

Middlesex

Fall 2022



Visionary Leadership

Middlesex Welcomes New Head Bessie Speers

From the Head of School



A Promising Fall—and Future

It has been exciting to be able to proceed this fall unimpeded in our focus on the cornerstones of the Middlesex experience: academics, athletics, arts, and advising.

In fact, the start of a new, “normal” year in September proceeded so smoothly and steadily that—suddenly—October was here, with its annual, much anticipated events like Groton Weekend, which resulted in a nearly complete sweep by our varsity teams. Family Weekend soon followed, when students could share their school experience in person with family members, giving them a greater appreciation for Middlesex’s programs and the variety of people, backgrounds, and experiences that contribute to the School.

Between these two occasions, we hosted our next head of school, Bessie Speers, and her husband Tom, who graduated from Middlesex in 1976 with the School’s first coeducational class. It was a great opportunity for members of the community to be introduced to Bessie and to get an early sense of her warm and energetic leadership. Bessie and I have been and continue to be in regular communication to ensure that the quality of program that students enjoy continues uninterrupted into her tenure as head of school. We look forward to getting to know her throughout the year with future visits—and to her formal arrival in July.

Just before Bessie’s visit, I joined about 180 other attendees in the Chapel for a memorial service honoring Middlesex’s third head of school, David Sheldon, whom you may read more about in this issue. The many remembrances shared at this service were an

incredible gift, describing what Middlesex was and still is, and suggesting the promise the School’s future holds. David led Middlesex when the first students of color were admitted, championed coeducation and the move to admit girls, and saw the School through the unsettled eras of the late ’60s, ’70s, and ’80s. The school he oversaw is one that is paradoxically and wonderfully both familiar and foreign, as speakers’ memories captured timeless elements of Middlesex culture.

Simultaneously, they told incredible stories of progress and, for our 21st century community, forecast our own opportunities for growth. Our students today come from a growing variety of places and backgrounds, but their experience is still grounded in excellent academics, competitive athletics, and experiences in the visual and performing arts. Equally timeless, Middlesex students are fortunate to have significant adults in their lives. From advisors to teachers to coaches to dorm staff, these mentors work in partnership with families to guide our students from childhood to adulthood.

How we practice living and learning together in this special place is the path to real growth and leadership—a process that remains as inspiring today as it was during David Sheldon’s tenure and throughout the School’s history.

Karlyn M. McNall

Middlesex Fall 2022

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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

Middlesex’s next Head of School Bessie Speers stands between two predecessors, fifth Head Kathy Giles and fourth Head Deirdre Ling. Photograph by Joel Haskell.



Features

- 16 Meeting Challenges with Wisdom, Humor, and Compassion**
Steadily serving for 33 years—26 of them as the head of school—the late David Sheldon skillfully shepherded Middlesex through daunting and transformational decades.
- 21 Graduation**
After years of making pandemic adjustments, members of the class of 2022 were at last rewarded with perfect weather, a smooth ceremony, and their diplomas on Memorial Day.
- 24 Introducing Middlesex’s Next Head of School: Elizabeth “Bessie” Speers**
A veteran leader in independent education, Bessie Speers will officially join the Middlesex community on July 1, 2023.
- 26 Making Middlesex Home**
With two new duplexes on campus next fall, four more faculty members will connect more readily with the school community.
- 28 Alumni Weekend**
It was indeed a “Grand Reunion” in June—the first held on campus since 2019.

Departments

- 2 Life 360**
New Colleagues; Crafting with Care; Comics for Change; Endowed Chair Appointments; Solving Complex Problems; Respecting Identities; SpongeBob: The Musical; A Celestial Surprise; Parents Become Trustees
- 10 Middlesex People**
Graduation Speaker George Wilson ’04; New Alumnae Trustees; Distinguished Alumni: Tony Lake ’57 and Wanji Barrington Walcott ’87; Announcing the Jones Award
- 14 Team Highlights**
Track Champions and a Girls’ Lacrosse All-American capped the spring 2022 season.
- 32 Alumni Notes and News**
Class Notes; In Memoriam



Among the new faculty this year are (standing, left to right) Jacob Hudis, Hannah Minifie, Pedro Gomes Lobato, Samuel Maher, Jason Yohnka, and Ryan Tolfree, as well as (seated) Olivia Harman, Starry Xiaowei Zhu, Morgan Carney, Jason Karos, and Ceci Mancuso.

New Colleagues on Campus

As the academic year began, new faculty and staff members were welcomed in classrooms and offices across campus, adding their energy, enthusiasm, and expertise to the Middlesex community.

The English Department gained two colleagues this fall. **Olivia Harman** previously taught at King's College School, Wimbledon, and was director of equality, diversity, and inclusion. An Uppingham School alumna, she received a B.A. in English from the University of York and a master's-level Post Graduate Certificate Education from Canterbury Christchurch University. Olivia is a dorm assistant in LeBaron Briggs House.

After completing a Ph.D. in English at Harvard University, **Cecilia Mancuso** taught at Tower Hill School, also serving as the middle school coordinator for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Ceci earned a B.A. in English and the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University and is a dorm assistant in Kravis House.

Morgan Carney joins the history department full time, having covered a maternity leave last spring—just after

completing his M.S. in geography at UMass Amherst. A Governor's Academy graduate, Morgan holds a B.A. in English from Franklin & Marshall College and an M.Sc. in creative writing from The University of Edinburgh.

The STEM Division welcomed four colleagues, including **Ryan Tolfree**, who has taught math for 14 years—most recently chairing Kent School's Math Department. Ryan earned a B.S. in math education, an M.Ed. in secondary education, and an M.S.T. in math at the University of New Hampshire. A dorm assistant in Bryant-Paine House, he is also the boys' cross-country head coach.

Jason Karos teaches math and computer science, having earned a B.A. in computer science at Connecticut College and worked as an independent software developer.

Teaching math and physics, **Jason Yohnka** recently taught at Colorado's Westminster Senior High School. He earned his B.A. in math at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Jacob Hudis has taught physics at the secondary and collegiate levels. He holds a Ph.D. in condensed matter physics from Florida State University, an M.S. in physics from Johns Hopkins University, and a B.S. in applied physics from Columbia University.

Joining the Arts Division, **Pedro Gomes Lobato** has instructed music students of all ages and directed a variety of performance groups. He earned his bachelor's degree in music education at the Berklee College of Music and an M.M. in music education at UMass Amherst.

Hannah Minifie has taught visual arts at The Rectory School and The Fessenden School. A graduate of Miss Hall's School, she earned a B.A. in both studio art and biology at Denison University and an M.F.A. at Boston University College of Fine Arts.

Veteran educator **Tanja North Sport** is teaching art history this year. A graduate of Marylhurst University with a B.A. in art, she recently taught art and design at Austin Preparatory School.

Assistant Athletic Director **Sean Tabb**—the new boys' varsity basketball coach—has trained collegiate players for over 20 years. He holds a B.A. in education from the University of Hartford and an M.S. in sports leadership from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Serving as an admissions officer and associate dean of diversity, equity, and inclusion, **Starry Xiaowei Zhu** previously held similar positions at St. Mark's School. She earned a B.Ed. at The Education University of Hong Kong, an M.A. in applied linguistics at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and an M.Ed. at Harvard. Starry is a dorm assistant in Higginson House.

Assistant Director of Admissions **Samuel Maher** is a graduate of Berkshire School, where he later served as an admissions officer and director of student activities. He earned his B.A. in history at Bates College and his M.A. in teacher leadership at Mount Holyoke College.

Finally, supporting Middlesex administratively are **Jenny Pen**, who welcomes prospective families as the admissions greeter and visit coordinator; **Carolyn Caswell**, who lends her organizational skills to the academic office as an administrative assistant; and Human Resources Director **Adam Dolak**, who is a seasoned professional in this business office role. **M**

A Collaborative Exhibition



Working together, visiting artists Samantha Fields and Angela Drakeford filled the Ishibashi Gallery with their colorful and intricate weavings, sculptures, and installations.

Opened on September 13, 2022, the fall's first Ishibashi Gallery exhibition—"What Our Bodies Taught Us"—was also the first formal collaboration between visiting artists Angela Drakeford and Samantha Fields. Using embroidery, crochet, personal ephemera, live plant material, and assemblage, their works examined the distinction between art and craft, simultaneously questioning similar hierarchies associated with the many elements that inform identity, such as class, race, and gender.

During a morning assembly, both artists reflected on the ideas, materials, and processes that inspire their art. "Craft is a philosophy for me," Ms. Fields stated, adding that her slow process of making art is "a personal act of resistance against the fast-paced, multitasking, product-driven life today." In her studio packed with materials, she "lets things spill over each other" as she works on three to six pieces concurrently. "I never want them to be solid," she observed. "I want my work to be an invitation."

In fact, one piece located just outside the gallery was exactly that. On a large embroidery

stand draped with cloth (called "The Blue of Distance") anyone could add stitches of their own using the needles and thread provided nearby. "Just stitch and let your mind open," Ms. Fields advised.

Creating inviting spaces "where people can transform themselves" is an important objective of Ms. Drakeford's process, one that she discovered gradually. "As an artist," she said, "I say I have a grief practice. I spend time thinking about the things we don't want to talk about." Not wanting to be consumed by negative feelings, she explained, "I gave myself a garden," filling her apartment with lush, leafy plants. In the peace and safety of her changed surroundings, she found, "Life is transformed when you face the enormity of your grief, sorrow, and rage." Through her work, she endeavors to share that lesson, making places where people can acknowledge the past and present and find "an opening to another world"—hopefully, a different future.

In this way, the artists' exhibition aimed to provide a space of joy and belonging, offering "hospitality, guidance, care, and gestures of love." **M**



For artist Tak Toyoshima, comics are “uniquely positioned” to initiate change because, he noted, “They are not static—you tell a story with them.”

Art Inspiring Social Change

Growing up in New York City as the child of creative and supportive parents, artist Tak Toyoshima aspired to draw Marvel characters, like the Hulk or Spiderman, or to imitate the style of the Japanese cartoons his father brought with him from Tokyo. In adulthood, he found his own style and success with his comic strip *Secret Asian Man*, created in 1999 and nationally syndicated in 2007. Speaking at Middlesex on May 3, 2022, as part of the School’s celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) Heritage Month, Mr. Toyoshima reflected on the content and purpose of his work, as well as the potential for all kinds of art to raise awareness and spur social change.

With Chinatown close to his childhood home, Mr. Toyoshima related that he lived near an Asian community in New York without feeling that he belonged, as he attended

activities like Kendo classes and Japanese summer camp. Though these connections to his family’s heritage were “some of the best times of my life,” he allowed, “These were things that made me feel different, but I didn’t dwell on it until my comic strip.” *Secret Asian Man* became a way to process and share some of his early experiences—“like public therapy,” he quipped—and in time, he began to broaden the comic’s content from his own stories to those of “other people who felt marginalized, people who needed a voice.”

In this way, Mr. Toyoshima elaborated, cartoons—and art in a wide variety of different mediums and styles—can be used to represent or call attention to social and political issues. “You see symbols everywhere, like on bumper stickers,” he pointed out. “You know what people think from a little symbol on their car.” Artists gravitate toward social themes and problems, especially with publicly displayed images, he observed, to share their messages with as many people as possible.

But, he contended, a person does not have to be a great artist to create an image that effectively conveys meaning and inspires change. “What will you stand up and speak out on?” he asked his audience. “Choose a cause you are passionate about and create art focused on it.”

Most recently, in the wake of a surge of anti-Asian violence, Mr. Toyoshima applied his talents to creating and self-publishing *Kwok: A Short Story About a Man*. “I wanted to show that victims have full lives,” he said. He donated all the proceeds from the book to a Chinatown organization that assists the elderly—a contribution that he clearly found fulfilling.

