

Middlesex

Spring 2023



**Accessing
the Alumni
Network**

From the Head of School



A Mission Sustained

On a Saturday morning in early June, I was lucky to attend the Alumni Assembly in the Danoff Recital Hall. In the gathering were generations of Middlesex alumni, there to honor this year's recipients of the E. Duane Jones '70 Service to Alumni Award and the Henry Cabot Lodge 1920 Distinguished Alumni Award. We heard of the accomplishments of John P. Campbell '42 and were treated to comments from Joe Watkins '71 and Cass Sunstein '72, individuals who represent the very best qualities of a Middlesex education. It was a "wow" event, as Joe and Cass embody the transformational power of the Middlesex experience and the exemplary generosity of our alumni.

Sitting in the Rachel Carson Music and Campus Center, listening to these extraordinary individuals, I was struck by the paradoxical ways in which Middlesex can be intensely familiar to past generations of graduates even as we continue to evolve and improve. The building, opened in its current (and spectacular) form in 2017, for decades served as the School's central heating plant. It is intensely familiar—the smokestack hearkens back to the strips of green grass crisscrossing the campus through the mid-winter snowy landscape as the heating plant pumped warmth to the community through the darkness of January. And the recital hall, in the heart of the renovated heating plant, illustrates how we have evolved. Today, the building brings us a different form of warmth through musical performance. In the

final month of school in 2023, we enjoyed seven recitals and an instrumental concert, including our four different ensembles and orchestras—performances featuring dozens of student musicians. In the exact space that once housed sizeable, oil-fed boilers, we now fuel our music program.

This spring, as you will see in this issue, brought some significant departures. Middlesex has a long history of faculty and staff who spend decades working for the School, and this year's retirements are notable. At the same time, the School continues to foster extraordinary and lifelong relationships among students, faculty, staff, families, and alumni. Frederick Winsor's commitment to "imbue [students] with the true spirit of democracy" and our mission "for all Middlesex students to develop personal integrity, intellectual vitality and discipline, and respect for themselves and others" remain at the forefront of our work and are recognizable to generations of Middlesex alumni. In 2022, we said farewell to David Sheldon, a transformational leader of the School for nearly 30 years. And in 2023, we are excited to welcome Bessie Speers as our new head of school. So much has changed, and yet, Middlesex remains the school we all know and love.

Karlyn M. McNall

Middlesex

Spring 2023

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Parents of Alumni If this magazine is addressed to a son or daughter who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please advise us of his or her new address. Thank you!

Contents

Mission Statement

Middlesex School is an independent, non-denominational, residential, college-preparatory school that, for over 100 years, has been committed to excellence in the intellectual, ethical, creative, and physical development of young people. We honor the ideal, articulated by our founding Head Master, of “finding the promise” in every student, and we work together in an atmosphere of mutual trust and shared responsibility to help students bring their talents to fruition as knowledgeable, capable, responsible, and moral citizens of the world. As a community, we respect the individual interests, strengths, and needs of each student. We also value the rich diversity of belief and experience each of us brings to the School.

We expect that each student will bring his or her best efforts to the shared endeavor of learning and that the School, through its faculty, will engage and encourage each student’s growth, happiness, and well-being. We aspire for all Middlesex students to develop personal integrity, intellectual vitality and discipline, and respect for themselves and for others. We expect each student to engage energetically and cooperatively in the life of the School, and we seek to inspire in all students the desire to seek understanding of themselves and the larger world, both now and in their futures.

On the Cover

Hallowell House has been home to many faculty members, including two of this year’s retirees: Kelly Marchand and John Hirsch. Photo by Joel Haskell.



Features

16 Fond Farewells

Five longtime colleagues were honored this year, with each retiring after having given their very best to the Middlesex community for decades.

23 Middlesex Abroad

As school trips abroad expanded this year, faculty brought students to England, Italy, Prague and Berlin, and Sénégal in March; their shared, immersive experiences were unforgettable.

28 The Middlesex Network: Making Alumni Connections

Through a variety of events, programs, and resources, graduates can sustain and continually expand upon their Middlesex relationships, finding friendship, understanding, and guidance across generations of alumni.

Departments

2 Life 360

Whitlock Lecturer Ric Sheffield; New Athletic Director Craig Najarian; Out of the Swing of the Sea; School for Scandal; An Advocate for Justice; Murals that Make Sense; The Gift of Life; A Poetic Storyteller

10 Middlesex People

Journalist Bret Stephens '91 Warns of Anti-Semitism; Steph Graham '08 Offers Career Advice; Rebecca Hatcher '12 Calls for Equity

12 Team Highlights

*Strong Seasons for Cross-Country and Field Hockey, Topped with Two ISL MVPs
Young Wrestlers Excel; Boys' Squash Retains Interscholastic Title; Fisher-Smith '24 Finishes First*

33 Alumni Notes and News

Class Notes; In Memoriam

48 Passages

A Remembrance by Alex Palmer '64



Prior to joining the Kenyon College faculty in 1989, Professor Ric Sheffield served for 10 years as an assistant attorney general for the State of Ohio.

Toward a More Inclusive Black History

A year after a new lecture was established to honor Middlesex's first Black faculty member, the Kenneth E. Whitlock, Jr. Black History Month Speaker Series brought its second guest, educator and author Ric Sheffield, to campus on February 28, 2023. A professor emeritus of sociology and legal studies at Kenyon College, Professor Sheffield reviewed the current traditions that have become associated with observing Black History Month and encouraged his audience to go beyond these standard practices, to “build bridges” that will make Black history more inclusive, contemporary, and relevant to today's students.

“I'm a contrarian when it comes to Black History Month,” Professor Sheffield said, clarifying, “It's too important to give short shrift to.” For many, he noted, the experience of commemorating this month consists mainly of learning “a litany of notable people and events” that seem like “relics of a distant past.” While granting that it's important

to know about pivotal figures like Harriet Tubman and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he stressed, “If that's all you know, it's not enough.”

Connecting Past and Present

As a fan of architectural bridges— from the Brooklyn Bridge to the Golden Gate— Professor Sheffield reflected on their power to connect; in turn, he discussed different methods or “bridges” that might keep Black history from being “relegated to the dusty past.” Updated textbooks and inspirational films may be helpful, he allowed, but are still not enough “if we really want to know history.” Underscoring the significance of that knowledge, Professor Sheffield said, “History gives us a foundation. It's a reflection of what came before and allows us to acknowledge the challenges that still lie ahead.” One current challenge that he mentioned is the effort in some schools and libraries to remove certain children's books, including *The Sneetches* by Dr. Seuss, because they often lead to questions and conversations about race.

Personalizing History

“Black history should be a bridge to modern life,” Professor Sheffield said. To encourage Middlesex students to “go beyond the dates and names of historic figures,” he gave them an assignment: “Learn about the Black people in the communities you come from. What you will find will speak volumes about why it's important and relevant to you.”

Additionally, he urged students to learn more about Middlesex and the first Black students, teachers, and staff members to come to the School. “Make it personal: Get to know these people and schedule interviews,” Professor Sheffield suggested. “Ask them, ‘What it was like?’”

And from there, he continued, students might head off campus and explore Concord's Black history—or Latinx or Asian history. “It's about moving to understand *all* of us,” he said. **M**

A Leader in—and on—the Field

Introducing New Athletic Director Craig Najarian

After a national search that drew nearly 150 applications, Interim Head of School Karlyn McNall was pleased to announce this spring that Craig Najarian will join the community as Middlesex's Director of Athletics beginning in July.

A Seasoned Professional

Since 2015, Craig has served as the director of athletics at Catholic Memorial School, guiding one of the most successful athletic programs in Massachusetts. Until this last spring there, he also made time to coach the freshman baseball team for seven years. During his early career, Craig coached baseball at Brandeis University, Wheaton College, and Boston College before serving for three years as the head baseball coach at College of the Holy Cross (when he first became familiar with Middlesex through the recruiting process). He took on his first role as an athletic director in 2007 at Foxboro High School and moved to Holliston High in the same role in 2012. Craig earned his undergraduate degree at Saint Anselm College, where he played four years of baseball; he also holds a master's degree in athletic administration from Endicott College.

"While Craig's credentials as an athletic administrator are impressive, we were equally compelled by his powerful articulation of the importance of athletics in the development of young people," Karlyn affirms. "Craig understands and is deeply invested in a competitive program. He recognizes the opportunity for students to benefit from all levels of athletic participation, viewing athletics as an extension of the classroom and a place where student-athletes can learn lessons in leadership, overcoming adversity, positive communication, and the value of hard work. These lessons are built on the essential foundation formed through being part of a team."



Building from Strength

Bringing an extensive network of coaches and connections with him to Middlesex, Craig has significant experience with recruiting, evaluating, and improving coaches at all levels. His familiarity with facilities' projects, management, and scheduling will likewise be an advantage in his role at the School. With this exceptional background, Craig will be ready to build on the accomplishments of current Athletic Director Ken Risley, who will resume teaching history full time while continuing to serve as head coach of boys' varsity soccer.

"Craig cares deeply about the entirety of each student's experience and is excited to join a community that embraces the whole student and encourages each individual to stretch and grow in all areas," adds Karlyn. "We are excited for this new chapter of Middlesex athletics under his leadership and are looking forward to welcoming Craig, his wife Katie, and their daughters to the Middlesex community this summer." **M**

In addition to having been a college athlete and coach, Craig Najarian brings 16 years of experience as an athletic director to his new post at Middlesex.



As her work reveals, artist Meg Alexander remains drawn to “subjects that embody a natural visible duration: a wave, a beaver dam decaying, a blossoming flower, a reflected sliver of sky, a tornado, flames.”

Out of the Swing of the Sea

Meg Alexander: Selected Works 1992–2022

A 10-foot-tall drooping peony, a postcard-sized tornado, a full-scale, rumpled bed—these were among the intriguing drawings on view by artist Meg Alexander, whose solo exhibition in the Ishibashi Gallery featured selections of her work from the past 30 years. Whether depicting an element from the natural world or an everyday household item, each of her pieces is rendered in such remarkable detail that the ordinary becomes extraordinary, meticulously transformed into an object worthy of attention and consideration.

“I’m interested in the way in which we perceive singular moments of beauty or clarity within the flux and flow of daily life,” as Meg explained in her statement for the exhibition. “Each drawing project, whether

using graphite, India ink, or color pencil, begins with a personal point of connection—a discovery, an interaction, a question.”

Ocean waves have been a long-standing interest for Meg; in fact, her degree project at the Rhode Island School of Design was a book of text and hand-drawn diagrams that illustrated the formation and cessation of waves. She has returned to the subject periodically, choosing a wave pattern to adorn the inside lid of a harpsichord given to Middlesex several years ago for the Rachel Carson Music and Campus Center. Influenced by Carson’s second book, *The Sea Around Us*, Meg found waves to be an appropriate decoration for a musical instrument that would be housed in a facility named for the renowned writer and scientist. As part of an evening reception on December 8, 2002, the harpsichord—which was among the works in the gallery—was played by Music Department Head Pierson Wetzel.

While her artwork has been exhibited throughout the Boston area and is held in several public and private collections, this exhibition was a particularly special one for Middlesex because Meg is a longtime member of the school community. She has stepped into the classroom several times to teach studio art and art history as needed and has lived on campus with her family—English teacher John Hirsch and their daughters, Lucy ’18 and Eliza ’21—for 30 years.

Meg’s invitation “to join me somewhere ‘out of the swing of the sea’”—a reference to her favorite poem, “Heaven-Haven,” by Gerard Manley Hopkins—was therefore a welcome chance for her colleagues and recent students to learn more about her creative process and the explorations she has undertaken in the solitude of her studio over the last three decades. In sharing her work from this space, Meg also conveyed her understanding that isolation can be “experienced as joy rather than loneliness, not as frightening oblivion but as a sense of quiet and momentary perfection—the ultimate spiritual freedom.” **M**

School for Scandal

November 11–12, 2022

Written by Richard Brinsley Sheridan

Based on an adaptation by Steven Barkhimer

Directed by Tom Kane

Technical Design & Direction by Ryan DuBray

Costume Design by Kim Brown

Photography by Robert D. Perachio

Sheridan's 18th century comedy of manners brought gossip, intrigue, romantic entanglements, and— of course—some scandal to the Kaye Theatre on November 11th and 12th, much to the enjoyment of Middlesex audiences. Veteran and novice performers in gorgeous period costumes and impressive wigs, and a surprising punk rock soundtrack, made this famous farce an entertaining way to close out a busy fall on campus.





"I represent the five of us who were dealt an unfair hand," Kevin Richardson said. "The story continues, and the struggle continues. I hope it starts a conversation."

Advocating for Equal Justice

Gathered on January 16, 2023, for the School's annual commemoration of the life and legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Middlesex community considered some of the inequities that persist today, decades after his death, particularly within the criminal justice system. Illustrating these disparities through telling his personal account of wrongful conviction was guest speaker Kevin Richardson, whose harrowing experience has been detailed in the PBS documentary *The Central Park Five* and in the Netflix television miniseries *When They See Us*. Though some in the audience had watched these productions—and several joined discussions with Mr. Richardson the previous day—many were learning about

his life for the first time and were moved by his resilience and determination to make a difference in the lives of others.

For years, Mr. Richardson found it difficult to share his story. "Then I realized it's not just about me or my family," he said. "It's about you and the future." And though it is painful to watch films about his experience, he added, "It's necessary to see how it happened to a kid growing up in Harlem with dreams of playing basketball and the trumpet."

Mr. Richardson recalled being an excited 14-year-old hanging out in Central Park on the night of April 19, 1989. But after seeing other teens assault several people, he headed home, afraid to break his curfew. "That was the last day I was free," he said. "Then it became a nightmare."

Stopped by police, he ran in fear but was tackled to the ground by an officer and knocked out. He awoke in a police van headed to the Central Park Precinct, where he and several other Black and Latinx teens were arrested for "unlawful assembly and rioting"—suspected to be involved in the attacks in the park that night. Just wanting to go home, he hoped his mother would soon come and make everything all right.

Instead, when a female jogger was found who had been brutally beaten and assaulted in the park that night, Mr. Richardson and four other teens were quickly labelled suspects in that crime. Questioned for 36 hours without a parent or legal counsel present, each confessed to participating in the attack on "the Central Park jogger," as the victim came to be known. Subsequently, Mr. Richardson and the other accused youths were dubbed "the Central Park Five" by the media. Though crime scene DNA did not match any of the boys—and their stories did not line up—all were convicted based on their coerced confessions.

"My mother always told me that the truth would come out," Mr. Richardson recalled, "but the justice system was unbalanced toward the less fortunate—and that

was us. I did seven years out of 10 for a crime I didn't commit."

In prison, he studied and earned his associate degree through a college program. Years after his release, an incarcerated murderer confessed to having attacked the jogger, and when his DNA matched the evidence, the convictions of the Central Park Five were overturned. They became "the Exonerated Five."

