

Middlesex

Fall 2023

A photograph of three people standing on stone steps in front of a brick building with white columns. On the left is a young man with dark hair, wearing a red and black plaid jacket over a black hoodie with a red 'M' logo, and tan pants. In the center is a woman with blonde hair, wearing a green top, tan pants, and a patterned scarf. On the right is a young woman with dark hair, wearing a white top and striped pants. They are all smiling. The background shows a brick wall and white columns. The ground is covered with fallen leaves.

Leading
with Gratitude

From the Head of School



Middlesex Fall 2023

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Dear Middlesex Friends,

What an honor it is to be meeting so many of you around the country and the world, and on behalf of the entire Middlesex community, we send holiday greetings from the Circle here in Concord. At a time when our world is sorely in need of intellect, humility, compassion, and solutions, it is worth remembering that first Headmaster Frederick Winsor and his trustees founded Middlesex with a noble and bold vision; they wanted every student to be fully part of the Middlesex community, regardless of religious affiliation. Before Middlesex, Mr. Winsor was the first headmaster of what is now Gilman School in Baltimore, Maryland, where my father, brothers, and many family and friends attended. While times are different, as I sit now in Eliot Hall each day, I imagine that the conversations I might have had with Mr. Winsor would focus on some of the same core elements described in *Find the Promise*, Hugh Fortmiller's history of Middlesex. Mr. Winsor's conviction for Middlesex clearly included the notion that students become well versed about the importance of democratic ideals, further emphasizing a commitment to respect, family, character, service, and integrity. From all I have witnessed thus far, these ideals continue to be the bedrock of our mission.

Middlesex's mission calls us to focus on the intersection of intellect and hope. I see this intersection every day as I ride my bike across the Circle: a teacher and an advisee sitting in Adirondack chairs discussing a course; students playing corn hole and spike ball; faculty dogs (on leashes!) frolicking with students and a faculty child; students with large backpacks purposefully headed

to class; and—one of my favorite scenes—all our students and faculty walking across the Circle to the Chapel for a senior speech.

As we prepare to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Middlesex in 2026, we are called to pay attention to our past, present, and future. With our school operating from a position of strength, this is a great time to consider a strategic vision that honors both tradition and innovation, distinguishing Middlesex for generations to come. I invite you to join us as we contemplate the power of the Middlesex Circle. What does it mean to *Expand the Circle*—as human beings, teachers, educators, students, and as an institution?

Our word for the year is Gratitude and amidst this holiday season, we can all be grateful for so many things that are good and right about Middlesex. We are grateful for extraordinary student leaders, two of whom are pictured here on the cover of this *Bulletin*. I am grateful to be partnering with such dedicated and talented faculty and staff, as well as our wonderful Board President Jason Robart '83 and our committed trustees. We are grateful, too, for our remarkable alumni, who contribute to their communities and the world in extraordinary ways.

Thank you for your continued investment, love, and support of Middlesex. I look forward to learning more from all who make up the Middlesex community; please be in touch with me to share your stories, ideas, hopes, and dreams for this wonderful school as we together ensure its bright and bold future.

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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.

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Head of School Bessie Speers stands with this year's School Co-presidents, Ty Fein '24 (on left) and Therese Ejiofor '24. Image by Adam Nestle.



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Beginning the Year with Gratitude

*Opening of School
Chapel Talk*

by Head of School Bessie Speers

SEPTEMBER 4, 2023



Welcome to the 123rd year of Middlesex School! It is good to have you all back, to welcome new students and families yesterday, and to see you settling into your dorms, spending time on the Circle, and walking the school paths. I clearly need to practice my corn hole toss!

I want to start my remarks with a special welcome back and recognition to the class of 2024: the First Class, our seniors. Thank you for your leadership over the last several days. And to all our student leaders, and especially [School Co-presidents] Ty Fein '24 and Therese Ejiofor '24, we are fortunate to have you setting the tone for what is going to be a *great* year ahead.

Thank you for the warm welcome Middlesex has offered the Speers family. Our dog Nola has already made herself at home and thinks her job is to chase the geese off of every Middlesex field. Mr. Speers already knows his way around since he went here—so, as I said yesterday, I think we could say that Mr. Speers is actually entering his fourth year at Middlesex, and you will have to help me cook up something later this year to celebrate the fact that it was 50 years ago, this year, that Mr. Speers started as a student at Middlesex.

I want to say again to our newest members of the Middlesex community: Welcome! Whether you are a new student or new teacher, you each bring talent, energy, and fresh lenses. As I said yesterday, you have much to teach us, even as we teach you.

And of course, it is the Middlesex faculty and coaches who are the backbone of the School—the reason you want to come back, be in classes, and learn and grow. It is your teachers, coaches, advisors, and heads of house who believe in you and will be supporting and challenging you through thick and thin, day in and day out. Let's ask all heads of houses, teachers, advisors, and coaches to stand, so we can show our gratitude to them as we begin the year together.

There are others who have worked hard all summer preparing for your arrival, making sure our campus is in tip-top shape. In the next week or so, we will take time to thank our grounds, facilities, and dining hall teams, and other staff, who are truly the glue of so much that happens at Middlesex. Please respect every person who works at Middlesex by saying hello and looking them in the eye when you pass them on campus or see them in the dining hall, and please make an effort to learn their names and help them in any way you can.

When we think about it, this very combination of people sitting here in this chapel is unique, and this very combination of people has never been together in exactly the same way. We, together, have the power to make this year an extraordinary one for each other.





When we think about it, this very combination of people sitting here in this chapel is unique, and this very combination of people has never been together in exactly the same way. We, together, have the power to make this year an extraordinary one for each other. We are all part of Middlesex history and have the privilege of being part of a chapter in the ongoing story of Middlesex.

There are Middlesex alumni who, for almost 125 years, have sat right here where you are and who have taken their Middlesex education with them to make a significant difference in the world. No matter your background, your interests, your ambitions in life, know that how you go about your daily life here at Middlesex and what you practice by way of caring and contributing within this community will prepare you well for anything you choose to pursue later.

Two days ago, a Middlesex alumnus named Bill Richardson '66 passed away. He was the former New Mexico governor, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and secretary of energy under President Bill Clinton. I encourage you to look him up and learn more about his life. Mr. Speers and I had the privilege of meeting Governor Richardson just a

Mr. Speers and I had the privilege of meeting Governor Richardson '66 just a few weeks ago at an alumni gathering. We loved talking with him, he was excited about Middlesex's future, and it was clear that he felt great pride in his years at Middlesex—in fact, he said that Middlesex made an incredibly strong impact on his life.

few weeks ago at an alumni gathering. We loved talking with him, he was excited about Middlesex's future, and it was clear that he felt great pride in his years at Middlesex—in fact, he said that Middlesex made an incredibly strong impact on his life.

I imagine that when Bill Richardson sat right here where you are sitting in this chapel, he may not have known exactly what he was going to do in life. As a way to honor him and a way to recognize the opportunity before each of us this year, I want to share an excerpt from recent news coverage about this prominent Middlesex alumnus. Listen with an ear to what will indeed be possible for each of you—if you work hard, day in and day out, to be your best self—if you truly recognize the power of a Middlesex education:

“Richardson lived his entire life in the service of others—including both his time in government and his subsequent career helping to free people held hostage or wrongfully detained abroad. There was no person that Governor Richardson would not speak with if it held the promise of returning a person to freedom. The world has lost a champion for those held unjustly abroad.”¹

“Richardson was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize last month in recognition of his work in saving detained Americans, most recently

WNBA player Brittney Griner. . . . Over the past three decades, Richardson traveled the world negotiating and securing the release of Americans imprisoned overseas in Bangladesh, North Korea, Sudan, Colombia, and Iraq. Richardson traveled to the Congo and Afghanistan in 1998 to broker peaceful power transfers, and he met with infamous dictators Saddam Hussein, Fidel Castro, and Kim Jong-il, respectively. The Richardson Center was created [during his lifetime] to support the former governor's work facilitating dialogue and global peace, particularly between countries with strained diplomatic relations.”²

So, I would venture to say that it is not just coincidence that Governor Richardson's life's work was rooted in democratic ideals. It is important to me that you know something of the history of your school. Frederick Winsor founded Middlesex in 1901. He was committed to a school that strengthened democratic ideals, enabling each student to celebrate their own values and beliefs while being part of a tight-knit community. Winsor wanted Middlesex to be distinct from other boarding schools of the time. Early on, Middlesex sought students from every part of the country (and now the world). Frederick Winsor wanted this education to happen in a place that was warm, compassionate,

¹ Mickey Bergman, vice president of The Richardson Center for Global Engagement

² Uwa Ede-Osifo for NBC News and The Associated Press

and hardworking and would stand the test of time. Today, we are very much that school.

So do not underestimate what is already in the DNA and baked into the unique history of this school. This, combined with your intellect, power, and talent, means that you can do anything you put your minds to. As Frederick Winsor believed, Middlesex will find the promise in you, you will find the promise in yourselves, and you will inspire the promise in others!

Middlesex has a powerful Mission Statement, and I share just a few important lines that I hope will guide you and become very familiar to you: “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.” This is bold and big!

I encourage you to explore global and service opportunities as part of and alongside your academics at Middlesex. Your teachers and I want your education to happen both inside and outside your classrooms.

I interpret our Middlesex mission as calling us to contribute beyond ourselves and to use all that we have together here at Middlesex to impact our surrounding and world community. To this end, your teachers and I have begun what I hope will be a yearlong conversation to consider what it means

for each of us and for Middlesex to **Expand the Circle**. We have this extraordinary sense of place and this gorgeous Circle that is the heart of our campus. I invite you to consider ways that we each can expand our own circles, our minds and hearts—and what this might mean for Middlesex as a school to expand the Circle. We may try an all-school Circle Walk at various times during the year just to experience the Circle together.

Now, I know you have rallied around a powerful trio of words: curiosity, kindness, and courage. These are terrific. We can continue to use them and build on them. A word that I want us to throw into the mix as a theme for us this year is **Gratitude**. We are all grateful for different things in life. We are grateful for our founders, whose vision and conviction has impacted the core of what Middlesex is about today. We are grateful for friends, family, and teachers. Throughout the year, I challenge you to think about the word “gratitude” and share with me and your teachers any ideas about how we can celebrate gratitude as a community.

As we begin the year together, I also want to state the obvious: Everyone has the right to learn. Every student here at Middlesex has a right to learn, to work hard, and to be respected by teachers and students, and to be fully who they are as a human being with their full

humanity intact as a member of the Middlesex community. A shout-out to our REP [Racial Equity Project] performers this afternoon, who were superb. We will be committed as a school community to accepting, appreciating, and celebrating the wonderful diversity of identities within our community! Any disrespectful or hurtful behavior that interferes with a student’s right to learn and be a full member of this community will not be tolerated.

I look forward to a wonderful year focusing on gratitude, expanding the Circle, finding the promise, and making this the very best year ever for each of you and our school community.

Please drop by my office to say hi anytime; please come tell me your names often! I am so excited to start my first year at Middlesex with you and have lots to learn from you. We are going to work hard, challenge ourselves, *and* we are going to laugh and have some fun as we go along. Let’s make it the best year ever for Middlesex! **M**

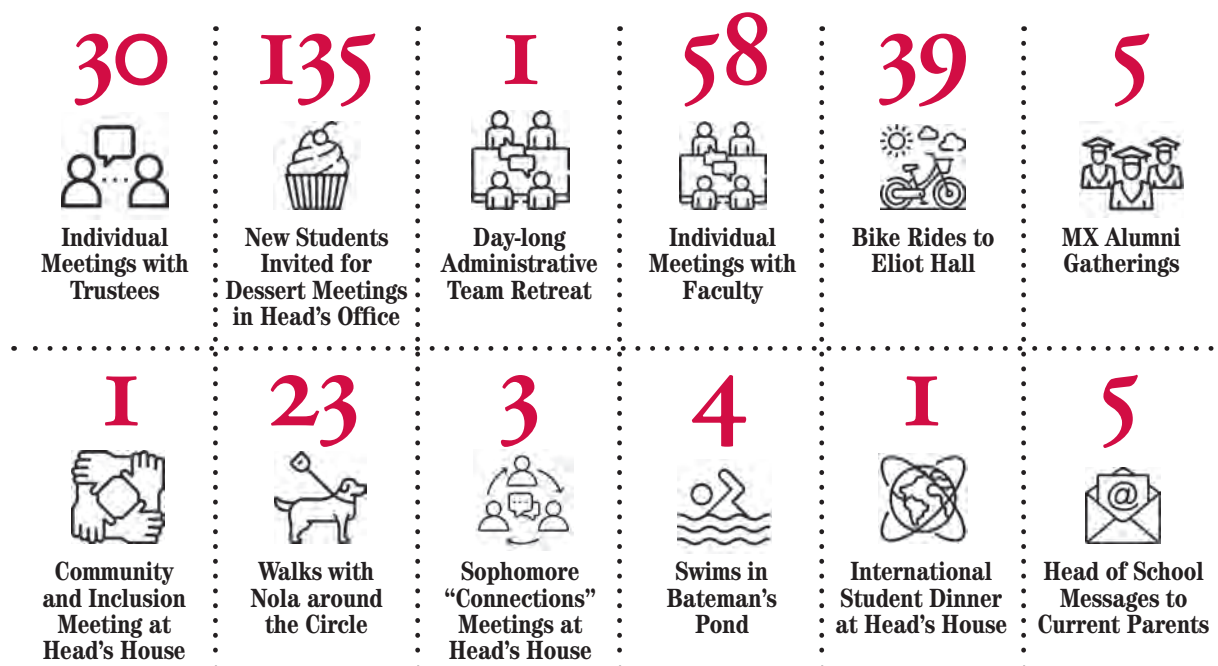
Your teachers and I have begun what I hope will be a yearlong conversation to consider what it means for each of us and for Middlesex to Expand the Circle.



