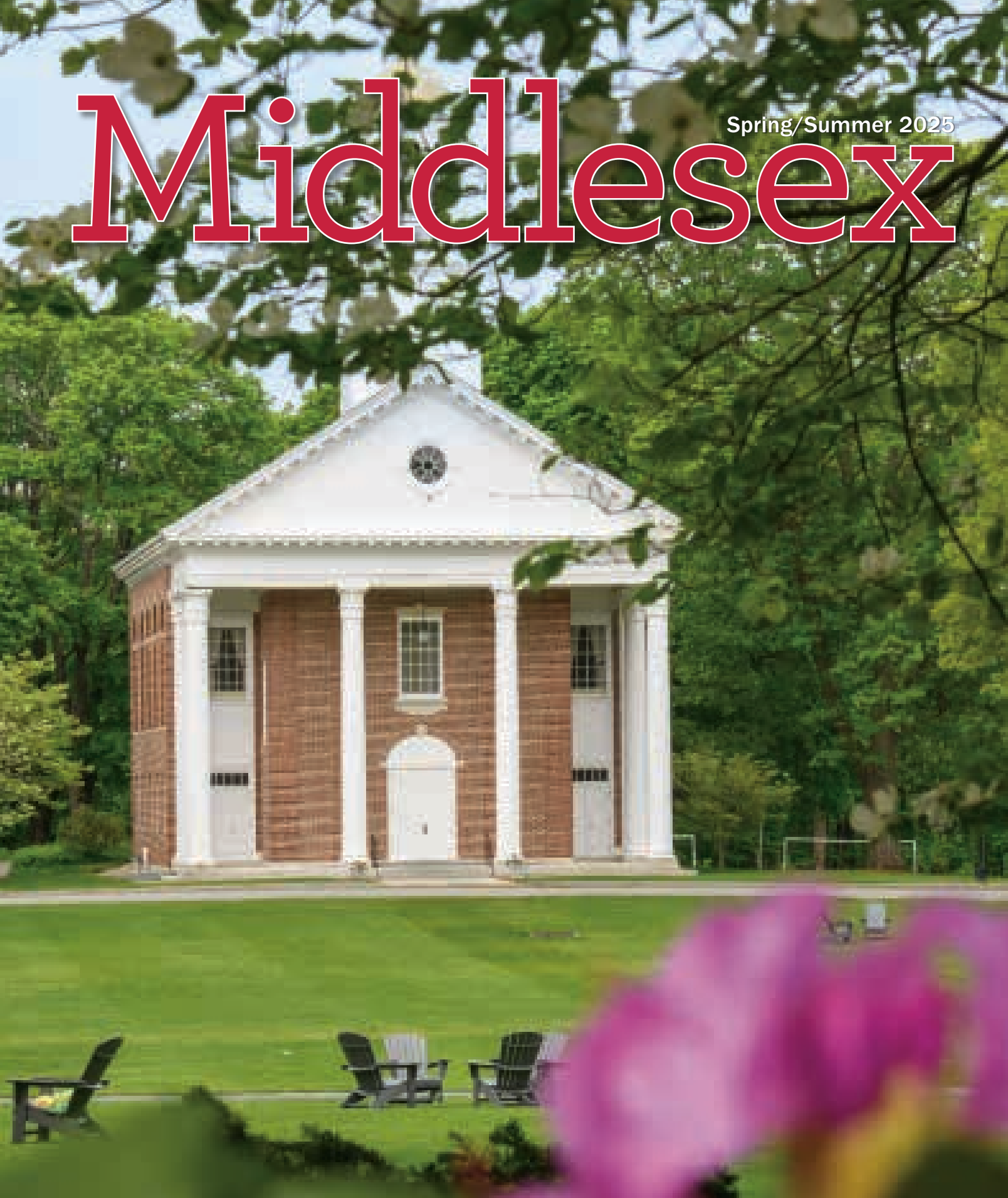


# Middlesex

Spring/Summer 2025



**Pathways to Promise**  
A Strategic Vision  
for the School is Finalized

**Celebrating 50 Years  
of Coeducation**  
Alumnae of the Past Five Decades  
Share Their Experiences

**Memorial Chapel at 100**  
A Century Later, the Building's  
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**Field House Groundbreaking**  
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## MISSION STATEMENT

Middlesex School helps students find their promise through rigorous intellectual, physical, creative, and ethical education. We value integrity, kindness, inclusivity, excellence, and engagement in service of our community and the wider world.

## 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 e-mail [alumni@mxschool.edu](mailto:alumni@mxschool.edu).

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Dear Middlesex Community,

**A**S SUMMER GETS UNDER WAY IN EARNEST, I hope you will enjoy pursuing the pages of this *Bulletin*, which includes the celebration of some important Middlesex milestones and more. The class of 2025 has set sail to amazing colleges and universities around the world, including the University of Chicago, Williams, Harvard, Princeton, Colby, Middlebury, Dartmouth, Georgetown, and the University of St Andrews, to name but a few. Our students are immersed in summer adventures far and near, including exchanges to Panamá and Australia. In addition, they are hopefully beginning their summer reading, which includes *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, and *Lies My Teacher Told Me* by James W. Loewen.

Before the academic year came to a close, a student named Marie made an appointment to see me. Marie was an ASSIST scholar who joined the Middlesex community from Vorarlberg, Austria, for the year. The ASSIST program ensures that students from countries all over the world are matched with rigorous academic programs and schools that will enrich their lives, while also enabling the school to benefit from the particular student's contribution. As Marie and I sat in my office in Eliot Hall, Marie spoke with such gratitude as she reflected on the generosity, kindness, and inspiration provided by her peers and teachers alike. She felt intellectually stretched, engaged, and supported at Middlesex. Marie said when she arrived at Middlesex, she wasn't exactly sure what "finding the promise" really meant; by the end of the year, she was able to state that finding one's promise at Middlesex is actually



### On the Cover

Memorial Chapel  
in springtime. Image  
by Tony Rinaldo.



a feeling and that she knew that she had found it! I meet with students in my office frequently and witness moments of “promise finding” often throughout the year; however, it was especially gratifying to hear about Marie’s experience and her love for Middlesex after just one year!

I’ve also heard from many alumni over many decades about ways they are sharing their promise with the wider world. Within this edition of the magazine, you will read more about our new Strategic Vision, *Expanding the Circle: Pathways to Promise*, which asks us to focus on the opportunity that lies squarely at the intersection of tried and true Middlesex traditions and new and innovative approaches to learning. It is indeed this intersection that will enable the School to best prepare young people for an ever-evolving world. This year, we have already implemented several initiatives aligned with our Strategic Vision, including bolstering our MXGlobal Program with international travel to England, France, and Morocco, as well as the aforementioned student exchange programs with schools in Panamá and Australia.

We have embraced “expanding our Circle” near and far, adopting a school-wide Service Learning Program and also participating in Concord’s celebration of the 250-year anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord. And if there is one feature within this magazine that perfectly encapsulates the intersection of Middlesex traditions and innovation, it is the story of seniors Ian Lam ’25 and Ben Feuer ’25,

who applied their coding skills to turn Middlesex’s iconic *Words* vocabulary book into a sleek web app that allows students to study, self-assess, and engage with our English curriculum in a whole new way.

The academic year included intentional ways of celebrating the School’s history with a forward-looking posture, learning about our present lives within the context of Middlesex’s rich history. We were fortunate to hear from an outstanding panel of alumnae as part of our celebration of 50 years of coeducation, and this spring, we spent time as a community to honor the centennial of our Memorial Chapel. We look forward to the implementation of *Pathways to Promise* and the opening of our new Athletic Field House in 2026. On the back of this publication, you will also find a “save the date” for Middlesex’s 125th anniversary celebration. It will undoubtedly be a memorable evening to celebrate the School’s history, but it will also be an opportunity to reflect with excitement on the School’s future—one that, with the incredible strength and dedication of our faculty and staff, the commitment and expertise of our trustees, the generous support of our alumni and parents, and, of course, the talents and energy of our students, will build nobly and successfully on all that has come before. Thank you for your continued support and love for this remarkable school!

Bessie



## Future Changemakers

Five Middlesex juniors—Jules Lewis '26, Tyler Martinez '26, Avery Green '26, Stella Curwin-Amfitheatrof '26, and Baze Kalisa '26—attended the annual ISL Changemakers Conference at Lawrence Academy on October 21, 2024. They discussed the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion work in athletic spaces and explored different ways to be upstanders and changemakers as student leaders and athletes.



## Award-Winning Portraits

Jerry Li '25 was selected as a 2025 winner of the prestigious YoungArts Award for Photography, one of the most competitive and highly regarded national honors for high school artists across the country. Included with this distinction is a lifetime of creative and professional support, along with access to YoungArts Post—a private, online portal for YoungArts artists to connect, share their work, and discover new opportunities. With his focus on documenting the lives and stories of immigrants in Boston and New York, Jerry was recognized by YoungArts for his skills as a street photographer.



## Girls' Four Races at Head of the Charles

For fun in the off-season, five varsity crew members competed in the Women's Youth Four category of the 2024 Head of the Charles on October 27. Rowing together in this combination for the first time, the athletes pictured (left)—Clair Jennings '25 (stroke), Caroline Ripsteen '25 (3 seat), Sophie Shaw '25 (coxswain), Charlotte Friedmann '26 (bow), and Avery Green '26 (2 seat)—finished in the middle of the field among 90 entries from across the country.





## Warburg Storytime Inspires Future Readers

Beginning in February, students in Peggy Yoon's English elective on children's literature began sharing their enthusiasm for the course content with faculty children on campus. During Storytime in the Warburg Library once or twice a week, seniors have been reading books aloud to all interested participants. From the start, the idea has been a success, with seven children and 12 adults taking part in the first session.

## Bringing MX Global Perspectives to Peers

In early February, 22 members of the School's International Students Association (ISA) and the group's faculty advisors attended the third International Students Conference held at Milton Academy. More Middlesex students than ever hosted workshops this year, including Paetyn Naidoo '25, Lauren Chan '26, Sarah Custodio Guzmán '26, David Yang '26, Bryan Dong '27, Celine Ding '27, Benjamin Jiang '27, Olena Khiznychenko '27, Tiger Wu '27, Steve Ma '28, Lucy Wu '28, and Alexander Zhao '28. Middlesex looks forward to hosting the fourth ISC here on campus in 2026.



## Ian Lam '25: Morehead-Cain Scholar

For the third time since 2006—when Middlesex was first invited to nominate a candidate for the prestigious Morehead-Cain Scholarship—a member of the senior class has earned that coveted honor: Ian Lam '25.

In addition to four years of tuition at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Morehead-Cain scholars receive an annual stipend to cover expenses, customized summer internships, “discovery” funds for additional learning opportunities, and access to some of the most influential scholars and leaders in their chosen field of study. In return, they are expected to pursue their passions and strengths, to strive to fulfill their potential, and to take up the challenge of making a difference in the world by growing and developing as a leader.

An outstanding student, dorm proctor, peer tutor, and varsity hockey player and rower, Ian has made the most of his three years at Middlesex—even creating a web application with a classmate that helps students learn vocabulary (see page 32). While highly skilled in computer science, he is leaning toward a major in applied physics.



Head of School Bessie Speers (on left) and Board Chair Jason Robert '83 (on right) with Adao DeSouza and Darby McNally '80.

## Marking 35 Years at Middlesex

When he started working at Middlesex on March 19, 1990, Assistant Foreperson of Housekeeping Adao DeSouza had no idea that he would be keeping the School's buildings in good order for the next four decades. Like Adao, Head Athletic Trainer Laura Darby McNally '80 is also celebrating her 35th anniversary this year. In addition to her work with Middlesex athletes, Darby has long been the head coach of girls' crew—and she also taught plaque carving for 23 years and served as a dorm parent. Thank you, Adao and Darby, for all that you do for Middlesex!





## Meeting the Moment

Middlesex was well represented at two annual conferences run by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) last December. Chief Officer for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Jason Sport accompanied two students—Mylles Welch '27 and Benjamin Jiang '27—to the Student Diversity Leadership Conference, where Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Starry Zhu served as a faculty leader, helping students develop leadership strategies to bring back to their schools. Concurrently, four Middlesex teachers—Carolina Aldana (Spanish), Roodly Jean (French), and Zhenyan Li (Chinese), and Peggy Yoon (English) participated in the annual People of Color Conference, which featured inspiring speakers and workshops that explored this year's theme of "Meeting the Moment: Anchoring and Enriching our Education Futures."

## FACULTY Scholarship



## Pride and Publishing

Congratulations to English teacher Peggy Yoon, who recently had a paper published in the University of Iowa's prestigious *Philological Quarterly*. The article, "Credits, Debts, and Charity: The Economies of *Pride and Prejudice*," examines Austen's subtle commentary on the integrity of those involved in trade; while typically depicted with disparaging stereotypes at the time, tradesmen in Austen's novel instead prove central to Darcy and Elizabeth's happy ending.

## Middlesex Represents at 2025 Harvard Model Congress

Among the 1700+ students participating at this year's Harvard Model Congress were 35 Middlesex students, accompanied by English Department Head Jecca Hutcheson and fellow English teacher Brian Powers '15. Over four days—from February 20 to 23—the delegates wrote bills, bridged the political divide with bipartisan energy, and shepherded bills through Congress to enactment. In the end, David Yang '26, Matthew Yoon '27, and Gina Zhao '26 were each awarded gavels as Best Delegates, while honorable mentions went to Jack Elworth '25, Will Hood '25, Vincent Petti '27, and Kat Stephens '27.



**Q&A****Meet Nina Bryce****Middlesex's new Director of the Mindfulness Program**

**F**OR A DECADE PRIOR TO JOINING the Middlesex faculty in September, Nina taught mindfulness and developed wellness programming primarily at Harvard University. At the same time, she was a teacher with Inward Bound Mindfulness Education, planning and leading immersive mindfulness retreats. She also served on the design team that formed WholeSchool-Mindfulness, a nonprofit that brings mindfulness education into schools and campuses. A Morehead-Cain Scholar, Nina earned her B.A. in American studies (with minors in women's & gender studies and environmental studies) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received her M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School. Nina and her family live on campus.

**What drew you to join the Middlesex community this past September?**

I have long admired the Middlesex Mindfulness Program. I've seen how Middlesex has embedded mindfulness into the curriculum and the culture of the School. I was inspired by the leadership of Doug Worthen '96, my predecessor, and so many other people here who have championed mindfulness in a way that is rare in schools. Middlesex does something that very few schools do: dedicate space for mindfulness in every student's schedule and create space for faculty, staff, parents, and alumni to practice mindfulness as well.

**How would you explain mindfulness to someone unfamiliar with it?**

Mindfulness is a way of stabilizing our attention and being in the present moment. We go from a dispersed, scattered

attention to a collected, centered way of being here and now. It's a skill that we can practice and develop. Some people say mindfulness is to meditation as strength is to weightlifting; meditation is the activity that develops the quality of mindfulness, like weightlifting is the activity that develops strength. The purpose is not just to be present in our meditation practice while breathing or sitting or walking; it's to be present in our lives and mindful of whatever it is we want to attend to, whether that's doing work or competing on a sports field or listening to a friend. It's a quality of presence that can really permeate all aspects of life.

**Why is it important overall—but especially for kids in adolescence?**

Adolescence, I think, is a time of particular challenge when it comes to distraction. There are a lot of demands on their time, and their attention is being pulled in so many directions by academics, sports, social commitments, phones, and looking ahead to plans for after high school. Mindfulness is a way that they can learn to call their attention back, turn inward, take care of themselves, and then, from that place, choose how they want to use their time and energy.

**What kinds of different exercises do you use in mindfulness?**

We practice sitting meditation—probably the most well-known form of mindfulness practice—resting the attention on a “home base” like the breath, sounds around us, or the body's contact with the chair. A lot of students have restless energy when we do seated meditation. Doing things like a walking meditation, where we just focus on our steps, or a yoga practice—bringing a little bit of guided movement



into it—can help people feel more comfortable and present in their bodies. We're focusing on somatic awareness, mind-body connection, and coming at movement in a different way than their sport does.

Another thing we'll do that is very popular is lying down meditation, getting out all the cushions and blankets. I give them some tips for staying awake and not letting it turn into naptime. Deep relaxation is an important part of the suite of mindfulness practices that I'm hoping they'll learn. We also learn mindful eating, where we savor a small snack, like a clementine or a piece of chocolate, in a slow, meditative way, using all five senses, not just taste, and contemplating where the food came from, fostering a sense of interconnectedness. This can help to cultivate self-compassion and self-care, learning to enjoy nourishing yourself, instead of eating in a habitually stressed or hurried way. We practice connecting with nature. We went to the pond; we went to the labyrinth. I'm hoping to get students outdoors into the woods more; practicing awareness of the natural world can be such a support to cultivating mindfulness.

#### **What are your hopes and dreams for the Middlesex program?**

One thing I'm really excited about for the future is student leadership. I was fortunate to walk into an existing structure with the Mindfulness Ambassadors, seniors who have been dedicated mindfulness practitioners and chosen that role for their senior leadership position. I hope to foster even more avenues for student leadership in the Mindfulness Program.