Since then, in addition to his public speaking, Mr. Richardson has partnered with the Innocence Project, which works to create fair, compassionate, and equitable systems of justice for all. Rather than remain bitter about the past, he said, "I'm angry but not bitter. I've transformed my anger into something good: education, helping others, being a motivational speaker."

And he is proud of the recognition he has received in recent years: Syracuse University created an endowed scholarship in his name and awarded him an honorary degree, and last December, a new sign—"Gate of the Exonerated"—was unveiled at one Central Park entrance.

Also honored to be carrying on Dr. King's fight for social justice, Mr. Richardson said, "I'm optimistic, but we have a long way to go. Everybody needs to do their part." **M**

In the Ishibashi Gallery

Ryan Adams: Make It Make Sense



Two walls of the Ishibashi Gallery once again served as canvas for a visiting artist—this time for painter and muralist Ryan Adams. His exhibition, *Make It Make Sense*, was opened with a reception for the artist on February 7, 2023, and included both smaller, framed paintings as well as two sizeable murals that he painted directly on the sides of the gallery.

Distinctive Designs

Mr. Adams' background in traditional graffiti led him to begin creating large-scale mural work and hand-lettered design and signage. In fact, he currently co-owns and operates a hand-painted signage business, and his vibrant designs can be found on buildings and businesses all around Portland, Maine, where he was born and raised. Already well-known and appreciated in this area, his work is now garnering attention beyond New England, too. Last summer, while he was preparing his first solo exhibition for a gallery in Atlanta, Georgia, he was one of three artists selected to paint a mural for Google in Washington, DC. Through his murals, he hopes

to bring representation to often-overlooked members of the community and to make the arts more accessible to everyone.

Medium with a Message

Each work in the Ishibashi exhibition featured Mr. Adams' signature "gem" style, which he describes as a geometric breakdown of letterforms, with embedded shadows and highlights that create depth and movement throughout the pieces. Bold, colorful, and clever, each work also contained a statement—such as "We Gonna Be Alright" and "Don't Lose You"—while the murals illustrated the exhibition's title.

His messages are often open-ended, to be interpreted literally or figuratively—sometimes to bring attention to a social or cultural issue. As Mr. Adams reflected in an August 2022 interview with *The Boston Globe*, "I think the beauty of being an artist is being able to captivate people by something colorful and eye-catching that you can sneak some truth into—a truth that's important to me or the artist working on their own piece." **M**



While the public generally views organ donation positively, Alexandra Glazier noted, a gap remains between the number of organs available for transplant and the many patients who need them.

Appreciating the Gift of Life

As part of Middlesex's annual Wellness Week, the community learned about the pressing need for organ donations during a presentation given on January 31, 2023, by current parent Alexandra Glazier, president and CEO of New England Donor Services (NEDS). Also an assistant professor at Brown University, Ms. Glazier clearly explained the complexities involved in organ donation, calling it "one of the most amazing acts of kindness."

With an interactive presentation that allowed her listeners to answer questions using their smartphones, Ms. Glazier could readily confirm or correct popular perceptions about organ donations. In this way, students learned that every 10 minutes, another person is added to a waiting list for an organ transplant; currently, 105,000 people are on

such lists in the United States alone. And though registered organ donors in America comprise more than half of the adult population, Ms. Glazier noted, "The opportunity is really small to get viable organs," since donors must be in a hospital, on a ventilator, and free of transmissible diseases.

Every potential donor must be screened by a regional Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) like NEDS, which specifically coordinates organ and tissue donation in most of New England and Bermuda. Working with a prioritized list of possible recipients, NEDS evaluates and allocates the viable organs, checking for the compatibility of blood type, antibodies, and other factors. Critically, surgeons must be available to perform the necessary operations, and organs must be delivered to recipients within a certain window of time. "All of this has to happen 24/7," Ms. Glazier emphasized.

In discussing recent innovations in the field, Ms. Glazier mentioned the development of new equipment that can preserve organs longer outside the body, which could improve the odds of delivering transplants to patients. "Our system still has a lot of work to do, but we have a lot to celebrate," she said. "The U.S. is the first country in the world to reach one million transplants."

Accompanying Ms. Glazier was Ben Fleishman, a Concord Academy junior who shared his own transplant story. Stricken with a rare liver disease as a newborn, he survived thanks to a surgical procedure that would delay his need for new liver. In good health when he was placed on a waitlist at age 11, he was fortunate to have successful transplant surgery as a seventh grader.

"I'm here through the miracles of modern medicine," Ben said, "but the sad reality is that I have a liver because someone died." Grateful for that generous gift of life, he encouraged others to consider registering as organ donors. "Something as simple as this can have a dramatic impact," he stated, "not just on eight others but on all those who love them." **M**

Poetic Storytelling

To hear a noted, contemporary writer read aloud and discuss his own work is a rare opportunity—one that the Middlesex community was treated to on October 4, 2022, when Rice University English Professor Tomás Morín addressed the School. As a featured speaker during the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Professor Morín shared several poems and the inspiration behind them, as well as his thoughts on the development of his writing.

Song of Myself

Referring to the observation of writer Gabriel García Márquez that all people “have three lives—public, private, and secret,” Professor Morín disclosed, “One of the things I’ve been working on is trying to honor my secret life, to share it in a way that is meaningful to others.” To illustrate, he read his poem “I Sing the Body Aquatic,” which many Middlesex English classes had recently studied. After explaining a particular genetic condition that he lives with, Professor Morín reflected, “The poem came from a place of trying to embrace this thing that I had been embarrassed about.... It’s a way to share and honor it, and keep it secret —though, now you know!”

Other poems are related to the “silly questions that pass through our minds,” he continued—thoughts that people often chuckle at and let pass. “One of the sources of my art is taking a pause and thinking of those questions as an invitation to play, to be silly,” Professor Morín said. He then read “Sartana and Machete in Outer Space,” his imaginative foray into the universe of the Machete films by director Robert Rodriguez.

A Dream Revised

His path to becoming a poet was not a predetermined one. Professor Morín related that as a child, he had wanted to be a cartoonist.



Though a talented copyist of *Peanuts* characters, he couldn’t create original Charlie Brown images and decided that meant he would have to become something else. “There may be dreams that you have let go,” he told Middlesex students and advised them, “It’s never too late, and also dreams can come back. What is a poem but a little story? So, as a poet, I ended up writing little stories, just not in a Sunday paper.”

Professor Morín concluded his talk by reading two contrasting “sister” poems: the brief “Machete” and lengthier “Machetes.” Both responses to white supremacy, they raised a question about whether anger or humor was the better method for exposing racism and calling for change. Echoing a phrase from the latter poem, he told students to remember that “you are all beautiful life machines” and to “celebrate that every day.” **M**

Rice University Professor Tomás Morín visited English classes and met with students during lunch, giving many the chance to ask questions and share their thoughts in person.

Confronting the Threat of Anti-Semitism



As he mentioned in his talk, anti-Semitism is deeply personal to Bret Stephens '91; his father's family fled persecution in Russia, and his mother was hidden as a child in Nazi-occupied Europe. "Not all of her family was so lucky," he said.

Sharing concern about the increasing incidents of anti-Semitism in the United States, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and *New York Times* columnist Bret Stephens '91 addressed the Middlesex community on November 29, 2022, initially reviewing several of the violent acts that have occurred in recent years. Among them was the murder of 11 worshippers in a Pittsburgh synagogue in October 2018. In 2020 alone, he noted—the latest year for which statistics are available—55 percent of all religiously motivated hate crimes targeted Jews, a fact that is even more disturbing given that only 2.4 percent of the American population is Jewish.

Yet, over centuries and millennia, Bret pointed out, Jews have been expelled, ghettoized, and massacred; only decades ago, during the Holocaust from 1941 to 1945, Nazi Germany and its collaborators aimed to kill every Jew in the world. "Why the Jews?" Bret asked. "It's hard to say why, and we need to talk about it."

Offering two possible explanations, he first described—and debunked—a few longstanding prejudices about Jews, such as the trope that they are greedy, as epitomized by

Shakespeare's Shylock and Dickens' Fagin. The persistence of anti-Semitism across countries and centuries, however, led Bret to another idea: that anti-Semitism is a conspiracy theory that "Jews are uniquely prone to use deceptive means to accomplish evil ends and must be stopped." Because conspiracy theories are a way of thinking, he cautioned, "If society becomes addicted to conspiracy theories, they will start to take anti-Semitism seriously."

Reviewing four principles of the religion, Bret explained that Judaism has a concept of "peoplehood, going back to Abraham and Sarah," and that to some non-Jews, "peoplehood implies 'difference.'" A powerful commitment to fighting for freedom is another fundamental value, as is valuing and celebrating differences of opinion. Notably, Judaism has long embraced a culture of literacy, such that "even when scattered, they were held together by language and reading," Bret said. Given that literacy was rare 2000 years ago, he continued, a largely illiterate population might think, "These people have secret knowledge"—a notion that could invite conspiracy thinking and make Jews a target of persecution.

Because the tenets of Judaism align well with ideals of democracy—in which debate is deemed essential and education is valued—anti-Semitism "should matter to you," Bret stressed. "When it emerges, it's a symptom that your democracy is in trouble."

Before and after his address, Bret visited classes and held discussions with students, faculty, and staff, thoughtfully answering questions on a variety of topics. Emphasizing his commitment to free speech, he recommended not "cancelling" those who promote hate speech but having conversations with them instead, countering "bad ideas with better ideas." **M**

Career Guidance from Graham '08

The Middlesex Alumni Association (MxAA) has long provided the opportunity for fellow graduates to learn about different paths and professions through its annual career panels. Building on this resource— and focusing on the needs of current seniors and college students—the MxAA invited career consultant Steph Graham '08 to lead an online workshop on November 29, 2022. For those about to seek internships or first full-time jobs, Steph gave great practical advice on how to construct concise, effective resumes and how to prepare for job interviews.

A graduate of Wellesley College with an M.B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Steph previously worked in strategic finance and as a corporate interviewer and diversity recruiter at PepsiCo. and Uber before starting her own consulting firm.

Though geared to students, Steph's recommendations would undoubtedly be helpful to anyone wondering about how best to answer, "Tell me about yourself" or other classic interview openers. "This is a prime opportunity to give as much relevant information as possible," she counseled. "Show the interviewer what you've done, why, and how it fits with your goals." **M**

A Voice for Equity and Justice



"Community is everything," Reba Hatcher '12 affirmed. "Look at those in your life who allow you to be more yourself because that is what it means to have community."

As a Middlesex graduate, Rebecca Hatcher '12 understood her audience well as she reflected on her own school experience with candor, warmth, and humor on April 15, 2023. Speaking after the annual Day of Silence—during which many students and adults remained silent to protest the harassment and discrimination of LGBTQ+ people in schools—she encouraged students to find supportive communities and to use their voices to create a more just and equitable world.

As an only child from Brooklyn, New York, Rebecca found the transition to Middlesex initially challenging. "I was learning how to have a roommate of a completely different culture and going from being the top student in middle school to not being the top student, athlete, or musician here," she recalled. Being "catapulted into a world so different from mine," she said, "gave me my first lesson on what happens when we cannot be our authentic selves."

But she started coming into her own as a sophomore. "By then, I had the nickname of

'Reba,' which has now become synonymous with my identity," she said. "Becoming Reba meant becoming a lot of the woman I am today. I was speaking my mind. I didn't let my GPA define who I was." Though she was not "out," she noted, "I also wasn't not out. I sought community in many places but not specifically within spaces designed for LGBTQ+ folks."

Continuing to gain confidence, Reba said, "My college self knew that showing up as my true self meant I could be my best self." Not surprisingly, she excelled academically and as a leader.

Today, Reba is the executive chair for the diversity, equity, and inclusion committee at her workplace and serves on the board of a girls' camp and as a personal and professional coach. "It shouldn't be a luxury to feel accepted for who you are at work or anywhere, and it's one of my core missions to make it a basic right, at least in my little sliver of the universe," she stated.

"My voice is my superpower," Reba affirmed in closing, "and it is yours, too." **M**

Team Highlights

For more sports news visit
<https://athletics.mxschool.edu>

Girls' Soccer

With her trademark determination, Co-captain Charley DiAdamo '23 deftly created a scoring opportunity in last September's 4-0 victory over Pomfret. Along with her fellow Co-captain Mia Williams '23 and senior teammates, Charley helped build the program during her tenure as a varsity starter, leading the team to nine wins in each of Middlesex's last two seasons.



Field Hockey

Coming out of a defensive corner last September 24th were Goalie Regan Fitzgerald '24 (an All-NEPSAC Honorable Mention), Co-captain Ella McTeague '23, Co-captain Emma Poplyk '23 (an All-League and All-NEPSAC selection), and Anna Bonazzoli '25 (an All-League and All-NEPSAC Honorable Mention). The team's 4-2 win against St. Mark's that day was the third victory of a strong season, which culminated with the NEPSAC Class B finals in November.

Boys' Soccer

Clinching a thrilling 2-1 victory over Groton and emerging as the only team to shut out Nobles were among the highlights of this eighth consecutive winning season for the program. In the end, midfielder Yared McDonald '23 also led the team in accolades with All-League, All-State, and All-NEPSAC honors.



Volleyball

An All-League Honorable Mention this season, Julie Chen '23 attacked the ball in the back row during an early 3-0 win against Marianapolis Prep. Lending support were the team's All-League Co-captains, Romy Ahn '23 (#12) and Parker Boyden '23 (#8), along with 2023 Captain-elect Devon Coyle '24 (#4).

Football

Left: Middlesex's offense took the field against Roxbury Latin early in the season; Co-captain Charlie Haight '23 (#55) will play collegiate athletics at Denison University.

Right: Co-captain Chester Boynton '23 discusses the next play with Coach Wisdom. Named All-NEPSAC and an All-League Honorable Mention, Chester will continue his football career at Hamilton College.



Setting the Pace

Individually and collectively, Middlesex athletes excelled on the trails and turf in the fall of 2022, winning an ISL Championship, qualifying for tournament play, and drawing MVP honors for two top competitors.



Repeat League Champions: The girls' varsity cross-country team retained its ISL title on November 4, 2022. Among the leading point scorers this season were, from left to right, Co-captain Sadie Millett '24 (who was the NEPSTA Division II champion), Mitchell Ladd '24, Co-captain Kate McBride '24, Angela Huffer '26, Stella Curwin-Amfitheatrof '26, and Cassidy Bruno '26.

Girls' XC Retains Title

The girls' varsity cross-country team capped an undefeated ISL season by winning the ISL Championship on November 4, defending their 2021 team title. Middlesex impressed at the front of the race, with Co-captain Sadie Millett '23 placing fourth, while Cassidy Bruno '26 and Anika Ata '26 placed sixth and eighth respectively. Stella Curwin-Amfitheatrof '26 (17th) and Mitchell Ladd '24 (21st) both ran gritty races to help secure the team title.

