Middlesex

Summer 2026



125 Years of Middlesex Moments
Key events in the School's history

Campus Master Planning
A collaborative study provides direction

Forging *The Anvil*
With new ideas and design, editors refresh the student newspaper

Fond Farewells
Alumni pay tribute to three memorable and influential faculty members





Fulfilling the Promise

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Middlesex
SUMMER 2026

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*.

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Parents of Alumni
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On the Cover
Trustees and family gathered for the dedication of a shag bark hickory tree to honor retiring Associate Head of School Karlyn McNall P'21'23. Pictured, left to right: Head of School Bessie Speers, Trustee Johanna Boynton P'20'23, former Trustee Sarah Leary '88, Karlyn, Gavin Cassidy '21, retired Equipment Manager Terrence Cassidy P'21'23, Tim Cassidy '23, and Board Chair Jason Robart '83 P'11'13.



Dear Middlesex Community,

IN DAVID YAEGER'S BOOK, *10 to 25: The Science of Motivating Young People*, he poses the question, "How can leaders (teachers) create whole relationships—or even a whole culture—characterized by high standards and high support?" Middlesex teachers, advisors, coaches, and house faculty build authentic relationships in order to motivate and care for their students. Middlesex faculty believe in the promise of each of their students; they set high expectations undergirded by great respect and compassion. Living and learning together at Middlesex is dynamic, vibrant, purposeful, and inspiring—just like so much of the movement around our beloved Circle.

At any given moment, you can see students crossing the Circle on their way to class, to their dorm, to the Chapel, or to the dining hall. You'll see advisors walking with advisees, students tossing frisbees, faculty children playing tag, admissions visitors touring campus, and our grounds crew meticulously tending our beautiful campus. And despite this constant motion—the bustle and buzz—it does not feel chaotic or frenetic because the Circle itself, both a symbol of and catalyst for the interconnectedness of the Middlesex community, perpetually grounds our community in a shared sense of purpose and commitment.

Similar to the Circle itself, dynamic movement and progress lie at the heart of our strategic vision, *Expanding the Circle: Pathways to Promise*. It calls on Middlesex to expand outward from our campus to provide our students with meaningful learning experiences beyond our campus, locally and globally. Through its strategic investment in the School's

people, place, and program, it establishes clear pathways forward to help our students find their promise in the ever-changing world of 2026. Yet, its ambitious path is rooted in 125 years of history and tradition—our enduring values and commitment to excellence and community.

This edition of the *Bulletin* truly captures a school in motion. As we turn our strategic vision into reality, our ambitious ideas are taking form, from the new Field House and comprehensive campus planning effort to innovative academic programs and new opportunities for students to connect with alumni mentors. At every turn, you can see Middlesex honoring our past while embracing change. You'll read about our Campus Master Planning Committee rooting their design efforts in the original Olmsted vision from 1901. You'll learn about new curricular offerings that honor the timeless natural beauty of the Estabrook Woods while also providing students with the skills needed to be stewards of the environment in a changing global climate. And you'll get a special look into the enduring legacy of our 121-year-old student newspaper, *The Anvil*, the latest evolution of which is perfectly reflected in a student-led redesign of its logo. An homage to the generations of student journalists who came before, the new logo literally builds upon the imagery of past logos to create a new iteration of this cherished Middlesex institution.

At the heart of all this progress and history, as always, is our people, the Middlesex community. This issue spotlights our faculty, whose excellence is recognized through 18 endowed chairs; our students, whose talents shine in classrooms, performances, and competitions; and our alumni, whose engagement continues to enrich the life of the School. Together, they remind us that Middlesex's greatest strengths emerge when a vision for the future is imagined and realized by a community that takes pride in our history and is inspired by our future. Thank you for being a member of this community at a particularly dynamic and inspiring time for our cherished school!

Bessie



Four seniors are headed to Middlebury College, where Head of School Bessie Speers is an alumna and trustee. With Bessie, from left to right, are Lucy Wang '26, Caroline Barton '26, Harper Edwards '26, and Luke Felago '26.

SCHOOL News

Addressing Changemakers' Challenges

Five Middlesex juniors—Mia Nolan '27, Grace-Ann Bailey '27, Maeve Kearney '27, Matt Palmer '27, and Elliot Koopersmith '27—attended the fourth ISL Changemaker Conference hosted by Tabor Academy on October 6, 2025. The conference theme was "Have Fun First, Find Yourself Later" and explored topics such as dealing with the pressure to perform, dismantling stereotypes in sports, and cultivating an inclusive team culture.





Lessons in Civic Engagement

Six students (Grace-Ann Bailey '27, Stella Pham '28, Mira Bakshi '26, Mel Guzman '28, Joaquin Ometeotl '26, and Jovic Stachelski '29) attended the NAIS Student Civic Leadership Summit, held in Washington, DC, from January 28-30, 2026. Through keynote presentations and workshops, participants learned about various aspects of civic society and how to make an impact on their communities through effective engagement and strategic planning.

Reflecting on Revolutionary Legacies

Once again, artwork by Middlesex students is on display in the Concord Museum as part of a new special exhibition, *Revolutionary Legacies*, which opened on March 27, 2026. A year ago, 39 Middlesex students created artwork for a show there commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. As the country marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence this year, the museum selected artwork by three of those 39 students—Olena Khiznychenko '27, Orion Saunders '26, and Ada Sprong '25—for inclusion in an exhibition pairing historical objects with contemporary works to inspire viewers to reflect on their own role in building the nation today and for the future. Olena, Orion, and Visual Arts Department Head Stacey McCarthy were all on hand for the opening reception.





Thanking Departing Trustees

During the Middlesex Board's spring meeting, the trustees applauded the dedication and significant contributions of three members who were about to conclude their terms of service.

As a member of the Board for a total of 40 years (1984-2002; 2003-2026), Allen Model '63 may well be the School's longest serving trustee. In addition to his involvement with just about every trustee committee over the years, he has also been a member of the Board's Executive Committee as a vice chair since 2003, leading discussions with his astute questions and his thorough understanding of Middlesex. "The truth is," Board Chair Jason Robart '83 acknowledged, "Allen's questions have made this Board sharper, more honest, and much harder to satisfy—in the best possible way. He pushed us to think more clearly, aim higher, and make sure our students weren't just succeeding but experiencing real joy." Thanks to those tireless efforts to help Middlesex continue to strive to be the best that it can be, Jason added, "We are a better school because of you, Allen. We'll miss your insight, your wit, your exquisite bow ties, and your camaraderie in the boardroom."

Since joining the Middlesex Board in 2005, Alex Banker '79 has been respected for his expert stewardship of the School's endowment. "As chair of Middlesex's Investment Committee," observed Board Treasurer Andy Pitts '84, "Alex demonstrated great flexibility in using endowment funds to support key school initiatives while also managing to keep the principal growing in excess of the rate of inflation, which is critical to long-term financial sustainability." Along with his financial acumen, Alex was also known for his deep sense of and respect for the history and tradition of Middlesex. "Whenever a proposed change might affect our wonderful campus, Alex would often ask, 'What would Olmsted do?'" Andy recalled. His wise reminder to consider alterations in the context of the Olmsted Brothers' vision for the landscape helped the School achieve both preservation and progress, mirroring the financial balance he maintained to assure a bright future for Middlesex.

Thinking back to their first Middlesex Board meeting in 2020, when fellow Trustees Charlie Maddock '00 and Stanley Tassev '95 began their tenure together, Charlie found Stan to be "a calm, cool dude," one who was confident and readily engaged despite being in a new role. "When Stan spoke up, it was typically to ask for more data," Charlie remembered, "so that we could make pragmatic decisions rather than emotional ones, which is tough when we all obviously have a deep emotional connection to this place." Stan would, of course, share his personal view, Charlie said, but always return to the data for guidance while serving on Middlesex's Audit, Buildings and Grounds, and Innovations in Education Committees. Appreciating his self-assurance and logical approach, Charlie closed, "Stan, thank you for always pushing us to look at the data, so that we could be better and make better decisions; thank you for your analytical but cool demeanor; and thank you for sharing your children [Rumen '21 and Iliana '24] with Middlesex." M



Allen Model '63



Alex Banker '79



Stanley Tassev '95



Smithsonian Photography Finalist

In December, Middlesex learned that the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery had selected Celine Ding '27 as one of ten finalists in its annual, highly competitive National Teen Portrait Competition. In her artist statement, Celine explained that she sets out to represent "the overlooked struggles of many teenagers in a world dominated by technology and social media." She described the feeling of being "isolated from real human beings in a truly novel yet daunting way" and reflected on her use of distortion, lighting, and symbolic posing to bring these ideas to life. Celine's photograph was exhibited at the Smithsonian in January, where it appeared alongside work by some of today's leading professional artists.



Birthday Serenades

It began last September with the new academic year: During Friday's announcement period, Finn Bishop '26 played the classic "Happy Birthday to You" melody on his trumpet in honor of all the students celebrating that week. Since then, the tune has been performed almost every week—by choral groups, both ad hoc and audition-only, and on kazoos, steel drums, electric guitar, cello, and trombone (by Hudson Altschuler '27, pictured here). Time will tell if this is the birth of a new Middlesex tradition!

An Award-Winning Memoirist

No stranger to the challenges routinely posted in *The New York Times*' "Learning Network" section, Jessica Wu '27 noticed the annual 100-word narrative contest last fall and thought, "It's only 100 words. Why not give it a shot?"

Like 14,231 other teenage entrants, Jessica crafted and submitted a 100-word memoir—and learned in February that hers was one of just 17 contest winners. "It's a precious skill to pull these mundane moments from your life and make them into stories," Jessica reflects. "It has taught me to be more observant and appreciative of the things I have in my life."



For When I Come Home

The last time I flew back to Shanghai, it had been longer than usual—months stretched thin by schoolwork and distance. My grandma beamed when I appeared in the doorway. She held out a small carton of my favorite Chinese sweet milk.

I took a sip and spit it out.

"Ugh, it's expired!"

She blinked, confused. "I can't read this small writing," she murmured. "I saved them for you. I just didn't know you would take so long to return. . . ."

Behind her, I noticed a whole row stacked neatly by the rusty kettle. Dozens of them. All waiting. All expired.

Middlesex Represents at Inaugural Leadership Summit

Sarah Custodio Guzmán '26 and Adanely Torres-Lechuga '29 attended the first Latinx & Hispanic Leadership Summit at Milton Academy on October 5. The conference featured Jennifer De Leon as the keynote speaker, a panel of celebrated Latinx and Hispanic professionals, and a panel of Latinx and Hispanic alumni from independent schools.





Vincent Petti '27 makes his case at the podium.

Harvard Model Congress

Accompanied by history teacher Ben Kulas and Spanish teacher Carolina Aldana, 33 Middlesex students prepared, presented, and debated at the 41st Harvard Model Congress, held in Boston on February 19–22, 2026. Repeating last year's performance, Best Delegate David Yang '26 once again brought home a gavel.

