quartet. Check them out live on September 11.

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Julia Harris, M.D. Dartmouth-Brown, recently spent six weeks at a Perkins School for the Blind and a Music Hall for the deaf. She returned to Dartmouth, her first love, after having worked at the Rheingold Brewery in Brooklyn, N.Y. After completing her studies at the Atlantic Veterinary College at the University of Prince Edward Island, she first did an internship in small animal medicine and surgery at Tufts Veterinary School, then went to work at the Dover Veterinary Hospital in New Hampshire. But the idea of taking over an established practice lured her back to Vermont, where she grew up. She will slowly build up her hours (as her dad reduces his) especially since she is busy with son Finn, born to her and husband Jon on July 1.

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College Dare's latest project required their family to temporarily relocate to Charlottesville, Va., this past fall. *Jeff Albertson* is living in Seattle with his partner of eight years, Ben Vogt. They are gradually remodeling a 1912 home, which in Seattle qualifies as "old." Jeff is a product manager for Windows CE at Microsoft, serves on nonprofit boards in Berkeley. His research examines the long-term conservation, and is playing right field in the Puget Sound Senior Baseball League. Ben and Jeff attended the engagement party of Meredith Hinkley and Christine Jacobs '97 in Portland, Ore., where they caught up with Mike and Lyn Lipscomb Berkley while drinking Otter Creek Ale that had found its way into a beer shop in Portland. *Lindsay Adams Foote* wrote last spring, "Since graduating, I spent two years teaching skating and met my husband at Smuggs. I went to physical therapy school at UVM, graduating in 2000. After five years working in a private pediatric practice in Walliston, I have been working as the school PT for the Burlington School District. We are remodeling our 1912 home, which in Seattle to temporarily relocate to Charlottesville, Va. Daves latest project required their family to move back to Boston. In the spring, "Since graduating, I spent two years teaching skating in Portland. —Class Secretaries: Emily Ahern and Jennifer Breslow Moss has been living back home in San Francisco. In her free time, she continues to work on her novel. —Annie Nichols is working on a food writing project in New York. She is also working on a book about the Olympics and two years at business school. I'm switching gears a bit and have just started working for a company called KickApps in NYC. We are an Internet startup providing social networking functionality to our clients. In other words, we give any company/entity the ability to have the functionality of MySpace, YouTube, and Flikr on their own Web site (to connect their customers). We send our deepest condolences to her family and friends. Please keep your news coming by e-mailing us; we would love to hear from you.

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**Chinese**

Daniel A. Bell (’90, ’91) is a professor at Tsinghua Univ in Beijing, the school's first foreign philosophy professor since the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949. He specializes in communitarianism and has a book coming out, *Beyond Liberal Democracy*. He lives in Beijing with wife Song Bing (French School ’91) and son Julien.

*Susan Jakes* (’96, ’97) had an article published in *Tome International*. Last summer outlining the humbling experience she had learning Mandarin at Middlebury. Now she speaks Chinese daily and still finds it humbling!

**English**

Interviewed by the Wilmington (Del.) *News Journal* this past fall about the elections, Lloyd Kline (M.A. ’62) recalled a time when Robert Frost visited one of his classes at Bread Loaf and, talking about education, said he didn’t want to speed it up or toughen it up, but he wanted to tone it up. “That’s how I feel about the current political situation,” Kline said. *Fairfield (Conn.) Univ.* announced recently that Ed Paige (’76) has been named the head coach for the men’s and women’s tennis program. Ed has been involved in tennis as a player, coach, and writer for nearly 30 years.

Valorie Foy (M.A. ’76) recently became the director for instruction for the Crete public school district in eastern Nebraska. Previously, Valorie taught secondary school language arts, including creative writing and AP English. *Haverhill Cooperative Middle School teacher Mary Burnham (M.A. ’97)* was one of the first recipients of a Road Scholar Teacher Award as an outstanding teacher and life-long learner. The award will allow her to experience Road Scholar educational adventures in the U.S. and around the world. Mary teaches seventh-grade English and language arts.

**French**

James Nesbitt (M.A. ’63, D.M.L. ’83) writes that he is semiretired as a scholar in residence at Grace College in Winona Lake, Ind. *The president of Fairfield (Conn.) Univ.* announced this past summer that Rev. John Hanwell (M.A. ’84) had been appointed president-elect at Fairfield College Prep School. Jack had previously been the associate director of advancement for the New England Province of the Society of Jesus. *Juliana Nielsen (M.A. ’91 and French School Communications Officer 2002, 2003)* and Jean-Claude Redonnet (Director of French School, 1998-2003) were married on August 20 at their home in Falmouth. Family friend and fellow Middlebury alum Patricia Smith (M.A. ’90) and John Labrie (’91) were in attendance, along with former College friend Cynthia Baughman. Juliana and Jean-Claude will continue to live in Falmouth and Paris, France. *After graduating from the School in Paris, Eleanor Leyden (M.A. ’93)* worked for two years as a legal translator for Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, moved to Ecuador to teach ESL and French in national and international schools, then in 1996 moved to Dhaka, Bangladesh, as a French teacher and started an M.A. in Spanish through the Univ. of Northern Iowa. Currently, she is in Yangon, Myanmar, as a secondary French and Spanish teacher. “Caught up with classmates Sunita Bhurandhar (M.A. ’92) in San Francisco in 2000 and with Cynthia Clark Plantecoste (M.A. ’96) in Prague in 2005. Would love to be in touch with classmates and welcome all visitors to exotic Southeast Asia.”

Dr. Lisa Gunderman (M.A. ’96) and husband Jean-François Huppé are happy to announce the birth of son Félix James on July 29 in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. *After falling in love with Paris, Heather Hartley (M.A. ’96)* was determined to live there. Now living her dream, Heather rents a apartment in Montparnasse and spends her days writing poetry and teaching private classes in English and grammar. She also serves as the Paris editor for *The House magazine* (which includes delivering the magazine to English bookstores).

**German**

Clifford Crowe (M.A. ’61) and wife Mary Lou celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last August 18. Married in 1956 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, they met when both worked at *The Press-Enterprise* in the mid-fifties.

Dr. Vincent DiNapoli (M.A. ’63, D.M.L. ’80) writes, “I am the essays for my travel and language Web site (www.travelanguist.com) which summarizes my extensive travel (this month, Antarctica) and my multilingual experience.”

Reinhard D. Theise (M.A. ’65), Black Hills (S.D.) State Univ. professor and chair of the department of humanities, published his poem "Visions of Faith" in the summer 2006 issue of *Poetry Midwest*, an online literary journal. *Rev. Ronald Perry (M.A. ’77)* has been appointed the new rector of the Boston College High School Jesuit community in Dorchester, Mass. *Despite her German degree and background, Sue Scheufele Willis (M.A. ’77)* has been teaching Spanish at Girard (Pa.) High School since 1981. She loves travel and gets to Europe almost once a year, either with husband Ted or with her students, whom she loves to turn on to traveling.

**Italian**

Gov. Mike Easley announced recently that he had appointed Judith Rizzo (M.A. ’69) to the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences Advisory Commission. Judith is the executive director and CEO of the James B. Hunt Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy.

**Spanish**

Dr. M. Frances Taylor (M.A. ’61) retired in 2001 as professor of Spanish at Rhode Island College. She taught for 46 years—high school, TV, and college. Since retiring she has traveled to Costa Rica, Panama, China, and Spain. *Author Marisa (Giaccance) Labozetta (71)* has a new collection of stories out entitled *At The Copa*. Marisa, who lives in Northampton, Mass., is also the author of *Stay with Me, Lito*. *Janet Tennyson (M.A. ’53)* married Hug Manzano Gomez on October 21 in Barcelona, Spain. Janet is a paralegal for Remova, Ltd., and Hugo is a director at Banesto Bank. Following a honeymoon to Hawaii and New York, the couple returned to their home in Barcelona. *Formerly upper school principal at Visitation Academy in St. Louis, Matthew Walsh (M.A. ’95)* was recently named the headmaster at LaGrange (Ga.) Academy. He and wife Janet made the move to Georgia in June with daughter Kate (4). Daughter Alya was born July 5.

Jennifer Connelly (M.A. ’03) was married August 5 to Raul Garcia Alonso in NYC. Jenn is a management consultant at the Boston Consulting Group’s NYC office. Raul received his master’s in public policy from Harvard last June. *This past fall, Marielena Cosa Villamil (M.A. ’70), president and cofounder of the Washington Economics Group, was appointed by Gov. Jeb Bush to Miami Dade College’s district board of trustees. Last year, she was honored with the Dr. Mario Villarroll International Leadership Award by the American Red Cross.