Sadie then earned the title of individual New England Champion when she came in first at the NEPSTA Division II Championships on November 12. The top-20 placements of Cassidy (5th), Anika (13th), and Mitchell (18th) earned them All-New England honors, while the performances of Katie Tantillo '26 (43rd) and Kate McBride '24 (51st) contributed to the team's runner-up finish. After a season of learning and growth, this young team looks forward to returning its strong varsity squad next year.



With 19 goals and seven assists over 18 games in her junior season, Molly Nye '24 was not only named All-League but also earned the title of ISL MVP.

Undefeated individually during the regular season—and the first-place finisher in the ISL Championship race—Co-captain Matt Wing '23 was named the ISL MVP. A co-captain of Nordic skiing and track and field, Matt will continue his running career at Brown University.



Wing '23 is ISL MVP

Tallying a 38-11 overall record, the boys' varsity cross-country team also enjoyed a successful season, besting 10 opponents in a month-long winning streak leading up to the November championship races. Co-captain Matt Wing '23 was undefeated individually during the regular season and won the ISL Championship race, earning him the title of ISL MVP. He was also named All-League and All-NEPSAC, along with his teammate Vedant Deokar '23, while Co-captain Peter Favero '23 and Nick Costantino '24 earned All-League Honorable Mentions. The team wrapped up the fall by finishing third at the ISL Championships and seventh among 19 schools at the NEPSTA Division II Championships.

Field Hockey:

Finalists and an MVP

With an impressive record of 12-3-1 in the regular season, the varsity field hockey team headed into the NEPSAC Class B Championships seeded second. Middlesex's 2-0 victory over Groton (#7) in the quarterfinals on November 16 was followed up with a 3-0 win against Williston (#3) on November 19, making the final game the next day a close contest with eventual champion Governor's (#1). Co-captain Emma Poplyk '23, Sophie Watson '25, and Molly Nye '24 were each named All-League and All-NEPSAC at the season's close—and Molly was further recognized as the ISL MVP for her outstanding play.

Team Highlights

For more sports news visit
<https://athletics.mxschool.edu>



Boys' Basketball

All-League guard Nick Teller '25 drove to the basket in an early Huckins-Rouse Tournament game against Brewster Academy. A mid-February victory over rival Groton was among the season highlights for this year's cohesive, resilient varsity squad led by Captain Timmy Smith '23.



Girls' Hockey

Co-Captain Caroline Cervini '23 carried the puck into the offensive zone in the varsity's home opener against Kents Hill, which Middlesex won 7-0. Both Caroline and her teammate, Janie Martin '26, earned All-League Honorable Mentions at the season's close.

Boys' Hockey

Co-captain Andrew Almeida '23 looked up ice to start the attack in an overtime win against Portsmouth Abbey during the Barber Tournament. Andrew earned an All-League Honorable Mention for the season—as did teammates Tedy O'Keefe '24, Bryan Tang '24, Caio Bernardini '25, and Zach Miles '25—while Matt Egan '25 was named All-League.



Girls' Basketball

An All-League Honorable Mention, forward Kylee Shah '25 advanced the ball up the court, looking to attack the basket in a December game with Tabor. Under the leadership of Co-captains Abby Murphy '23 and Emma Donovan '24, Middlesex counted two satisfying ISL wins—against St. Mark's and Groton—among its victories this season.



Nordic Skiing

Consistently a top finisher throughout the season, two-year Co-captain Mae Rusconi '23 headed to the finish in a January night race at the Weston Ski Track.



Girls' Squash

Co-captain Clementine Campbell '23 attacked a backhand drive in a match against BB&N. Named All-League and All-NEPSAC this season, she led her team to a 9-6 record and 28th place among 85 teams competing at the 2023 High School Nationals in Philadelphia, PA.

Title Tally

The warm winter weather was problematic for some programs, yet Middlesex athletes rose to the challenges that came their way, earning league and regional recognition, as well as individual and team championships.



A team effort at the Northern New England Tournament resulted in Middlesex earning fifth place overall. Kneeling in front are Co-captain Juliette Alford '23, Maya Dougé '24, and Claire Yoon '24. Standing, from left to right, are Ben Doty '23, Harper Edwards '26, Kirby Keas '23, Nik Rizvi '25, Jeff Cheng '26, Kimberly Guzman Flores '25, Katherine Deng '26, Caleb Mitchell '26, Fiona Fittante '25, Ethan Yuan '25, and Marcus Dougé '25. (photo by Dan Barber)

First for Fisher-Smith '24

Higher temperatures and a shortage of snow compromised the alpine ski season, making races a rarity. But with its indefatigable spirit, Middlesex's team bonded during bus rides to practices at snowier venues, getting valuable time in gates. As a result, both the girls' and boys' varsity earned second place in a highly competitive league. At the NEPSAC Class A Championships on February 15, the team delivered great performances, and the girls tied for third in slalom, with Co-captain Grace Fisher-Smith '24 ending the day as the New England Slalom Champion. Grace was named All-League and All-NEPSAC, while her fellow Co-captain Sadie Millett '24 earned an All-NEPSAC Honorable Mention. Additionally, All-League teammates Jack Elworth '25 and James Millett '26 both received All-NEPSAC Honorable Mentions.



Co-Captain Grace Fisher-Smith '24 raced her way to victory in the Class A New England Slalom Championship.



Three-peat Champions: The boys' varsity squash team once again finished first in its division at the 2023 New England Interscholastics, held in February at Portsmouth Abbey. Playing for this year's squad were (standing, from left to right): Davis Hale '25, Thatcher Foregger '24, Co-captain Tim Cassidy '23, Co-captain Vedant Deokar '23, Raymond Li '23, and Teddy Stevens '24; in front are Hudson Hinckley '25 and Richard Wang '24. (photo by Rebecca Smedley)

Interscholastic Champs

After several gratifying victories in the regular season—including wins against Brooks and BB&N—the boys' varsity squash team traveled to the Interscholastic Championships at Portsmouth Abbey to defend its Division D title once again. On February 18, Middlesex (seeded #1) faced Brooks (#8) and then Millbrook (#4), defeating each 7-0. In the final match against Dexter Southfield the following day, Middlesex won 5-2, adding the 2023 title to those in 2022 and 2020 (COVID precluded competing in 2021). At the season's close, Co-captain Tim Cassidy '23 was named All-NEPSAC and also earned an All-League Honorable Mention, as did his teammate Hudson Hinckley '25.

Wrestlers Gain Ground

This season's wrestling team was the youngest in recent memory, with freshmen and sophomores playing key roles in varsity meets and tournaments all season long. With so many new athletes joining the program, the learning curve was steep, but great progress was made. On February 4, the team earned fifth place at the Northern New England Tournament and subsequently celebrated three medalists at the Graves-Kelsey Tournament on February 11: Katherine Deng '26 (5th at 106), Marcus Dougé '25 (5th at 144), and Jeff Cheng '26 (4th at 215). The following week, three wrestlers placed in the NEPSWA Girls' Division—Claire Yoon '24 (2nd at 100), Maya Dougé '24 (4th at 120), and Fiona Fittante '25 (4th at 132)—with Maya going on to capture fourth in the Girls' Division at the National Prep Championship. A bright future awaits!

Fond Farewells

With significant tenures ranging from 26 to 41 years, five longtime colleagues were celebrated this spring as they concluded their Middlesex careers and looked forward to new ventures in retirement. Their generosity, dedication, and care have been extraordinary and have left a deep impression on decades of students and adults at the School.

Kelly Marchand

If not for the scarcity and hyper-competitiveness of veterinary colleges at the time, Kelly Marchand might not have found her way to Middlesex in 1982. While going through that highly selective application process, she first enjoyed spending a year as a teaching fellow at Phillips Andover and then worked in a veterinary hospital, thinking to herself during that second job, “Vet school probably has summers off, so maybe I could teach in the summer.”

That’s when she realized, “Maybe what I really want to do is teach.” The domesticated animal kingdom’s loss was Middlesex School’s gain.

Still, Kelly wasn’t sure that this would be a lasting commitment. In addition to teaching math, “I was to coach field hockey,” Kelly remembers from that first fall on campus. “There were some great girls on the team, and I thought, ‘I’ll stay until they graduate,’ and I did. Then more wonderful kids came, and I thought I’d stay until *they* graduated. And then at some point, this became home.”

Middlesex has now been Kelly’s home for 41 years. After a stint in Robert Winsor House, she and husband John moved to Hallowell for 15 years, with Kelly spending 10 of those as head of house while their family grew to include Luke ’05, Anna ’07, Nate ’10, and Ben ’15. “That was fun for us but maybe not for the girls who lived in the dorm,” Kelly says. “They were party to my efforts to get my kids to places on time.”

Decades of students and colleagues have gotten to know their children well—whether as babysitters or playmates, classmates or coworkers—and each family member has worked at Middlesex at different times. While Luke, Nate, and Ben worked with Facilities and Operations during several



summers, Anna joined the faculty as an admissions interviewer and coach in 2013 and then ably served as the director of student activities until 2021.

Meanwhile, John Marchand coached boys' JV hockey for many years and was a mainstay of the Saturday Gazebo program, where members of the Middlesex community volunteer to help children with disabilities learn how to skate. In recent years, Kelly has also been a JV hockey coach for the girls' team, after having coached crew and soccer earlier in her career. She, too, had her own long-standing volunteer commitment. Until disrupted by the pandemic, Kelly spent many Thursday evenings shepherding students to Open Table at Concord's First Parish Church, where they would help clean up after the weekly community supper there. "A whole lot of them learned how to mop," she says wryly.

Pitching in to support her community like that is something Kelly is well-known for, whether it has meant serving as a dean of students for a few years in the mid-1980s or, most recently, as the dean of faculty since 2021. But as Interim Head of School Karlyn McNall notes, "I think Kelly's happy place is the math classroom. She's super funny, and she believes every kid in her class has something to give to math and something to get from math."

That's because for Kelly, the subject is about more than simply manipulating numbers to get a solution. "Math is creative; you find it for yourself," she says. "I think math is most powerful when it becomes your own. It's really a journey of discovery for every one of my students—they may not think so, but I do. I'm not just going to tell them; I'm going to try to get them to go there without having to say, 'Just do this.' And there is creativity in the examples I can use from year to year, which keeps it fresh for me."

During her tenure, Kelly has taught every level of math, advised Middlesex's Math Club since its founding in 2002, and led the department from 2013 to 2021. Taking the reins from longtime Department Head Ron Banay, she continued his practice of regularly reviewing the curriculum, tinkering with how courses were taught, and looking to expand the elective offerings. "Kelly has been at the forefront of diversifying the math curriculum, making sure it answers to a variety of learning styles and experiences," says Karlyn.

When Kelly first arrived at Middlesex, for example, "We didn't teach Statistics, so I did that," she recalls. "Now, we have Math Modeling and the History of Math—there has always been something new to do, and technology has made math much more animated. I learn something all the time."

Her expertise and enthusiasm impressed colleagues as well as students. "I learned a lot from her as a teacher, and I'd already been teaching since 1977!" admits Ned Herter '73, who was Kelly's Hallowell neighbor for five years and her department colleague for many more. "She could make math interesting to any student—even those who didn't see how math might be interesting in their lives," he adds.

Ned also appreciated Kelly's "tough love" approach with her students, which is highlighted by alumni as well. "She was very much no-nonsense but, at the same time, very understanding of all the needs of her students," says her former student and advisee Eric Shaw '15. "She was kind of a motherly figure in the classroom and knew how to discern my sophomore complaining from when I really needed help."

Kelly's perceptiveness and candor—delivered with humor and the right amount of support—are likewise familiar to Alana Burm '22 and Holly Levasseur '22, both of whom were assigned Kelly

as their advisor and spent their first three semesters together in her math class. "She would give you some push-back if you complained about small problems, like a grade on a test," recalls Alana. "She'd have something logical to say about it, which I didn't always want to hear, and she'd make you laugh about it." Or, as Holly puts it, "She would say straight up, 'You need to do your work and try.' And it worked!"

Similar guidance resulted in Eric tackling BC Calculus and heading the Math Club by senior year. It's a testament, he reflects, to the way that Kelly encourages students to challenge themselves and push beyond their self-perceived limits. When subsequently double majoring in aeronautical engineering and East Asian studies at Brown, he found, "I had to do extra classes throughout the year, but the stress level was more manageable by thinking about Mrs. Marchand, who was very successful but didn't stress over the little things." Now an engineer with Lockheed Martin, Eric was recently admitted to the MIT Leaders for Global Operations Program. "After I shared the news with my family, the next person I reached out to was Mrs. Marchand," he says.

"She was always there and will be there for you," confirms Holly, who also stays in touch with Kelly and, like Alana, has great memories of their advisee dinners—and of seeing Kelly with her dogs around campus and in the stands at games.

"I will miss everybody I work with; I'll miss my team," Kelly allows, "but I won't miss working until 11:00 p.m. I think the sponge is pretty much wrung out!" Instead, she plans to spend more time with her kids and grandkids—maybe even the goat variety of kids. She might even get a horse. "I still love animals," Kelly says, "but it turns out, I also love teenagers." **M**

Fond Farewells

John Hirsch

It's remarkable how English students, squash players, and faculty colleagues alike choose the same adjectives when describing John Hirsch: invested and engaged, focused and precise, energetic and indefatigable, encouraging and caring. At the same time, the consistency of their choices makes perfect sense, as these specific qualities would certainly be needed to accomplish all that John has in his 33 years at Middlesex.

For starters, he taught two sections each of Latin and English during his first nine years, with Greek occasionally added as a fifth course. He remained a member of the classics department until 2001, when he began his 17-year tenure as head of the English department. That same year, Head of School Deirdre Ling asked John to develop a more formal Writing Program for the School, which was adopted in its current format in 2002 and which he has directed ever since. He has also been the head of Middlesex's Humanities Division for the last five years and—for an impressive 27 years—has served as the head coach for girls' varsity squash. John coached other squash and tennis teams along the way, too, and advised the Yearbook for a time, and lived in dorms for 21 years, 12 of them as an assistant in Clay House.

In the minds of many, though, John's name is synonymous with the Writing Program he crafted, especially its centerpiece, the Sophomore Writing Workshop. Its establishment was no small feat, tackled during a particularly busy time in his life when he was not only a department head and varsity coach but also—with his wife, artist Meg Alexander (see page 4)—a new parent to two daughters, Lucy '18 and Eliza '21. Yet, through reviewing the approaches of other schools and combining their best methods with his own vision, he created a plan suited to

Middlesex's curriculum and schedule in short order, making revisions every year as needed.

"John did an outstanding job of coordinating and focusing the work of the English department," confirms his retired colleague Jim Beaton, who taught English for 35 years at Middlesex. "Without failing to appreciate the genius of individual teachers, he nevertheless, by force of both his personality and his intellect, succeeded in persuading his colleagues that common practices and unified goals would serve all our students more effectively."