Opening Days

Bessie's Transition by the Numbers

It's been a busy time for new Head of School Bessie Speers, whose first few months were filled with appointments and gatherings that connected her with many in the Middlesex community.



All-School BBQ

After the Opening of School Chapel, the entire community gathered on the Circle for a BBQ that culminated with a visit from Boston's famous Cookie Monstah food truck.



Square Dance

The first weekend of the 2023–2024 school year started with the annual Saturday Night Square Dance—a perennial favorite, even when rain moves the event indoors.



Field Day

Another popular tradition followed on Sunday, with 10 residential houses and four day houses bonding as teams while they competed in a variety of games, including dodgeball, volleyball, and even a life-size foosball game in which the students themselves were the soccer players. Kravis House and Peabody House emerged victorious, winning a dorm dinner courtesy of the Deans' Office.





New members of the faculty this year include (front row, left to right) Craig Najarian, Ravn Jenkins, Raffi Kiureghian, and Catherine Reilly; (middle row) Peggy Yoon, Frances Leslie, Roodly Jean, and Mike Voûte; (back row) Konrad Herath, Phil Harris, and Jeremiah DeGreeff '19 (who is helping Middlesex by covering a section of math this fall, having just graduated from MIT).

Introducing New Faculty and Staff

Along with new Head of School Bessie Speers, Middlesex welcomed a great group of faculty and staff members, several of whom already have strong ties to the School.

Among them are Associate Director of Admissions **Catherine Reilly**, a veteran educator who knows Middlesex well through her husband Jim '85 and his brother Walt '73. With a strong background in marketing and customer experience, Assistant Director of Admissions **Frances Leslie** is familiar with the School through her sister Genevieve '03. And Admissions Data Assistant **Eileen Matarese**—who has worked in schools for 12 years—thoroughly understands Middlesex as the parent of Andrew '24.

A dorm assistant in Peabody House, **Raffi Kiureghian** taught English at St. Stephen's Episcopal School and, earlier, at UT Austin while earning his M.A. in English. Department colleague **Peggy Yoon** has been a visiting assistant English professor at Kenyon College and a lecturer at the University of Exeter, where she earned her Ph.D.

French teacher **Konrad Herath** previously taught at Asheville School; a Walnut Hill School graduate with a master's degree in French studies, he is an Atkins House dorm

assistant. Department colleague **Roodly Jean** is a native speaker of French and Haitian Creole and has taught French for more than 20 years.

The STEM Division welcomed back **Willy Hutcheson**, who just spent two years working with Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, and added **Ravn Jenkins**, who has been a physics teaching fellow at Phillips Academy Andover, her alma mater. She holds an M.S. in optical science and is a dorm assistant in Bryant-Paine House.

Student Activities Director **Phil Harris** joins the Deans' Office from Steppingstone in Boston, where he worked with students and families as the director of middle school success.

Bringing 16 years of experience to his role, Director of Athletics **Craig Najarian** most recently led Catholic Memorial School's athletic program. Joining him are Administrative Assistant **Sue Cushing**, formerly the assistant to the athletic director at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School; Strength and Conditioning Coach **Alycia Racicot**, who has trained high school and collegiate athletes; and Equipment Manager **Stephen Remick**, who equipped Boston College athletes for 11 years.

Director of Technology **Marc Carter** has managed the myriad IT needs of Episcopal High School in Virginia for a decade. Now the assistant director of technology, **Mike Voûte** has transferred his expertise from the Middlesex Alumni Office to the IT Department.

Joining the Business Office are Controller **Joffrey Bremond**, a CPA and experienced auditor; Director of Projects and Safety **Kurt LaCroix**, who has led large, strategic capital projects for domestic and international companies; and **Amy Gleason**, who is managing the school store after retiring from teaching math.

Finally, with 20 years' experience, **Carlos Santos** leads the School's custodial team. New to his staff is **Yosili Noriega**, who joins her sister Heidi in diligently maintaining Middlesex. **M**

Middlesex Welcomes New Trustees



Bill Ho '86, Freddie Pantoja '85, and Mary Pryshlak each began a three-year trustee term this fall.

Well-acquainted with the School—whether as an alumnus or parent, or both—three new trustees attended their first official meetings in September, bringing fresh perspectives and proven leadership to the Middlesex Board of Trustees.

William J. Ho '86 was the CEO of Biscom, an enterprise software company that develops secure messaging solutions, where he worked for over 20 years before it was acquired; he continues to serve on its board of directors. Previously, Bill worked as a technologist at Oracle and CNET, and he was the founder of vVault—an early cloud-based secure collaboration platform. Bill studied computer science at Stanford before earning a master's degree in computer science at Harvard and an M.B.A. at MIT Sloan. He is now involved as an angel investor, start-up advisor, and leadership coach, and he serves on the Lahey Hospital President's Council. Bill and his wife, Mollie McPhee, have a daughter, Madeleine '23. His brother Jesse '84 and his sister Deanna '88 are also Middlesex graduates.

Freddie Pantoja '85 is a director of program and alliance management at Immunovant, a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on enabling normal lives for patients with autoimmune diseases. He has dedicated 30+ years to clinical research across a broad range of therapeutic areas and previously worked for leading global organizations, including Pfizer, ICON, and Parexel.

An inaugural member of the Middlesex Alumni Association Board (serving from 2004–2017), Freddie has remained an engaged alumnus because he appreciates the School's strong influence on his personal growth, higher education, and professional life. Freddie earned a B.A. in mathematics at Cornell University and an M.B.A. in global management from the University of Phoenix. He is also a certified project management professional and member of the Project Management Institute. His nephew, Aidan Pantoja '11, is also a Middlesex graduate.

Mary Pryshlak is senior managing director, partner, and head of investment research at Wellington Management. She leads a management team responsible for more than 100 professionals who directly manage over \$140 billion in client assets, conduct in-depth research, and provide investment recommendations for portfolio managers and analysts across the firm.

Having worked in the financial services industry since 1993, Mary joined the firm in 2004 as a global industry analyst and later became director of global industry research. Previously, she was an equity analyst covering financial services at The Boston Company and an analyst at State Street Global Advisors. She has also held positions at Aeltus Investment Management Company and Spear Benzak Saloman and Farrell. Mary earned a B.A. in economics and French from Rutgers College. With her husband Adrian, she has two children, Allie '18 and Zach. **M**



Having taught history at Middlesex since 1986, Ken Whitlock became the senior member of the faculty this fall.

On Heroism and Sacrifice

Ken Whitlock Gives Memorial Chapel Talk

Once classes are underway each fall, the first morning chapel is given by the senior member of the Middlesex faculty, who explains the origin and purpose of the chapel building. This year, that important task appropriately fell to history teacher Ken Whitlock, who not only told how the chapel came to be built but also reflected on the heroism of many in the course of history who have fought for their country, often sacrificing their lives for a cause greater than themselves.

Lives That Speak

As Ken related at the outset, Middlesex's founder and first Headmaster Frederick Winsor decided to build a chapel to honor the memory of the 10 alumni who were killed in the First World War. Quoting from the

School's history—*Find the Promise* by Hugh Fortmiller—Ken said that 186 Middlesex graduates served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the period of American intervention in the war (1917–1918), which represented more than 77 percent of the alumni. Though some debate ensued about the propriety of having a chapel at a nonsectarian school, Memorial Chapel was eventually dedicated in 1924, with 80 percent of alumni contributing to the construction costs.

"The chapel was rededicated in 1946 to include the Middlesex graduates who lost their lives in military service during World War II," Ken continued. Later, a generous gift from former Trustee Donald Lambert '41 allowed for the renovation and expansion of the chapel, which was rededicated again in 2003. "Thus," Ken said, "the official name of our beloved chapel is Memorial Chapel in Lambert Hall."

In thinking about the brutality of war and the bravery of the young men to whom the chapel is dedicated, Ken said, "The sacrifice it takes to put oneself into such danger is a heroism that few of us can imagine, let alone experience. It is not something I wish for any one of you sitting before me." Sacrifice, he noted, is heroic, for, "It requires putting the needs of others before your own needs. It requires pushing through fear—because courage is not the absence of fear but the will to persist despite fears."

Deeds That Beckon

Drawing on his wealth of historical knowledge, Ken touched on examples of heroism from the past, from the 300 Spartans who died defending the pass at Thermopylae in 480 B.C. to the victorious English Army of King Henry V at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415 to the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment's valiant assault on Fort Wagner in the Civil War. While that first Black regiment sustained significant casualties, they "proved that African American soldiers could courageously fight for their own freedom and for the preservation of the Union," Ken said.

Turning to the 20th century, Ken recounted the extraordinary efforts made by Navy Lieutenant Tom Hudner, Jr.—father of Tom Hudner III '91—to save the life of Ensign Jesse Brown, the first African American Naval aviator, in North Korea in December 1950. When Ensign Brown was shot down, Lt. Hudner intentionally crashed his own plane and attempted to rescue his fatally injured wingman.

Ken also shared the story of Roger Clayland Bigelow '44, a gifted athlete and promising school leader who expected to pursue a career in the foreign service. Sadly, Roger was among the Marines killed in March 1945 during the Battle of Iwo Jima. Of Roger and his fellow alumni who gave their lives in wartime, Ken said, “They provide a model for us as we think about unforeseen challenges we will face and the legacy we leave during our time at this great school.”

Brethren Gone Before

Following Middlesex tradition, Ken concluded his speech by reading the names of the 43 graduates killed in World War I and World War II. Though generations of students have passed through the School since then, the courage and sacrifice of these alumni will continue to be respectfully remembered every year by the school community. **M**

Job Well Done

With Thanks to Interim Head Karlyn McNall



While a national search was launched late in 2021 to find the next head of school, Middlesex was fortunate to have the leadership of Assistant Head of School Karlyn McNall, who ably stepped in as interim head until July 1, 2023. Given her thorough understanding of the community, culture, traditions, and daily operations of the School, she was well prepared to take on the role and carried out those responsibilities with her usual calm, focused approach.

A graduate of Williams College with an M.Ed. from Harvard, Karlyn first joined the Middlesex History Department in 1994, also coaching girls' varsity soccer and basketball for many seasons and leading LeBaron Briggs House for 18 years. Moving into a more administrative role in 2003, she first served as the director of studies before becoming the dean of academic affairs in 2005; Karlyn was named the assistant head for faculty and academic affairs in 2016. The first recipient of the Harrison S. Kravis Memorial Chair, she was later appointed to the David F. and Judith W. Sheldon Chair. Describing Karlyn as

“a problem solver and a fixer” at the presentation of the Sheldon Chair, fifth Head of School Kathy Giles added, “Her integrity is palpable. As a teammate, she is trustworthy; as a leader, she is inspiring.”

In addition to managing all the meetings, decisions, speeches, and travel associated with being the interim head, Karlyn became a key resource for seventh Head of School Bessie Speers, assisting with her transition to Middlesex throughout the 2022–2023 academic year. “Karlyn continues to be an incredibly valuable leader for the School and partner to me,” Bessie confirms. “Her deep love for Middlesex, her steady head and heart, and her amazing dexterity are gifts to us all.”

One special highlight of Karlyn's time as interim head was being able to hand a Middlesex diploma to her younger son Tim '23 last May. Yet, along with resuming her duties as assistant head, Karlyn is happy to be able to return to the history classroom, where she has always enjoyed the dynamic exchange of ideas with her students. **M**



(Clockwise from top left)
Ruth Baldwin, Pierson Wetzel,
Craig Najarian, and Stacey
McCarthy each merited one of
the Middlesex's endowed chairs.

