

# Middlesex

Fall 2024



**Election Task Force**  
Modeling and Engaging  
in Civil Discourse

**Graduation 2024**  
98 Seniors Are the  
Newest Alumni

**50 Years of Coeducation**  
Marking the Arrival of  
Middlesex's First Girls

**Reunion Weekend**  
Reconnecting Classmates and  
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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.

## MIDDLESEX BULLETIN

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### Alumni News

We welcome news from alumni, parents, and friends of Middlesex School. Please send your news and labeled photographs to Alumni News, Middlesex School, 1400 Lowell Road, Concord, MA 01742, or email [alumni@mxschool.edu](mailto:alumni@mxschool.edu).

### Address Corrections

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### Parents of Alumni

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### On the Cover

With an authentic Olympic torch in hand, 1972 silver medalist Monk Terry '64 heads to the Circle at the end of the opening chapel ceremony. Image by Adam Nestle.

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Dear Middlesex Community,

**E**ACH YEAR OUR FACULTY, ADMINISTRATORS, and students offer suggestions for a word to use as a theme and rallying point throughout the year—to ground and inspire our community in big and small ways. Last year, our word for the year was *gratitude*, and this year, our word for the year is *engage*. Both words are especially apt as we enter a season of Thanksgiving on the heels of a national election that has challenged our country.

At Middlesex, we have great reason to be grateful, and I believe that Middlesex’s mission matters to our country’s democracy; our students are taught to engage in civil discourse at the highest levels, exchanging ideas and opinions respectfully, with inquisitive intellects. As Trustee Cass Sunstein '72 says in his most recent book, *Free Speech: A Pocket Guide*, “Universities (and schools) exist to promote learning. They are an arsenal of democracy.” Our founder Frederick Winsor understood this concept; he was particularly intrigued with democratic ideals and our sense of place in Concord, a birthplace of both revolution and democracy. It is this very combination of mission and place that positions Middlesex at an incredibly exciting moment in the School’s history.

Through the stories within this *Bulletin*, you will see great evidence of gratitude and engagement illustrating Middlesex’s mission in action. Whether spearheading workshops at leadership conferences, competing in the PhysicsBowl, participating on tournament-bound athletic teams, or learning about the impressive alumni careers of architect Sandi Pei '68 and planetary geologist Tina Seeger '12,

Middlesex students are finding their promise through engagement. Our newly created MX Saturdays are providing students with another opportunity to explore and engage—at nearby Codman Community Farm and Waltham Fields Community Farm—as part of our Service Learning Program. And while our Green Team is preparing for Middlesex’s first Green Summit this spring, our MX Global Program is offering students opportunities to participate in trips and exchanges in different countries as we continue to expand the Circle.

Our teachers continue to be incredible scholars, mentors, and coaches; covered in this issue as just one example is Chair of the English Department and Director of the Writing Program Jecca Hutcheson, who reflects on her work with our students. Our Election Task Force, led by terrific teachers such as Sam Hoar '07, has educated our community about the democratic process, ensuring that our students are prepared to engage thoughtfully leading up to and through the national election.

This fall, we celebrated the groundbreaking for the new Athletic Field House, which will be covered in the next *Bulletin*. We are delighted to announce an anonymous \$2.5 million challenge—*The 1901 Athletic Challenge*—that will have a \$5 million impact on the project! I enjoyed participating in athletic practices this fall (our coaches and students have been very kind and taken it easy on me), and I am in awe of our coaches’ and athletes’ commitment to perseverance, excellence, hard work, strong camaraderie, and sportsmanship above all else.

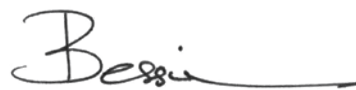
Our Strategic Vision Committee, which includes members from every constituency of the School, has worked hard through the summer and will soon present a final draft of a new Strategic Vision for

Board approval. Our 2024–2025 institutional goals support some of the early themes considered within our strategic work. They include:

- Commit to and Celebrate the Strategic Vision Process
- Continue to Expand the Circle, Service Learning, and MX Global
- Invest in the Art and Craft of Teaching and Learning with Attention to Wellbeing

This year, we will be celebrating 50 years of coeducation (with the first coed class soon marking its 50th reunion in 2026), along with the 100th anniversary of Memorial Chapel and the Town of Concord’s 250th anniversary of the battle that helped spark our nation’s founding. Middlesex’s 125th anniversary is also on the horizon in 2026. We invite you to celebrate with us! As the Paris Olympics finished in August, we began the year with our own Middlesex Olympian, as you will read in this *Bulletin*. Monk Terry '64, with an authentic Olympic torch in hand, carried the “Middlesex flame” around the Circle as the entire school followed.

And finally, you will note through the Annual Report included within this *Bulletin*, Middlesex is the school we are today because of the extraordinary generosity and philanthropy of so many of you who understand the power of paying it forward. Most importantly, we thank you—our alumni, parents, friends, trustees, and the entire Middlesex community—for your loyalty and support, for you are the ones who truly carry the “Middlesex flame” far and wide! A warm welcome awaits you anytime you return to campus!





Head of School  
Bessie Speers with  
Olympic silver  
medalist Monk  
Terry '64.

# An Olympic Opening

*On the evening of September 2, 2024, former Middlesex Director of Admissions Monk Terry '64—who won a silver medal rowing in the men's eight at the 1972 Munich Olympics—returned to campus to lend Head of School Bessie Speers a hand with the opening chapel of the 2024-2025 academic year. There, Monk shared the following reflections and advice before lighting an authentic Olympic torch and leading students and faculty around the Circle alongside senior faculty member Ken Whitlock.*

**M**RS. SPEERS ASKED ME to come today as a Middlesex alumnus and gold medal Olympian to help pass the torch from the spirit and excitement of the Paris Olympic Games to the opening of school. I told her that I would love to, but would it still be OK if I came as a silver medal Olympian. After all, “All that glitters is not gold!”

It is always great to come home to Middlesex, where I lived on campus for 18 years, six of them as a student. When I came to school as a seventh grader, my single was on the second floor of Higg. Even though my room at home was only 100 yards away, and I saw my father—Big Monk, the headmaster—every day at morning assembly, I was homesick and terrified—terrified of the seniors who told us what to do, terrified if I would make any friends, and scared if I would measure up to all the unsaid expectations.

As a freshman, I was short, kind of round, and was on the fourth football and hockey teams and rowing on the eighth boat. So, how is it that I returned to Middlesex 12 years later as director of admissions with a silver medal? I am proud of the silver medal but equally proud that as director of admissions, I admitted the first group of girls to Middlesex. . .



At the end of his chapel address, Monk Terry '64 and history teacher Ken Whitlock—Middlesex's senior faculty member—led the school community in a walk around the Circle.



Monk was joined after chapel by his grandson, Ollie Wallace '26, at the all-school barbeque.



Once classes had started, Senior Faculty Member Ken Whitlock delivered the first Wednesday chapel address, enlightening students about the Chapel building's origin as a memorial honoring the Middlesex graduates who had been killed in World War I (and later, World War II). In his moving talk, given on the 23rd anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks, Ken reflected on the sacrifices made by the 43 alumni killed while fighting for their country and the 343 firefighters who lost their lives trying to save others in the World Trade Center.

I think I'm right in saying that I also admitted Mr. Speers. And wasn't that a great thing!

Big Monk was a rowing coach at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. He told me tales of the "Boys in the Boat," Jesse Owens, and Adolph Hitler. In 1956, when I was ten, he took a Middlesex four stroked by Perry Boyden '57 (grandfather of Parker, who graduated in 2023) to the Olympic Rowing Trials. Perry went on to a stellar career as the stroke of the Harvard Heavyweight Varsity Crew. So, tales of 1936, the idea of even trying out for the Olympics, and Perry's rowing career unconsciously made an indelible mark on me.

As you all have, we then had great coaches and teachers. We did not appreciate them at the time, but they pushed us to be present at every endeavor and do our best, whether it was pushing the football sled (gotta love that one!), doing blue line to blue line sprints, chasing down another boat on the Concord River, reciting a French poem, or dissecting a frog.

There were smarter students and more talented athletes than I at school, but after competing for a position or a seat, we learned how to work together and trust each other. This was a key to the success of our Olympic quest and our 1972 eight. While New Zealand won the gold, we beat what was then East Germany by 3/100th of a second in a real photo finish to win the silver medal. The bonds we developed then, just as the bonds I developed here—and as you have and will—have lasted a lifetime. Our boat rowed together at

the Head of the Charles for 45 years, and together, we have watched our children and grandchildren grow up—and some of them actually row! We had a 25th reunion with the New Zealand crew in New Zealand, which was an event much more rewarding than rowing against them! We remain great friends with the Kiwis!

So, today, I am particularly addressing the class of 2028 because you are the greenest and unmolded lot of Middlesex School. You have the butterflies, the fears, and the anxiety for what is going to happen, but if you embrace them all, engage with every opportunity that comes your way, happily compete for a new "seat" and figure out how to navigate first your competitors and then your team/classmates, I know you will do well and have a blast.

For those of you who saw the closing ceremonies of the Paris Olympics, I am very sorry that I'm not Tom Cruise or Snoop Dogg, but I am most honored to pass that torch—and mine from 1972—to all of you for 2024-2025!

I have the silver! But now, I want you all to Go For The Gold! **M**



# Opening Days



Once again, the annual Square Dance led the schedule of this year's weekend activities.

As part of their leadership training, groups of seniors lent a hand at five different organizations, including Household Goods in Acton (above) and Smith Conservation Land in Littleton (right).



After a series of competitions—from races and wrestling matches to dodgeball and volleyball games—Atkins House and LeBaron Briggs House emerged as the victors on Field Day.

## New Faces on Campus

Following the annual cycle of school life, Middlesex wished several colleagues well on their next ventures last June and, in late August, welcomed new faculty and staff to classrooms and offices around campus.

Joining the School's STEM Division, longtime educator **David Laws** most recently taught science and was the dean of academics at The Lawrenceville School. He holds a B.S.

**Below:** Among the new faculty and staff members this fall are (front row, left to right) Allegra Zamore, Arthur Artene, Jenny Sorensen, Nina Bryce, and Angel Colarusso; (back row) Karen Van Cleef, Alfred Brewer, Brian Powers '15, David Laws, and Scott Woodward.

in chemistry from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley. Having previously worked in software development after graduating from Ursinus College, **Arthur Artene** will teach both computer science and math and serve as a dorm assistant in Clay House.

The English department now includes **Jenny Sorensen**, an associate professor of English at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, who earned her Ph.D. in English at the University of Michigan. Coming from the faculty

of Catholic Memorial, **Brian Powers '15** has returned to Middlesex to teach English and serve as the head coach of boys' lacrosse. Brian earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at Tufts University, where he helped lead the Jumbos to three NESCAC Lacrosse Championships and was later a graduate assistant coach for the program.

Artist **Karen Van Cleef** is bringing her skills to Middlesex's plaque program, teaching seniors how to carve and complete this traditional graduation requirement. During her earlier career in health care, she earned a master's





Marking her 30th year on the Middlesex faculty, Karlyn McNall became the associate head of school in August. The assistant head of school since 2020, she also served as the School's interim head before Bessie Speers' arrival in 2023.

## Administrative Transitions

Several current faculty members are taking on new titles and responsibilities this year. **Karlyn McNall** continues to oversee the academic program and has assumed the title of associate head of school. As assistant head of school for external affairs, **Eric Kester '04** is charged with cultivating institutional progress through the alignment of the School's strategic planning, external and internal communications, and school mission. **Jason Sport** has transitioned from his role as a dean of students to that of chief officer for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Continuing to teach English, **Ruth Baldwin** has become the dean of faculty, while Music Department Head **Pierson Wetzel** is additionally serving as director of hiring and recruitment. **Courtney Fein** has stepped up to become the director of development, allowing **George Noble** and **Heather Parker** to travel more extensively as chief advancement officers. Director of Student Activities **Phil Harris** is expanding the scope of his work with students as director of service learning. Remaining at the helm of the Middlesex English Department and Humanities Division, **Jecca Hutcheson** is now also the director of the writing program. Meanwhile, **Olivia Kennedy** has joined the dean's office as an assistant dean; she will continue to teach English and serve as a dorm assistant in LeBaron Briggs House.

degree in child life and family from Boston University.

With a wealth of experience, **Nina Bryce** is leading the Mindfulness Program, having taught mindfulness and developed wellness programming at Harvard University and run immersive retreats with Inward Bound Mindfulness Education. A Morehead-Cain Scholar, Nina received a B.A. in American studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School.

Supporting the School as a seasoned administrator is Assistant Dean **Alfred Brewer**, a graduate of the New England Conservatory who comes to

Middlesex from Ashville School. In addition to teaching math and music, Arthur joins his husband, French teacher Konrad Herath, as a dorm assistant in Landry House.

**Scott Woodward** will assist with providing academic support for students while also taking charge of the football program. A veteran collegiate coach, Scott has worked with teams at the University of Kentucky, the University of Pittsburgh, and his alma mater, UMass Amherst, where he played quarterback for four seasons and majored in psychology.

Among the new staff members this fall is Senior Advancement Officer

Angel Colarusso, whose extensive development background includes posts at St. Paul's School, Dartmouth College, and UNH Franklin Pierce School of Law. She is a graduate of Franklin Pierce University, where she earned a B.A. in public administration. Previously a news anchor and multimedia journalist at New England television stations, Director of Communications **Allegra Zamore** is a graduate of the University of Virginia and holds an M.S. in journalism from Northwestern University. And with five years of construction experience to his credit, **D'Mitri Gagnon** joins Facilities and Operations as a carpenter.

## Welcoming New Trustees

Three new members joined the School's Board of Trustees this fall, bringing their professional expertise and personal investment in Middlesex to their work on behalf of the institution.



**Afua Ofosu-Barko '98** has over 20 years of experience in financial and operational management in the public and nonprofit sectors. After managing several projects at John Snow, Inc. (JSI), she worked in Ethiopia for two years on a maternal and child health project. Afua then joined the World Justice Project, where she worked to advance the rule of law globally as their chief administrative officer. Afua's countries of professional experience also include Kazakhstan, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, and the United Kingdom.

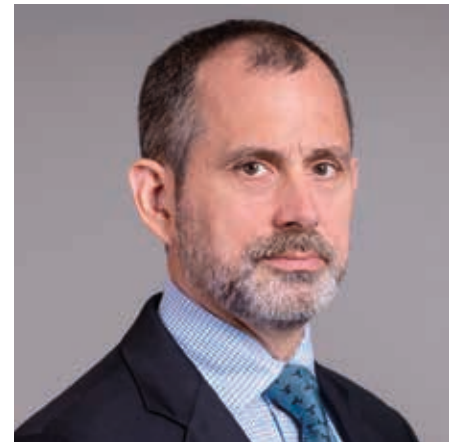
Currently, Afua is the program operations director for Results for Development's (R4D) Health Systems Strengthening Accelerator Project. R4D is focused on creating large-scale, lasting impact in the areas of health, education, and nutrition. She also serves on the Patient and Family Advisory Council at the Virginia Hospital Center.

Afua holds an M.A. in sociology and a B.A. in international relations from Stanford University. Her brother Kwadwo '99 is a former Middlesex

faculty member, as is her sister-in-law, Erika Prah. Afua has previously served on the MxAA Board and as a career advisor, and she was the School's 2023 graduation speaker.



**Dune Thorne** is a partner at Brown Advisory, where she is chief strategy officer and serves as a member of the executive team and sustainable investments advisory board for the firm. Prior to Brown Advisory, Dune worked at Silver Bridge Advisors and Circle Financial Group; she also co-founded Invest in Girls, a financial literacy program for high school girls for which Middlesex served as a founding school. Dune went to Milton Academy, Dartmouth College, and Harvard Business School. She currently serves as president of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Foundation, is a board member of the USA Lacrosse Foundation, Women's World Banking, and YPO New England, and serves on the investment committee for the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Dune and her husband Neville have three children, including Dela '24 and Lach '26.



**Juan Sabater** is a partner and co-president of Valor Equity Partners, a growth-focused private investment firm. Before joining Valor, Juan partnered with a friend to build and grow Augeo Affinity Marketing, a leading company in the employee engagement industry, and was a managing director with Goldman Sachs in the Investment Banking Division. Juan continues as co-chair of the Board of Augeo and also serves on the boards of several corporate, charitable, and professional organizations. Most recently, Juan was appointed by President Biden to the Fiscal Oversight & Management Board for Puerto Rico. He previously served on the Board of Visitors of the United States Military Academy and the President's Advisory Council on the Arts for the John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center. While studying history at Princeton University, Juan was a member of the ROTC program and later served as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve. On graduating from Princeton, he earned his J.D. at Stanford University Law School. Juan and his wife Marianna have three daughters, including Marina '26.

## With Thanks to Departing Trustees

At its spring meeting in May, the Middlesex Board paid tribute to three members who were about to conclude their terms as trustees after several years of dedicated service.

Having been the teammate of Julia French Veghte '86 on championship teams at both Middlesex and Harvard, Trustee Sarah Leary '88 said she knew that Julia would be a great addition to the Board. "Just as she did on the lacrosse field," Sarah confirmed, "Julia set the standard in her commitment to the work, attention to detail, and love for the School." During her 11 years as a trustee (2013–2024), Julia served on committees concerning finance and budget, buildings and grounds, pension investment, and alumni and development. "Right through her last meeting here," Sarah added, "Julia was following up on important, nuanced aspects of the latest budget and strategy, deftly raising issues to push forward and achieve the best outcomes. Her contributions have been broad and detailed without being showy."

