



Middlebury

# Alumni Admissions Newsletter



*Letter from the Dean  
Robert S. Clagett*

*June 2011*

Dear AAP Volunteer,

**Thank you.**

Thanks to the herculean efforts that you, Joanne Leggett in Emma Willard House, and national AAP Co-Chairs Ed Soh and Andre Spring put into the Alumni Admissions Program this year, we have set new records for participation and performance. With Middlebury's largest-ever applicant pool totaling over 8,500, we received 6,339 completed interview reports this year. *That is more interview reports than Middlebury had total applicants as recently as six years ago!* And with 74% of our applicants receiving an alumni interview, it also represents the highest percentage that we have ever had, and a significant increase over the previous year's 62%. This is a very impressive achievement.

From our point of view, the alumni interview reports have become more and more helpful to us as you have given us increasingly in-depth perspectives on the applicants you meet, and as we try to split increasingly fine hairs in Middlebury's superb applicant pool. This trend is timely for us, because sadly, more of the information that we receive from applicants has become increasingly "homogenized," mainly in the form of inflated grades, prepped-for standardized tests, oftentimes hyperbolic teacher and counselor recommendations, and essays that have been scoured by several others before we ever see them. The result can be a "sameness" to many applications, so that we often can't tell one from another.

And that's where the AAP interview report comes in. It is frequently the *only* source of truly objective information about the applicant in the folder, and at its best, it can give us a much clearer sense of the "person behind the paper." That's what the best interview reports do for us by breathing life and authenticity into the almost-always impressive credentials that we spend our time trying to evaluate, and giving us a sense of the character and depth of the applicant. We are, after all, not only trying to admit the strongest possible class academically, but also the most impressive *individuals* that we can, since they are what define the character of Middlebury. I know our final decisions can sometimes be disappointing for you in that regard, but please know that your evaluations are read carefully and can frequently be an important "tip factor" in our deliberations.

I also write to let you know that this has been my final year as Dean of Admissions at Middlebury, and I am taking a year's leave of absence from the College to explore new possibilities for the future. It has been a true honor for me to oversee the admissions process at Middlebury for these past six years, and I will always have the highest regard for the College and the qualities it represents. I also hope that my departure will not mean the end of the many friendships that I have made with Middlebury alumni around the country and the world. I know Greg Buckles, the new Dean, looks forward to connecting with you as well, and maintaining your important contributions to the admissions process.

With deepest gratitude and best wishes to you all,

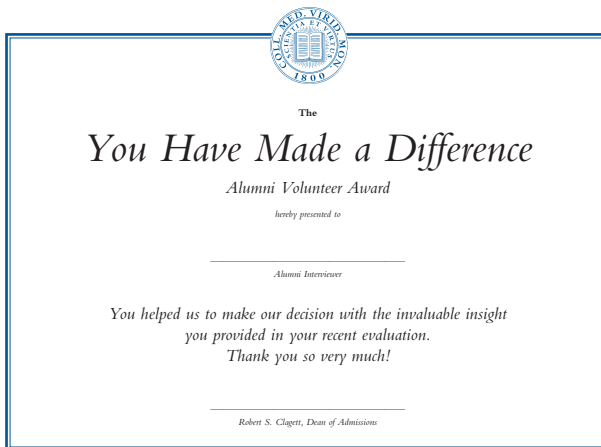
*Bob*

Robert S. Clagett, *Dean of Admissions*

## Note from Joanne Leggett, Alumni Admissions Program Administrator

In a previous e-mail, I sent thanks to you for the very successful interview season we had this year. Because of some really amazing teamwork, last-minute interviews, sharing of volunteer resources, Skype interviews, and heroic efforts on the part of many of you, we read some really outstanding interview reports this year! The counselors were consistently impressed with the quality of evaluations, and thank you for the many excellent write-ups of your perspective.

## You Have Made a Difference Award



Newly established this year, the “You Have Made a Difference Alumni Volunteer Award” was presented to a number of alumni interviewers. The purpose in making this award was to recognize the interviewer who helped us make our decision through their valuable insight and outstanding recommendation. Their vantage point helped “tip” our decision to either “admit” or “refuse.” Every year we receive a few interview reports that are especially helpful to us in the decision-making process. This year several reports were among those that gave us a really clear sense of the “person behind the paper,” and that helped us to understand the applicant better.

## Note from AAP Co-chairs

Greetings everyone,

We hope this email finds everyone enjoying their summers (or winter, depending on where you live). Andre and I were at the College in May for alumni board meetings, and the general consensus was that this was a banner year for the Alumni Admissions Program. We set records in every single metric where you could measure our success, and as your representatives to the alumni leadership of the College, we are proud to work with all of you. Even though the Admissions cycle is

over for 2010–2011, we are hard at work prepping for next year’s cycle and are certain that next year will be even better than this year. We also want to welcome Wendy Russell Tracy, class of ’95 and the current committee chair for Portland, Maine, as a co-national chair. This is a big job and we are delighted to have Wendy join us to help to continue and enhance the leadership of AAP.

