Interest in global health among Middlebury students was alive and well years before the minor came to be. Harriet Napier ’12.5 was one of the students who, along with Professor Svea Closser, started the minor together in 2009. Since graduation, Harriet’s career has centered around global health. She has recently started a Masters in Public Health program at Johns Hopkins University.

Harriet’s interest in global health arose in 2004 when she started annually volunteering at an orphanage in Romania. “I became passionate about addressing inequity, injustice, and the capacities different groups have to vocalize and pursue their needs,” Harriet said of the experience.

At Middlebury, Harriet majored in Anthropology, which is “still the lens I come in with.” While abroad with the SIT Health and Human Rights program in India, Harriet conducted research on Community Health Workers (CHWs) and the social and population health impacts of different CHW models.

After graduating Middlebury, Harriet’s career has focused on CHWs, their work, and their role in their communities and the health system. She worked for a small CHW organization in Peru called Ayni Wasi Salud (Sacred Valley Health) where, as program manager, she helped rethink how the organization recruited, trained, and incentivized CHWs.

After Peru, Harriet joined Partners In Health (PIH) in Boston. “It’s always really important to be humble. You learn a lot of transferable skills working at an administrative level, even when it may seem you could be contributing more,” Harriet said, reflecting on the experience in several different positions within PIH.

Then Ebola struck, and PIH shifted resources to help curb the epidemic in West Africa. “I served on the Ebola response team in Boston, providing operational, logistics support for the efforts in Liberia and Sierra Leone,” Harriet explained. She was sent to Liberia in March, 2015 to cultivate the organization’s community-based programming in her new role as Community Health Specialist.

Harriet’s job in Liberia was twofold. First, she supported the Ministry of Health as they “reimagined and redeveloped their community health policy and strategic plan.” This was momentous because the Ministry of Health was building a nationalized system of CHWs, centered around the idea that access to community-based health care is a human right.

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many patients, especially those with HIV or TB, were not getting the care they needed. PIH and the Ministry of Health established a community-led CHW initiative to build local capacity and reach the people most marginalized in need.

After graduate school, Harriett hopes to apply her new technical skills to the strategic integration of Community Health Workers into the overall health system. “Success in global public health will only come through community-directed, community-owned, community-valued initiatives, and, of course, thoughtful patient accompaniment that responds to, what are for many, the crippling social determinants of health,” she said. Harriett advised any students interested in global health to get some work experience before deciding to go to graduate school.

She emphasized, “The cool thing about global health, is that there’s a place for absolutely everybody … Explore the field from the perspective you feel you’re passionate about; global health needs all of these people.”

We wish Harriett all the best at Johns Hopkins!

(Harriet profile continued from p.1)

Student Profile: Hannah Blair

Before college, Hannah had never heard of studying “global health,” but had a long-held interest in global issues. During her first semester at Middlebury, Hannah’s roommate took the Global Health class and kept talking with Hannah about all the fascinating things she was learning. From then on, Hannah was hooked. She enrolled in the class the following semester, has built her academic coursework around it, and plans to work in the field when she graduates this May.

A Global Health minor, Hannah is majoring in International and Global Studies with a focus on Latin America. Her other regional interest is Africa, and she has been able to shape her Global Health minor to be regionally focused on Africa by taking classes on African governments, African history, and coursework abroad in Tanzania, where she conducted research with a Maasai healer.

“The classes I’ve taken in the Africa region have definitely helped contextualize what I learned about global health through Medical Anthropology, Global Health, and…Ethnographic Research Methods,” Hannah said.

After learning specific research methods, Hannah went to Ethiopia one summer with Professor Closser. In fact, all of Hannah’s summers have somehow pertained to global health.

Hannah worked in the Boston office of Gardens for Health International, the partner organization of GlobeMed, Middlebury’s global health club. There, she did fundraising and grant-writing. She also spent a month in Ghana as a research intern with Global Bri-
Global Health Program Development Updates

This fall, 20 additional students declared the Global Health minor. In addition to that, we have been busy with the following activities, many of which were suggested by the group of alumni, staff, and faculty who attended our May 2016 Global Health symposium and provided invaluable insight, feedback, and suggestions (THANK YOU!):

- Pam Berenbaum facilitated five “Community- Initiated Conversations” involving 60 members of the campus community (part of the Envisioning Middlebury strategic planning process) around the topic of including ethics and intercultural competence (based on empathy, humility, and reflection) into the Middlebury educational experience. These conversations will be summarized in a report to the Office of the Provost.
- We are actively engaged with French language school alum Joe Barker, Chief of the Health Systems and Evaluation Branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to establish an internship program for students in Kenya, working with Kenyan organizations who partner with CDC to implement PEPFAR-funded HIV/AIDS interventions.
- We are collaborating with faculty from the Food Studies and Privilege & Poverty programs to conceptualize and develop a senior seminar that will bring together students from these three programs to explore multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to social justice issues related to poverty, food, and health. This seminar will include real-world applications.
- We’ve been increasing our efforts to help Global Health students devise a path for life after Midd.
- * We are developing new information collaborations with the Center for Careers & Internships. Special thanks to Nancy Fullman (’07) of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation in Seattle for sending a digest of job opportunities our way every week!
- * We are also exploring closer ties to a couple of graduate schools of public health.