Connecting at Home—and Abroad

Making the most of their opportunities, Middlesex students have formed global friendships and supported local organizations, also broadening their understanding of the world through the wisdom of guest speakers.

International Student Conference Held at Middlesex

ON FEBRUARY 1, 2026, Middlesex's International Student Association hosted more than 200 students and faculty from 19 other schools for the fourth International Student Conference, the largest gathering of international high school students in New England every year. Once on campus, students participated in a broad range of workshops focused on cultural celebration, identity exploration, and leadership development while also learning more about the experience of international students in higher education. The conference ended with a flag parade that highlighted all the different countries represented at ISC 2026 and in peer school communities—including 23 at Middlesex alone. **M**



Chris She '27, Kenden Chan '26, and Robert Sou '28 welcomed fellow international students.





The team paused in front of Notre-Dame de Paris during their walking tour of the city.



Atop La Berneuse above Leysin, Switzerland: "You can't comprehend how big the Alps are," Cassidy Bruno '26 said.



After their January 3rd scrimmage, Co-captain Luisa Ferrari '26 exchanged jerseys with the captain of Genève-Servette HC Féminin.

A European Venture for Girls' Varsity Hockey

FROM THE GET-GO, girls' varsity ice hockey coaches, captains, and players knew that this year was something to celebrate. "We were Briana's first recruited class," says Janie Martin '26, one of the team's five seniors (with Cassidy Bruno, Ali Marsters, and Co-captains Luisa Ferrari and Lily McTeague)—all of whom played on varsity together for four years and tripled Middlesex's wins in that time. "I thought a trip could be an epic send-off for the seniors because they have done a lot for the program," says Associate Director of Admissions Briana Mastel, the girls' head coach since 2021. "We have two captains, but it's the five of them making everyone feel welcome and supported."

After months of planning, a sizeable group—not only Briana, Assistant Coach Emma Rasmussen, and 16 players but also many Middlesex family members—set off for Paris on December 28. Along with hockey practice, highlights of their days there included touring the city and the Louvre, taking a sunset cruise on the Seine, and having lunch at the Eiffel Tower (no small feat for a party of 50+ people!).

On New Year's Day, the group headed to Switzerland, viewing the amazing landscape from the windows of their own train car. Between a practice and two scrimmages with Swiss women's teams, time was found for an Alps excursion, a Lausanne chocolate tour, and—for the most adventurous—a polar plunge in Lake Geneva. "It was freezing! But it felt good," says Luisa. "We are a really close team, but this trip was such a bonding experience. I made memories with my teammates that I will have for the rest of my life."

Another shared memory will undoubtedly be the team's quarterfinal performance at the NEPSAC Tournament—the first in many years—where Middlesex nearly defeated #1 seed Exeter, narrowly losing 4-3. "I think the trip set the tone for the rest of the season," Briana says. "We're all in this together." M

Service Learning

Throughout the year—with their clubs, classmates, and community organizations—Middlesex students have been contributing their time and talents to support a variety of worthwhile causes beyond the campus.

Hands-on Projects

STUDENTS HAVE STEPPED UP to help others in a variety of ways, whether by providing breakfast at the Bedford Veteran Quarters in February or by volunteering in December to make blankets for **Project Linus**, an organization providing "security through blankets" to children in the United States who are who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. As part of MX Saturday activities on February 5, Middlesex ninth graders added even more blankets to the nonprofit's supplies (below right), while other classmates sorted donations at **Cradles to Crayons** (below left) or assembled furniture for the **Build a Bed Project** (bottom). M







Making a Difference with Donations

A few of the many fundraising endeavors undertaken by students this year include:

- Middlesex students showed up dressed in pink to support the girls' varsity soccer team and **Kicks for Cancer** on September 26, raising over $1,000 for cancer research.
- Participants in last fall's Youth in Philanthropy group sold Halloween goodie bags in order to raise $1000; that sum was then combined with a $9000 grant from the Community Foundation for MetroWest and donated to two local organizations: **The Children's Room**, which provides free-of-charge grief support services to children, teens, and families in Massachusetts who are grieving; and **A Place to Turn**, a food pantry that provides healthy, fresh food to the MetroWest community.
- On one late-January weekend on campus, a dodgeball game between students from Middlesex and Concord-Carlisle High School helped raise money for the **Make a Wish Foundation**. M

Enlightening Ideas

GUESTS ON CAMPUS



Speakers and performers have expanded students' horizons by championing civic engagement, recounting personal and professional journeys, and critically examining the algorithms and effects of AI and social media.

Preloaded with Poetry

DURING A COMMUNITY LIFE SYMPOSIUM that opened a conversation about creativity amid the growing use of artificial intelligence (AI), Middlesex was inspired by the spoken word poetry and reflections of MIT Professor **Joshua Bennett**. A dynamic speaker and the author of five books of poetry, criticism, and narrative nonfiction, Dr. Bennett treated the School to recitations or readings of four of his poems on November 1, 2025. He then fielded questions from his clearly engaged audience, describing his life influences, creative process, and thoughts on the interconnectedness of reading and writing.

Among the many questions Dr. Bennett answered was one about the value of creativity in the face of AI. "AI is not a sentient being; it's a predicting machine," he replied, adding that none of the current chatbots "can write a decent poem." While AI programs might become more sophisticated over time, he contended, "They won't achieve the metaphysical. It's dangerous to fall in love with illusions—they will never be the real thing."

His best poems, Dr. Bennett said, "feel like they are coming through me." If writer's block strikes, he recommended, "Go out and have a conversation or listen to music. And then, let it flow. We are preloaded with poetry."

Given the connections Dr. Bennett made between poetry and music, particularly jazz, Dean of College Counseling Matt DeGreeff asked if he had ever performed collaboratively with jazz musicians—an idea that immediately intrigued the poet. This has led to conversations between Dr. Bennett and Pedro Lobato, director of Middlesex's Jazz Ensemble; if all goes according to plan, the realization of this partnership may one day be a highlight of an instrumental concert on campus. **M**

Prior to discussing the evolving landscape in higher education with Middlesex trustees at their fall meeting, **Mark Gearan**—the longtime president of Hobart and William Smith Colleges—spoke on September 26, 2025, about the importance of being involved in public service.

On October 14, Middlesex welcomed former NFL player **Wade Davis**, now the vice president of inclusion strategy for product at Netflix. As an educator, writer, and public speaker, he encouraged students to think for themselves and act with courage as they experience the journey of "becoming themselves."

While providing a better understanding of Greenland's geopolitical position and Denmark's culture and concerns, former U.S. Ambassador to Denmark **Alan Leventhal** also shared his path to becoming an ambassador on October 28.

As part of honoring the life and legacy of Dr. King on January 13, 2026, Middlesex heard from social scientist **Mutale Nkonde**, whose research focuses on algorithmic auditing and discerning how racial bias may influence the performance and outcome of AI systems.

Bringing an energetic approach to the Kenneth E. Whitlock, Jr. Black History Month Speaker Series, the **Floor Lords** took to the Kaye Theatre's stage on February 10. The award-winning hip hop and breaking crew shared the history of these street dance styles and demonstrated their individual elements during an engaging, interactive performance.

Dr. **Kara Alaimo**, a communications professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University—and the author of *Over the Influence: Why Social Media Is Toxic for Women and Girls—And How We Can Take It Back*—spoke with parents on January 26 during a Zoom call hosted by the Middlesex Parents Association. On February 17, she also offered students guidance on how to navigate social media. **M**



Guided by questions from moderator Greg Romero '99 (far left), Steph Graham '08 and Matt Gregory '03 emphasized the importance of critical thinking, creativity, and resilience in navigating any career.

Reaching Strategic Goals

In the year since the publication of Middlesex's Strategic Vision—*Expanding the Circle: Pathways to Promise*—considerable progress has been made on many of the School's priorities, from strengthening connections between students and alumni to fostering environmental stewardship and leadership.

Career Day Highlights Alumni Mentorship

ON FEBRUARY 21, during this year's third MX Saturday—periodic weekend mornings that feature special programming and activities instead of classes—seniors had a chance to step back from their daily demands and consider their potential careers. The day began with a general discussion, "Imagining Your Career," that was moderated by Greg Romero '99 (founder and principal of Romero Solutions Group) and included Steph Graham '08 (founder and CEO of Praxis Strategy Parters) and Matt Gregory '03 (founder of Big Forest LLC). While sharing their Middlesex memories and professional journeys, each offered thoughtful advice and encouraged students to explore, discern what they enjoy doing most, and embrace change. "Alumni are excited to help; you just have to put yourself out there," Greg assured seniors. "We are here to support you."

Students then had the opportunity to attend two of six different information sessions, each of which was led by two alumni working in a particular field. Whether or not students found future directions for themselves, it was clear from the earnest involvement of 15 alumni that the Middlesex network is a dynamic resource, one that will be readily available to them throughout the years to come.

In addition to the alumni pictured on this page, participants included:

- **Arts:** Sarah Mudge '99, Senior Fine Art Specialist at Winston Artory Group; Katie Proctor '99, Entertainment Industry Executive



Careers in sustainability and the environment were represented by Jenny McColloch '00, who serves as chief sustainability officer and vice president of community impact for CVS Health, and Will Gardner '12, the strategic finance manager for Funga PBC.



- **Law:** Stephanie Calnan ’08, Special Counsel at Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP; David McGrath ’14, Suffolk Law School Student
- **Medicine:** Kwadwo Ofosu-Barko, M.D. ’99, Assistant Professor of Medicine at Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine; Emily Wise Shanahan, M.D. ’01, Founder of DermWellesley
- **Technology:** Tap Stephenson ’10, Co-founder and CTO of Claim; Sarah Stephenson ’13, Program Manager at Microsoft Azure Core OS

The field of finance was covered by Sophie MacKeigan ’18, a fixed income associate at Morgan Stanley, and Rod Odom ’10, an associate at Apollo Global Management.

Alumni Entrepreneurs Bring Coursework to Life



THROUGHOUT THE FALL SEMESTER, Middlesex alumni added their insight to academic classes, such as the Business Management course taught by Director of Strategic Initiatives Erika Ferlins Mills ’99. Appearing either in person and or on Zoom were:

- Ollie Cheever ’20, Co-founder, Cape Tide Hard Teas
- Richard Clay ’05, Co-founder and General Counsel, Magnolia Electronics
- Mary Odusami ’19, Product Developer and Marketer, Prequel Skin
- Pam Diem Willis ’95, Co-owner, Pammy’s restaurant

Restauranteur Pam Diem Willis ’95 shared her story of founding Pammy’s in Cambridge, MA.

Reflections from the College Front

AT THE INVITATION of AP Environmental Science teacher and Coordinator of Environmental Sustainability Mandy Irwin, Myroslav Bur ’24 spoke to interested students via Zoom on November 20, 2025, to share his experience as a chemical engineering major at Yale University.

Aiming toward an environmentally related career—potentially to find novel alternatives to pesticides and fertilizers—Myroslav generally advised that students “try to know your sphere of interest, even though college is about discovery, too.” To those focused on STEM majors, he recommended that they take advantage of the research lab opportunities often available at universities.