Curtis has joined the firm’s Salt Lake City office as a member of the firm’s litigation dept. She received her law degree from the Univ of Utah and was admitted to the Utah State Bar in 2005. *It was a busy summer for Craig Stouffer, who completed his first national on-air radio work as an analyst for XM Satellite Radio’s coverage of the World Cup 2006. Craig covers D.C. United for the Examiner in Washington, D.C. He and wife Heather—cousin of Stephen Gothetsche—recently launched Mom Made Foods, the Washington area’s first fresh frozen organic children’s food company. Son Emory (1) is director of taste testing. *Catherine Mitchell and Jon Wieman* were married in a beautiful ceremony overlooking the ocean at the Baccara Resort in Santa Barbara, Calif. Celebrating with them were Leslie Graham, Celena Kingson. Helen

Froelich Plummer, Amy Smith Johnson, Katie Pinto Smith ’98, Jackie Pelton Hodglund, and Scott Poykery ’66. After honeymooning in Fiji, they returned to their new home in Redondo Beach, Calif. *Helen Plummer and husband Ray were proud to announce the birth of son John Raymond Plummer IV on July 1. The Plummer family moved to Beijing, China, in October.* *In Stowe,Vt., Sara Gregg and Benjamin Hayes were married on July 22. Sara is an assistant professor at Iowa State Univ. Benjamin is employed by Data Privacy Compliance Lead for the Americas, Accenture, LLP.* *Reading (Mass.) Memorial High School hired Kathy Kulis Dailey to be a member of the practical and performing arts department. Kathy previously taught at Hingham High School and at the middle school level in Belmont and sounds, at least so far! I can be reached by e-mail at anystarwimw@gmail.com. *Adam and Laurie Higginbotham Duarte are thrilled to announce the birth of son William Weber Duarte born September 14. *Katy Birnie Walum* writes, “I graduated from the Univ of Oregon Law School in 2002 and worked as an immigration attorney in Portland for three years. I married Erik Walum in August 2003 in the Columbia River Gorge, and Laura Sanchez was one of my bridesmaids. Erik and I moved to West Seattle last spring, and on December 28, 2005, Erik and I welcomed daughter Olivia Crane Walum. I enjoy being a stay-at-home muma right now (never been happier!) and would love to hear from fellow Midd Kids. Contact me at kathywalum@gmail.com. *Panorm Bohlé & Latimer announced recently that Judy Kaufman
Brighton. She's instructing both the graphics and digital photography and imaging classes. * While studying at UVM's med school, Jessica Bordley found time to volunteer at the Vermont Children's Hospital. Jessica's particular interest lies in pediatric oncology and she loves working with the patients she meets. She has completed more than 400 hours of volunteer work.

The 21st Century Scholarship Program, created by Graham Balch, is helping to bring Southern students to schools in the Northeast. An Atlanta native, Graham noticed public school there were having trouble seeing their students through college due to the lack of gap-financing at Southern schools in New England and, working through the program Project GRAD, got them to agree to offer full scholarships to students who applied and were accepted through his program. Eight students in all were accepted for this school year, three at Middlebury. * Clint Biermann, founder of the band The Grift, and fellow band members, Jeff Volland '98 and Peter Day '01, are back in the Middlebury area and going strong. They're on track to perform about 120 gigs a year up and down the East Coast, with a few gigs down South and in Jamaica. In 2004, they came out with a CD, Live Beyond Aluminum, and they are working on a follow-up.

Class Secretaries: Jodily Nil Beni (jocelynbeni@yahoo.com), and Jacklyn (Pelton) Houghnd (jacklynhoughnd@comast.net).

Happy 30th birthdays. Class of 1998! * Hope you all are celebrating this momentous occasion in style. Jill Patey celebrated her 30th with an August Pong Tournament on Cape Cod—the indulgent indulgence included "I heart JP" T-shirts and a bejeweled tiara. Please contact Jill if you would like to purchase one of these limited edition T-shirts. * Jenny Arnold, who relocated back to San Francisco from D.C., celebrated her 30th with a blow out in Tiburon; Midd attendees included Kelly Johnson, who just moved back to SF from three years in Miami Beach, Brian "I work for Google" Schmidt '97 and Michelle Spina Schmidt, who just moved to SF from five heavenly years in Vegas. Kelly celebrated her 30th with a two-week trip to Italy. * Jess Perkins just moved to Seattle with husband Kelley to begin research at the University of Washington.

Happy 20th birthdays. Class of 2000! * Katie Doniger and Greg Parent's wedding * Speaking of which, Sara and Greg were wed on August 19 at the American Yacht Club in Rye, N.Y. Their wedding was a wonderful combination of evening outdoor service and reception featuring prime rib and plenty of dancing. * Also married were Sarah Hall and Thomas Wengel on September 21 in Chestnut Hill, Mass. Sarah works in Boston as the assistant news editor at E! Online, the Web site of E! Entertainment, the cable TV network. Her new husband is a child psychiatrist at the Klarian Eating Disorders Center at McLean Hospital in Belmont, Mass., and a clinical instructor in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. * Kristine Kraushaar continues to enjoy her work for the law firm of Robinson Cole in Boston. Evidently she impressed the partners enough so that she had the weekend of September 30 free to sail in the second annual Boston Harbor Islands Regatta with Peter Steinberg and father Ronald Steinberg (Syracuse '69). The trio guided their Soling Lizard Split to a mid-fleet finish--an achievement for last year's placings. * Ian McGinn was recently spotted in Hanover, N.H., where he is studying at Tuck for a semester as part of his program through the Fletcher School at Tufts. * John and Frances Madsen Maletis are also frequent fliers in the Hanover social scene, as John is in his final year at Tuck. * Jeanne Restivo Jacoby has started a new job at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. She is now heading up consultation services for inpatient diabetes care—it's a big blood sugar guru now! * The law firm of Bernstein Shur recently hired Josh Silver to be a member of the technology and business law practice groups. Josh carried a law degree in Finance and International Studies from Brown and is now attending school at the University of Maine School of Law. * Aaron Tyler completed a successful move around the corner from his old apartment in Brookline, Mass. His new apartment appears much more water-resistant than the last. * Matt Bak is almost at the end of a very long and soggy Kleenex as a fourth-year ear-nose-throat resident at the Univ. of Rochester. He is hoping for as much sleep as your share and my share of runny noses over the past four years. * Chris Morosky is winding down his ob/gyn residency at Connecticut, and recently demonstrated his prowess at slip and sliding. Unfortunately for Chris, he was in a native slant and on the dance floor of a wedding he attended at the time of his most recent slip and slide. The crowd was pleased regardless. * Chris Lindstrom is gearing up for another season of basketball on the Upper West Side. Hopefully Santa brings him a new pair of high-tops and a decent jump shot this year! * Cate Devlin reports she is living the high life in Tennessee and contemplating a career in higher education. * Dan Meyer and Molly Magill were recently spotted in New York. There is no further information available about the encounter.

John Felton reports that London is great, and that he and Ann Russell Felton '81 are having the time of their lives; however, he also states that he had his first asthma attack the minute the door opened at the airport. * Lisa Janicki has an...
On May 28, 2006, Christine Castro and Mike Cooley ’01 celebrated their marriage in East Burke, Vt., with friends (all ’01 unless noted) Stacy Brendtro ’05, Rick Cooley ’04, Roy Cooley ’72, Garrett Dodge, Emily Stonehouse, Sarah Cooley Dunleavy ’00, Howie Young ’96, Dana Dunleavy ’00, the newlyweds, Raena Schraer ’02, Shams Helminski ’02, Jason Oleet ’00, Eric Goldwarg ’00, Tom Keon, Geordie Rasag McLeod, Tom Santoro, Scott McLeod, and Mike Mazzotta ’03.


On Peaks Island, Maine, Kate Turner ’00 married Bob Bateman on June 24, 2006. Joining them in the celebration of their marriage were (all ’00 unless noted) Abby Stoller, Jessica Howe Thomson, the bride, Katie Lichtenstein, (back row) Matt Elder, Alex Bradley, Brian Deese, Jim Thomson, and Kara Arsenault ’02.

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Sally Helms and Craig Pittman Jr. ’04 were married on June 17, 2006, in Enterprise, Ala. Midd friends joining in the celebration were (all ’04 unless noted) Dan Visel, David Moan, (back row) Jessica Larson, Tony Carafano, Colin Lantry, Matt Wolf, Judge Craig Pittman ’78, the newlyweds, Brian Erb, Eric Shanley ’05, Lauren Gonnella ’05, Ryan Cunningham, and Donald Anselmi.

Phyllis Merikallio ’87 married Dan Ford on May 28, 2006, at the Dockside in York Harbor, Maine. Celebrating with them were (all ’87 unless noted) Bernard Condron, Laura Mullahy, Beth Winters Porter, Trish Clary (with Mr. B), Greg and Amy Beckwith Lupica, the newlyweds, Sue Cooper-Hermanson, Todd Hermanson ’84, Ann Poletti, and Emily Ferman.

Isabel Cernada ’91 married Kevin Purdy on July 15, 2006, in West Greenwich, R.I.

Celebrating the wedding of Aida Longo and Sam Knowles (M.A. Spanish ’00) on July 28, 2006, in Washington, D.C., were (all M.A. Spanish ’99) Kevin Drewer, Scott Webster, Ande Mercario Ogden, Chuck Tompkins, and Nicole Mitchell.

Meredith Livott ’01 and Krystian Makowski were married in Scarsdale, N.Y., on May 28, 2006. Midd friends celebrating with them were (all ’01) Kristy Laramee Kerin, Jean Burr, Kate Wright Kelly, the newlyweds, Kristina Lyons, Ashley Sullivan, (back row) John Colianni, Ryan Klinghoffer, Dan Deroo, Ethan Feuer, Brad Pryba, Chris Everett, and Doug Parobeck. Missing from the photo is C. Ryan Miller.

Emily Greenstein ’02 and James Munro ’02 were married May 21, 2006, at the New York Botanical Garden. Celebrating with them were (all ’02 unless noted) Douglas Parobeck ’01, Skye Borden ’06, Elinor Roberts, Caitlin Ryan, Robyn Cook, Kara Arsenault, Aaron Fine, Valerie O’Hearn, Sandra Carlson, Ashley Sullivan, (back row) David Caragliano, Josh Billings ’03, Mark Roche, Daniel Greenstein ’05, R. Thomas Hale ’01, Daniel Goldman ’01, the newlyweds, Brian Deese ’00, Bradley Pryba ’01, Terrence Burek ’03, C. Ryan Miller ’01, Christopher Everett ’01, and Jeffrey Polubinski. Ethan Feuer ’01 missed the photo.
Kristen Sylva '01 married Larry Capodilupo (Yale ’96) on May 13, 2006, at Saint Anne’s Church in Southborough, Mass. A reception at Charter Oak Country Club followed and, despite the torrential rain, a good time was had by many Midd friends: (all ’01 unless noted) Adam Taylor (cousin of the groom), Kate Griffiths Wilk, Becky Ruby ‘02, the newlyweds, Leslie Fox Arnould, Val O’Hearn ’02, (back row) Francisco Peschiera, Corey Wilk, Erin Sussman, Ann Marie Wong, Matthew Arnould, and James Tsai.