Endowed Chairs Recognize Excellence

Created by Middlesex alumni, parents, and families—often to honor a remarkable graduate, influential mentor, or meaningful program—endowed chairs serve to recognize the School's outstanding teachers, coaches, and administrators while also supporting their compensation. With several retirements and a change in department leadership, four endowed chairs were reappointed this year, highlighting both the gifted recipients and their chairs' namesakes.

The Independence Foundation Chair

Initially established in 1966 by a gift from the Independence Foundation, the income of this endowed fund provides for the salary of a senior member of the faculty; a second chair for the same purpose was established in 1999 by distribution of principal from the Independence Foundation.

Dr. Pierson Wetzel has led Middlesex's Music Department since 2007 and holds degrees from Miami University (Ohio), New England Conservatory, and The Ohio State University. A collaborator at heart, he finds

his musical study most meaningful when he is working with others, whether leading an ensemble toward performance or supporting a soloist in a recital. Pierson is a firm believer in the power of music to transform and transport a listener and enjoys conducting the School's Chamber Orchestra and several choruses.

Edward H. Northrop '62 Chair for the Athletic Director

Established in 1996 in memory of Edward Harriman Northrop '62—a member of the Middlesex Board from 1975 to 1992—by a gift from the Gladys and Roland Harriman Foundation, this chair has been supplemented by a gift from the class of 1962 in honor of its 50th reunion and supports the salary of the athletic director.

New to the Middlesex faculty this summer, **Craig Najarian** served for eight years as the director of athletics at Catholic Memorial School, also coaching the freshman baseball team for seven years. During his early career, Craig coached baseball at Brandeis University, Wheaton College, and Boston College before serving as the head baseball coach at College of the Holy Cross. He first became an athletic director in 2007 at Foxboro High School and moved to Holliston High in the same role in 2012. Craig is a graduate of Saint Anselm College, where he played four years of baseball; he earned a master's degree in athletic administration at Endicott College.

The Nathanael Vining Davis '33 Chair for Distinguished Teaching

Established in 2000 in honor of Nathanael Vining Davis '33—the father of J.H. Dow Davis '62 and a member of the Middlesex Board from 1951 to 2005, as well as its president from 1959 to 1969—by a gift from The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, this chair provides for the salary of a senior member of the faculty.

Head of the Visual Arts Department and Head of Higginson House **Stacey McCarthy** holds a B.A. in art and English from Boston

College and an M.F.A. from Tufts University/The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Before joining the Middlesex faculty in 2008, she taught painting, drawing, and ceramics at institutions including Boston College, The Boston Architectural College, The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, and Fenn School. Stacey is also a professional artist whose work has been exhibited at numerous New England galleries.

The Joan A. Speidel Chair in English

Established in 2011 through a gift from William Chase Speidel '53 in honor of his wife, Joan Alden Speidel, this chair provides for the salary of a senior member of the faculty in English.

A member of the Middlesex faculty since 2013, **Ruth Baldwin** received her B.A. in English and religion from Amherst College before earning her Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley. At Berkeley, she designed and taught undergraduate English courses, served as a teaching assistant, and mentored both undergraduate English majors and new graduate student instructors; the university recognized her talent with an Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award and an Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award. Ruth is the head of Bryant-Paine House and coaches JV volleyball. **M**

The Morley Chair in Technology For Creativity and Innovation



Teacher, coach, administrator, dorm parent—and advisor to the Chess Club—Computer Science Department Head Ashok Pillai manages multiple responsibilities at Middlesex.

As Tom Morley said of his late father, John C. Morley '50, at a memorial service last February, "He viewed himself in large part as a problem solver. He sought ways to add value in business, philanthropy, and our personal lives."

Those at Middlesex who knew John well will find this a particularly fitting characterization of his long and generous engagement with the School. The father of two alumni—John, Jr. '73 and Spence '74—he served as a trustee for a total of 34 years (1966 to 1970; 1971 to 1978; and 1979 to 2002). Throughout that time, John was not only helping to raise funds for Middlesex but was also thoughtfully evaluating the School's needs in terms of its people, programs, and facilities.

With his largest gifts to Middlesex, he set about addressing those needs, first establishing the Morley Family Faculty Fund in 1989 to provide summer sabbatical opportunities for faculty members. Also recognizing the importance of keeping pace with technology in education, John created the Morley Family Fund in Technology in 1995. Combining

elements of both these funds, he then established an endowed chair that supports "the work of the School's academic technology leader who, regardless of title, provides forward-thinking inspiration and motivation to colleagues in understanding, appreciating, and using technology to nurture creativity, innovation, problem-solving, and design interests in our community."

On the faculty since 2007, Computer Science Department Head Ashok Pillai is the first recipient of the Morley Chair. A graduate of Williams College, where he received a B.A. in computer science with honors in math, he later earned an M.S.T. in math at the University of New Hampshire. In addition to teaching computer science and math, Ashok is a dorm assistant in Robert Winsor House and the head coach of varsity volleyball. He also serves as the School's program, schedule, and calendar coordinator, having recently spearheaded the redesign of Middlesex's weekly schedule—proof of his problem-solving capabilities and the appropriateness of his appointment to the Morley Chair. **M**



As a scientist, educator, and podcaster, Dr. Zakiya Whatley personified her message: Career opportunities in STEM are dynamic and varied—and draw upon a strong foundation of scientific knowledge and skills.

The Bendheim Lecture

A World of STEM Possibilities

A molecular biologist with a Ph.D. in genetics and genomics, Zakiya Whatley has been a researcher, professor, and podcaster during her scientific career—or her “episodic journey,” as she called it. “It’s more like Netflix’s ‘Are you still watching?’” she laughed, making the point that there really is no set STEM career path that must be steadfastly followed. “It’s any path you take,” she said.

Addressing the School on May 16, 2023, Dr. Whatley gave this year’s 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. Accomplished, relatable, and funny, Dr. Whatley described her personal journey, encouraging similarly inclined students to focus on building strong skills—of observation and critical thinking—to best

prepare for the future. “STEM of tomorrow is going to be different than STEM today,” she noted. “My parents thought that being in STEM meant being a doctor or nurse. I tried that, and blood is not for me!”

Her early interest in sports medicine led her to become certified as a nursing assistant in high school, but she soon switched from nursing to biology in college. Summers spent doing lab research in biology and epidemiology convinced Dr. Whatley that this might be her calling, and she decided to pursue her Ph.D. at Duke University.

She continued her studies with a post-doc at Gettysburg College and became an assistant professor there, working with students in her lab and honing her teaching style. Moving on to the University of Maryland, she served as the assistant director of the Biological Sciences Graduate Program for three years.

During that period, in 2018, Dr. Whatley and Titi Shodiya—a good friend from her years at Duke—created a podcast called “Dope Labs” with the goal of making science interesting and appealing to everyone. In their 48 completed episodes, the co-hosts have addressed everything from science denial and anxiety to nuclear energy and COVID-19. “I enjoy sharing information with lots of people,” Dr. Whatley said. “Every week, I get to do a deep dive into a different topic.” With the success of the podcast, she is now exploring visual media, developing a planetarium show about STEM with Boston’s Museum of Science.

“Nobody told me that being a science communicator was an option,” Dr. Whatley said. Given the myriad opportunities that might lie ahead, she offered this advice to Middlesex students: “Everything you’re learning—all those skills—keep them. You never know when you’ll use them.” She also stressed the importance of building relationships and keeping in touch with people. “You can carve your own way; there is no one right path,” she reiterated. “And STEM is only expanding.” **M**

Legally Blonde: The Musical

April 28–29, 2023

*Based on the novel by Amanda Brown
and the 2001 film*

Book by Heather Hach

*Music and Lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe
and Nell Benjamin*

Directed by Tom Kane

Musical Direction by Mary Casiello

Technical Design & Direction by Ryan DuBray

Choreography by Kimberly Soel

Costume Design by Kim Brown

Photography by Robert D. Perachio

With her signature pink style and positivity, Elle Woods enrolls at Harvard Law School, determined to prove she is the serious kind of girl her ex-boyfriend Warner says he can marry. As in the book and movie of the same name, things don't go according to plan for Elle as she discovers that her happiness lies more in her own strengths than in the man she thought she needed. Packed with demanding song-and-dance routines, this appealing, energetic production was acquitted by a technical crew of 33 students and a cast of 40 performers— plus two obliging dogs—all of which added up to two engaging nights in the Kaye Theatre.





"All of us have stories that are valuable," Chris Kang noted. "Think about yours and start sharing it."

Representation Matters

Celebrating AAPI Heritage Month

As a youngster in Indiana, Chris Kang belonged to one of only a few of families of color in his town—and like most children, he wanted nothing more than to fit in, "not to be picked on for my slanty eyes and for kids not to make fun of the way my parents spoke." Once he crossed the threshold of his house each day, he would leave all Korean influence behind and try to push back against stereotypes, embracing jazz and theater and community service.

By describing his personal journey of identity to the school community on May 16—as part of Middlesex's celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month—Mr. Kang hoped to inspire conversations about race beyond a simple

"black-and-white" paradigm and to encourage everyone to reflect on their own journeys.

Mr. Kang's path eventually led him from Indiana to Washington, DC, where he is the co-founder and chief counsel of Demand Justice, an organization focused on building a progressive movement to restore ideological balance and legitimacy to U.S. federal courts. Previously, he served in the White House for nearly seven years as deputy counsel to President Obama and as special assistant to the president for legislative affairs. Mr. Kang has also served as national director of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans and worked for Senate Democratic Whip Richard Durbin. He currently serves on the board of advisors of the American Constitution Society and the People's Parity Project.

An American Outsider

While attending boarding school and college, Mr. Kang said, he began meeting more Asian students, both American and international, but still found it difficult to fit in. He bristled at some people calling him a "banana"—saying that he was "yellow on the outside and white on the inside"—while others viewed him as a "perpetual foreigner," telling him, "You speak English really well," and asking him, "Where are you really from?"

Rebelling against the idea of being labeled a "model minority" who is focused solely on scholastic achievement, Mr. Kang instead prioritized extracurricular activities over academics. When he was then told during a law school interview that he was "not the typical Asian American applicant with high grades and no activities," Mr. Kang stated, "This was a pivot point for me."

Once he got to Washington, DC, he recalled, "I was no longer concerned about fitting in; I was concerned about not being heard. Representation matters. To be heard in government impacts our lives. And when you don't see yourself reflected, it's harder to dream."

For Mr. Kang, "The real revelation was when I saw how Asian identity fits into the

larger picture of being a person of color in America,” he said. The term “AAPI,” he observed, lumps 50 different ethnic groups into one label, masking the differences among them—including their different needs. And when the social construct of race is reduced to “black and white,” he wondered, “Where does ‘Asian’ fit in, and how does that create a hierarchy of race? If we are the ‘model minority,’ who are we being compared to?” All these notions, he stressed, only reinforce a narrative that people of color are competing for scarce resources, and those who are perceived as being closer to success must not have any needs or require resources.

Striving for Equity

Ultimately, Mr. Kang realized, “I needed to break free and see myself as building a new identity that is working toward justice.” He then fielded questions from the audience that concerned the future of affirmative action and the importance of seeing people of color represented in government, staying to continue discussing these issues with students over lunch. **M**

A Creative Bond Explored



Dr. Eva Zasloff (second from right) and Meghan Morris (far right) were on hand at the exhibition's opening reception to talk with students about their work in the Ishibashi Gallery.

An appropriate first exhibition for the start of the academic year, when connections that will last a lifetime are just being formed, *Befriend: Work by Meghan Morris and Eva Zasloff* opened in the Ishibashi Gallery on September 14, 2023. Members of the Middlesex community, along with the artists and many friends, gathered at a well-attended reception that evening, giving students and faculty a chance to view and discuss this second artistic collaboration between Ms. Morris and Dr. Zasloff.

An Artistic Alliance

Befriend included 13 paintings with one or more sculptures juxtaposed near them. The works clearly complemented and related to one other through form and color, “as they embody the experience of finding, developing, and sustaining friendship,” the artists’ statement detailed.

Meghan Morris, a sculptor, first met Eva Zasloff, a family doctor and painter, back in 2018, when Ms. Morris was seeking a pediatrician for her first child. The two describe feeling an “immediate connection, which

grew over time and came to include their respective art practices.” While Dr. Zasloff’s paintings frequently reflect on topics about the transformative nature of pregnancy, birth, and being newly born, Ms. Morris is inspired by the idea of forms in constant evolution: a bud slowly opening, a fern unfurling, a wave cresting. Her ceramic work utilizes hand-built sculptural forms and wheel-thrown vessels, both of which evoke organic gesture—and not only echo one another’s sweeping shapes but also mirror the arcing strokes in Dr. Zasloff’s paintings.