Something else I'm excited about is getting more integrated with the sports program. Athletics are a strength of Middlesex and a huge part of students' experience here,

and I know—because I hear about it from my students—some coaches are already incorporating mindfulness into their practices. I'm very excited to team up more with the athletics program.

Another focus is the faculty and staff program. People come week after week, but I would love to be able to offer more weekend retreats or longer immersions for faculty and staff to deepen their own practice. There is also a long history of parent mindfulness at Middlesex, and I look forward to building on this piece. I think it can make a big difference when parents have some of these approaches in their toolbox, both to take care of themselves in the stress of raising a teenager and to be there for their teens **M**





# Building Community

Whether through contributing to efforts in the local area or by welcoming exchange students and guest speakers to campus, Middlesex students are engaging with the people, places, and programs outside the School, expanding their understanding of the world beyond 1400 Lowell Road.

## MX Global Exchanges Start with Panamá

**I**N ADDITION TO BROADENING the travel opportunities for students during March break and summer vacations, Director of Global Programs Dan Sheff has been busy developing new exchange programs with schools in other countries. The first of these took place in February, when six students from Academia Interamericana de Panamá (AIP), a bilingual day school in Panamá City, arrived on campus for a two-week immersion in the Middlesex community.

Initially chaperoned on the journey by their school's primary college counselor, Teresa Arosemena, the students moved right into dorm rooms on February 2, 2025. After a brief orientation session the next morning, they were ready to attend classes and participate in all aspects of school life, accompanied by Middlesex students eager to assist and



Head of House Kate Hoar and Proctor Caroline Ripsteen '25 (center, left and right) welcomed their Panamanian guests to LeBaron Briggs House.

support them throughout their stay. It was an opportune time to come, for the visit included not only a special Small Chorus performance and the School's annual One-Act Plays but also the Super Bowl and Valentine's Day—as well as a New England snow-storm (or two). Because this program is a reciprocal exchange, a group of Middlesex students will visit AIP for two weeks in June, staying in the homes of AIP families and enjoying an academic experience in a tropical climate. **M**

(Below) Head of School Bessie Speers greeted the exchange students from Panamá in her office.



## Middlesex Bolsters Concord's "250 Trees for the 250th"

**I**N CELEBRATION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY of the start of the American Revolution, Concord is planting 250 trees to honor the town's revolutionary past as well as its aspirations for a more sustainable, resilient future. To support this worthwhile initiative—and to encourage others to contribute – Middlesex donated \$50,000 towards the 250 Trees Project's goal of raising \$400,000.

As Head of School Bessie Speers notes, "With the Estabrook Woods serving as a source of daily inspiration, discovery, and reflection on our campus, Middlesex is profoundly aware of the power of our environment, as well as our responsibility to protect it. As proud residents of Concord, we are honored to partner with the town to embrace our trailblazing roots and help champion this important endeavor." **M**

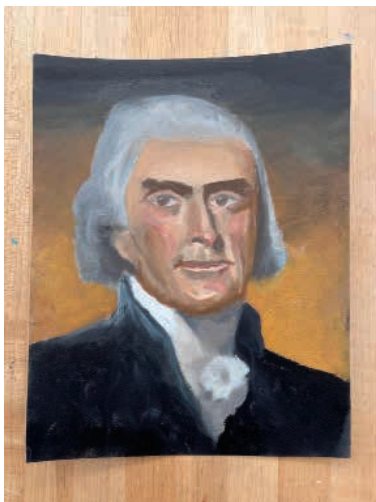
## Creating Aspirational Art for Concord250

**What do liberty and justice mean 250 years later as we mark the anniversary of the start of the American Revolution in 2025?**

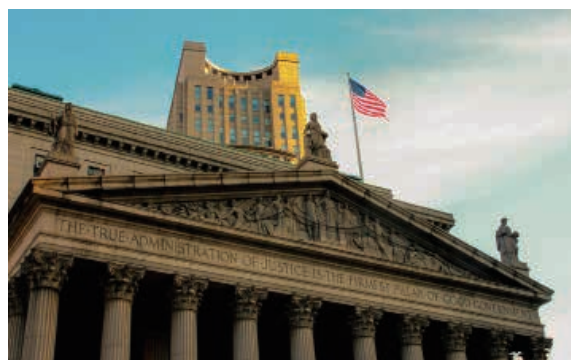
**How do you, through a work of art, add insight into an issue and promote awareness in unique and powerful ways, ensuring liberty and justice for all in our world today?**

**T**HESE WERE TWO of the guiding questions recently posed by the Concord Museum to inspire Massachusetts high school students to create artwork for a show commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. In response, 39 Middlesex students submitted work for the exhibition, which opened with a reception at the Museum on March 28, 2025.

The idea for the challenge stemmed from one of the Concord Museum's best known artifacts: the "one if by land, two if by sea" lantern, which was hung in Boston's North Church on the night of Paul Revere's midnight ride on April 18, 1775. The lantern has since served as a symbol of the American Revolution and the Patriot cause: the ideal of creating a new nation built on liberty and justice. **M**



Jax Tran '26



Stella Curwin-Amfitheatrof '26



Cordelia Mannix '25



## EXPANDING **The Circle**

# Service Learning

With their clubs, like Campuses Against Cancer, during “MX Saturdays”—a new addition to the schedule this year that reserves more time for community programming—and through other opportunities, students are giving their energy and efforts to a variety of causes and organizations in the local area.

**JOINING FORCES WITH THE MAKE-A-WISH CLUB,** the Campus Against Cancer Club has been raising awareness and funds for research through several schoolwide events, starting on September 27, 2024, when all were encouraged to wear pink for the day. Club members also volunteered during Concord’s Mighty Moose 5K Run/Walk (won by Director of Service Learning Phil Harris!), which supports research to develop a test to detect ovarian cancer; and they assisted the local Kicks for Cancer organization during its annual fundraising games.



**THE FIRST MX SATURDAY** in September gave freshmen a chance to bond while helping with the harvest at Dancing Plover Farms in nearby Boxborough, MA (below). During another MX Saturday in February, juniors volunteered at six different venues, including Catholic Charities Lynn Market Pantry (left) and Build-A-Bed (right) in Lynn, MA.





# Engaging with Issues

## GUEST SPEAKERS



Dr. Matthew Dickinson



Dr. Sarah Jaquette Ray



Andre Bradford



Sweeta Yaqoobi



Schuyler Bailar

### Dr. Matthew Dickinson Presidential Predictions

Having addressed the School in April 2016 (when he anticipated a Clinton victory) and then over Zoom in October 2020 (when he expected Biden's win), Middlebury Professor of Political Science Matt Dickinson once again shared his election forecast with Middlesex on November 2, 2024. After explaining how political scientists analyze elections and voter behavior, he concluded that the 2024 race was just too close to call, noting, "This is the first election in which I cannot tell you who I think is going to win."

### Dr. Sarah Jaquette Ray Counteracting Climate Anxiety

Dr. Sarah Jaquette Ray spoke on December 10, 2024, about the common, emotional response of climate anxiety. As chair of the environmental studies department at Cal Poly Humboldt, Dr. Ray began noticing—and then studying—her students' fear and pessimism about their future. Because the brain is predisposed to retain negative information, she explained, it is understandable that students may feel they are living in a time of decline since news and social media stories are often negatively biased. To counteract that, Dr. Ray

recommended connecting with other people and the natural world. "Everybody has a role to play," she said. "The problem is not too big, and you are not too small."

### Andre Bradford The Power of Empathy

As this year's Kenneth E. Whitlock, Jr. Black History Month Speaker—a series established in 2021 and named in honor of Middlesex's first Black faculty member—spoken-word poet Andre Bradford performed in the Kaye Theatre on February 4, 2025. Through sharing his story with the School, he artfully showed the power of language and empathy in exploring issues of race, identity, and mental health. In being vulnerable with others, he said, students will find that "we are not that different," adding, "If you want to change the world, start by trying to understand the people around you."

### Sweeta Yaqoobi A Call for Equality

On November 19, 2024, Sweeta Yaqoobi described the difficulty of growing up amid the Taliban's highly restrictive policies in Afghanistan that included banning education for girls and women. Fortunately, she learned about boarding schools and attended

the Ethel Walker School—then led by Middlesex Head of School Bessie Speers. "The message I want to leave you with is to recognize the hard work women have put in to have a seat next to you," Sweeta said. "Stand up for women's rights and create opportunities for them to speak up." Now a Bryn Mawr College graduate with an M.F.A. in creative writing from NYU, she thinks of the women of Afghanistan daily, as they are again oppressed by Taliban rule.

### Schuyler Bailar Understanding Gender

When he first spoke at Middlesex, Schuyler was a junior on the Harvard men's swimming team and in the spotlight as the first transgender athlete to compete in any sport on an NCAA Division I men's team. Returning to campus on October 22, 2024, he addressed the community as an educator, advocate, and published author. In relating his own journey, Schuyler hoped to convey a better understanding of what it means to be transgender. He encouraged students to engage in the work of ensuring that "everyone can be themselves and do what they love," for "when one group can't be themselves, it encroaches on everyone's rights." **M**



# Middlesex

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A Strategic Vision Forward

## Expanding the Circle

PATHWAYS TO PROMISE

## Mission

Middlesex School helps students find their promise through rigorous intellectual, physical, creative, and ethical education. We value integrity, kindness, inclusivity, excellence, and engagement in service of our community and the wider world.

### **O**N BEHALF OF THE MIDDLESEX STRATEGIC

Vision Committee, we are delighted to introduce *Expanding the Circle: Pathways to Promise*, a strategic vision to lead Middlesex forward by investing in our most cherished and invaluable resources: our people, our place, and our program. This Strategic Vision integrates both traditional and innovative approaches to education, equipping our students with the skills and agility they need to thrive as lifelong learners and leaders at Middlesex, in college, and beyond. The 2002 Strategic Plan called for Middlesex to become a “premier, small, national boarding school.” *Pathways to Promise* now calls for us to distinguish ourselves as a leader among that group of peer schools by leveraging our unique strengths, investing strategically in our people, place, and program, and “expanding the Circle” in a rapidly evolving world.

Throughout the process of creating this vision, we remained true to our founder Frederick Winsor and the first board of trustees’ mission to “find the promise” in every student and to ensure that each Middlesex graduate would be “imbued with the spirit of democracy” through the open exchange of ideas. Finding this balance was, ultimately, our primary charge: to build a strategic vision that is ambitious, dynamic, and forward thinking, while also rooted in the School’s history, mission, and core values.

*Expanding the Circle: Pathways to Promise* seeks to enrich Middlesex’s rigorous and close-knit learning environment through academic and community initiatives that foster curiosity, integrity, joy, confidence, humility, hard work, connection, and civic responsibility among our students. Core tenets within this plan include:

- **Expanding Middlesex’s role as a leader in education** through a commitment to academic experiential learning, deepening student engagement with the world beyond our Circle;
- **Ensuring that we are responsible stewards** of our beautiful campus, equipping students with the skills and optimism needed to find solutions to environmental challenges;
- **Strengthening and building upon the pillars of our distinctive academic strengths**—most notably the



remarkable talent and dedication of our exceptional faculty—and prepare our students with the essential skills they will need for success beyond Middlesex.

*Pathways to Promise* is guided by the core belief that education should broaden students’ capacities in critical reasoning, empathy, independent thought, and respectful discourse, and that Middlesex is uniquely suited to foster these skills exceptionally well.

I am deeply grateful for the leadership of Trustees Courtney Portlock P’20’22 and Rob Trumbull ’00, who co-chaired a Strategic Vision Committee composed of faculty, students, trustees, alumni, and parents. I also want to extend my immense appreciation to each member of the committee who met regularly over the course of a year to craft a thoughtful and ambitious vision for the years ahead. Their work, recently approved by the Middlesex Board of Trustees, reflects the voices of our community, our insights from extensive research, and a steadfast commitment to our mission, which itself has been rearticulated more concisely as part of this process. The communal energy devoted to this visioning effort was inspiring and notable. We are so fortunate to be part of a school community committed to the hallmarks of a Middlesex education and unafraid to dream of all that is possible for this exemplary institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth C. Speers". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the printed name.

Elizabeth C. Speers  
Head of School





## Guiding Principles

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### **Excellence and Innovation**

This plan aims to pursue high standards and innovative approaches to education that prepare students for future challenges and opportunities. We affirm that:

- A Middlesex education is defined by a rigorous academic program that fosters curiosity, critical thinking, and deep engagement with ideas, guided by talented and dedicated teachers in small, interactive classes.
- A Middlesex education is defined by the premise that academic excellence happens best in a diverse community.
- A Middlesex education is defined by a holistic approach to learning that includes immersive experiences across academics, arts, athletics, and community life, preparing students to adapt to new experiences and technological advancements for success in a changing world.

### **Community and Inclusion**

This plan aims to foster a supportive and inclusive environment that strengthens the sense of belonging for students, faculty, staff, and families. We affirm that:

- Middlesex best serves its mission through a close-knit residential community that cultivates meaningful interpersonal relationships.
- Middlesex is made stronger by the broad spectrum of belief and experience each of us brings to the School.
- Middlesex is committed to community and inclusion as an integral part of the mission, woven through all areas of the School.

### **Citizenship and Stewardship**

This plan aims to advance the stewardship of democratic ideals, civic responsibility, and environmental sustainability. We affirm that:

- Middlesex seeks to cultivate a sense of civic responsibility that honors democratic ideals and embraces respectful debate.
- Middlesex seeks to cultivate a sense of place that inspires stewardship and appreciation of the natural world.
- Middlesex seeks to cultivate a sense of global stewardship that is grounded in curiosity, connection, and impactful engagement with communities locally and abroad.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY

# People

### *Invest in Faculty and Staff*

#### **Strengthen Compensation, Benefits, and Wellbeing**

- Ensure competitiveness of total compensation packages through regular review and growth of faculty/staff compensation and benefits, with a focus on expanding housing options for faculty.
- Develop policies that prioritize faculty and staff wellness, balance, and job satisfaction.

#### **Foster Professional Development**

- Invest in ongoing professional development opportunities, including workshops, conferences, and collaboration with external institutions.
- Establish mentoring networks that promote career growth and leadership within the faculty and staff.

### *Cultivate Belonging*

#### **Enhance Community and Inclusion**

- Foster a diverse and inclusive community through a plan with programs and policies that promote belonging for all students, faculty, and staff.
- Increase diversity of faculty and staff.

#### **Develop Character, Citizenship, and Wellbeing**

- Strengthen commitment to mindfulness, ethical training, civic responsibility, and service learning.
- Promote healthy, face-to-face interactions while integrating technology thoughtfully.



## STRATEGIC PRIORITY

# Place

### *Revitalize Campus Spaces*

#### **Elevate Learning and Living Spaces**

- Update classrooms, dormitories, and common areas to create flexible, collaborative environments that support learning and community building.
- Prioritize essential campus repairs and upgrades through a comprehensive campus master planning process that ensures a safe, functional, and accessible campus for all.

#### **Strengthen Athletic and Outdoor Facilities**

- Renovate and expand athletic spaces to support physical fitness, mental health, and wellbeing for students and faculty alike.
- Reimagine outdoor areas to promote connections with nature, encourage collaboration, and create opportunities for recreation and active learning.

### *Commit to Environmental Sustainability*

#### **Prioritize Sustainability in Resource Management**

- Establish measurable goals for reducing the School's carbon footprint.
- Emphasize sustainability when sourcing and planning for future campus improvements.

#### **Foster Environmental Stewardship and Leadership**

- Develop an integrated environmental curriculum that encourages student-led eco-initiatives, considers disparate ecological impacts, and fosters a campus-wide culture of sustainability.
- Embrace our proximity to the Estabrook Woods and Walden Pond through programs that deepen students' ecological knowledge, stewardship, appreciation, and sense of place at Middlesex.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY

# Program

### *Enhance Excellence and Innovation*

#### **Cultivate Engaging and Adaptable Learning Experiences**

- Develop opportunities for experiential learning.
- Infuse more flexibility into a student-centered learning experience that promotes joy, engagement, and curiosity.

#### **Build Skills for Intellectual Agility and Discourse**

- Equip students with essential skills like collaboration, communication, and adaptability to prepare them for evolving societal, environmental, and career challenges.
- Launch initiatives that foster critical thinking, intellectual engagement, and active discussion of democracy and civic engagement.

### *Expand the Circle*

#### **Broaden Global and Local Learning**

- Increase study abroad opportunities, fostering a global perspective and cross-cultural competence through domestic and international travel.
- Integrate the School's unique geographical and historical context into the curriculum.