For those unfamiliar with the progression of the Writing Program, the first year introduces freshmen to training in paragraph writing and grammar and to the different literary genres. By the third year, juniors are working to incorporate more advanced literary analysis into more sophisticated essays, finding their own academic voices in the process. Sandwiched between these two years is the famous Sophomore Writing Workshop, which hones each student's ability to construct a cogent argument in a single, concise paragraph—a fundamental building block of any writing assignment.

"That's a work of genius, I think," approves retired Dean of Faculty and Classics Department Head Alex Banay, who also valued John as a classics colleague. "I think it gives students a very powerful tool in the way they deploy language and structure arguments."

Part of what makes the Writing Workshop so formative—and memorable—is that to complete it, every student must pass two tests: The first covers grammar and punctuation, while the second requires producing that ideal paragraph. "It's also a thinking and arguing test," John says of the latter requirement. "They are being graded on making an abstract argument of about 300 words in 45 minutes." If that sounds like a formidable challenge, rest assured that Middlesex students receive plenty of attention and support to enable them



to reach this goal. "John values every single word a student writes or says in class," observes English Department Head Jecca Hutcheson, who has also led her share of Writing Workshop sections for the past 14 years. "His focus and acuity of vision are singular; he holds students to a very high standard and works with them until they meet it."

Having been a sophomore in the program's inaugural year, Kirsten Kester O'Donnell '05 found the Writing Workshop to be "definitely demanding—very highly structured, with a lot of attention to detail," adding, "I remember thinking I had no idea that someone could care so deeply about a topic sentence or a misplaced comma as Mr. Hirsch did!" Today, she remains grateful for that thorough training. "It was so foundational to becoming a competent writer," Kirsten says. "Even though I'm in the life sciences, I'm constantly communicating with people, and it's something I draw upon all the time."

Given its proven effectiveness, “The Writing Workshop will continue to be at the center of the Middlesex English curriculum,” affirms Jecca, who also had a hand in arranging another acknowledgement of John’s lasting influence. Starting this spring, the School’s former Trustees’ Prize in English will be known from now on as the John S. Hirsch Prize in English.

These are just two of John’s legacies at Middlesex; still another is the deep impression he made on those he taught at every level of the English curriculum, from the introductory freshman course through his popular senior electives in Fiction Writing and The Personal Essay. “His ability to command a classroom was special to be a part of,” recalls Sarah Armitage ’08, who also appreciated his ability to inspire productive debate among students. Now an academic and instructor herself, Sarah has come to admire John’s pedagogical skills even more. “You have to be able to take

students right to the cusp of the idea but let them get to it themselves,” she explains. “He wouldn’t tell us the idea but gave us the tools to get there, teaching us to think critically. That’s very hard to do, and he’s masterful at that.”

John’s thoughtful comments on all written work also stand out in Sarah’s and Kirsten’s memories, as his notes showed his deep engagement with both their ideas and their writing. “His high standards and attention to detail were paired with deep investment in and care for his students,” Kirsten says.

As one of John’s English students and a three-year varsity squash veteran, Captain-elect Arya Mehta ’24 thoroughly agrees, having enjoyed his energy and engagement in class and on the court. “He’s one of those coaches who really cares about the team and about the players individually,” she concurs. Remembering a tough match with Groton in which she lost the first game,

Arya recounts, “I came off the court, and he was so encouraging and gave me a few pieces of advice. You can tell he believes in you; he’s very reassuring. That helped me win against Groton, even though I lost that first game. Now, when I play in tournaments outside of Middlesex, I think, ‘What would Mr. Hirsch’s advice be?’”

Though pleased that his teams have won the New England’s three times (in 2006, 2020, and 2022) and Nationals twice (in 2007 and 2012), John says, “Really it’s all been a highlight; every team has been wonderful, and I’ll still be coaching squash next year.”

Yes, that’s right. Living not far from campus, John will continue to coach, which gives rise to the hope that he and Meg—who has previously taught visual arts during several faculty leaves—might occasionally cover a class in the future. For now, John is closing the book on full-time English teaching, reflecting, “It’s been a rich experience. I feel lucky.” **M**

Amy Gleason

She may be the only faculty member who has been hired at Middlesex three times—and by three different school leaders: first by Hugh Fortmiller (as acting head) in 1987, then by Head of School Deirdre Ling in 2000, and, lastly, by Deirdre’s successor, Kathy Giles, in 2018. But those who have known Amy Gleason at any point during her three-part tenure will not be at all surprised by this fact. It’s just a given that she would be enthusiastically welcomed back.

“Amy is a patient, kind, supportive person,” affirms retired Math Department Head Ron Banay. “She is also an encourager of independent thinking, individually, in a cogent and impressive way. That’s treating your students as people, and it’s all one piece with Amy.”

The accuracy of his description is evident from Amy’s own reflections on what she has enjoyed about the math classroom. “There are lots of ways to approach problems, and I love to see a mind working in a way that is different from mine,” she says. “I’ve always tried to think differently about every class I have. I try to take the students in front of me—where they are and what they bring to the room. I always say, ‘I don’t teach math; I teach students.’”

Her open attitude and approach have inspired confidence in many a math student in the 26 collective years she has taught at Middlesex. “Amy’s strengths were connecting with everyone in the class and being cognizant of how things were going in our lives,” says her former math student and advisee Abby Pratt ’22. “She was always making sure that everyone was understanding, slowing down when we needed it—even in BC Calculus.



Fond Farewells

She made my math experience great; I didn't feel shy about asking questions because she said there are no bad questions."

Also significant, Ron notes, is Amy's ability to simplify complex problems, breaking them down into digestible bits of information—a talent that was appreciated by Cordelia Zars '11, who now writes original content for and runs a theatre company near Boulder, Colorado. "I am very much a humanities person: a musician and writer," Cordelia states. "To this day, when people ask me what I'm proud of, something that still jumps to mind is that I got a 5 on my AP Calculus exam. And it's only because I had Amy as a teacher; she was so good at breaking it down into tangible concepts I could remember and apply to different problems." Quite unexpectedly, Cordelia found that she loved calculus.

Well before she got to that course, though, Cordelia had already gotten to know the Gleason family well through her close friendship with Amy's daughter Sara '11. As a freshman far from her Wyoming home, Cordelia recalls, "They just took me under their wing, and I spent a lot of time in their home in Higginson House. Danny '09 and Stevie '15 became like brothers to me." Later, as a senior proctor in Higginson, Cordelia could clearly see how "Amy and her whole family created a sense of community," she says. "Their effect on the School was palpable. The Gleasons embodied what it meant to be kind and generous, to really listen and care. They taught me to be a good person, and that ripples beyond me through other years of students."

To Amy, living in a dorm was an integral part of her work with students. "What I've loved at boarding schools is that your life is transparent to them, and they are experiencing you in different areas: classroom, dorm, sports," she explains. "They know you in your pajamas in a fire drill."

With her husband David, Amy first lived in Peabody House, then a boys' dorm, where David was a dorm assistant for three years and the head of house for two. When Peabody became a girls' dorm in 1993, Amy became the head of house, a role she repeated in two subsequent campus homes: Kravis House (2000–2004) and Higginson House (2004–2014). "I loved having our family here to experience the campus," she says, happy to have had her children grow up in a community of caring adults and "big brothers and sisters," whom she nurtured, too.

"One of Amy's greatest gifts is that she lets everyone around her be themselves and lets life flow," observes Chief Financial Officer Terry Cunningham, Amy's Higginson neighbor and dorm assistant. "She created a culture in the dorm that made it feel like a home, allowing everyone to be comfortable in the space and creating camaraderie among dorm faculty."

Even though she lived off campus these past five years—leading Estabrook House for day students for the last three—Amy still conveyed that feeling of community and connection. "As an advisor, she made Middlesex my home away from home," says Abby. "Whenever I was having difficulty with anything, I would talk with her; she was my mom of Middlesex. She always knew the right thing to say and do. I really valued her advice." With her balance of care, common sense, and good humor, Amy was "a grounding force in my experience," Abby adds.

Amy also served Middlesex in administrative positions, first as director of studies from 2005 to 2008, when she coordinated decisions about students' course loads and seniors' Independent Study Projects. After that, she transitioned to one of her favorite roles as the director of community service from 2008 to 2014. "That was a natural progression for Amy," says Terry. "Community service is an extension of her supportive nature."

Able assisted by former Middlesex Postmaster Paul Torres, Amy arranged the different activities on Community Service Day each September, followed by various volunteer opportunities, like weekly visits to the elderly residents of Walden House and to Open Table's community supper. She also managed student-initiated fundraising efforts on campus and the Youth in Philanthropy program, which introduced juniors to the operations and needs of nonprofit organizations.

While Amy was taking this on, a new chapter in her life began that started with a service trip to orphanages in South Africa. "I went with Sara in 2008, and the next summer, I brought Middlesex kids," Amy remembers. Drawn to the children there and recognizing their needs, Amy established Ubuntu Global Connections in 2011, a foundation that provides a channel for people who want to help but need a network to do so. "She is an amazing conduit of books, clothing, and funding," Terry attests.

"I've been to South Africa 36 times and taken students four or five times," Amy says. An active volunteer at Middlesex, Cordelia accompanied the Gleasons on one of those early journeys. "It was one of the most memorable trips of my life," she says. "We were volunteering at orphanages and working with students. High school is a formative time, but I can't imagine who I'd be without Amy's presence in my life. She was so much more than a teacher for me."

Though retiring from Middlesex, Amy will continue her leadership of Ubuntu, bringing her characteristic empathy, kindness, and encouragement to this international undertaking. "Those qualities are so compelling in her own life that she had to go to another continent to dispense kindness there!" as Ron says. "Who is surprised? That's who Amy is." **M**

Pedro Dutra

For nearly 33 years, Pedro Dutra steadfastly led Middlesex's Housekeeping Department, starting out in December 1989 and retiring in late September last year. This was never a small job, but over the course of those three decades, the square footage to be cleaned on campus only grew with the construction of three new dorms (Kravis, Atkins, and Landry) and two academic buildings (the Clay Centennial Center and the Rachel Carson Music and Campus Center). Additionally, there were several expansive renovations, most recently one that created the Danoff Center for the Visual Arts and the Bass Pavilion.

To make sure that all of those living and learning spaces were ready every day, Pedro had to schedule and supervise 15 custodians, keep the department's inventory of supplies well stocked, and manage the repair of equipment—which, as Facilities and Operations Director Steve Legassie points out, “is

a lot when you think of all the vacuums in all the buildings on campus!”

He could also always be counted on whenever unexpected problems arose. “Pedro and I both received the emergency phone calls,” says Steve. “Whenever the worst-case scenario was going on—usually a flood, whether from heavy rain or a broken pipe—we would both show up at that event, ready to go with buckets and mops.” Any time of day, Pedro would be there.

Retired Dean of Athletics Joe Lang agrees. “Pedro always came through,” he affirms. “If there was an emergency, he would be there, and it would all be taken care of.”

Yet Joe is also quick to praise the daily efforts of Pedro and his crew, especially in recent years, during the challenges of COVID-19. “Through it all, they had those locker rooms spotless—it was tremendous,” Joe attests. “I can't tell you how much I appreciated what Pedro did for the School and for the athletic department. He always had that positive vibe and can-do attitude.”

Leaving an impressive legacy of dedication, drive, and know-how, Pedro



has earned a long and happy retirement after so many years of attending to the needs of Middlesex. “He loved this place,” Steve says, “and it's taken a village to fill his void.” **M**

Terrence Cassidy

Terrence, Terry, or “TC”: He's been known by all three names during the 30-plus years he has worked with the Middlesex Athletic Department. That association began around 1990, when Terrence was first hired as the boys' JV squash coach—a position that fit well with the quieter winter season at his full-time job overseeing Concord Academy's grounds.

Known for his skill, sense of humor, and clear expectations on the court, he was also that coach who would go the extra mile for his players. As Darryl Heslop '92 remembers, “Terry took me

under his wing and was such a strong proponent for my success.” In addition to the usual afternoon practices, Terry would coach Darryl at Middlesex on Sundays, continuing even after Darryl had made the varsity and even after he had graduated and was training to try out for the team at Brown. “Terry truly believed in me; he gave me confidence and comfort,” Darryl says. “You can't ask for a better person in your life.”

When CA built its own squash courts in 2000, Terrence led the new program there for five years. Middlesex remained in the game, however, for in that same period, Terrence married history teacher Karlyn McNall and moved into LeBaron Briggs, where

Karlyn was head of house. By the time she was appointed dean of academic affairs in 2005, they had two young sons—Gavin '21 and Tim '23—and given the demands of Karlyn's new administrative position, Terrence opted to join the Middlesex community full time as the School's equipment manager.

Thanks to Middlesex's afternoon athletic schedule, Terrence could be the go-to parent volunteer at his sons' elementary school. “I went on every field trip, helped in the library there twice a week, and then worked in the equipment room here at night, doing laundry until midnight,” he recalls. “It was a great opportunity to be closer to my boys.”

Fond Farewells

Of course, Middlesex benefited from this arrangement, too. Not only did Terrence keep the equipment room well stocked, but he also streamlined its operation, replacing unwieldy gym bags with numbered “loops” for workout clothes and towels, making the laundry process far more efficient. When everyone came to retrieve their loops before practice, Terrence knew each student “by both name and number,” confirms David Latham ’21 (a.k.a. #34).

Then, with the advent of COVID-19, Terrence started taking the extra step of delivering hundreds of loops directly to lockers. “He had to deal with my locker fiasco,” David admits, describing the layers upon layers of clothes and half-empty Gatorade bottles piled in there. “TC told me I was tied for the messiest locker at Middlesex. He

definitely put up with a lot in managing the equipment, and whoever is in there next has big shoes to fill.”

Once he became the equipment manager, TC resumed coaching squash at Middlesex, leading the boys’ program since 2008. “One of the things I have enjoyed about working with TC is that we are very much one team,” says fellow coach Rebecca Smedley, director of spiritual and ethical education. “Every day, the varsity and JV practiced together, and occasionally the thirds joined us. Kids could see that they could improve, and there was great camaraderie and respect. That is TC’s intentional philosophy.”


Rebecca has also appreciated his measured, calm coaching style. “He would tell the boys before a match, ‘You know what to do. We’ve practiced. Have

fun,’” she says. “He cares about his team, and he has perspective.” It’s clearly been an effective approach, for in the last three seasons of competition—2023, 2022, and 2020—the boys’ varsity has won the Division D Interscholastic Championship.

