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Campus Life: Middlebury; Bread Loaf School Adding a Branch In Santa Fe

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Middlebury College's Bread Loaf School of English, in the wooded mountains of Vermont, will expand its graduate program this summer to the dry plains of Santa Fe, N.M.

Middlebury's president, Timothy Light, said that with the establishment of the program on the campus of St. John's College, he hoped to "increase the demographic base of Bread Loaf, so that it can continue to engage a geographically, ethnically and racially more diverse student body."

The Santa Fe program will be the second extension of the Bread Loaf School; the first was a branch at Oxford University in England.

Illustrious Instructors

In its 70-year history, Bread Loaf's most illustrious instructors have included Willa Cather and Robert Frost, who was a special lecturer from 1926 to 1963 and a regular participant in the Bread Loaf Writers Conference.

The student body of the Middlebury school, 10 miles from the main campus, is composed largely of secondary-school English teachers, elementary-school teachers and college seniors from various regions. The program offers graduate study that stresses writing, but also extends to literature and drama. Students can earn master's degrees in arts, letters or languages, usually after completing four or five of the six-week summer sessions.

James Maddox, the school's director and a professor of English at George Washington University in Washington, said, "Bread Loaf has become increasingly committed to a multicultural curriculum, and the unique demographics of the Santa Fe region will allow the school to teach and learn from the mix of Native American, Hispanic and Anglo communities."

Emphasis on Indian Culture

John C. Elder, a professor of English at Middlebury who will be the on-site director in the Santa Fe school, said the decision to establish the branch had stemmed in part from an "increased awareness of Native American culture" as American Indians attended Bread Loaf in past years.

The Santa Fe curriculum will place special emphasis on American Indian literature, nature writing of the Southwest and Great Basin, and American Hispanic literature. About 70 students are expected to attend in the first summer.

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The six-member faculty will include N. Scott Momaday, Regents Professor of English at the University of Arizona, and Jacques Lezra, assistant professor of comparative literature and Spanish at Yale.

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