#### **Strengthen Community and Alumni Connections**

- Build partnerships with local organizations, providing students with meaningful opportunities to give back and develop leadership skills.
- Leverage the School's strong alumni network to offer new learning experiences, career connections, and mentorship. **M**





## The Strategic Vision Committee

### Committee Chairs

Courtney Portlock P'20'22, Trustee

Rob Trumbull '00, Trustee

### Members

Dan Barber, Head of Classics  
Department

Johanna Boynton P'20'23, Trustee

Marc Carter, Chief Innovation Officer

Caroline Counselman P'25'28, Trustee

Therese Ejiofor '24, School  
Co-President

Ty Fein '24, School Co-President

Bill Ho '86 P'23, Trustee

Mandy Irwin, Biology; Environmental  
Science

Tom Kane P'18, Head of the Arts  
Division

Olivia Kennedy, Assistant Dean  
of Students; English

Eric Kester '04, Assistant Head  
of School; English

Natalie Martinez P'26, Associate  
Director of College Counseling

Stacey McCarthy P'28, Head of the  
Visual Arts Department

Meg McLaughlin P'20'21'25,  
Director of Health and Wellness

Karlyn McNall P'21'23, Associate  
Head of School; History

Doug Price P'16, Dean of Admissions  
and Financial Aid

Mike Rivetts, Facilities Superintendent  
and Grounds Foreperson

Alex Hanken Russell '08, Trustee

Rebecca Smedley, Director of Spiritual  
and Ethical Education; English

Jason Sport, Chief Officer for Diversity,  
Equity, and Inclusion

Bret Stephens '91 P'22'27, Trustee

Pierson Wetzel P'26'28, Head of the  
Music Department; Dean of Hiring  
and Recruitment

### Ex Officio

Jason Robart '83 P'11'13, Chair,  
Board of Trustees

Bessie Speers, Head of School

# *Celebrating* **50 Years of Coeducation**



**T**HROUGHOUT THE 2024-2025 ACADEMIC year, events held both on and off campus have commemorated an important shift in Middlesex's history: the transition from an all-boys' institution to a fully coeducational school.

As Women's History Month began, four alumnae were welcomed back on March 4, 2025, to reflect on their student days on campus as well as on their current careers. Joining the discussion, which was moderated by Dean of Students Kathy Smithwick Swain '08, were former Middlesex Trustee Noni Pratt '76, current Trustee Jennifer Burnes Fulton '85, Ashley Martin '03, and DJ Williams '16.

Each alumna came to Middlesex along a different path and in times that would shape their experiences. Arriving in September 1974 as one of the first 48 girls to attend the School, Noni warmly remembers the camaraderie amongst those trailblazers, who had to fill many roles and field all their teams—sometimes without basic amenities like their own locker rooms.

"I love beginnings, though I didn't know it then," said Noni, who went on to become a founding member of Shakespeare & Co. in Lenox, MA, a founder of Conway & Pratt Projects (which created large-scale theatrical environments for over 25 years)—and the first alumna to serve

on the Middlesex Board. Although "no one could pretend they knew what they were doing," she said of those early years of coeducation, it was nonetheless "an exciting, lovely time of collaboration," thanks to the care and efforts of Headmaster David Sheldon and faculty members like Hugh Fortmiller, Galen Brewster, and David Lang.

For Jennifer, now an executive vice president at Bain & Co., Middlesex was "a family place"—the alma mater of her grandfather, father, and uncles—and, for that very reason, not the school she thought she wanted to attend. On visiting the campus, however, she realized, "Shoot—this is where I want to go." By that time, Jennifer said, Middlesex "felt like a coed school to me and had all the right resources," allowing her to try different sports, dabble in theatre, and discover ceramics, an art she continues with today.

When asked how her experience compared to that of her son, George Fulton '21, Jennifer observed, "The core is very similar, but Middlesex was much naughtier when I was here." As a self-described "nerdy rule follower," she found discipline consequences were less clear in her own student days. Now, with the perspective of a parent and trustee, she affirmed, "Middlesex has maintained its warmth, support, and rigor, but is less confusing" in terms of its rules and expectations.



During lunch in the Barron Room, current students had the opportunity to talk at length with the alumnae panelists.



## Pathways to Promise



Ashley Martin '03, DJ Williams '16,  
and Kathy Smithwick Swain '08

As fellow Midwesterners, Ashley and Kathy (from Indiana and Kentucky, respectively) shared what it was like to adjust to New England and its culture. “It was the first time I was told I had an accent,” Ashley quipped, “and I had to learn some new words, like ‘jimmies’ and ‘lollipop.’” Soon after her arrival as a new junior in 2001, the September 11th attacks occurred, events that she remembered were scary but that also drew people together on campus.



Noni Pratt '76 and  
Jennifer Burnes Fulton '85

From living and learning at Middlesex, Ashley said, she developed the ability to relate easily to different people and gained the confidence to speak up in group situations—valuable skills in her work as CEO of NIBCO, Inc., the worldwide leader in the manufacturing of flow control products. “I’m in a male-dominated field,” she explained. “To have confidence and share what I’m thinking has been important in my career.”



On March 3, the evening before the Assembly celebrating coeducation, alumnae in the Boston area enjoyed a reception at the Head's House. Standing in front, from left to right: Head of School Bessie Speers, Madeleine Ho '23, Ashley Martin '03, Melissa Woll Liska '84 P'27, Patty DeB. Popov '81 P'13'17, Susie Cutler Beyer '81, DJ Williams '16, Hilary Shepard Thomas '00, Kelsey Kester Calhoun '00, Nia Hatsopoulos Jephson '98, Katherine Viener Riordan '93 P'22, Noni Pratt '76, Pam Diem Willis '95 P'27, Nancy Frost Bland '86, Beth Cohen King '97, and Middlesex Head Athletic Trainer Laura Darby McNally '80 P'16. Second row: Middlesex Staff Counselor Sara Gleason '11, Katie Bull '15, Kathryn Regan '14, Lisa Molvar '97 P'27, and Emily Herter Sprong '97 P'25'28. Third row: Casey Littlefield van der Stricht '03, Allison Kaveney Farkes '02, Kirsten Kester '05, Middlesex Dean of Students Kathy Smithwick Swain '08, Emily Wise Shanahan '01, Barbara Peskin '82, Sarah Chace Cotter '01, and Kate Titus '76.

I'm in a male-dominated field.  
To have confidence and share  
what I'm thinking has been  
important in my career.

—ASHLEY MARTIN '03

Arriving on campus as a freshman through the selective Prep 9 program in New York City, DJ recognized Middlesex as “an opportunity that not a lot of people will get,” and recalled, “I just wanted to try everything.” Pottery, theatre tech, different sports—she embraced it all and was elected school vice president for her senior year. At the same time, DJ also recognized the importance of relationships and wanted to build a more connected community among Black students on campus. With her initiative and faculty support, the group “Mx Fam” was established, which has since inspired the creation of other affinity groups and expanded to include alumni.

DJ continues to bring people together to build and strengthen communities through her work with BlackSpace Urbanist Collective, where she serves as the development manager while also earning her M.B.A. at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. Along with her fellow panelists, DJ emphasized the value of finding mentors—like her faculty advisors, Ken Whitlock and Chantal Jordan—as well as developing relationships and pursuing collaborative efforts, all of which helped her through Middlesex and benefit her still today.

After fielding additional questions from the audience, the alumnae panelists headed to Ware Hall for lunch, joining current students to continue discussing and comparing their school and career experiences—and finding how much they all have in common thanks to their shared Middlesex connection. **M**



## What better way to kick off a commemorative year than with a celebratory toast?

With this idea in mind, Middlesex's Alumni Office arranged a gathering on Zoom last November 19th and invited all alumnae who were members of the School's first few coeducational classes (1976, 1977, and 1978). Graduates in attendance that evening heard from several speakers, each of whom honored those first female students for their pioneering spirit and pivotal role in Middlesex history.

“You set the bar high for young women to follow you, including my daughter [Sophie '13],” said Board Chair Jason Robart '83 in his welcoming remarks. “I thank you for that: for the impact you've had on the School, the impact you've had on my family, and the impact you will have on generations of Middlesex students to come.”

As one of the first 48 girls to enroll, Trustee Patricia Melton '77 allowed, “Many of us had no idea of what we were headed into, but we were up for the adventure.” Grateful for the lasting bonds formed back then, she said, “I want to thank you all for being that special community. Truly, it's been a journey—and a pleasure to be on it with you.”

Former Trustee Betsy Lawrence '78 concurred, adding, “None of us knew [what we were in for]—and it was amazing.” Calling the experience “life-changing,” she affirmed, “It made me the person I am today and molded my approach to life.” Betsy also took a moment to remember two alumnae who were the first female school presidents: the late Christina Fagan '77 and the late Judy Carlhian Larson '78. On Zoom for the event was Christina's twin, former Trustee Jamie Fagan '77, whose daughters, Christina '08 and Serena '10, are Middlesex graduates.

Dean of Students Kathy Smithwick Swain '08 thanked the alumnae “for making coeducation possible at Middlesex.” Today's students, she noted, appreciate their efforts, too, and recognize that “one day, we will be responsible for helping the next generation reach new heights,” as one recent graduate, Nailah Hamilton '24, said in her senior chapel talk.

Lifting their “Celebrating 50 Years of Coeducation” tumblers—sent by the Alumni Office, along with a zebra-motif scarf and a journal—all were ready for the toast by Head of School Bessie Speers: “What you started continues,” she said, “and it's just an honor to officially raise a glass to you, this amazing group that helped the trajectory of Middlesex in incredible ways.” **M**





# Memorial Chapel at 100

By Rebecca Smedley

Director of Spiritual  
and Ethical Education

**M**Y FAVORITE MOMENT of chapel is when we all stand to sing “Jerusalem,” our concluding hymn each week. We are 500 strong, 400 students and 100 faculty, standing in our beautiful and historic Memorial Chapel, belting out “Jerusalem” as Jim Barkovic plays the organ, all facing the front of the chapel, where the senior who has just shared their “chapel talk” stands, tall, proud, relieved, sometimes teary, and often with an expression of awe and joy on their face. I stand in the front row, exchanging smiles with the beaming senior, feeling the vibrations of the organ under my feet, hearing the sound of 500 voices behind me, and for that moment in time, I am in Jerusalem.

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*And did those feet in ancient time  
Walk upon England's mountains  
green?*

*And was the Holy Lamb of God  
On England's pleasant pastures  
seen?*

*And did the Countenance Divine  
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem builded here  
Among those dark Satanic mills?*

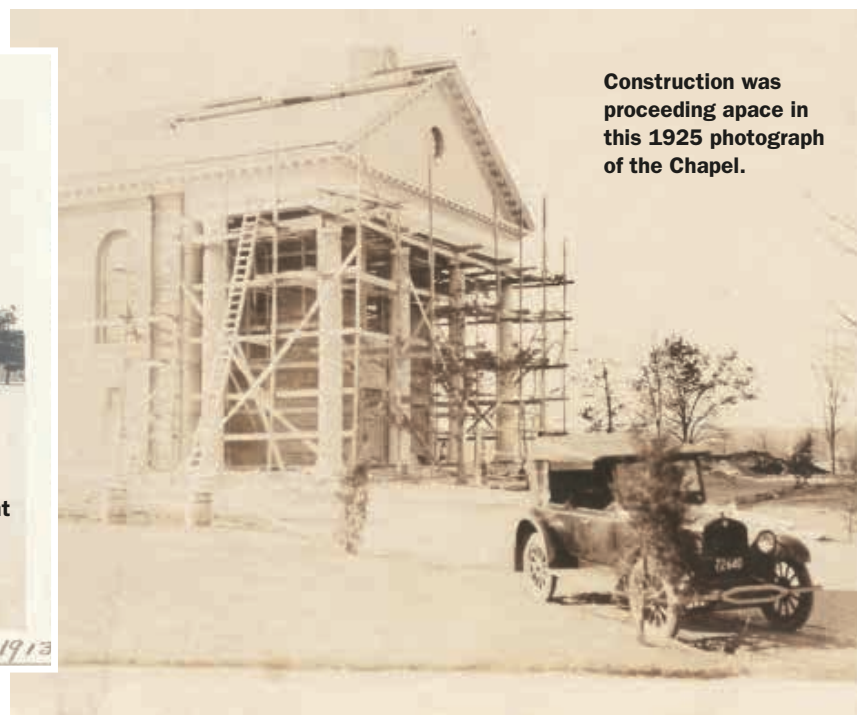
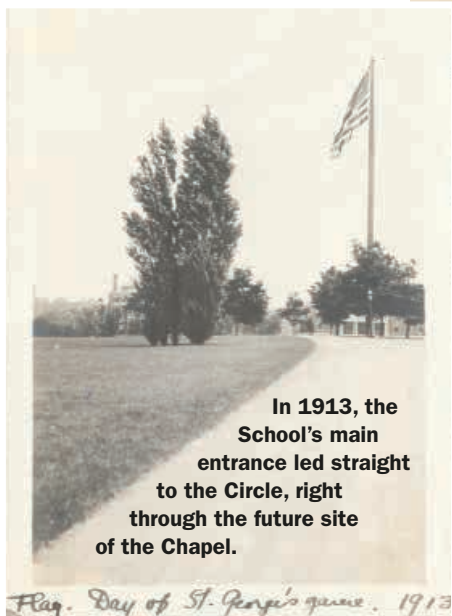
*Bring me my bow of burning gold!  
Bring me my arrows of desire!  
Bring me my spear! O clouds unfold!  
Bring me my Chariot of Fire!  
I will not cease from mental fight;  
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand  
Till we have built Jerusalem  
In England's green and pleasant  
land.*

*“Jerusalem,”  
Middlesex Hymn #110*

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I am lucky enough to steward our Chapel Program here at Middlesex School. Every week, on Wednesday morning, our entire school gathers in our chapel for a 40-minute service, consisting of an opening mindfulness practice, a humanist homily from me, two hymns, and a 10-15 minute talk from a senior in which he/she reflects on their Middlesex experience and shares an edifying and transcendental message with the School. Though I am a relative newcomer (now in my 10th year at Middlesex) in a school that is almost 125 years old, and in a chapel that is 100 years old, I feel certain that Frederick Winsor would approve of our chapel program today.

In 1901, Frederick Winsor was ahead of his time in opening a school that was intentionally nonsectarian, unlike the numerous nearby schools of St. Paul's, Groton, St. Mark's, and St. George's. At a time in our country's



## Pathways to Promise

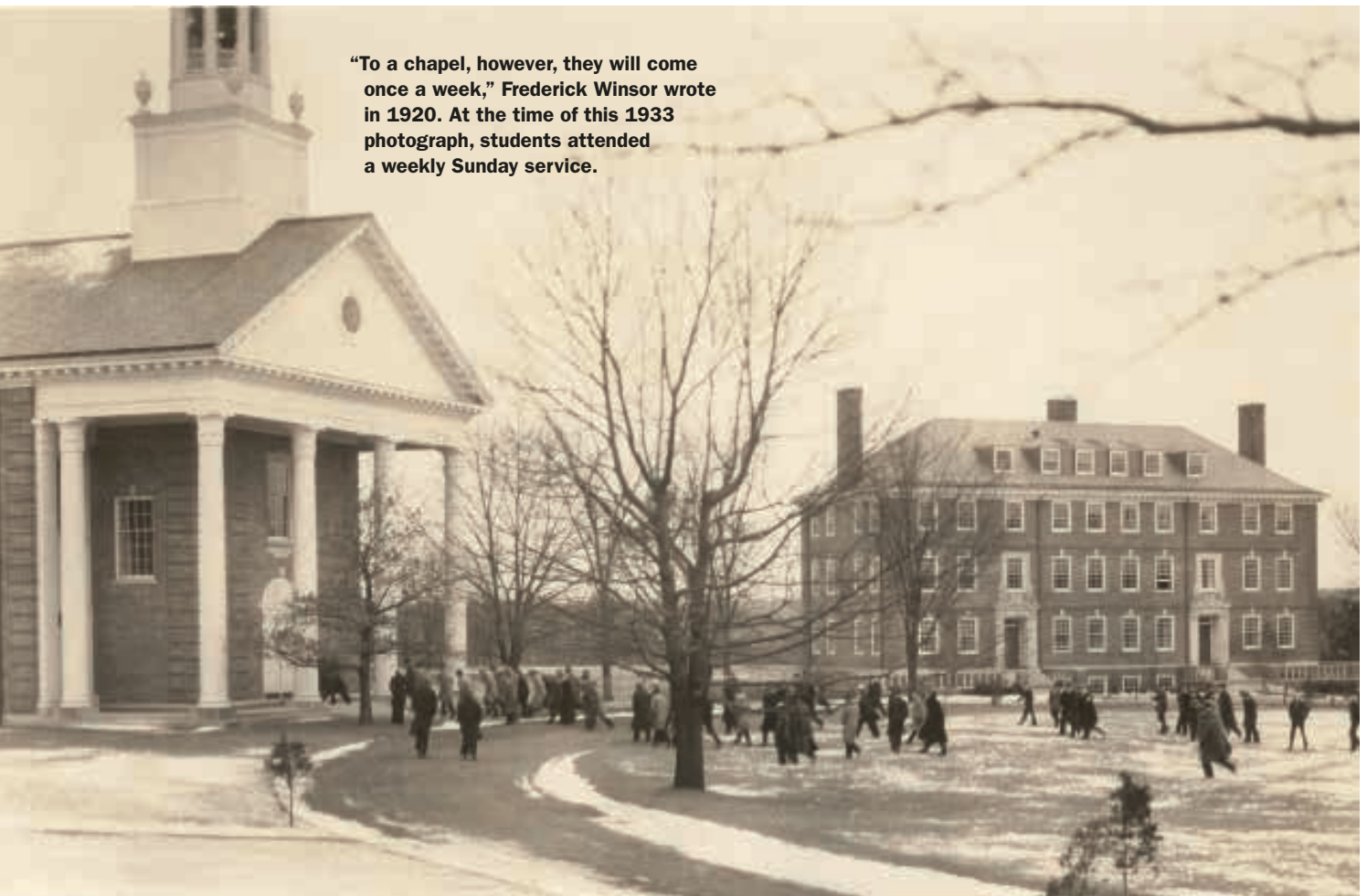
history where high schools and colleges were founded and defined by various Protestant denominations (Harvard and Yale were Congregational, Princeton Presbyterian, Columbia and Penn Anglican, Brown Baptist, Haverford and Swarthmore Quaker), Winsor was unusual in his desire to create a non-religious school. So fervent was his nonsectarian intent that he refused to build a chapel in his initial campus plan. However, after the deaths of 10 Middlesex graduates in World War I, Winsor acted contrary to the preference of many alumni and faculty by erecting our current Memorial Chapel in honor of these students who gave their lives for our country. After World War II, the Chapel was rededicated to include the Middlesex students who

died in that war, and if you enter the Chapel's narthex today, you can read the names of these Middlesex heroes on our chapel walls. The first chapel service we hold each September is called our "Memorial Chapel"; our most senior faculty member is the guest speaker, and they conclude their talk by reading the names of every Middlesex graduate who died in the World Wars, after which we join our voices in song to affirm our promise to "Guard we well the crown they won; what they dreamed be ours to do, hope their hopes and seal them true."