Asked if he felt that he had been prepared well for college, Myroslav exclaimed, “It’s all because of Middlesex that I’m here! It changed my life completely. I’m thankful to my teachers and felt very prepared academically for Yale.”

Now a Yale University sophomore hoping to contribute to the field of environmental science, Myroslav Bur ’24 expertly tended the School’s garden in his senior spring at Middlesex.





On a Saturday in May, juniors explored the Estabrook Woods and reflected on their shared responsibility to care for the natural environment.

Fostering Environmental Stewardship

By **Willy Hutcheson**, *Environmental Stewardship Coordinator and Science Teacher*

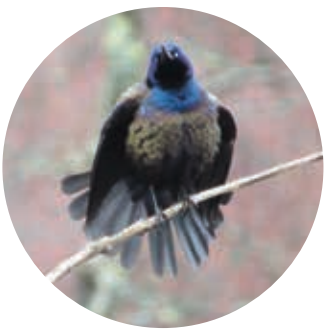
THE MIDDLESEX CAMPUS COMMUNITY includes an array of people all living, working, learning, and playing together in the same space: a former farm converted into a school 125 years ago. Beside this former farm sits Bateman's Pond, rimmed by marsh and rocky hills, and beyond Bateman's Pond, the vast Estabrook Woods. While half the campus proper has developed over the years to include the places so very familiar to us (the Circle, Ware, Eliot, the Chapel, the fields, and the Athletic Center), over half of the land that makes up Middlesex School lies beyond these iconic manmade spaces and includes hundreds of acres of forest, streams, swamps, and meadows.

It is here that we find an immense diversity of other members of the "Middlesex community"—the wild ones! Our school is incredibly fortunate to share this land with beavers, otters, coyotes, fishers, deer, flying squirrels, foxes, weasels, opossums, and skunks; owls, eagles, ravens, hawks, kingfishers, sparrows, thrushes, ducks, and cormorants; orchids, witch hazel, ferns, oaks, hickories, pines, birches, jack-in-the-pulpits; green frogs, pickerel frogs, leopard frogs, spring peepers, and spotted salamanders. It is a natural heritage that we hold in trust with our neighbors and the wider world, for we know that we can learn so much from the natural world around us, and we are duty bound to protect and cherish it.

Toward that end, Middlesex is building an Environmental Stewardship Program that will include the wonders of Estabrook, to bring students into Estabrook Woods and weave the woods more intimately and meaningfully into the student experience. This past fall, we began to lay the groundwork for creating more student opportunities to engage with the natural world at our doorstep, to gain valuable experience in environmental stewardship and leadership, and to work in service to the community by partnering with local conservation organizations and other schools to protect natural resources in the Concord area. In addition to improving access to and interpretation of the woods, we are committed to the intentional and careful stewardship of the Estabrook legacy by removing or controlling invasive species on and near campus, managing the forest resources to enhance ecological health, and offering courses that incorporate the forest as a resource,











whether as inspiration for art, a subject of scientific research, a place of peace and tranquility for wellness, or a recreational space. It is vital and exciting work that we hope will make Middlesex a training ground for the environmental leaders of tomorrow.

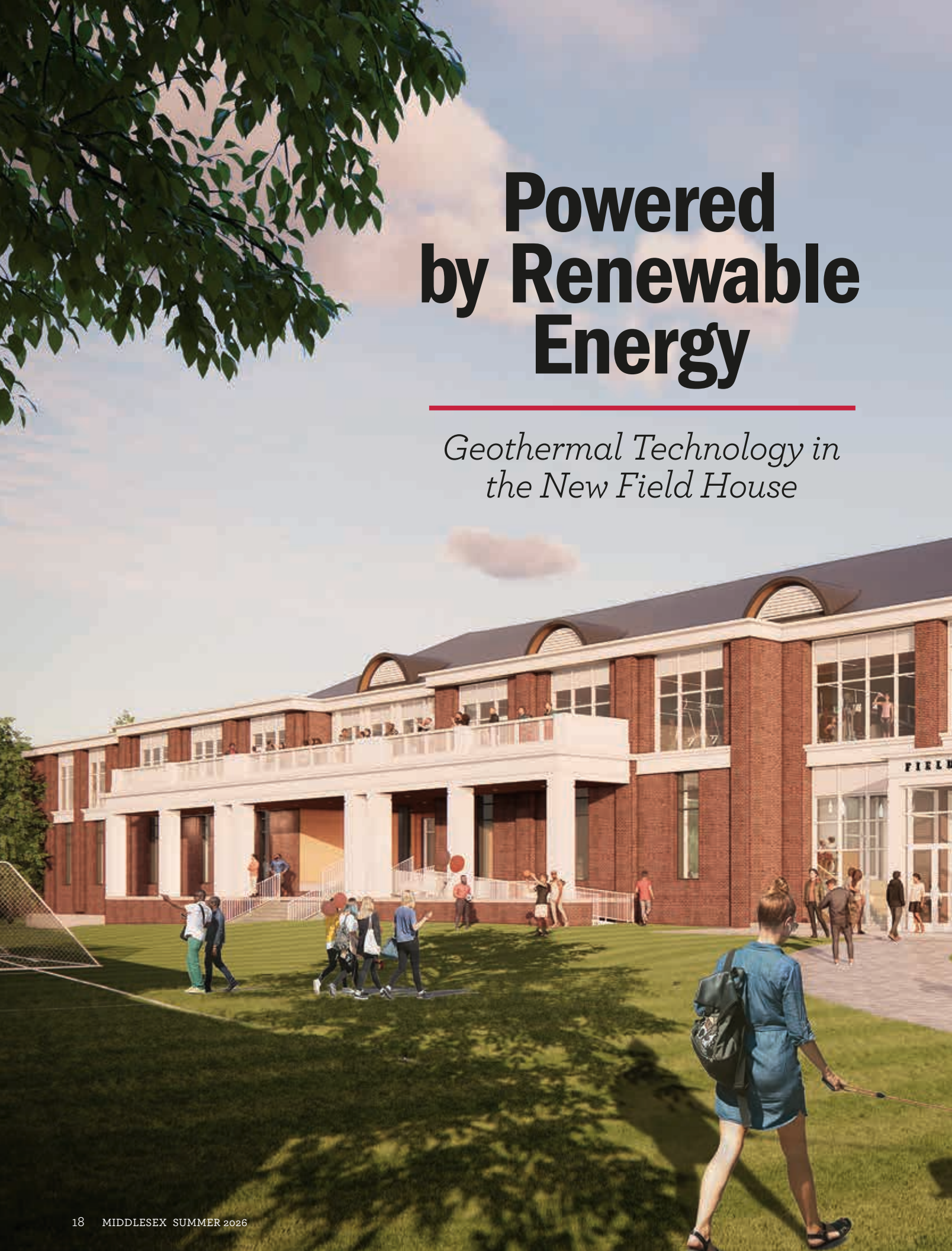
As we work to "expand the Circle" in so many ways, one of our institutional priorities, especially for the Middlesex School Stewardship Program, is to imbue our students with a strong sense of place, to help them develop a healthy awareness of their surroundings, to know their role and their position in both space and time. Our curriculum now includes (among other features) an English program for ninth graders that allows them to engage with the literary and historical sites of Concord; a history elective that explores the historical fiction of the American Revolution using local authors and events as primary sources; and courses in environmental science and forest ecology that use Bateman's Pond and Estabrook Woods as an outdoor laboratory. Taking advantage of our school's unique position in such a culturally, intellectually, and ecologically rich area, these and other programs reinforce and cultivate the sense of curiosity, connection, and community that we so value at Middlesex.

By recognizing that the first Algonquian Nipmuc residents of the land we now occupy settled and thrived here in the fertile Musketaquid area, where the "grass green river" flows, understanding how the land was cleared and farmed by European colonists, and seeing why the farms and forests of the past have yielded to the towns and neighborhoods of today, we hope our students will consequently gain a strong vision of where we might be headed in the future.

Eighty years ago, in the 1940s, Middlesex School was still a growing cluster of buildings set on old farm fields, with numerous apple orchards in the neighborhood, and Estabrook Woods was still a scrubby patchwork of fields and wood lots reverting to forest after the pastures had been abandoned at the turn of the century. Bateman's Pond had already been altered by the dredged cuts that were made to extend a course for crew races. Over time, though, much of the former agricultural open space became filled in with trees, residential development and campus expansion encroached on the woods, streams were dammed to make ponds, and other innumerable small changes occurred. But throughout the march of time, one remarkable observation can also be made, which is that the overall wild and scenic quality of Bateman's Pond and Estabrook Woods has been maintained. We hope our students can learn to appreciate this notion—that while change may be inevitable, careful planning and proper care can protect and preserve the places we hold dear as a community. **M**

Powered by Renewable Energy

Geothermal Technology in the New Field House



As the School's new Field House takes shape, excitement is growing on campus for its official opening this fall, when Middlesex student-athletes will be able at last to make the most of the facility's volleyball and basketball courts, indoor turf field and track, and spacious, well-equipped fitness center.

And while students are expending their energy above ground, a state-of-the-art system of geothermal wells deep below will provide a sustainable source of energy to heat and cool the expansive building. The Field House is the second structure on campus to use this technology, following on the success of the Rachel Carson Music and Campus Center.

Lighting, flooring, carpentry, and finish work are all proceeding apace, and with the arrival of warm weather, attention is turning to the landscaping, pathways, parking areas, and entrances. Soon, Middlesex will have an amazing new place for the school community to gather, train, and raise their game to the next level.





CAMPUS MASTER PLANNING

Charting a Path for the Future

By **Eric Kester '04**
Assistant Head of School for External Affairs

IN 1901, a newly formed landscape architecture firm, Olmsted Brothers, partnered with a young yet experienced educator named Frederick Winsor to design the campus of a new boarding school on a parcel of farmland in Concord, Massachusetts. Though the first class of students at Winsor's Middlesex School would be small, the ambition for the campus was definitely not. Olmsted Brothers produced more than 300 drawings for the School—at one point even experimenting with a figure-eight design for the central grounds—before settling on a plan anchored by a schoolhouse, a dining hall, and two dormitories arranged around a circle of open green space. Over time, that circle would become the defining heart of campus life and an enduring symbol of a thriving community that would grow to include more than 400 students.

From those early conceptual drawings, the Middlesex campus evolved steadily over the next 125 years into the multifaceted environment it is today. Each step of that evolution was guided with care by trustees, heads of school, administrators, faculty, and architects, all of whom worked to preserve the aesthetic integrity and spirit of the original Olmsted vision of a campus that reflects—and indeed, actively promotes—community, natural beauty, and the seamless integration of academic, residential, and extracurricular life. It was in this same spirit that the School recently completed a comprehensive campus master planning process, honoring Middlesex's rich history while thoughtfully charting a path forward for future generations.