Happy Midd friends celebrated with Katherine Cardoza and James Carter Blackwell ’96 at their wedding in Falls Village, Conn., on July 8, 2006: (all ’96 unless noted) Fritz Muench, Jamie Houghtlin, Jon Barlow ’97, Steve Boyd, Kevin Burke, Zack Free, (back row) Reed Austin ’75, Socha Janke ‘98, Sam Martini, Erika Crane-Stern ’98, Tony Cardoza ’91, Rev. Addison Hall ’68, Cristina Salas-Portes ’91, Chiaki Takahashi, the newlyweds, Oliver Power, Jennifer Walton Burke ’98, Jim Bruce, Alex Dessouky, and Bain Smith.

On April 29, 2006, Erin Burns ’00 and Tim Sullivan ’00 were married under a 600-year-old live oak tree at Eden Gardens State Park near Grayton Beach, Fla. The bayou setting had family and friends dancing to the music of Curley Taylor & Zydeco Trouble. The couple later left in a kayak with the following Midd friends there to see them off: (all ’00 unless noted) Jared Baird, Michelle Morton Baird ’01, Alex Nelson, Helen Gemmill, Margaret Symonds, Lizzie Lokey, the newlyweds, Amanda Ayres Phillips, Dave Philips, Allison Greenwood Bajracharya, Ish Otlin, Mike Kautz, Rachel Otlin, and Lauren Rachal.

Jessica Monroe ’02 and William Vaughan ’01 were married July 8, 2006, at Mead Chapel. A reception at the Waybury Inn followed with plenty of Midd friends to help celebrate: Alex Sperling ’01, Maresa Perreault ’03, Jennifer Cupandi Porter ’01, Laurie Yeldon ’01, the newlyweds, Deborah Gaines Monroe ’70, Nina Kieves ’02, Becky Ruby ’02, Ellie Team Cipolla ’02, (second row) Mariah McKenzie Fadziwizidzwa ’01, Russell Coora ‘01, Reid Porter ’01, Tom Marks ’01, Ali Butler Marks ’00, Ashley Elpern ’02, Nico Kieves ’02, Chris Mitchell ’01, John Stevenson ’70, Douglas Monroe ’70, (third row) Benjamin Howe ’03, Michael Alonzo ’01, Elizabeth Padgett Northrop ’01, Elizabeth Beeten ’02, Eli Sugarman ’02, Justin Drechsler ’02, Lisa McAndrews ’02, Caitlin Corey Drechsler ’02, Heidi Rottrock ’03, (fourth row) Dauvin Peterson ’01, Brian Northrop ’01, John Mitchell ’03, Alison Hertel Reuter ’02, Patrick Ward ’02, and Christopher Loeffler ’04.
Kellie Rohrer '94 and Daniel Hemme were married October 29, 2005, at the Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J. Midd friends Leo Quinn '94 and Jin Fyun '94 were in attendance.

Annie Nichols '02 and Morgan Jones '02 were married at the Wilburton Inn in Manchester, Vt., on August 19, 2006. Midd friends who joined them in the celebration included (all '02 unless noted) Bridget Dungan, Kadian Phillips '03, Anne Alfano, Lauren Caccapaglia, Katharine Wolf, Eric Devon, Amanda Maxwell, Stephen Messenger, (second row) Melinda Graber, Michele Miers-Phillips, Laura Bloom, Amy Hendrickson, Vinny Idone '01, Tricia Saunders Idone, the newlyweds, Courtney Lane, Michelle Meija, Danielle Perkins '03, Dana Gordon, Ben Weber, Sarah Knebel, Janet Hailefodd Franklin '72, Sarah Nichols '73, (third row) Hannah Ritchie, Chip Franklin, Lee Jones, Seth Coffrin, Pace Rall, Nick Lesher, Ed Bogart, Bob Israel '71, Rick Kelley '71, Nick Dutton-Swain, Parkin Kent, Derek Chicarril, Andrew Dombrowski, John Swindal, Chris Fanning, Grove Nichols '71, Ian Bailey, and Churchill Franklin '71. Missing from the photo is Emily Lord '03.

Helen McCabe '92 and Eric Barnes celebrated their April 30, 2006, wedding in Hanson, Mass., with friends from the Class of 1992: Jackie Proulx, Laura Hayes, the newlyweds, Cynthia Gabriel, Fiona McDonald Rose, and Maria Aliberti.

Friends from the Class of '82 celebrated the wedding of John Vergara '82 and Michael Hayden in Truro, Mass., on September 3, 2006: Nancy Rieele, Kim Valenzuela, Beth Stellato Dunaier, (back row) Caleb Rick, the newlyweds, and Mary Frangakis Clark.

The marriage of Jenny Williams '00 and Sandy Weymouth took place July 1, 2006, in Northeast Harbor, Maine. Midd friends in attendance included (all '00 unless noted) Bryn Kenny '01, Jessa Martin McIntosh, the newlyweds, Deirdre Connolly Bertrand, Jess Grillin Rudolf, James Rudolf '01, (back row) Dave Seeley '02, Whitney Tremaine O'Brien, Amy Leibowitz Shapiro, Katie Raban Seeley, Alyssa Pappas Zink, Eric Zink, Ben and Jen Harding Fritz, Hilary Amoss Gibbons, and Lyndsey Erickson.
Exchange vows in a field of wild flowers.
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MCAA Nominees
For the term of office beginning July 2007, the slate of nominees for Alumni Trustees is:

Alumna Trustee: Ann Williams Jackson '74

The slate of nominees will be available for viewing and voting on April 1, 2007, at web.middlebury.edu/alumni/mcaa/.

Deadline for voting is April 30, 2007.

To appear in the online spring ballot, additional nominations must be received by April 1, 2007. These nominations must include a signed letter of acceptance, updated biographical information, a photo, and 200 alumni endorsing the nominee. For a paper ballot, more information, or to submit a nomination, please contact the Alumni Office, McKinley House, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753; phone 802-443-1818; fax 802-443-2082; alumni@middlebury.edu.

Kelly Knapp is a school psychologist in a small public school district just outside of Syracuse, N.Y. She lives in Fayetteville, a suburb to the east of the city. Ashley Elicker is a partner and a quarter of business at the Indian School of Business in Hyderabad, India. John Santerre traveled to Cambodia in November to shoot a mini-multimedia piece. He promises to share it when it's all done! Lauren Fershtandig is living in London now where she continues to work for Axiom as part of their new European leveraged loan division. Victor Shaio reports, "On a typical day I find myself helping others achieve the American dream by arranging financing for people to buy homes. However, the roles have recently been reversed. After closing on my first apartment in NYC and during a guest renovation, I am finally moved in. Whether you are in search of financing yourself or want to grab a drink, look me up if you are in the area. A special shout out to Andrew du Pont—we are all very proud of you for your most recent accomplishments. Congratulations to Scott Goldman and John Goldsmith on your recent weddings. Matt and Leslie Fox Arnold have moved from Boston to Chicago where they are both attending Northwestern Univ. School of Law. They enjoy the occasional get-together with Kelsey Doub and Dan Goldman, who are students at the Kellogg School of Management. Kelsey reports that she often sees Ellen Rodman and Chris Arnold '00, who also are students in their first year at Kellogg. We have several weddings to report on: Zach Bourque was married on September 23 to Megan Moynihan, a graduate of Univ. of Virginia, at St. Cecilia Church in Boston, Mass. A reception was held afterwards at the Harvard Club. Almost all of 2001 Middlebury alumni attended, including Ethan Barron, John Batalis, Larry Curran, Robb Dahir, Amie Fernandez, Ryan Hilley, Ben Johns, Brandon Klein, Melissa Mahoney, Chad Malone, Paul Krezanski, Kate Collins-Manetti, Tejas Parikh, Andrew Shogan, Brenda Williams, and Phill Wood-Smith. Immediately following the wedding, the couple took a trip to Vermont and returned to their home in Brookline, Mass. They were planning to honeymoon in Thailand in December. Also on September 23, Victoria Jennings and Lt. Robert Diamond were married in Manhattan. Tony is an operations director at M Group, who helped her in the last days of the campaign, says, "It was a real privilege to see how much folks in Ben's district respect him, and his commitment to his community." Congratulations, Ben! In Portland, Maine, Joshua Broder is working at Tidson Technology Management as an IT consultant. He returned from living the dream during an all-summer road trip in Oregon and California with Jeff Phillips '02. They got to enjoy the extreme hospitality of Devon Sigman '02 in Monterey, Calif., during the trip. Susan Parsons wrote in to say, "I've been a little Vermont-in big L.A. for the past year, living in Pasadena, Calif. I just landed a job at Pomona College as the new assistant director in the Office of Study Abroad. I'm really excited about this position, especially the international travel to visit our programs!" Adeeb Mahmud finished his master's in public policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government in the summer and is now working as a consultant with FSG Social Impact Advisors. FSG provides consulting in philanthropy and corporate social responsibility to foundations, corporations, and governments. He still lives in Boston and recently moved to the Fenway neighborhood.

interesting job. She's an interview facilitator for Story-Corps, a national oral history project that interviews people all over the country and is sponsored by the Library of Congress and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. She works in a mobile recording booth in an Aristocrat trailer and is responsible for making participants comfortable and handling the technical aspects of the recording process. She says it's difficult not to get caught up in the stories being told; sometimes they can be intensely personal and emotional, and Lisa admits she cries.

—Class Secretaries: Melissa Proesing (mpresing@yahoo.com), and Peter Stenberg (peters99@yahoo.com).