Our Chapel Program is instrumental in fulfilling Winsor's mission of helping every Middlesex student find their promise. While we certainly care about our students' academic

growth, athletic growth, and artistic growth, we also care deeply about our students' growth as people: their character, values, health, happiness, and sense of purpose in the world. We want to educate our students' hearts as well as their minds, and we want our graduates to do good in addition to doing well. As Winsor wrote to one Middlesex parent, "To a chapel, however, they will come once a week, and in the quiet of the place they will be called on to forget, for the time, the things that are temporal and meditate on the things that are eternal." (*Find the Promise*, page 279) One hundred years later, we continue to honor Winsor's vision. **M**

**"To a chapel, however, they will come once a week," Frederick Winsor wrote in 1920. At the time of this 1933 photograph, students attended a weekly Sunday service.**





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*Rank by rank again we stand  
From the four winds gathered hither:  
Loud the hallowed walls demand  
Whence we come and how and whither.  
From their stillness breaking clear  
Echoes wake to warn or cheer;  
Higher truth and holier good  
Call our mustered brotherhood.*

*Ours the years' memorial store,  
Hero days and names we reckon,  
Days of brethren gone before,  
Lives that speak and deeds that beckon.  
One in name, in honor one,  
Guard we well the crown they won;  
What they dreamed be ours to do,  
Hope their hopes and seal them true.*

*Middlesex Hymn #26*

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**Despite the relocation of the organ and the addition of more seating, the Chapel's interior retains the same atmosphere as its original design.**

**Once a week, the school community gathers to hear a talk given by a senior each Wednesday morning.**





## Introducing the Basics of Business Management

*A new elective introduces seniors to fundamental concepts and real-world problems in business management, ultimately asking them to decide: What would you do?*

**T**HEY LEARNED ABOUT BALANCE sheets, income statements, and cash flow; examined case studies and summarized their analyses in essays; visited establishments to observe their organization and operations; and debated solutions to specific problems, trying to determine the best course of action. If this was not exactly the experience of a college business major or graduate student, it was at least an informative introduction to it for 15 Middlesex seniors who chose “Business Management: What Would You Do?” as their social science elective last fall.

“I’ve always been interested in business; it’s something my dad has

taught me about,” says Sadie Schuler ’25. “The course piqued my interest and was a great alternative to AP Economics.”

“Business is something I might want to do in college, and I thought I’d get a head start on it,” says Hudson Hinckley ’25. “I thought it might be more about trends and the stock market, but I learned that analyzing cash flow and income statements is something you do for all businesses, so I became financially literate, not just stock literate.”

As the developer and instructor of the new course, English teacher and Director of Strategic Initiatives Erika Ferlins Mills ’99 knows the territory well. She not only grew up in a family business but, after graduating from Middlesex and Connecticut College, also wrote cases for Harvard Business School (HBS) and earned an M.B.A. there, too. Constructing cases about

“Managing National Intelligence Before 9/11” and “Columbia’s Final Mission” seems intriguing enough by itself, yet Erika reflects, “My favorite part was watching them be taught.”

Through her Middlesex elective, she has had a chance to do just that, as she built the syllabus around several HBS cases that would introduce students to a few central areas: marketing, strategy, and operations. “I tried to pick topics and companies that would be interesting to students,” Erika says, “and with consumer behavior exercises, field trips, and debates, I tried to show them that, as consumers, they drive the world as much as business owners do.”

For separate cases about Trader Joe’s and Starbucks, for instance, students went to nearby stores to observe customers and get an inside look at operations, which helped bring scenarios to life. In addition to writing essays about every case, the class



**Christina Fagan Pardy '08**



**Ian Calhoun '00**



**Rebecca Hatcher '12**

debriefed at the end of each and debated what they thought a company should do about a given problem. For one debate, Erika set the classroom up like a boardroom and played the role of the CEO who needed to be convinced about what action she should take.

The case study method and the course's real-world approach were strong points for seniors. "I thought it was really useful and my favorite part of the class," says Clair Jennings '25. "It makes you realize all the things that go into business." Similarly, for Hudson, "The case studies helped me wrap my head around what business involves," he says, adding, "At first, I thought it was all about money, but it's also about your community: what you do for the community and what the community does for you. It's symbiotic."

Another staple of the class was a weekly news day, when students would bring in an article related to a specific field, like fast food restaurants or entertainment. "We would use current news to distill themes in the course and connect them to the case we were reading at the time," Erika says. "It helped them see the relevance of what they were doing in class." The possible sale of U.S. Steel to Nippon was one story the class debated, trying to discern what President Biden should do.

One last element of the course was a particular highlight for many: hearing about the career paths of guest speakers, several of whom were Middlesex graduates. "The concept of starting your own business seems so

surreal," says Ryan Heldenbergh '25. "Then you see someone who has sat where you are, and they say that if you have the drive to do it, you can do it. I really enjoyed hearing from them."

From Christina Fagan Pardy '08, founder of the knitwear company STIK, the seniors learned about entrepreneurship and social media marketing—and about how the skills she acquired through Middlesex's Writing Program were invaluable in creating the blog that helped drive her business. For Ian Calhoun '00, Middlesex's athletic program taught him the importance of effective team leadership, which has been key to the success of the two restaurants he co-owns.

"Several of the people who spoke were in my shoes once," says Owen Crann '25, "and they talked about their time at Middlesex and how they became interested in what they do. It was inspiring." In fact, it motivated both Owen and Nolan Marsters '25 to extend the course further by collaborating with Erika on an Independent Study Project about entrepreneurship, giving them the chance to speak with more alumni about their business experiences.

The course's final assignment required the seniors—working in small groups—to come up with an idea for a product or service and create a pitch deck for it. Then, in a situation modeled after the TV show *Shark Tank*, each group made a formal presentation before a panel of "sharks"—three faculty members and two faculty spouses—who asked technical and financial questions, evaluating their

product, marketing plan, and delivery. "The sharks were tough," Erika says. "Some groups had more thoroughly considered all the elements of their business concept than others. Conceiving of a product or service idea, estimating the market size and cost drivers, considering how to reach their target customers—it was more complicated than they thought."

By the semester's end, seniors had gained not only a good grasp of management basics but also an idea of an enterprise's impact beyond the bottom line—notably its potential for innovation and improving people's lives. "I hope students are leaving with a sense of the way business influences society and partners with communities, and the ways businesses can have a positive impact," Erika reflects. "We want Middlesex students who go on to work in business to recognize their ability to shape the future and drive positive change in society." **M**

## Business Management's Guest Speakers

- **Tom Manero**, Principal, Structure Business Advisors, LLC
- **Christina Fagan Pardy '08**, Founder of STIK
- **Rebecca Hatcher '12**, Chief Commercial Officer of ButcherBox
- **Will Aubuchon**, CEO of Aubuchon Hardware
- **Ian Calhoun '00**, Co-owner of 80 Thoreau and Mooncusser Restaurants



## A “Web” of Words

**Middlesex’s vocabulary book has been transformed into a web application.**

**D**ECADES OF ALUMNI REMEMBER WELL the distinctive *Words* book of vocabulary lists that was a staple of their English classes at Middlesex.

With its simple white cover, succinct definitions, and sample sentences that occasionally referenced school traditions and the names of faculty members, the in-house publication was originally created by legendary English teacher Kit Cohane ’59 and was later amended by another eminent colleague, John Price.

Five years ago, English Department Head and Director of the Writing Program Jecca Hutcheson modified the work once again to better align its contents with current reading assignments and faculty names. Thinking long-term, she foresaw the ongoing need for these periodic revisions and—taking inspiration from the online language-learning programs that boomed during the COVID-19 pandemic—wondered if the *Words* book could be rendered in some kind of digital form. In an online format, its content could be easily edited, and students could learn vocabulary lessons more independently, leaving more classroom time for literary discussions and writing instruction.

### **Collaborate, v. – work together**

Given that a few of Middlesex’s strongest computer science students have occasionally assisted the School with technology tasks during the summer, it seemed plausible that this might be an appropriate project for a talented rising senior (or two) who had already completed all the *Words* lists. “I was lucky to teach Ian Lam ’25 and asked him if he’d be willing to try to design a web application,” Jecca recalls. “He said he had no experience, but he thought Ben Feuer ’25 would be a good partner to work with. All three of us were willing to take a risk—worst case, we’d go back to the printed book.”

She chose well, for as Ben points out, “Both of us have taken all the computer science classes that we can at Middlesex.” Still, Ian qualifies, “I’ve done programming before but never any web development.” The undertaking would require quite a bit of research, coding, trial and error, and time—about 300 hours in the end—which would put a dent in their respective summer vacations, yet they gamely took on the challenge.



**Prodigious, adj. – extraordinary in bulk, quality, or degree**

The technical side of developing a web application was a significant part of the equation. The other part, of course, was all the vocabulary the app would teach and test—and not just 1000+ words and definitions. In addition to contextual sentences that would illustrate each word's proper usage, fill-in-the-blank sentences had to be written so that students could test their knowledge before the final quiz, creating “a large enough database that students would be surprised with the questions,” Jecca elaborates. “Every English faculty member contributed to this.”

Once provided with that extensive data, Ian and Ben found their progress slow at first, prompting Ian to seek assistance from Jeremiah DeGreeff '19, now an MIT graduate and software development engineer for Amazon. “Jeremiah helped me a lot with web design and helped me learn some of the concepts behind it,” Ian says. Following that tutorial, and periodic Zoom meetings with Jecca, they showed a basic version of the app

to her in August that just needed a little refining. “We had a prototype ready the week before we had to go to school,” Ben remembers. “Then, it started getting used the second Monday of classes.” Apart from a few minor glitches, Jecca says, it was “a pretty remarkable launch.”

**Culmination, n. – climax, high point**

Through a link to the Words app, students can now access any assigned vocabulary list and begin studying it using the Learning module, where each word is defined and used in a sentence. After reading through the entire list, they can move on to the Practice Quiz, where they are asked to give definitions or to select the correct word for a fill-in-the-blank sentence. When ready, students can then take the Master Quiz, which is graded.

“A couple of things had to be fixed after launch,” Ian says, “and over Family Weekend, a couple of kids asked for more features, so that you could practice more before being graded.” That led to the creation of a new module, Study Space, which holds all the lists that a student has

completed, so that they can continue to review them, much like using flash cards. Another request led to a pronunciation button being added to the Learning module. “They were great about making updates,” Jecca says, fully appreciating how generous it was of them to take on a complicated project like this in the first place, especially in a summer that is usually devoted to college visits and the early application process.

“We didn’t know if it would work,” she allows, “and now it will work for thousands of Middlesex students, just because we thought, ‘Let’s give it a try.’”

Such ingenuity and persistence bode well for both seniors. Interested in robotics, Ben plans to study mechanical engineering at Purdue University next fall, while Ian—who was offered a Morehead-Cain Fellowship (see page 8)—will attend Princeton, potentially pursuing applied physics. Having already figured out how to convert Middlesex’s *Words* book into a nimble, efficient, online teaching tool, they are undoubtedly ready for the challenges ahead. **M**

Never fear, alumni:  
Printed copies of the *Words*  
book are still available in  
the School’s store.



## In the Winners' Circle

On the gridiron, turf, and trail, Middlesex teams excelled, winning two ISL titles, a NEPSAC bowl game, and a NEPSTA Championship, along with accolades for individual athletes.

### Girls' Cross-Country: Repeat Champions

The 2024 season was another outstanding one for the Middlesex Girls' Cross-Country program. On November 1, the varsity squad won its second consecutive ISL Championship title, with Stella Curwin-Amfitheatrof '26 finishing first in the race. Cassidy Bruno '26 (5th) and Anika Ata '26 (15th) also earned medals for their top-15 finishes, while Katie Tantilillo '26 (19th), Co-captain Maggie Cabot '25 (23rd), Pipsa Palatsi '27 (29th), and Catherine Bain '25 (35th) ran outstanding races to complete the varsity seven. Impressively, Allison Luo '27 finished first in the JV race.

Then, at Brooks School on November 9, the varsity won the NEPSTA Championship for the second year in a row. Stella battled with BB&N's top runner right to the line, where her opponent won by a fraction of a second. With Cassidy taking fourth place, followed by Anika (14th), Catherine (24th), and Maggie (25th), Middlesex scored 69 points to best Hopkins School (2nd), BBN (3rd), and Austin Prep (4th). Meanwhile, JV standout Allison continued her winning streak, taking first place in the JV Championship race and helping Middlesex's JV to finish third overall.



Having run her last cross-country race for Middlesex, Co-captain Maggie Cabot '25 (center, surrounded by her teammates) holds the 2024 NEPSTA Division II Championship plaque.



Back-to-back ISL Champions: Celebrating with their medals and trophy were (clockwise from top left) Catherine Bain '25, Co-captain Cate Corbett '26, Co-captain Maggie Cabot '25, Cassidy Bruno '26, Allison Luo '27 (winner of the JV race), Pipsa Palatsi '27, Katie Tantilillo '26, Stella Curwin-Amfitheatrof '26 (winner of the varsity race), and Anika Ata '26.

Middlesex harriers were strong from the start of the October 18th race against Rivers and Austin Prep. From left to right are Cassidy Bruno '26, Stella Curwin-Amfitheatrof '26, and Anika Ata '26—all of whom were named All-League and All-New England—followed by Katie Tantilillo '26 and Co-captain Maggie Cabot '25.







## Football Captures Joe Lang Bowl

The Middlesex football team captured its fifth NEPSAC bowl win in program history on November 16, 2024, with a 24-7 victory over Berkshire in the Joe Lang Bowl (named in honor of 26-year Middlesex Head Coach Joe Lang). The win brought the season record to 7-2 – the program’s best since 2005.

Though Berkshire took an early 7-0 lead with five minutes left in the first quarter, the turnaround began on the ensuing kickoff, when Co-captain Xavier Hazard '25 went 90 yards to score, breaking several tackles along the way. The extra point by Sam Elfner '28 tied the game. Middlesex stayed aggressive and was leading 17-7 by the end of the first half. Emmett Goodrich '26 set up the final Middlesex score with an interception and 25-yard return in the fourth quarter. Luke Felago '26 hit Xavier for an 11-yard touchdown to seal the victory, which capped an incredible season for first-year Head Coach Scott Woodward and his young team.



Named All-League and All-NEPSAC, Frankie Forrest '26 ran 1000 yards and made nine touchdowns in his junior season.

A fitting end to a fantastic season: Enjoying the season’s seventh and final victory with his players and assistants, Head Coach Scott Woodward and his young son James (center) held the NEPSAC Championship Trophy.



Co-captain Xavier Hazard '25 looked to get upfield after making a catch in a midseason game against Tabor. An All-League and All-NEPSAC wide receiver, he is headed to Brown University next fall.



## Field Hockey: Repeat ISL Champions

On a chilly and windy November day, Middlesex traveled to St. George's for the final game of the regular season. While goalie Anna Rusconi '26 came up big in the first half, making some beautiful stops, Avery Swenson '27 showcased her nifty stick work and scored in the second and third quarters. Though St. George's found the back of the cage with just 26 seconds of play left, the game ended 2-1, and with this victory, Middlesex claimed the ISL Championship for the second consecutive year.

Seeded first in the NEPSAC Class B Tournament, Middlesex topped #8 seed Groton 2-0 in the quarterfinals on November 13 and defeated #4 seed Rivers 2-1 in the semifinals on November 16. The next day, facing #2 seed Williston Northampton, Middlesex narrowly lost 3-4 to in double overtime, finishing the season with an amazing 17-1 record. As Head Coach Katie Bruch summed up, "While the end of the final game was heartbreaking, the team should be proud of all that they accomplished, from winning the ISL to having multiple shutouts to always carrying themselves with class and good sportsmanship. This team had a perfect balance of competitiveness, grit, and joy."



In addition to being named All-League, Co-captain Anna Bonazzoli '25 earned an All-NEPSAC Honorable Mention and will play for Babson College next year.