Fortunately for Middlesex, Terrence will still be living on Oates Lane, while Karlyn continues with her administrative and teaching responsibilities in Eliot Hall. With his newfound flexibility, he will be free to spend more time in his ever-expanding vegetable garden, plant additional pollinator gardens around the campus, and find other sustainable solutions that will help the School protect the natural environment. “I used to keep things clean,” Terrence grins, “and now, I’m going to make them green.” **M**

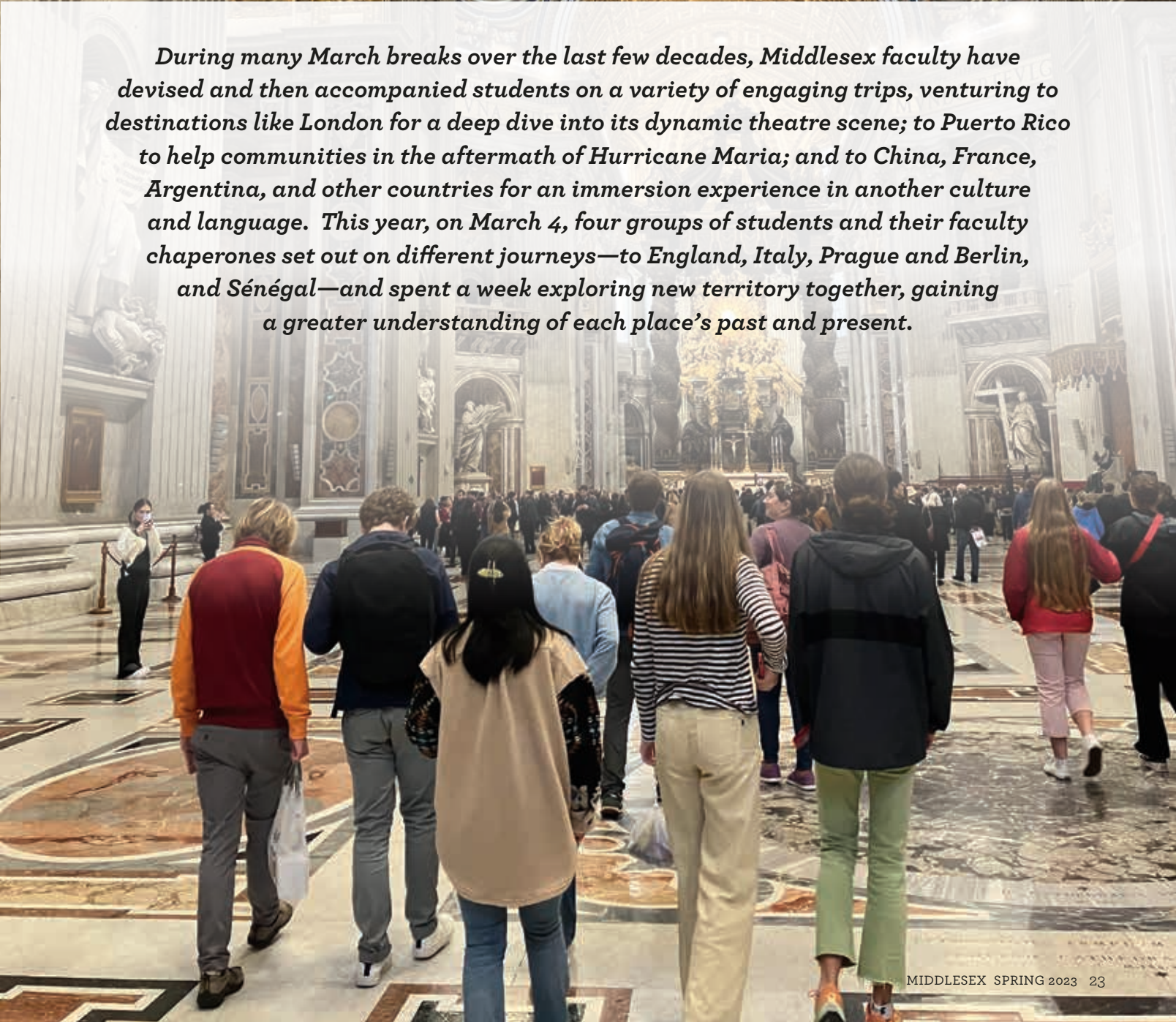


A family photo was snapped by visual arts teacher Roan Callahan at the end of the boys’ squash season in 2021. Pictured left to right: Tim Cassidy ’23, Terrence Cassidy, Gavin Cassidy ’21, and Interim Head of School Karlyn McNall.



Middlesex Abroad

During many March breaks over the last few decades, Middlesex faculty have devised and then accompanied students on a variety of engaging trips, venturing to destinations like London for a deep dive into its dynamic theatre scene; to Puerto Rico to help communities in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria; and to China, France, Argentina, and other countries for an immersion experience in another culture and language. This year, on March 4, four groups of students and their faculty chaperones set out on different journeys—to England, Italy, Prague and Berlin, and Sénégal—and spent a week exploring new territory together, gaining a greater understanding of each place’s past and present.



Whether students were viewing excavations in Pompeii (top left) or pausing on their way to the Villa and Galleria Borghese (lower left), there was plenty of Latin to be translated (top right—outside Rome’s Capitoline Museum of Archeology). Quantities of gelato were also enjoyed (lower right).



Rome and Campania

“Every day was something new; it was amazing. You were in awe of this ancient city.”

The extent of the ruins of Ancient Rome—and all that remains of its language, history, art, and architecture—astonished the 16 students who followed Classics Department Head Dan Barber and classics teacher Aura Rizzo ’07 to this center of the former empire. Stopping first in Naples, the group investigated the ancient Greek colony of Cumae and then Pompeii before making their way to many major sites in Rome, including the Forum and Colosseum, the Villa and Galleria Borghese, the Vatican Museums, and St. Peter’s Basilica. Art history enthusiasts like Antonio Ometeotl ’23 found themselves “geeking out at being able to see things I’ve studied and talked about, like the House of Vettii and the House of the Faun in Pompeii.” Similarly, as a student of classics, Ella Coffin ’24 reflected, “I liked translating what I had learned in Latin class into what I was seeing.” For Leo Vargas ’23, the trip was all of this *and* perhaps the chance to attend a European soccer game—a dream realized one evening with Antonio and Dr. Barber. *Daje Roma!*

Sénégal

“It’s a magical place.”

For five students who had never been to Africa before, journeying along Sénégal’s northern coast was an unforgettable experience. Accompanied by French Department Head Chantal Jordan and Chief Technology Officer Joe Alford, they saw a variety of natural landscapes, from the renowned colonial city of Saint-Louis to the dunes of the Lompoul Desert to the Bandia Private Wildlife Reserve (featuring zebras!). They immersed themselves in village life, connecting with the children of Dèni Biram Ndao and learning about sustainable farming in N’Guelakh—also enjoying workshops in batik and djembe drumming. Tours of the Musée Léopold Sédar Senghor, home of Sénégal’s first president, and Gorée Island—where the House of Slaves and its “door of no return” remain as evidence of the inhumane Atlantic slave trade—provided a window into significant eras in the country’s history. “I got to see someplace totally new, practice my French, and be with friends,” says Kit Vernon ’24. “My French got a lot better, and we also picked up a bit of Wolof.” Most of all, though, she will remember the people for their warmth and generosity.



Among the early stops on the Sénégal itinerary was the village of Dèni Biram Ndao (above); in subsequent days, they journeyed to the city of Saint-Louis (middle, far left) and then rode camels in the Lompoul Desert (at left). Shortly before heading home, the group enjoyed one last dinner together in the fishing village of La Samone (below).





Berlin and Prague

“Our feet were sore, we were exhausted at the end of the day, and it felt great.”

Starting in Prague, 23 students fit in a walking tour of the city, two plays—one Shakespearean and one a multimedia stage production—and powerful exhibitions at the Jewish Memorial Synagogue and the National Gallery Trade Fair Palace. Guided by Arts Division Head Tom Kane, Visual Arts Department Head Stacey McCarthy, and Music Department Head Pierson Wetzel, the group then headed to Berlin for a night at the opera and a tour of the city the next morning. Contemporary art galleries and avant-garde theatre were also on the itinerary, which concluded with a Berlin Philharmonic performance. “It was a good balance of schedule and freedom to explore,” says Sophie Bruno ’24. “We had big dinners every night where we could catch up and talk about our days or what we were about to see next.” These conversations were a highlight, too, for Xander Starobin ’23, who is grateful to the faculty leaders for having “curated a trip that highlighted important, relevant art and gave us time and space to deal with it.”



During their two full days in Prague, Middlesex travelers explored the Old Town Square (center) and Jewish Quarter before crossing the Vitava River to visit Prague Castle (top). Once in Germany, a tour of the city’s historic sites (including the Brandenburg Gate, right), gave students a sense of the impact of the Third Reich and the Cold War on present-day Berlin.



After seeing *The Winter's Tale* at the Globe on their first night in London, students enjoyed a tour of the theatre (at right, middle) the next day, followed by visits to the Tower of London (at right, top) and the British Library Gallery. In Oxford, the Bodleian Library (bottom right) and Christchurch College were among the must-see places on the agenda, while in Bath, high tea at the Regency Tea Room (above) was not to be missed.

Literary London

“Being in the streets that Austen walked in was really powerful.”

Fans of British writers were especially keen to join English Department Head Jecca Hutcheson and English teacher Ruth Baldwin for this literary-inspired journey that visited three cities, taking in famous historic sites, prominent art galleries, and two theatre productions. While in London, 11 students enjoyed the Tate Modern and the British Museum, toured the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, and the Globe Theatre, and saw the Globe’s production of *The Winter’s Tale*. Midweek, the group traveled to Oxford, seeing the University’s Bodleian Library and the Ashmolean Museum before moving on to Bath for a glimpse of the world Jane Austen knew. Back in London, they stopped at the Charles Dickens Museum and spent the afternoon exploring Hyde Park before returning home again. Choosing to go on this venture was “a no brainer” for Thea Choyt ’24, who leads the Book Lovers Club at Middlesex. But in addition to Poets’ Corner, Dickens’ home, and Austen’s haunts, she appreciated the time with her teachers and peers, noting, “When you travel with friends, you view everything from a different perspective.”



The Middlesex Network

MAKING ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

As president of the Middlesex Alumni Association (MxAA), Alex Hanken Russell '08 led the 2023 Alumni Weekend ceremony where the Distinguished Alumni Award and Jones Service Award were presented to this year's recipients.



During their years on campus, Middlesex students benefit not only from dynamic programs but also from the wisdom and support of multiple mentors: teachers, coaches, advisors, and dorm parents. What many may not realize at the time, however, is that once they graduate, they will join an extensive network of even more mentors and friends—fellow alumni who are happy to share their experience and offer their help in navigating life beyond the Circle.

Jason Crasnick '03 recognized early on the long-term value of internships and mentors. “I was dead set on going to law school,” he remembers. “It was what I wanted to do.” A summer working at a large Boston law firm after his junior year would, he thought, surely confirm this decision. Instead, the partners advised Jason at the end to put that idea on hold, telling him, “You don’t have enough conviction. You can always go to law school later. Without the utmost conviction, you should do something else first.”

Their honest recommendation not only saved him time and tuition but also led him to contact an earlier mentor—his former varsity baseball coach, Director of Alumni Relations John Morrissey—who put Jason in touch with graduates established in the field of investment banking. “They were great at giving me advice,” he recalls, and while his first jobs in the industry were not to his liking, he could already see that networking would be key to finding the right professional fit. Eventually, after meeting and talking with contacts made through colleagues, classmates, and others, Jason landed in institutional equities at Morgan Stanley, where he is now part of another branch of the Middlesex network, as he counts at least six fellow alumni among his co-workers there—but more on that later.

Making it easier for graduates like Jason to find and develop connections and opportunities is the ongoing work of the Middlesex Alumni Association (MxAA), which was established in 2004. “Our purpose statement,” says current MxAA President Alex Hanken Russell '08, “is to perpetuate close

relationships among our members and to enhance their continuing relationships with the Middlesex community.” Comprised of 38 alumni from the last six decades of graduates—with ethnic, racial, and gender representation proportional to the current student population—the MxAA Board creates, administers, and supports programs that will benefit alumni, dividing into working groups based on the evolving needs of their community.

Establishing New Events

One of the MxAA’s initial efforts was to create additional opportunities for alumni to get together informally throughout the year. Launching the Alumni Golf Tournament in 2005, the MxAA later named this event in memory of longtime faculty member Brad Kingman and directed its proceeds to the Bradford S. Kingman Fund for faculty support. Thanks to the interest and generosity of alumni, parents, and friends, both the fund and the event itself have continued to grow, as a tennis tournament became part of the annual program in 2015.

Another favorite addition to the calendar has been the Gala Benefit and Auction, which began in 2011 and has been held almost every other year since. While providing an enjoyable evening of good-natured, competitive bidding

among alumni and parents, the event’s proceeds contribute to the School’s financial aid budget and fund other MxAA programs, such as its Summer Internship Support, Alumni Career Panels, fall gatherings at colleges where many young alumni are studying, and other events. This year, funding for these MxAA programs has also been bolstered by the 2023 Senior Parent Gift, generously contributed by the parents of Middlesex’s most recent graduates.

Promoting Summer Internships

It’s always been the goal of the MxAA to benefit alumni of all ages, including its youngest members. In 2008, the MxAA started offering Summer Internship Support to assist college students who need funding for travel and living expenses in order to take advantage of great but unpaid internships. The program has aided more than 100 alumni since then, making internship experiences possible across the country and around the world.

With the support he received last year, Jack Sennott ’21 was able to accept an internship at the Department of Labor in the office of then-Secretary Marty Walsh, the former mayor of Boston. “Practically, I would not have been able to do the internship without this assistance,” Jack says. “It was an amazing opportunity to see

Among those at the well-attended FAM reception during Alumni Weekend were, from left to right: Chris Lawrence ’09, Liane and Terrence Agbi ’07, and Steve Gunn ’06, who chairs the MxAA’s Cultural Engagement Committee.



government up close; I learned so much about how government works and about the dynamics of labor in America.” Additionally, he finds, “It’s great to feel like the School is continuing to be a part of my life even after I’ve graduated. I hope to give back as a token of my appreciation.”



Thanks to the MxAA’s Summer Internship Support, Jack Sennott ’21 was able to be an intern at the Department of Labor in the office of then-Secretary Marty Walsh, the former mayor of Boston.

Expanding the Circle

In addition to sponsoring younger graduates’ internships—which have the potential to lead to future jobs—the MxAA has worked to provide professional networking opportunities for alumni of all ages, initiating annual, in-person Alumni Career Panels in Boston and New York City in 2009. “The career panels consist of parents and alumni who highlight specific industries or topics,” as Alex details. “This gives our community a platform to share more about different paths and to provide valuable wisdom for alumni who are pursuing similar careers—or who are thinking of changing direction.”

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, career panels moved to Zoom in 2021, and while this has limited the individual conversations that might have taken place at an in-person gathering, it has had other benefits. “It has broadened the base of alumni who can attend,” says Greg Romero ’99, who leads the MxAA’s Career Committee. “And I think besides giving access to people outside of

Boston and New York, it also addresses whether people are inherently introverts or extroverts. This provides an avenue for people to engage from the comfort of their home office.”

Most recently, the MxAA facilitated career education programming specifically oriented toward those just starting out, helping with how to structure resumés and navigate everything from LinkedIn to interviewing. In January, Steph Graham ’08, a career coach, led a Zoom session on these topics for current seniors and college students (see page 11).