“If you are artistic,” Mr. Toyoshima recommended, “think about a project that you can do. I promise you the rewards will be massive.” **M**

Endowed Chairs Reappointed

Since 1966, when the School's first endowed chair was created with a grant from the Independence Foundation, Middlesex alumni, parents, and families have been generously establishing additional endowed chairs—today numbering 15 in all. Often named to honor an influential teacher or mentor, or to memorialize a remarkable graduate, these chairs not only support the compensation of the School's faculty but also offer a way to recognize the outstanding commitment and service of individual teachers, coaches, and administrators.

This year, through one faculty retirement and two changes in positions, three endowed chairs became available for reappointment, once again providing an opportunity to highlight those for whom chairs have been named and to celebrate the contributions of their new recipients.

The David F. and Judith W. Sheldon Chair

Established in 1990 by gifts from alumni, family, and friends, this endowed chair honors David F. Sheldon—Middlesex's third headmaster (from 1964 to 1990), who first joined the faculty in 1957—and his wife, Judith W. Sheldon, who helped establish the School's Archives.

The new recipient of the Sheldon Chair, John Bishop, came to Middlesex in 2006 as a teacher of chemistry and biology. He has also coached cross-country, basketball, and crew during his tenure and is now the head of Landry House. A graduate of Clemson University with a B.S. in biological sciences, John also served for six years in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

The Zak Family Chair in Physical Science

Established in 2008 by a gift from Roxanne and Michael Zak, parents of Marianna Zak '08, this chair supports the salary of a female faculty member in mathematics or science.

Since joining the faculty in 2015, Katie Herter Bruch has taught both mathematics and classics at Middlesex. While earning her undergraduate degree at Bowdoin College, she was named an All-American twice in field hockey and once in lacrosse; she is now the head coach of varsity field hockey and serves as the head of Hallowell House.



Valued as influential teachers, coaches, and mentors, Katie Herter Bruch, Ken Risley (standing), and John Bishop were each awarded one of Middlesex's endowed chairs this fall.

The Edward H. Northrop '62 Chair for the Athletic Director

Established in 1996 in memory of Edward Harriman Northrop '62, member of the Middlesex Board from 1975 to 1992, by a gift from the Gladys and Roland Harriman Foundation, this chair provides for the salary of the athletic director.

A seasoned history teacher who was recognized as the 2006 Teacher of the Year by the city of Alexandria, Virginia, Ken Risley also brought his experience as a coach and professional soccer player to Middlesex in 2008, when he became the head coach of boys' varsity soccer. Still teaching and coaching, he became the athletic director in 2016. Ken earned his B.A. in history at Brandeis University and holds an M.A. in history from Northeastern University. **M**



“Teaching and research may be hard and undervalued, but this work brings me immense joy,” Professor Desiree Plata affirmed.

Engineering Environmental Solutions

Problems that seem too daunting in complexity to many people are apparently not beyond tackling by MIT’s Desiree Plata, the Gilbert W. Winslow Professor in Civil Engineering. Taking a positive approach to difficult challenges, she works on devising innovative solutions to engineering problems that include environmental objectives. Speaking on May 3, 2022, Dr. Plata gave the sixth Bendheim Lecture, a speaker series established by a Middlesex parent in 2015 to bring inspiring experts in STEM fields to campus to share their professional experience.

Scientific Instincts

A self-described “free-range kid” who grew up in Portland, Maine, Professor Plata remembered being concerned about the environment early on, even entering (and winning) an Earth Day Pledge Contest at age eight. Remarkably, she also noticed that a pattern of illnesses—cancer and neurological

disorders—was occurring around her grandmother’s neighborhood in nearby Gray, Maine, and felt that something in the vicinity must be causing it.

She was right. A seven-acre property in town was a Superfund site, a location where buried industrial chemical waste had leached into residents’ private wells, contaminating their drinking water. Her aunt was among those whose life was cut short by cancer. “Things like this just shouldn’t happen,” Professor Plata stated. “When I stay up late working, it’s for her and people like her. We have to help manufacturers do the right thing from the start and find a solution that is environmentally responsible and economically viable. We need people working hard to find solutions.”

Finding a Way

If it seemed that her journey from Maine to MIT must have been a straightforward one, Professor Plata showed that this was not so, sharing a list of her college acceptances and rejections, which had upset her back then. From it, however, she learned, “There is always a path forward, though it might be a little different than you thought it would be.” As it turned out, Union College was a great place for her and launched her on a course toward a meaningful career, one that combines both research and teaching.

And when difficult times arise—as they certainly will—Professor Plata recommended three approaches that have sustained her: Think positive, be forgiving, and focus on problems that are bigger than you.

In the Plata Lab at MIT, she takes on formidable problems with a focus on energy. Briefly reviewing the “changing energy landscape,” she noted that while the use of coal is shrinking, the growth of renewable sources, like solar and natural gas, has been massive. But to continue in this direction, a better electrical grid is needed for power distribution, along with batteries made of materials that are less environmentally damaging.

The challenges in this area may be significant, yet she advised, “Don’t get depressed. Think how you might solve this.”

With this mindset, Professor Plata has explored problems related to natural gas production, looking to minimize its environmental impacts. Since increased hydraulic fracturing—or “fracking”—has raised concerns that the liquids injected into bedrock formations might contaminate private wells, she waded into this familiar territory. After analyzing both groundwater and samples from homes in the Appalachian area, Professor Plata found that chemical contamination was quite uncommon.

Promising Potential

Unfortunately, what is common in fracking is the release of large quantities of methane, one of the most potent greenhouse gases. Professor Plata wondered, “Could we pull methane out of the air?” By combining zeolite and copper in the lab, she has indeed found a way to trap and destroy methane. She is now trying to scale this technology out of the lab to help reduce global warming.

“You can *all* make a difference,” Professor Plata stressed. “You’ve just got to map onto something you love.” Given all the world’s problems to be addressed, she concluded, “You are needed.” **M**

Respecting Gender Identity



Encouraging students and adults to be supportive and nonjudgmental, representatives from OUT MetroWest noted, “You don’t need to understand someone’s identity; you just need to respect it.”

To continue the effort to discern and address the ways in which Middlesex could be a more welcoming, inclusive place, this year’s Community Life Symposium focused on the topic of gender identity, giving special consideration to how assumptions about gender are often built into everyday language, practices, and policies. Invited to guide the morning program on September 24 were five representatives from OUT MetroWest, a nonprofit organization founded to help build communities where LGBTQIA+ youth can thrive.

Because having a clear, shared vocabulary would be important to facilitating discussions, the group took the time to provide definitions and explanations of many gender-related terms, differentiating between “sex” (a person’s chromosomes and anatomy at birth) and “gender” (how a person thinks of their identity) and “gender expression” (how a person chooses to express that identity). In recent years, an individual’s use of preferred pronouns has become one aspect of gender expression, with people using not just “he” or “she” but also “they” as their personal pronoun.

“Our brains can handle this,” one speaker noted. “We often say things like, ‘I wonder if

they are coming back for their wallet?’” More importantly, she advised, “Don’t assume a person’s pronouns based on appearance.” And if you make a mistake, she added, “Just correct yourself quickly and move on.”

The group then reviewed several frequently asked questions, confirming some of the ways in which individuals and communities can serve as allies for LGBTQIA+ youth. Keeping up with current events, skipping gender language (like “ladies and gentlemen”), and rethinking traditions (such as requiring different colored graduation gowns for boys and girls) are just a few of the ways that people can be supportive. Ultimately, being willing to have hard conversations about a fundamental question—“Where are LGBTQIA+ people excluded from policies or traditions?”—is a meaningful step toward becoming a fully inclusive school.

Forming breakout groups by grade, students collaborated on exercises that focused on LGBTQIA+ history, giving them a better understanding of the past and perhaps an idea of what they can do to make a difference in the Middlesex community. **M**

The SpongeBob Musical

April 29-30, 2022

Based on the Nickelodeon animated series
by Stephen Hillenburg

*Conceived by Tina Landau; Book by Kyle Jarrow
Songs by a host of famous musicians*

Directed by Ryan DuBray

Musical Direction by Mary Casiello

Technical Design & Direction by Evan Kelly

Choreography by Christine Torto

Costume Design by Kim Brown

Photography by Robert D. Perachio

It's always the best day ever for SpongeBob, his BFF Patrick, and pal Sandy Cheeks—until the rumblings of Mount Humongous signal an impending eruption that could destroy their beloved home. Can the trio prevent the disaster? Or will Plankton's evil (diabolical . . . lemon-scented!) plan prevail, forcing everyone to follow him to Chumville?

With songs written by artists from Cyndi Lauper to John Legend to Steven Tyler and Joe Perry of Aerosmith (and many more), *SpongeBob the Musical* delivered the best of Bikini Bottom: favorite characters, dynamic dance numbers, choruses of sardines and pirates, and catchy tunes that the audience could be heard humming as they left the Kaye Theatre. Fluorescent, funny, and optimistic, the production was a demanding one for both cast and crew—and proved to be a great match for the spring spirit at Middlesex. **M**



An Astronomical Honor

For more than a decade, Dr. Ralph Pass has been a fixture in Middlesex's observatory, maintaining its devices and sharing the amazing images that he has taken using the 18-inch Centurion telescope. Now, he can be found in the night sky as well, for on April 20, 2022, he learned that asteroid (7732) had been officially named "Ralphpass" to recognize his longtime support of astronomical education. On hearing the news of this uncommon honor, he allows, "I was stunned – blown away."

A mathematician by training, Dr. Pass – better known as "Skip" – began his career at NASA, supporting every manned Apollo mission. Though he retired five years ago from Merrimack College, where he taught astronomy and directed the observatory, he has stayed on at Middlesex to lend his expertise to the STEM Division and the Astronomy Club.

Last summer, Skip shared images with the community of (7732) Ralphpass as it made its way across the sky. Perhaps student astronomers on campus will continue to monitor its path, appreciating the unique connection between Middlesex and a distant minor planet. **M**

Parents Among New Trustees



Caroline C. Counselman

Caroline is a graduate of Washington & Lee University, where she earned a B.S. in business administration. She joins the Middlesex Board on a pro tem basis as president of the Middlesex Parents' Committee.

Following a career in banking and corporate development, Caroline has focused on philanthropy and nonprofit service. She is the president of Womanade of the South Shore of Boston, a nonprofit committed to providing assistance to neighbors in need. She also sits on the Board of Derby Academy and the Hingham Historical Society, serving as development chair for both organizations.

Caroline and her husband Lee have three children, William, James '25, and Reed.



Courtney Portlock

Courtney is the assistant head of school at Oxbridge Academy in West Palm Beach, Florida. Previously, she was the director of the National Center for Girls' Leadership at Stuart Country Day School in Princeton, New Jersey, where she had served as the assistant head and then head of the upper school. She began her education career at The Episcopal Academy in Pennsylvania, serving as the director of diversity and community life, a teacher, and a coach.

A Germantown Friends School alumna, Courtney earned a B.S. in math from the University of Pittsburgh, an M.S.Ed. in school leadership from the University of Pennsylvania, and an Ed.D. at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education. Her father, the Reverend Joseph P. Watkins '71, was among Middlesex's first Black graduates and served as a trustee for 10 years. Courtney and her husband Marc are the parents of two alumni: Marc '20 and Taylor '22. **M**

Lessons for Life

2022 Graduation Speaker George Wilson '04



“What I learned at Middlesex was how to be a planner: How to identify a goal, set a strategy, and then relentlessly act against that strategy in pursuit of my goal,” George Wilson '04 observed.

Even as a Middlesex student, George Wilson '04 already knew that he wanted to work in the entertainment industry—potentially in sports and maybe with the National Basketball Association. “But I didn’t really know where to start,” he admitted. “I didn’t have any connections, and I didn’t really know what types of roles existed on the business side of sports. So, I did something about it.”

Distilling his own approach to achieving goals into three practical lessons, George offered his advice, along with illustrative anecdotes, to the graduating seniors as their guest speaker on May 30, 2022. And given that he is now in his fifteenth year with the NBA and is currently the vice president and head of partnerships for the NBA Gatorade

League, any career advice George might be willing to offer would be well worth taking.