Middlesex classmates Ben Nye '83 and Ted Mehm '83 have remained so tightly connected since their time as students that fellow alumnus and Board Chair Jason Robart '83 was entirely unsurprised by their aligned board tenures (2017–2024 for Ben; 2018–2024 for Ted). "Since I first met Ben and Ted as students," Jason reflects, "I've admired how their deep personal bond to each other has served as a foundational element to their dedication to Middlesex as a whole. They understand profoundly that what makes Middlesex special is the interpersonal relationships you form at the School, and at every step, their leadership on the Board has been directly and indirectly in service of fostering a closely knit community aligned towards a collective pursuit of excellence." As further evidence of their connection, Jason points out the notable overlap of Ben's and Ted's work on the Board, including committees on learning, teaching, and community, long-range planning, finance and budget, alumni and development, and buildings and grounds. Jason adds, "Both Ben and Ted provided invaluable guidance to the Board and to me personally, and I am grateful for their remarkable versatility to lead both quietly and vocally, depending on what the moment called for. Their friendship and dedication reflect some of the best qualities of the School."



**Julia French Veghte '86**



**Ben Nye '83**



**Ted Mehm '83**

## Students Present at Asian American Footsteps Conference

“Creating Our Narrative” was the theme of the 2024 Asian American Footsteps Conference at Governor’s Academy on April 14. Six of Middlesex’s 14 attendees stepped up to host three workshops presented there, including Audrey Tang ’24, Katherine Deng ’26 and Marcus Dougé ’25, and Bryan Dong ’27, Benjamin Jiang ’27, and Linda Wang ’27. Pictured (left to right) are: Sophie Crawford ’25, Ashwini Menon ’25, Sophie Han ’27, Katherine, Linda, Sixing Wang ’26, Victor Wang ’26, Marcus, Alvin Zhang ’26, Bryan, Benjamin, Sue Hayashi ’27, Ema Edwards ’24, and Audrey.



## A Witness of History

Not long before Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Middlesex community heard the firsthand account of Janet Singer Applefield, a child survivor of the Holocaust, who spoke on April 19, 2024. Through recounting her personal story to as many audiences as possible, Ms. Applefield hopes to “provide an understanding of the dangers of hatred and discrimination.”

Born Gustawa Singer in Krakow, Poland, Ms. Applefield was only four years old when her idyllic childhood ended abruptly on September 1, 1939, the day that Germany invaded Poland, igniting World War II. For the next three years, her family struggled to stay alive together, fleeing to Russia until it was announced that they must become citizens there or leave. They returned to Poland, where they were forced to live in a ghetto.

After two unsuccessful escape attempts, “My parents realized they had run out of options,” Ms. Applefield recalled. “They made an agonizing decision: They decided to give me away.” During the next few years, Ms. Applefield endured several changes in name, location, and guardian, ending up in a refugee camp at the war’s end. Unbeknownst to her at the time, her mother and other relatives had been murdered at Belzec Concentration Camp, while her father had miraculously survived.

Eventually reunited with her father, she moved with him back to Krakow, but strong anti-Semitism there drove them to immigrate to America in 1947. On settling in New Jersey, she attended school for the very first time and adopted the name “Janet.” Although “everything was new—my clothes, my friends, the language,” Ms. Applefield was a good student who went on to graduate from college, earn a master’s degree, and build a career as a clinical social worker.



“I’m a witness of history,” Ms. Applefield said, “and now that you’ve heard me, you are witnesses, too.” Grateful to the people whose choices, both large and small, proved enormously consequential in saving her life, she encouraged students to think about the decisions that they make every day. “We all have to speak out against discrimination, not tolerate it,” she concluded.

## Engaging Beyond the Circle

### Connecting at the AISNE Students of Color Conference

This year's AISNE High School Student of Color Conference—held on April 6, 2024, at the Wheeler School in Providence, Rhode Island—drew 400 participants from 39 New England schools, including 14 students from Middlesex. With a theme of “Affirming Our Value and Taking Action,” the Saturday conference gave everyone involved the opportunity to learn from keynote speakers, watch student performances, and connect with one another during workshop sessions and affinity group meetings. Pictured (left to right) are: Morgan Kim '27, Yousef Ashour '25, Sarah Custodio Guzmán '26, Addis Sintayehu '26, Gaby Alonso '25, Hayley Wilson '26, Mila Chow '25, Andrea Flores '25, Noah Pavlov '24, Samantha Rodney '25, Angela Karanja '24, and Kimberly Guzman Flores '25.



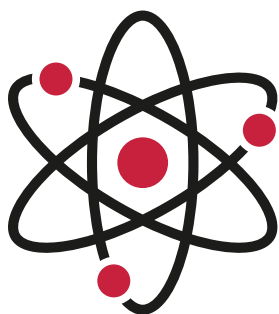
### Accomplished Athletes Attend Leadership Summit

Middlesex was well represented on April 22 at the 2024 Girls in Sports Leadership Summit. Hosted by Cushing Academy, the program offered a full day of workshops and speakers to celebrate the achievements of girls and women in sports. Middlesex attendees included (from left to right) Sophie Shaw '25, Isla Ferrari '25, Kassie Schaeberle '26, Finley Crosby '25, Lily McTeague '26, and Stella Mourtzinis '26.



### Focusing on a Healthier Planet

Bringing together students from 13 independent and public schools in the Boston area, the second annual James Pener Environmental Stewardship Conference—held at Thayer Academy on May 3, 2024—was attended by four Middlesex students: Amrita Tromge '26, Isla Ferrari '25, Alison Fiedler '27, and Scout Olney '27. A variety of informative, student-driven presentations and workshops on environmental sustainability filled their schedule that day, which also featured a keynote address by Dr. Lucy Hutyra, a distinguished professor in Boston University's Department of Earth & Environment, who was among the 2023 recipients of a MacArthur Fellowship, more familiarly known as a “genius grant.”



## Middlesex Tops Region 3 in PhysicsBowl

Hosted by the American Association of Physics Teachers, the annual PhysicsBowl Contest gives thousands of students around the world a chance to test their own knowledge of “the fundamental science.” Competing in Region 3, which encompasses New England schools, 42 Middlesex students participated this year: 20 in Division 1 (for first-year physics students) and 22 in Division 2 (for second-year physics students). The results released in May revealed Middlesex as the first-place finisher in Division 2 of Region 3—an impressive achievement. Congratulations to all who took part and especially to the School's top five scorers in Division 2: Renby Fernald '24, Ben Feuer '25, Ian Lam '25, Aidan O'Sullivan '24, and Ben Visco '24.

# Expanding the Circle with Journeys Abroad

Continuing to offer opportunities that will introduce students to new cultural and educational experiences around the world, MX Global—Middlesex's Global Programs, overseen by Director Dan Sheff—coordinated four dynamic trips last spring. Through these, participants were immersed in the theatre and art of London, the history and heritage of Taiwan, the natural wonders and ecosystem challenges of Panamá, and the life and environment of the Dominican Republic.

## London

For decades of alumni, the School's popular London theatre trip—chaperoned every other year during the March break by Theatre Department Head Tom Kane (joined this year by Visual Arts Department Head Stacey McCarthy)—remains one of the highlights of their Middlesex experience. Refined each time it's undertaken, this year's itinerary included exploring the National Portrait Gallery and the Tate; touring the Globe Theatre; participating in a Shakespearean acting workshop with Royal Academy of the Dramatic Arts teacher/director Nick Hutchinson; meeting with Matt Wolff, the London theatre critic for the *International New York Times*; visiting Stratford-upon-Avon and Oxford; and, of course, seeing eight fantastic productions.



## La República Dominicana

Departing on June 2, Spanish Department Head Carolina Aldana journeyed with 11 students to la República Dominicana, assisted by Spanish teacher Eduardo Fagundo. Students participated in an educational curriculum and program of projects with 7Elements, an NGO based in the community of Las Canas. Projects in the morning and chats at night focused on issues like global health and sustainability. Students helped construct “bottle houses,” assisted doctors at rural health clinics, helped local beekeepers, and spent time with youngsters at a local school. They also had the chance to do some sightseeing, visiting beaches at Playa Preciosa and Cabarete, and touring a natural history museum in Santiago de los Caballeros.







## Taiwan

During March break, Chinese Department Head Zhenyan Li and math teacher Cynara Wu traveled with 15 students to Taiwan to see the country's stunning scenery, understand its rich cultural and spiritual heritage, sample its savory cuisine, and practice their Mandarin Chinese language skills along the way. Beginning with touring the sites of Taipei—such as the Confucius Temple and Maokong Tea Plantation—students then spent two days attending classes and connecting with Taiwanese peers at a school in Taoyuan. Heading to Hualien, they stopped at the inspiring Taroko Gorge and Qingshui Cliffs, also visiting with an indigenous tribe before turning back to take in Yilan and Taoyuan's Daxi Old Street.



## Panamá

Working with Dr. Cinda Scott '95, director of the School for Field Studies' Center for Tropical Island and Biodiversity Studies in Bocas del Toro, science teachers John MacMullen and Steven Whitt accompanied 11 students to Panamá, where they learned firsthand about tropical ecology, biodiversity conservation, tourism impacts, and ecosystem health. The trip started with two days in Panamá City—taking in sights like the Panamá Canal, the Parque Natural Metropolitana, and the BioMuseum—before flying to Bocas del Toro, where Director of Global Programs Dan Sheff joined them. Through field lectures, walking tours, and snorkeling, students appreciated Panamá's vibrant environment and abundant wildlife, as well as the critical threats they face.



# Middlesex's Election Task Force

## Modeling Civil Discourse

By Samuel Hoar '07  
*Middlesex History Department*

### IT IS NOT EASY TO TALK ABOUT POLITICS IN AMERICA IN 2024.

And for good reason: We might fear that we will say the wrong thing and offend a friend, colleague, or relative; we might worry that any discussion of politics will

inevitably turn into a divisive, bitter argument; or we may just prefer to avoid thinking about the state of American politics today. Oftentimes, the safest option seems to be to avoid the topic altogether.

There are good reasons, however, to believe that this precise behavior has played a significant role in many of the current problems in American politics. University of Michigan political scientists Yanna Krupnikov and John Barry Ryan found in their recent book, *The Other Divide*, that many Americans, turned off by the vitriol they see online or hear about in the news, have

increasingly disengaged from politics, leaving louder, more intense voices to wield exaggerated influence over candidate choices, policies, and the contents of our political discourse. Crucially, as Yale political scientists Matthew Graham and Milan Svobik have demonstrated, those voices also tend to be the most willing to compromise democratic principles in pursuit of partisan goals.



The reality, as Stanford political scientist Morris Fiorina has shown, is that most Americans are far less ideologically divided than commonly believed, though party leaders and hard-core partisans are indeed quite ideologically polarized. Nevertheless, because the most extreme voices have come to dominate our political discourse, assumptions and misperceptions about those on “the other side” abound, deepening partisan identities and heightening antipathies toward anything and anyone perceived to be on the other side. This “partisan sectarianism,” as a consortium of scholars in the fields of psychology, sociology, and political science termed it, has played a major role in the

anti-democratic behavior that has shocked many in recent years.

More frequent and open conversation among everyday Americans would help counter false assumptions, open people to others’ perspectives, and so bridge the divides that have plagued our politics in recent decades. It is perhaps even more imperative to encourage this kind of engagement among young people, whose voices will soon matter even more to this ongoing democratic experiment.

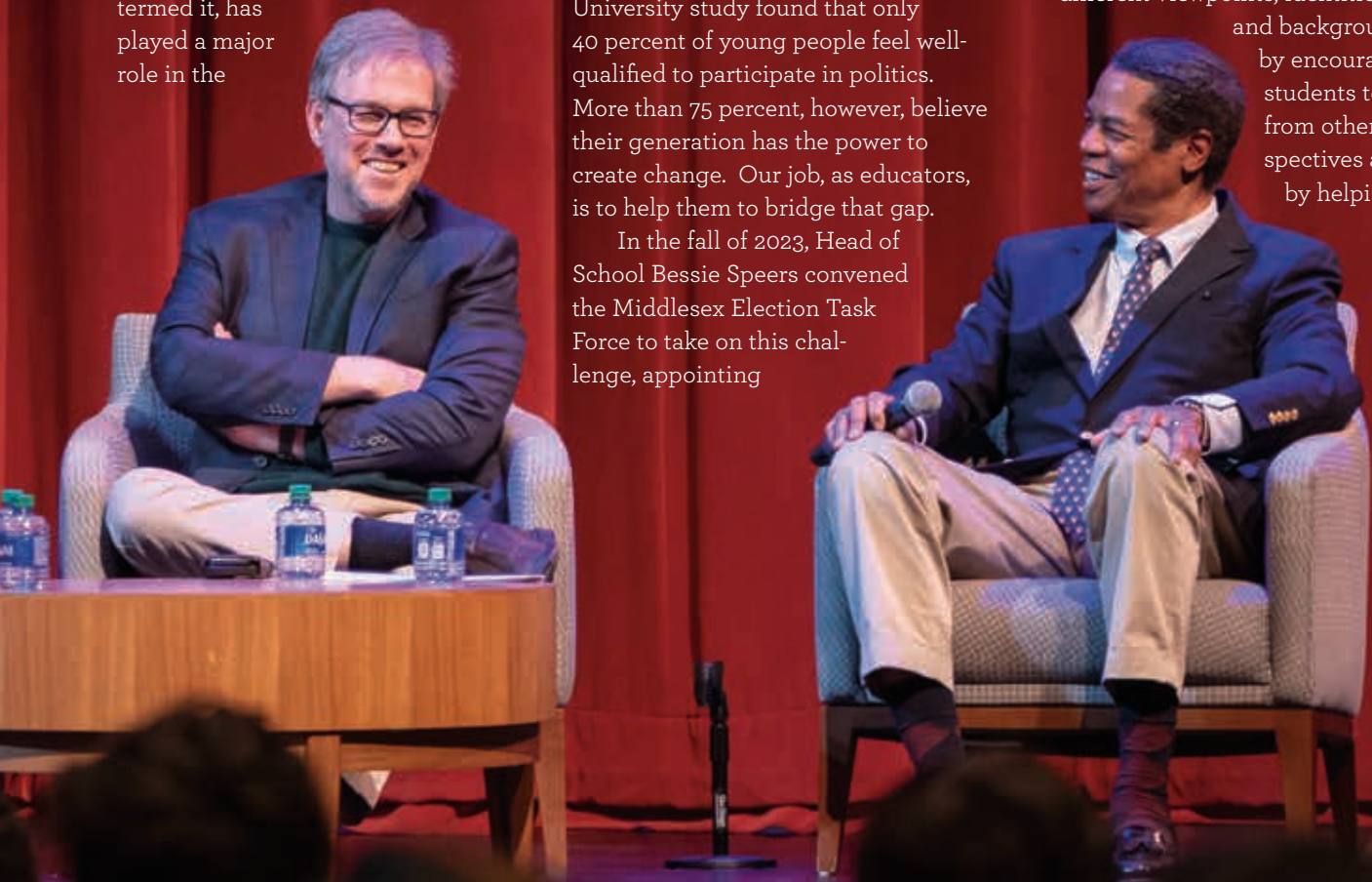
### **POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT AT MIDDLESEX**

How do we, as a community, engage in this conversation? A recent Tufts University study found that only 40 percent of young people feel well-qualified to participate in politics. More than 75 percent, however, believe their generation has the power to create change. Our job, as educators, is to help them to bridge that gap.

In the fall of 2023, Head of School Bessie Speers convened the Middlesex Election Task Force to take on this challenge, appointing

Social Sciences Division Chair Cal Hitzrot, Director of Spiritual and Ethical Education Rebecca Smedley, Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Starry Zhu, and me to the group. Our efforts to date and our plans for this fall have largely revolved around four goals:

1. **Informing** the community about issues, candidates, events, and electoral structures and **motivating students to engage** in seeking out information and having discussions about elections, politics, and the wider world beyond the Middlesex Circle.
2. **Bridging the divide** between different viewpoints, identities, and backgrounds by encouraging students to see from others’ perspectives and by helping



**Moderated by Sam Hoar '07 (far left), the May 10th panel discussing the state of American democracy featured Cass Sunstein '72, Bret Stephens '91, and Joe Watkins '71.**



A Middlesex alumnus, Sam Hoar '07 teaches both history and political science courses.

students to recognize the shared values, interests, and humanity that unite us.

3. **Building democratic norms and values** by educating students about the importance of democracy, even in times of heightened partisan competition, and by highlighting the responsibilities of citizens in a functioning democracy.
4. **Ensuring community wellbeing** through promoting civil discourse that is respectful of others' beliefs and backgrounds and through providing resources to students as they navigate the challenging emotions of what is likely to be an acrimonious presidential election season.

Given the current rancor in American politics, accomplishing all four of these goals simultaneously may not be easy. Nevertheless, we believe that to be intimidated by potential difficulty is to abdicate our responsibilities to our community and to our democracy.

The spring semester of the 2023-2024 school year saw us take the first steps toward these goals. Faculty members from the Task Force took advantage of all-school assembly periods to provide information on the state of the

presidential election, the extent of polarization in the American electorate, and how to have better conversations with those with whom you don't agree. Two students, Luke Power '24 and Thea Choyt '24, also gave highly informative presentations on immigration and the asylum system and on environmental policy, respectively, during these announcement blocks as we sought to deepen the community's understanding of key issues in American politics today. And in early May, the school was fortunate to be joined by three distinguished alumni—Joe Watkins '71, Cass Sunstein '72, and Bret Stephens '91—for a terrific panel on the state of American democracy.

This fall, as we ramp up toward the elections in November, those efforts will further expand. Faculty members started the year off with some professional development time in August with Kent Lenci, a former Brookwood School teacher and founder of Middle Ground School Solutions, who helped the faculty to build effective strategies for engaging in civil political discourse in the classroom. We have set aside ample time throughout the fall semester for formal, all-school discussions of the election, including continued

assembly announcements, a visit from Middlebury College Professor of Political Science Matt Dickinson on November 2, and community life programming time for small group discussions during October. Perhaps more importantly, students will continue to have both opportunities and encouragement to engage outside of these required all-school events, such as through a voter registration drive, optional discussion sessions related to the election and various issues, an election night “watch party,” and day-after-election debriefing sessions for students to ask questions and process the outcomes of the election.