Finally, we want to let all of the volunteers know that you can also make a significant impact in one of Middlebury’s most urgent goals: participation. The clock is ticking as there are only 2 weeks left in this fiscal year and the College currently stands at 45 percent alumni participation. Our goal is to reach 60 percent by June 30 and AAP volunteers can help make this a reality. There are currently over 1,000 of us who have not yet made a gift to Middlebury. Between us and former alumni interviewers, we can get Middlebury to that 60 percent goal but we need to stand up and make our gifts today. Remember that there is an incredible group of students on the receiving end of our donations; students we helped get into Middlebury—your support is meaningful! Please do your part by making your contribution, of any size, today at [go.middlebury.edu/give](http://go.middlebury.edu/give). You can also call 888.367.6433 to make a gift over the phone.

Thank you again for all the work you do for Middlebury and your fellow alumni.  
Ed, Andre, and Wendy

PS. As we have always said, we continually solicit your questions, feedback, and constructive criticism of the AAP and the jobs that we do as the national chairs. If you want to write to us, please do so at (Ed: [ed.soh@excelptrs.com](mailto:ed.soh@excelptrs.com), Andre: [avbspring@yahoo.com](mailto:avbspring@yahoo.com), Wendy: [wendyrtracy@gmail.com](mailto:wendyrtracy@gmail.com)). We’d love to hear from you.



Joanne Leggett, Andre Berot Spring '88, Ed Soh '94

## Application Stats from 2010–11

Total Applications by Category

349	D1	=	Early Decision I
121	D2	=	Early Decision II
338	E1	=	D1 applicant deferred to Regular Decision
180	E2	=	D2 applicant deferred to Regular Decision
7,545	RD	=	Regular Decision
<hr/>			
8,533	TOTAL		

## Alumni Admissions Program Stats 2010–11

133 chairs (includes 4 committees with two chairs)  
of 159 committees  
8,533 applications received, 7,399 assignments made  
6,339 completed interview reports.

With our target of 600 first-year students, we now have selected the class of 2015. Stay tuned for their profile in the fall AAP Newsletter.

## Links of Interest



The screenshot shows the Middlebury Admissions website. On the left, there is a text block: "Middlebury Admissions. Just as the collegiate experience is predicated on exploration and discovery, so, too, is the college admissions process. As you embark on your search, we offer these videos as a snapshot of Middlebury. Consider them a window on the College, providing a glimpse of what we have to offer." Below this is a "Social Sites" section with icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn. On the right, there is a "Video Snapshots" section with five video thumbnails: Environment, Worldview, Student Life, Community, and Academic Life.

## Video Snapshots of Middlebury

Residing on the Admissions Office home page, these videos snapshots of Middlebury offer you a glimpse of what you will find here. They cover the broad topics of Academic Life, Community, Environment, Student Life, and Worldview. We hope you'll find them to be an illuminating window on the College, its people, and its programs. <http://sandcat.middlebury.edu/comm/sites/admissions/index.html>

## Forever Young at Reunion

<http://blogs.middlebury.edu/middmag/2011/06/08/forever-young/>

## Middlebury Blog Network

<http://blogs.middlebury.edu/middblogs/>

## Middlebury Celebrates Commencement

<http://www.middlebury.edu/newsroom/archive/2011/node/276643>

## Solar Decathlon

<http://solardecathlon.middlebury.edu/>

## Student Leadership Awards

<http://www.middlebury.edu/newsroom/node/276947>

## Student (Tik Root) Back Home from Ordeal in Syria

<http://www.middlebury.edu/newsroom/archive/tikroot>

## Student Spring Symposium

Recognizing the significance and grandeur of their work, the College cancelled classes on April 15 in order for all to take advantage of the wisdom and research of our students. <http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/resources/uro/symposium>

## Departures

At the end of July, **Dilanthi Ranaweera** leaves Emma Willard House and her colleagues in the Admissions Office for her home and birthplace, Sri Lanka, to gain work experience in the fields of public policy, education and/or economic development. After about two years back home, she hopes to apply for graduate schools (in the same fields) in either the US or UK. Having been away from home for the past 6 years, she's looking forward to touching base with her roots and spending time with her family. We will miss you Dilanthi!

**Ian McCray**, Assistant Director of Admissions, recently transferred to Alumni and Parent Programs to take on his new role as Associate Director of Alumni Relations. Ian first came to Emma Willard as a Rookie in 1995 following his senior year. After leaving to pursue other interests, in 2009 Ian returned to Emma Willard both married and with infant son, Jesse. Alumni and Parent Programs is lucky to have him. Congratulations, Ian!