Believe in Yourself

First encouraging students to “have confidence in yourself and your abilities,” George related that he purposely got a job in Cornell University’s Career Office, so that he might be able to develop connections with alumni in the sports entertainment field. On finding a graduate who was an NBA executive, George contacted him to learn more about his work and the field, building a relationship that would later help him land an internship with the NBA.

Because he considered that internship as merely the first step toward a future job, George gave his utmost effort to every assignment, meeting, and opportunity that came his way. “I was already focused on the next goal,” he stated, “and come summer’s end, only three of the 30 interns received a full-time offer, and I was one of those three.”

He shared that story, George told the seniors, because during college, “You’ll be tested and faced with new challenges, so you’re going to have to be able to believe in yourself and maintain the courage to chase your dreams.”

Take Initiative

This naturally led to George’s second lesson: “Don’t sit around and wait for life to happen to you; you have to take charge, and you have to make it happen.” When he needed spending money at Middlesex, for example, he got himself a mailroom job on campus—and thanked Postmaster Paul Torres for teaching him “true responsibility and accountability,” values that he said have served him well since. George was also deeply grateful to French teacher Chantal Jordan, who found the financial support that made it possible

for him to take part in a four-week immersion experience in France one summer.

“I’ll never forget that she did that for me,” George said, “but, again, I share that story because if I had not spoken up, Chantal wouldn’t even have known that I was interested in going. So, you’re going to have to speak up for what you want in life. You don’t have to do it all by yourself; you’re going to have a lot of help along the way. But it starts with you taking action to go for what you want.”

Live in the Present

In contrast, George’s final piece of advice was “to slow down and appreciate the moment.” Cautioning that life and all its milestones can pass by in a blur, he reflected, “What I wish I had realized 18 years ago, when I was in your seats, is that you’re going to be an adult for a very, very long time. When I was at Middlesex, it felt like high school took forever.... But here’s the reality: This is one of the last times this group of people is ever going to be together.”

Considering that fact, George closed by counseling, “Savor this moment while it lasts. The future can wait; but for now, let’s enjoy each other’s company one last time as members of this community and celebrate the experience that we’ve had together.” **M**

New Alumnae Trustees



Jasmine N. Richards '98

Jasmine joined Cambridge Associates in 2018 as head of diverse manager investing to lead the firm’s ongoing initiative to identify and underwrite investment managers in all public and private asset classes that have underrepresented owners or leaders, including women and people of color. She has over 20 years of buy and sell-side investing experience.

Previously, Jasmine worked at Xpounce (formerly FIS Group), where she was responsible for identifying and managing investment strategies, with an emphasis on diverse-owned asset managers. She is a frequent speaker at client and industry events.

Jasmine holds an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and attended MIT and the New York Institute of Technology for her undergraduate education. A member of the CFA Institute and the CFA Society of Boston, she also serves on the investment committee for Rosie’s Place and the advisory board for the Boston Youth Symphony.



Alexandra Hanken Russell '08

Alex serves on the board in a pro-tem capacity as the president of the Middlesex Alumni Association. As a strategic innovation director on Salesforce’s Ignite team, she guides clients through complex digital transformations through focus on human-centered design and customer experience.

Prior to Salesforce, Alex worked in impact and earned income consulting for nonprofits and social enterprises. She started her career in Middlesex’s Alumni and Development Office, where she focused on engagement and annual fundraising.

A graduate of Davidson College with a B.A. in anthropology, Alex serves on the board of the Institute for Educational Advancement and as an advisor to Runway for Recovery. **M**

For the Public Good

Two Honored as Distinguished Alumni



Among the highlights of every Alumni Weekend is the presentation of the Henry Cabot Lodge (1920) Distinguished Alumni Award, which recognizes Middlesex graduates whose lives and careers have made a significant contribution to society and whose accomplishments have brought great credit to the School. While this year's recipients were unable to attend the reunion in person, each shared their appreciation for the honor in video messages shown at the ceremony.

Public Servant and Professor Anthony K. Lake '57

Described in his Middlesex yearbook as “a boy full of ideas,” Tony graduated from Harvard College in 1961 and later earned a Ph.D. in public and international affairs at Princeton University. He first joined the State Department as a foreign service officer—and actually served as an assistant to Ambassador Lodge during the Vietnam War. Remaining with the State Department until 1970, Tony returned there as director of policy planning during the Carter Administration from 1977–1981. He also served two terms as a Middlesex trustee, from 1976–1979 and 1982–1987.

In 1981, Tony became a Five College professor of international relations, teaching first

at Amherst and then Mount Holyoke. In 1993, President Clinton named Tony the U.S. national security advisor, a position he held until 1997. He played a central role in the negotiation of ceasefires in Northern Ireland in 1994, Bosnia in 1995, and Ethiopia and Eritrea in 2000. From 2010–2017, Tony served as the executive director of UNICEF, where he focused on aiding the world's most disadvantaged children and attempted to reduce child mortality rates.

Legal Leader and Pro Bono Advocate Wanji Barrington Walcott '87

After earning her undergraduate degree from Howard University, Wanji went on to earn her J.D. at Howard University School of Law. She began her legal career at Lockheed Martin Corporation and later became a senior associate at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP. Joining American Express, Wanji ascended to the role of senior vice president and managing counsel, also co-founding the pro bono department during her 13 years there. She subsequently served as PayPal's senior vice president and general counsel before moving to Discover Financial Services as the executive vice president, chief legal officer, and general counsel. In November 2022, Wanji became the chief legal officer at Pinterest.

The recipient of numerous awards and accolades in her career, Wanji most recently earned the Laurie D. Zelon Pro Bono Award from the Pro Bono Institute. She is the board chair for the Minority Corporate Counsel Association and previously served as a Middlesex trustee from 2006–2018.

For their engagement, integrity, and leadership in their respective professional fields, the Middlesex Alumni Association proudly presented 2022 Lodge Awards to Tony Lake and Wanji Walcott. **M**

The Jones Award For Service to Middlesex

With the Lodge Award now long established to recognize graduates who have contributed significantly to the world beyond the Circle, the Middlesex Alumni Association (MxAA) took the initiative in 2021 to establish a new award that appreciates another kind of commitment. Named in honor of E. Duane Jones '70, one of Middlesex's first Black graduates and an unwavering supporter of the School for decades, the Jones Award acknowledges a graduate who "alongside their own demanding career has dedicated substantial time and effort in service to the alumni of Middlesex School" and who has "shown their love and dedication to the School throughout their life, even as they have made a mark on the world."

Namesake and Nominee

Appropriately, the Jones Award was presented first to Duane himself at the MxAA meeting in October 2021 and was also formally announced during the 2022 Alumni Weekend (see page 28). As a graduate of Harvard and UC Berkeley School of Law, Duane has represented the marginalized and maltreated in his adopted state of Georgia for over 30 years. He joined the MxAA Board in 2015 and has been a trusted voice during his tenure. Remaining closely connected to Middlesex over the years, Duane served as the 2018 graduation speaker and compared the School's campus to his childhood home, affirming, "This place is more home to me than that."

2022 Recipient: James M. Oates '65

During Alumni Weekend, after announcing the new award and celebrating Duane, MxAA President Rob Trumbull '00 presented the 2022 Jones Award to Trustee Emeritus Jim Oates '65. After graduating from Harvard and Harvard Business School, Jim embarked on a successful career in the financial services industry. An outstanding athlete as a student, he was inducted into Middlesex's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2012.

Joining the Middlesex Board in 1980, Jim immediately made his mark as the development committee chair and led the School's \$10 million capital campaign in the late 1980s. After chairing the search committee that recommended Deirdre Ling as the School's fourth head, Jim served two terms as board president (1991–1999 and 2004–2007).



Still appreciative that Middlesex took a chance on him as a student, Jim Oates '65 maintained, "I owe such a great deal of gratitude to this place."

He made residential life a priority during his tenure, also streamlining the Board's structure, establishing a goal-setting system for committees, and implementing biennial retreats to promote team building. Jim laid the groundwork for the successful *Campaign of a Century*, which surpassed its goal of \$125 million, and played an integral role in securing several gifts during that campaign.

Known as a great communicator who understands the dynamics of boards and schools, readily engages and energizes people—and has generously given his time and support to Middlesex—Jim Oates is most certainly a worthy recipient of the E. Duane Jones Service to Alumni Award. **M**

Team Highlights

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



Crew

Varsity rowers practiced on the Concord River on a perfect May afternoon. Above, left: Seated behind Luke Taylor '24 at stroke were Co-captain Preston Taylor '22, Charlie Martin '22, Andy Chevetz '23, and Oliver Ali '24 (coxswain). Above, right: Now rowing for Tufts, Co-captain Hadley Keefe '22 (stroke) was followed by Maeve Clifford '23, Grace O'Malley '22, Clementine Campbell '23, and Sophia Fawcett '23 (coxswain).



Boys' Tennis

Co-captain Julian Dai '22 steps through the ball in a match with Milton Academy; he earned an All-League Honorable Mention at the end of the season.



Golf

With a 10-4-1 match play record this season, Captain Andrew Cao '23 shot a 77 at this year's Kingman Tournament, helping Middlesex to place seventh among the competition there. The team's 8-5-2 record also earned Middlesex seventh place in ISL match play.



Baseball

Leading his team with a .396 batting average, Co-captain Kyle Wolff '22 will continue his baseball career at Boston College.



Girls' Tennis

Laser-focused on the ball, Co-captain Neha Kommineni '22 takes aim during an April practice. Closing out their team's season with a 9-5 record, Neha and fellow Co-captain Marissa Fadely '22 were both named All-League.



Boys' Lacrosse

Along with Co-captain Sam Raye Steiner '22, Co-captains Rex Mabbs '22 (on left) and Oran Gelinias '22 (on right) were selected to play in July's Boston Lax All-American game. Each moves on to a competitive college program, with Sam at Bowdoin, Rex at Swarthmore, and Oran at Ohio State.

Spring's Signal Achievements

Unlike the previous two spring seasons, the entire schedule could be carried out in 2022, and Middlesex athletes made the most of it, earning recognition for both individual and team performances.



Co-captain Hannah Barron '22 prepares to take the ball to the cage and finish with one of her blistering shots—skills that rightly earned her the title of U.S. Lacrosse All-American.



Co-captain Love Daley '22 ended her Middlesex athletic career by becoming a New England Champion in both the 400-meter dash and the high jump—and was named All-League and All-NEPSAC.



On June 17 at the 2022 Nike Outdoor Nationals, AliJah Clark '23, Malcolm Clark '24, Lucas Mylon '23, and Matt Wing '23 (pictured above, left to right) placed fourth in the nation in the 1600 sprint medley relay, making them All-Americans. The next day, the 4x100-meter relay team of Alijah, Malcolm, Lucas, and Justin Li '23 impressively placed second in the Emerging Elites Division race.

Accolades and an All-American

The 2022 season was an outstanding one for girls' varsity lacrosse. Heading into the ISL Invitational Tournament quarterfinals on May 20 with a league record of 8-2, the team defeated Milton II-10 before falling in the semifinals to Thayer. Middlesex then closed out the schedule with wins against St. George's (9-7) and Governor's (12-11) for an ISL record of 10-2 and an overall 15-4 record.

Co-captain Hannah Barron '22, Ali Petrone '23, and Caroline Cervini '23 were subsequently named All-League and All-NEPSAC (Class B), while Sydney Cogliano '23 was named All-League and received an All-NEPSAC Honorable Mention, as did Brooke Nye '22. Margeaux Matz '23 was also named All-NEPSAC and earned an All-League Honorable Mention.

Hannah's senior season was capped with two additional honors, as she was named the NEPSAC Class B Player of the Year and a U.S. Lacrosse All-American. An exceptional midfielder, she broke two Middlesex records in her career—for draw controls (with 93) and for contested ground balls in a season (with 47)—and she tied the goal-scoring record with a total of 59. Hannah has now taken her skills to the Division I level, playing this year for the University of Southern California.

