GREETINGS!
It was a glorious fall in Vermont, sunny with temperatures in the 60s for about two months. Our bizarrely wonderful weather pattern ended, but ski buffs are now finding hope in the recent dustings of snow. Fall semester began with a lot of enthusiasm for the Global Health program – our table at the Academic Forum had a non-stop stream of new first-year students stopping by to chat and sign up for program info. Returning students came back from summer jobs, internships, and language schools with new perspectives to share (see page 2 & 3 for some examples). We hope this newsletter finds you well, with a happy and successful 2018 in store.

Alumni Profile: Becky Castle

“You have to be open to serendipity,” Becky Castle explained as she laid out the twists and turns that led to where she is now. She is currently the principal consultant of Development Vision, a consulting firm that she founded specializing in partnership and fundraising for global health projects.

Such advice is especially resonating coming from Becky, who did not necessarily have the clearest plan for her career when she graduated from Middlebury in 1991 with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. She recalls unexpectedly coming across a flyer in Proctor Dining Hall advertising the Rotary Ambassadorial Fellowship, which she received to study abroad in Costa Rica for a year. This experience in Latin America eventually proved to be unexpectedly crucial later in her career as she became the Executive Director of Earth University Foundation, which is based in Costa Rica.

Upon returning in the U.S., she looked into jobs in the government and finance in New York but moved to Atlanta for family reasons and worked in various different jobs that were far from her ideal. Eventually, she found the opportunity to travel and work with President Carter and the Carter Center, leading fundraising efforts for peace programs.

She eventually became the Senior Associate Director for Development at Carter Center and finished her business school degree at Emory University. Becky counsels, “You might have a plan, but one day you’re going to deviate from it in one way or another – but if you’re pursuing something that is meaningful to you, then it probably does not matter.”

As for her current work, Becky works primarily with global health projects, including but not limited to sustainable agriculture, HIV/AIDS prevention, disease eradication, and child survival, but Development Vision has now grown to serve various projects that are interrelated in global health. The boundaries that constitute “issues of global health” are increasingly becoming fluid: she argues that many issues cross-fertilize and are interconnected.

Pam Berenbaum, Coordinator of Global Health Programs at the College, says about Becky’s work: “Development Vision is part of the machinery that often operates behind the scenes in global health and development work. Often, when we think of this work, we focus only on the mission, such as increasing girls’ access to education or improving child survival. But there are many steps necessary along the way in pursuit of these goals. It takes management skills, staff development, fundraising, and business acumen to make sure that mission-driven work happens effectively and efficiently, in a financially sustainable way. Development Vision provides this kind of expertise to power the field.”

A large portion of Becky's work is composed of strategic advising and complex proposal development, working with senior leadership and board members of international NGOs to create strategic development plans by analyzing and advising the best funding streams and markets. Her clients work directly with her, which is what makes her firm competitive and attractive compared to some of the other larger and more bureaucratic firms that cannot provide...
Thanks to a gift from a generous donor, the Global Health program was able to offer scholarships to three students to allow them to take advantage of unpaid internships during the summer of 2017. Two of the students, Maggie Rose-McCandlish and Diana Carmona, are profiled below:

Maggie Rose-McCandlish

A super senior Feb with a major in Psychology, Maggie Rose-McCandlish knew that she wanted to become a psychologist and work in the health sector ever since she was a kid. She recalls developing, from a very young age, her love for people’s stories and innate desire to “work directly with people who are in need of help.”

As she deepened her academic endeavors in psychology at Middlebury, such as researching Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and taking various classes on mental health, she realized that she had little to no “real world” experience in the health sector. This motivated her to work at a public mental health clinic in Elizabeth County, NY, where she grew up.

“It is very different reading a case study from a textbook than it is actually talking to a client,” Maggie said, as she explained how diagnosis, which is often presented in simple and straightforward ways in textbooks, is incredibly “complex and difficult [in real life] given the ambiguous and multifaceted nature of client’s history.” Shadowing doctors

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and psychiatrists, who dealt with patients with varying difficulties and complexities, allowed her to gain insight into the limits of academics and the importance of real world experiences.

Her experience at the clinic, which consisted of both administrative and supervised counseling work, reinforced her passion and desire to work in the mental health field upon graduation. She found the administrative work surprisingly informative and helpful, as she could gain great insight into clients by working with patient history, computer systems, and various important documents. She was grateful for the opportunity that the summer grant has presented her and looks forward to continuing her work in the health sector and providing assistance to those in need.

Diana Carmona

“It just felt right,” Diana Carmona explained as she recalled her summer internship at Puentes de Salud (Bridges of Health), which is a nonprofit organization that promotes health and wellness of the growing Latino immigrant population in South Philadelphia. Diana is in her final year at Middlebury and studies Comparative Literature with a focus on French and Russian literature.