The Online Community: MxConnect

But alumni needn’t wait for the annual career panels or other events to access Middlesex’s network. MxAA has created a robust online community with an app called MxConnect. Through it, graduates can contact each other using the app’s Alumni Directory, keep abreast of each other’s news, or seek career counsel from alumni mentors. “Mentorship is an interesting two-sided marketplace,” says Alex. “We have active demand from our younger alumni in particular, but we need to create the ecosystem of jobs, discussions, and forums for them to access mentors. Our goal this year is to try to increase the visibility and activity of mentors in our ecosystem, so that our youngest alumni have clear outlets to reach out to and take advantage of the wealth of experience and wisdom in our ranks.”

To that end, MxConnect has several features that can address these needs. “As a starting point, MxConnect has functionality to filter alumni by industry, so you can reach out to people in specific fields,” notes Greg. “We are now also leveraging the platform’s group functionality to create professional ‘ecosystems,’ with groups initially created for law, finance, health care, technology, and entrepreneurship. Alumni should feel free to join a group that fits their industry (or interest), so that they can interact with each other. You might be able to find a resource, or build a team to solve a problem, or learn about mentorship opportunities. I have found that a lot of people are willing to help. You just have to ask.”

MxConnect also features a Job Board, where alumni can post available job and internship openings, which proved advantageous for Julie Wolpov ’12 and Sarah Tabeek ’14.

“My company was looking to hire a senior analyst,” Julie relates, “and I thought it would be a good idea to post on the alumni network.” As it turned out, Sarah was looking for a job at the time and had relevant experience for the position.

“I knew I wanted to stay in pharma but not in recruiting,” Sarah says. “I wanted to do market research and consulting, where you are solving the ‘hows’ and ‘whys’ for clients. I saw Julie’s posting, and it was completely in line with what I was looking for in that next step.”

Though Julie recently relocated to London and works for a different company now, Sarah is grateful for her mentorship. “I always knew that Middlesex had an amazing network—one that is very helpful and engaged in the job process— but I never knew just how helpful alumni are,” she says. “When I was searching, I had the best conversations with and the most insight from people from Middlesex.”

Cultural Engagement

Of course, alumni may have more than their occupations in common, which is why the MxAA has broadened its scope more recently. “Over the last few years,” Alex explains, “we have established a Cultural Engagement Committee intended to help us amplify and celebrate the cultural identities within our alumni body.” Currently, the MxAA is establishing four affinity groups that mirror those presently on campus: FAM (for Black and Latinx alumni); AZN (for graduates

who are Asian or Pacific Islanders); Bissel Mishpucha (for Jewish alumni); and LGBTQIA+ (for graduates who identify with this community).

“I think there are many ways to connect alumni,” says Steve Gunn ’06, who joined the MxAA Board this year and has taken on leadership of the Cultural Engagement Committee. “We have tried to start with groups that were mirrored on campus because of the desire to connect people. We’d like to show students that the path they start on at Middlesex could be the baseline for their future network with other alumni in their affinity group, whether you want the lowdown on applying to grad schools or on trying to change an industry.”

In collaboration with several other MxAA Board members, Steve explains, “We’ve been trying to understand who fits into these groups and what their appetite for involvement is.” Because FAM is one of the more established groups, the committee first arranged a Zoom call this spring with FAM alumni and current student representatives to talk about life at Middlesex today. In breakout sessions at the end of the call, students and alumni talked about the idea of creating mentorships, as well as other ways to build community. “The feedback was overwhelmingly positive,” Steve says. “Alumni loved hearing from students about the day-to-day on campus and how things were going. We talked about what everyone’s vision

The MxAA sponsors gatherings of college-age alumni in areas with strong representation— like this September 2022 event in Boston.





Having benefited from the guidance of many career mentors, Jason Crasnick '03 (on left) offered similar advice to Rod Odom '10, who now also works for Morgan Stanley.

for community would be: what students would want and what alumni would want.”

A Zoom call with AZN soon followed, also with a focus on developing a mentorship program that would connect alumni and students. “Mentorship was where we wanted to start,” Steve allows, “but we also wanted to keep the discussion open in case different groups needed something else. People have different experiences at Middlesex and in life, so we wanted to be open to that.”

Similarly, the Cultural Engagement Committee is also open to finding ways to engage alumni on campus. “For example,” Steve says, “when Andrew Harris '21 exhibited his photographs in the Ishibashi Gallery, a few alumni went to see the photos in person. It was great to

have a reason to be at Middlesex and see what students are creating.” Though he realizes that this might have been a unique occasion, the committee would nonetheless like to develop a tradition of bringing alumni back to campus more often.

“The Middlesex network reaches far and wide, and there is probably something for everyone,” Steve observes. “That’s what I hope people take from the things we’re trying to do. There is a lot of connection to be made, and it could be good for both parties.”

Becoming a Mentor

That has certainly been the case for Jason Crasnick '03, whose call to John Morrissey back in 2006 put him in touch with a few alumni advisors and set off an extensive networking journey that brought him to Morgan Stanley. In turn, Jason has gladly become one of those Middlesex mentors for other graduates, including Rod Odom '10.

Like Jason, Rod also wanted to talk with alumni in particular careers and, as a college student, called John for assistance. Though he went on to play professional basketball internationally for six years, Rod recalls, “Every year or so, I’d ask John for new people to talk with in different fields. So, even while I was playing basketball, I was building relationships with alumni in different industries.”

Jason was one of those contacts. “He was super engaging and helpful,” says Rod, who especially appreciated Jason’s advice about graduate school, feedback on resume drafts, and invitation to visit his Boston office to meet other colleagues there. Last year, with more than one job offer in hand after finishing his M.B.A., Rod decided to join Morgan Stanley as an analyst in New York, becoming one of those six Middlesex alumni Jason knows at the company.

Along with Jason, Rod notes, many alumni have been generous with their time and guidance—among them are Prentis Robinson '07 and Hadley Brooke '12. “Having these relationships is what Middlesex is about,” Rod says, “It’s an inspiring company of people to be in.”

Moreover, as Jason points out, “The beauty of Middlesex is that everyone knows everybody. It’s an impressive network of people, so you shouldn’t be shy about accessing it.” **M**

In Memoriam

John C. Morley '50



John Carrington Morley passed away peacefully at home on November 30, 2022.

Born in Saginaw, MI, on August 22, 1931, John entered Middlesex's fifth class in 1945. After receiving his diploma, he earned a B.A. in history from Yale University in 1954. John then served in the United

States Navy from 1954 to 1956 as a lieutenant junior grade on the USS *Mount Baker* before heading to the University of Michigan Ross School of Business, graduating with his M.B.A. in 1958. Enjoying a successful career in the energy field, John held several executive positions with Exxon, including as president of Exxon Chemical USA and senior vice president of Exxon USA. He became the CEO of Reliance Electric Company in Cleveland in 1980, after Reliance was acquired by Exxon Corporation, and served in that capacity until 1995. In 1986, John led an investor group in the leveraged acquisition of Reliance from Exxon and took Reliance public in 1992.

A director of numerous private and public corporations, John also served on many nonprofit boards, including Middlesex, where he was a trustee from 1966-1970, 1971-1978, and 1979-2002. He contributed significantly to the School's capital needs, supporting dorm renovation projects and technology initiatives; additionally, he established the John C. Morley Chair in Technology and the Morley Family Faculty Fund. Both John and Sally—his wife of 60 years who passed away in 2014—were generous and visionary philanthropists who particularly focused on education, healthcare, and the arts.

In addition to his six sons—Thomas, James, Andrew, David, Spence G. Morley '74, and John C. Morley, Jr. '73—John is survived by 18 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. His late uncles, Malcolm B. Brownlee, Jr. (1907) and former Middlesex Board President James F. Brownlee (1909), were also Middlesex alumni.

W. Merrill Glasgow '46

Walter Merrill Glasgow died on November 18, 2022.

Born on December 30, 1928, Merrill was raised in Memphis, TN, and followed his brother, **William H. Glasgow, Jr. '45**, to Middlesex, entering the third class as a National Prize Scholar in 1942. After graduating with high credit, he earned his A.B. at Harvard College and his M.B.A. at Harvard Business School. During his college years, Merrill worked at various jobs: in a bank, snuff factory, law firm, and meat packing plant, and as a staff sergeant and tank commander in the Massachusetts National Guard. In 1952, he received a direct commission as lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, where he flew a desk for the Air Material Command in San Bernardino, CA.

On July 2, 1955, Merrill married Betsy Parker Fauntleroy, and they raised a family of seven children together. Settling in Houston, TX, Merrill went to work for Gulf Atlantic Warehouse Co., a subsidiary of Anderson, Clayton & Co. Very quickly, he moved to the corporate office of Gulf Atlantic and then on up to Anderson Clayton, where he was vice president of corporate planning and business development. After many years spent helping to build Anderson Clayton into a multinational corporation, he was tasked with selling the company itself, which resulted in handsome payouts to the stockholders and an unwelcome early retirement for Merrill. Never one to sit still, he then worked for over 30 years as an executive of several businesses in Houston and could be seen at his office every day until the year of COVID.

In his "retirement," Merrill worked for the Ripley Foundation (now known as BakerRipley) and served on the Board of Directors of Compass Bank, as well as on the boards of the Covenant House, the Contemporary Arts Museum, and The Amazing Place.

He was not "all work and no play," however, as evidenced by his association with many social clubs.

Merrill is survived by Betsy, his wife of 57 years; four daughters, Gaylord G. Lummis, Elizabeth G. Schiffer, Virginia G. Leffler, and Julia G. Engelbrink; three sons, Walter Merrill, William Parker, and John; and 14 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Richmond Allen '47

Richmond Allen died from complications associated with COVID and influenza on November 24, 2022, at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington.

Rich was born in Providence, RI, on July 1, 1929. As a National Prize Scholar, he joined the fourth class at Middlesex in 1943 and, on graduating, earned a B.A. at Williams College. After serving on active duty as a lieutenant (JG) in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1951 to 1955, Rich earned his M.B.A. at New York University Graduate School of Business Administration and worked as an economist for IBM World Trade Corporation in New York City. In 1967, he joined the U.S. Agency for International Development as a program economist, serving successively in Vietnam, the Philippines, Bangladesh, and Jordan. He was chief of the Embassy/USAID Joint Economic Office during the last two years of the U.S. involvement in Vietnam and was the recipient of Superior and Meritorious Honor Awards.

Following retirement from the foreign service in 1985, Rich settled in McLean, VA, where he consulted on USAID contracts. More recently, from 2001 to 2012, he worked part time for the U.S. Tennis Association, Mid-Atlantic Section, while attending to his own tennis game. An avid player since his youth, Rich was ranked within the top five in every Mid-Atlantic age division from 60s through 80s, and he was number one in the 85s. He spent many happy summers in Little

Compton, RI, enjoying his favorite pursuits of tennis, golf, and striped bass fishing.

Rich is survived by his wife of 47 years, Huong Pham Allen; his daughters, Judy and Nancy Allen; a stepdaughter, Linh Kohlbeck; a stepson, Khanh Allen; and seven grandchildren.

George B. Dangerfield '55

George Byron Dangerfield died of complications from cardiac arrest on January 14, 2023, at UPMC Altoona.

Born to Florence Eisenhardt and Albert Neil Dangerfield in Boston, MA, on January 18, 1937, George spent his early years in Haverhill, MA, where his parents were teachers at Bradford Junior College. In his sophomore year, the family moved to Rockport, MA, and George transferred into Middlesex's third class. After receiving his diploma, he went on to Williams College, graduating with a degree in mathematics and an abundance of lifelong friends.

In 1959, George married Carole Nelson, and they moved to Easton, CT, where Carole taught junior high school and George worked for Warner Brothers. After starting a family, the lure of Rockport and the ocean led them to an auction, where they spontaneously bid on an oceanfront inn, and life as innkeepers of The Captain's House B&B began. Together, they raised two children and shared nearly 40 years of hospitality with guests from all over the world. George worked for Gorton's of Gloucester as director of information systems, retiring at 52 to manage the Captain's House, while Carole was a star realtor until her death in 2003.

Throughout his life, George was an avid sports enthusiast, playing varsity baseball and football. He loved skiing with his family and racing 210s in Gloucester, MA. George served on the Rockport School Committee and the Board of Mental Health for many years. In 2004, he moved

to Hollidaysburg, PA, but would return to Rockport several times a year. He was generous and gave to charities that are too numerous to list; above all, George was a very caring man who enjoyed the company of his family and friends. He was always a support in time of need and stood for honesty and integrity.

Preceded in death by his first wife Carole and his sister, Barbara Duboc, George is survived by his second wife, Margaret McGuirk Dallas Dangerfield; his daughter, **Gretchen Dangerfield Parker '79**; his son, **Geoffrey N. Dangerfield '81**; his stepdaughter, Heather Flynn; his stepson, Robbie Dallas; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Chapman Young III '55

Chapman "Chan" Young III died on January 28, 2023, of a brain tumor.

He was born in Denver, CO, on February 25, 1937, to Mary Phipps and Chapman Young, Jr. Chan spent most of his childhood on Highlands Ranch, south of Denver, and attended Plum Creek Elementary School. In 1951, he joined the fourth class at Middlesex; after graduation, he attended Cornell University, where he eventually discovered and applied himself to the field of geology, earning a B.S. in 1961. While at Cornell, he met Martha "Chris" Drake on a blind date, and they married in 1960.

The Youngs then moved to the San Francisco Peninsula, where Chan earned an M.S. in materials science and a Ph.D. in geophysics at Stanford University, finishing in 1966. He worked for three years as an assistant professor at Stanford before becoming a geophysicist at Science Applications in San Leandro, CA. In 1971, Chan was offered a position as a geophysicist at Institut CERAC near Lausanne, Switzerland; the family lived in Lausanne for four years and enjoyed learning French, hiking, skiing in the Alps, and traveling

Mills Lane '56



Mills Lane died on December 6, 2022; he had suffered a stroke in April 2002.

Mills was born on November 12, 1937, in Savannah, GA. After World War II, Mills' father, the late **Remer Y. Lane '28**, moved his family to a cattle plantation in South Carolina. Following family

tradition, Mills started in Middlesex's sixth class in 1950. On graduating, he joined the Marines, where he learned to box and won the All-Far East welterweight championship. While earning a degree in business at the University of Nevada, Reno, Mills won the 1960 NCAA welterweight title, turning professional soon after. He retired from boxing in 1967, started refereeing fights instead, and received his law degree from the University of Utah in 1970.

After working in a law firm, Mills was hired as a Washoe County prosecutor; he was elected district attorney in 1982 and a district court judge in 1990. Mills became a household name as a boxing official on June 28, 1997, the night he refereed "The Bite Fight," a rematch between World Heavyweight Champion Evander Holyfield and challenger Mike Tyson. Tyson twice bit Holyfield's ears in the early rounds, leading Mills to disqualify him. In 1998, Mills stepped down from the bench and refereeing to begin a courtroom television series, *Judge Mills Lane*, which ran for three years.