Track Triumphs

In Middlesex's very first year in Division II, the boys' track and field team won the New England Championship on May 21 at Governor's Academy. It was a true team effort, with nine athletes scoring points to contribute to the win. Co-captain Lucas Mylon '23 was a New England Champion in the 200-meter and 400-meter dash, as well as in the 4x100-meter relay with teammates Justin Li '23, AliJah Clark '23, and Malcolm Clark '24. Malcolm was also a New England Champion in the 300-meter hurdles, while Matt Wing '23 won the title in the 800-meter dash. Also contributing points to the victory with strong finishes in other events were Co-captain Cooper Austen '22, Joey Caspar '24, Owen Barry '24, and Vedant Deokar '23.

The girls' team added a sixth New England Champion to Middlesex's tally, with Co-captain Love Daley '22 taking first place in both the high jump and the 400-meter dash. She also finished fifth in the 200-meter dash and anchored the 4x400-meter relay team that included Catherine Bain '25, Ashwini Menon '25, and Dela McCaghren '24. Additional points earned by Co-captain Mariam Craig '22, Piper Morris '24, and Kate McBride '24 placed Middlesex seventh overall. **M**



With a fire always going in the hearth of his office, David worked with five board presidents during his tenure, including Henry Stone '34, who led the search committee that appointed David headmaster in 1964.

Meeting Challenges with Wisdom, Humor, and Compassion

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID F. SHELDON Middlesex's Third Head of School (1964–1990)

by Hugh Fortmiller

The Interview

In the spring of 1957, as they drove through Middlesex's main gate for the first time, David and Judy Sheldon came upon a tall man in overalls, bending over to paint a white line down the center of the driveway. After asking the man for directions to Eliot Hall, they parked on the Circle with time to spare. When the headmaster's assistant, Elizabeth Hodges, invited David into Lawrence "Monk" Terry's office, there stood the tall man, this time wearing a coat and tie. The School's founder Frederick Winsor and Monk Terry both saw Middlesex as a place for "honesty, hard work, devotion, and abhorrence of snobbery." And later, David would add, "It's also a place for a sense of humor."

David had grown up in Oklahoma, Texas, and Ohio. After graduating from Western Reserve Academy, he received a fellowship for a year at Uppingham School in England, followed by a scholarship to Amherst College, where he finished his degree in three years. David's career search led him from Harvard Business School to success as an "ad man" on Madison Avenue. By then he had married Judy, the love of his life and his anchor. Manhattan was exciting, but after three years, he said he woke up one morning and asked himself if he would do this work if he wasn't getting paid. The answer was, "No!" So, he left for a teaching internship at St. Paul's School and earned a master's degree from Harvard Graduate School of Education.

With those credentials, David arrived for that unusual Middlesex meeting. Monk hired David to teach history and English and to coach soccer and crew. Years later, Elizabeth Hodges reminded David

of his interview with Monk, saying, "Mr. Sheldon, after Mr. Terry first spoke with you long ago, he told me, 'I think I just interviewed my successor.'" He had!

The Application

In 1960, David became director of admissions just as the School was beginning to sense that change was coming, given the growing civil rights movement and the feminist movement. When Monk decided to retire, Trustee Henry Stone '34 led the search for a new headmaster. With Monk's support, David became a candidate, writing Henry a 15-page letter full of ambitious suggestions.

He recommended programs to build communication and seek enrichment, both within and outside Middlesex. He thought faculty should learn about other schools, discuss curriculum, visit colleagues' classes, mentor new teachers, and pursue graduate study. He wanted to create foreign school exchanges and public service programs.

After adding recommendations for a revised curriculum, new library, and theatre, he admitted, "Without question, I see the dollar sign not only lurking but leaping out from behind many of the suggestions. However, that hasn't deterred me." David's vision challenged and impressed the trustees, and he became the School's headmaster.

On the Move While Listening

David's son James '81 remembers his father as "always moving—maybe on a bike, or in his canoe, or [deep in] a book, or in a conversation." Noni Pratt '76, the first alumna to become a trustee,

adds, “Conversation was an art form for David, with his measured cadences that gave thought shape. He took it all in and gave himself time to take it in.”

Bill Polk, former head of Groton School and David’s lifelong friend, recalls David’s passion for the ocean, lakes, and rivers. For an introduction to David’s world, he notes, “You could do no better than to look at his car.” There you would see a roof rack holding a kayak and fishing rods, while a wind-surfing board waited in the garage. “The trunk of the car looked like an Orvis delivery truck: a fishing vest, wading boots, hiking gear,” Bill adds.

Biking for Fun

Racing bikes were David’s great passion. Former faculty member and founder of the USA Master’s Cycling program Rob Lea ’60 began road racing in David’s annual “Tour de Middlesex,” which was “a rather technical, on-campus course.” Dozens of students and adults competed, Rob remembers, including future Olympian David Boll ’72 and legendary New England rider Glenn Swann ’72.

David was not always racing, however. Noni Pratt remembers his casual campus rides, as he leaned over the low-slung handlebars of his old touring bike. “Hanging over the back wheels were canvas saddlebags full of junk he picked up as he rode around: candy wrappers, aluminum cans, odds



and ends,” she recalls. “In the dining hall one day, he saw a boy take a sidestep to pick up a napkin someone else had dropped. David grabbed the boy, thanked him, and gave him a ‘free day’ on the spot. Overnight, the campus became immaculate.”

Dozens of anecdotes like this point to David’s wry sense of humor, which was always at the ready. Every fall, for example, when the opening day meeting with new students and their parents came to an end, he would tell parents it was time for them to say goodbye. He would add, “Now, if you’re worried about whether your son or daughter is getting along and making friends, please call us. You’ll find pay phones at the Colonial Inn.” His humor made heavy moments light, not only for others, but also for himself.

20th Century Challenges

Mills Lane ’61 recalls that when David became headmaster, “He was only 35 and looked about 22.” During those early years, “A student introduced his father to David. The father smiled somewhat condescendingly and said, ‘So glad to meet you, young man. You must be proud that your father is the new headmaster of the School!’”

And there he was, the third headmaster. Frederick Winsor and Monk Terry had seen Middlesex through WWI, the Depression, and WWII. The Cold War and its nuclear threats were ongoing, the civil rights and feminist movements were underway, and on came more challenges: the sexual revolution, recreational drugs, the cynicism of “God is dead,” and the anti-Vietnam War movement.

Some independent schools were closing or frequently changing heads, but for 26 years, David persisted. The admission of the School’s first Black students in 1965 and of the first girls in 1974 involved significant changes requiring his care, patience, and wisdom. Notably, David’s title changed from headmaster to head of school.

Among the first Black students at Middlesex, Duane Jones ’70—now a civil rights attorney in Atlanta—wrote to David, “You taught me integrity ...[The] voice of my conscience had your accent... Because of you, I could grow up in a racist society without a prejudiced bone in my body. Any time someone was declaiming about ‘how white people are,’ the image of you in my mind made me laugh at them.”

Speaking as the School’s first female valedictorian, Helena White Fifer ’78 said of her experience, “I have become myself here.... This aura of good



(far left) Though leading rival schools, David found a lifelong friend in Bill Polk, Groton School's headmaster from 1978–2003.

(left) Second Headmaster Monk Terry and his wife Kay were photographed with Judy and David Sheldon during the 1986 Alumni Weekend. Monk's and David's tenures spanned 52 years of Middlesex history.

feeling has to do with the kind of freedom that Middlesex gives its students.”

David was working to develop such freedoms. At the School's centennial celebration, he admitted that the closest he could come to defining Middlesex students was to say that they take academics seriously, take athletics seriously, and take the arts seriously, but “they don't take themselves seriously.”

Looking Within and Without

Part of David's vision for the School was to develop in both students and faculty a sense of caring for and understanding of oneself and others. Students with learning disabilities, for example, began to be regarded as bright people who needed well-designed tutoring. Some students with personal struggles might be granted time away from school and then given follow-up support at Middlesex on their return. To help all students, David hired the School's first full-time counselor.

Faculty of all ages, not just senior teachers, were trained to become advisors to students. And student leaders were asked to take more responsibility, joining faculty members on the discipline committee and becoming strong voices in student government.

To respond to issues of racism, bullying, substance abuse, and gender issues, faculty women and men welcomed groups of new girls and boys into their homes to discuss these challenges in a popular program called “Choices,” which continues today.

David encouraged accomplished teachers to take charge of academic departments, forge new curricula, attend teaching conferences, and share their ideas in faculty meetings and retreats. And while the admissions staff traveled abroad to further diversify the student population, the School also developed exchanges with Uppingham, David's old school in England, and with a secondary school in Kyoto, Japan.

David's vision for altruistic outreach encouraged faculty member Arthur Raybold to initiate bringing first classers to Boston to tutor inner-city children and help families relocate their housing.

As head of a non-sectarian school, David gave particular attention to Frederick Winsor's desire to help students develop strong moral and ethical values, an increasingly difficult task as cynicism grew. He asked faculty and first classers to speak in weekly chapel, and he invited a wide range of religious and philosophical speakers to lead Sunday chapel services.

Former Development Director Hope Sage remembers David as “a mentor and friend, as much a minister as a leader, ministering to all the students and faculty and staff his entire career.” In talking with his successor, Deirdre Ling, about the death of two of his students in a car accident, David said, “Deirdre, the hardest thing you will ever have to do is to console a grieving family and community upon the loss of a student.... On any given day you will never know whether you will be called upon to be pastor [or] cheerleader....”

Moving On

When David decided it was time to give responsibility for Middlesex to someone else, he was looking forward to less stressful responsibilities. As a candidate for the position of director of the Shelburne Museum in Vermont, he compiled a list of all the changes he had initiated over 26 years. He wrote that he had overseen “rapid and significant societal and educational change: from the traditionalism of 1964–1968, the altruism of 1969–1971 and the anti-authoritarianism of 1972–1975, the academic reconstruction of 1975–1981, to the conservative careerism of 1981–1989.”

The School's annual budget had grown from \$500,000 to \$5.5 million and the endowment from \$2 million to \$25 million; meanwhile, the number of students had increased from 235 to 300. The



Sitting on the steps of Eliot Hall in the mid-1980s were the longest serving faculty members at that time. Clockwise from the front left are Ted Sage, Henry Erhard, Peter Arnold, Hugh Fortmiller, Brad Kingman, and David.

library, theatre/arts building, science center, student center, gym, and Clay dormitory were new. He had also recruited 95 percent of the faculty.

As he had predicted, in response to these accomplishments, “the dollar sign” had indeed leaped out. David used his business training, and perhaps his experience as an “ad man,” to create the School’s first development office, successfully led by Hope Sage. As he retired, annual giving had improved from \$60,000 to \$1 million, and when more than 70 percent of alumni and over 90 percent of parents contributed annually, Middlesex had the highest participation percentage of any independent school in the country.

When he became director of the Shelburne Museum, Deirdre Ling phoned David to ask how he liked his new job. He replied, “Well, Deirdre, I like it a lot. Everything is over a hundred years old, and none of it moves.”

Not long after David retired from the museum, his dear wife Judy died, and David soon moved to Washington State to spend the last 13 years of his life on Bainbridge Island near his son James, daughter-in-law Jennie, and grandchildren, Jessie and Tyler. He stayed connected to his sons, Fred and Charlie, and their families back East, and he also stayed in touch with his Middlesex family.

Well into his 80s and 90s, David continued to bike, but more carefully, on an adult tricycle,

or with an electric assist. His son Fred describes a trip that he and his brothers took with their dad to the Netherlands to cycle together through the beautiful countryside. “Dad loved his new electric bike,” Fred says, “but he did remark at how clever we were to choose a country with no hills to climb.”