*Students participating in the Student Symposium*

## Preview Days Consolidated

Our most successful Preview Days ever took place on April 13-15 with a grand total of 346 admitted students participating in the program. This year we consolidated two two-day Preview Days into one three-day program. Timed to coincide with the Student Research Symposium, the events included in this year's robust schedule were an ice cream social, class visits, tours of the campus, panel for parents, lunch with faculty, lunch at the language tables, financial aid session, gap year discussion, Riddim Dance class, Verbal Onslaught, concert, Quidditch demonstration, Solar Decathlon open house, among many other on campus opportunities. While a separate schedule of recommended options were available for family members, events were geared primarily for students. One of the most popular draws of Preview Days is the opportunity to spend the night with current students which was made possible by our host matching event on both Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

Visit Middlebury's  
**HOUSE OF THE FUTURE**  
Washington, DC • September 23–October 2, 2011

- Tour the College's entry in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2011 Competition.

**Middlebury is the first liberal-arts college to field its own team in the finals of the Solar Decathlon Competition. The contest challenges 20 student teams from colleges and universities around the world to design and construct practical, solar-powered buildings.**

**All of the Solar Decathlon houses will be on display at the National Mall, West Potomac Park. You're invited to visit the houses during the teams' residency and attend the competition's awards ceremony on October 1 at 2:30 p.m.**

For more information, visit [solardecathlon.middlebury.edu](http://solardecathlon.middlebury.edu)

*Solar Decathlon announcement*

## Book Awards Discontinued

This year marks the beginning of the phasing out of the Middlebury College Book Award. All sponsors and high schools have been contacted, and over 100 schools that did not have sponsorship for the past few years, and those who had not participated in at least two years were the first to be phased out. At the end of this academic year, another 100+ will no longer be participating. Most of those schools did not have sponsorship in the preceding 2010 year.

While the Book Award Program at Middlebury has been laudable in its scope and ambition, we feel it is in the best overall interests of the College to phase out the program.

We appreciate the relationship we have had with all schools in the past, and we look forward to welcoming new applicants from those schools in the future.

## College Counseling Workshop

June 3, 2011, the Friday of Reunion weekend, the Admissions Office presented its annual College Counseling Workshop. Invitations were sent to high school guidance counselors around the state, alumni, and to faculty and staff on the Middlebury campus. Attendance was smaller than in past years, but the raves of the workshop's usefulness and effectiveness were reported by many who attended. The focus this year, as in the past, was on high school age children. Parents and counselors also took part, but are purposely separated to allow the important dialogue and questions that come from students when they are not present. Our program gives an overview of the general selective college application process and does not focus on Middlebury College. It runs from 8:15 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. and covers four areas of the college application process: 1) choosing a college; 2) how to visit a college; 3) how a college admits its class; and 4) financial aid.

It was a resounding success that we hope to offer again next year!



*Left to right: Dan Lee '13, Mariam Boxwala '13, Shannon Muscatello '13, Cooper Couch '14, Paul Hildebrand '12*

## Meet our summer interns

This summer we have the pleasure of working with several talented and gifted students as our summer interns. They are a playful, dedicated group who staff the front office of Emma Willard and welcome visitors. They are the face of the College and the first people to greet you as you make your way through the front doors of the Admissions Office.

Throughout the summer you may see any combination of students whose photos are seen in the blog below. <http://blogs.middlebury.edu/summerinterns/2011>

**A Typical Summer Tour**, created by Shannon is an iteration of what you would encounter on one of our guided walking tours. <http://blogs.middlebury.edu/summerinterns/2011/06/06/a-typical-summer-tour/>

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## A Final Note About the AAP website.

Some behind-the-scenes work has been taking place on the AAP website. We have spent the past couple of months revising, improving, and cleaning up that site. Our new look comes with the ability to have a more streamlined experience with the information on the site. Most of the suggestions you all made over the course of the past few years have been incorporated, and we think you will be pleased with the progress we have made since the last AAP interview season. Later this fall we will release the new website, and send along instructions for its use. We think you will enjoy its fluidity and ease of use.

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**AAP website <http://go.middlebury.edu/aapsite>. While there, please remember to check your “personal info” for accuracy.**

**Contacting the Office**

Admissions Office, Emma Willard House  
Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753  
Phone: 802.443.3000 Fax: 802.443.2056

Admissions	<a href="mailto:admissions@middlebury.edu">admissions@middlebury.edu</a>
Alumni Admissions Program	<a href="mailto:aap@middlebury.edu">aap@middlebury.edu</a>
College Fair	<a href="mailto:collegefairs@middlebury.edu">collegefairs@middlebury.edu</a>
Middlebury Book Award	<a href="mailto:bookawards@middlebury.edu">bookawards@middlebury.edu</a>

The Alumni Admissions Newsletter is published by Middlebury College in its continuing effort to keep alumni informed about Middlebury Admissions programs and beyond. Suggestions or comments are welcome and may be sent to [aap@middlebury.edu](mailto:aap@middlebury.edu).