Our hope is that this level of focus on the election will encourage students to “Engage”—as our word of the year for 2024-2025 advises—by independently following the news, having discussions at lunch tables, and asking questions in their classes. And if they can carry those lessons forward as they move beyond the Circle, they will fulfill a fundamental objective of Middlesex Founder Frederick Winsor, who intended from the School's very beginning to send out into the community young people who are “imbued with the true spirit of democracy.” **M**

# Civil Discourse in Action

## *Alumni Panel Reflects on American Democracy*

**F MIDDLESEX STUDENTS** were doubtful that people with differing viewpoints could respectfully exchange ideas—and even find common ground in the process—they soon saw that it was entirely possible when a panel of three notable alumni shared their thoughts on the state of democracy in America on May 10, 2024.

Speaking in the Kaye Theatre that day were Middlesex Trustee and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Bret Stephens '91**, an Opinion columnist for *The New York Times* who writes about foreign policy, domestic politics, and cultural issues; fellow Trustee **Cass Sunstein '72**, the Robert Walmsley University Professor at Harvard University, who has served in both the Biden and Obama Administrations; and the Reverend **Joe Watkins '71**, a political commentator, White House aide to President George H. W. Bush, and former Middlesex trustee. Serving as the moderator, history teacher and Election Task Force member Sam Hoar '07 asked the panelists about how and why Washington politics have changed in recent years, why Americans should value democracy, and what students can do to improve the current political climate.

“When I worked in the Senate and the White House, there was much more civility,” said Joe, who recalled forming friendships and sponsoring bills with Democrats while working for a Republican president. Back then, he said, “You could talk to someone on the other side. Why is it a bad thing to work with Democrats? It’s public service, not personal service.”

Concurring that there has been a “collapse of civility,” Bret added, “My biggest concern is that we are forgetting about the art of disagreement.” Finding ways to disagree that are “fricative and generative” is important, he said, because “people you disagree with have things to say, and you can learn from them.”

Incivility and partyism, Cass contended, have developed in part because people are habitually reading *only* news or stories that are echoes of their own views. “People can sort themselves into their own groups,” he explained, “and that’s dangerous for democracy,” adding that it leaves people with little sympathy for those with contrary opinions. Bret later proposed that social media should retool its algorithms to show people other ideas, instead of suggesting similar content. “We would become better citizens,” he said.

Each pointed to the capacity for change as an important strength of democracies. Joe noted that though he had been born into segregation, the country had shifted enough by 1966 that he could become one of the first Black students to attend Middlesex. “Dictatorships are brittle; democracies can bend,” Bret reflected. “We are looking at our weaknesses and trying to address them.” To this, Cass added, “Freedom makes innovation possible.”

Asked to recommend what students might do to help make a difference, Joe advised, “Do your homework on the candidates—and vote,” while Cass ended the informative discussion on a light note. “Be an optimist,” he said. “If you’re a pessimist, you suffer twice.”

# Graduation 2024

Middlesex's 121st commencement on May 26, 2024, was the first for new Head of School Bessie Speers, and with sunny, warm weather in the forecast, all went according to plan. Before sending this year's 98 seniors off to colleges and new ventures, Bessie thanked them for warmly welcoming her, patiently teaching her about Middlesex and its traditions, being open to new ideas and celebrations, and contributing to the success of the year with their character and commitment.

"All of us believe that your generation is particularly well-equipped to lead, especially through the polarization we are experiencing in our country and around the world," Bessie said. "You are socially and politically aware. You are on track to be the most well-educated generation ever. You have a desire to respond to issues and solve problems. You value diversity and encourage people to be different. Seniors, you are ready."



"Seniors, if your Middlesex experience was anything like mine, you've had both individual and shared experiences that will endure for many, many years to come," reflected Board Chair Jason Robart '83. "You've had some triumphs, you've had some setbacks, and undoubtedly, you've had some surprises. . . . I'm fairly certain that in the months and years ahead, you will begin to realize that it is the totality of your Middlesex experience that fills you with appreciation and fondness. And when that happens, the beauty is that you will turn to many of the people sitting around you this morning to share in those reflections."



Once the seniors were seated in front of Eliot Hall, the Reverend Tom Speers '76 opened the morning ceremony with an invocation.



Below: Diplomas in hand, Middlesex's newly minted graduates sang "Jerusalem" together one last time.



Celebratory hugs and handshakes immediately followed the ceremony.



Characterizing each busy day at Middlesex as being 28 hours long, Valedictorian Andrew Matarese '24 observed, "Starting tomorrow, we will have 24-hour days again. Exciting stuff! But my true advice, for all of us, is that we do not abandon these 28-hour days as a ghost of Middlesex past.... I implore you, class of '24, to continue to be ambitious, to challenge yourself and those around you every day to work hard, and push the world forward along with you."



Senior Class President Aidan O'Sullivan '24 and School Co-presidents Therese Ejiofor '24, and Ty Fein '24 led the procession to Eliot Hall.



As soon as the Chapel's bells began ringing at 11:00 a.m., the class of 2024 started across the Circle, flanked by cheering faculty, staff, family, and friends.

# Graduation 2024



Avery '24 and Luke Taylor '24 officially became the newest Middlesex graduates in their family, joining the alumni ranks of their older brother Preston '22; their mother, Robin Leary Taylor '91; and Robin's siblings, Alex Leary '97 and Trustee Sarah Leary '88.



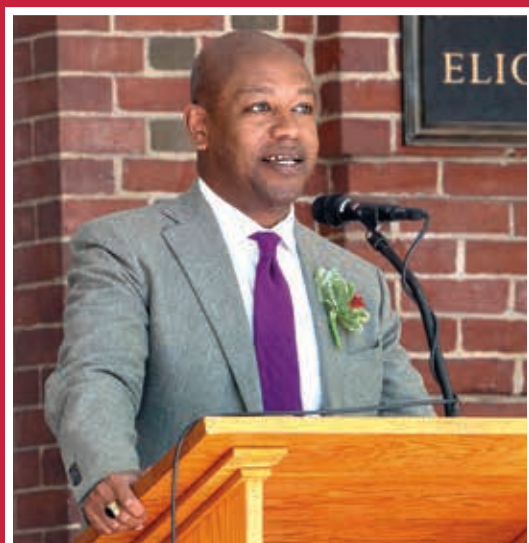
The Nye family gained another alumna with the graduation of Molly '24, pictured here with her brother Cole '20 and sister Sage '17; their sister Brooke '22 and father, Trustee Ben Nye '83, are also alumni.



On receiving a diploma, each senior—like George Leness '24, pictured here—briefly paused for a photo with Board Chair Jason Robart '83 and Head of School Bessie Speers.



Alumni brothers AliJah '23 and Malcolm Clark '24.



"Class of 2024, the next part of your journey begins today," said guest speaker Aaron Braxton '96, a distinguished leader in media and innovation enterprise management who is executive vice president and head of research at A-B Partners. "Embrace the uncertainty of life with open arms. Cultivate resilience to weather any storm and remain humble and hungry—always eager to learn and grow. As you step out into the world, know that you carry a spirit with you, one that you have tested, earned, and found resolute: the spirit of curiosity, resilience, and boundless potential. The road ahead will be filled with twists and turns, but it's these very twists that will lead you to your greatest achievements."





The Dougé family celebrated the graduation of Maya '24, who stands next to her sister Nina '20, with their brother Marcus '25 behind them.



Nailah Hamilton '24 paused on her way through the receiving line to connect with Visual Arts Department Chair Stacey McCarthy.



Audrey Tang '24,  
Becca Vinson '24,  
Ella Coffin '24,  
Kathryn Vinson  
'24, and Florence  
Morlock '24.

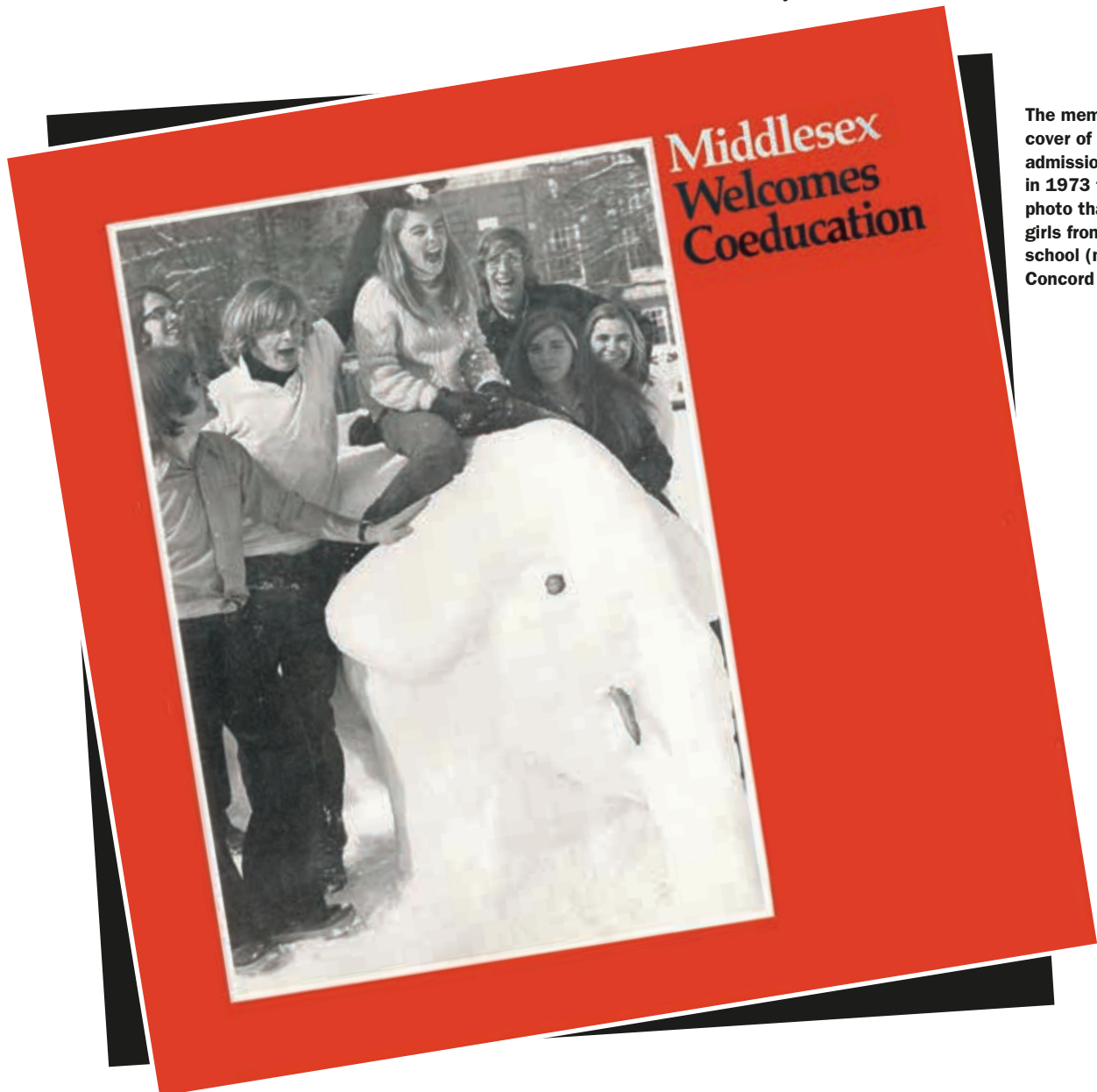
Assembled on the steps of the Bass Pavilion to have their official class photo taken, seniors watched the late arrival of the last few classmates.



# *A Meaningful Milestone* **50 Years of Coeducation**

*“The findings of Middlesex’s Coeducation Committee, supported by many recent studies made by other schools, philosophically enforce our ever-increasing belief that in order to achieve our goals as a secondary boarding school, we should be educating boys and girls together, rather than separately.*”

From a 1972 booklet sent to alumni prior to the Middlesex Trustees’ vote in favor of coeducation in January 1973



The memorable cover of the School's admissions catalogue in 1973 featured a photo that included girls from another school (most likely Concord Academy).



Among this group of new juniors entering class II in September 1974 were several of the girls who, only two years later, would become Middlesex's first female graduates. In the front rows, from left to right: Wendy Arnold, Cameron Scott, Mary Frances Allen, Noni Pratt, Patience Gillies, Sarah O'Neill, Lisa Morrison, and Anne Makepeace. Behind them are Mike Truesdale, Mary Wootton, Paul Thomas, Laura LaFever, Mark Badger, and Kate Titus. (Absent from the photo were Diego Amaral, Lisa Beach, Nancy Flavin, Chip King, John Klein, Connie Nelson, and Minturn Wright.)

**INCREDIBLE AS IT MAY SEEM** to those who were there at the time, this September marks 50 years since Middlesex welcomed the first girls to campus—not as visitors from nearby Concord Academy or Concord-Carlisle High School, but as full-fledged Middlesex students.

Once the School's Board of Trustees had voted for coeducation, preparations soon began for the girls' arrival. With a new, bright orange catalogue proclaiming "Middlesex Welcomes Coeducation," Director of Admissions Monk Terry '64 (whose remarks made at the 2024 opening chapel begin on page 6) could start interviewing female applicants for the fall of 1974. An experienced teacher and administrator, Director of Coeducation Francie Ladd was hired to help anticipate and implement a variety of changes needed on campus. Robert Winsor House was designated as the girls' dorm, to be supervised by Bridget and Jim Saltonstall (who already lived on campus, as Jim taught French). And under the leadership of Headmaster David Sheldon, several women faculty members were hired, including a few who, like Bridget, were already connected to Middlesex as faculty spouses. Like most new ventures, it would be the work of more than 18

months to make the transition to coeducation, but it was a start.

Of the 92 new students who arrived on September 10, 1974, 48 were girls: 31 boarders and 17 day students. "Don't Panic!" was printed atop the schedule of orientation activities that they were handed that day, and as Cynthia Berman '78 detailed soon after in an article for *The Anvil* newspaper, "As they read further, they found activities in store for them which included a cook-out, assignments, schedules, and endless meetings which raised many questionless answers and answerless questions."

But what was it like to be one of the first girls to attend a school that had been geared only to boys for 73 years? Thanks to Sarah O'Neill '76, who recently emailed as many of Middlesex's earliest alumnae as she could, some of their lasting impressions that she collected are shared here.

*More about this significant era in the School's history will be covered in the next Bulletin issue—and will be celebrated during the upcoming Alumni Weekend on April 25–26, 2025.*

Girls outnumbered boys in this image of the new sophomores (class III) taken in 1974; but since they were joining the all-male group of freshmen who had arrived in 1973, the girls comprised less than one-third of the class of 1977. In the front row, from left to right: Terry Trumbull, Alex Kemos, Melinda Russell, Sis Clarke, Vicky West, Liz Ehrenfeld, Priscilla Locke, and Lyn Dunbrack. Second row: Libby Cameron, Anne Stires, Heidi Holterbosch, Christina Fagan, Suki Hertz, Betsy Williams, Barbara Goguen, Karen Nelson, and Janice Bishop. Third row: Alison Brown, Julie Gess, Dick Hallowell, Chris Hurd, Marsh Read, Quentin Jay, and Jay Crawford. Back row: Heather Bryant, Isabel Constable, Adam Begley, Mary Read, Tony Houston, Charlie Gallagher, Bob Pulitzer, and Tim Blagden. (Absent from the picture were H. G. Haskell and Alicia Rand.)



## Mary Wootton '76

I want to acknowledge the amazing transition it was for Middlesex to accommodate girls, after its long history of being a male institution. Some memories that I have include: Very early in our arrival, having a random boy, I had no idea who he was, open a door to Eliot Hall for me, and address me by my name. I was stupefied! I later found out that all our names and pictures had been posted on a board the previous spring, and the boys had been lectured about being welcoming to us. I found that quite sweet, and touching (and maybe a little awkward, since we didn't know all their names!).

## Mary Frances Allen '76

MIDDLESEX TRUSTEE 1998–2002

I was the only girl in three of my five classes that first year—terrifying for a kid from an all-girls' school—but, in fact, that turned out to be a blast, too. And massively challenging. It was one of the most important years of my life. It was a science experiment that forged some of the most important friendships of my life, too.

## Patricia Melton '77

MIDDLESEX TRUSTEE 1988–2002;  
2017–PRESENT

I landed at Middlesex, a shy yet eager and wide-eyed city kid determined to make the most of my academic and social Middlesex experience. I knew nothing of what to expect about the culture except what I culled from my many letters of correspondence exchanged with Curtis Smith '76 the prior year. For me, it was like following Alice down the rabbit hole to an uncharted territory of wild adventure and mystique. Foreign to me was, frankly, everything, and yet after my shock at having landed there on a campus about as different from my Cleveland neighborhood as going to the Moon is from the Earth, by midpoint of that first year and out of desperation I started to speak a little and interact with those around me.

## Melinda Russell Leyden '77

I cherish my memories of Middlesex and the friendships I made, from Sis Clarke '77 and I having a ritual of throwing our books at the start of every vacation, to Bridget Saltonstall's Russian tea (I loved that stuff), to Mr. Tulp tutoring me on how to read, interpret, and write with *New Yorker* cartoons, to carving my plaque, having never held a chisel before.

## Alicia Rand Möller '77

I remember the warmth and laughter that came from RW that first year and made me feel like I belonged and was welcome as an incoming sophomore. One of my favorite memories is when Mr. Tulp, at the end of season, gave all the girls on the tennis team pink cigars. One more memory: taking Mr. Nelson's English class in 12th grade and finally understanding how much fun learning could be. He probably was the best teacher I ever had.

## Pril Locke '77

For me, it was significant to be the first female to carry on my family legacy at Middlesex. Both my grandfathers were Middlesex masters—my dad's dad taught Latin and coached crew for 41 years (Charles W. Locke Boathouse on Bateman's Pond). They lived on the first floor of LB, so rooming in LB senior year was pretty cool. My mom's dad taught physics for a short time before they moved to England when he was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to Cambridge. I think as "first girls" we students made an enormous impact, and I also think there were generations of women—grandmothers, mothers, daughters—who likely navigated even trickier times, laying a bit of groundwork for our historic entrance.