Remaining Connected

When David wrote to Middlesex Board President Rick Burnes ’59 requesting permission “to head for pasture,” he said, “I can’t sum up in this letter what Middlesex has meant to Judy and me. It has been both workplace and home for 32 years, residence of body, mind, and heart. We can’t calculate...the difficulty of separation from friends with whom we have worked and played for so long. [But] we don’t intend to say goodbye to the School, only to see it less often and from a different perspective. I remember that Winston Churchill, when asked if he was a pillar of the church, replied that he was more like a flying buttress, lending support from the outside. In the same way, we shall always try to be a firm outside support for Middlesex.”

At David’s Memorial service on October 16, fifth Head of School Kathy Giles read what she called a “final note to David.” In particular, she thanked him for inspiring her to “get out there’ on the sidelines and connect, ready to hear whatever anyone needs to say with patience and humor and understanding.”

And in his own farewell letter, David reflected, “I leave, confident that Middlesex will continue to grow in its ability to serve young people through its special blend of warmth, encouragement, and respect for their individuality.”

David died in his sleep on June 2, 2022, at the age of 93. **M**

Hugh Fortmiller taught English and theatre for 41 years at Middlesex and retired in 2001 as associate head of school and holder of the Independence Foundation Chair. His sons, Ben ’92 and Jonathan ’95, are Middlesex graduates, and his wife, Francie (Ladd) Nolde, was the School’s first and only director of coeducation.

Hugh thanks the scores of graduates and Middlesex friends who have written and spoken about their joy and gratitude for having known David. Some of the contributors are mentioned in this article; they represent hundreds of others whose own lives have been touched by the life of David F. Sheldon.

Graduation 2022

Having successfully navigated all the usual trials of high school—and then a few more, thanks to a pandemic and the many adjustments it has entailed—this year’s senior class could at last enjoy a graduation ceremony free of both social distancing and dismal weather. On a hot, sunny Memorial Day, they processed from the Chapel to Eliot Hall, ready for this final event of their student days at Middlesex.



Along with their classmates, Claudia Goodwin '22, Grace Millett '22, and Mariam Craig '22 collected their roses and waited in the Chapel for the ceremony's start.



Guest speaker George Wilson '04 (on left) stands with Interim Head of School Karlyn McNall and Board President Jason Robart '83.

School Co-presidents Wells Goltra '22 and Kennedy Mason '22, along with Senior Class President Love Daley '22 (on far right), joyfully led the way across the Circle.



Graduation 2022



Liam Connor '22 received his diploma from Interim Head of School Karlyn McNall. While acknowledging in her remarks that COVID-19 had indeed impacted the school experiences of this senior class, Karlyn reflected, "For everything you might have missed, there has been an opportunity for gain. And the class of 2022 has been one to seize those opportunities." With the resiliency and understanding that they have consequently developed, she affirmed, "You will find opportunities in whatever adventures—be they by design or surprise—your lives bring you. So, maybe, in fact, you didn't miss anything at all."



Standing between her parents, Love Daley '22 now shares alumnae status with her mother, Salima Jones-Daley '99.

The Leary family gained another Middlesex graduate this year; pictured from left to right are Robin Leary Taylor '91, Joyce Leary, Trustee Sarah Leary '88, Preston Taylor '22, Luke Taylor '24, Avery Taylor '24, and Bojay Taylor. (Missing from the alumni lineup was Alex Leary '97.)



Celebratory hugs were the order of the day; Director of Counseling Sarah Moss Cohane '95 congratulated Ellie Mandelker '22, who worked with Sarah as a peer supporter.



The family of Cameron O'Reilly '22 turned out in force for his graduation.





Anna Buell '22 listened for her name to be called during the awarding of the diplomas.

Valedictorian Michael Cheng '22 humorously likened his classmates' experiences at Middlesex to those of the heroes in *The Iliad* and *The Aeneid*, for they had waged "battles with nightly homework" that grew longer and more consequential with each year. Ultimately, Michael noted, "These epic poems tell us that the journey is what matters," and with their senior year at an end, he concluded, "Let us go out into the world, prepared, and perhaps one day muses may sing epics about your deeds, too."



Bella Musto '22, Isabel Xue '22 (with bouquet) and Kyle Wolff '22 moved along the receiving line formed by faculty and staff.



The procession threaded its way through faculty, family, and friends to the senior benches. In front are Kevin Ma '22 and Antonia Baylor '22, followed by Rex Mabbs '22 and Juliet Boelhouwer '22, with Tatam MacDonald '22 and Henry Brown '22 not far behind.

Introducing Middlesex's Next Head of School Elizabeth "Bessie" Speers

With the unanimous vote of the Middlesex Board of Trustees in June, a much-anticipated decision became official: Veteran educator Elizabeth "Bessie" Speers will begin her tenure as head of school on July 1, 2023.

To her new post she will bring more than 30 years of experience in independent schools, with half of that time spent leading as a head, first at The Ethel Walker School in Simsbury, Connecticut, and currently at Tower Hill School in Wilmington, Delaware. Those appointments came after having served in many different capacities—as a teacher, coach, dorm parent, advisor, and administrator—and amply fulfilled all the qualifications that Middlesex sought.

"What we heard was that the community wanted someone with a deep passion for education," says Board President Jason Robart '83, who headed the search committee that reviewed hundreds of online survey responses and conducted numerous listening sessions with Middlesex constituencies. "Hearing firsthand what the community saw as priorities for the School and what experiences and skills people valued in our next head of school was incredibly helpful as we went through the process. We wanted someone with broad experience in schools—in teaching, admissions, alumni relations, financial management, and strategic planning—who both appreciated the strength of the Middlesex community and was committed to further building that community."

The seeds of this kind of understanding and passion started early for Bessie as a student at The Bryn Mawr School. "I loved school," she confirms. "I was very fortunate to have wonderful teachers, coaches, and mentors who mattered in my life, and I see that as a hallmark of an independent school."

Right after graduating with a B.A. in English from Middlebury College—where she is now a trustee—Bessie first worked for the National Association of Independent Schools. "I saw the industry more broadly and said, 'I want to work in one of these places,'" she remembers. Starting out as an associate director in the Loomis Chaffee School's Admissions Office, she enjoyed the interconnection of her advising, coaching, and dorm duties there. The following year, Bessie returned to Bryn Mawr to serve as director of admissions and financial aid, additionally teaching English, advising, and coaching—and earning her M.L.A. at Johns Hopkins



University. Eight years later, she took on the role of director of placement and strategic planning at Baltimore's Calvert School for three years, followed by four years at The Episcopal Academy near Philadelphia, where she served as the dean of faculty and assistant head of school.

In 2007, Bessie became the head of the residential, all-girls' Ethel Walker School, where she oversaw several transformational building projects and a judicious financial planning process. Since 2015, she has led Tower Hill School, enjoying the different challenges of this nationally renowned, coed day school for grades K-12.

"Bessie's experience in a number of different environments and roles gives her broad perspective," Jason observes.

“That perspective will be instrumental as she helps chart the future for Middlesex.”

Key to her approach is first learning about and appreciating the history, culture, and nuances that characterize an institution. “I love getting to know school communities and figuring out how to make each school stronger,” Bessie affirms. “Middlesex has a distinguishing sense of place that is powerful. My husband Tom and I also really believe in the residential experience, where you can lean into a more global kind of education, drawing kids from all over the world to live together.”

An added advantage for Bessie is that Tom is a Middlesex alumnus who enrolled in the last year of the all-boys’ school and then graduated with the first coeducational class in 1976 (see sidebar). “Tom loved going to Middlesex,” she says, marveling at how he and his friends “just pick up right where they left off” at get-togethers.

“They are both people who care deeply about families and having a great place for students to go to school,” sums up Trustee Johanna Boynton, who served on the search committee not only as a board member and current parent but also as a former Middlesex faculty member. “Bessie demonstrates that warmth and understanding, and she knows that great schools need a leader to make decisions and be clear about why they are in the best interest of the school. She garners respect and has clarity of vision.”

Once she begins in earnest, Bessie recognizes, “There’s a lot of listening and learning to do. I really value everybody’s insights, perspectives, hopes, and dreams—and I couldn’t be more honored to be joining the community.” In turn, Middlesex looks forward to welcoming the Speers family to campus, including Bessie and Tom’s grown children, Nellie and Guthrie, and their dog Nola. **M**



Circling Back to Middlesex

Moving to campus next July will be a homecoming for the Reverend Tom Speers '76

With highlights like these, it’s no wonder that Tom Speers loved Middlesex: He fondly remembers homemade waffle breakfasts in Higginson House (courtesy of faculty member Seth Gibson); evenings of cross-country skiing through the woods; influential teachers and mentors like Tod Houghtlin, Galen Brewster, Hugh Fortmiller, and Don James; and, of course, the 1974 arrival of “an amazing group of girls”—pioneers of coeducation—whose courage and confidence impresses him still.

Among his favorite memories is a comical misunderstanding involving Headmaster David Sheldon, who sidled up to Tom one morning just after an announcement about joining chorus had been made by Natasha and Edwin Hymovitz, music teachers at the time. “I think you’d be great in the chorus,” David suggested. “I think you’d enjoy that.” Then an uncertain new sophomore, Tom recalls, “I thought he was giving me an order and could not imagine *not* following the direction of the headmaster!” He duly joined—and still sings today with different choral groups. “It was wonderful for me, and I don’t know that I would have done it except for David’s encouragement,” Tom reflects.

In the years since, Tom has remained connected to Middlesex through fellow classmates, family (his cousins include Charlie Savage ’57 and Charlie’s niece, Louisa Savage ’09), and formal events; several times, he has been the presiding minister at the Alumni Weekend Memorial Service. “Middlesex is a school that I’m proud of and that was a good fit for me,” Tom says. “I’m excited about being present on campus and learning the Middlesex of today.” **M**



Making Middlesex Home

When completed next summer, two new duplexes near the School's northern entrance will allow four more faculty members to trade lengthy commutes for closer connection with the community.

Aura Rizzo '07 knows firsthand how much on-campus faculty housing adds to the quality of the educational experience and community life at Middlesex. From her years as a student, she remembers being welcomed into her dorm parents' apartments—and once even took a Latin exam (that she had missed because of the flu) in Alex Banay's kitchen. "She made soup for me!" Aura recalls. "It was so kind because it was right before the holidays, when people can be so busy. It's just another layer of Middlesex that your teachers will invite you into their homes like that."

When Aura later joined the faculty as a classics teacher in 2019, however, it was difficult to offer her students the exact same hospitality and care, as housing was not available on campus and was not affordable nearby. "To live in this area is just not feasible for people my age," she observes. Instead, she found herself driving nearly an hour to and from Middlesex, which made for some long days when dorm or weekend duties kept her busy on campus until 11:00 p.m.

"In the recruitment and retention of faculty, the ability to house adults on this beautiful campus is a valuable benefit," affirms Interim Head of School Karlyn McNall. "It also allows us to connect our faculty to all of the School's programs and its mission; living and learning with students is at the core of how we accomplish the best of Middlesex."

As the chair of the Board's Building and Grounds Committee, Trustee Mary Lou Boutwell concurs, especially having appreciated the Middlesex experience of her sons, Rob '02 and Charlie '06. "The trustees recognize how important housing is to attracting and keeping outstanding faculty and administrators," she confirms. "The Board has many priorities, but this is a top one, and we are thrilled to have the funding to be able to go ahead with this next project."

The project—consisting of two new duplexes, or four housing units—is slated to be finished in the summer of 2023, thanks to generous gifts from a Middlesex alumnus and a current parent. "The homes are two levels and are prefabricated, standard designs from Huntington Homes in East Montpelier,

Vermont,” details Project Manager Steve McKeown. “There is such high demand for these houses that when we ordered them, our project was still a year away; but once they are here, a duplex can be built in about five weeks.”

In preparation for next spring’s delivery, this past summer was spent completing the site work for the two duplexes, which will be situated along Lowell Road, behind the existing tree line and just beyond the back yard of the first Acorn house on the northern driveway. Over the course of several weeks, excavation work was completed, foundations were poured, and utility connections were put in place.