Strategic Roots

Middlesex's recently completed campus master planning process emerged from the School's broader Strategic Vision, *Expanding the Circle: Pathways to Promise*, aligning long-term campus development with its core priorities: people, place, and program. As the vision steers Middlesex towards strategic investment in our place—buildings, grounds, and surrounding woodlands—it specifically



addresses deferred maintenance while also creating opportunities to improve campus spaces in ways that better support the School's strategic goals. "*Pathways to Promise* calls for us to revitalize and reimagine campus spaces," Head of School Bessie Speers reflects, "elevating learning and living spaces as well as committing to environmental sustainability, stewardship, and leadership."

To ensure a strategic and comprehensive campus planning process aligned with the School's mission, its values, and the needs of current and future students, Middlesex formed a Campus Master Planning Committee comprised of trustees, administrators, alumni, and parents, and led by Trustee and Chair of the Board's Building and Grounds Committee Mary Lou Boutwell. The group's first step was to conduct a thorough review of leading design firms that specialize in campus master planning, ultimately selecting Hord Coplan Macht (HCM), a national architecture firm with an expansive portfolio of campus projects known for innovative design solutions that maintain the spirit and aesthetics of each institution. Middlesex's Chief Financial and Operations Officer Michael Hoyle served as the committee's primary liaison with HCM and was particularly struck by the firm's commitment to understanding Middlesex's culture, vision, and campus intricacies. "Working with HCM architects on the campus master plan for Middlesex has been a great experience, as the firm has a long history of working collaboratively with independent schools to bring their unique visions to life," Michael says. "HCM team members leverage their creativity and expertise to build deep client connections, ensuring that a nuanced understanding of the school is seamlessly integrated into the campus master plan."

Collaborative Exploration

Beginning in January 2025, HCM kicked off its yearlong assessment and planning process by reviewing foundational background materials, including the School's mission, vision, and strategic plan, along with site plans and facility data. The Campus Master Planning Committee and HCM concurred that a successful process must also entail significant collaboration and engagement across the Middlesex community. To that end, they launched a robust listening effort through community surveys, questionnaires, and creative exercises like "Postcards from the Future." Students met with architects to reflect on how they experience the campus—its strengths and challenges—while also imagining what it could become. The entire faculty, meanwhile, provided input through several avenues, including an interactive workshop in which small groups gathered around large campus maps and moved miniature representations of school departments to help envision and explore opportunities for creating better flow and more efficient collaboration across campus.

The Campus Master Planning Committee then synthesized community input to establish the following guiding design principles:

- Develop a campus master plan that reflects Middlesex's core values while remaining flexible, practical, and sustainable for the future
- Create a welcoming, joyful environment where students, faculty, and families feel supported and valued, and where students have a voice in shaping their surroundings
- Preserve the School's timeless New England character while thoughtfully balancing past, present, and future

With these guiding principles in place, the Campus Master Planning Committee and HCM moved on to subsequent phases, which included assessing and analyzing campus needs and then testing ideas for feedback. HCM architects conducted a comprehensive space inventory, a benchmarking



Replacing the empty courtyard outside one entrance to the Orr Gymnasium, the Wellness Garden will be a beautiful, new outdoor space for students to enjoy. Rendering courtesy of Hord Coplan Macht, Inc.

comparison with peer institutions, and an evaluation of building conditions, environmental considerations, and foot traffic around campus.

Key Findings

As the Campus Master Planning Committee and HCM married community feedback with site assessments, several key priorities emerged. These "Big Rocks"—the five notable campus improvements that the committee felt would most significantly enhance student experience, now and in the future—included upgrading campus furniture and fixtures and renovating four major buildings: Ware Hall, Orr Gym, Warburg Library, and Eliot Hall. In their final report, HCM reflected on the impact of these Big Rock projects:

"Modernizing existing buildings through targeted furniture and fixture replacement can immediately elevate daily student life by creating more comfortable, flexible, and agile learning and social environments. Updated furnishings support contemporary pedagogies, improve accessibility, and encourage a broader range of collaboration, while refreshed lighting and finishes make spaces feel more welcoming and cared for. These visible improvements signal that the institution invests in student success, reducing fatigue, improving focus, and fostering a stronger sense of pride and belonging.

"Renovating Ware Hall and Eliot Hall would further strengthen campus community by aligning the most-used spaces with current expectations for socialization, study, and interdisciplinary learning. A modernized student center can offer vibrant gathering areas, improved food service, and technology-rich study zones, encouraging students to spend more time on campus and build relationships. Updated classrooms with adaptable layouts and integrated technology support evolving teaching styles, improve equity of access to course resources, and create an environment where both group work and independent study feel supported.

"Repurposing the existing fitness space within Orr Gymnasium into a holistic health and wellness center and modernizing the library would round out this focus on student support by emphasizing wellbeing, discovery, and balanced growth. A consolidated wellness hub can combine health services, mental wellness programming, and fitness resources in a single destination, removing barriers to care and normalizing healthy habits. Meanwhile, a modernized library—featuring quiet rooms, collaborative project spaces, and digital research tools—reinforces academic excellence while giving students a wide spectrum of study environments.

"Together, these 'Big Rock' improvements strengthen connection, enable wellbeing, and cultivate a more cohesive campus community."

Immediate Impact

With the new Athletic Field House opening in the fall of 2026, campus improvements at Middlesex are gaining momentum, allowing for a cascade of additional projects as space is freed and opportunities expand. As recommended by the Campus Master Plan, Middlesex has already begun making significant progress on two of the "Big Rocks." As the fitness center, currently housed in Orr Gymnasium, moves to the Field House, the School's Wellness and Counseling Centers will move into that space through a renovation that will combine health and wellness in a single, central campus location. The Warburg Library, meanwhile, will undergo a notable refresh of furniture, decor, and layout throughout its first floor this summer, creating a more inviting, collaborative space for students to connect, confer, and learn together.

The Campus Master Plan is ambitious, intentional, and thoughtfully strategic. It is a living document—an adaptable guide rather than a fixed roadmap—designed to inform future decisions about campus direction and enhancements. Its completion marks a major milestone in the School's Strategic Vision and serves as a launching point for the continued stewardship of a campus the community deeply values.

While the plan focuses on the physical environment, it is fundamentally shaped by people. Built through broad collaboration, it reflects the voices, ideas, and shared

aspirations of the Middlesex community, ensuring that the campus continues to evolve in ways that support and strengthen the experience of all who learn and live here. "The campus has evolved in many ways since 1901, but at every stage it has reflected the singular spirit of collaboration and connection that Middlesex is known for," reflects Trustee Mary Lou Boutwell, chair of the Board's Buildings and Grounds Committee. "Throughout the campus master planning process, we have felt fortunate to be part of a community that cares so deeply about the School's future and is so deliberate in considering how to honor what makes Middlesex special while continuing to move the School forward." M





Above: The Athletic Center's familiar arcade will lead to a patio and garden area ringed with plenty of outdoor seating. Below: A comprehensive Wellness Center housing the School's Health and Counseling Departments will occupy the first floor of the Orr Gymnasium (shown on the left).
Renderings courtesy of Hord Coplan Macht, Inc.

Campus Master Planning Task Force

Anne Bass P'93, Trustee

Robert Bass P'93, Trustee

Johanna Boynton P'20'23, Trustee

Mary Lou Boutwell W'73 P'02'06, Trustee

Marc Carter, Chief Innovation Officer

Terry Cunningham P'17'18, Chief Financial Officer

Matthew DeGreeff P'19'22, Dean of College Counseling and Student Enrichment

Madeline Demoulas '08, Trustee

Thom Greenlaw, Chief Operating Officer in Residence

William Ho '86 P'23, Trustee

Michael Hoyle, Chief Financial and Operations Officer

Eric Kester '04, Assistant Head for External Affairs

Kurt LaCroix, Director of Projects and Safety

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

Stacey McCarthy P'28, Visual Arts Department Head

George Noble P'23'25, Chief Advancement Officer

Craig Najarian P'27'28, Director of Athletics

Heather Parker P'16'18, Chief Advancement Officer

Courtney Portlock P'20'22, Trustee

Bessie Speers, Head of School

Stanoy Tassev '95 P21'24, Trustee

Rob Trumbull '00, Trustee

Fulfilling the Promise

A Look Back

125 Years of Middlesex Moments



A new century, a new school: In 1901, on the Concord farm given to him by his father-in-law—abolitionist and Civil War General Charles Jackson Paine—29-year-old Frederick Winsor founded Middlesex School, enlisting the Olmsted Brothers landscape architectural firm to design its campus. With the support of venerable Bostonians like General Paine, Major Henry L. Higginson, Colonel Norwood P. Hallowell, and Harvard Dean LeBaron Briggs, Headmaster Winsor set out with a mission to "send out into the community young men who are imbued with the true spirit of democracy." This fall marks 125 years since that auspicious beginning, which Middlesex will officially celebrate on September 26, 2026. As that anniversary approaches, this *Bulletin* timeline highlights some of the notable moments in the School's history—not every person, place, or program, but a few of the events and changes that have helped to shape the culture and traditions of Middlesex.



1901

The Founding: Officially incorporated on May 13, 1901, Middlesex opens in September with 19 pupils and five masters. Pictured in this early photo of the faculty are (from left to right) John H. Chase, Shirley K. Kerns, Headmaster Frederick Winsor, William H. Taylor, David A. Baldwin (hired in 1902), and Reginald H. Howe, Jr.

1904

The first issue of *The Anvil* is published in January; in June, the first Middlesex diploma is awarded to Huntley Child, Jr., who continued his education at MIT.





1917

Appointing William "Hal" Taylor as acting headmaster in his absence, Headmaster Frederick Winsor served in uniform during the Great War on an aviation examination board. By the end of the conflict, 77% of the School's graduates had served in active duty.

1900 **1910** **1920**

1902

The football rivalry with St. George's School begins, with Middlesex losing the first game 28-0. Since then, Middlesex has won 79 games and tied six.



1911

After a decade of holding classes in the dormitories and Ware Hall, a bona fide schoolhouse is built and named in honor of Harvard President Charles W. Eliot.

1925

Memorial Chapel is constructed to honor the 10 Middlesex graduates who gave their lives while serving in the Great War.





1935

Middlesex's competitive Prize Scholarships are established to "recruit to the student body each year the most promising youngsters who can be found in these broadly scattered localities, and to provide sufficient funds so that no desirable candidate shall be excluded for financial reasons." Among the first recipients is Joseph A. Minott, Jr. '41 of Portland, Oregon. His brother Rodney '47 and two sons, John '70 and Geoffrey '71, would later join him as Middlesex alumni.



1951

The School celebrates 50 years of Middlesex. A Fiftieth Anniversary Fund launched around that time renovates classrooms and science labs, Eliot Hall's stage, and faculty apartments—and allows for the construction of the Charles W. Locke Boathouse on Bateman's Pond and a new residence for Headmaster Monk Terry.



1965

As David Sheldon begins his second year as headmaster, the first Black students join the fifth and sixth classes at the School.

1930 1940 1950 1960



1945

Memorial Chapel is rededicated to honor the 33 Middlesex graduates who gave their lives while serving in World War II.

1946

The first series of its kind at Middlesex, the Bigelow Lecture is established by the family of Roger Clayland Bigelow '44, who was killed on Iwo Jima in March 1945. The series celebrates the ideal of public service.