Kelvin Roldán ran for state representative in his home state of Connecticut. He won the Democratic primary in August with 61 percent of the vote. He was unopposed for the general election and is taking office as state representative for the 4th Assembly District this January. Congratulations, Kelvin! In other political news, Jason Adam O'Leary '00 wrote to tell us that Ben Pratt is now a state representative in Maine, after winning a tight race among young voters, who helped him in the last days of the campaign, says, "It was a real privilege to see how much folks in Ben's district respect him, and his commitment to his community." Congratulations, Ben! In Portland, Maine, Jessica Reynolds is working at Tidson Technology Management as an IT consultant. She returned from living the dream during an all-summer road trip in Oregon and California with Jeff Phillips '02. They got to enjoy the extreme hospitality of Devon Sigman '02 in Monterey, Calif., during the trip. Susan Parsons wrote in to say, "I've been a little Vermont-in big L.A. for the past year, living in Pasadena, Calif. I just landed a job at Pomona College as the new assistant director in the Office of Study Abroad. I'm really excited about this position, especially the international travel to visit our programs!" Adeeb Mahmud finished his master's in public policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government in the summer and is now working as a consultant with FSG Social Impact Advisors. FSG provides consulting in philanthropy and corporate social responsibility to foundations, corporations, and governments. He still lives in Boston and recently moved to the Fenway neighborhood.

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Hilary Poremski writes, "I graduated with my MFA in writing from Vermont College last July. I'm still teaching high school English, but I relocated to Pittsford, Vt., and I'm now teaching at Rutland High School, loving it! In August, I enjoyed a week in north central Washington, hanging out and hiking with Kathleen Francis '01."

—In Northeast Washington, hanging out and hiking with Kathleen Francis '01. In Northeast Harbor, Maine, Jennifer Williams recently married Sandy Weymouth. With her master's in elementary education from Lesley College, Jennifer is a fourth-grade teacher at Buckingham Brownie & Nichols in Cambridge, Mass. Sandy is finishing up a master's in environmental engineering at UNH.

—Brad Scott graduated from the Dealer Candidate Academy of the National Automobile Dealers Association in McLean, Va. The academy is a 12-month apprenticeship course in dealership management. Brad is the general manager at his family-owned dealership, Scott Motors, Inc.

—Jill Kendig graduated from Anderson Business School (UCLA) with his MBA and accepted a job with Calmus Equity Partners, a PE firm in L.A. Jill and a team of her classmates from Anderson were the winners of the 25th annual Knapp Venture Competition held May 25. Jill's team was also selected to receive a $250,000 venture capital investment as the winner of this year's annual DEJ Venture Challenge business plan competition.

—A 2005 graduate of Maine School of Law, André Duchette was hired by the law firm of Gosselin, Dubord & Bell. Peter Huoppi was in London, Ontario, in July to photograph the World Lacrosse Championships. While there he ran into Pete Soden, who was playing for Ireland. While in London, Sudden, past summer working on HIV/AIDS public-health programs with the U.N. Population Fund. Jen McLean reconnected with Gwynn Guilford and Lucas Klein, who are both doing wonderfully. She also got a tour of Hong Kong from Justin Elicker '92. Alyssa Root Yengo writes, "Husband Chris and I, along with daughter Lilian (6), welcomed twin girls, Cathryn and Amelia, in September. After four years in California, the Air Force has transferred us to Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma where Chris will be attending pilot training. This past summer I had the pleasure of visiting Julia Haas Leach '99 in Colorado, along with Tracy Vernaat Heine and Amanda O'Keefe Murchison Kendra Sewall, and Alison Stoll Baker. They weren't able to come due to work and law school, respectively. Amanda Murchison decided business was not the career for her. So she earned an M.Ed. from Southern New Hampshire Univ. and has gone into teaching. She now teaches ninth grade English at Goffstown (N.H.) High School.

—John and Kate Harrington Dickie welcomed their first child into the world this past summer. Daughter Nola Clavin Dickie was born on August 23. The Dickies are living in Cambridge, Mass. Kim Lange Roberts writes, "Hello from Starks, Miss. I was honored to represent Middlebury College at the recent inauguration of Robert (Doc) Foglesong as the new president of Mississippi State Univ. Blake Wittman has been busy across his now-almost-native-Europe, still working for headhunters SpenglerFox, as global practice group leader for banking and finance.

—Class Secretaries: David Babington (davidbabington@yahoo.com,) and Lindsay Sungsoo (sungsoo@yale.com).
May 2006

REUNION CLASS

On July 8, Jessica Monroe and William Vaughan ’01 were married in Mcd Chapel at Middletown, Jessica is the seventh grade science teacher at Poly Prep Country Day School in Brooklyn, N.Y. She earned her master’s degree in science education from N.Y.U. Will is a paramedic for the emergency medical services department of the Jersey City Medical Center and is an emergency management consultant. • Tripp Donelan reports that things are good with him in northern California. He’s working at a winery doing wine work and sales and it’s not a bad gig. He gets down to San Francisco to see a few Middletown folks, like Mike Hacker, Charlie Leonard ’03, Dana Chapin, Josh Gladding, and Johnny Boyton to name a few. • Scott Roberts recently was awarded a Veterinary Medical Doctorate degree from U Penn where he also completed the Vet Medicine Business Program under the auspices of the Wharton School. Scott was inducted into Phi Zeta, the National Honor Society of Veterinary Medicine, and was published with research. He has accepted a one-year internship with the National Cancer Institute at the Univ. of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center. • On August 20, 2005 Julie Palombo was married to Greg Wallace in Norwood, Mass. After the wedding, Greg and Julie moved to the Back Bay in Boston where Greg works as an accountant for PricewaterhouseCoopers and Julie works for a life sciences consulting firm called Black Bay Strategies. They love living in the city with their dog Bailey. • Montana Outdoor and Science School recently announced that Heather Beal was stepping into the newly created position of program coordinator. Heather has been teaching at MOSS for three years and her new duties include overseeing the Ways of the West outreach program, after-school programs, and adult programs. • Gabi Epperson is putting his environmental studies background to good use. Having returned to Salt Lake City, he works as a public–private nonprofit that promotes “quality growth” through a collaborative, grassroots planning process. Gabi is a project planner, working directly with cities to design and implement a planning process for such things as affordable housing, multimodal transportation systems, preservation of critical lands, etc. Gabi is also finishing a master’s in public administration at the Univ. of Utah. He was back on campus this fall to be the head dorm connector for the Howard E. Wood Colloquium Series. —Class Secretaries: Anne Alfano (adelfano2000@yahoo.com); and Stephen Messenger (s.messenger@gmail.com).

03

Amy Peterson and Rob Sherlock were married on August 19 at the Culinary Institute of America, which Rob graduated from in 2001. A Catholic mass in Amy’s hometown of Cold Spring, N.Y., was followed by a small, 70-guest reception. The couple met when they sat next to each other on a plane to Italy. Amy was en route to study abroad in Ferrara, while Rob was an executive chef just north of Venice. • Alison Mickey recently returned from a two-year Peace Corps assignment in Mauritania, West Africa, and she is looking forward to beginning a master’s program at LSE’s (London) School of Oriental and African Studies. • In October, Daniela Salaverry and Alexandra Wang were on campus to participate in an International Studies Colloquium entitled “Environmental Issues and Actions in China Today.” Daniela is a China pro-

04

gram associate for Pacific Environment and Alexandra is a program associate for the China Sustainable Energy Program for the Energy Foundation. Also on the panel were Lila Buckley ’04 and Elisabeth Grimmer. • As part of a book tour this fall promoting Arabi, for Dummies, Amine Bouchentouf had a book signing in October sponsored by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco and held at American Univ. Amine was enjoying the tour and liked meeting different people from different backgrounds. He found there is a huge interest in America regarding Arabic language study. • This past summer, Ariella Nejile joined the sales staff of Prudential Joy Tarbell Realty in North Conway, N.H. She was previously a real estate agent for Prudential Arizona Properties before moving back home to the M. Washington Valley. • Betsy Dawson Drake is still teaching middle school language arts and reading at St. Adalbert’s School in South Bend, Ind. This past summer she enrolled in the Alliances for Catholic Education’s Teachers of English as a New Language program at the Univ. of Notre Dame. The program is designed to help teachers learn the most effective methods from experts who don’t speak English as their primary language. Almost 70 percent of Betsy’s students are from Spanish-speaking families. • Several classmates have been involved in the political arena lately. Andrew Savage kept busy as the campaign communications director for Vermont candidate Peter Welch who was vying for the U.S. House of Representatives. In December, Welch announced he was appointing Andrew his communications director in Washington, D.C. Andrew also co-authored “Local Environmental Groups and the Creation of Social Capital: Evidence from Vermont,” in Society and Natural Resources. • In Ohio, Ben LaBolt was the communications director for Sherrod Brown’s successful campaign for the U.S. Senate. Ben was up against Kevin King ’02, who was working for Senator DeWine. • Jamie McInerney also worked for Sherrod Brown at one time, but ended up as a legislative aide for Rep. Ellen Tauscher of California. His plan was to take the LSAT and possibly go to law school at some point but he says he’s keeping his mind open to other possibilities. —Class Secretaries: Megan Dodge (mdodge@yahoo.com); and Ulios Zanellato (uzanellato@yahoo.com).