Co-captain Sophie Watson '25 will continue her field hockey career at the University of Pennsylvania after ending her senior season at Middlesex with All-League and All-NEPSAC honors.

With a 2-1 victory over St. George's on November 9, 2024, Middlesex's varsity field hockey team was undefeated in the league—and clinched the ISL Championship for the second consecutive year.





# Athletic Highlights

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



## Boys' Soccer

Playing next year for Hamilton College, Co-captain Olly Mylon '25 finished his Middlesex soccer career with All-League, All-State, and All-NEPSAC honors. He helped lead the program to 25 wins in the last two seasons, along with back-to-back New England Tournament appearances.



## Girls' Soccer

NEPSAC All-Star and 2025 Captain-elect Stella Mourtzinis '26 beat a Pomfret defender on her way to assisting with the first goal of the season.



## Volleyball

Next to middle blocker Grace-Ann Bailey '27 (#1), Jackie Brown '25 (#12) attacks from the outside while covered by Elizabeth Welles '27 (#2) and Co-captain Charlotte Heafey '25 (#11) in the back row.



## Boys' Cross-Country

Leading the team last fall with his Co-captain Leighton Glass '25, Co-captain Martin Erath '25 showed amazing growth as a varsity athlete, ultimately finishing first for Middlesex at the New England Championships in November.



## Pickleball

In its first year of competitive play, Middlesex's pickleball team earned a perfect 6-0 record for the season. Among this year's players were, from left to right, Gavin DeLuties '26, Niko Badoian '26, Declan Power '27, Jake Freeman '26, Max Linton '25, Freddy Murphy '26, Lach McCaghren '26, Julia Blake '25, Margot Boyd '25, Co-captain Alvie Zobel de Ayala '25, Anna Houghton '25, and Co-captain Nick Teller '25.



“MORE THAN A BUILDING”

# Groundbreaking Gets Field House Underway

**W**ITH CONFETTI CANNONS AT THE READY, Middlesex trustees, students, faculty, and staff gathered on September 27, 2024, to join in an official groundbreaking ceremony for the School’s new Athletic Field House. Situated next to the current athletic complex, the new building—which will include a spacious fitness center, indoor turf field, basketball and volleyball courts, and elevated track—will give Middlesex an outstanding facility that matches the strength of its program.

“It’s more than a building,” Head of School Bessie Speers said in her remarks. “It is a way of honoring Middlesex’s people and programs, and its age-old, tried-and-true, beloved mission.”

After Director of Athletics Craig Najarian thanked the many people who had brought the Field House project to this stage, school leaders set their shovels into the sand, and the community gave a rousing Middlesex cheer that ended with an explosive, celebratory burst of red and white confetti.



Board Chair Jason Robart '83 P'11'13 noted that since the School's founding in 1901, its mission to “find the promise” in every student has involved a holistic approach. “A robust athletic experience is fundamental to a Middlesex education,” he affirmed.







The groundbreaking team included, from left to right, Athletic Director Craig Najarian, Trustee Mary Lou Boutwell W'73 P'02'06, Owen Beauvais '27, Olly Mylon '25, Head of School Bessie Speers, Board Chair Jason Robart '83 P'11'13, Finley Crosby '25, Trustee Johanna Boynton P'20'23, and Trustee Curt Curtis '62.

## “MORE THAN A BUILDING”



### Foundation Work Begins

Not long after the groundbreaking, the building phase began in earnest. Once permits had been approved by the Town of Concord, Erland Construction's team was able to excavate, form, and pour the Field House's footings and foundation walls, continuing with this work through March. An adjacent project—shifting the baseball diamond further from the construction site—was also completed that month, assuring a smooth transition to the spring athletic season.

In April, geothermal well drilling was set to begin, which will make the Field House the second facility on campus to be heated and cooled by this method. Steel construction was also slated to start in April and continue into the summer.



(Above) The front entrance to the Field House quickly took shape.

Speaking first at the groundbreaking ceremony, Varsity Captains Olly Mylon '25 and Finley Crosby '25 called the celebratory event “a seminal moment in the School's history.”



**A Piece of Posterity:** Along with the trustees, students and faculty were invited to sign one of the Field House's sizeable beams before its installation.





In April, the project entered the phase of putting structural beams into place.



At the end of February, rebar was installed, so that concrete could be poured (below) onto the foundation and column support footings.



## Rising to the Challenge: Funding the Field House

*With the Landry Challenge for Girls' Athletics now complete, the 1901 Challenge will raise another \$5 million for the new Field House.*

### An Impactful Opportunity

Offered by a generous Middlesex family, the 1901 Challenge gives alumni, parents, and friends a chance to double their gift while showing their support for the School's outstanding athletic program. The challenge will match, dollar for dollar, every gift made toward the Field House, up to \$2.5 million—raising \$5 million for the project.

For more information about the 1901 Challenge, please see the inside back cover of this *Bulletin*, or contact Heather Parker at [hparker@mxschool.edu](mailto:hparker@mxschool.edu) or George Noble at [gnoble@mxschool.edu](mailto:gnoble@mxschool.edu).

### Celebrating Girls' Athletics

Alumnae and parents were quick to take advantage of the first Field House fundraising challenge that also kicked off Middlesex's celebration of 50 years of coeducation last summer. Thanks to the initiative and generosity of the Landry Family—Barrie Landry w'62 P'88'89'94 GP'18'27'27, Kim Gwinn Landry '89, and Jennifer Landry Le '94 P'27'27—their Challenge for Girls' Athletics ultimately raised \$4 million in this first-ever women-led challenge at Middlesex. Initially, the Landry Family Charitable Foundation had committed to matching all leadership gifts made by women up to \$1,500,000. Given the level of interest this generated, the Landry family further increased the matching funds by another \$500,000, ultimately inspiring no fewer than 15 alumnae and parents to give significant gifts—and making the challenge a resounding success by mid-December.



## PERFORMING Arts

### Sense and Sensibility

Kaye Theatre | November 15 & 16, 2024

In navigating the societal pressures of their class and time, sisters Elinor and Marianne Dashwood must each answer a question vital to their happiness: When reputation is everything, how do you follow your heart?

Set in gossipy, late 18th-century England, playwright Kate Hamill's contemporary adaptation of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* entertained Middlesex audiences on two nights in November with its humor, emotional depth, and bold theatricality, not to mention the production's period costumes, pop/classical soundtrack, and remarkable, revolving set.



### Bethel Park Falls

Fortmiller Studio Theatre  
January 10 & 11, 2025

In nine interconnected vignettes, 16 Bethel residents grapple with the loss of jobs, homes, and spouses, but find love, courage, and forgiveness as their local park magically transforms through four seasons of the year in a single day. Everyone takes a fall—and yet picks themselves up again in this poignant story by Jason Pizzarello about the spaces where communities connect.





## Hitting the Mark

Last fall's performance of *Sense and Sensibility* marked the 50th main stage production that longtime faculty member Tom Kane has directed at Middlesex—an impressive milestone! Since joining the faculty in 1998, Tom has been a dynamic leader both on the stage and behind the scenes as head of the performing arts department and head of the arts division. In addition to teaching acting classes every semester, he has brought to life dramas by playwrights as distinctive as Shakespeare, Chekhov, and Wilder, as well as memorable musicals by Stephen Sondheim and Cole Porter. “But even better than all those productions,” Tom reflects, “was putting them together with hundreds of Middlesex students.”



*Legally Blonde* (Spring 2023)



*Rent*  
(Spring  
2014)



*Les Liaisons  
Dangereuses*  
(Fall 2006)

*Sweeney Todd*  
(Spring 2009)



*Les  
Misérables*  
(Spring  
2007)



*Ragtime* (Spring 2015)



# PERFORMING Arts

## Holiday Concert

December 7–8, 2024

A favorite Middlesex tradition, this year's concert featured wonderful vocal and instrumental performances by more than 125 students in choruses and ensembles under the direction of Music Department Head Pierson Wetzel and music teacher Pedro Lobato. Their combined musicianship was especially highlighted in the program's soaring centerpiece, Vivaldi's *Gloria in D, RV 589*.



Izzy Johnston '26



Terry Qi '26



## Winter Recital

January 23, 2025

On the stage of the Danoff Recital Hall, 22 students showcased their talents just after the first semester concluded.

Kenden Chan '26



Lara Mohr '26





# VISUAL Arts

## Exhibitions in the Ishibashi Gallery

### Embedded

Roberta Paul &  
Isabel Riley  
September 12–  
November 8,  
2024

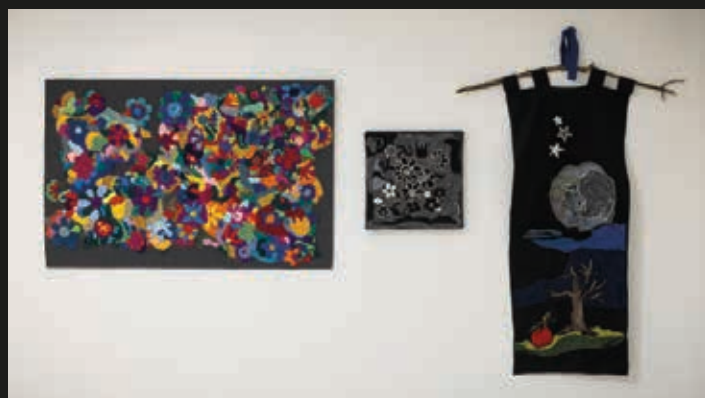
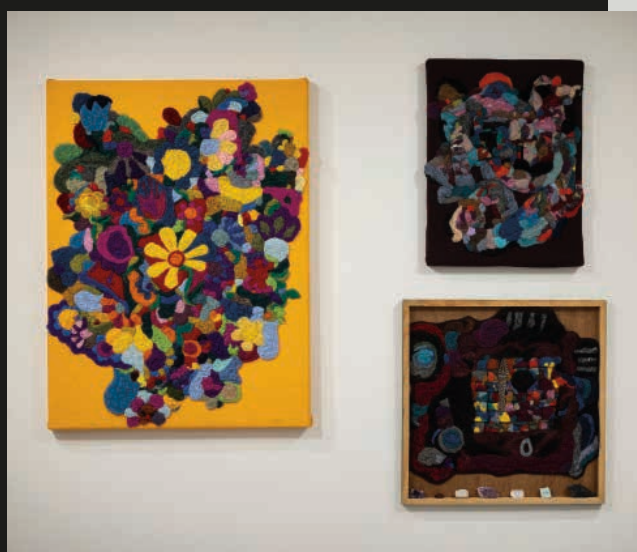
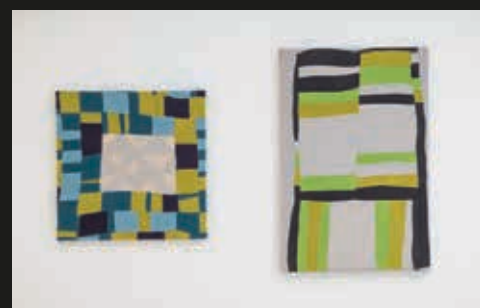
Curated by Beth  
Kantrowicz of bk  
projects, the mixed-  
media and sculptural  
works of Roberta  
Paul and Isabel  
Riley explored the  
complexities of  
communication,  
history, and  
memory.



### Matrilineal Threads

Rachel Adams & Sharon Chandler Correnty  
January 30–February 28, 2025

The vibrant fiber and textile pieces by Rachel  
Adams and Sharon Chandler Correnty investigated  
the history and stories that are rooted within  
material. While not made collaboratively, the  
work delved into the deep connection between  
mothers and daughters.





# The Nature of Harriet Tubman

*Dr. Tiya Miles '88 Details the Life of an Extraordinary Woman*

**F**OR THIS YEAR'S COMMEMORATION of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Middlesex welcomed back distinguished scholar and writer Dr. Tiya Miles '88, Harvard University's Michael Garvey Professor of History and the Radcliffe Alumnae Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. The author of several prize-winning works illuminating the history of early American race relations—including *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, A Black Family Keepsake*, which won the 2021 National Book Award—Tiya took a moment to share how moved she was to be back at Middlesex. “My heart is expanding as I stand in this space,” she said. “Being here actually transformed my life; there is no way I would have written books and won prizes if I had not gone here.”

From Middlesex, Tiya went on to earn an A.B. in Afro-American studies at Harvard University, followed by an M.A. in women's studies at Emory University and a Ph.D. in American studies at the University of Minnesota. She taught in the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, before moving to the University of Michigan, where she taught for 16 years as a professor in American culture, history, Afro-american and African studies, Native American studies, and women's studies. In addition to being currently the only two-time winner of Yale's Frederick Douglass Prize for the study of slavery, abolition, and resistance, Tiya is the only Middlesex graduate to have

received a MacArthur Foundation “Genius Award” Fellowship (2011–2016). She has also been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Hiatt Prize in the Humanities, and her work has been supported by the Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Turning to the subject of her most recent book, *Night Flyer: Harriet Tubman and the Faith Dreams of a Free People*, Tiya described Harriet Tubman as “a forerunner of Martin Luther King, Jr.,” as she was at the front of the abolitionist movement, risking her life for the freedom of fellow slaves. “She really stands out for her enormous courage,” Tiya noted, a fact that made her wonder, “What makes a Harriet Tubman?”

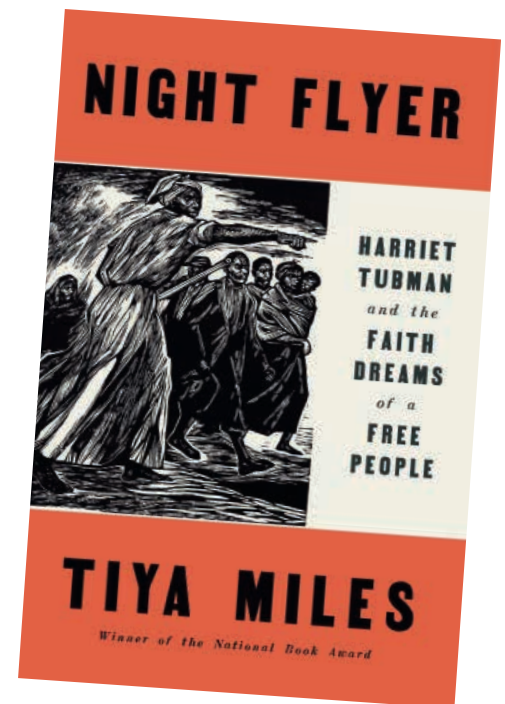
Looking at her not as a mythical figure but as “a full person, with talents and flaws, who suffered because of her decisions,” Tiya studied written accounts about Harriet Tubman and was astonished by what she learned. She found a woman who was shaped not only by her strong religious faith, which led her to regard her work as a mission from God, but also by her deep connection to the natural world. “She seemed to find a relatively safe haven outside,” Tiya said.

Though not formally educated, Harriet Tubman was also clearly an intelligent woman. Even while still a slave, she negotiated her own work contracts, hired an attorney to investigate her mother's wrongful enslavement, and planned her own successful escape north in 1841. Over the next decade, she covertly returned to the

South repeatedly to rescue at least 70 people.

“Harriet Tubman's story doesn't end with the Underground Railroad,” Tiya said. Understanding the importance not only of freedom but of land and relationships, she bought farmland just outside Auburn, New York, and created a thriving community there with her extended family.

Through Harriet Tubman's example, Tiya counseled, students might be similarly powered by their own sense of purpose. “For her, it was religious, but for you, it could be something else,” she said. Moreover, while the path ahead was not always clear, Harriet Tubman kept her eyes on the stars, finding direction when she felt lost. “I believe that we can, too,” Tiya affirmed. **M**





# ALUMNI Events

## The Kingman Cup Golf Tournament

*October 7, 2024*

The arrival of steady rain shortened the day's play this year, but golfers made the best of it—and will have a chance to compete again next fall for the silver trophy named in honor of legendary Middlesex faculty member Brad Kingman, who served the School from 1960 to 1999.



Greg Maheras P'21'21, Greg Paolino '08, Trustee Rob Trumbull '00, and Chris Mansfield '00 were among those who came to compete at the event, which was hosted once again by former Trustee Ted Mehm '83 P'14'17'21 (on far right) at the Hyannisport Golf Club.



Standing with Head of School Bessie Speers, Brad Kingman's sons—Phil '82, Brad '84, and David—were on hand for the annual tournament named for their father.

# College Gatherings

Dinners arranged by the Alumni Office brought recent Middlesex graduates together in several cities last fall.



**Chicago:** Head of School Bessie Speers and husband Tom Speers '76 enjoyed connecting with young alumni in October, including (in front) Naomi Friedbauer '24, Peter Maheras '21, Marissa Fadely '22, Iliana Tassev '24, Claire Yoon '24, and Julie Chen '23, as well as (in back) Alex Elson '22, Anton Balyuk '24, Alex Barron '24, Ben Luo '23, Zeke Fleissner-Kates '24, Eric Nie '24, and Andrew Yang '24.

**Boston:** (below) Dinner at the Yard House near Fenway last September drew a large crowd of alumni attending colleges in the area.



**Charlottesville:** Emma Fehnel '16, George Fulton '21, Pavel Akmaev '21, Charlie Mehm '21, Clementine Campbell '23, and Caroline Reynolds '17.