Puentes de Salud’s overarching mission is divided into three parts: education, clinic, and wellness. Diana was one of the 16 summer literacy interns working under the education department, which is especially significant in Philadelphia where public schools are closing down due to financial reasons. She was trained to lead a group of 3rd and 4th graders who were identified with difficulties in reading and writing. She and her co-leaders focused on three areas: literacy, bilingualism, and social justice awareness.

In many ways, this internship allowed her to step out of her boundaries and challenge some of the preconceptions that may have limited her in the past. “I was always interested in education, but it was only after this internship that I found a passion for working with children as well.” Identifying herself as an individual-oriented person in the past, Diana gained confidence and developed skills in teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking. She felt that her liberal arts experience, with its breadth and flexibility, were integral in successfully carrying out the tasks. She pointed out two classes in particular, “Spanish Phonetics and Pronunciation” and “Math for Teachers,” which deepened her understanding of the cognitive and linguistic differences in how children learn and react.

She also values the connection that she was able to make with the students, which she attributes largely to her Spanish proficiency. Being a Latina and a native Spanish speaker, Diana was able to connect with them in depth and in ways that her monolingual coworkers may have struggled to match.

She especially appreciated the comprehensiveness of the organization, pointing out the multifaceted methods in which they approach health. She was also impressed with the organization’s appropriate sensitivity and awareness of some of the cultural and societal barriers to working with marginalized populations. She plans to work for Puentes de Salud after graduation and plans to stay in the education field. Diana has a long term goal of creating and bringing more organizations like Puentes de Salud to various parts of the country.

Off Campus Engagement:

Anna Dennis

“I want to work in an environment that has a strong sense of community,” said Anna Dennis (17.5’), a Colorado native studying International Economics & Politics. Working as a direct service intern at WomenSafe proved to be a great opportunity for her to engage with Addison county in a tangible way as well as for her to dive deeper into the public health sector.

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Events on Campus:

The Global Health program sponsored or co-sponsored these events during the spring 2017 semester:

- In conjunction with the Pre-Medical Society, we screened Escape Fire: The Fight to Save American Healthcare, followed by a lively discussion.
- We held two information sessions for students interested in the Global Health minor.
- We enjoyed a visit from our beloved Charlie MacCormack, President Emeritus at Save the Children and former Executive-in-Residence at the College. As always, Charlie spent as much time as possible with students, both in and out of the classroom. He shared lunch with some Global Health students, engaging them in a conversation about working in Global Health while maintaining a life balance. Thanks, Charlie, for your warmth and wisdom!
- We received a grant from the Faculty Research Assistant Fund to hire a student, Kelsie Hoppes, to help us assemble case studies and course materials for our new capstone seminar in the spring 2018.
- We are collaborating with the Refugee Outreach Club (ROC) of Burlington to have four students participate in the ROC Ghana Healthcare Initiative this January.

WomenSafe is a domestic and sexual violence advocacy center located in Middlebury, Vermont that serves people of all gender spectrums who experience sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence and/or stalking. It provides various services, such as the hotline, advocacy and outreach, and support group services. Anna was responsible for answering the 24-hour hotline in the office, providing direct service for drop-in meetings, and various legal advocacy. For this position, she underwent an extensive 40-hour training that supplied her with skills, knowledge, and strategies to maneuver the challenges that arise in an intense and high-stakes work environment. Prior to this experience, she worked as the Community Engagement Intern for MiddView, which allowed her to understand the non-profit network within Addison County. She also has experience working and volunteering for the Page One Literacy Project and Parent Child Center.

At WomenSafe, she appreciated and grew from the emotional challenge of working in a crisis service environment. She especially admires how the organization is able to create a safe space for many service users through an advocacy-centric mission, minimizing as much as possible the hierarchy that often exists in social work. “We are taught to never use the word ‘should’ because there is not a single path that we are laying out; we will advocate for the service user in any way that she needs to be advocated for.” Her experience at WomenSafe solidified her deep rooted interest in public health, especially maternal and child health, and in the future she looks forward to working in nonprofits and organizations that stress community building. In the meantime, she is excited to return to WomenSafe as an intern during Winter Term 2018.

We welcome our new Global Health program assistant, Jaehyung (Dan) Cho. Dan is double-majoring in Philosophy and Chinese Language and Culture. In addition to having served as the president of Middlebury College Organic Farm, he is a Social Entrepreneurship Fellow, a multi-sport athlete and skilled photographer. Welcome, Dan!

We encourage alumni to post job or internship opportunities directly on the Middlebury College Jobs and Internships Database (called “Handshake”), where you’ll receive support in your recruiting efforts and gain maximum exposure with students and recent graduates. To get started, go to http://www.middlebury.edu/studentlife/cci/employers.

Have a bright and happy winter!