Productive Partnership

In the artists’ words, the works in this exhibition explore “what it means to befriend—to befriend another, to befriend all of the unseeable parts of ourselves, to befriend the world in all of its beauty and complexity.” In contemplating the amazing companionship of these expressive paintings and sculptures, their creators’ empathy and connection are apparent, underscoring the power of personal relationships. **M**



The artists' shared interest in exploring the idea of identity—and their distinctly different styles—made *Visible Selves* a compelling exhibition of the work of Kathryn Geismar and Delvin Lugo.

Visible Selves

At first glance, the works of Delvin Lugo and Kathryn Geismar are distinctly different, with the former painting with vibrant colors on canvas and the latter drawing with graphite on layers of translucent Duralar. Yet, in terms of the concepts they explore, the two artists have much in common, as both examine the complex idea of self: how we are seen by others, how we view ourselves, and who we truly are.

Together, the beautifully rendered portraits by these visiting artists comprised *Visible Selves*, an exhibition curated by Beth Kantrowitz for the Ishibashi Gallery. During an assembly on April 11, 2023, the artists shared their inspirations, dilemmas, and creative processes, providing a deeper understanding of their work.

Finding Freedom

Born and raised in the Dominican Republic, Mr. Lugo clearly recalled the moment he fell

in love with art while watching his older brother sketch a portrait. “I couldn’t believe he had created it out of thin air!” he marveled. Though he first worked as a stylist, Mr. Lugo ultimately returned to his first love—painting—and created pieces based on family pictures from his childhood. “I felt my own art was healing me and showed who I really was in a way that the old photos didn’t,” he reflected.

Curious about LGBTQIA+ culture and community in the Dominican Republic today, Mr. Lugo traveled there, a trip that resulted in the series “Chosen Family,” from which four paintings were selected for *Visible Selves*. Asking each person “to bring their chosen family,” he first photographed them and then painted colorful, caring portraits depicting “a vibrant safe space where my subjects feel at home.”

Layered Identities

Ms. Geismar traced the foundation of her artistic path to her high school drawing teacher, who respected his students as fellow artists. Though she had no notion of what his profound influence would lead to, she now recognizes that “the impact of being seen is a cornerstone of my current work.”

Her portraits in *Visible Selves* have their origin in the departure of her oldest child, Sam, who at 17 was heading to Chicago to live with friends and attend art school. “It was clear that Sam was exploring their gender identity,” Geismar said. “How would we stay connected from such a distance?” Inspired to make portraits based on their curated Instagram images, Ms. Geismar became intrigued by their likenesses that were “a blurring of distinct selves.” Emblematic of the many layers in every human being, her combined portraits express “the complexity of identity and individuality,” she finds.

Engaging and thought-provoking, both artists’ works raise questions about what people see on the outside and what lies hidden beneath the surface, inspiring viewers to consider their own “invisible selves.” **M**

Community Life Symposium

Now an annual autumn event, the School's Community Life Symposium is an early opportunity for students and faculty to consider, discuss, and address different ways in which Middlesex can be a more welcoming, inclusive place for all its members. This year, on September 23, veteran educator and consultant Rosetta Eun Ryong Lee talked about microaggressions, giving many examples of these everyday slights, insults, and offensive behaviors that people experience in daily interactions—generally with well-intentioned people—while also providing practical, diplomatic ways to deal with them when they occur.

Although microaggressions may be unintended, Ms. Lee noted, they still have a cumulative, psychological effect on people because of the frequency and pervasiveness of certain comments or questions. "Intellectually, I may know it's not a big deal," she said, at the same time realizing, "but I have these same conversations often." If an Asian American, for example, finds that they are repeatedly asked, "Where are you from originally?" they may come to understand this as a different message: People who look like you don't belong here. "None of it may be what was intended, but this is what is heard," Ms. Lee emphasized.

Because microaggressions will happen in a diverse community, she continued, learning how to respond to them in a way that will change behavior is important. The approach of telling people to "stop being so sensitive"—or sharply calling someone out on their mistake—is "not helpful in a learning community," she reflected. "Mistakes are part of the learning process, so that's OK as long as we are willing to learn and get better."

While Ms. Lee said there is no single right way to navigate microaggressions when they occur, she suggested a method for intervening in the moment. Advising students to "speak from the heart," she recommended



that they have a "DEAR" conversation: Describe the behavior; Explain the impact; Assume positive intention; and Request different behavior.

Acknowledging that it may be difficult to do this when you are the person impacted by microaggressions, she encouraged students to speak up for someone rather than remain a bystander. No matter why someone might be remaining quiet, she said, "The silence of people all looks the same. Say something in the moment, even if you are not sure it's exactly right."

Ms. Lee also offered advice on how to receive an intervention gracefully, starting with listening instead of responding right away, and then prioritizing the impact that resulted over your intention by making an apology.

"Ultimately, this is about authentic relationships," Ms. Lee said. "I hope we'll forgive each other's mistakes and learn to be better—that's the nature of inclusivity. Microaggressions are inevitable, but I hope we'll practice these skills to become truly inclusive." **M**

"Remember that a mistake does not define you," Rosetta Eun Ryong Lee assured students, should they say something that may be a microaggression. "It's how you respond that's important."

The Power of Community

2023 Graduation Speaker Afua Oforu-Barko '98



"Own your choices," Afua Oforu-Barko '98 told the seniors. "Even when things don't turn out as you had hoped, take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate the fact that you had the privilege of having a choice at all."

Ever since her graduation from Stanford University, Afua Oforu-Barko '98 has been working to make a lasting impact on people's well-being, education, and nutrition around the world through her inspiring career in the field of global health. Starting out at John Snow, Inc., she transitioned after several years there to the World Justice Project and is now a program operations director at Results for Development. When reflecting on the accomplishments that she is most proud of, though, Afua said she quickly realized that she did not achieve them singlehandedly. As she told the graduating seniors on May 29, "I am struck by how much community serves as a common theme. I am who I am because of the people who have supported me."

An Unexpected Fit

The story of Afua's first overseas assignment clearly illustrated this point. Ready for a change after eight years in the Boston and DC offices of John Snow, she was excited to spend two years stationed in Ethiopia—only to find that she was "ready to leave after three

months" when the job seemed a poor fit for her. "I was so disappointed, frustrated, and stuck," she recalled.

"But then something beautiful happened: I found community," Afua said. "I made so many incredible friends, many of whom are still dear to this day. The funny thing is that I met most of them during my second year—relationships I would have missed out on had I left early." By keeping her "grounded and laughing," she said, "They showed me how living in a fascinating country like Ethiopia was a privilege, even through the tough times."

Appreciating the Present

Contrasting her choice to stay in Ethiopia with a situation she did not choose—being diagnosed with breast cancer during the pandemic—Afua was even more grateful for her "extraordinary community" during her nine months of treatment. "So many people reached out," she remembered. "I was inundated with calls, texts, e-mails, and care packages . . . the outpouring of love and support I received still takes my breath away."

Turning to the seniors' next step after Middlesex, Afua advised them, "College is a beautiful time to try all the things," from making new friends to taking challenging classes to studying abroad. She encouraged them to set ambitious goals, work hard, and define success on their own terms.

It was a "beautiful, full-circle moment," Afua affirmed, to be back at Middlesex, healthy again and rich in friendships. "I wish this same wealth for you," she told the seniors, "that you appreciate the importance of community, that you show up in the world as people who are kind, who live their lives with integrity, who help others, and who let others help you in return." **M**

Giving Back to Middlesex

Two Receive the Jones Award

Established by the Middlesex Alumni Association in 2021, the E. Duane Jones '70 Service to Alumni Award acknowledges a graduate who “alongside their own demanding career has dedicated substantial time and effort in service to the alumni of Middlesex” and who has “shown their love and dedication to the School throughout their life, even as they have made a mark on the world.” During the 2023 Alumni Weekend, two graduates were recognized for their long-standing commitment to Middlesex.

A Posthumous Honor

Soon after his Middlesex graduation, John P. Campbell '42 served in the U.S. Army Corps during World War II and was shot down twice in Eastern Europe. Later, he would often attribute his survival to the discipline and tenacity he learned on the Middlesex football field. John went on to graduate from Harvard College and Columbia Law School, spending 35 years as a prominent attorney and partner at Curtis, Mallett-Provost, Colt & Mosle in New York City.

John served three terms on the Middlesex Board—from 1952 to 1955, from 1957 to 1972, and from 1974 to 1981—for a total of 25 years. A prolific fundraiser and generous donor, he was the founder and principal benefactor of the Walter H. Trumbull (1911) Scholarship, which, even after John's passing in 2009, has continued to grow and support football players from outside New England. “He never forgot what Middlesex gave him in terms of character,” affirmed Joe Lang, retired athletic director and head football coach, who accepted the Jones Award on John's behalf.

Fides, Veritas, Labor

A Middlesex trailblazer, the Reverend Joseph P. Watkins '71 was a talented athlete, accomplished actor, and founding member of Black Fusion, the School's first affinity group for Black students. While earning a B.A. in history at the University of Pennsylvania, Joe became a licensed Baptist minister in his junior year. After receiving his M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary, he served as a chaplain at



On Alumni Day in 1989, the future Jones Award winners were photographed with several family members. In front, from left to right, are Camilla Campbell '80, [current Middlesex Trustee] Courtney Watkins Portlock, and Tiffany Watkins Ahern. Behind them are John Campbell '42, Stephanie and Joe Watkins '71 (holding son Joe, Jr.), and Sam Campbell '69.

Talladega College and Purdue University, where he met then-Senator Dan Quayle. Joining his staff, Joe followed Vice President Quayle to the White House, serving in the Public Liaison Office. Joe subsequently started his own PR firm and later became a media analyst; he currently hosts *State of Independence*, a weekly public affairs program on Lighthouse TV.

Joe served two terms as a Middlesex trustee: from 1996 to 2000 and 2001 to 2007. The former pastor of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, he has graciously presided over many Alumni Memorial Services, also speaking at the 2001 baccalaureate ceremony and at graduation in 2002 and 2012.

For their loyal service and support, the Middlesex Alumni Association proudly presented the 2023 E. Duane Jones '70 Service to Alumni Award to Joe Watkins and the late John Campbell. **M**

Prepared for Opportunity

Hispanic Heritage Month Speaker Freddie Pantoja '85



Head of School Bessie Speers offered Freddie Pantoja '85 a new baseball cap to add to his collection of Middlesex gear.

While back on campus to attend his first Middlesex Board meeting, new Trustee Freddie Pantoja '85 addressed the school community on September 29, 2023, as this year's Hispanic Heritage Month speaker, generously sharing his own journey to the School, his experience as a student, and his career path in the pharmaceutical industry. Along the way, he also gave students great advice in hopes of preparing them to take advantage of the opportunities that they, too, will encounter at Middlesex and beyond.

Celebrating Contributions

Setting his personal story within the context of Hispanic Heritage Month, Freddie first highlighted many leaders with Hispanic heritage in a variety of fields: from Four-Star U.S. Army General Richard Cavazos to Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, from artist Frida Kahlo to award-winning composer to performer Lin-Manuel Miranda, and from chef and humanitarian José Andrés to baseball greats Roberto Clemente and Ted Williams.

As the son of parents who moved from Puerto Rico to New York City in the 1950s, Freddie proudly stated, "That makes me

100% Puerto Rican, 100% Nuyoricán, and 100% American. I wholeheartedly embrace that I'm all of these and more." He therefore encouraged students to "give deep thought to who you are," for "who you are is your strength." At the same time, he added, "But also respect the differences in others because diversity fosters strength and success, and makes us smarter, more innovative, more profitable, and more creative."

Connecting with Middlesex

Freddie's family was not familiar with boarding schools, but because he was an excellent student, he received a scholarship from the program A Better Chance and was invited to visit Middlesex. "The minute I saw this beautiful campus and met with some administrators, faculty, and students, it was love at first sight," he recalled, adding that the opportunity to enroll "changed my life—and for that I'm grateful."

His thirst for knowledge, work ethic, and enthusiastic, broad engagement made for a smooth transition, and thanks to the friendship and support of fellow students, his advisor, and especially Headmaster David Sheldon, "Middlesex became my family away from home," Freddie said. Believing that "luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity," as the Roman philosopher Seneca wrote, Freddie encouraged students to "build your skills, knowledge, experiences, connections, and credentials" to be prepared for or even create opportunities.