1952

As far back as the School's second decade, a demanding Gilbert & Sullivan operetta would be performed with great precision on Eliot Hall's compact stage. The 1952 production pictured here is *The Yeomen of the Guard.*

Fulfilling the Promise



1966

Thanks to a grant from the Independence Foundation—which was funding secondary education through scholarships, endowments, and a school loan program—Middlesex establishes its first endowed chair to support faculty compensation. [For more on the School's endowed chairs today, see page 36.]

1974

Coeducation begins with the arrival of 48 girls in September. This group photo of some of the new juniors includes several girls who would become Middlesex's first alumnae. In the front rows, from left to right: Wendy Arnold, Cameron Scott, Mary Frances Allen, Noni Pratt, Patience Gillies, Sarah O'Neill, Lisa Morrison, and Anne Makepeace. Behind them are Mike Truesdale, Mary Wootton, Paul Thomas, Laura LaFever, Mark Badger, and Kate Titus.



1987

Thanks to the foresight and initiative of Judy Sheldon, wife of third Headmaster David Sheldon, the Middlesex Archives are founded, which contributed greatly to illustrating this timeline!

1970 **1980** **1990**

1970

Nearly 60 years after the completion of Eliot Hall—where a single, second-floor room served as the School's library—the spacious Warburg Library is constructed next to Bateman's Pond.





1990

The first woman appointed to lead Middlesex, Head of School Deirdre Ling is pictured here with third Headmaster David Sheldon (1964–1990) and second Headmaster Lawrence "Monk" Terry (1938–1964).



1993

The Henry Cabot Lodge (1920) Distinguished Alumni Award is created and given first to Ambassador J. William Middendorf II '43, who also served as undersecretary and then secretary of the Navy under two presidents.





2001

Middlesex celebrates its centennial in style with a formal dinner and dancing under a massive reunion tent. The School's Athletic Hall of Fame is also established, with 13 alumni forming the inaugural class of inductees.

2021

Named for E. Duane Jones '71—one of the first Black graduates of Middlesex and the first recipient of the honor—the Jones Award is established and presented to a graduate who "alongside his or her own demanding career has dedicated substantial time and effort in service to the alumni of Middlesex School."





2022

The Kenneth E. Whitlock, Jr. Black History Month Speaker Series is established in honor of the School's first Black faculty member; Ken taught history at Middlesex for 39 years.

2000 **2010** **2020**



2003

New Head of School Kathy Giles adds teaching Freshman English to her schedule; her arrival coincides with the launch of Writing Workshop, a signature program designed by English Department Head John Hirsch.

2010

Mindfulness becomes part of school life under the leadership of Doug Worthen '96, who initiated and first directed the program.





2023

Newly appointed Head of School Elizabeth C. Speers joins the Middlesex community along with her husband, The Reverend Tom Speers, who graduated in 1976.

Forging *The Anvil*

With purposeful planning and execution, this year's editors and contributors refreshed the design and content of Middlesex's 121-year-old school newspaper.

IT WAS EVIDENT FROM THE FRONT PAGE of the very first issue in September that Editors-in-Chief George Thornton '26 and Gina Zhao '26 had ambitions for Middlesex's school newspaper, *The Anvil*. Under a bold new masthead—skillfully designed by Chief Illustrator David Yang '26—George and Gina detailed in their opening "From the Editors" column:

> We believe in this newspaper's power to enlighten and engage our readership by platforming a diversity of perspectives. We encourage anyone with a Middlesex connection to visit *anvilmx.com/contact* to share a note in response to any article, to be published in the next issue under Letters to the Editor.
>
> A central goal of *The Anvil*'s 121st iteration is to demonstrate both the opportunities that journalism brings and our school's impressive alumni in the field. To that end, we are pleased to welcome Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* columnist Bret Stephens '91 on Friday, September 26. He will lead a workshop on opinion writing and journalism more broadly, open to all Middlesex students. We are looking forward to that and more special events later this fall and winter.

More contributors and opinions, more guidance and feedback—and, importantly, more respect and appreciation for the value of good journalism—all of these were among the editors' goals, which grew out of their own experiences as *Anvil* writers for the previous three years.

"They had a vision before the summer," says the paper's faculty advisor Olivia Kennedy, who teaches English and serves as the assistant dean of students. "They got in touch with previous editors, including Joe Kahn '83, now the executive editor of *The New York Times*, and they eventually made a trip there. I would say this has been the most proactive group I've worked with."

Basic Training

While David took on the task of redesigning the paper's masthead over the summer (see sidebar on page 30), Gina and George focused on how they might encourage and coach new writers. "Journalism is a different kind of writing than what is taught in Middlesex's Writing Workshop, so having feedback from editors is important," Gina notes. "That's why we wanted to host workshops."

"I think when I started writing for *The Anvil*," George adds, "a lot of the paper's processes seemed like remnants of COVID. There were few staff meetings, and everything



Hosted by Executive Editor Joe Kahn '83 and Deputy Managing Editor Sam Dolnick, *Anvil* editors and section leaders were fortunate to spend an informative day at *The New York Times*. Pictured left to right: Lucy Wang '26, Matthew Yoon '27, Gina Zhao '26, Sam and Joe, George Thornton '26, Linda Wang '27, Kat Stephens '27, and Jessica Wu '27.



was done through email. We've tried to have more face-to-face meetings."

Having consulted last spring with Bret, who encouraged their ideas while also advocating for the cultivation of more student opinion pieces, the editors were pleased to have him conduct the year's first workshop, a well-attended introduction to the profession of journalism and opinion writing (see sidebar on page 31). Later, in January, two more workshops were held: one for the writers of the News and Opinion sections and another for Arts and Entertainment. These were hosted by the student editors of those sections to further clarify the differences between writing English essays and writing for *The Anvil*. Additionally, throughout the year, writers have received critiques of their articles through an established process, as their submissions have been reviewed initially by a section editor, then by an editor-in-chief, and finally by Olivia in her role as faculty advisor. With the final content in hand, Layout Editor Linda Wang '27 and Assistant Layout Editor Leo Wang '28 assemble each issue.

A Day at "The Gray Lady"

Not stopping at on-campus workshops, George and Gina were also able to arrange a late-October daytrip to *The New York Times* through connecting with Joe Kahn, who earned two Pulitzer Prizes for international reporting before becoming an editor. Accompanied by Olivia and several section editors, they toured the paper's headquarters and museum and even attended an afternoon news meeting.

"Basically, Joe was sitting at the center of a room full of desks, with his deputies next to him, asking each department head for their headlines," says George. "There were screens for people Zooming in from other countries. Joe would chime in occasionally while keeping it moving. Afterwards, we had a Q&A session with Joe and Sam Dolnick, a deputy managing editor."

Describing the meeting as "intense, coordinated, and efficient," Gina recalls, "There are three key places—Seoul, New York City, and London—so the news coverage is 24/7. *The Anvil* comes out monthly, so we don't have to cover everything, every single day. It was just amazing to see how a publication can work on such a large scale."



Together, *Anvil* Editors-in-Chief George Thornton '26 and Gina Zhang '26 have carried out the changes in content and process that they planned last summer.

The Masthead Reimagined



Starting with the publication's inaugural issue, David Yang '26 paged through all those red volumes in the Middlesex Archives, tracing the evolution of *The Anvil*'s design.

A year ago, Chief Illustrator David Yang '26 was spending several hours in the Middlesex Archives, researching the evolution of *The Anvil*'s masthead from its first issue in January 1904 to its last iteration in 2014. "I've always wanted to redesign it— it's been a goal of mine since freshman year," David says. "I talked about it with Gina and George after they had been appointed editors-in-chief, and they were interested in redesigning it as well."

While paging through the many red leather-bound volumes of *The Anvil,* David noticed that "change happened in chunks," with editors continuing to use one masthead style for a long time before making alterations. "I think change came more often with computers, when it was easier to play with the design," he observes.

As he documented the different designs, David noted details that might be interesting to include in his new rendering: the unique, serifed "A" in the original title; an anvil illustration tucked into the "A" in early issues; and a drawing of a candle added in the 1920s. The masthead, David determined, "should have an identity independent of school symbols while still incorporating them."

He spent the summer producing several iterations of the masthead, sharing them with Gina and George. Ultimately, the chosen version is one in which David combined those anvil and candle illustrations, creating a red, circular stamp (now popular on its own as a sticker) and placing it between the newspaper's two-word title. He set *The Anvil* in a strong, new font and added a simple line drawing on the top right corner that depicts the tops of Eliot Hall and the Chapel "to give the paper a sense of place" at Middlesex.

David has also made other, more subtle changes that have improved the paper's appearance and readability, like highlighting the contents and editors' note in a shaded column, no longer underlining story titles, and using that small, serifed "A" to mark the end of each article. "I think we've settled on a solid design," he affirms, "and hopefully the editors will continue to use it." M

Growing Interest

Perhaps it was the editors' open invitation, or maybe it was the idea of special workshops and events, but this year, it seems T*he Anvil* has had no shortage of writers. "In my memory, issue one is less full, especially in terms of articles by new students, who just got here," says George. "This year was a marked change. We had tons of submissions from new students."

Covering a range of stories—local, national, and international—students have contributed articles about everything from dorm décor to democracy, the town shuttle to tariffs, and new campus furniture to nuclear testing. Among the strengths of the News section this year have been the alumni profiles by Jessica Wu '27, who has interviewed and shared the stories of prominent alumni like former U.S. National Security Advisor Tony Lake '57, who also served as the executive director of UNICEF; U.S. District Judge Jeffery Hopkins '78, who represents the Southern District of Ohio; and Lindsay Kelt Zikry '12, who leads global product partnerships at Tik Tok.

Meanwhile, opinions pieces have been plentiful, with students weighing in on topics like campus security, free speech, and foreign policy, as well as coeducation, academic assessment, and a call for serving bacon daily in the dining hall. "We have put opinions on the front page more than in the past," says George. "We look at our issue and say, 'What's going to grab people's attention?' A good amount of the time, it's an opinion. *The Anvil* doesn't have to be positive all the time; it can have some criticism of the School."

Similarly, the Editor's Note in each issue has been another spot for commentary. "We take turns writing them," Gina says, "especially when one of us has a really strong opinion about something." A problem with heat and hot water in her dorm was highlighted one month, while the importance of sustaining involvement in instrumental music occupied another. "I play the flute but can't fit Chamber Music Ensemble in my schedule anymore because I already have six classes," Gina explains. Together, the editors try to use their concise column to affect or change things that they believe can be improved.

Amid these developments in content and design this year, many favorite *Anvil* elements remain. Coverage of Middlesex teams and seasons are mainstays of the Sports section, which still features an "Athlete of the Issue" or a piece about a professional player or program. Meanwhile, writers fill the Arts and Entertainment section with reviews of new movies, music, series, and books, as well as of student performances on stage or in concert.