**Washington, DC:** Alex Almeida '23, Kit Vernon '24, Sebastian Canizares '21, Benjamin Canizares '24, Charlie Martin '22, Thatcher Foregger '24, Noah Pavlov '24, Katherine Carroll '22, and Kirby Keas '23.





# ALUMNI Events

## Career Panels

After a few years of meeting on Zoom, alumni interested in the fields of finance, marketing, consulting, and medicine could network in person last January during Career Panels held in Boston and New York City.



### Boston Panelists

**Jennifer Burnes Fulton '85 P'21**

*Executive Vice President at Bain & Co.*

**Tim Hughes '05**

*Vice President of Sales at Temporal Technologies*

**Greg Romero '99**

*Founder & Principal of Romero Solutions Group*

**Rob Trumbull '00**

*Wealth Advisor at JP Morgan Wealth Management*

**Emily Wise Shanahan, M.D. '01**

*Founder of DermWellesley*

**Keith Wang '89 P'28**

*Founder of KF Wang & Co.*

Thanks to Trustee Rob Trumbull '00 and Brian Cloherty '19, the Boston Career Panel could be held at the offices of JP Morgan. **Seated, from left to right:** Jared Arnold '19, Brian Cloherty '19, Alumni Relations Director John Morrissey P'18'22, and Marcus Coward '17.

**Standing, left to right:** Rex Mabbs '22, Peter Sleeper '22, Director of Development Courtney Fein P'24, Massimo Mitchell '22, Kyle Wolff '22, Stanley Chan '19, Eoin Morrissey '22, Joey Belsanti '21, Matt McVeigh '19, Jeff Hirbour '98, Greg Romero '99, Corey Sarazin '19, Emily Wise Shanahan '01, Emily Beaton Conte '01, Nicollette Roark '20, Cliff Stevens '99, Trustee Jennifer Burnes Fulton '85 P'21, Allyson Lu '20, Kevin Wang '89 P'28, Laura Kaye '17, Tim Hughes '05, Trustee Rob Trumbull '00, Sophia Fawcett '23, Ty Fein '24, Sarah Nguyen '23, Graham Ray '23, Brooke Smith '23, Aidan O'Sullivan '24, and Arjun Rath '25.



### New York Panelists

**Chloe Chah '11**

*Senior Consultant at EVERSANA Management Consulting*

**Brianna Atkinson Evans, M.D. '08**

*Pediatric Gastroenterologist at Mount Sinai Hospital*

**Katie Hampton '12**

*Associate Director of Business Development and Partnerships at Spotify*

**Gavin Johnson '09**

*Client Advisor within J.P. Morgan's Private Bank*

**Chris Lawrence '09**

*Senior Financial Analyst at Google*

**Chris Woo '09**

*Co-founder of Lotus Venture Partners*

With the assistance of Jack Carroll '06, the New York City Career Panel was held at the offices of Morgan Stanley. **In front, from left to right:** Janak Shah '17, Steve Gunn '06, Arthur Smyth '23, Kwabena Kwakwa '21, Gavin Johnson '09, Alumni Relations Director John Morrissey P'18'22, and Teddy Stevens '24.

**Standing, left to right:** Rock Hoffman '16, Eric Gourdon '16, Alden French '09, Nathaniel Heller '12, Brianna Atkinson Evans '08, Chris Woo '09, Katie Hampton '12, Chloe Chah '11, Chris Lawrence '09, Annabelle Rogers '22, Florence Morlock '24, Kit Vernon '24, and Sophia Bueno '24.

# Middlesex on the Road

## *Parent & Alumni Receptions*

Head of School Bessie Speers and her husband Tom '76 have traveled extensively this year, eager to connect with parents, alumni, and their families around the country and abroad.



### Chicago OCTOBER 10, 2024

Alumni from four decades got together at Cindy's Rooftop. **Seated, left to right:** Alumni Relations Director John Morrissey P'18'22, Tim Chapman and Atiya Walcott '12, Miles Littlefield '00, Lauren Cotter Marker '03, Head of School Bessie Speers, Jared Jodrey '99 and Sherene Jodrey, and Chief Advancement Officer Heather Parker P'16'18. **Standing:** Siobhan Morrissey '18, Aisling Morrissey P'18'22, Lily Jarrett '19, former faculty member Erika Prah, Ursie Ayres Ostrom '92, Chief Advancement Officer George Noble P'23'25, Kevin Lubin '10, former faculty member Kwadwo Oforu-Barko '99, Tom Speers '76, and Noah Sobe '89.



### Washington, DC OCTOBER 30, 2024

Thanks to the sponsorship of Max Novick '14, a gathering was held at the Metropolitan Club, with many alumni in attendance. **From left to right:** Matthew and Marisa Athas Beck '12, Chief Advancement Officer George Noble P'23'25, Mia Matos '19, Tom Speers '76, Andrew Matos '13, Jeff Smith '63, Max Novick '14, Nick Acheson '65, Alumni Relations Director John Morrissey P'18'22, Ariana Odom '17, Minturn Wright '76, Rich Bland '91, Head of School Bessie Speers, Trustee Afua Oforu-Barko '98, Charlotte Bancroft Hyland '08, Gwen Wright, Julie Nganele '08, Alan Eyre '76, Nick Gess '73, Cate Pittelli '20, Tyler Johnson '19, Mike Yedinak '00, Jennifer Wolff, and Anita De Pree.



# ALUMNI Events

## New York City

*The Kimpton Hotel Eventi, November 14, 2024*



Head of School Bessie Speers brought parents and alumni up to date on Middlesex news.



Chief Advancement Officer George Noble P'23'25, Logan Tonra '20, and Will Russell '15.



Trustee Allen Model '63 talks with Charlie Boutwell '06 and his mother, Trustee Mary Lou Boutwell W'73 P'02'06.



Henry Harding '08, Ima Edomwonyi '09, and Steve Gunn '06.



Jen Landry Le '94 P'27'27 and Nick White '06.

Steve Gunn '06, Gavin Johnson '09, Terrence Agbi '07, Claudia Aubourg P'27, Chris Lawrence '09, Chief Advancement Officer Heather Parker P'16'18, and Prentis Robinson '07.





## Boston

*Langham Hotel, November 21, 2024*



Dean of Students Kathy Smithwick Swain '08 with Kassiani Nacopoulos '13 and Sarah Stephenson '13.



Katherine Viener Riordan '93 P'22, Lindsay and Michael Wands P'28, Tony Leness '90 P'24'28, and Tom Felago P'26'28.

Head of School Bessie Speers, Trustee Rob Trumbull '00, Chief Advancement Officer Heather Parker P'16'18, and Tim Cook '80 P'18'25.



Trustee and Parents' Committee Chair Caroline Counselman P'25'28 welcomed everyone to the newly renovated Langham Hotel.



Surrounded by fellow Middlesex connections, retired faculty member Ned Herter '73 P'97'99'02 GP'25'28 catches up with Tim Brown '03.





# ALUMNI Events

## Middlesex in Asia

During 10 full days last January, Middlesex parents and alumni in five cities throughout Asia warmly welcomed Head of School Bessie Speers and her husband Tom '76; Admissions Officer and Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Starry Zhu; and Chief Advancement Officer George Noble P'23'25. The trip was a wonderful way for families and graduates to meet Bessie in this second year of her tenure—and for prospective students and parents to learn more about Middlesex at any of the five admissions receptions held during the School's tour.

### Seoul, Korea

Fitting in a little sightseeing while in Seoul, hosts Judy Park P'24'26 (at far left) and her husband, Jun Hur P'24'26 (at far right), brought the Middlesex travelers to the Korea Furniture Museum.



The dinner for alumni and parents in Seoul drew an impressive crowd. **Seated, left to right:** Na Young Cho '02, Judy Chi '05, Haejung Chung '06, George, Bessie, Tom, Starry, Sung Won '90, and Jun-Suk Lee '97. **Standing:** Jane Sung P'28, Jamie Park P'27, Wendy Kim P'28, Vivian Lee P'27, Saecbyul Kim P'21'24, Judy Park P'24'26, Sonia Chang P'27, Hyungsik Yoon P'21'24, Ji Sung Park '02, Sung Sik Yoon P'27, Woo Joon Dan '01, Patrick Kim P'27, Jun Hur P'24'26, BJ Park P'27, Dongmin Baik P'28, Taeho Choi P'28, and Michael Yu P'26.

### Shanghai, China

Judy Qian P'27, Cathy You P'28, Bessie, and Jessie Dai P'25.



A dinner for families at Cary's in Shanghai included (**standing, left to right:**) Jim Liu P'26, Starry, hosts Xinhai She P'27 and Judy Qian P'27, George, Bessie, Tom, Zhigao Zhang P'27, and Hao Wu P'27. **Seated:** Jessie Dai P'25, Cathy You P'28, Hao Wu P'27, and Lyia Lu.



## Beijing, China

Joining in a tour of the Summer Palace were Shelley Xia P'21'23, Sophy Zhang P'21, Tom, Bessie, George, Vivian Gu P'19'28, Starry, and Pei Pei Zhang P'15.



The visit to Beijing closed with a wonderful dinner with parents. **From left to right:** Shelley Xia P'21'23, Hongwei Ma P'19'28, Starry, George, Vivian Gu P'19'28, Sophy Zhang P'21, Jeff Li P'21, Pei Pei Zhang P'15, Tom, Bessie, Jessie Liang P'17, Yongli Fan P'15, and James Li P'17.

## Hong Kong

Middlesex alumni, parents, and prospective students gathered at an evening reception.

**Standing, left to right:** Sherry Poon P'19'27, Kevin Chan P'26, Wendy Liu P'28, Chelsea Zhang P'28, Donghui Zhang P'27, Starry, Stanley Chan '19, Tom, Bessie, Lawrence Chan P'26'27, Steven Leung '03, Noven Wan P'16, Catherine Xu P'27, Eunice Yuen P'26, James Zhao P'27. **Kneeling in front:** Aiden Gu, George, Boris Yu '10, William Chan P'19'27, and Eric Zhao.



## Tokyo, Japan

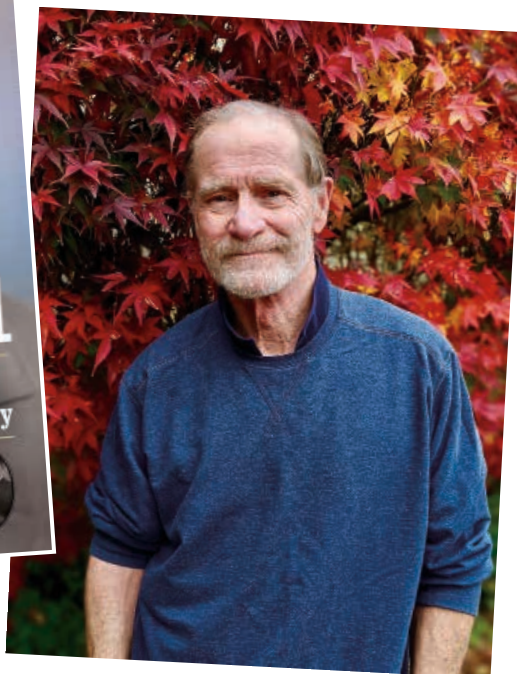
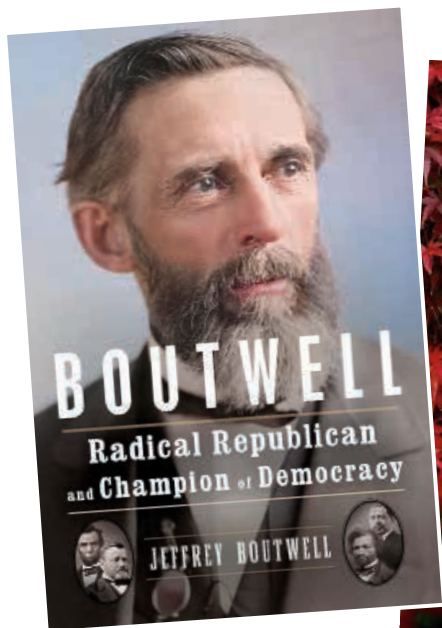
For their first stop in Tokyo, Bessie, Tom, and George toured the Artizon Museum with its Director Hiroshi Ishibashi '66.



Tom, Bessie, and George enjoyed dinner with their Hong Kong hosts, William Chan P'19'27 (not pictured) and Sherry Poon P'19'27, along with their son, Stanley Chan '19.



## IN PRINT: Jeffrey Boutwell '69



### **Boutwell: Radical Republican and Champion of Democracy**

by Jeffrey Boutwell '69

Published January 21, 2025,  
by W.W. Norton & Co.

**G**EORGE S. BOUTWELL OF MASSACHUSETTS, the Commonwealth's youngest-ever governor in the 1850s, was a key figure in American public life for seven decades. Having helped create the Republican Party in the 1850s, he became a close ally and friend of Presidents Lincoln and Grant during the Civil War and Reconstruction eras. While in Congress, he helped write the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution and led the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson for seeking to re-establish white supremacist political control in the South. As revenue commissioner for Lincoln and treasury secretary for Grant, Boutwell helped establish the modern American economy. In the 1870s, he served in the U.S. Senate,

where he chaired the committee investigating the Mississippi Plan of 1875 that employed intimidation and violence to re-establish white Democratic control of the state. Remarkably, at the age of 80, Boutwell was asked to become president of the Anti-Imperialist League, working with Andrew Carnegie, Mark Twain, and others to oppose Teddy Roosevelt and America's annexation of the Philippines following the Spanish-American War. George Boutwell died in 1905, having lived with his family in Groton, Massachusetts for more than 50 years. This first major biography by family member Jeffrey Boutwell is as much a history of 19th century America as it is a critique of the failures of governance during a turbulent and formative period in American history.

In addition to being favorably reviewed in *The Wall Street Journal* by Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer, *Boutwell* has been praised by many

writers and historians, including the following:

"Deeply researched and highly readable . . . George Boutwell has been neglected by historians, but, thanks to this book, is no longer consigned to the shadowy sidelines of history."

—Michael Burlingame, author of *Abraham Lincoln: A Life*

"In Jeffrey Boutwell's capable hands, the nearly forgotten 19th century Massachusetts politician George Boutwell emerges as an Emersonian Representative Man . . . a self-made man of conscience. Richly contextualized and painstakingly researched, *Boutwell* is a classic political biography, a powerful and timely reminder that while personality may win the day, character makes a legacy."

—Megan Marshall, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Margaret Fuller: A New American Life*

**Jeffrey Boutwell** is a writer, historian, and public policy specialist whose 40-year career spanned journalism, government, and international scientific research and cooperation. He has written widely on issues relating to nuclear weapons arms control, European politics, Middle East security issues, and environmental degradation and civil conflict. He has a Ph.D. in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a B.A. in history from Yale University. For many years, he worked at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He and George Boutwell share a common ancestor: the indentured servant James Boutwell, who emigrated from England to Salem, Massachusetts in 1632. **M**

# IN Memoriam

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## Manley O. Hudson, Jr. '49

Manley Ottmer Hudson, Jr. died peacefully at his home in London on October 3, 2024, with his children by his side.

The son of Janet Aldrich and Judge Manley O. Hudson, Lee was born on June 25, 1932. He entered the third class at Middlesex from Fountain Valley School in 1946, and, on graduating, earned an A.B. in Russian literature at Harvard College. After receiving an L.L.B. from Harvard Law School in 1956, Lee clerked for Supreme Court Justice Stanley Reed for a year. He then joined Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLC as an associate and became a partner in 1968, working in their New York City, London, and Paris offices until 2001.

Predeceased by his wife, Olivia d'Ormesson Hudson, Lee is survived by his two children, Nicholas and Antonia.

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## Barclay Tittmann '49

Barclay Tittmann died peacefully in his house in Cambridge, MA, on November 12, 2024, from complications of Parkinson's disease.

The son of Eleanor Delaney Barclay and Harold H. Tittmann, Jr., Barclay was born in Rome, Italy, on February 4, 1932, and spent most of his early years in Rome and Geneva. During WWII, the family moved into the Vatican City for the duration of the conflict. Barclay attended Institut Le Rosey before joining Middlesex's fifth class in 1944. After graduating, he earned a degree in humanities, arts, and letters at Yale and then spent several years in Naval Intelligence. In May 1957, he married Lucy Keith, and they moved to Edmonton, Alberta, where he worked in various construction jobs and as a stockbroker.

A lifelong learner, Barclay decided to pursue a Ph.D. in literature at l'Université de Liège in Belgium. The family moved to Liège for two years and then to Madrid, Spain, where he spent two years on the research for his thesis. On moving to Concord, MA, in 1965, Barclay taught Spanish literature at Boston College until he realized that a professor's salary would not support his family adequately. In 1972, he joined the investment management firm of Gardner & Preston, Moss, staying with the company until his retirement in 2003. Barclay went back to teaching his beloved literature, conducting seminars at Harvard Learning in Retirement into the 2010s. He also took classes there and wrote 13 plays for the Tavern Club, where he was a member for almost 40 years.

Though he did not consider himself an athlete, Barclay was a lifelong skier and an avid tennis and squash player. He swam in the Gulf of Maine every day in the summer and enjoyed hiking, long walks, and gardening. Barclay loved his family and always knew what each member was doing. With a dry sense of humor and deadpan delivery, he always saw the humor in a situation. Another admirable trait was his acceptance of things he couldn't change. Barclay died the way he lived, with peace and dignity and no imposition on anyone else. He will be sorely missed.