“These homes will not be using fossil fuels for heating and cooling,” Steve points out. “They’ll be using electricity purchased from Concord Municipal Light Plant (CMLP), which is currently providing 75 percent renewable energy.” Moreover, by 2030, CMLP aims to reach its goal of providing

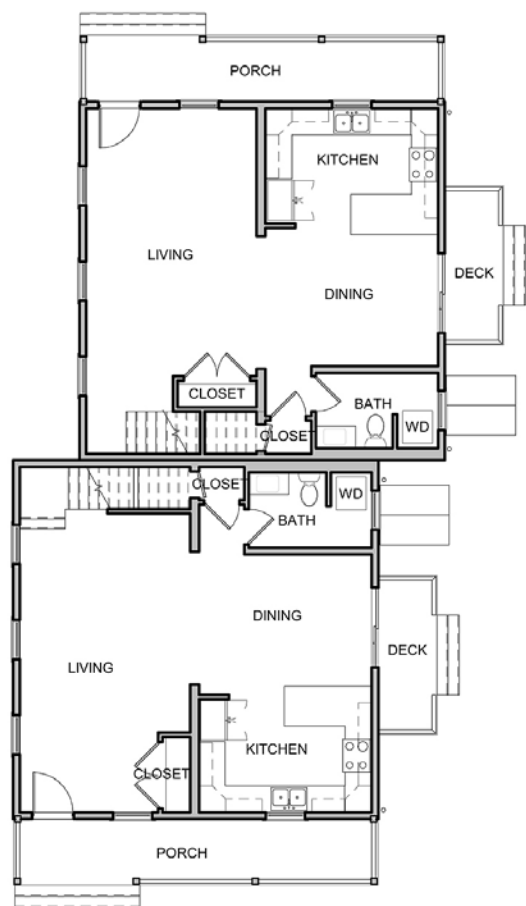
100 percent carbon-free electricity. “Since Concord is one of the greener suppliers in the Commonwealth,” adds Chief Operating Officer Matt Crozier, “these will be among the most energy-efficient buildings on campus.”

In the meantime, Aura and her husband Rick were fortunately able to move this past August into an available apartment in Hallowell House. Without her old commute, she finds, “Living here has freed up the time to go to all those extra commitments that I care about and want to do: a game at 4:00, a recital at 6:00. It just makes you more flexible about when you are available. I can better support my advisees and spend more time with my colleagues.”

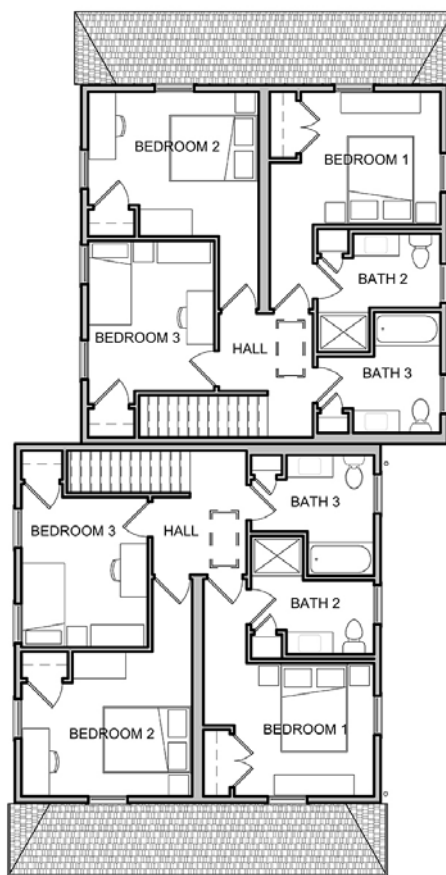
The faculty members who move into the finished duplexes next summer will undoubtedly come to the same conclusion that Aura has. “Middlesex’s program is designed for people to live here,” she reflects. “We put a lot of effort into relationships here, and it’s great to give them the time.” **M**

These homes will not be using fossil fuels for heating and cooling. They’ll be using electricity purchased from Concord Municipal Light Plant, which is currently providing 75 percent renewable energy.

Project Manager Steve McKeown



1 LEVEL 1
1/8" = 1'-0"



2 LEVEL 2
1/8" = 1'-0"

Alumni Weekend

This year's celebration was exceptional in more ways than one. Not only was it the first in-person Alumni Weekend held on campus since 2019, but it was also the first time that three-year clusters of classes were invited back together—an effort to compensate for the reunions quashed by the pandemic. As a result, more than 600 alumni and guests came to Concord on June 10 and 11 to make up for lost time and enjoy each other's company over two days of beautiful spring weather.

Early arrivals on Friday evening could take a campus walking tour or view the Alumni Art Exhibit before heading either to individual class dinners or to the Reunion BBQ under the tent. On Saturday, the morning's schedule began with the Alumni Memorial Service, which was led with warmth and humor by the Reverend Joe Watkins '71, who offered a wonderful tribute to Middlesex classmates, friends, and mentors who have passed away.

In the Bass Pavilion's Kaye Theatre, the day's events continued with the presentation of the E. Duane Jones '70 Service to Alumni Award, created by the Middlesex Alumni Association in 2021 to recognize graduates who have selflessly given back to the School. As the award's namesake and first recipient, Duane was on hand to see Trustee Emeritus Jim Oates '65



The Ware Hall dining room was filled at Saturday's Old Guard Luncheon, where alumni who had already celebrated a 50th reunion gathered to share their memories of Middlesex.



As president of the Middlesex Alumni Association, Trustee Rob Trumbull '00 (on left) congratulated Duane Jones '70, the first recipient of the School's new Jones Award— created and named in his honor in 2021.



Soprano Sarah Cooper '09 treated alumni to a soaring performance in the Danoff Recital Hall; she was accompanied by Music Department Head Pierson Wetzel (with assistance from Michael Cheng '22).





Though technically retired, longtime faculty member and former Head Lacrosse Coach Ned Herter '73 (far left) brought his usual energy, enthusiasm, and humor to the alumni lacrosse game, which drew a sizeable crowd of veteran Middlesex players as well as sideline spectators.



Receptions for alumni affinity groups were another new feature at Alumni Weekend this year, including one for AZN, the Asian affinity group. In the front row, from left to right: Catherine Yoo '17, retired faculty member (and founder of Middlesex's Chinese language program) Annie Ku, and Keki Takahara '16. Middle row: Christina Sotirescu '16, Sarah Ong '16, Alice Zhu '16, and current Chinese Department Head Zhenyan Li. Back row: Joshua Kuschner '16, Khoa Phan '16, and Gavin Fujimori '16.



What better place to hold their 60th reunion dinner than in the 1962 Room of Landry House (which was named for their late classmate, former Middlesex Board Treasurer Kevin Landry)! On hand for this special occasion were (first row, left to right) Hank Parker, Trustee Curt Curtis, David Smith, and former Trustee Chip Elfner; (second row) former Trustee Dow Davis, Andrew Littauer, Rob Paine, and former Middlesex faculty member John Tulp; (back row) Dan Bacon '63, Wells Dow, former Trustee Bill Weld, and Bill Gibson.



Paddling around Bateman's Pond proved to be a popular option for alumni and their families on Saturday afternoon.



Alumni Weekend

receive the honor this year. Also recognized were the two recipients of the Henry Cabot Lodge (1920) Distinguished Alumni Award: Tony Lake '57 and Wanji Barrington Walcott '87, each of whom has established a remarkable career—and served on the Middlesex Board.

The State of the School report given by Interim Head of School Karlyn McNall and new Board President Jason Robart '83 confirmed that Middlesex continues to operate from a position of strength, as evidenced in part by the outstanding finalists being considered for the next head of school (who was announced on June 23 to be Bessie Speers—see page 24). Their summary was followed by the Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in front of Eliot Hall; joining the Hall this year were faculty member and coach Malcolm Russell, Caroline Shettle '06, the 1931 football team, and both the 1995 and 1996 boys' lacrosse teams.

After lunch in the reunion tent—or in Ware Hall, for those who had already celebrated a 50th reunion—a series of events filled the afternoon, including the alumni lacrosse game, affinity group gatherings, and canoeing on Bateman's Pond, as well as a voice recital and a reception honoring faculty who had retired in the last few years. The evening wrapped up with the ever-popular New England clambake from Woodman's of Essex, restoring another favorite Alumni Weekend tradition after a two-year hiatus. **M**



The class of 1972 formally celebrated its 50th reunion at a dinner at the Head's House. In the official class picture are (front row, from left to right) Leland Torrence, Peter Meyer, Paul Uhlir, Dave Clark, Badge Blackett, and Rufus de Rham; (second row) Rob Aranow, Duncan Littlejohn, Bruce Barshop, and Dan Finbury; (back row) Charlie Bacon, Dan White, Einar Andersen, Sandy Gordon, and Jack Stanton.



Dean of Athletics and Head Football Coach Joe Lang was one of four Middlesex legends honored at a reception for recently retired faculty members. While Joe had just retired in June, this Alumni Weekend was the first opportunity to celebrate the careers of Annie Ku, founder of Middlesex's Chinese language program; KP Van Norden, veteran English teacher; and Paul Harrison, longtime history teacher and senior advancement officer.



Marking 30 years since their Middlesex graduation were five members of the class of 1992. Seated, from left to right, are Thalia Brine Charles, Joanna Fulman Bandte, Anna Culp, Marcia Governale, and Darryl Heslop. Standing behind them is reunion guest Steve Snyder.



The class of 2002 was well represented at the 20th reunion. Seated in front, from left to right, are Allison Kaveney Farkes, Lauren Deyscher Gojkovich, Daphne Butler Birdsey, Tory Field Eskelsen, and Holly Taylor Fabbri. Standing in back are Woody Hoyt, Justin Ansel, Byron Caine, Mike O'Brien, Tim Flanagan, Rob Boutwell, Toby McKenna, and Aaron Herter.

Athletic Hall of Fame

2022 Inductees

The 1931 Football Team

Unbeaten and unscored upon in six games, this team outscored its opponents 203-0. The team boasted five future Middlesex Athletic Hall of Famers: one coach (Robert "Pap" Foster) and four players (Harry Nacey '32, Gardner Prouty '32, Don Miner '33, and Fielding Simmons '34).

The Middlesex Athletic Hall of Fame Nominating Committee welcomes your nominations of classmates, teammates, and coaches. If you have someone you'd like to see considered for induction, please contact Director of Alumni Relations John Morrissey at jmorrissey@mxschool.edu.



The 1995 & 1996 Lacrosse Teams

Enjoying back-to-back unbeaten seasons and ISL Championships, these teams' average margin of victory was over seven goals per game. The teams featured eight future Middlesex Athletic Hall of Famers: two coaches (Ned Herter '73 and Nick Kondon '80) and six players (Doug Worthen '96, Geoff Cohane '96, Ray Turner '96, Rob Chisholm '97, Justin Oates '98, and Chris O'Brien '99). Additionally, eight players from these teams went on to play college lacrosse. The 1995 varsity team is pictured here.



Malcolm Russell

Malcolm coached girls' cross-country from 1984 to 2012 and posted an overall record of 182-69. His teams won four ISL and 18 NEPSAC Championships during his tenure, and three teams were undefeated. Malcolm was instrumental in the establishment of the track and field program in 2000 and coached that sport until 2012. He worked with multiple ISL Champions and NFHS Track and Field All-Americans.



Caroline Shettle '06

Caroline won 11 letters in her Middlesex career, including four in field hockey, three in squash, and four in lacrosse, and was a senior captain of all three sports. She was named All-League three times—once in field hockey and twice in lacrosse—and received the 1976 Field Hockey Bowl, the Rosenthal Squash Award, and the Alumnae Girls' Lacrosse Prize as a senior. She then played lacrosse at Georgetown University.

In Memoriam

C. Mitchell Draper '44

Copeland Mitchell Draper, Jr. passed away peacefully on July 13, 2022.