The Year in Review

With the April appointment of next year's *Anvil* editors—Kat Stephens '27 and Jessica Wu '27—George and Gina have been working with them on the final issue of 2025-2026, helping the new leaders assume their roles as editors-in-chief. As all *Anvil* editors, past and present, can attest, the top job is both demanding and rewarding. Working with many people and myriad deadlines is an ongoing challenge, Gina reflects. "We have 32 staff and student writers," she says, "and there are so many steps for every article along the way, with a schedule for each step."

As for the rewards, George finds, "The management aspect of the job was something I wasn't prepared for but enjoyed. I'm in close communication with Ms. Kennedy, the printer, and a bunch of students—whom I wouldn't necessarily know otherwise—in the context of producing something collaboratively."

From their faculty advisor's perspective, this has not only been a productive year but one that bodes well for the future. "Time constraints often dampen dreams, but they have accomplished the core of what they wanted *The Anvil* to do," Olivia says of the editors' efforts. "We had 38 applications for *Anvil* positions next year, and I think that's healthy in a school of 400+ students. I do feel that working with students on this and seeing how seriously they take it gives us hope for critical thinking, journalism, and interest in the world around them." M

An Expert Opinion

As promised in the first "From the Editors" column, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Bret Stephens '91 returned to campus on September 26, 2026, to talk with *Anvil* writers about his Middlesex experience, his professional career, and the skill and satisfaction of crafting opinion pieces.

Now an Opinion columnist for *The New York Times*, Bret said that Middlesex "essentially created my career in journalism," for he and a few friends produced a rival newspaper, *The Circle*, to compete with *The Anvil* during his student years. Although *The Circle* did not continue past his graduation, he had already discovered that "there was something about writing and provoking a reaction and getting people talking" that greatly appealed to him.

"It turns out the craft of writing, thinking, and building an opinion is one of life's really great joys," Bret said. "It introduced me to the art of argumentation and how to persuade someone—and it's not that simple."

Defining an opinion piece as "a personal interpretation of facts," Bret stressed that writers must have the confidence to offer their opinion and present a fact-based argument for it. To help guide interested *Anvil* contributors in the year ahead, Bret provided copies of an article, "Tips for Aspiring Op-Ed Writers," that he wrote for *The Times* in 2017. Containing 15 key points, the piece covers everything from opening with a compelling sentence to avoiding the passive voice to endeavoring to "make good choices."

"When you have a different opinion," Bret contended, "you are instilling the habits of a free mind, of democracy. Have the courage to be the lone dissenter; it's the role of a good citizen." M



"Offering an opinion is an act of courage," Bret Stephens '91 told *Anvil* writers at the September workshop.

Fond Farewells

Taken together, this year's three retirees have encouraged and supported Middlesex students from their earliest days as applicants through their years in the classroom and campus community to the very moment they received their diplomas. The enthusiasm, wisdom, and commitment of these caring individuals will be greatly missed by colleagues and alumni alike.

Karlyn McNall

By Ellery Winkler '19

KARLYN'S OFFICE sat nestled in a corner of Eliot Hall, around the corner past the Terry Room and tucked under the grand, second-floor staircase. Warm and inviting, the office was lined with books, decades of yearbooks, and ceramic and intricate wooden art made by her parents. Beautiful photos of her family—Gavin, Tim, and TC—looked on, and a sculpture of her beloved dog Milo kept diligent watch for the little squirrel figurines friends would tuck into unexpected corners. A large window behind her desk overlooked the path winding into the Estabrook Woods that she loved to explore. Filled with the sound of her trickling fountain, it was a serene and safe space at the center of campus.

For over 10 years, I spent much time outside that office, sitting at my mom's desk. While eating my regular Starburst, I saw firsthand the constant stream of people coming down the hall seeking wisdom, shutting Karlyn's door behind them. Whether they brought good news, concerns, or a logistical puzzle, they always found a solution in there—or if not a solution, then someone who would listen with patience, kindness, comfort, and steadfast support. "Things tend to work out," Karlyn would say, and accompanied by her trademark blend of wisdom and wit, it was easy to believe.

While she may have become Middlesex's go-to problem solver by the end of her 32 years here, Karlyn has held many roles along the way. She grew up in the Bay Area in a family of explorers and adventurers, hiking the West Coast, rambling through Europe in a camper van, and finding that a curious mind could turn almost anything into an education. It was a seventh-grade history teacher who first gave her curiosity direction, encouraging a young Karlyn to question what she read and put her thinking into words. This direction led her from California to Williams College, where she majored in history and psychology, and then to her first teaching job at New Hampton School. There, in true Karlyn fashion, she found herself coaching two varsity teams and



Former Interim Head of School Karlyn McNall paused for a photo with her family—sons, Gavin '21 and Tim '23, and husband Terrence—after the 2023 graduation ceremony.

running a dorm alongside teaching history. She arrived at Middlesex in 1994 and has been sharing that spark of curiosity with students ever since.

Those who were taught by Karlyn remember her animated style marked by enthusiasm, lively gestures, and genuine investment in her students. She especially loved to share her passion for literature, often gifting copies of her favorite books and delighting in the opportunity to discuss them together. Though I never formally sat in one of her classes, I was one of countless students she taught all the same. Ahead of my junior year, since I had never taken a Middlesex history class, Karlyn sat down with me to help me build the foundation I had missed. Whether reviewing my writing or simply chatting for a few minutes, she had an ability to draw out my thoughts and push me to think more deeply in a way that was uniquely her own. The glint in her eye and the subtle, upturned smile that followed showed that the joy teaching brought her was palpable, regardless of where it happened.

For more than 20 years, Karlyn served as head of house for LeBaron Briggs and Higginson. She also led both our girls' soccer and basketball teams to postseason success over many seasons. I never lived in Karlyn's dorm, never played soccer for her, nor was I ever her advisee, but I didn't have to be to recognize her impact on others. Over time, I came to appreciate what so many others already knew: Karlyn is the kind of person who shows up. She brings a loyalty that makes people feel supported simply by knowing she is there. Whether it was chatting in the common room, attending games and concerts, hosting advisee dinners featuring her famous onion bread, or venturing to alumni college events and graduations—as she did for mine—she loved being fully immersed in the lives of her students. More than that, with her husband TC working in the athletic department and her two sons as Middlesex graduates, Karlyn's family was a true Middlesex family, with this campus as their home. Her open door was not only professional; she made everyone feel a part of this family, and I'm truly grateful to consider her a part of mine.

I eventually became one of those people filing into her office, no longer just the child sitting outside. I quickly came to understand why she had been entrusted with so many of the School's most important roles. After serving as dean of academic affairs since 2005 and later being appointed assistant head of school, it came as little surprise that she stepped seamlessly into the role of interim head of school in 2021. Thoughtful, brilliant, and an unparalleled listener, Karlyn led with humility and steadiness. Her ability to identify what needs attention, finding clarity and direction, helped the School move forward, just as she had guided hundreds of students and faculty in the decades before.

Though the door may be closing on this office and on this chapter, Karlyn's presence will remain in the countless students, colleagues, and friends who experienced what it meant to have her show up for them. We trust that she will meet whatever ventures come next with the same purpose and passion that she brought to everything at Middlesex.

Karlyn, our community is immeasurably better and immensely grateful for all you have given to it. I know I am. We wish you all the best in your adventures ahead. M

Ellery Winkler '19 *is a private equity associate at Leonard Green & Partners.*

Honoring an Exemplary Educator

During her remarks at the 2026 commencement ceremony, **Head of School Bessie Speers** took a moment to recognize "the extraordinary ways that **Karlyn McNall** has served the Middlesex community and impacted countless students and colleagues through her 32-year tenure as teacher, coach, head of house, house faculty member, advisor, dean of studies, academic dean, interim head of school, associate head of school, and amazing colleague and friend to me and many others."

In honor of Karlyn's remarkable dedication, thoughtfulness, generosity, and versatility, the School is celebrating her in several special ways, beginning with the planting of a shag bark hickory tree on the Circle, alongside an Adirondack chair—both with plaques detailing her tenure. Additionally, a new faculty prize has been created: the McNall Award for Excellence in Teaching, to be given annually to a faculty member who embodies a profound commitment to pedagogical excellence and the intellectual growth of students. Appropriately, Karlyn was named the first recipient of the eponymous award.

After presenting her with the gift-wrapped prize—a beautifully hand-crafted, inscribed black walnut bowl—Bessie warmly summed up the School's appreciation: "Karlyn, we salute you, we love you, and we thank you for all you have done for Middlesex."

Echoing Bessie's gratitude for Karlyn's "care, guidance, grit, and humor," **Board Chair Jason Robart '83** added, "You've taught me what's required to be an effective steward of Middlesex going forward. For that, I—and the rest of the community—say, 'Thank you.'" M

Chip Vigne

By Mollie Mattuchio MacDearmid '04



Among the many photos of family and friends in Chip Vigne's office was this image, taken when Chip and his wife Annie celebrated the Middlesex graduation of their son Andrew—and of their former student and advisee, Mollie Mattuchio—on May 31, 2004.

IF YOU WERE LUCKY, Chip Vigne was one of the first smiling faces to greet you as your Middlesex journey unfolded. Chip has been an integral part of the admissions office at Middlesex for 34 years, and he has impacted the lives of countless students as an advisor, coach, and friend.

I have had the privilege of knowing Chip since I was a first grade student of his equally wonderful wife, Annie, back in the early '90s. When I arrived on campus at Middlesex in the fall of 2000, Chip was assigned as my advisor, and though I didn't know him as well as I knew Annie, it made sense given our shared history. I arrived at his office for our first meeting, and the first thing I observed was his unwavering optimism. Chip's enthusiasm was contagious, and as a nervous 13-year-old in a completely new (and intimidating) community, I appreciated his warmth and exuberance. I truly felt I could sit down and let my guard down, and just be myself—a simple but not easy feat for a shy teenager.

What made Chip so great was that his warmth and friendliness weren't limited to his advisees or those he worked with closely. His office was across from the Terry Room, and you could often find him in the hallway greeting every single student as they passed by. His positive energy was unmatched, and he always made an effort to say hello, to say your name, and to make you feel seen.

During many of his years as the assistant director of admissions—and then as the associate director since 2008—Chip put his enthusiasm to good use, both in organizing the School's tour guide program and in orchestrating the visiting days for accepted students in April. Appreciating that everyone in the school community contributes to the work of admissions, he also started the tradition of hosting a cookout on the Circle each June as a thank-you to Middlesex staff.

It was clear that Chip loved being part of the campus community, living in Robert Winsor House for five years and leading Hallowell House for another year until he moved into one of the red brick cottages behind Higginson House. And while many students got to know Annie well as their yoga teacher at Middlesex over the years, Chip coached everything from boys' varsity ice hockey to varsity golf, as well as boys' and girls' thirds soccer and girls' thirds squash.