The City of Reno later honored him by proclaiming December 27, 2004, as "Mills Lane Day." In May 2006, a new justice administration building in downtown Reno was named after him, and he received Middlesex's Distinguished Alumni Award. In 2013, Mills was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

Mills is survived by his wife Kaye; his sons, Terry and Tommy; his sister, Louise Talbot; and his brothers, **Remer Y. Lane, Jr. '58** and **Thomas M. Lane '67**. His alumni connections also include his niece, **Lane Talbot Sparkman '85**; his nephew, **James S. Talbot '90**; his grandniece, **Ellery T. Sparkman '20**; his late brother, **R. Harris Lane '59**; his late cousin, **Mills Lane '61**; and his late uncles, **Mills B. Lane, Jr. '30** and **Hugh C. Lane '32**.

In Memoriam

around Europe in their VW bus. The family then moved to Colorado, where Chan worked as a research professor at Colorado State University prior to opening the Fort Collins office of Science Applications. In 1979, the family moved to Steamboat Springs, and he founded his consulting business, CFI Technologies, at which he designed innovative, foam-injection rock fracturing technology for tunneling and mining applications. He was passionate about developing this technology and traveled as a rock fracturing consultant to Canada, Italy, France, and Australia.

Chan was a man of many talents and interests, from horseback riding to skiing to mountain bike riding to doing projects at home. During many winters, he and Chris went on hut trips with friends; in the spring, they chartered sailboats in the Caribbean, and more recently, they took expedition cruises. Chan will be remembered by family and friends as being fun-loving, adventuresome, silly, inventive, creative, brilliant, encyclopedic, kind, and generous.

He is survived by Chris, his wife of 62 years; their children, George, Carie Alexander, and **Mary Young Swanson '82**; 12 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and five siblings, Suzan Ray, and Michael, Gregory, Stephen, and Pamela Young.

William M. Duryea, Jr. '56

William M. Duryea Jr. died in West Palm Beach, FL, on December 24, 2022.

The oldest son of Mary Ellen Atwell and William M. Duryea, Bobby was born on September 20, 1936, and grew up in Old Westbury, NY, and Aiken, SC. He entered the fourth class at Middlesex in 1952 and, following his graduation, enlisted in the U.S. Marines Corps, serving until 1959. Bobby had a long career on the floor of the Stock Exchange, retiring as a partner at the brokerage

firm of H. Hentz & Co. After leaving Wall Street, he brought his knowledge of the outdoors to Sportsman's Edge Ltd., where he sold premier sporting art. Bobby was also a trained gemologist and worked at Harry Winston. At age 60, he returned to school, earning a B.F.A. in photography from the School of Visual Arts, where he was awarded the Rhodes Medal for Excellence. His work was exhibited in solo shows and was published in several books and periodicals on Long Island, including the cover of *Blue Sand*.

Bobby was a lifelong outdoorsman who excelled at sports, especially enjoying golf, shooting, and fly fishing. He was an avid gardener and had a talent for roses, becoming a NYS Horticulture Show judge. Bobby loved all dogs—especially his prize-winning Norfolk terriers—and judged at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, also serving on its board of governors for more than 40 years. An accomplished sailor and talented photographer, Bobby featured subjects that were dear to him in his work: boats, the seashore, and other natural scenes. He was a devoted member of many clubs and organizations.

In addition to his wife of 46 years, Lovejoy Reeves, Bobby is survived by their four children, William M. Duryea III, Melissa Duryea Lewis, Robert Atwell Duryea, and David McShane Duryea; and eight grandchildren. He was predeceased by his siblings, **James M. Duryea '62**, and Missy Butterfield.

Richard H. Thompson, Jr. '56

Dr. Richard Hildreth Thompson, Jr. died on January 27, 2022.

Born on April 9, 1938, Dick grew up in Salem, MA, and attended Shore Country Day School. Like his father, **Dr. Richard H. Thompson (1926)**, he became a student at Middlesex, joining the fifth class in 1951 and graduating with highest credit.

Dick then earned his undergraduate degree at Harvard College before attending Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons. Earning his M.D. in 1965, he spent six years as an intern and resident in surgery at Palo Alto-Stanford Hospital in California. Dick began practicing as a plastic surgeon in Denver, CO, in 1971 and retired from clinical practice in 1988. In subsequent positions, he assisted the risk management department of the Colorado Physician's Insurance Company and served as the director of medical education for Colorado Personalized Education for Physicians. In 1992, Dick and fellow Coloradoan **Stuart C. Rogers '56** combined efforts to co-author a book about marketing a medical practice.

Dick had four sons, Richard, Daniel, Andrew, and Jonathan; eight grandchildren; one sister, Joan T. Walther; and three nieces. Additional information about his survivors was not available at the time of this issue's publication.

Eric H. Loos '58

The School recently learned that Eric Herman Loos died on August 27, 2014, in Sugar Land, TX.

The son of Eleanor Allen and Herman Loos, Eric was born on February 29, 1940, in Missouri City, TX. After attending Chula Vista Junior High School, he entered the fifth class at Middlesex in 1953, but after two-and-a-half years, Eric returned home to California in December 1955. Further details about his life after Middlesex could not be found.

Eric was survived by a son, Richard Loos. His late cousin, **Ernest W. Allen '40**, was a Middlesex graduate.

Thomas P. Garretson '63

Thomas Powell Garretson passed away on December 18, 2022, after a three-year fight with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

Tom was born on November 8, 1944, to Nancy Powell and Charles Phillips Garretson. He followed his older brother, **Charles P. Garretson '60**, to Middlesex, joining the fourth class in 1959. An outstanding athlete, Tom earned 11 letters in football, basketball, and baseball, was named All-League multiple times, and served as a football captain and two-time basketball captain in his career. Appropriately, he was a member of the inaugural class of alumni inducted into Middlesex's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001.

Moving on after graduation to Northwestern University, Tom continued to play football and baseball, captaining the latter team. He was named All-Big Ten in football, played in the East-West Game, and was All-Academic. Graduating with a B.A. in history, Tom was drafted by the Washington Redskins; he attended law school at the University of Kansas during the off-season and ultimately retired from football after a knee injury.

On receiving his J.D., Tom headed back to his hometown of Wichita, KS, and started his career as a corporate lawyer with Martin Pringle, later joining with other associates to form Triplett Woolf Garretson, LLC. He was recognized as an exceptional lawyer in his areas of practice and considered himself blessed to have the opportunity to work with the attorneys and staff who put their heart and soul into the lasting success of the firm.

An avid outdoorsman, Tom loved hunting, fishing, and golf. He also enjoyed gardening, photography, tying flies, and making plans for his next big adventure. A man of his word who exuded grace, pride, and dignity, he will best be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend.

Preceded in death by his parents and brother Charlie, Tom is survived by his wife and college sweetheart, Carole B. Garretson; his children, Tyler and Evin; five grandchildren; and his siblings,

Nancy Morr, David Garretson, and Annie Garretson.

Richard W. Kirkpatrick '65

Richard Wilson Kirkpatrick passed away on October 21, 2022, with his wife Pauline and stepson Chad at his side.

Born on November 26, 1946, Kirk was raised and started his education in Winchester, MA, before his family moved to Chatham. He continued his schooling at Middlesex, entering the fifth class in 1960. After graduating, Kirk attended Rollins College for one year before transferring to The College of William and Mary, where he received a B.A. in history. Following college, he worked for the Marsh McLennan Agency before transitioning to employment with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as an insurance fraud investigator. Kirk lived in the Boston area until he married Pauline. In 2006, they moved to Weymouth, where he spent the remainder of his life.

Kirk loved the ocean, and in his earlier years, enjoyed taking his boat out to do some fishing. He was an avid reader and always kept his mind sharp by doing countless jigsaw and crossword puzzles. Kirk enjoyed watching sports, especially the Red Sox, the Patriots, and NCAA men's basketball games. He was a strong man both physically and in spirit; if you were his friend, you were a friend for life.

In addition to his wife and stepson, Kirk is survived by his daughters, Kate Polk and Sarah McKenzie; four grandchildren; and his siblings, Charles Kirkpatrick and Jane Gilley.

Riford R. Tuttle, Jr. '65

Riford Robert Tuttle Jr., passed away on May 13, 2022, in Rutland, VT, after a long battle with cancer.

Known to family and friends as "Mike," he was born on August 27, 1945, and attended Rutland

High School in Vermont before joining Middlesex's fourth class in 1962. After finishing the third class, he transferred to Cushing Academy in 1963 and later attended Babson College. He married the love of his life, Karen Demarest, on May 8, 1970; with her, Mike managed a retail outlet in Killington, VT, for many years. He loved politics and enjoyed reading, old radio shows, good cigars, and '60s music, as well as the Red Sox and Patriots. Mike and Karen traveled many times to their favorite spots in the Caribbean.

Predeceased by his parents, Riford and Estelle Moran Tuttle, and his beloved cousins, Charles and Reiko Tuttle, Mike is survived by his loving wife Karen; their son Michael; and two grandchildren.

Paul C. Sullivan '70

Paul Curtis Sullivan died on January 31, 2023, in Miami, FL.

Born to Anne Kiteck and John F. Sullivan in New Bedford, MA, on July 11, 1952, Paul entered the third class at Middlesex in 1967. On graduating, he earned a B.A. at Union College and an Ed.M. at Harvard. Paul then taught English at several different independent schools in the Northeast and Florida, including Moses Brown School and Ransom-Everglades School. He also worked as an academic tutor for many years.

Paul was predeceased by his parents, his brother John, and his sister Madeline S. Ciano. He is survived by his daughter Hayley; his brother Gary; his ex-wife Jacqueline Steere; and many cousins and nieces.

Douglas R. Levings '71

Douglas Reade Levings passed away unexpectedly on December 21, 2022, at his home in Edgewater, FL.

The son of Barbara Levings and the late Willard Levings, Doug was born on February 9,

1952, and grew up in Wellesley, MA. He joined Middlesex's fourth class in 1967 and, after receiving his diploma, earned a B.A. in economics at Vassar College and a master's degree in landscape architecture at the University of Georgia.

After working in Philadelphia for a few years, Doug moved to Cape Cod, where he resided primarily in North Chatham for over 35 years. An entrepreneur at heart, he started his first business as a building contractor in Whistleberry Estates in Marstons Mills; Doug then went on to own and operate the Stonehorse Motel and Handkerchief Shoals in Harwich and the Seaside Village Motel in Truro, and he eventually owned the Harborside and Seabreeze Apartments in Dennisport. He also started Elite Floors, a wood floor business.

Doug loved and took pride in his historic family house in North Chatham, and he oversaw many improvements that made it a "home" for everyone in the family and their friends. Doug was devoted to the dogs that he had raised since college, and he enjoyed cooking, sailing, and reading. He retired to Florida in 2020, reluctantly leaving the Cape that he loved.

In addition to his beloved dog Sam and his mother, Doug is survived by his siblings, Betsy Grimes and Steven Levings; two nieces and a nephew; and two grandnieces and a grandnephew.

Howard B. Tingle, Jr. '73

The School recently learned of the death of Howard Brown Tingle, Jr. who passed away at home in Ivoryton, CT, on May 5, 2015, after a brief but brave battle with cancer.

He was born in New York City on April 27, 1955, and was the second son of Howard and Manon Morrison Tingle. Coming into Middlesex's fourth class from the Buckley School in 1969, Howard went on to the University of

Denver after graduation. A gifted chef, Howard achieved his lifelong dream of opening his own restaurant in 1992, and 23 years later, Bun on the Run in Centerbook remained a local favorite, with lines out the door every day during the lunchtime rush. He was also the owner and founder of Black Point Foods, Inc.

Howard loved the outdoors, and when he wasn't at the restaurant, he could often be found gardening and caring for his yard. He was an adventure-seeker who loved to travel and visited many countries with his wife and children. His hobbies included photography, reading, tennis, golf, and caring for his Shetland Sheepdogs.

Predeceased by his parents, Howard leaves behind his beloved wife Jessica; his two children, Charles and Elizabeth; his brother John; and two nephews.

Carl B. Whittaker '73

The School recently learned that Carl Bernard Whittaker died on February 25, 2006, at Hilo Medical Center, in Hilo, HI.

The son of James and Blanche Patterson Whittaker, Carl was born on October 3, 1954, in Seattle, WA. He attended Seattle Preparatory School prior to joining Middlesex's third class in 1970, and he returned to Seattle to continue his schooling the following year. As his family fondly noted in his obituary, "He loved his children, the mountains, and the sea. He followed his own path."

At the time of his death, Carl was survived by his companion, Dorit Beinuasovich; his sons, Adam and Anthony; his mother, Blanche Montbroussous; his father, Jim Whittaker, and stepmother, Dianne Roberts; his brothers, James Scott Whittaker and Robert Warren Whittaker; his half-brothers, Joss Roberts Whittaker and Leif Roberts Whittaker; and numerous cousins, aunts, and uncles.

In Memoriam

John M. Forcier '74

John Marshall Forcier passed away on January 28, 2023.

Born in St. Louis, MO, on December 16, 1955, John was the son of the late Guy Seymour and Nancy Marshall Forcier. From St. Louis Country Day School, he entered the fourth class at Middlesex in 1970. Following graduation, he earned a bachelor's degree from Marietta College in 1978. John then worked in television production in Parkersburg, WV, and became the first general manager of WTVE in Reading, PA. He moved to Northeastern Pennsylvania in 1983, where he served as an account executive with WBRE and WNEP.

In 1999, John and his family settled in northern Virginia, where he worked in television advertising sales before taking a new direction as a financial advisor with A.G. Edwards, Stifel Nicolaus, and LPL Financial. He found satisfaction in helping his clients achieve their dreams, grow their businesses, provide financial stability for their families, and sleep soundly regardless of the markets' volatility.

A lifelong hockey player, John participated in adult leagues and was the ultimate St. Louis Blues fan. A 2004 graduate of Leadership Loudoun, he put his skills and talents to work for his community as president of Leesburg Daybreak Rotary Club, where he was a Paul Harris Fellow and Rotarian of the Year.

Predeceased by his parents and his sister, Anne F. Watson, John leaves his devoted wife of 29 years, Mary Frances; his cherished son James; a niece and a nephew; three great-nieces and a great-nephew; and many cousins and friends.

Matthew A. McGrath '75

Matthew Adrian McGrath died unexpectedly at his home on January 10, 2023.

Matt was born in Cambridge, MA, on March 16, 1957, and was the son of the late Elizabeth Lynah and Leo McGrath, Jr. A lifelong resident of Concord, he entered the third class at Middlesex in 1972 and, after graduating, went on to earn a B.A. in history at Drew University. Matt then enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, honorably serving from 1979 until 1984. He achieved the rank of first lieutenant and earned the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon. Matt formerly worked in ground operations for Shuttle America and at the USS Constitution Museum. He was a longtime member of the 1812 Marine Guard for the USS *Constitution*, and he also cherished his association with the Patriot Chapter of the International Plastic Modelers' Society. Matt was an avid reader, a passionate Celtics fan, and a metal detector enthusiast.