Barclay is survived by his beloved wife, Lucy Keith Tittmann (Middlesex Trustee 1979-1991); their six children, Eleanor Andrews, **John B. Tittmann '77**, **Robert K. Tittmann '79**, **Sally Tittmann '81**, **Anna Stevens '84**, and **Edward Tittmann '86**; 15 grandchildren, including **Jon L. Tittmann '14** and **Halina M. Tittmann '18**; one great-grandchild; his older brother, **Harold H. Tittmann III '47**; and two nephews.

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## Frederick A. Pratt '50

Frederick Alcott Pratt died in Middlebury, VT, on November 14, 2024.

Born in Concord, MA, on February 19, 1933, Fred was known as "Pat" at Middlesex, where he grew up on campus in Robert Winsor House. Through his mother, Theresa Winsor Pratt, Pat was a grandson of the School's founder, Frederick Winsor; through his father, Frederic Wolsey Pratt (a revered Middlesex faculty member from 1925 to 1957), he was a great-grandnephew of Louisa May Alcott. Pat joined Middlesex's fifth class from The Fenn School in 1945; on graduating, he earned an A.B. in history at Harvard, followed later by an M.A. in German at Middlebury College. After serving in the U.S. Army as a linguist while stationed in Frankfurt/Main, he taught German and European history at the Moses Brown School in Providence, RI, for 23 years.

In 1981, Pat and his wife moved to Vermont, where they already owned a rustic cabin and 160 acres on Ward Hill in South Duxbury. He and his family spent extensive time at the hill house, and Pat was happiest there, watching the birds and wildlife. He and Chris also traveled extensively, visiting birding destinations in the U.S. and in the U.K., Cyprus, Morocco, South Africa, Belize, and Costa Rica.

A firm believer in the importance of undeveloped tracts of land, Pat successfully led efforts to prevent subdivision and fragmentation of high-elevation habitats and pristine headwaters around Ward Hill and Dowsville Road in Duxbury. The property—which had grown to 500 acres—was so important to him that, in 2000, he conserved it in perpetuity with The Vermont Land Trust; in 2019, he donated the

property outright to VLT, so that others could enjoy its beauty and biodiversity for years to come. It is now known as the Pratt Refuge.

Predeceased by his wife, Eleanor "Chris" Bisbee Pratt, their daughter Theresa, and his brother Charlie, Pat is survived by his son John; three grandchildren; his brother, **John W. Pratt '48**; and four nieces and nephews, including **Maria Theresa W. Pratt '83** and **Samuel F. Pratt '85**. Pat's remarkable Middlesex legacy is extensive, encompassing four generations—and more than two dozen members—of the Winsor, Paine, Bisbee, Zamore, Andrews, Boutwell, and Burnes families.

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## Norman de M. Hammond '51

Norman de Mauriac "Maury" Hammond passed away on September 4, 2024, at his home in Woodland Park, CO.

Maury was born on March 24, 1933, and was raised on his grandfather's ranch in Cody, WY. He started his education in Wapiti School House and continued at schools in California before entering the third class at Middlesex in 1948. After receiving his diploma, Maury went to Colorado College, where he earned degrees in geology and geologic engineering while playing football for all five years. Upon graduation, he married his college sweetheart, Sally Howell, and then spent two years in the U.S. Army. They raised four children together while Maury worked in the oil industry, starting in Libya and traveling to many countries through the years. He went to Kuwait with a Red Adair team to put out the fires set by Saddam Hussain.

After Sally's death in 2000, Maury married Grace Black in 2004 and settled in Woodland

*continued on page 70*



### Victor K. Atkins '63



Victor Kennicott Atkins, Jr. passed away on April 14, 2025. A loyal alumnus and generous benefactor, Victor served as a trustee from 1991 to 1994 and remained closely connected to the School until his final days.

After graduating from Middlesex in 1963, Victor majored in economics at Harvard and graduated cum laude. Feeling compelled to serve his country, he enlisted as an officer in the Navy and volunteered to be deployed to Vietnam, where his bravery and service were recognized with the Bronze Star. On returning to the U.S., Victor headed to Harvard Business School, graduating with high distinction. He then moved to New York City to begin his career as an investment banker and private investor.

As he found great success in the business world, Victor was determined to share this with others, reflecting the values passed down to him from his parents, Victor and Elizabeth. One of his early gifts to Middlesex was the renovation of the Cage, which was subsequently named the Atkins Athletic Center in honor of his parents. In 2002, he spearheaded the renovation of the rink and the expansion of the adjacent athletic facilities, creating the Elizabeth Atkins Field House, which was dedicated to his mother. At the same time, he contributed substantially toward the construction of East House, little suspecting that it would be later named Atkins House in his honor. Victor also played a pivotal role in the Mx2 campaign's Residential Life Challenge that renovated several dorms and made Landry House a reality.

Not solely focused on "bricks-and-mortar" projects, Victor significantly strengthened the School's infrastructure and resources, too. He funded the expansion of the Warburg Library's book collection and put Harkness tables in each humanities classroom, while also advocating strongly for keeping the campus up to date with technological developments. Additionally, the

matching challenges he created raised millions to bolster the funding of faculty compensation and student financial aid.

Victor once said that the secret to life was to "get a good education, work hard, and be a good citizen." It seems especially fitting that the School's last interaction with him centered on his desire to give additional Harkness tables to Middlesex, ensuring that students and teachers would continue to be drawn together in dialogue and intellectual work at his alma mater. He enjoyed hearing updates on the School's progress, and he cared deeply about its success, as is clear from his many transformational gifts.

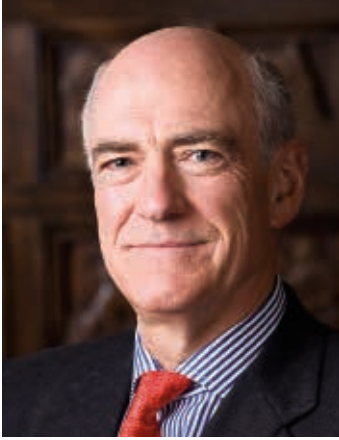
Victor's generosity was not limited to Middlesex, and he made a significant difference to many places, including Harvard, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, and the 1610 Society at the University of Oxford. Victor also felt compelled to provide opportunities for others, as he did by supporting the Southampton Fresh Air Home, which hosts free summer sessions for children. In appreciation of all that Victor had done for Middlesex athletics, he was inducted into the School's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2010; and in 2018, his impressive career and extensive philanthropic efforts deservedly earned him the Henry Cabot Lodge (1920) Distinguished Alumni Award.

In addition to his wife, Victoria Ramsay Atkins, Victor is survived by three stepdaughters, Margaret, Lucia, and **Elizabeth Hartmann '10**; his brother, **William T. Atkins '67**; and his sister, Abigail Atkins.

***Victor Atkins' philanthropic impact on Middlesex has been transformational and will be celebrated more fully in the next Alumni Bulletin.***



## Austin P. Olney '66



Austin Potter “Pete” Olney died on March 11, 2025, surrounded by his loved ones. A tireless leader and passionate advocate for Middlesex, Pete ably served as the Board’s chair from 2007 to 2015 during his 18 years as a trustee. He maintained his deep commitment to the School as a trustee emeritus and left an indelible mark on the institution he cared about deeply.

The son of Isabel and Richard Olney, Jr., Pete joined the fifth class at Middlesex in 1961. After receiving his diploma, he went on to graduate cum laude from Harvard with an A.B. in American history and earned his J.D. from Georgetown University in 1975. Starting out as a minority counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, Pete subsequently served as Delaware’s Secretary of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. At the global law firm of Dewey & LeBoeuf, he had a 33-year tenure as a partner in their offices in Washington, DC, and Boston. In 2013, Pete retired as a partner in the Boston office of Holland & Knight LLP.

Pete’s commitment to Middlesex was evident from his early service as a class agent. He later joined the Board as president of the Middlesex Parents’ Committee, serving from 1997 to 2000 while his twin sons were current students. He began his

second term as a trustee in 2000, serving as the treasurer from 2004 to 2007 before chairing the Board for eight years. During his tenure, Pete led Middlesex through strategic planning initiatives, fundraising efforts, and the launch of the transformational Mx2 capital campaign. Under his leadership, the School expanded its commitment to sustainability, strengthened its financial foundation, and enhanced its campus with impactful new buildings and renovations. In 2024, his devotion to Middlesex was duly recognized with the E. Duane Jones ’70 Service to Alumni Award.

With his thoughtful approach and ability to rally the community around a shared vision, Pete helped propel Middlesex forward. Yet, he never sought the spotlight, humbly preferring to focus on the collective efforts and accomplishments of the School’s constituents, always recognizing the passion and dedication of others above his own. Pete’s impact on Middlesex will resonate for generations to come.

Pete also served as the vice-chair of FCD Educational Services, Inc. and as a member of the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation Board from 2013 to 2017. He was a member of the Connecticut College Board of Trustees from 2002 to 2007 and was a trustee of the Hill School in Middleburg, VA, for nine years, spending the last three as chair of that board. He was also a trustee of Anatolia College in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Surviving Pete are his wife Jane and their sons, **Austin S. Olney ’00** and **Warwick P. Olney ’00**; four grandchildren; his brother, **Richard Olney III ’57**; and several nieces and nephews, including **Richard D. Olney ’85** and **Alexander D. Olney ’89**. His grandniece, **Scout E. Olney ’27**, begins the third Olney generation to attend Middlesex.





## John Taylor Williams '56



John Taylor Williams, known to all as “Ike,” died on December 26, 2024, at his home in Cambridge, MA, surrounded by family. Born in Cambridge, MA, on June 19, 1938, he was given the name John Philip Taylor. His father died in a car accident when Ike was three, and, when his mother later married a widower,

Merton Williams, Ike changed his surname to Williams. In 1953, he joined the third class at Middlesex, where his roommate, Mills Lane '56—later a judge and professional boxing referee—gave him the nickname “Ike,” after the 1940s lightweight champion Ike Williams. The name stuck.

On graduating, Ike earned his A.B. in government at Harvard and his J.D. at the University of Pennsylvania's Law School, after which he worked for a succession of Boston firms. While at Palmer and Dodge, he represented publishing clients and created what amounted to a literary agency inside the firm. In 1990, with his friend Jill Kneerim, Ike set out on his own. The office on Canal Street had two names, the literary agency and a law firm with partner Paul Sennott. As a literary lawyer and agent, Ike worked with many famous writers, including Norman Mailer, E.O. Wilson, Howard Gardner, Frances FitzGerald, and Sara Lawrence Lightfoot. He found time to co-author an authoritative textbook on publishing law and helped turn books into movies. A great raconteur, Ike combined his penchant for storytelling with his fascination with Cape lore in *The Shores of Bohemia: A Cape Cod Story, 1910–1960*, published in 2022.

Ike was also deeply engaged with many cultural and political institutions, including the National Endowment for the Arts, the Institute of Contemporary Art, the Huntington Theatre, the Boston Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, the Boston Book Festival, and the Prisoner's Rights Project. He was the longtime co-chair of Provincetown's Fine Arts Work Center. In recognition of his leadership and achievement, Ike was presented with Middlesex's Henry Cabot Lodge (1920) Distinguished Alumni Award in 2011.

Predeceased in 2014 by his first wife, Noa Hall Williams, Ike is survived by his wife, Caroline Courtauld; his sons, Caleb, Jared, and Nathaniel; and his grandchildren. His late uncle, **George A. Taylor '37**, was also a Middlesex graduate.

Park, a place he always loved and where he said he wanted to spend the rest of his life. As a geologist, he was interested in mining and was also an avid rock collector who was a past president of the Lake George Gem Club. Maury and Grace traveled to Alaska three times to take part in a gold mining adventure, spending three months on the Uhler River. They also traveled to California “Happy Camp” for a week's adventure in gold mining.

In addition to his wife Grace, Maury is survived by his four children, Terry Medico, Susie Hammond, Debbie Hammond, and Maury Hammond, Jr.; eight grandchildren; his sister, Lucy Guillet Bowden; and his brother, **Bennett Hammond, Jr. '63**. Grace's family also became his own, including her five children, Claire Bertsch, Karen McLaughlin, Barbara Betancourt, John Black, and Susan Harding; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

## Hugh Blair-Smith '53

Hugh Blair-Smith died peacefully in his sleep on August 3, 2024.

Raised in Radnor, PA, Hugh was born in New York City to Jean Lithgow and **Robert M. Blair-Smith (1924)**. He entered Middlesex's sixth class from Haverford School in 1947 and especially thrived in math, science, and theatre. After graduating, he earned an A.B. from Harvard in 1957 and a B.S. in engineering in 1959—only because the field of computer science was in its infancy, waiting for people like Hugh to discover, create, and develop it.

Hugh's contributions to space exploration made an indelible mark on history. Joining the MIT Instrumentation Laboratory in 1959, he was pivotal in the development of the Apollo Guidance Computer

(AGC), which provided guidance, navigation, and control for NASA's lunar missions. His work on the assembler program YUL and the AGC—in which the practicalities closely restricted the size, mass, and power draw of the computer—laid the groundwork for future advancements in computer science. Beyond Apollo, his expertise extended to the Space Shuttle and the early phases of the Space Station, showcasing a career dedicated to pushing the boundaries of technology and exploration. His book, *Left Brains for the Right Stuff: Computers, Space, and History*, captures the essence of a remarkable era in space race history.

In adulthood, friends reconnected Hugh to his childhood love of sailing, which also set the scene for him to be introduced to his wife. A dedicated student, Hugh worked his way through the ranks of the U.S. Power Squadron courses and then, as a natural teacher, he devoted many years to teaching classes in coastal and celestial navigation. He was loved by his family, colleagues, crewmates, students, and many dogs and cats.

Preceded in death by his parents and sister, Pamela Detering, Hugh is survived by his wife, Victoria Blair-Smith; their children, Robert M. Blair-Smith II and Caroline Blair-Smith; and two grandchildren, Amelia and Adam.

## A. A. Lee Hegner '57

Archibald Allen Lee Hegner died on December 16, 2024.

Lee was born in Denver, CO, on May 29, 1939, to Nancy and Casper F. Hegner. From Byers Junior High School, Lee entered Middlesex's third class in 1954. Following graduation, he earned a B.A. in art and archaeology at Princeton University. Lee then enlisted in

the Marine Corps and completed boot camp in San Diego, CA. Honorably discharged, he attended Denver University Law School at night while working for Honeywell in the computer sales division. After receiving his J.D., he became a deputy district attorney. Lee later carried on his own practice for more than 33 years while teaching as an adjunct professor of law at Denver University. He also served as an assistant attorney general for Colorado. In 1990, Lee traveled to Kenya and South Sudan, doing work devoted to community development in sub-Saharan Africa. Passionate about his faith and helping others, he volunteered as a Whiz Kids tutor and for Project C.U.R.E.

Lee will be remembered by friends and family as kind, polite, and endlessly thoughtful. Though a self-proclaimed introvert, he had a memorable basso profundo that was beautifully strong and clear. Many knew him for this unforgettable voice—whether he was speaking as the floor announcer for the Denver Nuggets, arguing as an attorney in Denver courts of law, singing in the choir, entertaining those around him with jokes, or reading books both for the blind and his beloved grandchildren. Lee enriched our lives with his thoughtful compliments, his sincere words of encouragement, his profound wisdom, and his generous humor! He will be deeply missed.

In addition to his loving wife Rebecca, Lee is survived by his family in Los Angeles, CA, Gregory and Suzanne Luke, parents to his three grandchildren; and his three nieces. Lee's late brothers, **C. Frank Hegner II '54** and **Christopher Hegner '62**, are also Middlesex alumni.

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### **William Pitkin, Jr. '58**

William Pitkin, Jr. passed away peacefully, surrounded by his children, on October 15, 2024, at the Sacred Ground Hospice Home in Knoxville, TN.

Bill was born on February 12, 1939, in Cambridge, MA, to Margaret Downey and William Pitkin. He grew up with his younger sister Ginny in Harvard, MA, amidst apple and peach orchards, and joined the fifth class at Middlesex in 1953. On graduating, Bill attended Babson College and then entered the U.S. Army, stationed at Fort Benning in Georgia. Upon release from the military, he accepted a position at the Polaroid Company in Cambridge, MA, while completing a bachelor's degree at Northeastern University's School of Engineering. Bill worked at Polaroid for 27 years and spent the final years of his career as a project engineer in the process group at Wright Industries in Nashville, TN.

In 1964, Bill married Marianne DeBlois; together for 26 years, they raised three children. While living in New England, Bill enjoyed sailing in Boston Harbor, fishing on Nantucket, camping and skiing in the White Mountains, and plowing friends' and neighbors' driveways during winter storms. He volunteered for the Red Cross, delivering blood between local hospitals after the 1978 blizzard in Boston. Bill moved to Nashville, TN, in 1995 and married Sharon Clotfelter; they lived happily until her death in 2022. Bill and Sharon spent several winters volunteering with the U.S. Forest Service as campground hosts at Big Cypress National Park in Ochopee, FL. He also volunteered with the National Weather Service, tracking severe weather in Tennessee and Florida via ham radio

service. Most recently, Bill lived at The Villages of Farragut Senior Living Community in Tennessee.