He also urged students to challenge themselves, to "push past the limits of your comfort zone." Doing so as a math major "with a heavy dose of computer science" at Cornell connected Freddie with an oncology researcher who wanted to computerize his patient files. That job opportunity eventually led to a successful career, and today, Freddie

manages the global alliance partnerships at Immunovant, a biopharmaceutical company focused on enabling normal lives for patients with autoimmune diseases. He first heard about this position from a former Pfizer colleague “who remains a very good friend and has placed me back into a small company where I can make daily tangible contributions,” he noted.

Returning the Favor

“You will be successful—of this I have no doubt,” Freddie said, “but also aspire to be a good person, to be altruistic.” Active in volunteer activities at Middlesex, Freddie later co-founded a summer program at his church to provide children with instruction in music, computers, art, woodworking, and sports—helping youngsters in his community as a way of repaying the unwavering support he received from his family, friends, colleagues, and many others. “I’ve thrived by working hard and staying focused, being prepared for opportunities, accepting daunting challenges, and leaning on my resources,” he stated, “but this support has been the wind beneath my wings.”

In closing, Freddie said, “I love Middlesex and hope that years from now, you can speak as highly about the School and your experience as I do.” **M**

Cass Sunstein ’72 Receives Distinguished Alumni Award

Each year since 1993, the Middlesex Alumni Association has given the Henry Cabot Lodge (1920) Distinguished Alumni Award to a graduate whose life and career have made significant, lasting contributions to society and brought great credit to the School. Given his impressive career in law, education, and government, Cass Sunstein ’72 received this year’s Lodge Award on June 11 during the 2023 Alumni Weekend.

Consistently at the top of his Middlesex class, Cass was co-editor of *The Anvil*, editor of the Yearbook, and a force on the varsity squash and tennis teams. After graduating with highest credit, he went on to Harvard, where he wrote for the *Harvard Lampoon* and played varsity squash, subsequently earning his J.D. at Harvard Law School. Cass then spent a year as a clerk for Justice Benjamin Kaplan of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, followed by a year as a clerk to Justice Thurgood Marshall of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Joining the faculty at the University of Chicago Law School, Cass became the Karl N. Llewellyn Distinguished Service Professor of Jurisprudence at the Law School and Department of Political Science in 1988. He returned to Harvard Law School as the Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law in 2008; only a year later, President Barack Obama appointed him the administrator of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

Returning to Harvard Law in 2012, Cass is now the Robert Walmsley University Professor and an affiliate in the Department of Economics. He also currently serves in the Biden Administration as senior counselor at the Department of Homeland Security.



Board President Jason Robert ’83 congratulates Cass Sunstein ’72 on receiving the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award.

A prolific writer, Cass has authored nearly 50 books, including *Nudge* (with Richard H. Thaler) and *The World According to Star Wars*. He has remained enthusiastically engaged with Middlesex, including giving the 2003 Bigelow Lecture and 2008 graduation address—and serving as a trustee since 2019.

For his work as one of our country’s foremost legal scholars and his contributions to two presidential administrations, the Middlesex Alumni Association was proud to present the 2023 Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. (1920) Distinguished Alumni Award to Cass Sunstein ’72. **M**

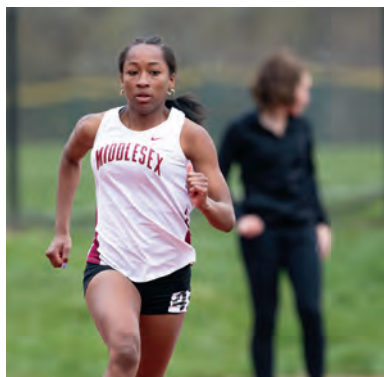
Athletic Highlights

For more sports news visit
athletics.mxschool.edu



Baseball

All-League Co-captain Chester Boynton '23 (on right) and Andrew Reid '26—who earned All-League and All-NEPSAC Honorable Mentions in his first season—defend the left side of the infield in a close game with Lawrence Academy.



Girls' Track

As part of the 4x100-meter relay team, All-League Co-captain Kennedy Wilson '23 helped her team capture third place overall at the New England Championships.



Girls' Tennis

Playing number one with grit and determination all season, Sadie Schuler '25 lunged for a backhand in a match with Milton. Along with Isla Ferrari '25, she will captain the 2024 varsity.



Boys' Lacrosse

Now playing for Hamilton College, John McKinnon '23 was named All-League last spring, along with teammates Owen Crann '25, Matt Egan '25, and Andrew Matarese '24; earning All-League Honorable Mentions were Co-captains Ged Gengras '23 and Charlie Haight '23, as well as Graham Ray '23 and Jacob Thibodeau '24.

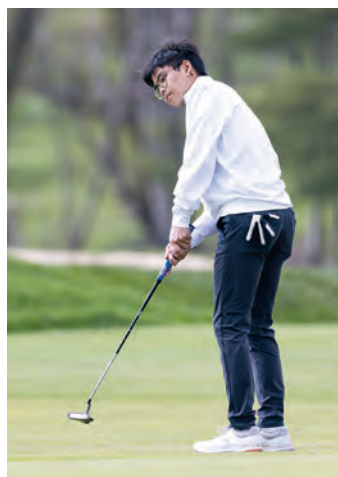


Boys' Crew

Luke Taylor '24, Alex Clapp '25, Co-captain Hayden Girolamo '23, and Co-captain Andy Chevetz '23 (with coxswain Oliver Ali '24), finished fourth in the Grand Final at the 2023 NEIRA Regatta—the best result for a Middlesex first boat since 1993. In June, Luke was subsequently selected for the Under-19 Men's Eight and traveled to Paris, France, to represent the United States at the World Rowing Championships.

Boys' Tennis

Lach McCaghren '26 set up a winning fore-hand in a match with Lawrence Academy, subsequently earning All-League recognition for the season.



Golf

Andrew Yang '24 earned an All-League Honorable Mention with his 7-3-3 record in match play last spring; with a strong 8-3-2 league record, the team was third in ISL match play.

Breaking Records

Middlesex athletes tested their skills and limits last spring, setting several new school records and bringing home a New England Championship, an NEIRA medal, and All-American honors.



At the New Balance Nationals on June 18, Lucas Mylon '23, AliJah Clark '23, Malcolm Clark '24, and Matt Wing '23 (pictured above, left to right) placed fourth in the nation in the 1600 sprint medley relay, earning All-American status once again. Last year, they finished fourth in the same event at the Nike Outdoor Nationals.

Finishing the 2023 season at the NEIRA Regatta, the girls' third four took home bronze medals on May 27. Pictured from left to right are: Caroline Ripsteen '25, Abby Tribush '26, Coxswain Mollyana Nuki '25, Danielle Lawton '23, and Thea Choyt '24.



All-American Co-Captain Ali Petrone '23 took a signature rocket shot against rival Thayer, scoring a goal that led to a Middlesex win—and an eventual school record for goals scored in a season.



Lacrosse Leaders

The 2023 season was another outstanding one for girls' varsity lacrosse. Heading into the ISL Invitational Tournament quarterfinals on May 19 with a league record of 9-2, the team defeated Milton before falling in a tight semifinal match against Governor's. Spring highlights included defeating BB&N in a game honoring Amy DiAdamo Foster '93, tying for second in the ISL with a league record of 9-3, and earning an overall 12-7 record.

Co-captains Ali Petrone '23 and Sydney Cogliano '23 were named All-League and All-NEPSAC; Co-Captain Caroline Cervini '23 was named All-League and received an All-NEPSAC Honorable Mention, while Co-Captain Margeaux Matz '23 earned All-League and All-NEPSAC Honorable Mentions. Katie Athanasoulas '24 and Esme Coes '24 also received All-League Honorable Mentions.

Additional honors capped off the spring for three seniors. Now playing for Division I powerhouse Boston College, Ali was named a U.S. Lacrosse All-American; notably, she broke the Middlesex record for most goals in a season and was second in school history for draw controls. Margeaux, currently playing for Amherst College, was named a U.S. Lacrosse Academic All-American, and Sydney, now in goal for Division I Central Michigan, was awarded the U.S. Lacrosse Jackie Pitts Award, given to exceptional teammates who go above and beyond in service to their team, school, and community.

Track Repeats Success

In Middlesex's second year competing in Division II, the boys' track and field team once again secured the New England Championship title on May 20 at The Williston Northampton School. Impressively, the girls' team moved up from seventh place in 2022 to third this year—a significant achievement.

This was the culmination of a highly competitive season during which 10 Middlesex records were broken or tied over the course of the spring. Among those who set new standards were Co-captain Lucas Mylon '23 in the 200-meter and 400-meter dash; Malcolm Clark '24 in the 300-meter hurdles and the 110-meter high hurdles; and Addie Creelman '25 in the 100-meter and 200-meter dash. Both 4x100-meter relay teams set new records, with Addie, Ellie Calo '25, Nailah Hamilton '24, and Co-captain Kennedy Wilson '23 on one team, while Lucas, Co-captain Matt Wing '23, Tim Gachuki '23, and Joey Caspar '24 formed the other. The boys' 4x400-meter relay team also set a new school record at the New Balance Nationals in June (photo above). Finally, both Yared McDonald '23 and Brendan McCullen '26 tied the School's high jump record that was set back in 2000.

Graduation 2023

The power of community and the importance of being present and supportive were resonant themes at Middlesex's 120th graduation exercises on May 28, 2023. In sharing their own experiences—whether at school or beyond—speakers touched on these ideas, highlighting the need to build and nurture relationships, to persevere through challenges, and to be there for others in the journey ahead.



Both Rachel Solomon '23 and Abby Murphy '23 now share their Middlesex alumnae status with a family member: Rachel with her mother, Mindy Berman '88, and Abby with her sister Emma '19.



Matthew Zhang '23 proceeded down the line of faculty and staff, receiving congratulatory handshakes along the way.

Diplomas in hand, the School's newest graduates headed toward the receiving line of faculty and staff members.



School Co-president M'Kenzi Thompson '23 calmly waited for the main event: the awarding of the diplomas.



Gretta Goorna '23 joins the ranks of Middlesex alumni, which already include her brothers, Jake '17 (on right) and Zack '19.



Henry Horvath '23, School Co-president Aarav Mehta '23, Lucas Mylon '23, Andrew Cao '23, Peter Favero '23, and Patrick Lu '23 lined up for a group photo.



Just as decades of alumni have done before them, Linting Ma '23 and Romy Ahn '23 followed their class leaders across the Circle.



Margeaux Matz '23 and Alex Almeida '23 processed from the Chapel to Eliot Hall amid the applause and cheering of faculty, underclassmen, and seniors' families.

Graduation 2023



After praising the seniors for having already navigated many obstacles in their Middlesex careers—especially the protocols necessitated by COVID-19—Interim Head of School Karlyn McNall handed diplomas to the 109 members of the class of 2023, including Andy Chefetz '23. "Regardless of the challenge, your presence here today is proof that you can and will persevere," Karlyn said.



Board President Jason Robart '83 introduced Valedictorian Tim Gachuki '23, whom his classmates elected to speak on their behalf. Tim recounted his early struggles at Middlesex and credited supportive faculty members with helping him find his way. Their caring example—along with that of the seniors—taught him to "pay it forward to the classes after us," creating a legacy of positive influence that will be felt for years to come. "The best way to celebrate our legacy here is to continue that example wherever you go next," Tim said.

Senior choral officers and their successors led the audience in singing "Rank by Rank" at the ceremony's beginning. From left to right are Matt Wing '23, Chase Tilson '23, Cameron Baylor '24, Owen Barry '24, Maya Dougé '24, Claire Stone '24, Parker Boyden '23, and Ella McTeague '23.



Next in line to receive her diploma, Madeleine Godfrey '23 would soon represent the third generation of her family to graduate from Middlesex. Her grandfather, Prentiss Godfrey '35, and her father John '66—along with his brothers, David '69 and Donald '76—are all fellow alumni.





Caroline Cervini '23 paused to connect with her Varsity Lacrosse Coach Natalie Martinez.



Avery Taylor '24, Maeve Clifford '23 and Iliana Tassev '24.



The family of Kennedy Wilson '23 gathered for a celebratory photo.