In addition to his wife Catherine, Matt will be forever missed by his daughters, Courtney Cronkhite and Sheryl Landry; his grandson Abe; his brother, **Owen G. McGrath '80**; and three nephews and one niece.

Matthew S. Vokey '84

Matthew Snow Vokey died on January 29, 2023, at his home in Sedgewick, ME.

He was born on June 2, 1965, in London, England, the son of Maureen W. Vokey and the late Richard S. Vokey. After the family moved to the U.S. in 1977, Matt attended the Fenn School before coming to Middlesex in 1980. On graduating, he earned a B.A. in English literature at Bowdoin College, where he played varsity football and lacrosse. Matt later trained as a chef at the New England Culinary Institute and

worked at Sonsie's Restaurant in Boston before opening the restaurant Rathbone's in Camden, ME, with his now ex-wife Sarah. He continued with the Thorndike Creamery and later owned and ran an Airbnb in Rockland, where he started a new venture, Sloop Dogs, in July 2019. Matt served on the board of directors of the Sail Power and Steam Museum in Rockland.

Matt is survived by his sons, Richard and Alexander; his mother; his siblings, **Sarah-Jane V. Zerbino '80**, **N. Samuel Vokey '81**, and **Luke W. Vokey '88**; two nieces and two nephews; his cousins; and his ex-wife Sarah and her extended family.

Sarah Whitlock Seifert '08

Sarah Elizabeth Whitlock Seifert died on November 10, 2022, at her Florida home.

Born on July 15, 1989, Sarah was the eldest daughter of Ken and Barbara Whitlock, both of whom joined the Middlesex community as history teachers in 1986. A graduate of the Nashoba Brooks School, Sarah attended Middlesex for her sophomore year before returning to Concord-Carlisle High School, graduating in 2008. After studying Latin and classical civilization at Duquesne University, she worked for two years as a curriculum developer for VLN Partners, LLP—a research-based K-12 education services provider—where she created Latin classes and recorded Latin stories for students to follow. Additionally, she served as a Latin tutor, helping students aged 10 to 22 with their studies.

Sarah later worked as a social media specialist and content creator, designing, implementing, and optimizing social media strategies for various organizations. While also building her career as a singer and songwriter, she was a worship leader in her church, with a song of hers on Spotify called "In the Valley."

In addition to her parents, Sarah is survived by her husband, Erich Seifert; her sisters, Patricia, Maggie Kouris, Monica, and Catherine; her nephew Gabriel; and many other relatives and friends.

Paul Rouse

Former Middlesex Basketball Coach Paul Rouse died on December 6, 2022, after a year-long battle with leukemia.

Paul was born on October 2, 1950, to Jean and Eric Rouse. He attended Lexington Christian Academy and Eastern Nazarene College, served in the Army, and then spent his life as a basketball coach and mentor. At Middlesex, Paul was initially hired as an assistant coach for the boys' varsity basketball team and became the head coach the following year, working with the program for a total of 18 seasons. Wanting the lessons learned on the court to prepare each player for the challenges of life, he preached teamwork, effort, attitude, and mental toughness. In 2006, when he decided to focus full time on his business as a leadership coach, Paul's name was added to the annual December basketball tournament, making it the Huckins-Rouse Holiday Classic.

With a larger-than-life personality and great sense of humor, Paul warmed any gathering of family and friends. He especially cherished his family and the time spent raising his children. He impacted the lives of many, who carry on the principles and life lessons he taught; he was a man of character and strength until the very end.

In addition to his mother, Paul leaves behind his beloved wife Maria; his children, David, Keri, Veronica, and Jonni; five grandchildren; his brother David and sister Donna; and his nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Passages



According to the coach's writeup in the 1963 Yearbook, the varsity basketball squad that winter had "developed into a well-oiled machine, with a combination of precision and balance which resulted in victory in its last six games." The team included (seated, left to right) Marion "Sparky" Sparks '64, Alex Palmer '64, Co-captain Larry Rhu '63, Co-captain Tom Garretson '63, Hoby Warner '63, and Bob "Ace" Wallace '63. Standing: Coach Tom Huckins, Van Wolbach '63, Scott Vogel '65, Bob Hyde '63, Rob Hackford '64, Charlie Hayes '65, and Manager Art Swenson '66.

By Alex Palmer '64

The recent death of Tom Garretson '63—one of the first inductees into the School's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001—reminded several of his Middlesex peers of this reflection, written by Tom's former teammate back in 2011.

I was at Middlesex last May for the ceremony honoring the 2011 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees. Among the group was my uncle, John Winsor '44. This was a special occasion. My uncle would be joining his son Johnny '68, my cousin and a charter member of the Hall of Fame.

Tom Garretson '63 was there. His good friend, Curt Curtis '62, was another new inductee, and Tom had made the trip from Kansas. Tom was a year ahead of me at Middlesex, and our lives overlapped a bit, especially in sports. I played football, basketball, and baseball, just like Tom. Let me rephrase that. I played football, basketball, and baseball, as *did* Tom. Nobody played those sports like Tom Garretson. I was not alone in idolizing him.

I entered Middlesex as a fourth-class boarder in the fall of 1960. I did not know at the time that my enrollment at the School

was always a foregone conclusion. My middle name is Winsor, as in Middlesex's founder Frederick Winsor, my great-great uncle. It certainly wasn't my interview with Louis McCagg '48 that got me in (no fault of his). My main recollection is hearing my mother's repeated pleas—"Dear, Mr. McCagg is asking you a question"—as I watched a group of boys, neckties flying, playing touch football outside the window on a large circle of green grass.

Middlesex in the '60s was not far removed from Middlesex of the early 1900s. It was a small community where Frederick Winsor's original mission to educate boys in mind and body was assiduously pursued by austere masters. The faculty included Arthur Motter Lamb, Monsieur René Bourquin, and Coach Bull Alexander—all legends and links to the past. Contact with the outside world was minimal. The seniors had certain

Passages

privileges, but for the rest, life was an endless string of classes, practices, meals, mandatory evening study halls, room inspections, chapel services, and—for the recalcitrant—campus work squads. In this environment, the B.M.O.C. were the athletes.

I had last seen Tom Garretson in May 2001 at the School's centennial celebration. That weekend was to include the inauguration of the Athletic Hall of Fame and the induction of the first group of six, among them Tom and Johnny. I attended the ceremony with my mother and my three sisters. My mother was the Winsor connection. Her father and all four of her brothers had attended Middlesex. The oldest was Alex '35, my namesake, whose picture hangs in Eliot Hall along with those of other alumni war casualties. He died late in World War II, in December 1944. Almost every day of my four years at Middlesex, I passed that picture.

Waiting for that 2001 ceremony to begin, I had wandered down to Ware Hall for a bite to eat. A few others had the same idea. I introduced myself to one gentleman and then heard another voice, one with a familiar twang.

"Well, aren't you going to say hello to me?"

I felt a pang of the old insecurity and, after a brief exchange, blurted out, "I always looked up to you." He flashed a wry grin and said something along the lines of, "You only thought you did."

It was Tom Garretson. I felt a pang of the old insecurity and, after a brief exchange, blurted out, "I always looked up to you." He flashed a wry grin and said something along the lines of, "You only thought you did."

Tom's kind words were reminiscent of the last thing he said to me back in June 1963, when he and Hobie Warner '63 were clearing their belongings out of the third-floor double in RW while Bill Chick '64 and I were moving in. In the fall, I would be the one to follow Tom as quarterback of the Middlesex football team. This fact triggered a panic in me that surfaces still in a recurring dream, where I'm sitting at the end of the bench when Coach Ted Childs '45 calls to me, "Palmer! Garretson graduated. Get in there!"

Whether or not Tom sensed my dread at this prospect, he pulled me aside that day. "You'll do fine," he said simply.

Almost 40 years later, I stood in Ware Hall with my ham sandwich, and there was more I wanted to say—things that mattered to me—but I made my way back to Eliot Hall, shaking my head at the way I'd handled myself with Tom. How could I so easily revert to the old self-consciousness and idol worship? Hadn't I left all of that behind me? There is a timeless quality to Middlesex: the unchanging appearance of the Circle with its flagpole as centerpiece, the familiar patterns of movement into and out of dorms and dining room, Eliot Hall and the Chapel eyeing each other across the broad expanse. In that place, part of me becomes the boy again.

Tom and the other inaugural inductees took their place on the Eliot Hall steps. The ceremony began and other emotions took over. Uncle John was there to witness his son's induction. Several of his other children, my cousins, sat near me. The weight of the moment hung on us all. Missing from the ceremony was Johnny himself. He had been killed in a car crash in Colorado in 1973 at the age of 22.

Now, a decade later, I watch as my cousin, Amy Burnes, speaks on behalf of her father, just as he had done for young Johnny in 2001. At 85 years old, he's unable to come from Virginia.

During those past ten years, I had made periodic visits to Middlesex for class reunions, ball games, and the like. Those visits did me good, but one stands out. In 2008, my two younger sisters died. Their deaths were several months apart, and each was sudden. Not long after, on a chilly April day, I left the cemetery and found myself driving towards Middlesex. I parked along the Circle and took a long walk

I'm not sure if this is about the powerful presence of my family, living and dead, or the salutary effects of Middlesex School on one's soul. My guess is both.

around the campus. It was easy to picture my sisters as little girls, running and laughing near the fields where they'd come to watch their brother play.

Amy does a wonderful job capturing her father's effortless athleticism, as well as his courage and commitment in leaving Middlesex only months before graduation to join the Marines and serve in the Pacific. After the ceremony, I approached Tom Garretson, and we had a pleasant conversation about golf and his trip from Kansas. I came out of it in one piece.

I'm not sure if this is about the powerful presence of my family, living and dead, or the salutary effects of Middlesex School on one's soul. My guess is both. But it's all good. Uncle Alex, Cousin Johnny, my sisters . . . I know where to find them. My Uncle John* is still alive and kicking. As for my boyhood idol, he looks as though he could suit up tomorrow. **M**

* Three years after Alex Palmer wrote this remembrance, his uncle, John Winsor '44, passed away on September 11, 2014, at the age of 88. The obituary of Tom Garretson '63, who died on December 18, 2022, can be found on page 44 of this Bulletin.



Your Support Matters

On April 25, 2023, we hosted our fifth annual Giving Day, **MXGIVES**. The event was a huge success, and we would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to all those who gave back to Middlesex on that day. Thanks to your generosity, we received **827 gifts and more than \$623,000!**

Every gift given during **MXGIVES** supports the Middlesex Annual Fund, which sustains the School's academic, athletic, and arts programs, while also providing important funds for student clubs and trips, faculty development, and financial aid.

We are grateful for the support we receive from you—Middlesex Alumni, Parents, Grandparents, and Friends—each year.

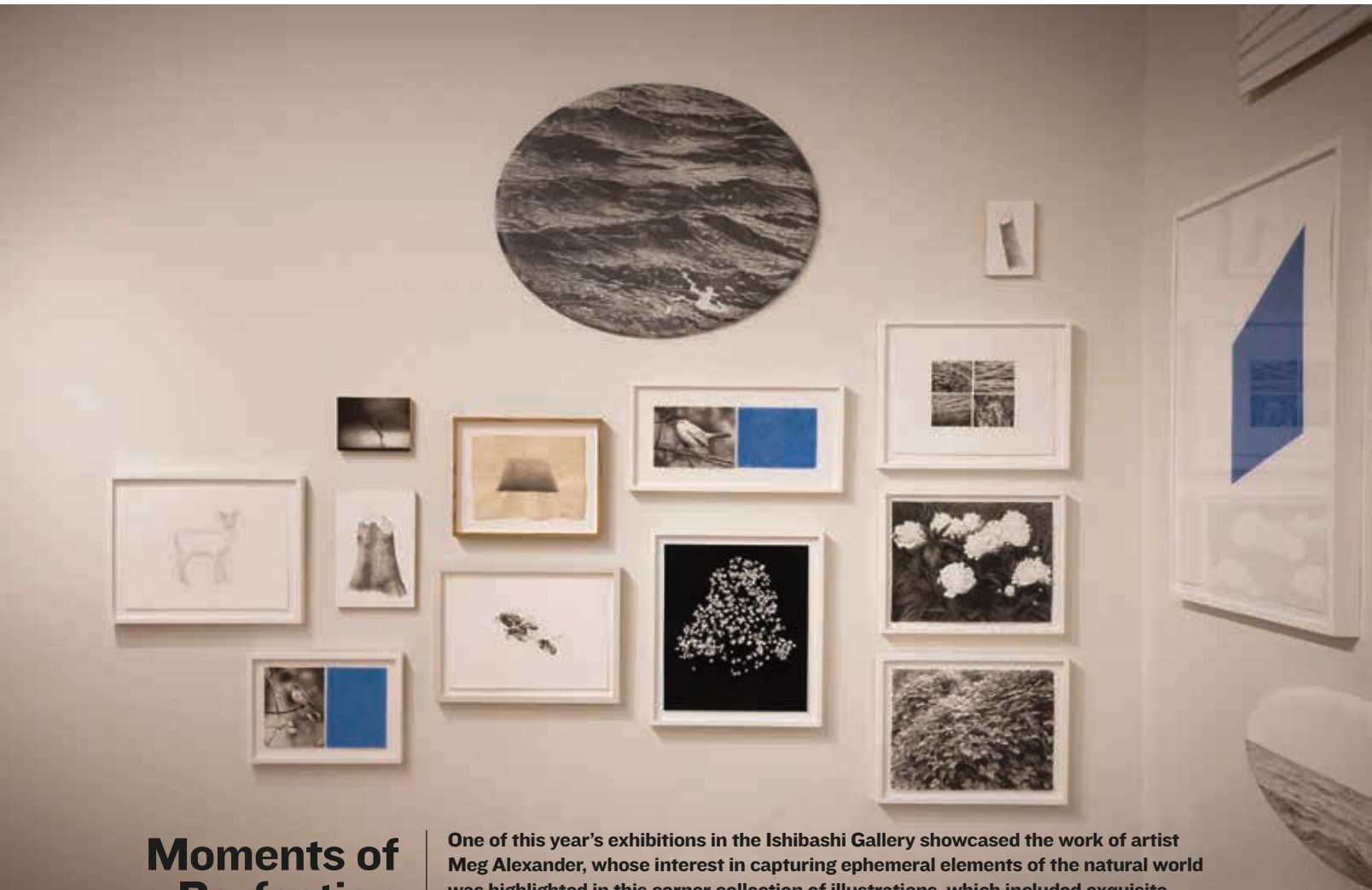
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Moments of Perfection

One of this year's exhibitions in the Ishibashi Gallery showcased the work of artist Meg Alexander, whose interest in capturing ephemeral elements of the natural world was highlighted in this corner collection of illustrations, which included exquisite birds and blossoms, pure patches of blue sky, and undulating ocean waves.