Bill leaves his three children, Sarah, Julia, and William; nine grandchildren; his sister, Ginny Bride; his loving girlfriend, June Petecca; and many nieces and nephews.

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### **Walter F. Lineberger III '61**

Walter Franklin Lineberger III passed away on October 11, 2022, with his family at his side.

Born in Akron, OH, on August 16, 1943, Walt entered the fifth class in 1957 and attended Middlesex for two years, transferring to University School in Shaker Heights, OH. After graduating, he earned a B.A. in history at Yale University. Walt also attended Dartmouth University's Amos Tuck Business School until he interrupted his studies to join the U.S. Navy. He served two tours in Vietnam as the executive officer in the Mobile Riverine Force, which suffered 80 percent casualties in a year's tour. Walt received numerous decorations, including a Purple Heart, a Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star, and three Presidential Citations, as well as a citation from the commander-in-chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

The highlight of Walt's business career was a nationwide annuity brokerage company, which he started and ran with his wife Mary Lou. Walt wrote four books, one of which was entitled *The Annuity Master*, and he was thereafter known in the industry by that name. After selling the company in 2000, Walt retired. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed hunting and fly-fishing. Walt also maintained a lifelong interest in Civil War history and collected artifacts and weaponry.

At the time of his death, Walt was survived by his loving wife Mary Lou; his brother, **Peter S. Lineberger '65**; his nieces, nephew, and grand-nephews; and many dear friends. His cousins, **James A. Saalfeld '65**, **Mark S. Norris '73**, and **Jonathan A. Saalfeld '07**, are also Middlesex alumni.

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### **Peter S. Lineberger '65**

Peter Saalfeld Lineberger passed away at home on February 19, 2025.

He was born in Akron, OH, on March 9, 1947, to Mary S. and Walter F. Lineberger, Jr. In 1962, Pete joined the third class at Middlesex from University School in Cleveland; after receiving his diploma, he earned a B.A. in English at Williams College. Pete served as an officer aboard destroyers in the U.S. Naval Reserve for three years during the Vietnam War. Following his discharge, Pete earned his J.D. at Gonzaga University School of Law and clerked at Montana's Supreme Court. He later started his own small firm.

Pete met his wife Connie in Bozeman, MT, and they were married in 1988. In 1994, they relocated to Spokane, WA, where Pete established a family law practice. From 2004 to 2005, he was the chairman of the Washington State Bar Association, Family Law Section. He was also a fellow of the Rocky Mountain and Washington chapters of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. He retired in 2017.

Pete gratefully contributed much time, effort, and funding to many charitable organizations, including the House of Charity, the Spokane Veterans Forum, and the Spokane Volunteer Lawyers Advisory Board. He also contributed to the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy, the Gallatin Valley



# IN Memoriam

Montana Land Trust, Western Rivers Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, and others. Pete enthusiastically pursued a variety of interests and hobbies, from fly-fishing, hiking, and geology to playing guitar and singing, to visiting with friends and immersing himself in readings by philosophers and spiritual scholars. Pete always cherished being a husband, father, and “papa.”

Predeceased by his parents and his brother, **Walter F. Linberger III '61**, Pete is survived by his wife Connie; three daughters, Katie Thomas, Molly Calvert, and Ann McElyea; and four grandchildren. His cousins, **James A. Saalfeld '65**, **Mark S. Norris '73**, and **Jonathan A. Saalfeld '07**, are also Middlesex alumni.

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## Tomlin P. Coggeshall '73

Tomlin Perkins Coggeshall passed away on January 7, 2025.

Born on September 25, 1954, in New London, CT, Tomlin was the only child of Susanna Wilson and the fourth child of abstract minimalist painter Calvert Coggeshall. Raised to value the importance of art and explore the beauty in nature, he expressed a constant curiosity about all things.

Tomlin joined the fifth class at Middlesex in 1968 and, after graduating, went on to study at the University of Maine at Orono. On completing a B.S. in botany and biology, Tomlin worked in marketing, development, and sales in Boston and in Maine, offering platforms for IT solutions and promoting clean alternative energies. The generation of green hydrogen was his most passionate voice. He also cultivated support for land conservation efforts, worked with colleagues at the

Hydrogen Energy Center, volunteered on Democratic committees, and presided over Newcastle's Glidden Cemetery Association.

Not unlike his maternal grandmother—progressive social reformer Frances Perkins, who was the first female U.S. secretary of labor—Tomlin worked to educate others about the ethical relevance of The New Deal programs through a weekly gathering of other New Deal descendants. His grandmother once said that her crowning achievement was in the creation of Social Security; it's fair to say that Tomlin's unflagging efforts to establish the Frances Perkins Center—a place to preserve the remarkable stories of the Perkins family, most notably his grandmother's legacy of social justice and economic security—is his own crowning achievement. On December 16, 2024, with Tomlin by his side, President Joseph Biden signed the proclamation designating the family's Maine homestead as the Frances Perkins National Monument.

Tomlin was an avid sailor and was also persistent in maintaining the relevance of his father's paintings. Generous in every aspect, he was kind, helpful to others, and always forgiving. There was never any question about acting responsibly as he and his husband chose to care for his mother and father-in-law in their final years.

Predeceased by his parents, his half-brother John, and his half-sister Pleasance, Tomlin leaves behind his husband and companion of 45 years, Christopher Irvine Rice; his loving half-sister, Kate Hammatt; and many cherished nieces and nephews.

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## Thomas O. Williams, Jr. '74

On January 13, 2025, Thomas Ormiston “Kip” Williams passed away in Towson, MD, after a heroic battle with cancer.

Kip was born in Newport, RI, on January 5, 1956, the first child of Patricia Murdock and Thomas O. Williams. He grew up on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, NY, spending summers in Prouts Neck, ME, and winter weekends at their country home in the Catskills.

In 1969, Kip entered the fifth class at Middlesex from the Buckley School; on receiving his diploma, he earned a B.A. in political science at the University of Pennsylvania. Kip subsequently returned to Manhattan and began an accomplished, principled, 45-year career in telecommunications sales and management, cherishing the relationships he maintained with friends, colleagues, and clients. While working for Lanier Business Products, Kip met Nancy, and they married in 1982, building a loving family together during their nearly 43 years together.

Kip had diverse interests: traveling, good food, rock and roll, fine art, antiques, spy and conspiracy novels, woodworking, photography, skiing, sailing, and gardening. Above all else, he was a selfless and dedicated husband, father, and grandfather who shared a wry wit and quick sense of humor with his family. Kip touched, inspired, and humored family and friends until his final days, and he will be greatly missed.

In addition to his wife, Nancy Ferrara Williams, Kip is survived by his children, Lindsey and Owen; two grandchildren; his sister, Marjorie Vandenberg; and several nieces and nephews.

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## Anna M. Simmons '20

Anna Margaret Simmons passed away on February 9, 2025.

Born in Athens, Greece, on April 17, 2002, Anna was an accomplished scholar and competitive athlete. In her four years at Middlesex, she mastered advanced mathematics and computer science and was also a five-time varsity letter recipient and captain of the field hockey team. She achieved her goal of attending MIT, where she received NEWMAC and NFHCA academic and athletic accolades while also holding leadership positions in her sorority, Sigma Kappa. She was active in a variety of extracurricular pursuits, including conducting undergraduate research and mentoring children in Boston with Little Beavers. Anna was one semester away from earning her undergraduate degree in computer science and had already been accepted to MIT's selective, accelerated Master of Engineering program.

Anna pursued life with passion and marched to the beat of her own drum. She loved nature, outdoor life, music, and dance. During her gap year before college, Anna worked on farms in Vermont and Hawaii. A top performer at MIT, she interned at John Deere in Iowa, aligning her career with her interest in the outdoors and farming. She was the best daughter, sister, and friend anyone could ask for; her kindness, compassion, and empathy were a comfort to all who knew her.

Deeply missed by her family and friends, Anna leaves her loving parents, David and Melissa Simmons; her brothers, Brookhart, Jonathan, and Spencer; and her grandmother, MaryAnn Simmons.

## Faculty & Staff

### Peter R. Mott



A Middlesex faculty member from 1956 to 1967, Peter Rhoades Mott passed away on December 11, 2024.

Peter was a graduate of The Lawrenceville School and Yale University, with an M.Ed. from Harvard. At Middlesex, he coached varsity soccer and primarily taught biology and general sciences, also leading the science department for two years. Peter

was the housemaster of Peabody for nine years, raising three children there with his wife Pat. He then became the headmaster of Moses Brown School, where he led its transition to coeducation, taught biology, and coached soccer.

In 1980, Peter and his second wife Lenore moved to Orlando, FL, and he became president of the Florida Audubon Society. There, he opposed oil drilling and fought for the protection of the Everglades and endangered wildlife. Moving back north to New York City, Peter returned to teaching and coaching soccer at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School. An advocate for sustainability and a green campus during his 23-year tenure, Peter was dubbed the “green dean,” a role still existing there.

Peter was deeply involved with the NYC Bird Alliance for nearly four decades. He served on its board from 1985 to 2011 and remained on its advisory council until his death. Peter was instrumental in shaping several of the organization’s most important initiatives, including the Harbor Herons project. Additionally, his early work at Boston’s Logan Airport—where he observed bird migration patterns and the dangers posed by artificial lights—laid the groundwork for NYC Bird Alliance’s ongoing efforts to track birds at the 9/11 Tribute in Light Memorial starting in 2002.

Peter and Lenore moved to Altadena, CA, in 2017. He was a beloved mentor to many, and his dedication to teaching was matched by his humility and sense of humor. His memory will live on in future conservation efforts and in those he inspired throughout his decades of service.

Predeceased by his wife Lenore, Peter is survived by his first wife Pat; three children, Polly, Peter, and **Arch Mott ’79**; two stepchildren, Sarah Vietch and DeWitte Kersh; ten grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Memories of Peter can be shared with his family via email at [prm-memorial@terracats.com](mailto:prm-memorial@terracats.com).

### Galen Brewster



Former Middlesex faculty member Galen Brewster passed away on September 26, 2024, from the complications of bulbar ALS.

Born in Boston, MA, Galen attended Dexter School, Brooks School, and Harvard University, earning a B.A. in 1965 and, in 1978, completing a master’s degree at the Harvard Graduate School of Edu-

cation. After beginning his career with a stint in banking, Galen joined the Middlesex faculty in 1969 and taught English, philosophy, and economics during his tenure, also coaching soccer, ice hockey, and crew. In 1971, he took on the role of college advisor and later became the director of admissions in 1980. With the advent of coeducation in 1974, Galen’s wife Hathy joined the art department for a decade as a teacher of ceramics.

Galen went on to become the headmaster of St. Timothy’s School in Stevenson, MD, where he served from 1985 to 1993. In 1995, he moved to Phoenix Country Day School in Paradise Valley, AZ, and was the head of school there until 2005. During his tenure, he oversaw the development of many new facilities—including the Upper School Library that was named in his honor.

On retiring to his farm on the coast of Maine, Galen became an EMT for Cushing Rescue. Eventually, he and Hathy moved to Vero Beach, FL, where he served on the Pointes Board of Directors. Galen had an unquenchable thirst for life and a talent for making everyone around him feel welcomed and valued. Every adventure he undertook—race car driver, ship captain, tennis enthusiast, master storyteller, beer maker, and historian—he embraced with a fearless and boundless energy. He will live on forever in the hearts of his friends and family, as well as the thousands of students around the world whom he guided and inspired.

In addition to Hathy, his wife of 57 years, Galen is survived by their son Ivan and their daughter, **Paget V. Brewster ’87**; two grandchildren; his brother Donald; and numerous nieces and nephews.



## Robert S. MacArthur



The school community was stunned and saddened by the unexpected death of Robert S. MacArthur, the assistant foreperson for Middlesex's Grounds Department, on January 6, 2025.

The son of the late Alexander N. and Norma T. Porter MacArthur, Bob was raised in Bedford, MA, and earned his associate degree at Middlesex Community

College. A skilled landscaper, he worked for Nardone Landscaping in Lexington, MA, before joining the grounds and sports operations department at Middlesex. For 22 years, Bob was known for his expertise and diligence in maintaining the School's beautiful landscape, as well as for his kindness and sense of humor. During the winter for most of his tenure, he also drove the Zamboni, cleaning the ice for youth hockey groups and for Middlesex teams from early in the morning until late at night. His friendliness and constant presence in the rink earned him the affectionate nickname of "Bobby Zamboni." His commitment and contributions to Middlesex were honored with a moment of silence at the first weekly chapel service and before the first home hockey game after his passing.

Outside of his work, Bob enjoyed kayaking, camping, and spending time with his family and his grand-dogs, Brooklyn and Daisy. An avid sports fan, he enjoyed watching events with his longtime high school friends.

Bob is survived by his three daughters, Alexa Wyllie, Taylor MacArthur, and Kaylie MacArthur; his sister, Susan Copeland, and his brother Douglas; his former wife, Dawn MacArthur; and many nieces and nephews.

and cross-country. His coaching there led to his induction into the Delaware Track Hall of Fame and, later, the Delaware Sports Museum and Hall of Fame. During the 1970s and 1980s, Bob also served as a Delaware correspondent for *Sports Illustrated*, and for 12 years, he was a part-time sprinting coach for the Philadelphia Phillies at spring training and at minor league towns during the summer.

While studying at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Bob met Carolyn Parks, and they were married in 1968 after both had received their Ed.M. degrees. Returning to Williams College in 1981, Bob served as the director of annual giving and later became director of alumni relations; he retired in 2014. Because of his extensive experience, he was asked to co-chair the first Conference of Alumni Directors in the UK at Edinburgh and later consulted with alumni offices in Mexico for the USIA.

Dedicated to his community, Bob served on the boards of Williamstown's Village Ambulance, Greylock A Better Chance, and the Friendship Center Food Pantry. In 2018, he received the Williamstown Bright Futures Innovation Award for Head Smarts, a program he founded that encourages parents to read to their infants and toddlers. At his 60th Williams College reunion, Bob was awarded the Joseph's Coat in recognition of his many services to his alma mater.

Bob is survived by his wife Carolyn; son Bradford and daughter Alison; and two grandsons.

Portland, ME, to Harold and Bertha Webber Trufant, Eleanor received her associate degree from Westbrook Junior College in 1951. She worked in banking in Portland until her marriage and later served as an assistant to the director of admissions at Smith College. Eleanor married John Dunning Davis on August 20, 1955, and they raised two children together. She later moved into the secondary school admissions field, serving as the assistant to the director of admissions at Middlesex from 1978 to 1990. In retirement, Eleanor enjoyed volunteering in the admissions office at North Yarmouth Academy in Maine.

Eleanor was truly the supporting foundation for her family, from the early years of traveling in Newfoundland, Labrador, and the Maritimes for her husband's Ph.D. research to Smith College expedition summers with the family in Woods Hole, Arizona, and Bermuda. Traveling continued to be a passion for Eleanor and John, with trips to Canada, Italy, Greece, Turkey, England, Scotland, and France, as well as some wonderful winter breaks in Pismo Beach, CA, with the entire family.

Though she would have described herself as practical and dependable, Eleanor also had a wicked wit and an infectious, silly side. She kept her family grounded in reality with stories of picking beans and watching ship launchings in South Portland during World War II, as well as with reminders that not all were as fortunate, so charity was an expectation and a must. Eleanor was, and will always be, the foundation that gave the rest of her family the space, and wings, to fly.

Eleanor was predeceased by her parents and her husband. She is survived by her children, Peter and Susan, and her beloved granddaughters, Hannah and Molly.

## Eleanor Davis

Eleanor Trufant Davis passed away on December 13, 2024. Born on January 20, 1931, in

## Robert V. Behr

The School recently learned that Robert Vaughn Behr (Middlesex faculty 1959 to 1962) died of cardiac arrest on March 14, 2021, at Bay State Medical Center.

An advocate of education at all levels, Bob was born in New York City in 1933 and was raised in Evanston, IL. At Williams College, he majored

in English and captained the track team, graduating in 1955. Bob then served three years in the U.S. Air Force as a pilot of a tanker in the Strategic Air Command.

After leaving the military, he began a long teaching and coaching career, first as an English teacher at Middlesex for three years, followed by 19 years at Tower Hill School, where he chaired the English department and coached track



## 1901 Athletics Challenge

Since its founding in 1901, Middlesex's mission to "find the promise in every student" has been tied to founder Frederick Winsor's belief that a robust athletic experience is central to a Middlesex education. As the School approaches 125 years of educating students under this ideal, a generous Middlesex family has offered a \$2.5 million challenge that gives donors a unique opportunity to make a transformational impact on the School's athletic program. Every gift in this challenge will support the construction of the new Athletic Field House, a state-of-the-art facility that will exponentially advance the School's goal, as stated in our mission, of nurturing "the physical development of young people." With three multi-use courts, a spacious performance center, an elevated track, and enhanced accommodations for day student pick-up and drop-off, the Athletic Field House will significantly improve the daily experience of all Middlesex students.

Every dollar donated towards the 1901 Athletics Challenge will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to \$2.5 million.

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







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## Save the Date to Celebrate

Middlesex's 125th Anniversary  
September 26, 2026