Those who enrolled as freshmen (class IV) in the fall of 1974 would eventually be the first to say that they had attended Middlesex as a coeducational school for all four years. In the front row, from left to right: Judy Carlhian, Bruce Bennett, Bill Nichols, Gregor Kiczales, Dave Slye, Geoff Anderson, David Holland, and Topher Browne. Second row: Jim Sullivan, Chris Milton, Chris Olson, Peter Harvey, Glenn Harris, Glen Darby, and Jeff Hopkins. Third row: Beezie Bickford, Davis Taylor, Jay Bolling, Betsy Lawrence, Anne Parson, and Kyung-Hee Lee. Back row: David Wykoff, Bill McCall, and Sandy Barnum. (Missing from the photo were Lisa Andrews, Cindy Berman, Britt Blake, Chuck Cappetta, Leslie Creighton, Cindy Dimmock, Ray Vere Nicoll, Sarah Perry, Robin Scorpio, and Barry Soosman.)

### Lisa Beach '76

That first year at Middlesex was really extraordinary (and Alicia, I agree with you—Mr. Nelson was the best teacher I ever had), and the closest friends of my life were made there. . . . And the faculty were beyond our wildest expectations—how much we loved Bridget and Jim Saltonstall, how amazing the classes were with Dr. Pittelli, David Lang, Hathy Brewster, David Sheldon, Mr. Tulp, dear Mr. Fortmiller, Mr. James, Tinny Houghtlin, Joe Scott, Kit Cohane, Sybil Cohane. I could go on, but these adults in the room changed my life.

### Beezie Bickford '78

I was a day student, so I remember doing everything I could to stay on campus that first year (thank you, Anne Parson Dentino '78 for making space!). It was hard to get to know everyone, but sports helped. Remember Dale Philippi? She was my advisor as well as a three-season coach that first year. I also remember our first-year uniforms (bleh) and the girls' locker room that didn't exist. . . . And now 50 years later, I'm at St. George's, where I've been for most of my teaching career.

### Heather Bryant '77

Being a first girl at Middlesex definitely shaped my life—taught me to speak up—and my desire to become a writer was shaped by those amazing English teachers, Kit and Al! Now with 11 books of poetry out, I can definitely trace a lot of those words to time spent in classrooms with classmates at Middlesex.

### Sis Clarke '77

Not surprisingly, a great deal of my recall involved sports, and Beezie, yup, those first uniforms were HORRIBLE! I do remember all of you very fondly, and we were pioneers for sure. Lots of laughter and teenage angst. When I tell Moses Brown students that I was one of the original girls to attend Middlesex, their jaws drop, which is always fun.

### Anne Stires Carter '77

MIDDLESEX TRUSTEE 1995–1999

Some of my favorite, first-year memories were the various school spirit traditions . . . the pep rally the night before the Middlesex/St. George's fall weekend! Several of the guys dressed as girls for the rally to make us feel at home. Huge bonfire where we threw in St. George's jerseys and yelled and cheered. Coming from an all-girls' school, this was eye-popping!

### Sarah O'Neill '76

My boarding school years were my favorites of all my school years, and I was inspired to work harder at Middlesex than I did before or after. I loved the teachers, the administrators, the girls, the boys, dorm life, the books we read, the classes . . . English Lit, Satire, Freud, Math, Physics for Poets, French, Woodworking, History, Ceramics, carving a plaque, field hockey, squash, crew, the woods, talking with friends about life, philosophy, anything. . . . I loved it all (OK, maybe not the food). As many have said, the teachers were excellent, accessible, and memorable. The best: Mary Adams, John Davidson, Joe Scott, Kit Cohane, Al Nelson, Mr. Hall, Mr. Arnold, Doc Pittelli, Brian Davis. Their classes were thoroughly engaging, as were our classmates. We worked hard but pressure wasn't high, and we had fun—adventures and all kinds of learning experiences. While reading all these first girls' entries, I found it remarkable that many ended up working in a similar school environment later on! A real testament to the joy of being part of a close high school community. **M**

Academic LIFE

# Writing Workshop

*Perfecting the Paragraph*



**By Jecca Hutcheson**

*Director of the MX Writing Program,  
Head of the English Department  
and the Humanities Division*

**EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO**, in my first week in the English wing, I asked the seniors in my Magic & Realism class to write a paragraph about the opening pages of Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*.

"A paragraph?" They glanced at each other nervously. "A Middlesex paragraph?"

I had no idea what a Middlesex paragraph was, but if what they meant was 12 to 15 interesting sentences, then, yes, I wanted them to write a Middlesex Paragraph.

I assured them that a paragraph tracing the opening imagery of fissures, cracks, and apertures in Rushdie's novel was easily within their reach. After all, I had taught writing at Cornell; I had edited fiction at *The Atlantic*. I knew what a paragraph was.

The next day, when I opened the responses by those inventive, creative, sharp-eyed writers from the class of 2007, I saw my first Middlesex Paragraphs. What a pleasure to read they were. Their prose was assertive and witty, elegant in the handling of evidence and remarkable in range. I had asked them to render the complex world of *Midnight's Children* into the very small space of a paragraph—and they had done so marvelously. Their voices were clear and confident. They were Middlesex Writers, in that, they knew that to write is to say something meaningful in language that is lucid and vivid and to be attentive to the inner magic that is at work in all good writing.

For the past 16 years, I have taught Writing Workshop in Room 10, whose dungeon-like qualities and ringing exhortations to write well are legendary. It was in Writing Workshop—a class created by retired English Department Head John Hirsch two decades ago—

that they had learned many of those principles, reinforced and developed by their English classes. Every Middlesex student knows to put their assertions first and to climb the ladder of abstraction, and they know how to use a semicolon. A paragraph is, as we say in the very first lesson of Writing Workshop, the fundamental unit of argument. A paragraph is both slender and full-rigorously attentive to the text at hand and capacious in its intellectual ambitions.

Now I understand what I had asked my very first class of Middlesex students to do. We have taught them, as Jane Austen once wrote in a letter to her nephew, in her inimitable dry and self-deprecating manner, to portray the intricacies of the world in a "little bit (two inches wide) of Ivory" paper, using "so fine a Brush as produces little effect after much Labour."

Writing is a solitary practice. It often is, as Austen says, the work of tiny brushstrokes, so much Labour. But we do not believe that Austen is dealing directly here; she does not believe that the work of good writing has little effect.

To write is to discover a voice within; it is also to approach the world. It is to discover your agency and to digest and shape the philosophical and artistic expanse of literature.

Looking through the range of questions that we have asked our students to write about in the last decades of studying *The Iliad* or *Pride and Prejudice* or *Song of Solomon*, I am reminded anew of what a profound joy it is to teach writing at Middlesex. We have prompted them to consider the power of fate upon the characters of Hector and Achilles, and to analyze the role of community and self-love in Pilate's journey, and to explore the role of remorse in Elizabeth and Darcy's eventual love.

With the finest of brushes, they have been loosed upon the most ambitious of texts.

But they are not alone. While writing is solitary, it is also deeply collaborative. The writer is in conversation with the text, in a dialogue across years, and they are also together, in Writing



Workshop, hashing out, sentence by sentence, what it means to write, tackling the specific creative problems that emerge every time you set out to say something meaningful. Year after year, they sit, and they write their paragraphs, and they achieve so much on their two inches of ivory.

A Middlesex Paragraph is also, as we say, in the very first lesson of Writing Workshop, only a beginning. One paragraph is an argument of moderate complexity, and soon you learn to write arguments that cannot be confined to 12 sentences. The writing of a single paragraph brings you to the next one, and the next one, and you join your voice to the hundreds of other Middlesex writers who have written before you, and who know what it means to find your promise through writing—or in the case of those of us lucky enough to teach in the English wing—in teaching. **M**



Q&A with  
**Cal Hitzrot**  
Chair of the Social Sciences Division

**S**INCE JOINING THE MIDDLESEX FACULTY IN 2005, Cal has done it all: taught history, served as department head for 12 years and as head of Atkins House for 13 years, and coached track and field. When he became head of the Social Sciences Division in 2012, he was also appointed to the Harrison S. Kravis Memorial Chair in recognition of his strength in the history classroom. A graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy, Cal earned a B.A. in history at Princeton University and completed his M.Ed. at Harvard. He lives on campus with his wife, Karen Ford; their sons, David '20 and Ben '23, are Middlesex graduates.

**What drew you to the discipline of history?**

I love the stories of history. History is a vehicle to teach skills and help kids understand that there are many overlapping stories and overlapping truths. This leads to conversations about how do the stories overlap and where do they contradict each other—and what are we supposed to do with all this info that is often challenging? How do we move closer to an understanding of what might have actually happened? It's fascinating to help students through all that.

**You grew up on a boarding school campus. Is that what made you choose it as a career?**

Both my parents were teachers; my mother taught elementary school, and my father taught chemistry and physics at Exeter for 30 years. I remember that we moved into the dorm in 1980, and it was awesome. There was one door between my bedroom and 60 guys in the dorm. I was a day student, so I had all the accoutrements of home—and a bunch of older brothers.

**Do you have a favorite historic period or topic that you enjoy teaching?**

I love to teach the Italian Renaissance, the Tokugawa period in Japan, intellectual history, and art history. Primarily I teach ninth and tenth graders in Ancient History and Medieval History. I consider myself best with ninth graders; I tell them it's because I did ninth grade twice, once in public school and again at Exeter.

But really, I teach students. Each year, I have to figure out who the kids are, what skills they have, and what we need to work on to get them ready for the next year. All of them



will go on to Early Modern World History as sophomores, and they need to be ready for papers and tests. The benefit of having taught for 26 years is that one student will remind me somewhat of another, so I have an idea of how to help them.

**Are there particular electives that you've developed while at Middlesex?**

I have taught some electives, such as War and Reconciliation. Why do countries go to war and how do they become reconciled? We've talked about ethnic cleansing in the Balkans and the Rwandan genocide; the last time I taught the course, Putin had just invaded Ukraine.

**What effect or influence might AI have on the study of history?**

I may not be the right guy to ask. I'm a refugee from the 20th century. I write letters; I still buy CDs and DVDs. My students and my sons laugh at me.

There will always be the need for good writing, though, and the best writers learn by practice. The worry I have is that your average ninth grader might say, "I can take 30 minutes to write this essay, or get it done in eight seconds (using AI) and go play spike ball." I didn't love it when my mother made me do long division in the summer between fifth and sixth grade when I knew there were calculators—but now I know how long division works.

The danger with AI is it becomes a game of cat-and-mouse. We don't want to have to be policing kids using tech

to streamline their workload. So, we have to do more in-class writing. I'm seeing how they really write and giving them a lot of feedback.

**You are also a writer of poetry. What led you and other faculty to share some of their creative writing with students on a Sunday afternoon last April?**

The arts get a lot of love here on campus, and we're hoping the spoken arts can get some more love, too. There's an active Poetry Club among the students, and I'm the faculty advisor of it.

Last fall, Jecca Hutcheson and I co-taught a senior elective on the works of 21st century poets. We read *The Book of Delights* by Ross Gay, and he joined our poetry class by Zoom. He was genuine and generous—and they had lots of questions for him.

**What are you most proud of from your 12-year tenure as history department head?**

I'm proud of building collegiality among our department members. I think I've been good at welcoming new colleagues, helping them with teaching a course for the first time, and suggesting what to do in different situations. I enjoy those conversations about building a new syllabus and talking about teaching—how to support kids and help them become themselves. The most important task for students at Middlesex is to figure themselves out amidst all the opportunities and responsibilities that come with adolescence. **M**



## Bringing Home New England Championships

### Wrestling: A Programmatic First

This year's team was no stranger to adversity. Relying on a young core group of key contributors and the stalwart leadership of a few veterans—including Co-captains Maya Dougé '24, Marcus Dougé '25, and TJ Kane '25—Middlesex fought through injuries, illnesses, and cancellations to earn individual and team accolades, achieving dual meet victories over Thayer and Chapel Hill Chauncey Hall, as well as a historic Class B Championship in the New England Prep School Wrestling Association (NEPSWA) Girls' Division.

The girls claimed their share of the title on February 18, 2024, after a weekend of competition at Choate Rosemary Hall. While Claire Yoon '24 (at 100 pounds) finished third after two tough matches, Katherine Deng '26 (107 pounds) picked up an impressive win by fall over Choate in the consolation round of four but came up just short of placing in the consi-semis. Co-captain Maya Dougé '25 (114 pounds) added two wins by fall over Choate and Hotchkiss to reach the third-place match; likewise, Kassie Schaeberle '26 pinned opponents from St. Paul's and Choate to make her way to the consolation final. There, Kassie prevailed 5-0 to earn third place, and Maya took fourth. Fiona Fittante '25 won her two opening matches by fall before dropping the semifinals match against the eventual champion. After a dominant win over Milton in the consi-semis, Fiona earned third place with a come-from-behind win by fall over Governor's Academy. In the end, with Middlesex and Greens Farms Academy tied at 55 points apiece, the Girls' Class B Championship—awarded this year for the first time—was shared by both schools.



Surrounded by her teammates, Varsity Co-captain Maya Dougé holds the New England Class B Championship trophy. From left to right are Katherine Deng '26 (an All-League Honorable Mention at the season's close), Kassie Schaeberle '26, Maya, Claire Yoon '24, and Fiona Fittante '25.



Claire Yoon '24 locked up her BB&N opponent in a cradle on her way to winning the bout.



Named All-New England for the season, Fiona Fittante '25 worked for the fall against Governor's Academy in an early January meet.

Pictured with his players, Head Coach John Hirsch holds the team's NEPSAC Championship trophy. Standing, left to right, are Ashwini Menon '25, Katie Chen '26, Anjali Mehta '27, Coach Hirsch, Co-captain Arya Mehta '24, and Kiki Friedbauer '24; kneeling in front are Mia Nolin '27, Co-captain Ema Edwards '24, and Claire Ryu '27.



## Girls' Squash: First in Their Class

Heading into the NEPSAC Championships at Berkshire School with a 6-6 record, the girls' varsity squash team first faced off against Dexter School on February 10 and prevailed at every position. In the semifinals that afternoon, Middlesex defeated Dana Hall 5-2 to advance to the finals the next day. Competing against Berkshire, Claire Ryu '27 (#5), Ashwini Menon '25 (#6), and Mia Nolin '25 (#7) all won their matches 3-0. Co-captain Arya Mehta '24 (#2) upset her Berkshire opponent 3-0, while Co-captain Ema Edwards '24 (#4) lost the first game but then won the second and never looked back. With everyone playing their best squash of the season, Middlesex beat Berkshire 5-2, capturing the Class C Championship.

Following this triumph, the team was moved up to the B Division at the National High School Squash Championships in Philadelphia, where Middlesex was seeded 15th among 16 teams. There, the girls defeated the 10th and third seeds and fell just short against the second and eighth-seeded teams, ending their impressive season by finishing 10th in the division and 26th in the country overall.



Playing at #1 against BB&N, Co-captain Arya Mehta '24 earned All-League and All-NEPSAC Honorable Mentions last winter.



An All-NEPSAC Honorable Mention in her senior season, Co-captain Ema Edwards '24 stretched for a forehand in her victory against BB&N.

## Winter Highlights

For more sports news visit [athletics.mxschool.edu](http://athletics.mxschool.edu)



### Alpine Skiing

**Above:** A four-year varsity veteran, Gemma Baker '24, attacked the first run of the NEPSAC Class A Championship giant slalom.

**Right:** At the NEPSAC Class A Championship, Ben Visco '24 raced toward the finish of his last slalom for Middlesex.



### Boys' Basketball

In an early game of the 2023–2024 season, Xavier Hazard '25 finished at the basket during an overtime heartbreaking loss to BB&N. His efforts earned him an All-League Honorable Mention and a captaincy for senior year.



### Girls' Basketball

Co-captain Emma Donovan '24 drove to the hoop in a December contest with Governor's Academy; among the highlights of the season were victories over St. Mark's, Dana Hall, and Groton.



## Boys' Hockey

Named All-League at the season's end, Co-captain Bryan Tang '24 helped lead his team—along with fellow Co-captains Tedy O'Keefe '24 and Renby Fernald '24—to the finals of the Barber Tournament and satisfying wins against Rivers, Brooks, and BB&N.



## Girls' Hockey

The last season on Middlesex's ice for Co-captain Katie Athanasoulas '24 included an exciting 3-2 overtime win against Groton and a final 3-1 victory over St. George's. A tri-varsity athlete for the last four years, Katie plans to play both field hockey and lacrosse at Bowdoin College.



## Boys' Squash

Leading his team in the squash program's first year of competing in NEPSAC's Class C, Captain Thatcher Foregger '24 hit a backhand rail in a match with BB&N, which ended in a 6-1 victory for Middlesex.

## Nordic Skiing

**Below:** Shown at the start of the season's second "Friday Night Lights" race with Andover and Rivers, Captain-elect Angela Huffer '26 (#8) and Co-captain Sawyer Rogers '24 (#9) soon led the Middlesex girls to another victory.



## A Season of Successes

### Strong Finishes for Boys' and Girls' Crew

Adding another highlight to the 2024 season, both the girls' and boys' first boats earned a spot at the USRowing National Championships with their qualifying times at the Northeast Youth Championships on May 19. Days later, at the NEIRAs on May 25, both crews made it to the grand finals, where the boys crossed the line fourth, repeating last year's commendable performance, while the girls came in first, earning gold medals.

Traveling to the Youth Nationals in early June, Middlesex rowers joined more than 4,000 athletes from 225 schools and clubs across the country. In a tight field at the initial time trial, the boys finished in the top 20 and advanced directly to the C-level finals; there, within six seconds of the winner, Middlesex came in sixth, placing the boat 22nd nationally. Meanwhile, the girls advanced to the semi-finals by placing fourth in their time trial. Taking third in the semifinal round brought them to the grand finals, where, in a thrilling finish, their bow crossed the line just 0.16 seconds behind Nereid Boat Club, making Middlesex the fourth fastest girls' boat in the country—and the top high school finisher at Nationals.