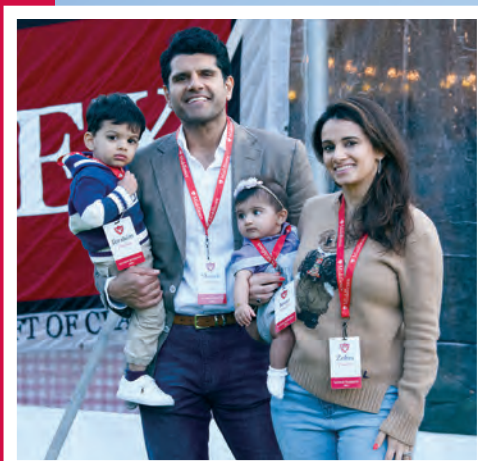
Raymond Li '23 (center) with his family, including older brother Ricky '21 (far right).

Alumni Weekend

Defying the weekend's rainy forecast, more than 400 alumni and guests traveled to campus on June 10 and 11 to celebrate significant reunions or just catch up with classmates, faculty, and friends.

Friday evening's Alumni Memorial Service was thoughtfully presided over by Middlesex's Director of Spiritual and Ethical Education Rebecca Smedley, allowing time for graduates to honor and remember friends and mentors who have passed away. While some then headed to individual class dinners at different locations, others gathered under the tent for a Reunion BBQ.

On Saturday in the Danoff Recital Hall, the day began with the presentation of the E. Duane Jones '70 Service to Alumni Award, which was created by the Middlesex Alumni Association in 2021 to recognize graduates who have selflessly given back to the School. This year, two alumni received the honor, the Reverend Joe Watkins '71 and the late John Campbell '42 (see page 21). The Henry Cabot Lodge (1920) Distinguished Alumni Award was then presented to Trustee and Harvard Professor Cass Sunstein '72, who is well-known as a legal scholar, bestselling author, and presidential advisor.



Shazeb Daredia '03 brought along his family—wife Zohra, son Ibrahim, and daughter Iman—to his 20th reunion.



Director of the Writing Program John Hirsch, who taught English at Middlesex for 33 years, was recognized at the reception for retiring faculty. Beside him are his daughter Eliza '21 and his wife, Meg Alexander, who has periodically taught visual arts at the School.



Duncan Kopp '03, Parry Sorenson '03, Jason Crasnick '03, and Matt Gregory '03 made it back to campus for their 20th reunion and the Saturday night clambake.



For her care and mentoring of Middlesex students for 22 years, Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Erika Prah was honored at the MxFAM affinity group reception, where she was surrounded by alumni, friends, faculty, and family—including (from left to right) her husband Kwadwo Ofofu-Barko '99, Prentis Robinson '07, Dereck Marmolejos '18, and history teacher Ken Whitlock.



Canoeing on Bateman's Pond was a great way to spend part of the sunny Saturday afternoon.



Under the reunion tent on Friday night, Duane Jones '70 (on left) caught up with his longtime friend Joe Watkins '71 (center) and Board President Jason Robart '83. In 2021, Middlesex's E. Duane Jones '70 Service to Alumni Award was named in honor of Duane and presented first to him; this year, Joe was a recipient of the Jones Award, along with the late John Campbell '42.



The class of 1998 enjoyed a good turnout for the 25th reunion. In the front row, from left to right, are Bethany Caruso, Jasmine Richards, Nia Hatsopoulos Jephson, Deb Willis Dowling, and Sarah Butterfield Bromma. In the back row are Nick Lombardi, Anson Frelinghuysen, Dave Mulvany, Jonelle Richards Pescatore, Sheika Luc, Jason Hoag, Afua Ofosu-Barko, Chris Torri, Justin Oates, and Chris Sahl.



During the Old Guard Luncheon, Associate Director of College Counseling Natalie Soule Martinez—who is also the head coach of girls' varsity lacrosse and daughter of Andy Soule '61—talked about today's athletic program at Middlesex; also leading the conversation was Boys' Varsity Lacrosse Coach Doug Worthen '96, who directs the School's Mindfulness Program.



Alumni lacrosse players fielded two teams for an afternoon scrimmage on Saturday.

Alumni Weekend

Summing up the State of the School, Interim Head of School Karlyn McNall and Board President Jason Robart '83 described a dynamic community that is thriving on all fronts—academic, athletic, artistic, and extra-curricular—and that is eager to welcome new Head of School Bessie Speers. Next on the schedule was the Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in front of Eliot Hall, where Michaela Calnan Johnson '07, Emily Stark '12, James Randon '13, Coach Joe Lang, and the 1957 basketball team earned entry to the Hall.

Fortified with lunch—either in the reunion tent or at the Old Guard Luncheon—alumni were free to canoe on Bateman's Pond, play lacrosse or lawn games, or attend affinity group gatherings and a reception honoring newly retired faculty. Rain finally did arrive during everyone's favorite New England clambake from Woodman's of Essex, but it was short-lived and primarily remembered for the rainbow it left behind.

Following Middlesex tradition, the class of 1973 had an official 50th reunion photograph taken before the celebratory dinner at the head's house on Friday night. In front, from left to right, are George Newson, Cliff Rones, Mary Lou Boutwell (widow of Steve Boutwell), Scott Herzog, David Bull, and Dexter Freeman; in the second row are Ned Herter, Nick Gess, Brooks Kirkbride, and Tom Coggeshall; and, in the back row, are Charlie Perkins, Andrew Brown, Toby Seggerman, and Peter Davis.



Once upon a time, while serving as the School's Director of Admissions from 1964 to 1972, Perry Boyden '57 (center) approved and signed the Middlesex letters of acceptance that young Dexter Freeman '73 (on left) and Brooks Kirkbride '73 received.



Members of the class of 1963 marked their 60th reunion with a special dinner in Landry House. In front, from left to right, are Skip McCann, Dick Seamans, Fred Dabney, and Doug Adams; in the middle row are Perry Pickert, Allen Model, Bill Mason, and Dan Bacon; and in the back row are Jeff Smith and Nick Paumgarten.



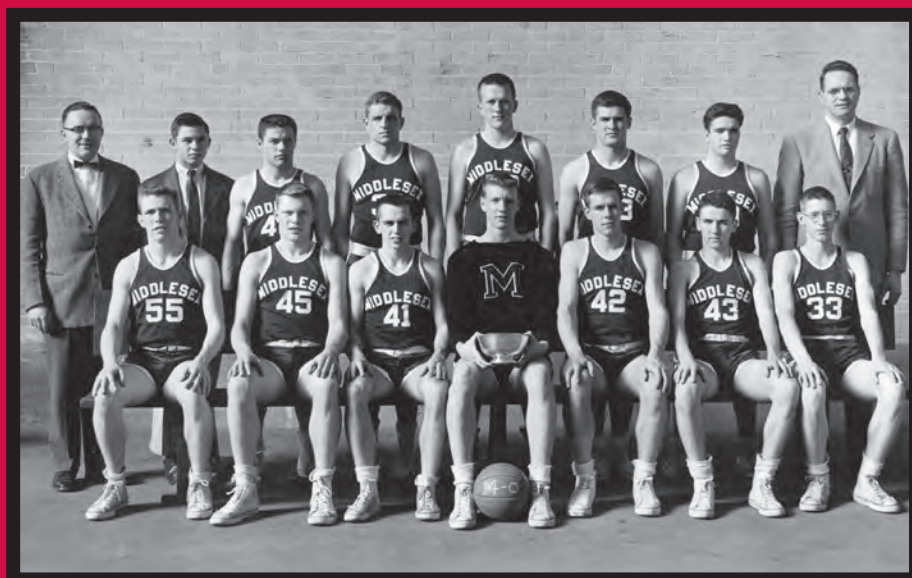
Athletic Hall of Fame

2023 Inductees

1957 Basketball Team

Posting a record of 14-0, the 1957 squad became the first and only undefeated basketball team in Middlesex history. Each victory was won by an average of 26 points per game—and never less than by 12 points. Coached by Tom Huckins and Tom Quirk, the team featured two future Hall of Famers: Sam Weaver '57 and John Vance '59.

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.



Joseph W. Lang, Jr.

As the head football coach at Middlesex from 1996 to 2021, Joe Lang compiled a record that included 102 winning games; NEPSAC Bowl game victories in 1998, 2001, 2005 and 2019; and ISL Championships in 1998 and 2003. Not surprisingly, he was inducted into the Massachusetts Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2015. Additionally, Joe coached the varsity baseball team from 1997 to 2005, winning 64 games during that stretch, and served as Middlesex Athletic Director from 2000 to 2016, also coaching tennis, squash, and basketball periodically during his tenure.



Michaela Calnan Johnson '07

Michaela earned 11 letters at Middlesex: three in field hockey, four in ice hockey, and four in softball. She captained these sports as a senior, earning All-League recognition and the 1976 Field Hockey Bowl; an All-League Honorable Mention and the Arnold-Cutler Award in ice hockey; and All-League honors and the coaches' bowl in softball. At Bowdoin College, Michaela played field hockey for four years, during which her team won three national championships. She also played four years of ice hockey, serving as a senior captain. In 2011, Michaela was a finalist for the NCAA Woman of the Year Award.



Emily Stark '12

In addition to earning eight letters at Middlesex—four each in cross-country and track—Emily was named All-League and finished first in the New England Championship race in each of her four years running cross-country. She was named the League MVP as a junior and captained the cross-country team in her junior and senior years. An All-League and All-New England selection in track as a sophomore, junior, and senior, Emily captained the team as a senior, finishing that season as the League MVP and the NEPSA MVP. She ran both cross-country and track at Yale.



James Randon '13

James earned eight letters at Middlesex: four each in cross-country and track. Named All-League three times and All-New England four times in cross-country, he finished second in the New England Championship race as a sophomore and won it as a two-year team captain and League MVP. A two-year track captain, James was named All-League and All-New England each year, meriting the NEPSA MVP title as a junior. Running cross-country and track at Yale, he was the first to run a sub four-minute mile there. As a senior, he won the Ivy League Cross-Country Championship, was named the Most Outstanding Runner in indoor track, and was the 1500-meters All-American. After college, James pursued a professional track career, ranking as high as eighth in a USATF National Championship and 53rd in the world. Returning to coach at Middlesex, he helped the cross-country team achieve an undefeated season and the track team capture the NEPSA DII Championship in 2019.

Alumni Events

The Kingman Cup Alumni & Parent Golf Tournament October 16, 2023

Sponsored annually by the Middlesex Alumni Association, this year's Kingman Cup Tournament was hosted by Trustee Ted Mehm '83 at the Hyannisport Golf Club on Cape Cod. There, 16 groups of golfers competed for the honor of claiming the silver trophy named for the late Brad Kingman (who memorably served on the Middlesex faculty from 1960 to 1999).



Head of School Bessie Speers was joined by current parent Lee Counselman and retired faculty member Paul Harrison.



The Winning Foursome: Greg Maheras, Trustee Ted Mehm '83, Trustee Bill Ho '86, and Guthrie Speers, son of Bessie and Tom Speers '76.



Tom McNamara '74, Mark Kelly, Nick Kondon '80, and Phil Kingman '82, son of Brad Kingman.



Brian Cloherty '19, Greg Paolino '08, Trustee Rob Trumbull '00, and Nick Crocker '00.

New York Alumni & Parent Reception

Middlesex graduates and parents in the vicinity of New York City enjoyed the chance to meet and talk with new Head of School Bessie Speers at Manhattan's Ivy Terrace on October 11, 2023.

LEFT: Head of School Bessie Speers, Tracy MacKenzie '05, and Middlesex Alumni Association President Alex Hanken Russell '08 with her husband Brian.



RIGHT: Bessie's husband, Tom Speers '76 (on right) was on hand to catch up with fellow alumni and current parents like Marianna Nuñez and Juan Sabater.



LEFT: Andrew Brown '73, Head of School Bessie Speers, and Taylor Portlock '22.



RIGHT: Middlesex's Board President Jason Robart '83 shared the trustees' confidence in Bessie's proven leadership, as evidenced by the strong start to this school year.



LEFT: Deb Willis Dowling '98, Odamea Akomah Gbamuse '04, and Trustee Charlie Maddock '00.



RIGHT: John Perkins '67, Head of School Bessie Speers, Sam Bell '68, and former Trustee Sandi Pei '68.

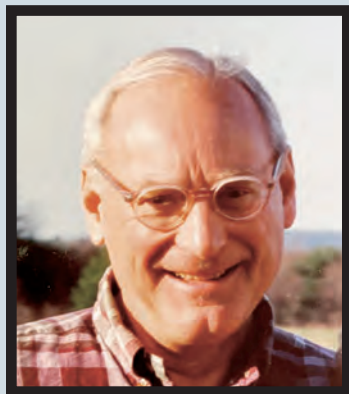


Colin McCabe '18,
Ashley Altschuler
Head of School
Bessie Speers,
Sophie MacKeigan '18,
Clarissa Hurley '19,
Mira Handa '19,
Pennie Gould '17,
Matt Kasanoff '17, and
Kricket Drewes '19.