Global Health Events on Campus:

The Global Health program was pleased to sponsor, co-sponsor, and/or facilitate the following events on campus during the Fall 2016 semester:

- Francis Moore Lappé of the Small Planet Institute, who spoke on “Beyond Hunger: Moving Toward Food Democracy” (Oct. 26)
- A visit by Aaron Ebner and Adam Steiglitz, MIIS graduates and founders of the Andean Alliance for Sustainable Development, gave a presentation and facilitated a student activity around the lessons we can learn from impoverished communities (11/7). Aaron and Adam also met with students, faculty, and staff to discuss ideas for future collaboration.

(Hannah profile continued from p. 2)

One global health moment at Middlebury has stood out to Hannah. During the Ebola outbreak, UMOJA (African Students Club) held a panel with professors to discuss Ebola and its implications in West Africa.

“It was an opportunity to hear from experts about what is really happening and why, as opposed to the often dramatized media,” Hannah said. “It was scary for the whole world. Having the opportunity to talk with professors who know people on the ground was really unique.”

Looking forward, Hannah is applying for opportunities to work in global health, such as Global Health Corps, Princeton in Africa, and other NGO jobs to do community health work and education in East Africa.

In reflecting on her coursework, summers, and on-campus involvement with global health, Hannah said, “I wish we had more classes to take that were specifically just for global health minors. Medical Anthropology and Global Health have been some of my favorite classes.”

Best of luck to Hannah as she graduates and moves forward in her career in global health. She will be greatly missed here on campus!

GlobeMed members pack finals care packages at their last meeting of fall semester. The finals care package sale was the most recent in their series of fundraisers throughout the year to raise money for their partner organization, Gardens for Health International.
Each year, about 1,500 students engage in service through dozens of organizations facilitated by the Center for Community Engagement. One such organization, the Open Door Clinic (ODC), is a volunteer-based clinic that offers healthcare services to uninsured and underinsured people in Addison County. Their services are available in both English and Spanish, given that one of the major populations they serve is migrant farms workers. Local healthcare providers volunteer their services during the clinic hours, which occur several nights a week in Middlebury and Vergennes.

Marie Vasitas ’18, a Neuroscience major, has been a loyal volunteer at the ODC since the summer of 2015. That summer, Marie mainly helped with administrative work, coordinating rides, scheduling appointments, and communicating with volunteers, interpreters, and patients.

Last summer, Marie helped ODC with a project creating a comic-book-style book compiling the stories of many migrant farm workers and their journeys. ODC is collecting the stories of many of their patients, while a local artist is illustrating their stories. The book will be in English and Spanish to help develop community for the Spanish speaking population that is often very isolated and to help spread awareness of their presence to the English speakers.

During the semester, Marie has been working as an interpreter and can also assist medically, since she is a certified EMT.

“Of course, the mindset when I came into ODC was probably going to end up going on to medical school, but I think getting to meet the people and getting to work so extensively with the language, I’m leaning more toward possibly pursuing a career in speech pathology because this has emphasized the importance of communication for me. It’s so vital to be able to communicate effectively.”

Off Campus Engagement:
Students Volunteer at Open Door Clinic

Each year, about 1,500 students engage in service through dozens of organizations facilitated by the Center for Community Engagement. One such organization, the Open Door Clinic (ODC), is a volunteer-based clinic that offers healthcare services to uninsured and underinsured people in Addison County. Their services are available in both English and Spanish, given that one of the major populations they serve is migrant farms workers. Local healthcare providers volunteer their services during the clinic hours, which occur several nights a week in Middlebury and Vergennes.

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“The more I work with the Open Door Clinic, the more it has opened my mind to other opportunities and other veins of work I could go into,” Marie said. “I came into ODC with the mindset that I was probably going to end up going on to medical school, but I think getting to meet the people and getting to work so extensively with the language, I’m leaning more toward possibly pursuing a career in speech pathology because this has emphasized the importance of communication for me. It’s so vital to be able to communicate effectively.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Pam has received One Middlebury grant funding to travel to the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, to meet with faculty, staff, and students from two separate programs and to explore future collaborations. The trip is tentatively scheduled for March 2017.
- Are you an alum who wants to be more connected to current Middlebury students? Our students seek mentors in the field who can provide some career advice. If you are willing to be contacted, please navigate to MiddNet and click on “Become an Advisor.” Feel free to contact our staff at the Center for Careers and Internships to discuss your goals for student engagement. Nadine Barnicle, Mary Lothrop, and Hannah Benz are CCI advisors who would love to hear from you.
- Feel free to share this newsletter widely! If you encounter colleagues who would like to receive our newsletter, please have them contact us at globalhealth@middlebury.edu.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2017!