On May 25, the girls' first boat celebrated winning the NEIRA Championships; two weeks later, they would finish fourth in the country at Youth Nationals. Pictured left to right are Sawyer Rogers '24 (stroke), Charlotte Davis-Jeffers '24, Mollyana Nuki '25 (coxswain), Avery Green '26, Caroline Ripsteen '25, and Head Coach Laura Darby McNally '80.



The crew program's first boat athletes paused for a photo at the NEIRAs, held at Lake Quinsigamond. (PHOTO: SARAH LEARY '88).

At the Youth Nationals, Captain Luke Taylor '24 set the pace in the stroke seat, with Alex Clapp '25, Anton Balyuk '24, Daghan Konur '25, and Kaya Surmeli '26 (coxswain) behind him. The boat raced to a sixth-place finish in the C-final, placing Middlesex 22nd in the nation in the Men's Youth 4+ category.

(PHOTO: ROW2K)



## Boys' Lacrosse: ISL Championship Finalists

Starting out with two exciting non-league wins against Andover and Pingree before running the ISL gauntlet, the boys' varsity lacrosse team finished the regular season with an impressive 7-4 ISL record that included noteworthy wins against Nobles—whom Middlesex had not beaten since 2014—and Governor's, keeping the Bidstrup/Herter Cup in Concord. Middlesex captured the sixth seed in the top bracket of the ISL Tournament, beating Governor's 12-9 in the first round and then pulling out a 10-9 win against St. Sebastian's. Though the team lost to a nationally ranked Belmont Hill squad in the finals, Middlesex finished second among 16 teams in the ISL—a remarkable and memorable achievement.

A four-year varsity veteran, Co-captain Jacob Thibodeau '24 was among the top eight scorers in the ISL as a senior, earning All-League and All-NEPSAC Honorable Mentions.



All-American Honors: Already a rare varsity captain as a junior, Owen Crann '25 was further distinguished this spring as one of only three lacrosse All-Americans in the ISL. Described as the consummate leader and player, Owen is known for his grit, determination, and intensity, which have earned him All-League and All-NEPSAC status—and a second season as captain in 2025.

## Boys' Track & Field: Three-peat New England Champions

Co-captains Nick Costantino '24, Malcolm Clark '24, and Joey Caspar '24 led a talented group of teammates who were dedicated to training hard and improving each week, resulting in another terrific season in 2024. Highlights included two new school records (set by Brendan McCullen '26 in the high jump and Joey in the 300-meter hurdles), an undefeated 4x400-meter team, and a team win at the Division II New England Championships for the third consecutive year. Key to the victory were performances by Brendan, Orion Saunders '26, Olly Mylon '25, Felix Wetzel '26, and all three team captains. And with four gold medals to his credit, Joey was named the NEPSA Division II MVP of the meet.



Flanked by fellow Co-captains Joey Caspar '24 (on left, holding his MVP award) and Malcolm Clark '24 (on right), Nick Costantino '24 displayed Middlesex's third consecutive New England Championship trophy, won on May 18, 2024.



Competing at the Adidas Track Nationals in Greensboro, NC, on June 16, 2024, Middlesex's 4x400-meter relay team finished ninth in the nation with their fastest time of the season.

## Spring Highlights

For more sports news visit [athletics.mxschool.edu](http://athletics.mxschool.edu)



### Girls' Lacrosse

Captain Katie Athasoulas '24 anchored her team in the midfield and—despite the loss of several key players due to injury—broke the school record in caused turnovers and ground balls in her senior season. In addition to being named both All-League and Academic All-American, Katie received a NEPSAC Honorable Mention; she will continue her lacrosse career at Bowdoin College.



### Ultimate Frisbee

As Ben Visco '24 (#28) threw the disc upfield in a game against Concord Academy, Tommy Li '24 (#39), Cordelia Mannix '25 (#10), and Alyssa Aslam '25 positioned themselves to follow the play in pursuit of another point.



### Softball

With her fellow players looking on, Devon Coyle '24 batted for the new JV softball team—the School's first since 2014—during a game against St. Mark's that ended with a 9-1 Middlesex win.



### Golf

Captain-elect Nolan Marsters '25 teed off in an early tri-match that ended with Middlesex besting both Governor's (5-2) and St. George's (4-3).

### Girls' Track & Field

Grouped together at the start of the 1500-meter race against Thayer and Nobles on April 13, 2024, Middlesex runners crossed the finish in similar style, with Katie Tantilillo '26 (#5) in fifth place, Cate Corbett (#3) in second, Co-captain Piper Morris (#2) in third, and Co-captain Sadie Millett '24 (#1) in first.

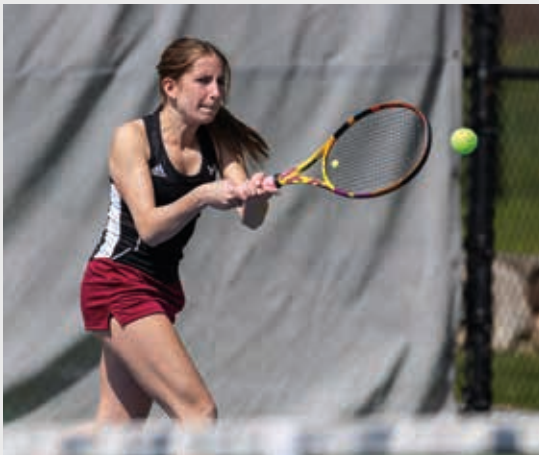






## Baseball

Right-handed pitcher and shortstop Andrew Reid '26 drove the ball to the left-center gap in a close game against Rivers in April. Along with teammate Justin MacCormack '25, he earned an All-League Honorable Mention, while Luke Warzynski '25 was named All-League.



## Girls' Tennis

Co-captain Isla Ferrari '25 maintained high intensity while hitting a backhand winner in an April 24th match against Lawrence Academy that ended with a 9-0 victory for Middlesex.



## Boys' Tennis

On the way to a 7-0 win against Tabor in April, Co-captain Alex Barron '24 unleashed a heavy topspin backhand crosscourt.

## Celebrating Future Collegiate Athletes

Near the end of the spring athletic season, Head of School Bessie Speers hosted a gathering to honor the 18 Middlesex seniors who were recruited to continue their athletic careers in college. Surrounded



by family and friends, coaches and college counselors, the seniors heard from three alumni—Cole Cleary '20 (Harvard University Football and Baseball), Maddie MacMaster '18 (Boston University Lacrosse), and Leah Olson '15 (Brown University Ice Hockey)—who spoke about how their experience at Middlesex prepared them for their collegiate

careers. Here are Leah's reflections, which express much of what all three alumni athletes shared that evening:

"There are the more obvious differences that come to mind when thinking about the transition into college athletics from the high school level—the physicality, the pace, the talent. Those things can be intimidating at the outset, and as for adjusting to them, well, there is no fast-track route short of time, patience, effort, and hard work.

"But you'll find the other key half of college athletics rests in the intangibles. You are held to higher standards and expectations and levels of discipline, and the margin for error will often be zero. Being a foot short is the same as a mile. And being a second late may very well mean that you are not on time. It may sound severe, but no one here should be deterred by that. Because if there are any group of college-bound athletes with the necessary grit to handle pressure, to handle adversity, and to handle challenges, it is those who come from Middlesex School.

"Whether you can see or realize it now, your time and experience on this campus have given you a set of tools, skills, and work ethic that will put you leaps and bounds beyond your peers, regardless of what sport or what level you are headed to play. It will show on the field or the track or the ice. It will show in classrooms, in discussions, and on exams, and I bet it won't stop there, extending well beyond your college years.

"Thinking back on my time at Middlesex, now almost a decade later, I bet I could trace nearly every one of my present and recent successes with a kind of invisible string to either a lesson I learned, a tough conversation I had, a friendship I made, or a confidence I found right here at this school. It's an honor to be asked to be here and to be able to share that sentiment with all of you because I will always stand by it."

*A graduate of Brown University and Suffolk University Law School, Leah Olson '15 is part of the legal team at an international investment company, where she specializes in digital assets and blockchain technology.*

# PERFORMING Arts

## Bat Boy: The Musical

Kaye Theatre | May 3 & 4, 2024

In a West Virginia cave, three teenagers make a startling discovery: a feral “bat boy”—half-boy, half-bat—with a thirst for blood. Can he be educated and tamed enough to adapt to life in a small, rural town?

With a book by Keythe Farley and Brian Flemming, and music and lyrics by Laurence O’Keefe, this American horror rock musical was based on a 1992 tabloid story in the *Weekly World News*. Mirroring its hybrid title character, *Bat Boy* is part comedy, part romance, and part tragedy—giving Middlesex performers and their audiences the full spectrum of emotions to engage and process on two nights last May.



# A Classical Concert

Warming up for his senior recital at Harvard University, accomplished pianist Hyuntae Choi '20 (pictured here with Dean of College Counseling Matt DeGreeff) returned to campus on April 7, 2024, to treat his Middlesex audience to a performance of pieces by Scarlatti, Beethoven, Chopin, and Schumann in the Danoff Recital Hall.

During his college years, Hyuntae enjoyed organizing performance opportunities for student pianists and playing piano as part of the Harvard College Piano Society, G&S Players, and Jazz Combo Initiative. Outside of music, he worked as an economics research assistant and was the captain of the Harvard Fed Challenge team that won the 2023 College Federal Reserve Challenge, an annual team competition that encourages students to learn about the U.S. economy, monetary policymaking, and the role of the Federal Reserve System.

In May, Hyuntae graduated magna cum laude from Harvard, receiving his A.B. in economics with highest honors; he was also elected to the Harvard College chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. He is now working as a research analyst at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.



# VISUAL Arts

## Spring Showcase: THE AP STUDIO ART EXHIBITION

After spending a year developing and curating individual portfolios in their Advanced Placement Studio Art course, Middlesex seniors shared the imaginative results of their creative explorations in an Ishibashi Gallery exhibition that opened on May 24, 2024.



Mary Cummings '24



Lindsay Hur '24



Therese Ejiofor '24



Nick Parker '24

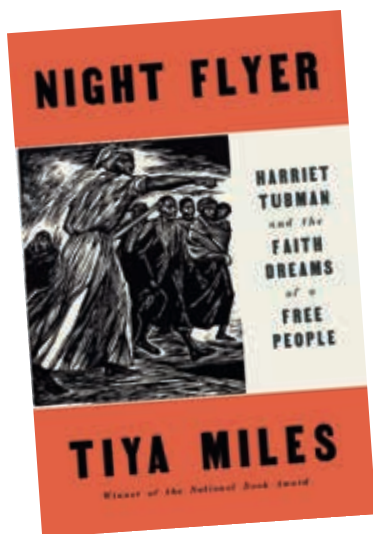


Teddy Stevens '24



Esme Washburn '24

## IN PRINT: Alumni Authors



### Night Flyer: Harriet Tubman and the Faith Dreams of a Free People

by Tiya Miles '88, Michael Garvey  
Professor of History and Radcliffe  
Alumnae Professor at the Radcliffe  
Institute for Advanced Study

Published June 18, 2024, by Penguin  
Random House LLC

**H**ARRIET TUBMAN is, if surveys are to be trusted, one of the 10 most famous Americans ever born. Yet, often she's a figure more out of myth than history, almost a comic-book superhero. With her characteristic tenderness and imaginative genius, Tiya Miles '88 explores beyond the stock historical grid to weave Tubman's life into the fabric of her world, probing the ecological reality of Tubman's surroundings and examining her kinship with other enslaved women who similarly passed through a spiritual wilderness and recorded those travels in profound and moving memoirs. What emerges, uncannily, is a human being whose mysticism becomes more palpable the more we understand it, as well as a story that offers us powerful inspiration for our own time. Harriet Tubman traversed many boundaries, inner and outer. Now, thanks to Tiya Miles, she becomes an even clearer and sharper signal from the past, one that

can help us to echolocate a more just and sustainable path.

*"Miles goes beyond standard biographies by foregrounding two aspects of Tubman's life that have rarely been analyzed together: her religious faith and her deep understanding of ecology . . . Miles' thoughtful engagement with Tubman's contemporaries allows her to place the icon within a proud lineage of Black female mystics and preachers. . . . A truly unique analysis."*  
—Booklist

*"National Book Award winner Miles chronicles and contextualizes Tubman's work to lead enslaved people to freedom in the North, spotlighting her subject's spiritual conviction and naturalistic know-how. . . . A notable, discerning contribution to the understanding of an American legend."* —Kirkus Reviews

### Campus Free Speech: A Pocket Guide

by Cass R. Sunstein '72, Robert  
Walmsley University Professor at  
Harvard Law School

Published September 3, 2024,  
by Harvard University Press

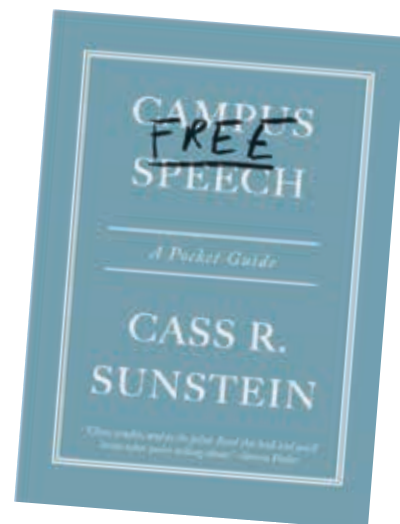
**R**ENOWNED AS A LEGAL SCHOLAR, Middlesex Trustee Cass Sunstein '72 provides a concise, case-by-case guide to resolving free-speech dilemmas at colleges and universities.

Free speech is indispensable on college campuses: allowing varied views and frank exchanges of opinion is a core component of the educational enterprise and the pursuit of truth. But free speech does not mean a free-for-all. The First Amendment prohibits "abridging the freedom of speech," yet laws against perjury or bribery, for example, are still constitutional. In the same way, valuing freedom of speech does not stop a university from regulating speech when doing so is necessary for its educational mission. So where

is the dividing line? How can we distinguish reasonable restrictions from impermissible infringement?

In this pragmatic, no-nonsense explainer, Cass Sunstein takes readers through a wide range of scenarios involving students, professors, and administrators. He discusses why it's consistent with the First Amendment to punish students who shout down a speaker but not those who chant offensive slogans; why a professor cannot be fired for writing a politically charged op-ed, yet a university might legitimately consider an applicant's political views when deciding whether to hire her. He explains why private universities are not legally bound by the First Amendment yet should, in most cases, look to follow it. And he addresses the thorny question of whether a university should officially take sides on public issues or deliberately keep the institution outside the fray.

At a time when universities are assailed on free-speech grounds from both left and right, *Campus Free Speech: A Pocket Guide* is an indispensable resource for cutting through the noise and understanding the key issues animating the debates. **M**



# ON STAGE: A Front Seat to a Broadway Debut

**O**N APRIL 14, 2024, Performing Arts Division Head Tom Kane brought juniors and seniors in his acting class to Lincoln Center to see Steve Carell '80 make his Broadway debut in the title role of *Uncle Vanya*. Not only was it a treat to watch one of Middlesex's own killing it in one of the most renowned roles in modern drama, but on top of that, when Steve heard the group was coming, he invited everyone out to dinner after the show. As Tom related, "Of course we talked about acting, Chekhov, movies, and theater, but we also spent a lot of time talking about what we value about Middlesex."

Steve and the students agreed that one of the most defining things they love is the long-standing commitment to being able to play sports and participate in theatre at the same time. He recalled directing half of his ice hockey team in *Little Nell* during his senior year and talked with three boys currently on the varsity lacrosse team, comparing team traditions that trace back to Steve's playing days at Middlesex.

Every student left dinner with an immense sense of gratitude for Steve's generosity and a feeling of pride in the connections they share with a graduate who approached his time at Middlesex with the same enthusiasm for learning, playing, and creating that they bring to each day at school. **M**





## A Master of Design

*Sandi Pei '68 Shares  
his Architectural Journey*



(Top) The Suzhou Museum in Suzhou, China, opened to the public in 2006. (Inset) During his Middlesex visit, Sandi Pei '68 met Head of School Bessie Speers and Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Starry Zhu.

**T**O OPEN THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month on May 3, 2024, the School warmly welcomed back award-winning architect Li Chung "Sandi" Pei '68, who began his presentation by sharing some of his own fond memories of his student days at Middlesex.

Back then, Sandi recalled, the School had an enrollment of 200 boys, with 30 faculty members and only six dorms. While he was best known for his skills as a photographer, he was also a budding entrepreneur who ran a snack bar on campus and set up a darkroom in Hollowell House's basement. "Though I didn't become an architect here," Sandi said, "what I really enjoyed was learning, testing, and probing. The support I received from the School is what I remember most."

The School is coeducational today and currently enrolls 420 students, yet Sandi observed, "I still feel that special character of Middlesex." Having appreciated his own experience as a student, he served as a trustee on the Middlesex Board from 1990 to 1993 and now shares his alumni status with his daughter Anna '16.

Describing his path following his graduation from both Middlesex and then Harvard, Sandi earned his master's degree in architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. He began his career at the practice of his father, renowned architect I.M. Pei, whose iconic works include the Louvre Pyramid in Paris, France; the National Gallery of Art's East Building in Washington, DC; Boston's JFK Library; and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, OH. In turn, Sandi played a leading role in such award-winning

projects as the MIT Arts + Media Technologies Facilities (1982); the Creative Artists Agency Headquarters in Beverly Hills, CA (1989); and the Bank of China Tower in Hong Kong (1990).

In 1992, Sandi started his own firm, now known as PEI Architects, which he described as a “small but international” practice. Of the numerous projects he has been involved in—from educational facilities, laboratories, and museums to commercial office buildings, hotels, and residential projects—he spoke in depth about a dozen of them, highlighting some of the aesthetic considerations and engineering challenges required by each.

With some commissions, Sandi explained, his designs have had to abide by an area’s specific restrictions in height,



The Macao Science Center (2009) in Macao SAR, China, as seen from the city waterfront promenade and (above) a view of the building’s link bridge from below.