In Memoriam

K. Hyde Brownell '46



Kenneth Hyde Brownell passed away on April 25, 2023, in Shelburne, VT.

Born on December 17, 1927, in Greenwich, CT, Hyde entered the fourth class at Middlesex in 1942. After graduating, he earned a B.A. in history at Yale University, where he rowed on the varsity lightweight crew. Hyde enlisted in the

U.S. Navy and graduated from Officer Candidate School; he saw active duty during the Korean War, serving as an intelligence officer with the VF-51 Aircraft Carrier Fighter Squadron. Following military service, he earned an M.B.A. from Stanford University in 1955.

In 1957, Hyde married the love of his life, Esther "Meadie" McAlpin, and they settled in Greenwich, CT. Following in his father's footsteps, he embarked on a career in the metals and mining industry. Hyde held executive positions with the American Smelting and Refining Company and Freeport Minerals Company, becoming the director of global sales and marketing at Freeport. He retired in 1981, first resettling with Meadie in North Yarmouth, ME, before moving in 2010 to Shelburne, VT, to be closer to family and their cabin in the Adirondacks.

Hyde served as a board member for numerous institutions, including the Brunswick School, the Bruce Museum, and Maine Medical Center; he was a Middlesex trustee from 1968 to 1971 and served as a class agent for several years. An avid outdoorsman, Hyde loved his dogs and the sporting life, spending time camping, hunting, or fishing with family. A passionate conservationist, he traveled extensively with Meadie to expand his knowledge of wildlife and the natural world. Kind and warm-hearted, Hyde will be long remembered as a man of deep character and conviction.

Predeceased by his sister, Ann Thomas, in 2002 and by Meadie in 2016, Hyde is survived by his three sons; Ken, Tom, and George; three grandchildren; his brother, Jonathan N. Brownell '53; and many nieces and nephews, including James Hayden Brownell '82.

Charles E. Beckman '46

Charles Elliott Beckman passed away peacefully on April 12, 2023, at his home in Savannah, GA.

Charlie was born in New Bedford, MA, on May 15, 1928, the son of Lucy and Carl Beckman and brother of Mary Alice Huidekoper. He grew up in New Bedford and attended Middlesex for two years before enrolling at Tabor Academy; Charlie graduated from Babson College in 1949. After he married Frederica Towle in 1950, the couple settled in Dartmouth, where they raised their family. Charlie worked in the family marine supply business, C. E. Beckman Company, for his entire life—first, with his father and then with his son and grandson.

After the death of his first wife, Charlie married Marguerite in 1997, and they enjoyed retirement life together in Nonquitt, MA, and Savannah, GA. He enjoyed word puzzles, card games, and competition of any sort. Charlie was an avid golfer, sailor, and stamp collector, and he loved taking his family sailing in Buzzards Bay on the *Mother Goose*.

Charlie is survived by his second wife Marguerite; his four children, Bettina Beckman, Marianne Henderson, Carl Beckman, and Ellen Williams; ten grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

where he was the valedictorian of his class in 1951. Malcolm continued further studies at MIT for five years but left for a summer job at Raytheon that occupied him for the next 37 years. A principal engineer there, he authored five papers and additional patents; Malcolm was particularly proud of his work on the navigation system of the Apollo V rocket to the moon and his years contributing to space exploration. He was known for nurturing young talent and encouraging others to go into the field of programming.

Malcolm married Constance, his lifelong love, in 1966 and had happy homes with her and their daughter Holly in Concord and Medfield, MA, and in Center Harbor, NH. After retirement, they moved to Winter Park, FL. Malcolm participated in many clubs during his years in Florida and also volunteered his time teaching calculus and advanced math because for him "math was play!" For the past three years, he again lived in Concord, MA, connecting with his neighbors and visiting frequently with family.

Preceded in death by his parents, his beloved wife Connie, and his brothers, Frank, Donald, and Gordon, Malcolm is survived by his daughter Holly; his grandchildren, Ruth and Daniel; his sisters, Brooke Lynes and Nancy Frazier Herman; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Malcolm Frazier '47

Malcolm Frazier died peacefully on August 8, 2023, following a long battle with lung cancer.

The third son of Francesca and Francis Frazier, Malcolm was born on October 23, 1929, in Cambridge, MA, and spent his early years on a ranch near Pyramid Lake, NV. He returned east to reside in Cambridge, attending Shady Hill School before joining the fourth class at Middlesex in 1943. On graduating, he went to Williams College,

William A. Percy, Jr. '51

William Armstrong Percy, Jr. died in his sleep on October 30, 2022.

Bill was born on December 10, 1933, in Memphis, TN, and entered Middlesex's third class as a Prize Scholar in 1948. On graduating with high credit and as the class valedictorian, he headed to Princeton University, leaving there at the end of his sophomore year. Bill then worked in an Alaskan gold mine, hitchhiked to Seattle, enlisted in the Army, served at the Army language school in Monterey, CA, and was a French

interpreter for the CIA on Saipan. After active duty, he earned a B.A. in history at the University of Tennessee in 1957. Joining the doctoral program at Cornell University, Bill spent a year of research at the University of Naples before returning to Princeton to earn his Ph.D. He spent much of his career in higher education, teaching at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

In 1973, Bill came out, publishing articles on homosexuality in the *Gay Community News*. He also continued his traditional scholarship as co-author of *The Age of Recovery: The Fifteenth Century*. Bill was co-associate editor of the *Encyclopedia of Homosexuality* and combined his expertise in ancient and medieval history and interest in gay subjects with many scholarly articles, short notes, and book reviews. After his retirement in 2011, Bill held visiting professional positions at Washington University in St. Louis, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Northeastern University, Norfolk Correctional Facility, and Norfolk State Prison.

Bill is survived by his longtime partner, Barry Ahern, and by his sister, Anne Percy Knott.

Landon Thomas '52

Landon Thomas died in Lincolnville, ME, on March 18, 2023.

Landon was born on July 4, 1934, in New York City to Mary Darcy Kellogg and **Landon Thomas (1905)**. After attending Aiken Preparatory School in South Carolina, he followed family tradition by enrolling at Middlesex in 1948 and then went to Harvard, graduating with a degree in German literature in 1956. His junior year was spent at the University of Munich. While a college sophomore, Landon enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, completing boot camp and training during the summers. He left the Marine Corps in 1958 as a first lieutenant and moved to New York City.

From 1961 until his retirement in 1999 as vice chairman, Landon worked for Fiduciary Trust Company International. He served on the Board of Trustees of Robert College in Istanbul, Turkey, the Children's Storefront in New York, and the Islesboro Community Fund in Maine. Landon will be remembered for his delight in the Yankees, baroque music, looking out at Penobscot Bay, strolling through the streets of Istanbul, and introducing a grandchild to overseas travel, as well as for his loyalty, kindness, and quiet wit.

Landon was predeceased by his beloved second wife, Elizabeth Morgan Kinnicutt, and his sister, Cornelia Anne Thomas. He is survived by his sister, Mary Darcy Thomas Burgund; his ex-wife, Gladys Roberts Thomas; his three children, **Landon Thomas, Jr. '82**, **Stephanie B. Thomas '84**, and **Frederic W. Thomas**; and three grandchildren, including **Cornelia A. Thomas '18**. Many of Landon's cousins share his Middlesex legacy, including **Thomas M. Clay '03**, **Richard T. Clay '05**, and **Landon H. Clay '07**, as well as his late cousins, **Cassius M. Clay '42**, former Middlesex Trustee **Landon T. Clay '44**, and **Harris Clay '45**.

William DeFord, Jr. '55

William DeFord, Jr. died of COVID-19 on March 20, 2023, after a 10-year struggle with Alzheimer's.

The only son of William and Elinor DeFord, Bill was born on September 12, 1937, in Brookline, MA, and was raised in nearby Lincoln. His education began at the Fenn School and, after graduating in 1951, he entered the fourth class at Middlesex. On receiving his diploma, he went to Harvard College; Bill proudly enrolled in the Army ROTC and was commissioned as a second lieutenant at the time of his graduation in 1959. He served in the Army Reserves for eight years, retiring with the rank of captain.

Charles C. Alexander '53



Charles Christian Alexander passed away peacefully in his sleep at home on June 19, 2023.

Charlie was born in Cambridge, MA, on February 22, 1936, to Virginia G. Alexander and William D. Alexander (legendary Middlesex teacher and coach from 1943 to 1971). Raised on the School's

campus, Charlie graduated from Middlesex and, decades later, served as a trustee from 2010 to 2019. He earned a B.A. at Williams College and an M.A.T. at Harvard; a Fulbright Scholar in 1964 at the American Academy in Rome, he subsequently received an M.A. in classics from Trinity College in 1968.

In 1958, Charlie began his career in education as a fellow at Phillips Andover Academy. He went on to teach at William Penn Charter School before joining the faculty at Groton School in 1960. For 48 years, Charlie committed his life to Groton and, through his humility, scholarship, loyalty, and passion, exhibited all the traits of a dedicated boarding school teacher, coach, advisor, and mentor. Together, Ann and Charlie ran a household of hospitality and raised their four children in the backdrop of the school, feeling fortunate to be part of such a stimulating community.

In 2008, Charlie and Ann retired to South Dartmouth, MA, where Charlie enjoyed birding, watching Red Sox games, and visiting with family and friends, especially around a dinner table filled with lively conversation. He will be remembered for his grammar lessons and funny quips, his obsession with seashells and antique clocks, and his full head of cotton-like white hair.

Charlie is survived by his wife Ann; three children, **Sarah A. MacEachern**, **C. Christian Alexander, Jr.**, and **Katherine A. Sears**; and nine grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents; his brother, **William D. Alexander, Jr. '52**; and his daughter, **Elizabeth W. Alexander**.

In Memoriam

William B. Richardson '66



The Honorable William Blaine Richardson died in his sleep at his home in Chatham, MA, on September 1, 2023.

Born in Pasadena, CA, to Maria Luisa and William Richardson on November 15, 1947, Bill grew up in Mexico City, where his father was a U.S. bank executive. He joined the

fifth class at Middlesex in 1961 and distinguished himself early on as a rare fifth classer playing on the varsity baseball team. Considered to be one of the best pitchers in school history, Bill was deservedly inducted into Middlesex's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006. After graduating, he went on to pitch at Tufts University, where he completed his undergraduate degree before earning a master's degree in international affairs at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

For more than 30 years, Bill led a distinguished public service career as a U.S. congressman (1982–1996), U.S. ambassador to the United Nations (1997–1998), and secretary of energy under President Bill Clinton (1998–2000). As a diplomat and special envoy, he received four Nobel Peace Prize nominations and successfully won the release of hostages and American servicemen in North Korea, Cuba, Iraq, and the Sudan.

Elected governor of New Mexico in 2002, Bill served for two terms. In 2008, he sought the Democratic nomination for president, dropping out after the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary. After entering life as a private citizen in 2011, Bill authored three books, served on several nonprofit and for-profit boards, and started two foundations: The Richardson Center for Global Engagement, focusing on conflict resolution and prisoner release, and the Foundation to Preserve New Mexico Wildlife.

In addition to many honorary degrees from institutions of higher learning and numerous other recognitions, Bill was honored with Middlesex's Distinguished Alumni Award in 1997.

Bill is survived by his wife Barbara. His late cousins, **Brainerd R. Taylor (1922)**, **Harold Taylor (1927)**, and **Brainerd O. Taylor '57**, were all Middlesex alumni, as is his sister-in-law, **Nancy Flavin Lord '76**.

Bill was a gifted athlete who enjoyed nearly all sports, playing football and hockey at Middlesex. He played four years of varsity hockey at Harvard, winning a gold medal on the undefeated Ivy League Championship team in 1957. Upon graduation, he was honored with an invitation to play on the 1960 Olympic team.

After a long professional career in the fine paper industry, Bill retired in 1998 as vice president of Wilcox, Walter Furlong & Company. Over the decades, he mentored numerous young people and volunteered his weekend time on the Codding School Board of Directors.

Bill delighted in fatherhood, sharing with his children his expertise and breadth of knowledge in sailing, skating, fishing, gardening, wind direction, and the ever-shifting tides. His uncanny ability to repair all things broken earned him the nickname "Mr. Fix-it." His marriage of 62 years was filled with a variety of projects that he and Kay undertook. In 1998, they moved from their home in Concord, MA, to Chatham on Cape Cod, buying the Cranberry Inn (now the Chatham Inn); for 15 years, the inn provided Bill with ample projects to fill his time. His loving nature lives on through his family and everyone who knew him.