05

Dena Simmons arrived back in the U.S. from the Dominican Republic in June and immediately began at Teach for America Summer Institute. As part of her training, she taught sixth grade math to a class of 12 boys in the Bronx, near where she used to live. Now she’s teaching sixth grade general education in the South Bronx. • Nicole Grohowski continued her outdoor adventures last spring with a 740-mile canoe trip along the Northern Forest Canoe Trail which officially opened June 3. Once a well-traveled Native American trading route that runs from New York to Maine, paddlers were the first to officially travel the trail. Nicole returned to Midd in the fall to take up an instructor’s position in the GIS mapping program. • In Boston, Allison Williams worked with middle school boys last year through the SCORES program. SCORES provides an out-of-school-time soccer and academic program for inner-city children and, as a representative, Alii was teaching journalism at Edison Middle School in Brighton. Part of a yearlong service project, Alii was employed through the Massachusetts Promise Fellowship of Americorps. • Jeff King and Dave Lindholm went last summer to L.A. Peterson, a film publicist, was working for film companies and Dave was working for Chivas USA, a professional soccer team. The two of them are now working at boarding schools in the Berkshires. Jeff is at Millbrook School (N.Y.) and Dave is starting his second year at Salisbury School (Conn.) where he’s teaching English and Spanish and is the head soccer coach. While they were in L.A., they spent a lot of time with Jen Kim, as well as Cassidy Freeman ’04 and Dan DiTomasso ’05, and they saw Sara Stravosky ’04 in Boulder on the drive out and drive back. • Matt Christ had some old-fashioned college times with Dave Irwin, Taylor Davis, Adam Sinoway, Colby Hewitt, Danny Greenstein, and Katie O’Connor, at Lindsey Whittom’s new family home in Wilton, Conn. Taylor managed to take home the Beaver crown, beating various Middlebury alums, including John Whittom ’78 (I believe the game is still under protest). Danny is debating between a career in online poker and bond sales. • Max Jones is teaching at Hebron Academy in Maine with two other alums, Jamie Foy ’06 and Liz Yale-LooO ’06. He’s coaching soccer, skiing, and tennis there as well. Max took a summer journey to India for a month, then Sri Lanka for a week, and finally Thailand for about a month. It was awesome! He got to do a lot of surfing and rock climbing in some of the most beautiful places he’s ever been! • After spending the summer working on a legal research project, Brian Vito began his second year of law school at Harvard in September. • Eric Blacher is in his first semester towards earning his combined medical and public health degree at St. George’s Univ. School of Medicine. • Josh Axelrod recently moved to Portland, Ore., where he is working for the Reed College development office. He reports

August 5 at Sebasco Harbor Resort in Maine. Owen Strock ’03 was among the ushers, and Jess Isler contributed a reading to the ceremony. The newlyweds now live in Alston, Mass., while Mary attends the Boston University School of Medicine pursuing a graduate degree in composition, and Daniel is the music director at the United Church of Christ in Abington. —Class Secretaries: Julia Henwood (henwood@alumni.middlebury.edu); and Athena (Tina) Fucker (princess1328@yahoo.com).
that the Midd network is surprisingly vigorous out toward Portland. • Jasmin Johnson moved from Washington, D.C. (where she taught high school at Dwight-Englewood School) to Middlebury, where she is now a CRA with Winnacott Commons. • Lydia Beaudroit just finished up a year working as a field assistant on a monkey project in Costa Rica. In September, she moved to Boston to start work as a research assistant in the anthropology department at Harvard. • Emily Owen is working this year in Constanza, Chile, developing a conservation education program for landowners, putting to use her Spanish and environmental conservation degree. Funded by a grant from The Wild Gift, an Idaho organization that supports wilderness preservation projects, Emily has until September 2007 to complete her project. • Jake Nicholson just completed a year of teaching in Thailand and a summer of leading teen tours in France and Italy, and now he’s back in Middlebury doing his student teaching at Middlebury Union High School. He’s having a blast teaching English and theater. He’s taking a weekend trip working with Jason Lockhart during one of his frequent visits to campus. Jason spent time in Nova Scotia with the New York Islanders, writing all the online articles for the team. • Ali Beck has been working at Martha Stewart Living since last fall, keeping VERY busy with daily tasks and photo shoots. She’s been a hand model—and her family’s yard and yellow lab were used in an upcoming story for spring! • Trang Nguyen is living in the East Village and loving it. It’s her second year at NERA where work is stressful, but enjoyable. She bunks into Geoff Dillon ‘06 in the hallway from time to time. • Lindsay Hallett, Lauren Joseph, and Emily Donnan flew down to D.C. to visit Andrea Schwartz and Diana Kassen in their new apartment in Georgetown, which was wonderful. Emily’s sister, Elizabeth Donnan Kirtz ’02, got married in Chatham, Mass., on September 16 and there were lots of Midd friends spanning the generations from the 1950s to the class of 2005! • After attending the Italian School at Middlebury last summer, Sophia Walter moved to London to begin an M.A. program at the Courtauld Institute of Art. Since being there, she has seen Chris Hornig, who just completed his M.A. • Sakha Trysell reports, “I switched to a new job and am now a college counselor at Prep for Prep, a not-for-profit educational organization in NYC that I attended. Prep for Prep seeks out high-achieving students from underrepresented groups and provides academic and leadership training that leads to private school placement and scholarships.” I’m also working closely with Middlebury, helping their efforts to increase diversity recruitment and matriculation to the College. In the future, I will be applying to graduate school for my master’s in education. • Will McConathy was on campus in November to participate in the D.K. Smith Forum, “Food or Fuel: Dealing with the Global Energy Crisis.” Will, president of Parthenon Resources LLC, was one of the panelists. • Megan Hutchin joined the faculty of Perkiomen School this past fall as a ninth-grade English and ESL teacher. • After graduation, Nicholas Colacchio worked for six months in Botswana with Grassroot Soccer, a nonprofit organization that involves the international soccer community in its quest to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS. He now works as a program manager for Grassroot Soccer in White River Junction, VT, recruiting high school students to raise youth awareness about HIV/AIDS. —Class Secretaries: Martha Dietson (martha.dietson@gmail.com), and Dea Simmons (dea.simmons@gmail.com)

06

Secretary Van Wagenen reports: Well, the class of 2006 is certainly spread out just a few months after graduation, but there are still some hubs. First, the New Yorkers: Jess Murray and Elizabeth DiGioccio are working together at Merrill Lynch. • Steve Ratrojanakul works for Sotheby’s in their Web department in a job they created for him. • Also at Sotheby’s and working long hours are Cassity Miller and Caroline Brewer. Cassity lives directly across the street. • To recruiters: Jason McCardell, Lauren Joseph, and Emily Donnan are working for the PR firm DeVries. • Laura Zacks is doing OCD research at MGH, a medical student at Harvard. • Adam Swick, Hannah Delong, Anna Marks, Sarah Radosevich, Ben Bruno, and Kirsten Nagel. Check this out—they were all in Parsons sophomore year and now live on Pearlone Ave! Ben and Sarah are working at an immigration law firm, Chin & Curtis (Frank Chin ’09 is a Midd alum), in downtown Boston as legal assistants. Hannah is working in the psychiatry department at MGH. Kirsten is a mental health specialist on a pediatric psychiatric unit at Franciscan Hospital for Children in Brighton, Mass., and is a nanny two days a week as well as an assistant coach for her own high school’s cross-country team. Anna is doing an “Americons Massachusetts Promise Fellowship this year, working for Hostelling International to start a new Cultural Kitchen after-school program in six Boston public schools. The program is Hostelling’s youth outreach program and promotes cultural education and awareness through cooking and food. So basically kids make me ethnic food after school—what a job!” • Elise Beeger is doing OCD research at MGH and is a member of the Cambridge Masters Swim Club. She is living in Central Square with Becca Kautman (psychiatry research at MGH), Meg Gufkin (research analyst at McKinsey), Nina Robinson ’05, and Molly Cable. • Tyler Williams is working at the Boston Federal Reserve as a research assistant in economics and is living in Davis Square with a friend from high school. He has recently joined the Boston Rugby Club! • Mike Phillibin is working as an environmental scientist for Conteeco Engineers & Scientists—an environmental consulting firm that was based out of Bridgewater but relocated to Lowell mid-October. He is living in Central Square in Cambridge with Keith Case ’09 and Jon Larson, who’s working at the Boston Fed. • Kim Hansen and Courtney Swanda share an apartment in Cambridge in Harvard Square. Courtney is the assistant manager at Origins, Estee Lauder Company, in Harvard Square and Kim is a mutual fund accountant at State Street. They look forward to bumping into more Midd alums in the area! • Rachel Winter started medical school at Tufts University in Boston and really likes it so far. Her new e-mail is rachel.winter@tufts.edu. • Stephen Swank is doing molecular cancer research at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and living in Cambridge near Inman Square with Sam Stevenson ’09, Claire Johnson ’09, and Ennilia Sibley, and Pat Phillips. Stephen says, “Midd Kids are welcome anytime.” —Class Secretaries: Hieann Arscott (hieann@alumni.middlebury.edu); and Jess Van Wagenen (jessvwagenen@gmail.com)
In Memoriam
Robert T. Stafford ’35
August 8, 1913—December 23, 2006

Senator Robert T. Stafford’s career in public service makes him an exemplar of what Tom Brokaw has called the greatest generation of Americans. Raised in Rutland, Stafford traveled north to attend Middlebury College. He played tackle on the football team and met his future wife, Helen Kelley ’38, while at Middlebury. After he received his law degree from Boston University, he and Ms. Kelley married in 1938 and returned to Rutland to start their family and his political career.

His election as Rutland City prosecutor initiated a remarkable record of service and electoral success—Stafford never lost an election during his 50 years in political life. During World War II, he joined the Navy and rose to lieutenant colonel. Following the war, he returned to Rutland and was elected state’s attorney for Rutland County. When the Korean War began, he returned to the Navy for two more years of service. His election in 1954 as attorney general began an extraordinary eight-year electoral run. In four consecutive statewide elections, Stafford was elected to four different offices: attorney general (1955–1957), lieutenant governor (1957–1959), governor (1959–1961), and U.S. representative (1961–1971). After service for a decade in the House of Representatives, Stafford was appointed U.S. senator following the death of Senator Winston Prouty. He was elected senator in 1972, 1976, and 1982.