# Alumni LECTURES

size, and appearance, as when he was designing an office building for the Bank of China that would be situated near Beijing's historic Forbidden City. In an entirely different case, making sure that the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center—located within an earthquake hazard zone—could withstand extreme seismic activity and remain fully operational was a critical goal. In addition to meeting that standard, Sandi noted, “We wanted to create wings with curves and diagonals to bring light and air into the hospital, to open it up and make it a receptive environment that would be conducive to healing.”

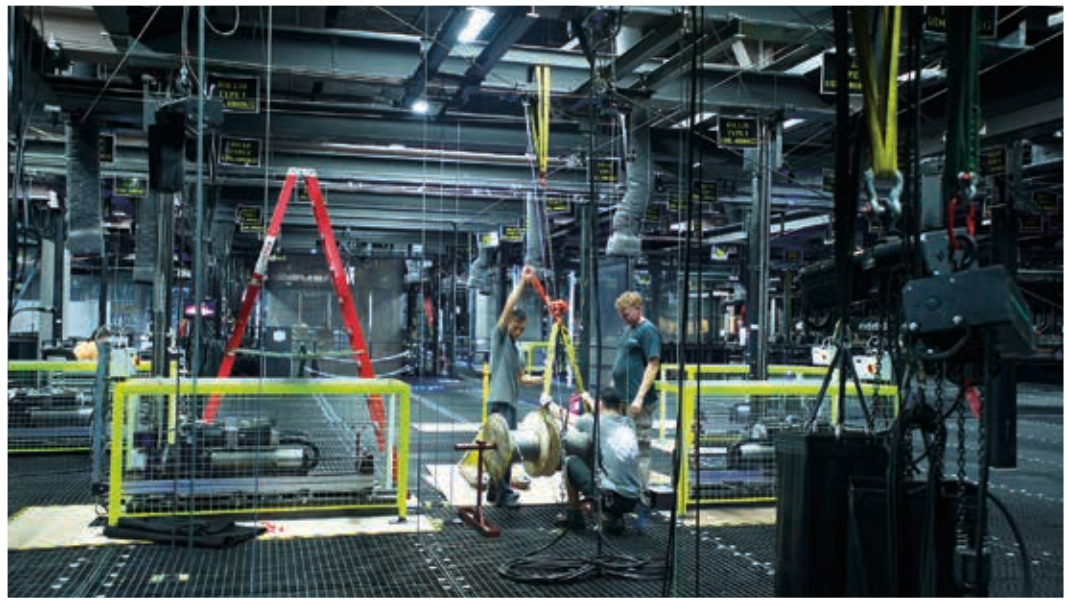
Another structure, the House of Dancing Water in Macao (2010), Sandi considers “the most complicated project I’ve ever worked on,” as it required the input of more than 60 consultants to engineer and construct this unique theatre that houses a permanent water show designed by director Franco Dragone, known for his work with Cirque du Soleil. Containing a gigantic pool holding nearly four million gallons of water (equivalent to more than five Olympic swimming pools), the theatre also required a central stage surrounded by sloped seating on three sides to accommodate 2000 spectators. Sophisticated, hidden mechanical and hydraulic systems were needed in order to change sets several times throughout each performance. “Everything had to be custom built because none of this equipment existed,” Sandi said.

Given the complexity and excellence of his work, it is not surprising that Sandi has already been honored with Middlesex's Henry Cabot Lodge (1920) Distinguished Alumni Award.

His current endeavors include a boutique hotel in Fuzhou, China, and a pair of mixed-use towers in Shanghai for the Bank of China, yet Sandi also clearly appreciates a variety of architectural designs and settings. “I’ve always loved the plan of Middlesex—the relationship of the buildings to the environment,” Sandi reflected. “That has probably informed me a lot. I just love being here.” **M**







The spectacular House of Dancing Water, completed in Macao SAR, China, in 2010, presented extraordinary technical and creative challenges—ultimately requiring custom-made, sophisticated mechanical and hydraulic systems (above).



**Alumni** LECTURES

THE BENDHEIM LECTURE

# Exploring Mars with Tina Seeger '12



**A** **S SCIENCE DEPARTMENT HEAD STEVEN MYLON** noted on April 12, 2024, Middlesex was enjoying a great week in his academic area, given that the community was able to watch a near-total solar eclipse on April 8 and then, four days later, learn about the exploration of Mars from planetary geologist Tina Seeger '12. Invited to give this year's Bendheim Lecture—a speaker series established by a Middlesex parent in 2015 to bring inspiring experts in STEM fields to campus—Tina was delighted to “come back to a place that was so formative for me, leading me to where I am,” as she said. “Middlesex let me have lots of interests and pursue them all—and learn it's OK to find fulfillment in different places.”

She is now a Ph.D. candidate at CalTech, but back then, Tina related, “English was my main thing here.” Still, she also clearly remembered being inspired by MIT Professor Sara Seeger, who spoke at Middlesex about her study of exoplanets and the search for another Earth-like planet. At Williams College, Tina eventually pivoted from majoring in English and astronomy to geology and astronomy, studying Jupiter's moon Io, the most volcanically active world in the solar system. After graduating and spending the summer on Mt. Rainier, running the park's nighttime astronomy program, she presented her undergraduate research at a conference and ended up being asked to join the team running NASA's Curiosity rover on Mars. Tina is also on the team managing the Perseverance rover.

Successfully sending a rover to Mars is no small feat and requires international collaboration, as Tina explained. Specialized rover parts and instruments are built all over the world,



shipped to NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab, and assembled in a “cleanroom” to prevent contaminating the Red Planet. Launching and landing a rover carrying expensive, sensitive instruments are major challenges, too, requiring thorough testing and “a lot of math” here on Earth, she said. And while many envision Tina driving the rovers using a video game controller or joystick, it's a much different process, as she detailed. After downloading and examining the rovers' photos that are relayed by satellites, her team decides what areas should be further investigated and makes a plan that is then coded by a control center and transmitted to the rovers via satellite.

Because Mars is half the size of Earth and—until 3.5 billion years ago—had a wet environment, Tina said,

“It helps us understand Earth better to study Mars.” By landing a rover in areas that were once river deltas filled with rich soil, for example, scientists can look for evidence of microbial or bacterial life there. Unlike Curiosity, Perseverance is equipped to drill out samples of rock and put them in tubes, to be collected by a future Mars mission. “You might have a chance to work on those samples!” Tina beamed. “Exciting science is on the horizon!”

In the meantime, she is enthusiastically engaged in analyzing the rovers' progress and pictures, as well as the recent images of Io being taken by the Juno spacecraft. For through exploring these celestial neighbors, Tina and her fellow scientists hope to better understand both the larger solar system and how life evolved on Earth. **M**

# Reunion Weekend

Remarkably, Middlesex graduates from the last eight decades attended this year's slate of events, including alumni from the 1940s all the way to the class of 2019, who returned to mark the first official, five-year reunion. At smaller receptions for special reunion years and for affinity groups, and at larger gatherings—in Ware Hall for Friday night's Old Guard dinner or under the tent for Saturday night's New England clambake—classmates could catch up with longtime friends and faculty, as well as make new connections with fellow alumni from other classes. Whether they were cheering on boys' varsity lacrosse as they defeated Governor's Academy, celebrating individuals being recognized for their notable careers or service, or remembering classmates at the annual Memorial Service, those who returned to campus clearly appreciated the chance to revisit their Middlesex memories and see for themselves that however much has changed over time, the spirit of the School remains the same.



Bringing together graduates who had already celebrated their 50th reunion, Friday night's Old Guard Dinner in Ware Hall gave John Brooks '69 and Alec Knowles '67 a chance to talk with Trustee Curt Curtis '62 (seated).



Randy Taplin '60 and John Lee '59 with Head of School Bessie Speers.



The afternoon reception for the Mx Fam affinity group was an opportune time to celebrate the birthday of Prentis Robinson '07, who serves on the Middlesex Alumni Association Board. From left to right are Bella Espenilla '19, Diego Flores '19, Adeleke and Odamea Akomah Gbamuse '04, Terrence Agbi '07, Prentis, Gavin Johnson '09, Kelsey Hennegen Murray '09, Middlesex Board Chair Jason Robart '83, and Nailah Hamilton '24.



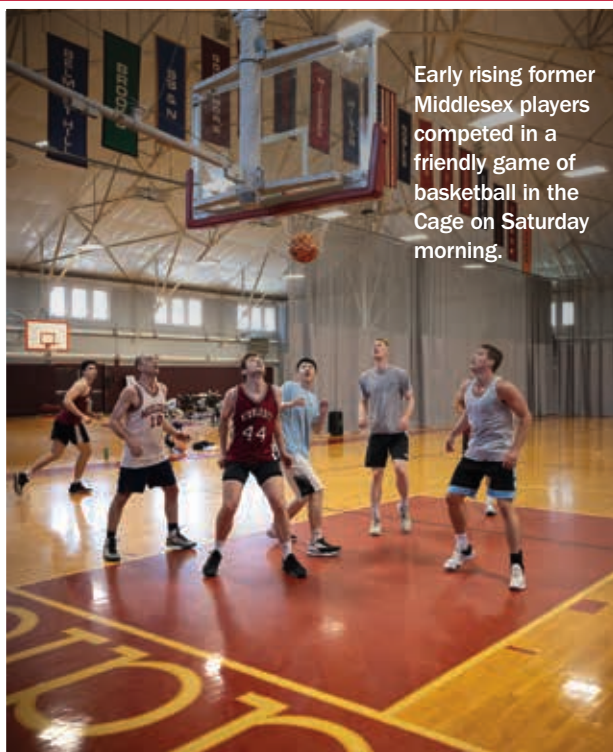
Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and *New York Times* Executive Editor Joe Kahn '83 was unable to accept the Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. (1920) Distinguished Alumni Award in person but conveyed his appreciation for the honor with a video message. Perhaps not surprisingly, Joe was the editor-in-chief of both Middlesex's newspaper and the literary magazine; on graduating, he went on to become the president of *The Harvard Crimson*. Subsequently, at *The Dallas Morning News*, Joe was part of a team of reporters who received a Pulitzer Prize for international reporting for their stories on violence against women around the world. In 1994, Joe became the China correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal* and then joined *The Times* in 1998. He won his second Pulitzer Prize for international reporting in 2006 for his coverage of the rule of law in China. Rising to lead the international desk, Joe became the managing editor in 2016; since 2022, he has been the newspaper's executive editor. From 2010 to 2013, Joe also served a term on Middlesex's Board of Trustees. Given his outstanding career in journalism, the Middlesex Alumni Association was pleased to recognize Joe Kahn '83 with the 2024 Lodge Award.



Outside the reunion tent on Saturday night, plenty of bubble wands and soap were provided for younger guests to enjoy.



Chris and Sarah Andrysiak—parents of David Andrysiak '19, who succumbed to a brain tumor in 2019—were surrounded by a great many of his classmates at the Alumni Memorial Service.



Early rising former Middlesex players competed in a friendly game of basketball in the Cage on Saturday morning.



Members of the class of 1974 celebrated their 50th reunion with dinner at the Head's House on Friday night. In the front row, from left to right: Dick Davis, Gibbs Roddy, Tuck Crocker, John Magoun, and Bill Palmer. Middle row: Bob Atkins, Brewster Bird, Tom McNamara, and Randy Harrison. Back row: Dick Smith, Peter Stone, Ian Young, George Lewis, and Sam Julier.

# Reunion Weekend



Not one but two new boats were dedicated at the Paumgarten Boathouse during Reunion Weekend. (Above) On Friday evening, the shell—named 1963—that was given by Nick Paumgarten '63 was officially christened with water from the racecourse's finish line by Boys' Varsity Crew Captain Luke Taylor '24. Just after lunch on Saturday (left), the *Alice*—given by Ashley Martin '03 and Alexis Martin-Kloss '07—received the same ceremonial christening by Girls' Varsity Crew Co-captains Charlotte Davis-Jeffers '24 and Claire Stone '24.

Recognizing Dedication: President of the Middlesex Alumni Association (MxAA) Alex Hanken Russell '08 presented two deserving alumni with the E. Duane Jones '70 Service to Alumni Award, which has been given annually since its establishment in 2021. (right) Having served as a class agent, president of the Middlesex Parents' Committee (1997–2000), and Board President (2007–2015), Pete Olney '66 received the Jones Award for his lasting commitment and outstanding leadership. (far right) Hunter Moorman '60 earned the Jones Award for his many years of loyal service as class agent and class secretary, as well as for his tenure on the MxAA Board, which he led as president (2013–2016) while concurrently serving as a trustee pro tem. Sadly, Hunter passed away in June; a tribute to him can be found on page 122.



The class of 1999 made a good showing for its 25th reunion. In front, from left to right: Tere Grinstead Druen, Will Dore, Deidre Fogg, Eliza Funston Jones, Sarah Dignan Whitman, Toby Mandel Hedger, Kate Tuller Tetirick, Neel Tiku, and Meg Woodworth Nam. In back: Chris O'Brien, Sam Bass, Salima Jones Daley, Edward Kuhnel, Adam Johnson, Joe Lang, Greg Romero, Beth Eisenhower, Ben Herter, Erika Ferlins Mills, and Sarah Mudge.

# Athletic Hall of Fame

## 2024 Inductees

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](mailto:jmorrissey@mxschool.edu).



**Sarah L. Tabek '14**

Sarah earned 12 letters during her Middlesex career—four each in field hockey, ice hockey, and lacrosse—and captained each team in her senior year. Named All-League in field hockey three times and an All-American twice, she also received an All-League Honorable Mention in lacrosse as a senior. Sarah was a recipient of the Kelton Bowl as a sophomore; the Class II Alumni Prize as a junior; and the 1976 Field Hockey Bowl, the Girls' Ice Hockey Trophy, and the Outstanding Senior Girls' Athletic Award as a senior. She then played field hockey all four years at Dartmouth, where she was named Second Team All-Ivy as a junior. As the 2017 team captain, Sarah was an All-Ivy Honorable Mention and played in the Division I All-Star game that season.



**Clare E. Lyne '13**

Earning 12 letters at Middlesex, including four each in field hockey, basketball, and lacrosse, Clare served as captain of all three sports as a senior. She was named All-League twice in field hockey and once in lacrosse, also receiving All-League Honorable Mentions twice in basketball and once in lacrosse. A recipient of the Kelton Bowl as a sophomore and the Class II Alumni Prize as a junior, Clare merited the 1976 Field Hockey Bowl, the 1986 Girls' Basketball Bowl, the Girls' Alumni Lacrosse Prize, and the Outstanding Senior Girls' Athletic Award as a senior. After being named a First Team All-American by U.S. Lacrosse in her senior spring, Clare played three years of field hockey and four years of lacrosse at Trinity College, where she was named to the All-NESCAC First Team and was an All-American in lacrosse in 2015, 2016, and 2017. As the lacrosse captain in 2017, Clare was named the NCAA Division III Women's Lacrosse Attacker of the Year.



**1978 Girls' Crew—First Boat**

Victorious in all five races during the season, the undefeated girls' first boat earned the DuPont Cup by defeating Pomfret and won the New England Interscholastic Rowing Association (NEIRA) Championship with a time of 3:57.7. The boat then competed in the National Women's Rowing Association (NWRA) Finals, where they placed third.



**1970–71 and 1971–72 Boys' Hockey Teams**

The boys' varsity hockey team won back-to-back Private School League Championships at a time when the league consisted of 20 schools; these were the last championships for Middlesex's hockey program prior to the ISL splitting into two divisions. Both teams were coached by two legendary Middlesex coaches and Athletic Hall of Fame inductees: Peter Arnold and Sam Cutler.

# ALUMNI Events

## Winter Visits to College Campuses

Faculty in the Middlesex Alumni Office headed west and north last winter, continuing to connect with young alumni currently in college.



**University of Chicago:** Rosie Qin '23, Jillian Robertson '21, Julie Chen '23, Vedant Deokar '23, Ben Luo '23, Peter Maheras '21, Director of Alumni Relations John Morrissey, Marissa Fadely '22, George Lin '22, Nina Gong '21, and Mia Peng '23.



**Colgate University:** Catherine Ripsteen '23 and Natalie McCall '21.



**Union College:** Director of Development Courtney Fein, Liam Alley '21, Luke McVeigh '21, Camren Fries '22, Director of Alumni Relations John Morrissey, Jared Arnold '19, and Nate Crozier '22.

**Hamilton College:** Director of Development Courtney Fein, Isaac Scribner '23, Logan Tonra '20, Taryn Gillis '22, Ava Romano '22, Chester Boyton '23, and Director of Alumni Relations John Morrissey.



# Regional Receptions for Alumni and Parents

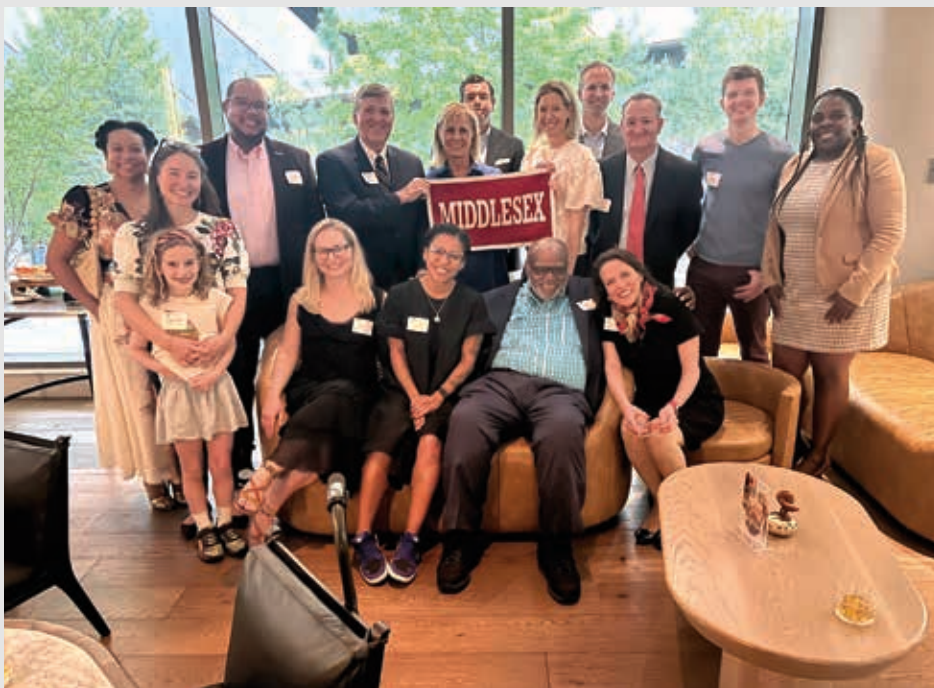
## Connecticut



Paul and Lauren Deysher Gojkovich '02 generously opened their home to Middlesex parents and alumni on April 10, 2024. From left to right are Tom Davidson P'27, George Wallace '76, Jennifer Davidson P'27, Chief Advancement Officer George Noble P'23'25, Colleen and Charlie King P'27, Director of Alumni Relations John Morrissey P'18'22, Jared Nolen '01, Tom Speers '76, Lauren Deysher Gojkovich '02, Head of School Bessie Speers, Andy Katz '06, Paul Gojkovich, Barbara and Dick Shriver '51, Stacy Clapp P'22'25, and Chief Advancement Officer Heather Parker P'16'18.