The son of Mildred Haire and **Copeland M. Draper (1915)**, Mitch was born on September 4, 1925, in Milton, MA, where he would later raise his own family. Following in his father's footsteps, he joined the sixth class at Middlesex; graduating with a war diploma in 1944, he proudly served in the U.S. Marines, 6th Division, in Okinawa and Tsingtao. Upon his honorable discharge and return from China, he got married in June 1947 while attending Harvard. Mitch spent his career working in the insurance business, becoming a partner at O'Brion, Russell & Co. and retiring as senior vice president at Alexander & Alexander.

Involved in Milton town politics, Mitch served for many years as chairman of the planning board. He and his wife were very active in the Milton Hoosic Club and with the First Parish Unitarian Church of Milton. Mitch treasured his large, loving family and was most at peace when they were all together at the family home on Squirrel Island, ME. His spirit will live on in the hearts and memories of the many people he touched in his lifetime.

Mitch was predeceased by his beloved wife Cheeky; three children, Elizabeth D. Graycar, Copeland M. Draper III, and **Edward H. Draper '75**; and his brother, **J. Sumner Draper II '46**. He is survived by his daughter, Elly D. Pendergast; his sister, Alice D. Williams; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His grandnephew, **Tyler L. Wilschut '21**, is also a Middlesex alumnus.

Adams C. Little '44

The School recently learned of the death of Adams Crocker Little, who passed away on August 18, 2018.

Adams, or "Ad," was born on July 12, 1926, to Helen Crocker and **David M. Little (1914)**. Entering the third class from the Browne and Nichols School in 1941, Ad decided to return to his previous school in February 1944. He lived much of his life in Cambridge, MA, working at Massachusetts General Hospital for 19 years. Ad especially enjoyed hiking, skiing, reading, and listening to classical music.

Ad's Middlesex family connections were many and included his late uncle, **Bertram K. Little (1919)**; late brother, **David M. Little, Jr. '38**; and late cousins, **Bailey Aldrich (1924)** and **Warren M. Little '51**. He is survived by his nephew, **David M. Little '67**, and his cousin, **Robert W. Little '81**.

Eric H. Sundback '44

Eric Henry Sundback passed away on June 28, 2022, at his residence.

Born on October 1, 1927, in Meadville, PA, Eric was the son of the late Gideon and Marguerite Titus Sundback. He joined the sixth class at Middlesex in 1938 and, on graduating, first attended MIT. Changing directions, he graduated from the New York State College of Forestry in 1951 and earned a B.S. in horticulture from Penn State University in 1959, practicing landscape architecture for 20 years around Washington, DC. By the late 1960s, he had added a second career, starting a Christmas tree farm that would eventually become his full-time job. With his wife Gloria, he won a national contest four times to provide a Christmas tree for the White House during the Carter, Reagan, and Obama administrations.

Eric was predeceased by his beloved wife, Gloria Hunter Sundback; one granddaughter, Bernadette Sundback; his brothers, **Richard R. Sundback '42** and **Paul Sundback '41**; and his sister, Ruth Klingener. He is survived by his daughter Kristin, his son Mark, and his grandson, Nicholas.

J. Sumner Draper II '46

The School recently learned that James Sumner Draper II passed away peacefully on March 30, 2020.

Sumner was born to Mildred Haire and **Copeland M. Draper (1915)** on May 15, 1928, in Boston, MA. He followed his father and his older brother, **C. Mitchell Draper '44**, to Middlesex in 1940, entering the sixth class. After graduation, Sumner served in the Navy for two years before attending Trinity College for a year. He then enlisted in the Army for two years and served in Korea, receiving the Korean Service Ribbon with three campaign stars. Sumner subsequently spent most of his professional career in retail electronics.

At the time of his death, Sumner was survived by his daughters, Lavinia, Pamela, and Emiko; his brother Mitch; his sister, Alice D. Williams; and three grandchildren, including **Tyler L. Wilschut '21**. Sumner was predeceased by his wife, Jean Hallowell Draper; his son, James Sumner Draper III; one daughter, Dabney D. Wilschut; and his nephew, **Edward H. Draper '75**.

Louis R. Nichols, Jr. '48

Louis Rhodes Nichols, Jr. passed away at his home on June 3, 2022.

The son of the late Louis Rhodes Nichols, Sr., and Marie Dodd Nichols-Cordingley, he was born in Boston, MA, on May 15, 1929. As a boy, he attended Camp South Pond Cabins in the Monadnock region, where he eventually became an adult counselor and met his future wife. Lou entered Middlesex's fourth class from Weston High School in 1944. On graduating, he and three friends decided to drive across the country, stopping occasionally to earn the cost of the trip. Eventually, they reached their objective on the Pacific and returned home. Lou then started at Harvard but

soon decided to head west again, this time to Utah to work in a lead/zinc mine; when underground work was not to his liking, he returned to Harvard, graduating in 1952.

Lou then proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps for two years. Upon discharge, he took a job as a substitute math teacher and discovered that he loved the classroom, teaching math at Dover/Sherborn Middle School for 24 years. In over 60 years of living in Sherborn, MA, Lou served on the Dollars for Scholars Committee, the Recreation Committee, and the ZBA, heading it up for his last 10 years. He was a lover of nature, an avid gardener and beekeeper, and a coach of various baseball teams over the years.

After being a bachelor for 59 years, Lou married Anne Putnam "Panny" Nichols. He became "Bonus Dad" of Brooks Emeny, Amy Pattison, and Rebecca Emeny, and he is survived by them as well as their families. Lou was predeceased by his sister, Cynthia Pratt, the mother of his devoted nieces and nephews.

Alanson. B. Houghton '49

The School recently learned of the death of the Reverend Alanson Bigelow Houghton, who died peacefully at his home in Pawleys Island, SC, on January 24, 2016.

Alan was born on August 3, 1930, in Corning, NY, to Laura Richardson and Amory Houghton, Sr. He attended Middlesex for two years, from 1946 to 1948, before becoming a U.S. Marine, one of his proudest accomplishments. Alan later earned multiple degrees, including an M.B.A. from Harvard University and an M.Div. from The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church. He spent the early part of his career working for Corning Glass Works and then found his true calling, becoming an ordained Episcopal priest and serving at several churches. He had a passion for philanthropy and particularly

In Memoriam

enjoyed starting and supporting charitable programs in the communities in which he lived. Alan was also a published author who enjoyed writing cards, prayer books, and letters to the editor.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Billie Fisher Carr Houghton; his sister, Laura H. Beer; and two stepsons, John Thomas Fisher Carr and Oscar C. Carr III. At the time of his passing, he was survived by three siblings, Elizabeth Weinberg, Amory Houghton, Jr., and James R. Houghton; three sons, Alexander, Alanson, and John; one daughter, Hope H. Newell; three stepchildren, Blanche Carr Symons, Scott Carr Adams, and E'Lane Carr Tipton; 19 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. His grandniece, **Sarah K. Bolster-Houghton '11**, and grandnephew, **Michael M. Bolster-Houghton '14**, are both Middlesex graduates.

J. Garrison Stradling III '49

James Garrison Stradling III died on December 28, 2021.

Born to Dorothy and James G. Stradling, Jr., in Portland, ME, on July 13, 1931, Gary entered Middlesex's fifth class in 1944. After graduation, he went on to the University of Georgia (UGA), completing an A.B. in journalism and becoming a television announcer-director at WSB-TV in Atlanta. Several years afterwards, he returned to UGA for a year as an assistant professor of journalism, also in charge of the radio-TV department of the Henry W. Grady School of Journalism.

Moving to New York, Gary worked for six years at the United Nations, holding various positions within the Office of Public Information and heading its field office for the United Nations Emergency Force in the Gaza Strip in 1959–60. In 1962, he returned to the radio and television industry as public affairs manager of WNBC Radio in New York City, a position he

held for six years before moving up into management of the NBC Television Network. He later became supervisor of unit managers, handling ABC Television Network entertainment programs originating in New York.

During the 1960s, Gary and his wife Diana became fascinated with the study of antiques, eventually giving up their previous careers to become full-time antiques dealers. They exhibited at major shows throughout the country, and Gary was often called upon as a consultant on ceramics and glass by museums and business organizations—as well as the *Antiques Roadshow*. He addressed public and private groups, lectured for many institutions, and contributed articles to a wide range of publications. Gary was a member of the American Ceramic Circle and served for 11 years as a trustee of the Jones Museum of Glass and Ceramics in Maine.

Gary is survived by Diana, his beloved wife of 59 years.

John G. Rodgers '50

John Geoffrey Rodgers died after a long illness in March 2022.

The son of Marianne and James L. Rodgers, Jr., John was born in Toledo, OH, on January 18, 1932, and joined the fifth class at Middlesex in 1945. Following his graduation, he earned his undergraduate degree at Harvard and then served in the U.S. Army in Germany. On returning home, John began a career in flexible packaging and later started a second career as a substitute teacher in Fremont USD, also volunteering for the police department there. John was an avid sailor, traveler, scholar, and practicing Buddhist.

Preceded in death by his first wife, Elfriede Thum, and his eldest daughter, Garnet, John leaves behind his loving wife; his son Geoff and daughter Robin; and five grandchildren.

Winthrop A. Eastman '51

The School recently learned that Winthrop Arthur Eastman passed away on November 4, 2016, in Houston, TX, following a courageous and determined battle with cancer.

Win was born on October 24, 1932, in Minneapolis, MN, to Katharine and Welles Eastman. In 1947, he entered Middlesex's fourth class; the following year, he transferred to the Shattuck School closer to home. On graduating, Win joined the U.S. Navy and volunteered for submarine service. After training in New London, CT, he was stationed aboard the USS *Argonaut*, where his love of all things mechanical, his entrepreneurial mind, and his perpetual curiosity eventually led to the formation of a small-loan business and photography business, as well as to the invention of multiple tools to improve the efficiency of the engineering department. He entered the University of Minnesota in 1955 and earned his B.A. in Spanish.

In 1963, Win married Barbara Luce, and together they raised three children. Throughout his life, he developed and launched several successful business ventures, holding multiple patents for his many inventions. A new spark in his life was lit when he met Cynthia "Mae," and they married on July 7, 2007, in Red Lodge, MT. Mae was his rock as he valiantly fought his battle with cancer. They experienced many grand adventures together and enjoyed spending time with friends and family.

Preceded in death by his parents and two siblings, Harriet and Welles, Win will be forever missed by his wife Mae; sons, Steve and Eric; daughter, Katie Homan; six grandchildren; sister, Marilyn Kingman; and many nieces and nephews.

Sheldon Wylie '53

Sheldon Wylie died on October 7, 2021, at Carteret Health Care in Morehead City, NC.

Born to Dale and Florence Wylie on October 14, 1934, Sheldon came to Middlesex in 1947 from the Roxboro Junior High School in Cleveland Heights, OH. After completing the fifth class, he returned home to attend University School, graduating in 1953. Sheldon then earned an A.B. at Brown University and an M.B.A. at Harvard Business School before embarking on a long career with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. On retiring, he settled in Pine Knoll Shores, NC.

It is unknown if Sheldon is survived by any family members.

Hiram P. DeWitt '54

Hiram Pettit DeWitt died in Fresno, CA, on February 5, 2022.

The youngest son of Lewis and Honor Seligman, Hiram was born Hiram Pettit Seligman on February 19, 1936, in San Jose, CA. In 1950, he joined the fourth class at Middlesex, the alma mater of his oldest brother, **Bryce S. DeWitt '39**, but he returned home after a year and later transferred to The Putney School. After graduating from UC Berkeley in 1961, he obtained a teaching credential and taught junior high and high school social studies in northern California.

In 1966, Hiram began one of the greatest adventures of his life, and discovered a new love, when he started teaching ancient history to high schoolers at the American Overseas School of Rome. While there for nine years, he married his wife Nora in 1971, and their daughter Sophia was born in 1974. The family returned to California in 1975, and Fresno became a permanent home when Sophia was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Her

brother Zoltan was born in 1978. As teaching jobs were hard to come by in the late 1970s, Hiram raised the children while Nora worked at Valley Children's Hospital. He returned to the classroom in the mid-1980s, first at Fresno City College, then at Roosevelt and Edison High Schools, and finally at Fresno State.