In addition to being one of the friendliest faces on campus, Chip was known for his great love of his family (not only Annie but also their sons, Billy '01 and Andrew '04), his dogs (my personal favorite was Molly, and yes, I'm told she was named after me), and Bruce Springsteen. Chip enriched the Middlesex campus in so many ways, and having been a faculty member myself, I can confidently say it's a rewarding but demanding lifestyle. Longstanding faculty members like Chip are the lifeblood of Middlesex, and his presence on campus will be sorely missed. When Chip smiled and looked you in the eye to ask how your day was, he really meant it. Thank you, Chip, for all you have done for generations of students at Middlesex. As The Boss would say, "Get out while you're young, 'cause, baby, you were born to run!" **M**

After serving as the assistant director, associate director, and director of Middlesex's Annual Fund from 2008 to 2013, ***Mollie Mattuchio MacDearmid*** *continued her development career at Gordon School and The Derryfield School. With her husband Cam, she is currently enjoying raising their four children.*

Steven Mylon

By Mira Handa '19

WHEN I THINK BACK on my time at Middlesex, and of the moments and people who shaped my experience, my junior-year Physics class with Dr. Mylon stands out. Science has never been my strongest (or favorite) subject, but it slowly became something I enjoyed. After freshman Biology and sophomore Chemistry, I had felt like my hope for success in science had withered away… until I joined Dr. Mylon's class.

Dr. Mylon had recently joined Middlesex, so none of us knew what to expect—no older students could say how to ace your tests or which topics to focus on. But from the beginning, he had this rare ability to take something intimidating and turn it into something clear and approachable. Dr. Mylon took seemingly complex and abstract laws and broke them down into bite-sized pieces, grounded in real-world examples that made sense to 17-year-olds. Though he is an expert in his field, he never made us feel as though that knowledge was unattainable—physics could be simple! Dr. Mylon took the time to answer our questions, never making anyone feel small for not understanding what was going on, even if he had already explained it three times.

While I cannot claim that specific physics concepts have stayed with me, what has stuck with me is Dr. Mylon's passion for teaching and his genuine care for his students. I always felt that we could have real conversations that were about life beyond Middlesex. In many ways, that is why it felt natural to stay in touch with Dr. Mylon in the years after graduation.

Staying in touch through emails and calls allowed me to better understand who Dr. Mylon was outside of the classroom through hearing more about his family—his wife Tina and their sons, Lucas '23 and Olly '25—and his interests. It became clear that the kindness he showed to his students was not just how he acted in his job but was instead a part of who he is. Dr. Mylon is the teacher who takes the time to buy all his students their specific Dunkin' orders, the kind who stops by a five-year reunion for a quick hello, and the kind who checks in when he has seen that a hurricane has hit your country.

As Dr. Mylon enters this next chapter, I hope he knows how much of what he did at Middlesex really mattered. He was not just a teacher but also a trusted advisor and a friend.

So, raise a virtual glass to Dr. Mylon: Cheers to an amazing career and a well-deserved retirement. I am excited to see what this next chapter holds and wish him all the best.

Mira Handa '19 *is a senior consultant in transfer pricing at KPMG Acor Tax in Denmark.*



A Tribute to Excellence

Middlesex's Endowed Chairs



By name, they honor accomplished graduates, venerable teachers or mentors, and generous donors. By appointment, they recognize significant commitment and contribution—and support the compensation—of one of Middlesex's great strengths: its faculty.

THOUGH THEY ARE NOW a firmly established tradition at the School, only 60 years ago, Middlesex had just one, brand new endowed chair. It was given in 1966 by the Independence Foundation, which at the time was supporting secondary education through scholarships, endowments, and a school loan program. Legendary classics teacher Tom Quirk became the first holder of that chair, followed by Art Department Head Loring Coleman '38 and then Senior Master Emeritus Hugh Fortmiller [coincidentally, the School's newest chair is named in honor of both Loring and Hugh—see page 38].

This was a start—and proved to be an important one. Illustrating the value of endowment funds like this, the original gift's growth over the years eventually allowed the School to begin dividing the annual income in 1999, benefiting two holders of the Independence Foundation Chair going forward. By that time—thanks in large part to *The Campaign of a Century*, which celebrated Middlesex's centennial—another seven endowed chairs had been established. The subsequent, highly productive *Mx2* campaign added another four chairs by 2013, and in the years since, five more have been created, bringing the total today to 18.

Periodic transitions and retirements among the faculty—and the establishment of new endowed chairs—provide opportunities to make new appointments, and this year, five Middlesex faculty members became honored recipients. These five, along with the holders of the School's 13 other chairs, were recognized and applauded by the school community during the Friday announcement period on October 24, 2025, reminding all those present of the quality and dedication of the educators who give their very best to Middlesex students every day. M

Newly Appointed Faculty Chairs



The Hugh Fortmiller P'92'95 and Loring Coleman '38 P'66 Chair for the Arts

Tom Kane

Performing Arts Department Head; Head of Arts Division

Established in 2023 by a gift from Thurmond Smithgall '67 in recognition of former faculty members Hugh Fortmiller P'92'95, member of the faculty from 1956 to 1958 and 1963 to 2001, and Loring Coleman '38 P'66, member of the faculty from 1948 to 1974, for their inspirational leadership and dedication to their craft and their students; income to provide for the salary of a senior member of the faculty in performing or graphic arts.



Senator Joseph S. Clark (1919) Chair in American History

Kate Hession Hoar

History Department Head

Established in 1999 in honor of Joseph S. Clark (1919), member of the Middlesex Board from 1930 to 1951, and president from 1939 to 1949, by a gift from his son, Joseph S. Clark, Jr. '47, member of the Middlesex Board from 1969 to 1972, and supplemented by additional gifts from his grandchildren, Laurance and Anne Clark P'10'12'14'17, Christopher Avery Clark, and Joseph S. Clark IV; income to provide for the salary of a senior member of the faculty in American history.



Independence Foundation Chair

Tom Erickson

Science

Initially established in 1966 by a gift from the Independence Foundation, a second chair was established in 1999 by distribution of principal from the Independence Foundation; income to provide for the salary of a senior member of the faculty.



John C. Morley Chair in Technology

Mike Harrington

Mathematics Department Head; Computer Science Department Head

Established in 2016 by a gift from John C. Morley '50, father of John C. Morley, Jr. '73 and Spence G. Morley '74, and member of the Middlesex Board from 1966 to 1970, from 1971 to 1978, and from 1979 to 2002; income to support the work of the School's academic technology leader who, regardless of title, provides forward-thinking inspiration and motivation to colleagues in understanding, appreciating, and using technology to nurture creativity, innovation, problem solving, and design interests in our community.



Lawrence Terry Chair in Communications

Eric Kester '04

Assistant Head for External Affairs; English

Established in honor of Lawrence Terry, headmaster from 1938 to 1964, through the establishment of a trust by Richard C. Spelman '49; income to provide for the salary of a member of the faculty in written and oral communication.

New Endowed Chair Honors Enlightening Influences

AN ASPIRING OBOIST FROM GEORGIA, Thurmond Smithgall '67 found Middlesex to be unfamiliar territory when he joined the third class in 1964. Without instrument lessons or a school orchestra on campus, "My music languished," he remembers—though by his senior year, he was fortunate to study with Ralph Gomberg, the principal oboist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and, impressively, gained entrance to Oberlin College and then the New England Conservatory.

If Middlesex was not an exact fit for Thurmond at the time, he has since come to appreciate the School as "a steppingstone to the real world" and is especially grateful to two faculty members who shared their love of the arts with him: Hugh Fortmiller and Loring Coleman. "Hugh was my literature teacher my first year, and then he cast me in *She Stoops to Conquer* with Bill Hurt '68," Thurmond recalls. "Hugh was a very good director and turned us all onto what it was to be in the theatre." And well before Thurmond began plaque carving classes, he says, "Loring immediately won me over. He took us into the symphony and was obviously steeped in both music and art." Today, Thurmond reflects, "I think I learned to flourish from the experience of knowing these two people."

Busy with his career in New York and with the Lanie and Ethel Foundation that he established to support young musicians, Thurmond made it back to campus only once before his 50th reunion, where he was pleased to reconnect with both classmates and Hugh after so many years. Unbeknownst to Thurmond, Hugh and Loring had become great friends and collaborated on a book, *Loring Coleman: Living and Painting in a Changing New England*, which was published in 2011, just four years before Loring's death.

Looking for a way to honor both of his mentors, Thurmond decided to endow a chair in the arts at Middlesex and name it for them, creating a tribute to "two enlightened and enlightening influences," as he characterizes them. "Loring was a beacon of sunshine, and Hugh goes on influencing people," Thurmond says. "Some people teach by their existence, without giving lessons, and that's a concept that is far and above being a tough teacher." **M**

Current Holders of Endowed Chairs



Peter Arnold Chair
Michael Schaeberle
Director of Studies;
Head of STEM Division; Science

Established in 1989 in honor of Peter Arnold, member of the faculty from 1956 to 1992, by a gift from Angus C. Littlejohn, Jr. '69, member of the Middlesex Board from 1989 to 1998 and from 1999 to 2006; income to provide for the salary of a member of the faculty in history or science.



Brooke Chair for Ethics and Spirituality
Rebecca Smedley
Director of Spiritual & Ethical Education;
Religious Studies; English

Established in 2012 by John F. Brooke '81, father of Hadley S. Brooke '12 and a member of the Middlesex Board from 2007 to 2022. Supplemented by gifts from Anne Brooke and Peter A. Brooke (member of the Middlesex Board from 1976 to 1989), parents of Samuel R. Brooke '76, Peter W. Brooke '79, and John F. Brooke, and grandparents of Hadley S. Brooke, as well as by gifts from Samuel R. Brooke, Peter W. Brooke, M. Holt Massey '68, and Henry S. Woodbridge '47, member of the Middlesex Board from 1976 to 1983; income to provide for the salary of a member of the faculty in ethics and spirituality.



Nathanael Vining Davis '33 Chair for Distinguished Teaching
Stacey McCarthy
Visual Arts Department Head;
Director, Ishibashi Gallery

Established in 2000 in honor of Nathanael Vining Davis '33, member of the Middlesex Board from 1951 to 2005 and president from 1959 to 1969, father of J. H. Dow Davis '62, by a gift from The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations; income to provide for the salary of a senior member of the faculty.



Kathleen Carroll Giles Chair in the Humanities
Jecca Hutcheson
Head of Humanities Division;
English Department Head;
Director of the Writing Program

Established in 2016 by a gift from Ami Danoff and William Danoff (member of the Middlesex Board from 2015 to 2022), parents of Amelia E. Danoff '17, Andrew A. Danoff '19, and Alexander E. Danoff '21, in honor of fifth Head of School Kathleen Carroll Giles; income to provide for the salary of a member of the faculty in English, languages, or the arts.



Independence Foundation Chair
Pierson Wetzel
Dean of Hiring and Recruitment; Music Department Head

Established in 1966 by a gift from the Independence Foundation; income to provide for the salary of a senior member of the faculty.



Patty Kazmaier '81 Chair
Laura Darby McNally '80
Head Athletic Trainer; Assistant Athletic Director

Established in 2000 in memory of Patty Kazmaier Sandt '81 by a gift from her parents, Patricia and Richard W. Kazmaier, Jr. Supplemented by gifts from John and Ann Hall, parents of Sarah T. Hall '95 and Ashley Hall '00, and from James F. Curtis III '62, member of the Middlesex Board from 1992 to 1995 and since 2010, and from alumni, parents, and friends; income to provide for the salary of a female faculty member who serves as a prominent varsity coach.