During his career in the Senate, Stafford was best known for his commitment to higher education and the environment. He was also nationally known as being a man of great civility and integrity. For college students across the nation, Stafford’s name is in common usage. In honor of his support of government aid programs, Congress named the national guaranteed student loan program after him in 1988. Over 14 million students received Stafford loans in 2006. In the environmental arena, Stafford played a major role in bringing the legislative process to its successful conclusion for the Superfund law in 1980. He then took over as chair of the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works (1981–1987). As chair, he guided the process through major amendments to the Superfund law, including the innovative Toxic Release Inventory program, and to the Safe Drinking Water Act. In his role as chair, he also helped block efforts by anti-regulatory conservatives to roll back environmental laws passed in the 1960s and 1970s.

Closer to home, Stafford joined Senator Patrick Leahy and Representative Jim Jeffords in guiding through Congress the Vermont Wilderness Act, which protected over 40,000 acres of the Green Mountain National Forest as wilderness—including the Bread Loaf Wilderness adjacent to the Bread Loaf campus—as well as creating the Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area. Stafford retired from the Senate in 1989 and returned to Vermont. He died in his native Rutland after a lengthy illness. Survivors include wife Helen; daughters Lynn, Susan, Barbara, and Dinah; and five grandchildren.

—Christopher McGrory Klyza,
Stafford Professor of Public Policy, Political Science, and Environmental Studies

Robert Theodore Stafford
Place of Birth ........................................ Rutland, Vermont
Date of Birth ......................................... August 8, 1913
College .............................................. Middlebury College, 1935
Law School ........................................... Boston University School of Law, 1938
Rutland County Prosecuting Attorney .......... 1938–1942
United States Navy, Lieutenant Commander .... 1942–1947
Rutland County State’s Attorney ................. 1947–1951
United States Navy .................................. 1951–1953
Vermont Deputy Attorney General ............... 1953–1955
Vermont Attorney General ......................... 1955–1957
Vermont Lieutenant Governor .................... 1957–1959
Governor of Vermont ................................. 1959–1960
U.S. Congressman ................................... 1960–1971
U.S. Senator ......................................... 1971–1989

Did You Know?
Stafford’s name is attached to both a federal law and a federal program: The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and the Robert T. Stafford Student Loan program.

Stafford fought in two wars: World War II and the Korean War.

Stafford was never defeated when running for elected office.
Elizabeth G. Chapin, 99, of Cornish, N.H., on September 6, 2006. With a Middlebury M.A. in French (1938), she taught French for 30 years. Longtime residents of Greensboro, Vt., she and husband George H. Chapin received the 1991 Sister Bea Memorial Award for their volunteer work with prisoners at the correctional facilities in Windsor and Rutland, Vt. Predeceased by her husband in 2002, she leaves stepson George III, daughter Priscilla Williams, and four grandchildren.

Ruth Atwood Muller, 97, of Harvard, Mass., on October 31, 2006. With a degree in library science (Simmons College, 1932), she was a librarian in Harvard for many years. She leaves her husband of 79 years, Ettant Muller. She was predeceased by former husband Walter S. Tate ’30.

Nelson Beebe, 92, of Port Henry, N.Y., on August 14, 2006. A veteran of World War II, he served in the Army Air Corps as a meteorologist in the Pacific. With a master’s from SUNY Albany, he taught math and science and served as principal of the high schools in Port Henry and Moriah, N.Y., retiring in 1975. Predeceased by brother Allison Beebe ’38 in 2001, he leaves wife Myrtle (Searles), daughter Evelyn Homer, and sons Paul and Alan. Middlebury survivors include nephews Stephen G. Beebe ’69 (wife Odile; Woodman Beebe ’67) and David C. Beebe ’67 (wife Lynn Markham Beebe ’69).

G. Randolph Erskine, 91, of Wallingford, Conn., on August 8, 2006. A 1937 graduate of Yale Law School, he served as an officer in the Connecticut Office of Price Administration during World War II. While practicing, he served as prosecutor of the Wallingford Court and chair of the criminal law section, State Bar Association of Connecticut. A past president of the Middlebury College Alumni Association, he was the recipient of an Alumni Plaque in 1968. The author of Making the Art of Fly Tying (McGraw-Hill), he was also an active photographer. Survivors include wife Madeline (Faeth); daughter Roxanne; sons Peter, James, and Christopher; nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Roxana Lewis Blackmore, 91, of Rotterdam, N.Y., on September 20, 2006. With a Middlebury M.A. in French (1949), she had a long career as a French teacher at South Colonie High School in Albany, N.Y., retiring in 1974. Predeceased by husband William A. Blackmore, she leaves daughter Betsy Weatherhead, son John Blackmore, and two grandchildren.

Anna Mayo, 92, of South Burlington, Vt., on August 28, 2006. She studied medical social work at the Univ. of Chicago and worked at Children’s Hospital in Boston. From 1953 until her retirement in 1976, she was a medical social worker consultant in the Vermont Department of Health. Survivors include sister Deborah Mayo Beattie ’41 and niece Margaret Beattie Page ’72. Deceased Middlebury relatives include mother Lora Stickney Mayo (class of 1905), aunt Ida Stickney Barber (class of 1907), and cousins Inez C. Cook ’09 and Gladys J. Cook ’16.

Robert W. Robinson, 92, of Largo, Fla., on August 13, 2006. With a master’s from SUNY Albany (1947), he had a 33-year career at Roeliff Jansen School in Hillsdale, N.Y., as a teacher, counselor, coach, and high school administrator. In Hillsdale, he was a life member of the volunteer fire company; Predeceased by first wife Sarah (Ol’Hara), he married Ruth van Sickle Dyer ’17 in 1994. Besides his wife, he leaves sons Harry, Robert, and Thomas; daughters Marilyn Woolston and Catherine Ibert; 11 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Dorothy Simonds Stearns, 90, of Middlebury and Barre, Vt., on October 4, 2006. A bookkeeper for many years with Simonds Texaco, she was active in the Middleville Congregational Church and many town organizations. Predeceased by husband Norman Stearns ’41 in 1978, she leaves daughters Virginia Aitkenfield and Bonnie Stearns.


Catherine Andrus Fessenden, 89, of Ashfield, Mass., on October 22, 2006. A graduate of Oberlin College, she was an accomplished photographer and writer. She traveled the world with her husband, Russell Fessenden, a Foreign Service Officer, who preceded her in death in 2001. She leaves daughters Helen Snyder, Anna Fessenden, and Jean Sprague; son David; seven grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

Jean Briggs Fisher, 88, of McCloud, Calif., on November 2, 2006. A professional singer, she was active in the Binghamton (N.Y.) community from 1950 until 1996. Predeceased by husband Robert W. Rafuse in 1957, she was married to George M. Fisher from 1961 to 1978. She generously “adopted” a Laotian refugee family of two parents and 11 children. Preceded in death by daughter Linda Joy Rafuse and son Paul Rafuse and Peter Rafuse; stepson Robert W. Rafuse Jr.; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and her adopted Laotian family.

Elsie Brown Tracey, 87, of Winchester, Va., on July 25, 2006. She was employed by the General Hospital in Boston. From 1953 until her retirement in 1988, she was a religion writer for The Christian Science Monitor. Survivors include husband Henry S. Blauvelt, son Jeffrey, and brothers John J. McGarry ’45 and Frederick J. McGarry ’50. Other Middlebury survivors include niece Martha McGarry Miller ’71 and nephew Garfield L. Miller II ’72.

John C. Agnew, 84, of Milford, Mass., on July 10, 2004. A 1941 graduate of St. Lawrence Univ., he served in the Army (1942–1943), earned an S.T.B. degree from Harvard Univ., Divinity School (1943), and served as a Unitarian minister until 1991. He was a religion writer for the Worcester Telegram & Gazette. Survivors include wife Rosemary; daughters Judy Turgeon and Jill McIntosh, two stepsons, and three grandchildren. Middleville relatives include cousins Marian and Bonnie Stearns.

William S. Stevenson, 85, of Midlothian, Va., on November 23, 2006. A World War II fighter pilot, he served in the South Pacific. Following graduate work at Northeastern Univ., he enjoys a long career in sales and marketing management, retiring in 1990. Preceded in death by son Jeffrey and brother Robert, he leaves his wife of 62 years, Ingrid Monk Stevenson ’44; sons Philip, Clifford, and Russell; daughter Connie Gottwald; daughter-in-law Nancy Stevenson; 15 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. In 1997, family members established the William S. Stevenson ’44 and Ingrid Monk Stevenson ’44 Scholarship Fund, with preference given to a mathematics major.

Mary Hatcher Hubley, 81, of Mount Holly, N.C., on November 18, 2006. A lifelong member of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, she was a member of the Mount Holly Auxiliary to Burlington County Hospital and served on the board of the Mount Holly Children’s Home.
IN MEMORIAM
David K. Smith '42
April 20, 1921–November 22, 2006

Professor Emeritus of Economics David K. Smith '42 died on November 22, 2006. A native Vermonter, “D.K.” Smith was an undergraduate economics major and a member of the Middlebury College class of 1942. Following his service in the Navy during World War II, he completed his M.B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees at Harvard. He taught briefly at Lake Forest College and Tufts University before returning to Middlebury in 1950. Thus began his 37-year career, motivating students and molding an economics department. He served as department chair for 15 years.

During the 1970s, he created a course in environmental economics that helped the College further develop its innovative and nationally recognized program in environmental studies. He was dedicated to his students and to the academic life of the College. When he retired, friends and family created the Professor David K. Smith Visiting Economic Lecture Series that assures a yearly guest lecturer or forum on some dimension of applied economics. The David K. Smith '42 Chair in Applied Economics was established in 2001 and is held by Phanindra Wunnava.

An active member of his local and state communities, David served on the Vermont Council of Economic Advisors for four Vermont governors on energy and tax issues. He was a trustee of the village of Middlebury, a consultant for Central Vermont Public Service, a musician and Vermont humorist, and an avid skier and board member of the Catamount Trail Association.