Predeceased by his wife Nora, Hiram is survived by their children, Sophia and Zoltan. A grandniece, **Nicolette A. Arar '13**, is also a Middlesex graduate.

Richard L. Fox '54

Richard Louis Fox passed away peacefully at his home on May 28, 2022.

Born to Ruth Pincus and Melvin Fox on April 28, 1937, Dick attended the Belvidere School before coming to Middlesex in 1950. On graduating, he earned his A.B. in history at Harvard College and then completed his LL.B. at the University of North Carolina School of Law in 1961. After law school, Dick served his country as an officer in the U.S. Army from 1961 to 1964. For many years, he was a member of the Greater Lowell Bar Association and practiced law in Lowell and Chelmsford, MA.

A member of Vesper Country Club for more than 50 years, Dick had a deep passion for golf and forged many lifelong friendships while playing the game that he loved. He and his wife Lina enjoyed their winters in Boynton Beach, FL. In his later years, Dick enjoyed taking classes for seniors at the University of Massachusetts. He was a history buff who enjoyed reading and had a keen interest in politics.

Predeceased by his parents and his sister, Joanne F. Jacobson, Dick is survived by his beloved wife, Lina Raymond Fox; two much-loved sons, Matthew and Christopher; a stepson, Justin Sandock; and a niece and two nephews.

J. Marshall McLean '54

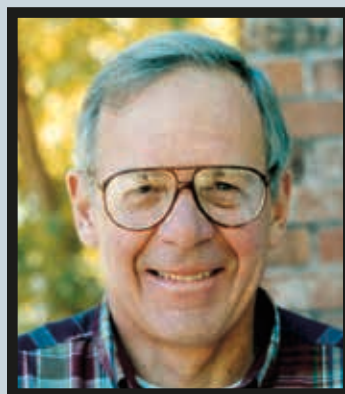
John Marshall McLean died on July 20, 2022, in Amherst, MA, with his family around him.

Marshall was born in Ayer, MA, on March 13, 1935, to Caroline Hopkins and Joseph A. McLean. The second of four children, he spent his youth becoming a star athlete and joined Middlesex's fifth class in 1949; for his achievements in football, basketball, and baseball, he was inducted into the Middlesex Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004. Marshall continued playing baseball and football at Amherst College, where he was named to the All-American team in 1957 and 1958. He was recruited to the majors but chose medical school at the University of North Carolina, along with a life with his beloved wife Cindy and their daughters.

His residency and internship in neurology at Presbyterian St. Luke's in Chicago was interrupted in 1968 for a medical tour in Vietnam at the Army hospital at Cu Chi. Settling in Peoria, IL, he had a fulfilling, 35-year neurological practice and was much beloved by his patients. Marshall chaired the Department of Neurology at the University of Illinois Medical School, taught and mentored countless young doctors, and somehow also squeezed in publishing lauded, scholarly articles in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and other publications. He was a baker, competitive tennis player, runner, rock collector, dog lover, environmental activist, and asparagus farmer.

Marshall and Cindy were active in Westminster Presbyterian Church and the Peoria Food Bank. Discovering a passion for pottery later in life, he studied ceramics at Bradley University and became an accomplished artist. He and Cindy moved to Massachusetts in 2014, and she died in 2018. Moving into Applewood in Amherst, he started a

C. Frank Hegner II '54



Casper Frank Hegner II died on April 14, 2022.

The eldest son of Nancy and Casper F. Hegner, Frank was born on July 4, 1936. From his home in Colorado, he entered Middlesex's third class in 1951 and, following his graduation, earned an A.B. in architecture at Princeton University.

Frank then spent almost five years on active duty in the U.S. Navy; he remained in the Naval Reserve for nearly 17 years, eventually retiring as a commander. For 22 years, Frank worked for the U.S. Steel Corporation in sales, construction marketing, and real estate development. After retiring from that career, he soon began another, serving until 2003 as president of Fairmount Cemetery Company in Denver, CO.

Frank served on the Middlesex Board of Trustees from 1966 to 1970. He loved his family, his country—especially the Colorado mountains—and the Boy Scouts, who awarded him the organization's highest honor: the Silver Beaver, bestowed only upon those persons who have given continued, unselfish, and effective service to the community, usually through the program of the Boy Scouts of America.

He is survived by his wife Sharon; his children, John and Gillian; four grandchildren; and one brother, **A. A. Lee Hegner '57**. His late brother, **Christopher Hegner '62**, also attended Middlesex.

new life among friends and loved ones, still staying at his residence in Newfound Lake, NH, and traveling widely in his last two years. Marshall's life was dedicated to his family, but he was one for constant self-improvement via a lifelong love of reading. He will be missed terribly.

He is survived by his brother Alan; four daughters, Betsy, Robin, Deborah, and Kimberly; and eight grandchildren. His late brother, **Robert H. McLean '55**, was also a Middlesex graduate.

Rufus S. Frost III '58

Rufus Smith Frost III died on June 7, 2022.

The son of Helen Houston and Rufus S. Frost II, Rufus was born in Worcester, MA, on March 21, 1940, and lived and worked there until his retirement in 2001, at which time he and his wife moved to nearby Marlborough. Rufus attended Bancroft School before entering the fourth class at Middlesex in 1954. After graduating, he served proudly in the U.S.

In Memoriam

Marine Corps Reserve during the early years of the Vietnam War and went on to graduate from Nichols College.

His memberships included Bohemians and Yellow Label in Worcester, as well as the Mayflower Society, S.A.R., and MOLLUS on a national level. Rufus was proud to continue his family's commitment to the Frost Free Library in Marlborough, NH, and pleased to serve on its Board for many years. Among his greatest pleasures were his grandchildren; he loved talking and kidding with them, following their interests, and attending their graduations. His time with his family was a highlight of his life. Loved and admired by many, Rufus will be greatly missed.

Predeceased by his older sister, Carol F. Paine, Rufus leaves his wife of 58 years, Mary Brereton Frost; their two children, **Rufus S. Frost IV '84** and **Nancy F. Bland '86**; six grandchildren; and his oldest sister, Helen Hale. Two of his grandnephews, **Robert F. Paine '12** and **Joseph W. Paine '13**, and one grandniece, **Hilary H. Giles '13**, are also Middlesex graduates.

Richard S. Borden II '60

Richard Shove Borden II passed away surrounded by his immediate family on July 9, 2022.

Born to Louise Mills and **Richard S. Borden '33** on January 22, 1942, Rick was raised and spent the majority of his life in Westport, MA. Following the tradition begun with his father and his uncles, **Robert R. Borden '31** and **Edward S. Borden '36**, Rick joined Middlesex's third class in 1957. On graduating, he earned a B.S. in finance at Babson College and then worked in the commercial real estate market, covering Southeastern Massachusetts for decades. He was a legendary

broker who truly loved his work and cherished the relationships he developed over the decades.

Rick served in several leadership roles at the Acoaxet Club over the years and loved to golf, spend time on the water and at the boathouse, watch his sons play football, catch up on his grandkids, and talk to people in general. He will be greatly missed by everyone, especially his immediate family.

Preceded in death by his parents, Rick is survived by his loving wife Jennifer; his sons, Chad and Jake; three grandchildren; and his brothers, Peter and David. His cousins, **Robert R. Borden IV '00** and the late **Robert R. Borden III '61**, and are also Middlesex alumni.

Francis H. Parker '60

Francis Harding Parker passed away on March 29, 2022, at The Cedars Short-Term Rehabilitation Center in Portland, ME, after declining health and complications of existing medical conditions.

Frank was born in Portland, ME, on December 8, 1941, a son of James and Elizabeth Parker. He grew up in Falmouth and entered Middlesex's third class from Deering High School in 1957; after graduating, he earned a B.A. in business administration at Colby College. Frank was an avid athlete, playing football, ice hockey, and baseball throughout his youth, spending summers racing sailboats at the Portland Yacht Club, and skiing the slopes of Sugarloaf.

Beginning his long banking career as a teller, Frank rose through the ranks to senior management at Casco Northern Bank, remaining through their acquisition by First National Boston Corporation. He later became president of Bath Savings Trust

Company and retired in 2007. Frank married in 1964 and divorced in 2013. Throughout the years, he continued to enjoy as many sports as his "bad back" would allow: weekly tennis games, fast runs down ski slopes, and golf, which he found more time to play in his later years. But his greatest love was soaking up the sun and picnicking with his family on Casco Bay.

Predeceased by his brother, **James M. Parker '56**, Frank is survived by his two daughters, Alison Corson and Kate Muller; his sister, Elizabeth "LeeLee" Parker; and four grandchildren.

William H. Noland '16

William Harrison Noland passed away peacefully in Venice, CA, on August 22, 2022.

Born in Atlanta, GA, on July 24, 1998, Will was a graduate of Fairfield Country Day School who came to Middlesex as a new sophomore in 2013. On graduating, he went on to Pepperdine University, where he studied economics. Will was a compassionate and selfless big brother to Hallie and Christopher and played the role of surrogate big brother to his family's close Fairfield friends. He shared a special bond and brotherhood with everyone who met him, but especially with the members of Pepperdine's Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

He loved casting a line near Cockenoe Island and catching the surf along the Malibu coast. He treasured the Green Monster and the Grateful Dead, fresh powder under his board at Okemo, sliding into third on the softball field, and analyzing NFL stats. More than anything, Will loved his family, his friends who felt like family, and his dogs, Fenway and Brady.

Some of Will's happiest memories included learning to surf as a

teen from his Uncle Jim, visiting relatives in South Carolina, playing chess with his Pop, and gathering at annual family reunions in the Pocono Mountains and the beaches of Hawaii with his cousins, aunts and uncles, and grandparents.

Big Will, as his parents Leslie and Pat affectionately called him, loved big. He left the world a better place than he found it.

Christine M. Kingman

Retired since 1999 from Middlesex's Athletic Office, Christine Murray Jones Kingman passed away at Care Dimensions Hospice House in Lincoln, MA, on August 27, 2022.

Born in Kansas City, MO, on September 1, 1939, Chris was the daughter of the late Harold and Catherine Wittig Jones. She attended Pembroke Hill Country Day School and earned her undergraduate degree from Smith College. During her professional life, Chris served as an assistant athletic director and field hockey coach at Middlesex. She embodied a lifelong devotion to her family, raising three sons and enjoying her grandchildren. A longtime member of Concord Country Club, Chris loved playing golf and tennis; later in life there, she cherished her close friends known as the "Pool Group."

Chris was the beloved wife for 51 years of the late Bradford Sumner Kingman, a 39-year administrator and faculty member at Middlesex, who died in 2012. She is survived by her sons, **Philip D. Kingman '82**, **Bradford B. Kingman '84**, and David Kingman; four grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother, Steve Jones.



Spring Fling!

The Middlesex Alumni Association's Gala Benefit & Auction Returns!

Four Seasons Hotel Boston
March 31, 2023



The Middlesex Alumni Association (MxAA) is thrilled to announce the return of its Gala Benefit & Auction

at the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston on March 31, 2023. This will be our sixth Gala Auction, but it's been four long years since the last one. We are planning on a full house, and we hope you'll be there!

This festive evening is open to all alumni and parents and will feature craft cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by a delicious dinner, dessert bar, and lively competitive bidding for some truly outstanding items. This benefit will only feature live auction items, leaving the rest of the evening for your entertainment and enjoyment.

Proceeds from the Gala Auction benefit MxAA events and programs, including our Summer Internship Stipend Program, Alumni Career Panels and networking opportunities, and college-age alumni gatherings. In the past, MxAA has donated over \$200,000 to the School's financial aid budget using Gala Auction proceeds.

For more information about the Gala Auction, including reserving a table, please contact Director of Alumni Relations John Morrissey at jmorrissey@mxschool.edu.





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