## Georgia

On April 17, 2024, parents and alumni gathered at the Kimpton Shane Hotel in Atlanta for a Middlesex reception.



Standing, from left to right, are Fallon Soltau, Bethany Caruso '98 and her daughter, Hannelore Freeman, Kevin Soltau '97, Tom Speers '76, Head of School Bessie Speers, Chas Littlefield '98, Becca Taylor Glasgow '99, Will Stengel '95, Director of Alumni Relations John Morrissey P'18'22, Bryan Byrne '14, and Shaakira Akbar P'27. Seated in front are Karina Timmel Antenucci '99, Awilda Rivera '02, Duane Jones '70, and Chief Advancement Officer Heather Parker P'16'18.



Head of School Bessie Speers and Shaakira Akbar P'27.



Chief Advancement Officer Heather Parker P'16'18 and Duane Jones '70.

# ALUMNI Events

## New York City

Alumni and parents enjoyed a unique opportunity to gather at the Oscar de la Renta Studio for a May 16th reception thanks to hosts Alex and Eliza Bolen, parents of Henry '19, Thomas '21, and Philip '24.



Tom Speers '76 with the evening's hosts, Eliza and Alex Bolen P'19'21'24.



New Middlesex Trustee Juan Sabater and his wife Marianna—parents of Marina '26—caught up with Head of School Bessie Speers.



Claudia Aubourg P'27, Anne Miller P'24, and Tobie Cornejo P' 24.



While her younger sister Esme '24 was getting ready for the AP Studio Art exhibition at Middlesex, Electra Washburn '15 joined her parents, Will Washburn and Mary DelMonico for the evening.



Tom '76 and Bessie Speers with Stephanie Hoffman P'27.

# Summer Gatherings



## Boston Young Alumni Reception

Dozens of recent graduates enjoyed catching up with each other on the terrace of Tia's Waterfront on July 11, 2024.



## Westhampton

Middlesex families braved torrential rain in the New York area on August 6 to attend the reception hosted by Dune Thorne and Neville McCaghren P'24'26 at their Long Island home. In the front row are Clementine Campbell '23, Esme Washburn '24, Iliana Tassev '24, Sadie Goodwin '23, and Alida McCaghren; seated in the second row are Chief Advancement Officer Heather Parker P'16'18, Francesca Goodwin P'22'23, Head of School Bessie Speers, Dune Thorne, Stephanie and Joe Watkins '71. Standing in back are Chief Advancement Officer George Noble P'23'25, Alex Feurer P'25, Lucy Leness, Ivy Feurer P'25, Ben Feurer '25, Kristen Smyth P'23, Ty Fein '24, George Leness '24, Nick Moore '24, Andrew Matarese '24, Harley Frelinghuysen, Lach McCaghren '26, Oggie Leness '28, Kate Leness P'24'28, Tom Speers '76, Director of Development Courtney Fein, Anson Frelinghuysen '98, Dorothy Watkins, Theresa Watkins-Bryant, Emma Frelinghuysen, and Neville McCaghren P'24'26.



## D.C. Alumni/Parent Outing

At Nationals Park on July 23, alumni, spouses, and friends watched the home team take on the San Diego Padres. Seated in front are Cate Pittelli '20 and Cooper Austen '22; second row: Stephen and Toby Mandel Hedger '99, Nick Acheson '65, Kelsey Hennege Murray '09, and her husband Patrick; third row: James Farrell, Todd Nolen '03, Michael Athas '71, Marisa Athas Beck '05, and her husband Matthew; back row: Assistant Head for External Affairs Eric Kester '04, Aidan Cunningham '17, and Max Novick '14.



## Martha's Vineyard

Tim and Vanessa Ripsteen P'23'25 hosted a reception on July 31 for fellow parents and alumni. From left to right are former Middlesex Trustee Coleman Hoyt '70, Woody Hoyt '02, Tom Speers '76, Ellie Hoyt '07, Amy Brauer, Sam Hoyt '04, Hadley Parker '16, Ryan Noble '23, Milly Noble '25, Chief Advancement Officer Heather Parker P'16'18, Melissa Noble P'23'25, Bill and Susanna Barton P'21'23'26, Chief Advancement Officer George Noble P'23'25, Tim and Vanessa Ripsteen, Jane Barton '23, Margaret Ripsteen, Catherine Ripsteen '23, and Head of School Bessie Speers.

## John A. Bacon, Jr. '45



John Anderson Bacon, Jr. died peacefully in his sleep on September 10, 2024.

Born on October 11, 1927, John grew up in East Aurora, NY, and entered the fourth class at Middlesex in 1941 as a Prize Scholar. On receiving his diploma, he proceeded to the Naval Academy and graduated in 1949. Service

on a destroyer in the Korean theatre and as a submariner in the early 1950s proved seminal for John's future endeavors.

Two years in Carnegie Mellon's nascent business school in the mid-1950s set the stage for a career that spanned finance, management, directorships, and a love for the deal. His experiences included ownership and chairing of the model car company AMT, founded by West Gallogly; investment banking with AG Becker and GH Walker; and board work with Duplex Products, Perry Drug, Heath Candy Company, the Commodore Corporation, and Stein Roe. John also served on the Middlesex Board from 1961 to 1964 and remained a steadfast supporter of the School. These experiences cultivated and called upon his native intelligence, uncompromising honesty, strong sense of responsibility, and trustworthiness. John drew on this background in his volunteer work, too, providing strategic development and coaching through the Executive Service Corps in Chicago. He enjoyed an active retirement in Exeter, NH.

An avid outdoorsman and passionate fly fisherman, John also enjoyed backpacking, camping, and skiing. Having always cultivated and maintained relationships throughout his life, he was rich in friends, and his delight in storytelling made him an entertaining and interesting companion. Family, deep faith, and country were John's guide stars, and he lived a life filled with curiosity, bountiful generosity, purpose, and accomplishment.

John is survived by his lifelong love, Elizabeth "Liz" Gallogly Bacon; two sons, Ned and **Charles R. Bacon '72**; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and his brother, **James E. Bacon '48**. His grandniece, **Thea Choyt '24**, is also a Middlesex graduate.

## John B. Northrop, Jr. '46

John Burr Northrop, Jr. died on May 1, 2024, in Vero Beach, FL.

He was born in New York City on February 8, 1928, to Virginia Cox and John Burr Northrop. After attending Trinity School, he entered Middlesex's fourth class as a Prize Scholar in 1942. On graduating from Middlesex, John attended Princeton University, leaving in his junior year and, in 1951, enlisting in the Army's 82nd Airborne. He was stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina and was honorably discharged in 1953. John subsequently enrolled at Columbia University to study economics and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. Recruited to work on Wall Street as a municipal and corporate bond salesman, he then moved to Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency, where he helped establish the first computerized bond pricing service.

In April 1974, John played an unlikely role in the Watergate scandal. While laid up in the hospital following a back injury, he diligently read the 1,000-page transcript of White House conversations that President Nixon had just released in hopes of proving that he was not involved in the Democratic National Committee headquarters break-in. On close inspection, John stumbled upon an important detail: There were two transcripts of the same conversation, indicating that Nixon's team had doctored the transcripts. He wrote to the *Washington Post* reporters Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward, who broke the story about the transcript discrepancies. Eventually Nixon released the tape in question. He was impeached and resigned from office. Newspapers around the country ran stories with headlines like "Transcript Discrepancies Found 'Just by Reading,'" and "Slow Reader Finds Slip in

Transcript." John was even interviewed by Walter Cronkite on the *CBS Evening News*.

John and his first wife, the former Barbara Stewart, had two children before divorcing in 1969. She died in 2006. With his second wife, Seta, a biochemist and antiques dealer, he lived in Cold Spring Harbor, NY, until her death in 2014. Moving to Vero Beach, FL, John reconnected with an old friend living there, Joyce Carlson. Known for his fun-loving personality, he was an easy conversationalist who was also a talented pianist and avid scuba diver. Additionally, he enjoyed researching his ancestors, who included Aaron Burr.

John is survived by two children, Michael Northrop and India Northrop Pratt; two stepchildren from his second marriage, Randy and Wendy Luck; 10 grandchildren; his sister, Mary Virginia Damask; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

## William P. Kline '49

William Patton Kline died peacefully in his sleep on Saturday, May 4, 2024.

Born in Kansas City, MO, on September 22, 1930, Bill was the son of Leonard C. and Ruth Carr Patton Kline. He went to Bryant School and Pembroke Country Day School before enrolling at Middlesex and attended Hobart College before graduating from the University of Kansas. While at KU, Bill completed ROTC Officer Training and went on to earn a J.D. at the University of Virginia School of Law. After law school, Bill was a first lieutenant in the Strategic Air Command. He was part of the Judge Advocate General Corps (JAG Corps), the military justice branch of the U.S. Air Force, at Ellsworth Air Force Base. On July 21, 1956, Bill married Florence Puryear Logan. Bill and Flip knew one

# IN Memoriam

another from childhood and shared nearly 68 devoted years of marriage.

Upon the completion of his military service, Bill and Flip moved back to Kansas City. Bill joined his father and brother as an insurance broker at Mann-Kline, which was later acquired by Marsh & McLennan. Bill's specialty was aviation insurance; he felt a great sense of accomplishment on having learned to fly and proudly displayed his cut tie draped over a plaque honoring his first solo flight. His career entailed world travel to places like England, France, and Saudi Arabia, which led to cultural exchanges and enduring friendships. Bill became a managing director of Marsh & McLennan and ran the Kansas City office until his retirement.

An Eagle Scout, Bill had many varied interests, from sports to beekeeping. Coming from a family of ranchers, he loved the land and the great outdoors, which led to a lifelong devotion to hunting, fishing, and conservation. Bill also loved animals, especially his dogs. Owning Variety Hill Farm with his brother Patton made for memorable family weekends and celebrations. Upon his retirement, Bill returned to his love of ranching and, with his son, founded Chair Rock in Greely, KS.

Bill was actively engaged both civically and culturally. He served on the board of directors of Sunset Hill School, was a member of the board of governors of the American Royal, and was a director of the Boys Club of America. He also served on the boards of American Bancorporation, Inc. and Leawood National Bank.

Predeceased by his parents and his brother, **L. Patton Kline '46**, Bill is survived by his wife Florence; their three children, Carr, Peggy, and Kim; his American Field Service daughter from Switzerland, Suzanne

Irène Erb; 13 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and his niece, his nephews, and their families.

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## John K. Whiting III '49

John Kimball Whiting III died on February 6, 2024.

The son of Major and Mrs. John K. Whiting, Jr., Kim was born on April 6, 1931, in Boston, MA. He attended school in South Dakota's Badlands before joining Middlesex's fourth class in 1945; after graduating, earned an A.B. in government at Harvard College and later attended Harvard Business School's Smaller Company Management Program (SCMP). During his long career in manufacturing, Kim served in various capacities—from being a buyer to leading as president—at several companies. A confident speaker to business groups, he traveled the world with his work and lived in New England, England, South Carolina, and Georgia. In his last business venture, Kim served as president of Cargocaire Engineering Corporations, which began as a small family company and, after becoming a thriving business, was acquired by Munters Corporation, one of the largest manufacturing companies on the North Shore of Massachusetts.

In 1958, Kim married Marian Margaret Crawford (who predeceased him in 2002), and they raised two children during their 44 years together. In 2003, Kim remarried and moved south with his wife Robin to Bluffton, SC, where he enjoyed golfing and being involved in the community. In 2019, they moved to Park Springs Retirement Community in Georgia and were very happy there.

In addition to his wife Robin, Kim is survived by his daughter, Margaret Whiting Smith; his son, John K. Whiting IV; his stepchildren, Deborah Cline

Goggins and David Cline; seven grandchildren and step-grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and his sister, Peggy Redding. His late cousin, **Nathan P. Dodge, Jr. '55**, was also a Middlesex alumnus.

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## John R. Fordyce III '50

John Rison Fordyce III passed away on December 27, 2023.

John was born on March 25, 1931, to Mary Downs Lander and John R. Fordyce, Jr. He entered the third class at Middlesex in 1947 and, on graduating, continued his education at Vanderbilt University. A stockbroker and executive with Merrill Lynch for more than 40 years, John retired in the early 1990s but decided to return to work for many years as a financial consultant with the firm. He also served in the Marine Corps Reserve for 28 years and retired as a colonel after 28 years.

Predeceased by his parents, his daughter Patricia Anne, his son Jack, and his grandson JR, John is survived by his wife Linda; his son William and daughter Elizabeth; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. His family's Middlesex legacy includes his late uncle, **Edward W. Fordyce (1926)**, and his late cousin, **Allen O. Fordyce '55**.

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## Christopher Harris '51

Christopher Harris died on January 15, 2024, at The Village at White River Junction, VT, after a period of failing health.

The second son of Maynard and Edith Bushnell Harris, Chris was born on June 7, 1933, in Plainfield, NJ, and grew up in Concord and Acton, MA. Following his older brother, **M. Lawrence Harris, Jr. '49**, to Middlesex, Chris joined the fifth class in 1946. After graduating, he earned a B.A. in

American studies at Yale, where he served as an editor and cartoonist for the *Yale Record* humor magazine. Chris then began his publishing career with Rand McNally in their book manufacturing plants in the Chicago area, and in that fall of 1955, he married Linda Robinson. In 1960, Chris joined The Viking Press and soon became production manager for Viking's Studio Books division. There, he worked closely with many renowned photographers—such as Alfred Eisenstadt, David Plowden, Nancy Sirkis, and Inge Morath—and produced many large format books, including the award-winning *The Kennedy Years*, Edmund Bacon's *Design of Cities*, and Gloria Steinem's *The Beach Book*. He designed the jacket for John Steinbeck's *America and the Americans*, and designed and produced *The Shore Birds of North America* by Peter Matthiessen. When Chris left Viking to partner with a small regional publisher, The Chatham Press, Viking offered to distribute the venture's books, and the new enterprise began. Originally devoted to New England National Park guidebooks, Chris sought and published many more substantial books for children and adults: illustrated works on folklore, history, and natural history.

In 1977, Chris left The Chatham Press, was elected president of the Connecticut Book Publishers Association, and, at one of its meetings, met Sally Sullivan, a widow whom he had first met in 1953, when she was a college classmate of his late first wife Linda. Sally was a graphic designer at Yale University Press, where Chris was hired as manager of production and design. After their marriage, Chris and Sally enjoyed many traveling adventures together. They retired from Yale in 1988 and moved to Weathersfield, VT, where

Chris became very involved locally; with Sally, he still produced freelance book projects under the name of Summer Hill Books. In his spare time, Chris was creative in many ways: as a cartoonist, painter, artist, woodworker, and gardener. He suffered a stroke in 2019 and moved in 2022 to The Village at White River Junction, where he received excellent care with the help of Bayada Hospice services.

Chris is survived by Sally, his wife of 46 years; his daughters, Andrea and Katherine Stowell; his stepdaughters, Colleen Whipple and Kathleen Sullivan; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and his stepsisters, Edith Tucker and Ellen Aman. He was predeceased by his son Stephen; his brother Larry; two stepsisters and his stepbrother, **Andrew T. McMillan '54**; and his stepmother.

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### Harvey W. Allen '56

Harvey Walker Allen passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, on July 25, 2024, at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, MA.

He was born on February 14, 1938, in Newton, MA, to the late Ruth and Leo Allen. Harvey entered the fifth class at Middlesex in 1951 and continued on to Colby College after graduation. After college, he almost signed a contract to pitch for the Boston Red Sox but joined his family's business, M.S. Walker, instead, having been told by his father that "he'd be better off in business than in baseball." As chairman and past president, Harvey profoundly influenced the company's culture and growth. He was a leader whose humor, wit, and spirit brightened everyone's days and created a unique atmosphere within the company.

In addition to M.S. Walker, family, philanthropy, friendship,

and athletics were cornerstones of Harvey's life. An avid golfer, he was a proud member of the 1965 golf team in the Maccabiah Games in Israel, which marked the first time he traveled there. He was deeply committed to the State of Israel and served as a longtime president of Israel Bonds and as a major supporter of the CJP, FIDF, and Duvdevan. Closer to home, he was a long-standing board member of the Hillside School. His memory will be cherished by his children, grandchildren, and legions of friends, all of whom will remember him as a pillar of strength and a source of love, wisdom, jokes, and stories.

Harvey is survived by his wife, Paula Levine Allen; seven children, Scott Allen, Robyn Stavis, Brett Allen, Brooke Allen, Ross Allen, Max Allen, and Max Levine; and seven grandchildren.

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### Nathaniel P. Breed, Jr. '56

Nathaniel Preston Breed, Jr. died gently on April 27, 2024, in Washington, DC, content to the end of a long and wonderful life.