Predeceased by wife Carol Hartman Smith '43 in 2004, he leaves son David K. Smith Jr. ’68; daughters Lorrie Byrom, Marcy Covey, and Kim Spensley; and nine grandchildren, and sister Jean Smith Davies '49. He was predeceased by brothers James C. Smith II ’40 and Lawrence M. Smith ’49.

Survivors include husband Richard J. Hruby; daughters Marie Frake, Christine Hruby, and Elizabeth Hruby Mills ’43; sons Richard and Stephen; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Nancy Duffie Shuster, 82, of Troy, N.Y., on September 12, 2006. With a master’s in nursing from Yale Univ. (1947), she was a nurse at Grace-New Haven Hospital and at Samaritan Hospital in Troy. She was also a librarian and teacher at St. John’s Day School in Troy and she taught quilt­ting for various groups. Predeceased by husband William W. Shuster and son Edward, she leaves daughter Barbara Huntington; sons Dale, William, Robert, and Charles; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Janet C. Curry, 78, of Woodridge, N.J., on October 3, 2006. During her 30-year career at Lever Brothers Research Center, she progressed from research bacteriologist to senior group leader. She was instrumental in establishing microbiological safety and stability guidelines for cosmetic manufacturers. Her work as chair of the microbiology committee of the Toiletries, Fragrance and Cosmetics Association is recognized worldwide.

After retiring, she was a consultant microbiologist and served as president of MQC, Inc. (Microbiological Quality Control). The recipient of the 1992 Microbiologist Award, she held three patents and was the author of numerous publications. At Middlebury she established an award and a research fellowship for women doing outstanding work in biology, biochemistry, or molecular biology. Survivors include sister Ann Curry Munier ’46 and nephew Robert S. Munier ’75.

Patricia Perkins Flagg, 79, of Hancock, Maine, on September 8, 2006. In NYC, she modeled for the John Roberts Powers Agency and performed in television programs, including the Jackie Gleason Show. In Washington, D.C., she wrote, photographed, and recorded educational films. Moving to Maine in the 1970s, she produced community service programs for WDEA radio and wrote news stories and feature articles for several Maine newspapers. In 1999, Down East Books published her book, The Disappearance of Amy Cane: A True Account of Murder and Justice on the Maine Coast. She was predeceased by her father, Middlebury English Professor Perley C. Perkins, and by brother Stanwood L. Perkins ’49. Survivors include daughters Cheryl River Maitland ’75 and Tina Flagg, sister-in-law Patricia McCabe Perkins ’48, and brother Eric C. Perkins ’62.

Charles A. James, 84, of Iloilo, Philippines, on November 10, 2006. A three-year Navy veteran, he earned an L.B. degree from Yale in 1942. For 10 years he practiced law in Sacramento and Stockton, Calif., where he also served as an area president of the NAACP. In 1961 he was appointed assistant attorney general for the state of California and played a significant role in the enactment of truth in lending legislation in California. In 1964 he became the deputy director and, later, director of the Peace Corps in Ghana and Uganda, respectively. From 1968 to 1974, he directed programs for the Agency for International Development in Thailand, Vietnam, Kenya, and Washington, D.C. He was the deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs in Washington, D.C., from 1974 to 1976, when President Gerald Ford nominated him ambassador to the Republic of Niger. He returned to Middlebury in 1977 to receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Survivors include daughter Karen Jaenke; sons Peter, Dennis, and Donald; and seven grandchildren.

Harold W. Richardson, 81, of South Windsor, Conn., on September 19, 2006. He spent four months in a POW camp during his World War II service. A 1932 graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, he served Connecticut Congregational churches in Pomfret, Thomaston, Naugatuck, and South Windsor, during his 40-year career as a minister. He enjoyed sailing, tennis, golf, skiing, and bridge. Predeceased by wife Claire (Hamilton) in 2003, he leaves companion Jeanie Sabia; sons Gary, Link ’77, and Kip; six grandchildren; and one great-grandson. He was predeceased by brother Vance A. Richardson ’43 in 2004.

50
John H. Burckes, 81, of Brandon, Vt., on November 13, 2006. By the age of 20, he had flown 21 B-29 “Pathfinder” missions during World War II, for which he received the Distinguished Flying Cross. With a master’s from Boston Univ. (1959), he taught history at Lawrence Academy (Groton, Mass.), where he was also a hockey, ski, and golf coach. He was recently honored with the alumni faculty appreciation award for outstanding dedication to students. Survivors include wife Sandy (Phillips), daughters Laurie and Marde, eight grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, and brother Ralph S. Burckes ’51. He was predeceased by his former wife, Margaret Curtis Burckes ’48.

John B. Henty, 80, of Charleston, S.C., on September 18, 2006. A World War II veteran, he worked in human resources with General Electric Corp., retiring in 1980. He was an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Church, an avid golfer, and an elementary school tutor. Survivors include wife Julia Lamson-Scribner, sons Bradford and Keith, daughter Molly Henty, and one great-grandchild. He is also survived by his former wife, Mary Kahler Hench ’31.

James F. Newman, 77, of Hilton Head Island, S.C., on August 6, 2006. He served in the Army during the Korean War and was a pitcher in the minor league system for several years. He taught and coached at Trinity-Pawling School, was director of admissions at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, was personnel director at Kraft Foods in Illinois, and retired from Premark International in 1990. He...

Ronald P. Prinn, 76, of Clarenmont, N.H., on October 24, 2006. After Army service during the Korean War, he earned an M.A. (Harvard, 1958) and an M.Div. (Episcopal Theological School, 1959). Ordained an Episcopal priest in 1959, he served parishes in Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire for 30 years, most recently in Salem, N.H. He also taught mathematics in high schools and colleges for 13 years. Survivors include wife Barbara Pike Prinn ’51; children Stephen, Sally Skerry, Andrew, Margaret, and Douglas; six of his seven foster children; and five grandchildren, in addition to great-grandchildren and foster grandchildren.

John E. Zabriskie, ’72, of Wilmington, N.C., on August 17, 2006. With an LL.B. from George Washington Univ. Law School (1958), he practiced law for 25 years in the northern Virginia area. He retired to Flat Rock and recently relocated to Wilmington. Survivors include wife Barbara Pike Prinn ’51; children Stephen, Sally Skerry, Andrew, Margaret, and Douglas; six of his seven foster children; and five grandchildren, in addition to great-grandchildren and foster grandchildren.

Mark W. Hopkins, ’75, of Washington, D.C., on September 25, 2006. After service in the Air Force during the Korean War, he earned an M.A. in journalism (Univ. of Wis., 1958), and worked for the Milwaukee Journal. Joining the Voice of America in 1971, he served as correspondent and/or bureau chief in Belgrade, Munich, London, the Pentagon, Moscow, and Beijing, retiring to Washington, D.C., in 1996. The author of several books and many articles, he received an Overseas Press Club award for his reporting of the Soviet Union. He was married to Mary Jean Doherty Hopkins from 1955 to 1981 and had four children. He married Elizabeth Davies in 1988. Besides his wife, he leaves sons Jon and Paul ’82, daughters Elizabeth Hopkins ’81 and Amy Silver; and 10 grandchildren.

Richard C. Jones, ’71, of Washington, D.C., on June 16, 2006. He leaves two sisters, two nephews, and one niece.

Jean Lobban Thompson, ’71, of New Hampton, N.H., on August 25, 2006. Instrumental in founding the Center for Environmental Information (CEI) in Webster, N.Y., she also co-founded the Outdoor Biology Instructional Strategies Resource Center, a joint project for the Girl Scouts and CEI. In 1987, she was appointed to the New York State Barge Canal Planning and Development Board by then-Governor Mario Cuomo. She co-founded the Webster Arboretum and was active in the Webster Historical Society. Retiring to New Hampton in 1988, she was active in the Newfound Lake Region Association and the New Hampton Historical Society. In 2001, the Lakes Leadership Program recognized her as an Outstanding Community Volunteer. She was a member of the Federated Garden Club for over 40 years. Predeceased by husband Robert D. Thompson in 2004, she leaves daughters Lindsay Thompson and Elizabeth Thompson Serlemitsos ’86; five grandchildren; sister Sarah Lobban Decker ’61; and brother Richard Lobban. Deceased Middlebury relatives include father Richard A. Lobban ’29; mother Dorothy Dietz Lobban ’29; grandfather James A. Lobban (class of 1888); and grandmother Sarah Scoles Lobban (class of 1899).

Joel E.L. Roberts, ’69, of Centreville, Va., on July 2, 2006. He retired as a colonel from the Army in 1989 after a 30-year career. He served in the Quartermaster Corps and commanded a company, battalion, and brigade at different points in his career. His numerous assignments included tours to Vietnam, Korea, and Germany. In retirement, he was an investment adviser with Roberts Financial Enterprises, with offices in Sterling, Va. He was active in the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany since moving to Centreville in 1999. He leaves wife Virginia Arzet Roberts ’59, daughters Rebecca Crawford and Kristin Roberts Asbury ’86, son Joel E.L. Roberts Jr., and four grandchildren. His late mother, Georgia Lyon Roberts, graduated from Middlebury in 1930.

Allyn Moorman Sullivan, ’67, of Pasadena, Calif., on September 5, 2006. A 1977 graduate of the Boat Hall School of Law at the Univ. of Calif., Berkeley, she was a noted community activist and legal advocate for abused women in the Pasadena area through legal aid and domestic violence support groups. Her major contributions included conducting domestic violence training for local police departments, assisting in the development of mandatory treatment for convicted batterers, and educating the judiciary on domestic violence issues. She served as a research attorney for the Los Angeles County Courts, where she edited the California Legislative Report. She was also active in the League of Women Voters and the women’s caucus of the California Democratic Party. Survivors include daughters Marian Sullivan and Margaret Sullivan Wise and their families.