In addition to his devoted wife Kay, Bill leaves their four children, Laura King, Anne Milne, Lise Wilson, and William DeFord; seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter; and his sister, Elinor "Daisy" Crane.

Edwin L. Raflowitz '59

The School recently learned of the death of Edwin Lee Raflowitz, who passed away suddenly on October 4, 2018.

Born on January 19, 1941, Edwin was the son of the late Betty Fleisher and Max Raflowitz. Raised in Great Barrington, MA, he entered the fifth class at

Middlesex in 1954 and, after completing the third class, transferred to Worcester Academy in 1957. Unfortunately, additional information about Edwin's career after Middlesex could not be found.

Edwin was survived by three sons, Brett, David, and Steven; five grandchildren; and his sister Doranne.

Williston C. Rich III '64

Williston Canfield Rich III passed away on August 16, 2023, after suffering a heart attack.

Born to Grace Henderson and Williston C. Rich, Jr., on September 14, 1946, Bill joined Middlesex's fourth class in 1960 and, following graduation, spent a year working for American Express. He then served in the Marine Corps and earned a B.A. in English at Rutgers University before starting his career on Wall Street. After six years as a stockbroker and a short stint in publishing, Bill began working for the Container Corporation of America, continuing with the company when it became part of Jefferson Smurfit Corporation. Initially retired in 2007, he decided to return to work, this time for Temple-Island, Inc. for several years.

Predeceased by his wife of 33 years, Lynn Diane Rybak Rich, in September 2019, Bill is survived by his partner, Lynn Marie Copeland, and by his cousins.

Richard W. Bodman '65

Richard Wainwright Bodman died on March 28, 2023.

Dick was born on August 19, 1947, and attended St. Stephen's School in Alexandria, VA, prior to enrolling in the fourth class at Middlesex, the alma mater of his father, **Nicholas C. Bodman '31**. Routinely at the top of his class, Dick received his diploma with highest credit and continued his education at Harvard, graduating in 1969. He then served in the

Peace Corps for two years and taught English at a high school in Afghanistan; that experience and the friends he made during that time remained highlights of his life. On returning to the U.S., Dick earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in Chinese literature at Cornell University.

A professor of Asian studies at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, as well as a poet and polyglot, Dick loved his family and friends, cats, and promoting cross-cultural understanding. He was pivotal in establishing a continuing relationship of exchanging scholars and students with East China Normal University in Shanghai. Dick also taught many classes for the Cannon Valley Elders Collegium about China, Afghanistan, and the writings of Ursula Le Guin.

Dick was a meticulous collector of books, posters, art, and other materials about China, as well as information relating to Bodman family history. In reading sympathy cards, his family has been especially moved by tributes to Dick's kindness, humor, fellow feeling, and generosity. They remain grateful for all the support they received from his friends, both during his illness and since.

Dick is survived by his wife, Hongyuan Lang, a daughter, Jiao Zhang; a grandson, Ben Wang; his sister, Anne Bodman; and friends around the world.

Jonathan W. Fisher '66

Jonathan Waters Fisher died peacefully on October 24, 2022, at the University of Vermont Medical Center after a short, aggressive battle with acute myeloid leukemia.

Born to Sally and Ralph Fisher on June 11, 1948, in Washington, DC, Jon lived in Korea, Ethiopia, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Nyasaland (now Malawi), and Uganda while his family was stationed abroad with the foreign service. He joined his older

brother, **Galen M. Fisher IV '65**, at Middlesex in 1963 and, after graduating, went on to earn a degree in anthropology at Pomona College, studying primatology with Alan Walker at Makerere University in Uganda. Jon received a master's in public health from Yale University in 1979 after working on a country-wide nutrition survey in Lesotho.

Between his studies, Jonathan spent time motorcycling across Europe, working in the sugar cane fields of Kauai, summiting Mt. Kilimanjaro and road-tripping across Africa in a VW Beetle, homesteading with his brothers in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, traveling to Central America by VW Bus, and working at Plantation Farm Camp in Northern California. In 1981, Jonathan began working at the University of Vermont on a USAID grant that brought him to Honduras, Haiti, and Uganda. He met his wife, Molly McClaskey, while working at UVM, and they married in 1984.

An involved and supportive father, Jon coached soccer teams and attended mountain bike races, horse shows, and ski races. At this time, he transitioned to working as a realtor with Akin Associates in Charlotte, VT, and from 1990-2021, Jon served the town as a volunteer zoning board member in various roles. He will be remembered as a gentle, kind, generous, and devoted son, brother, father, grandfather, and friend.

Jon is survived by his son William and daughter Emily; three grandchildren; his brothers, Galen, Timothy, and Anthony; and his ex-wife, Molly McClaskey.

Karl D. Riemer '68

Karl Davis Riemer died on August 4, 2023.

The son of Karl and Louise Riemer, Karl was born on June 6, 1950, and graduated from Dexter School before joining the fifth

class at Middlesex in 1963. After receiving his diploma, he attended Boston University and Emerson College. Career choices reflected Karl's various passions, including designing and installing high-end sound systems and logging hundreds of weekly miles as a bicycle courier. A voracious reader, he shared his strong opinions on local, national, and international politics while simultaneously mastering the art of computer golf and other digital competitions. Despite a 26-year battle with cancer, Karl never lost his zeal and appreciation for the gift of life. He will be deeply missed for his insights, music knowledge, advice on motorcycle trips, humor, generosity, and magnetic personality.

Predeceased by his father and his brother, **Henry F. Riemer '73**, Karl is survived by his mother; his sisters, Louise C. Riemer and Elizabeth R. Reece; his nephew and niece; and a long list of dear friends and loyal caregivers.

John H. Simonds, Jr. '69

John Howland Simonds, Jr. died on February 12, 2023, in Rancho Mirage, CA, of catastrophic injuries suffered when he was hit by a car while riding his bike.

Born on November 27, 1951, John grew up in Fitchburg, MA, and Northeast Harbor, ME. After graduating from the Applewild School, he joined Middlesex's third class in 1966. On receiving his diploma, he went on to graduate from the University of Massachusetts and Columbia University and had a long career with the Small Business Association.

John felt that education was the door to growth and opportunity, and he supported many individuals and educational organizations in the pursuit of their goals. His generosity was manifest in his volunteer service and his contributions to community organizations and organizations that fought for equality for all people.

John lived his life to the fullest. Infinitely curious from a young age, he travelled the world and spent the last 25 years living in San Francisco and Stateline, Nevada, where he loved the open expanses of the West. With boundless energy, he loved to bike, hike, ski, sail, and kayak. John's sense of humor was legendary, to the delight of his family and friends. Generous in spirit and steadfast, he could be depended on for support, help, and loyalty.

Predeceased by his parents, Patricia Spencer and **John H. Simonds '35**, and his uncle, **Gifford K. Simonds, Jr. '32**, John is survived by his beloved husband, Dan Swilley; Dan's daughter Dana; and his siblings, Patsy, Elizabeth, Jane, and **Spencer W. Simonds '71**. John was also the adored bio-parent to Kip Risch-Andrews.

Charles H. van Horne '69

Charles Henry van Horne passed away surrounded by his family on April 16, 2023.

The son of Suzanne B. Iselin and Warren G. van Horne, Charlie was born in Mount Kisco, NY, on June 1, 1951. He attended the Bedford-Rippowam School before entering the fourth class at Middlesex in 1965 and, on graduating, earned a B.A. in sociology at the University of Pennsylvania.

In addition to a career in finance spanning over 45 years, Charlie was an abstract artist, with paintings, sculptures, and mobiles exhibited in New York, London, and Rensselaerville, NY. He served on the board of the Roothbert Fund and the Art Students League of New York. An avid collector, medievalist, and wine connoisseur, he was an exceptional father, husband, and friend to so many.

Charlie is survived by his wife of 40 years, Alexandra; their children, Camille and Nicholas; and his sister Patty.

In Memoriam

Ernest E. Pittelli



Retired Middlesex faculty member **Ernest E. Pittelli** died on **October 16, 2023**, at **Rogerson House**, his place of residence for the past three years in Boston.

Ernie was the son of **Stephen and Catherine Gatto Pittelli**, both of whom immigrated to the United States as children. Ernie's boyhood was spent

first in **Kulpmont, PA**, while his father was a coal miner, and later in **Philadelphia**, where his parents operated a grocery store. He graduated from **Villanova University** and earned a **Ph.D.** in theoretical physics from the **University of Pennsylvania**. During the **Apollo moon program**, Ernie worked at **NASA's Electronics Research Center** in **Cambridge, MA**, researching semiconductors that can operate in high-temperature and high-radiation environments. When the center was closed during the **Nixon Administration**, he began his **30-year career** at **Middlesex**, teaching physics, astronomy, and philosophy of science.

After his retirement in **2000**, Ernie continued to exercise his outstanding classroom skills by leading numerous courses at the **Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement**, where he was once awarded a standing ovation. His primary interest at that stage in life was history, and he often said that he wished he'd chosen history over physics. Ernie's heroes were **Guiseppe Garibaldi** and **Bertrand Russell**, who had a profound influence on his philosophy of life.

Ernie is survived by his partner of **34 years**, **Martha Spaulding**; his children by his former wife, **Alexandra Wilson**, **Lauren Pittelli**, **David W. Pittelli '83**, and **Randal L. Pittelli '86**; Martha's daughter, **Rachel Greenberger**; his grandchildren, **Catherine S. Pittelli '20** and **Alexander S. Pittelli '22**; and his brother **Joseph**.

Henry F. Riemer '73

Henry Fessenden Riemer died on **August 27, 2022**.

Born on **January 6, 1955**, to **Karl and Louise Riemer**, Henry followed his brother, **Karl D. Riemer '68**, to **Middlesex** after graduating from **Dexter School**. After two years, he transferred to **Noble and Greenough School** and, after receiving his diploma, continued his education at **Boston University**. Henry enjoyed a long and fulfilling career at *The Boston Globe* in the sports department, focused on a subject about which he was both passionate and knowledgeable. He will be deeply missed for his loyalty, wry humor, bounteous generosity, and keen observations of the world around him.

At the time of his death, Henry was survived by his mother; his wife, **Joanne Hennessy**; his brother **Karl** and two sisters, **Louise C. Riemer** and **Elizabeth R. Reece**; and his nephew and niece. He was predeceased by his father.

Lansdell C. McRoberts '76

The School learned in **August** that **Lansdell Christie McRoberts** had passed away in the spring after battling multiple sclerosis for more than a decade.

Lans was born on **December 21, 1956**, and attended **Buckley Country Day** before entering **Middlesex** in **1972**. On graduating, he went on to **Northeastern University** and later became the owner and president of several companies that served the security and warehousing needs of airports, waterfronts, and office buildings.

Predeceased by his parents, **Frank and Jeanne McRoberts**, Lans is survived by his loving wife **Tracy**.

Earl E. Exum '85

Earl Evans Exum passed away on **October 1, 2023**.

Born on **August 19, 1968**, in **Queens, NY**, **Earl** was one of five children of the late **Earl R. Exum** and **Kathleen Exum**. Joining the third class at **Middlesex** in **1982**, he went on to study industrial labor relations at **Cornell University** before earning an **M.S.** in management at **Purdue University** and an **M.B.A.** in international business from **Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Rouen** in **France**. **Earl** also held a certificate of management in business strategy from the **University of Virginia** and had his directorship certification from the **National Association of Corporate Directors**.

Earl was chairman of international aero engines and vice president of commercial engines at **Pratt & Whitney**, where he worked for over **27 years**. He held positions in operations, aftermarket, overhaul and repair, materials management, continuous improvement, sales, and human resources. He was the chair and founder of **Pratt & Whitney's African American Forum**, which has grown into the **Black Excellence Network**. **Earl** was also an independent board director for **A.O. Smith Corporation**.

A devoted member of **Asylum Hill Congregational Church**, **Earl** also served on several boards, including the **Urban League of Greater Hartford** and the **Hartford Foundation for Public Giving**. Additionally, he was on the board of advisors for the **Supply Chain Management program** at **Howard University Business School** and was president of the **West Hartford African American Social & Cultural Organization**. **Earl** was a **Cub Scout leader**, and he coached football, basketball, and baseball in the **West Hartford Youth Leagues**. Above all else, his greatest joy was spending time with his family.

In addition to **Tammy**, his wife of **28 years**, **Earl** is survived by his sons, **Evan Earl**, **Kyle Edmond**, and **Jonathan Lee**; his siblings, **Evelyn**, **Eileen**, **Ellen**, and **Erick E. Exum '88**; and a host of nieces, nephews, and close friends.



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