Born on September 26, 1937, Nat joined the third class at Middlesex in 1953 and at age 16 earned his pilot's license. This sparked a love of aviation that influenced his entire career. Nat spent a short time at Harvard before he joined the Army and served in West Germany. He completed his B.A. at Babson College, followed by a J.D. at the University of Michigan Law School in 1966.

Arriving in Washington, Nat was a public defender for a short time, which he remembered with great pride for the rest of his life. He worked at the Civil Aeronautics Board from 1966 to 1972, a period when change was coming to the aviation industry. In private

### Charles Harding III '56



Charles Harding III died at home on May 26, 2024, after a short illness and, as he described it, a long and lucky life.

Born on November 23, 1937, in Omaha, NE, into a large and supportive family, Charles was a student in the Omaha Public School system for eight years before entering the third class at Middlesex as a Prize

Scholar in 1953. Following graduation, he earned a B.A. in English at Stanford University.

After a stint in the U.S. Army Reserves, Charles moved to New York City to write books and lyrics for Broadway musicals but first joined the creative department of BBDO advertising with other aspiring writers and artists to make a real living. Two musicals based on literary classics, *The Little Prince* and *Zuleika Dobson*, found life but no producers. Charles, however, loved the creative and analytical challenge of making TV commercials and print ads to reach real people; so, he stayed in the field for almost 50 years in New York and Boston. He had a wonderful time writing not just ads but also country and pop music lyrics (a number of which were recorded).

Charles volunteered his problem-solving skills locally—for the Stonington Free Library and at StoneRidge for their Scholarship Fund—and to support educational efforts in Boston; from 2004 to 2008, Charles served as a trustee on the Middlesex Board. He wrote memorable thank you notes to delighted friends, witty Christmas poems, and concise, concerned Letters to the Editor in *The New London Day*. Charles did everything with great care. Deeply intelligent, thoughtful, modest, honorable, loving, and playful, he was beloved by colleagues, friends, and family.

Charles is survived by Elizabeth Harding, his wife of 60 years, and his brother, John Harding.

practice, Nat was a major player in the successful effort by Federal Express to gain congressional approval for domestic air cargo deregulation. He played a key role in FedEx's expansion to international markets and handled regulatory issues for

U.S. and Canadian air carriers until his retirement in 2011. Nat's career took him all over the globe, and he took pride in his commitment to all his clients, large or small. He was an exceptional writer and a great raconteur, lending

## Hunter N. Moorman '60



Hunter Nelson Moorman passed away at Newton Wellesley Hospital with his family by his side on June 29, 2024.

Born to Colonel Harold and Nancy-Lydia Ansell Moorman on October 25, 1942, Hunter joined Middlesex's fifth class as a Prize Scholar in 1955. After graduating, he received his B.A. in government from Harvard

College and served as an officer in the Army. Stationed in Germany until his discharge in 1970, Hunter later earned an M.P.A. from George Washington University and a Certificate in Organization Development from Georgetown University.

For 26 years, Hunter worked for the U.S. Department of Education, where he directed national education research and development programs and launched and managed the department's principal school leadership improvement program. After leaving the federal government, he spent six years as director of the Education Policy Fellowship Program at the Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, DC, and another three years as a member of the Improving School Leadership Team and the Mexico Review Group at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), in Paris, France. As an independent consultant in leadership, education reform, and organization development to public and non-profit organizations, Hunter worked with federal agencies, state education agencies, universities, and education associations on numerous evaluation, leadership improvement, and organization development projects.

On retiring to Martha's Vineyard, Hunter became actively involved in the community there, serving on the Board of the Polly Hill Arboretum and chairing the Board of Directors of the Foxfire Fund, Inc. and the West Tisbury Library Foundation, Inc. Always remaining connected to Middlesex, he was a longtime class agent and class secretary who served on the School's Board in a pro tem capacity (from 2013 to 2016) as the president of the Middlesex Alumni Association.

Predeceased by his wife, Leslie Gray, in 2021, Hunter is survived by two children, Jim and Anna, and two grandchildren; and his sisters, Anne Reeves and Susan Southworth. His cousin, **John P. Ansell '53**, is also a Middlesex graduate.

his signature wit to every conversation.

Nat loved the outdoors. He was a fearless skier and kayaker, and he enjoyed walking in Rock Creek Park and along the C&O Canal. He enjoyed many vacations with his family, and his love of animals was legendary. Nat enjoyed opera, choral music, Beethoven, the Blues Brothers, and public television. His religion became an important part of his life, and he contributed to Catholic Relief Services and organizations supporting refugees and the homeless. Nat was also an ardent supporter of animal welfare groups, including City Wildlife of DC.

In addition to his wife, Robin White, Nat is survived by his daughter Stephanie and his stepdaughter Sarah; his grandson Jack; his sister, Liz Pekkala; and many loving cousins, nieces, and nephews. He will remain in the hearts of all who were lucky enough to know him.

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## G. Dwight Moore '58

George Dwight Moore passed away peacefully on April 3, 2024, at Beverly Hospital in Beverly, MA.

Dwight was born in Newton, MA, on February 29, 1940, and was the son of Alice McKeown and George Bacon Moore of Sewickley, PA. He entered Middlesex's third class in 1955 and, after receiving his diploma, went on to graduate from Hiram College in 1962. Spending most of his life in the Pittsburgh area, he had a long career in commercial real estate and worked for various companies, the last of which was C.B. Richard Ellis, where he managed both the Pittsburgh and Harrisburg offices.

An adept athlete and lover of the outdoors, Dwight spent much time fly fishing, shooting

skeet, and maintaining his scratch handicap on the golf course.

Dwight was predeceased by his wife, Katharine L. Griswold, and is survived by his daughter, Elise Moore Kelley; his sons, George Dwight Moore III and John Thornton Brodhead Moore; and sister, Judith M. Babb. His stepdaughter, **Emily Griswold Larkin '96**, is also a Middlesex graduate.

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## Michael S. Howden '62

The School recently learned that Michael Scott Howden passed away in 2020.

The son of Edward and Marion Beers Howden, Mike was born on September 22, 1943, and attended Middlesex for three years, from 1958 to 1961. He received a B.A. from Middlebury College in 1966, followed by an M.A. from Johns Hopkins University in 1968. He made his home in Hawaii for more than four decades.

Mike is survived by his wife, Debra Perry.

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## Michael H. Mathers '64

Michael Harris Mathers passed away on February 6, 2024, at his home in Astoria, OR.

Born on February 3, 1945, to William and Myra Mathers, Michael entered the fourth class at Middlesex in 1960. On graduating, he went on to Harvard College, where he discovered his passion for photography through a senior-year elective. After receiving his A.B. in English in 1968, he was a photography instructor at Harvard from 1969 to 1972. Michael subsequently concentrated on editorial work, mainly using black-and-white film and focusing on people. Some of his projects involved riding the rails with hobos, living in the African bush, joining the circus,

herding sheep, and shadowing a Vermont veterinarian.

After his marriage to children's author and illustrator Petra Mathers, Michael turned to architectural photography. His personal work, however, continued to center on people, and he enjoyed taking portraits of the artists, duck hunters, and other residents near his Astoria home. In all, eight books of his photographs were published. As he told the *Bulletin* in a 2007 interview, "It's so rare to make a living doing what you like. I just consider myself extremely lucky to be doing this."

Michael and his late wife Petra are survived by his brother, **William M. Mathers '62**; his three sisters, Ursula M. Nehrt, Myra M. McAnulty, and Ann C. Mathers; and several nieces and nephews, including **Spenser S. Nehrt '09**. His cousin, **Katherine L. T. Koehne '19**, is also a Middlesex graduate, along with his late brother, **John G. Mathers '65**, and his late grandfather, **Grinnell Martin (1906)**.

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### Ronald H. Rappaport '67

Ronald Hall Rappaport died unexpectedly on June 7, 2024, just nine days shy of his 75th birthday.

The second child of Dr. David and Adeline Rappaport, Ron was born June 16, 1949, in Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard. He joined Middlesex's fourth class in 1963 and, after receiving his diploma, went to Stanford University, graduating in 1971. That summer he moved to Washington, DC, to work for U.S. Senator Edward Brooke, the first African American elected to the Senate by popular vote. Ron ran the Boston office for Senator Brooke's re-election campaign while also attending Boston College Law School. At a bar review course in 1975, he met his future wife, Jane Kaplan, and they married in

1977. Both gifted lawyers, they moved to Martha's Vineyard soon after their daughter's birth. In teaming up with partner Jim Reynolds, their law firm—now Reynolds, Rappaport, Kaplan and Hackney—quickly grew to become the Island's largest. Over four decades, Ron built an unmatched reputation as a skilled lawyer, trusted advisor, and champion of Martha's Vineyard. As municipal attorney for five of the six Island towns and the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank, he fiercely guarded the Vineyard against overdevelopment, successfully representing the Island in several landmark legal decisions.

Ron served on numerous civic boards and committees; in addition to being a Steamship Authority governor for more than seven years, he was instrumental in bringing Martha's Vineyard Hospital to stable financial grounds. He helped to organize the charitable organizations MV Youth and Vineyard Youth Tennis (now Vineyard Family Tennis), and he was a key figure in the creation of Test MV during the COVID epidemic. In 2000, Ron received the Spirit of the Vineyard Award for his many contributions to the Island. At the time of his death, he chaired the board of the Martha's Vineyard Bank and its charitable foundation, which he helped to found.

It was a hallmark of Ron's life that his professional success was inextricably tied to his personal relationships, and his love for the Island was exceeded only by his devotion to his family. He adored traveling, watching his beloved Celtics (and Patriots and Red Sox), and thinking over nitty gritty legal issues with his wife. He was at home in every setting, and his friendships spanned every walk of life.

In addition to his wife and daughter, Ron is survived by two grandsons; his siblings,

**Alan H. Rappaport '71** and Susan Cohen; and two nieces and two nephews, along with their families.

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### John C. Gibson '68

John Clark Gibson passed away on February 22, 2024, in Honolulu, HI, after a long and difficult battle with cancer.

Born on May 5, 1950, John entered the fourth class at Middlesex in 1964 and, after graduation, attended the University of Pennsylvania. While living in Boise, ID, for several years, he worked with and trained under a European chef and restaurant consultant. Subsequently, on moving to Anchorage, AL, John worked as a chef there for several years before relocating to Kauai, HI, where he ran a restaurant. He then moved to Honolulu and earned a degree in history at the University of Hawaii while also working as a legal assistant. At Tulane University School of Law, John earned his J.D. with a specialty in maritime law, and he returned to Honolulu to practice law.

On moving to Santa Barbara, CA, John opened and ran a small German restaurant; he then sold it and settled in Eureka, CA, where he earned a high school teaching certificate and held different jobs. Returning to Honolulu, John once again worked in a maritime law firm for several years.

John is survived by his brother, **William B. Gibson '62**.

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### David A. Rowe '68

David Austin Rowe passed away unexpectedly on June 21, 2024.

The son of Dr. Daniel H. Rowe and Carol Ann Marie Austin Rowe, David was born on September 30, 1949, in Boston, MA, and moved with

his parents and family to the Palm Beaches in Florida in 1954. He attended St. Juliana's School and Palm Beach Public School before joining Middlesex's fifth class in 1963. On graduating, David attended Stanford University, earning an A.B. in political science. An outstanding athlete at both the high school and college levels, he held multiple records for his age group in swimming, some on a national level. He was a four-year starter on varsity soccer at Middlesex and went on to play for Stanford, too.

Turning down an opportunity to play professional soccer in Dallas, TX, David instead enrolled in the Nova Law School in Davie, FL. He was part of the first graduating class of Nova Law (now Nova Southeastern), receiving his J.D. in 1977. David was a member of the Florida Bar and practiced law in Palm Beach County for 47 years.

Predeceased by his parents, David is survived by his brothers, **John A. Rowe '66**, Terrence A. Rowe, and **Donald A. Rowe '84**; and numerous cousins and other relatives.

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### William L. Thoen '73

William Lawrence Thoen passed away on June 20, 2024, at Care One at Essex Park in Beverly, MA.

Born on March 21, 1955, in Ipswich, MA, Bill attended Brookwood School before joining the fourth class at Middlesex in 1969. Following graduation, he earned a degree in geology at Boston University and, after hitchhiking across the country twice, settled in Boulder, CO, for much of his adult life. Bill moved back to the North Shore of Massachusetts in 2016, settling first in Rowley, then Marblehead, and finally Beverly.

As a geologist, Bill worked for the United States Geological



# IN Memoriam

Survey as well as RPI of Boulder, CO, a geology consulting firm. After teaching himself computer programming, he started GISnet and was involved in the early stages of computer mapping, specifically for geologic applications. Bill's work led to patents and copyrights of several applications.

Bill loved life, but most especially nature. The writings of Thoreau resonated with him, and he enjoyed living simply but fully. Hiking with Bill was always an education, as he could explain the geology and nature around you as you walked. He also enjoyed skiing, sailing, chess, music, and art. Additionally, Bill was a consummate sketch artist, which brought him much pleasure. He was creative, intelligent, and thoughtful, and he will be sorely missed.

Predeceased by his mother Mary, sister-in-law Janice, and niece Hillary, Bill is survived by his father and his wife Priscilla; his sister Kate; his brother Jim; and several nieces and nephews.

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## Christian E. Yunis '91

Christian Edmond Yunis died in Natick, MA, surrounded by loved ones, on July 17, 2024, following a 21-month courageous fight with glioblastoma.

The son of Borgild Olson Yunis and the late Dr. Edmond J. Yunis, Chris was born in Minneapolis, MN, on November 15, 1973. He grew up in Concord MA, where he went to Fenn School before entering Middlesex's third class in 1988. After graduating, Chris earned his B.A. in mathematics with a minor in theology at Georgetown University. He received his M.S.T. in mathematics from the University of New Hampshire in 2005.

Chris' passion for mathematics and teaching shone brightly throughout his life. He spent nearly three decades educating young minds, sharing his enthusiasm for numbers and problem solving. His teaching career began at Kent School in 1996 and continued at Crystal Springs Uplands School starting in 2004; following a two-year stint at Maimonides School from 2016 to 2018, he returned to Crystal to teach and chair the math department. Many of his students remember Chris as their favorite teacher who not only taught them math but many life lessons that impacted them profoundly. His sense of humor and love of Star Wars, Boston Sports, and movie quotes was often evident in his classroom.

Outside of the classroom, Chris was a devoted family man. He was an adoring husband and father, loving son, loyal brother and friend, and doting uncle who made cherished memories with his loved ones. The way Chris lived through the last 21 months of his life—living fully, despite a challenging prognosis—was no less than heroic. In fact, many family members call him their superhero for the way he stayed present, positive, and full of joy, never complaining and always loving. He was a teacher until the end.

Chris will be forever remembered for his brilliant mind, his infectious laugh, his compassionate spirit, and his lasting impact on all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

In addition to his beloved wife Shabnam and son Darius, Chris is survived by his mother, Borgie Yunis; his siblings, Maria, David, and **Joseph E. Yunis '88**; and three nephews and three nieces.

## Martha A. Ross



Former Trustee Martha Allen Ross passed away on May 25, 2024.

The daughter of Philip Kirkham Allen and Elizabeth Warner Allen of Andover, MA, Martha was born in Boston, MA, in April 1939. Educated at The Pike School, Westover School, and Briarcliff College, Martha married **John D. Ross '56** in 1962. They lived in

Dedham, MA, and Westwood, MA, until 1995, when they became year-round residents of West Falmouth, MA.

For Martha's entire life, engaging, making connections, and fostering true relationships were at her core. A teacher in her early career and a lifelong advocate of education, she dedicated endless time and energy to Dedham Country Day School, Westover School, and Middlesex as a parent, volunteer, and trustee. She served on the Middlesex Board from 1983–1994.

Martha loved music of all kinds, gardens, flowers, singing, knitting, skiing, golf, sailing, and being by the water. She was also passionate about the wellbeing of women, as was clear from her involvement with The Fragment Society and The Vincent Club, along with her steadfast dedication as the founder of the Friends of Emerson House and her commitment to the preservation of Gosnold's Swift Mansion.

A community builder and amazing friend, Martha always prioritized her relationships and therefore was surrounded by countless lifelong friendships. Her laughter was infectious, her smile was big, and she was always game for a little benevolent mischief. Martha's true north, though, was her family, and she was a devoted wife and deeply loving mother.

Predeceased by her husband John in 2018, she is survived by her sons, **Nathaniel D. Ross '81** and **William L. Ross '84**; her daughter, Sarah Winthrop Ross-Bailly; six grandchildren; ten nieces and nephews; and many friends.



# Middlesex

## 2023–2024 Giving by the Numbers

Each year, our alumni, families, and friends support Middlesex and its mission to “find the promise” in every student by giving to our Annual Fund and strategic capital initiatives. This collective effort significantly impacts our school community and we are grateful.

**\$15M+**

Total giving to the School



**292**

Donors gave their gift in honor of an MX community member or a loved one

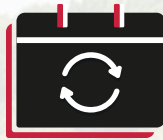


**2,060+**

Donors gave gifts of all sizes

**140**

Donors maximized their support through a recurring gift



**\$3.48M+**

Contributed through the Annual Fund

With the 2024–2025 school year now underway, the Middlesex community is actively engaged in many exciting initiatives that will make a difference in the lives of our students, faculty, and staff. Why wait to show your support of MX?



To make your gift today, visit [mxschool.edu/give](https://mxschool.edu/give)

### Make Your Annual Fund Gift Today—and Also Support Exciting Capital Projects Like Our New Field House

A generous Middlesex family has established the *1901 Athletics Challenge*, giving donors a unique opportunity to make a transformational impact on the School.



From now until June 30, 2025, every gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to \$2.5 million.

**Join the 1901 Athletics Challenge today!**

For more information, contact the MX Development Office at 978-369-5110, or email George Noble at [gnoble@mxschool.edu](mailto:gnoble@mxschool.edu) or Heather Parker at [hparker@mxschool.edu](mailto:hparker@mxschool.edu).



# Middlesex

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