Nancy Sharp Van Vranken, ’68, of Jericho, N.Y., on September 23, 2006, after a stroke. A 1959 graduate of Mary-Hardin Baylor Univ., she attended graduate school at NYU and earned an M.A. from Columbia Univ. School of Education in 1978. After teaching at the American Museum of Natural History, she began her teaching career at St. Bernard’s School in NYC. She was a founder of the Teacher’s Clearinghouse for Science and Society Education and was one of only 50 American teachers chosen in the late 1980s to assist the Chinese government in modernizing its national science program. Survivors include husband J. Frederick Van Vranken Jr. ’57, daughters Virginia Van Vranken Ziobro ’82 and Cynthia Van Vranken Keating ’85, and six grandchildren.

In Memoriam

M. Kimberly Sparks
October 2, 1930—October 30, 2006

Professor Emeritus M. Kimberly Sparks, 76, passed away on October 30, 2006, at his home in Cornwall, Vt. During the Korean Conflict, he interrupted his undergraduate studies at Princeton to serve for nearly four years with the U.S. Air Force. Trained as an intelligence officer and language specialist, his work kindled a lifelong interest in foreign languages.

After receiving his Ph.D. in German language at Princeton, he taught there and received a Fulbright Scholarship for a year in Vienna before beginning his career at Middlebury in 1966. The first holder of the Jean Thomson Fulton Chair of Modern Languages and Literature, he was appointed Charles A. Dana Professor of German in 1969, and became an Old Dominion Foundation Professor of German in 1971.

As department chairman and, later, as chairman of the language division, Kim worked to improve and expand Middlebury’s overseas language programs. During the 1980s and 1990s, he served several terms as director of the Middlebury College School in Germany. In collaboration with several of his colleagues, Kim wrote seven books, published by Harcourt Brace, on German language and German literature.

Under the aegis of the Center for Educational Technology at Middlebury, and with the support of the Mellon Foundation, Kim wrote and produced two CD-ROMs on the history, architecture, and culture of Vienna, a labor of love completed shortly before his death.

Survivors include his wife Suzann and their three children and grandsons.
61 Frances Blick Westerbeke, 67, of Milton, Mass., on September 14, 2006, after a 15-year battle with breast cancer. A Milton resident since 1964, she was active in AFS, town meeting, historical society, and youth concerts at Symphony Hall for the public schools. She was a trustee at the South Shore Conservatory of Music in Hingham, where the opera studio bears her name. An expert sailor, she was a governor of the Blue Water Sailing Club. She leaves husband John H. Westerbeke Jr., 60; sons John, Robert, Douglas, and Scott '91; and six grandchildren. A sister, Barbara Blick Hoxhill, '58, died in 1985.

62 Christopher Morse, 66, of Stockbridge, Mass., on August 27, 2006. During his 30-year career in investments and finance, he held vice president positions at Integrated Resources and the March Company. He served on many civic boards and as a college interviewer. His marriage to Shawn (Baker) ended in divorce. Survivors include wife Peggy (Fegley), sons Christo and Nicholas, and two grandchildren.

66 Anthony V. de Sugny, 62, of Carmel Valley, Calif., on November 7, 2006. With a degree in architectural engineering from the Univ. of Colo. at Boulder (1971), he worked in accounting and private investing. A former member of the Carmel Valley Volunteer Fire Fighters, he was involved in local land use policies and the preservation of open spaces. He enjoyed the outdoors, hiking, and skiing. Survivors include sons Benjamin and a grandchild.

87 Elisabeth Carr Zarriello, 41, of Anderson, Calif., on October 5, 2006, after a battle with ovarian cancer. With a Ph.D. from the California School of Professional Psychology (1994), she was a clinical psychologist with Shasta County Mental Health in Redding. Survivors include husband Richard Zarriello.

95 Yeshi Choden Lama, 35, of Kathmandu, Nepal, died in a tragic helicopter accident in Northeastern Nepal, along with 23 other people, including some of her colleagues at the World Wildlife Fund, the Ministry of Forestry for Nepal, a USAID deputy director, and several natural resource conservationists, botanists, and scientists. After Middlebury, she completed her master's in sociology and anthropology at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. Among her many achievements, she co-authored many publications in both English and Tibetan languages. Working for the World Wildlife Federation in Nepal since 1997, she was responsible for administering, monitoring, and reporting on mountain programs and projects. She started Tibetan medicine clinics in the villages, where she educated women about family planning and basic healthcare. Her father, Bhakta Tulku Rimpoche, a high master and lineage holder in the Nyingma and Kagyu lineages of Tibetan Buddhism, spoke of his daughter: "Yeshi's death is not only a loss for our family, but also a loss for the whole Tibetan society. Yeshi lived her life fully, a life of service to her family, her community, her culture, the environment, and the world. Her loss will be felt profoundly by all of us. But we can honor her memory by learning from the example of both her life and her death." In addition to her parents, she is survived by husband Tashi and sons Phuntsok and Thireny.

10 Norbert K. M. Vaughan, 88, of Mt. Juliet, Tenn., on November 14, 2006, after a difficult post-operative course at Vanderbilt Medical Center. He was an enthusiastic first-year student at Middlebury when Computed Axial Tomography scans revealed a brain tumor. Survivors include parents Lynn Myrick and Joel Vaughan, sister Emer Vaughan, and grandfather James Myrick.

48 Elizabeth Finch Boone, 88, M.A. Spanish, of Stone Mountain, Ga., on April 8, 2006. She taught foreign language and bilingual education in Dade County, Fla., and at universities in several states and foreign countries, retiring in 1974.

50 Shirley H. Bogs, 87, M.A. Spanish, of Des Moines, N.I., on November 1, 2006. She taught Spanish in Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Ecuador.

51 Sarah Francis, 97, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., on October 12, 2006. She was a teacher in Wyoming, Pa., for 45 years.

54 Marianne Calcagni Ciotti, 76, M.A. French, of Barr, Vt., on October 14, 2006. A high school French teacher in Connecticut, she participated in a program for the development of new teaching methods and materials, which she demonstrated in a film produced at Yale Univ. The first woman to serve as supervisor of modern foreign languages for the Vermont Department of Education (1961-1966), she taught for three summers at the Middlebury College School of French. In 1962, she was instrumental in creating the Vermont Foreign Language Association.

55 William O. Travers, 82, M.A. English, of Waldoboro, Maine, on October 27, 2006. A Navy veteran of World War II and the Korean War, he was an English teacher and administrator for 36 years.

56 J. Richard Guthrie, 66, M.A. French, of Newport News, Va., on October 27, 2006. He retired in 2002 as a prof. of German and French at Christopher Newport Univ., where he created the German major and minor programs. He also taught at Wake Forest Univ., Hampton Univ., Old Dominion Univ., and William and Mary.


68 Jeanne Marie LaRocque, 91, M.A. French, of West Hartford, Conn. She taught mathematics and French in New York and in Connecticut for 37 years.

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A ritual complaint passes among skiers on the Red Kelly Trail around the College golf course that, once upon a time, groundkeepers groomed and maintained the trail for classical Nordic skiing and that because of walkers and dogs on the trail, they quit. In fact, the College did maintain the trail, but the end of that era probably had more to do with global warming and the rise of freestyle skiing than with the flow of humanity that insists on using the trail.

Winter tracks along the Red Kelly Trail will tell you a lot about that flow. For one thing, it is unceasing. No matter what the snowfall, a cascade of intricately marked boot soles, paw prints, big-foot snowshoes, stroller wheels, and running shoes crisscrosses the homemade parallels carved out and maintained by the skiers themselves. Pockmarks at intervals show the prevalence of classic poling technique, but even these are reconfigured by the giant prehistoric bird-foot angles left by freestylers. There are tracks of big dogs and little dogs, snowshoe-sculpted ovals, the geometry of boot soles, the tiny feet of squirrels and raccoons, deer tracks, and the perfectly etched toes of chickadees or jays; even, once, a bobcat. I confess I take my dogs on the trail when I ski, and they hop like rabbits to avoid bottoming out when the snow is deep—leaving oval bellyprints and vertical holes in the snowy woods. I think of this variety of tracks as evidence of democracy in action, and of the College's wise decision to share this resource.

I encounter the trail in a variety of conditions and am amazed by what and who I meet there. One sees mishaps, and the evidence of mishaps—wipeouts, struggles to get up, parents bending over a tangled child trying to bring her to her feet on her skis. The pinwheel of tracks showing a failure of nerve at the top of the steep hill behind the eleventh hole. Once I actually saw a parent on skis harnessed to a sled containing a very small child, who glided along oblivious to his father's astonishing exertion. Last winter I wondered about a set of widely spaced gouges that turned out to belong to a tall, thin college student running on his toes in sneakers on not-very-packed snow. After big storms, one finds the peculiar tracks (and the even more peculiar appearance) of snowshoe racers, fitted with special racing shoes.

A few years ago, long after the College stopped grooming the trail regularly, I went out convinced the trail would be glazed with ice and miserable to ski. But someone with a groomer had taken pity on us, breaking the ice along the whole circuit, and the skiing was terrific. It seemed to me a miracle, and I have been grateful ever since.

Nowadays, skiers make their own conditions on the trail. The first brave souls out after a snowfall carve the tracks; others follow and reinforce them. Soon a second set of ski tracks may appear, alongside a wide chain of snowshoe tracks. Then come the boot soles to trouble the tracks, and the skiing slowly deteriorates until the next storm. Rain and ice make for treacherous skiing, particularly on the trail's two nerve-testing hills. Walkers and skiers and dogs and snowshoers find a little bit of what makes Vermont great on the Red Kelly Trail, as their tracks will tell you.

Brett Millier is the Reginald L. Cook Professor of English and American Literatures at Middlebury.
Thanks to Cane Society support, the future is wide open for Middlebury students like Erin McConocha ‘07.

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