Harrison S. Kravis Memorial Chair
Cal Hitzrot
Head of Social Sciences Division; History

Established in 1991 in memory of Harrison S. Kravis '90 by gifts from alumni, family, and friends; income to provide for the salary of a member of the faculty in history or economics.



Angus C. Littlejohn, Jr. Chair
Kerry Magee
Director of Faculty Development; Science

Established in 1999 by a gift from Angus C. Littlejohn, Jr. '69, member of the Middlesex Board from 1989 to 1998 and from 1999 to 2006; income to provide for the salary of a senior member of the faculty.



Charles W. Locke Chair for Distinguished Teaching
Dan Barber
World Languages Department Head; Classics

Established in 2000 in memory of Charles W. Locke, member of the faculty from 1918 to 1959, by gifts from his daughter, Susan W. Smith, and his grandson George E. Senkler II '52. Supplemented by gifts from Charles Henderson, Jr. '40, Henry H. Hilton III '47, and Prescott B. and Joan Knapp Crocker, parents of Nicholas B. Crocker '00 and Elizabeth M. Crocker '04; income to provide for the salary and benefits for a member of the faculty in classics.



Edward H. Northrop '62 Chair for the Athletic Director
Craig Najarian
Director of Athletics

Established in 1996 in memory of Edward Harriman Northrop '62, member of the Middlesex Board from 1975 to 1992, by a gift from the Gladys and Roland Harriman Foundation and supplemented by a gift from the Class of 1962 in honor of their 50th Reunion; income to provide for the salary of the athletic director.



David F. and Judith W. Sheldon Chair
John Bishop
Science

Established in 1990 by gifts from alumni, family, and friends in honor of David F. Sheldon, head of school from 1964 to 1990, member of the faculty from 1957 to 1990, and member of the Middlesex Board from 1964 to 2022, and his wife, Judith W. Sheldon.



Joan A. Speidel Chair in English
Ruth Baldwin
Dean of Faculty; English

Established in 2011 through a gift from William Chase Speidel '53 in honor of his wife, Joan Alden Speidel; income to provide for the salary of a senior member of the faculty in English.



Zak Family Chair in Physical Science
Katie Herter Bruch
Mathematics

Established in 2008 by a gift from Michael and Roxanne Zak, parents of Marianna Zak '08; income to support the salary of a female faculty member in mathematics or science.

Pass Culture

Expanding the Circle with AP French



The first cultural outing for AP French students in September was to the New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall, where the Philharmonia performed masterpieces by Ravel and Mahler.

The adaptation of a French government initiative called "pass Culture"—designed to promote young people's access to arts and culture—has enriched the experience of Middlesex's AP French students through a series of cultural events and excursions.

by **Konrad Herath**, *French Teacher*

ALL THE LANGUAGE PROGRAMS AT MIDDLESEX have the privilege of traveling abroad every other year. Last March, the French cohort went to Morocco, and Roodly Jean and I are excited to share our next trip with the community in the coming months. Until then, however, our students still need to have meaningful cultural experiences which complement the learning in the classroom. If a language needs to be lived to be mastered, regular cultural immersion is therefore necessary. Don't the language programs also have a special responsibility in our Expand the Circle efforts?

To respond to these needs, a new program was introduced to the Advanced Placement French students this year: pass Culture. Inspired by a requirement I had for my German classes in college, I wanted to offer my most advanced students a series of cultural experiences tied to our units of study. This enrichment was designed to be enjoyable while further developing our students' intercultural literacy, an essential skill for the AP exam, language study in college, and adult life more broadly. The name "pass Culture" comes from an initiative by the French government to provide its citizens aged 15 to 20 affordable access to cultural events offered in their region. For Middlesex's AP French students, the inaugural program for the 2025-2026 school year consisted of a series of eight events representing Francophone identities from all over the world and a variety of artistic mediums. With a mix of on-campus and off-campus events, we hoped that this new venture would have broad appeal for our young Francophiles.

We began this new enterprise in September with a performance at New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall by the music school's Philharmonia. Maurice Ravel's *Valses nobles et sentimentales* opened for Gustav Mahler's majestic Fifth Symphony. A few weeks later, we went to the Groton

Hill Music Center for an evening of chamber music, featuring Olivier Messiaen's haunting *Quartet for the End of Time*. In November, we had the privilege of listening to a presentation by Dr. Amanda Gilvin, interim co-director and senior curator at Wellesley College's Davis Museum, who spoke to us about a traditional Malian headdress called the *Chi Wara*. Then, two films were programmed for the winter months: a Senegalese film, *Faat Kiné,* by Ousmane Sembène and a Québécois film, *Laurence Anyways,* by Xavier Dolan. We continued to fight the winter blues with a home-cooked meal made by me (stuffed leg of lamb, ratatouille, and pommes de terre persillade, for those curious about the menu).

Year one concluded with two exceptional excursions. The first was to Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, where we were treated to a special tour of the museum's holdings in French and Francophone art. *Ubi Girl from Tai Region* by Loïs Mailou Jones, *Automedon with the Horses of Achilles* by Henri Regnault, and *L'Ange du Destin* by Odilon Redon were among Middlesex students' favorites. Our final event was an evening with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and a stirring program of Maurice Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite,* the world premiere of Andrew Norman's double-piano concerto *Split,* and Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Danses.*

Many thanks to my colleague, Roodly Jean, who is an energetic partner and dedicated collaborator in all our projects. I am also grateful for the support of Head of World Languages Dan Barber, Director of Strategic Initiatives Erika Mills, and especially Head of School Bessie Speers, who was enthusiastic about the idea from the afternoon I pitched it. Finally, I am so grateful to my 14 AP students, whose enthusiasm for attending optional events made for rich cultural engagement and fellowship. **M**



A special tour at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts acquainted students with examples of French and Francophone art of the last few centuries.

Below: Finishing the year of events as they began it, Konrad's class enjoyed another evening of classical music, this time performed by the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Symphony Hall.



Championship Teams

A strong fall season for the School's athletic program culminated in an ISL title, two tournament bids, and two New England Championships.

Girls' Cross-Country: A Clean Sweep

Undefeated in the regular season, the girls' varsity cross-country team claimed its second straight ISL Championship on October 31, 2025. Among the highlights of the day was the performance of Co-captain Stella Curwin-Amfitheatrof '26, who won her second consecutive ISL individual crown by blazing through the course in 18:59.98. Jude Hebb '29 finished in fifth place, followed by Cassidy Bruno '26, who recorded her fourth straight top ten finish at the league championship by coming in seventh. Anika Ata '26 earned 15th place, Co-captains Kate Tantillo '26 and Cate Corbett '26 came in 24th and 27th, respectively, and Angela Huffer '26 rounded out the varsity in 35th place. Notably, the JV squad also won the ISL Championship, with three runners finishing in the top four: Pipsa Palatsi '27 (second), Caroline Stilwell '29 (third), and Scarlett Gustafson '28 (fourth).

A week later, on November 8, the varsity defended its New England Championship title, triumphing over The Governor's Academy by over 20 points. Ending the fall on a high note, Stella won her second straight individual New England Championship. Additionally, the JV team topped its season with the New England crown, and Pipsa captured the JV individual title.



League Leaders: Varsity teammates held the silver trophy and plaque awarded to the first-place team at the ISL Championships. Pictured, left to right: Co-captains Kate Tantillo '26 and Cate Corbett '26, Angela Huffer '26, Co-captain Stella Curwin-Amfitheatrof '26, Anika Ata '26, Cassidy Bruno '26, and Jude Hebb '29.



Middlesex dominated at the New England Championships, with both the varsity and JV squads winning the individual and team titles. Standing, left to right: Jude Hebb '29, Allison Luo '27, Varsity Co-captain Stella Curwin-Amfitheatrof '26, Anika Ata '26, Cassidy Bruno '26, Varsity Co-captains Cate Corbett '26 and Kate Tantillo '26, Angela Huffer '26, and Pipsa Palatsi '27. Kneeling in front: Pink Ye '29, Marvelous Ugwu '28, Scarlett Gustafson '28, Caroline Stilwell '29, and Presley Bruno '29.



Co-captain Stella Curwin-Amfitheatrof '26 made her last Middlesex cross-country season a memorable one, breaking the home course record with a time of 19:18.6 on October 25, 2025, and then finishing once again in first place at both the ISL and New England Championships. For her outstanding performance, she was named an All-Scholastic Athlete by the *Boston Herald* and the ISL MVP by the *Boston Globe*.



Two overtime victories brought the varsity squad to the NEPSAC Class B final, where Middlesex claimed the New England Championship trophy. In front, from left to right: Assistant Coach Frances Leslie, Kat Stephens ’27, Head Coach Katie Bruch, Tessa Rusconi ’28, Sophia Nguyen ’27, Ali Marsters ’26, Co-captains Alex Hood ’26 and Lily McTeague ’26, and Anna Rusconi ’26. In back: Ellie Bigelow ’29, Maisie Martinez ’29, Libby Melly ’29, Marin Gustafson ’28, KC Fiore ’27, Bella Santucci ’28, Alison Fiedler ’27, Claire Bromley ’27, Maisie Wands ’28, Avery Swenson ’27, Margot Curry ’28, Sarah Smith ’28, Taylor Thompson ’28, and Assistant Coach Emma Rasmussen.

Field Hockey: New England Champions

Capping a memorable postseason run, Co-captain Lily McTeague ’26 scored the championship-winning goal for #3 seed Middlesex with less than 90 seconds left in regulation, defeating #4 seed Cushing 2-1 in the NEPSAC Class B final game on November 16, 2025.

Middlesex entered the game after having won its quarterfinal contest 3-2 in overtime against Berkshire on November 12, followed by a thrilling 3-2 double-overtime comeback victory over Williston Northampton on November 15.

In the final, it looked as if Cushing would go into halftime ahead 1-0, but Co-captain Alex Hood ’26 slipped one past the opposing goalie with less than a minute left in the half to even the score. Middlesex was poised to take the lead with two minutes remaining when Alex’s redirect got past Cushing’s goalkeeper—but was then swept away by a quick-thinking defender. The ensuing corner, however, was when the decisive play took place. Sarah Smith ’28 passed the ball to Avery Swenson ’27, whose shot was deflected and tipped in by Lily.

This is the field hockey program’s second NEPSAC Class B Championship in the last three years and the third in school history (1999, 2023, 2025). Middlesex finished the season with an eight-game winning streak and an overall record of 17-3.



On to the finals: Co-captains Lily McTeague ’26 and Alex Hood ’26 celebrated their team’s exciting 3-2 double-overtime win in the semifinal game against Williston Northampton. (Photo by John Risley, Risley Sports Photography)



A two-year varsity starter and dominant two-way midfielder, Avery Swenson ’27 was not only named All-League but also earned the title of NEPSAC Class B MVP.

Season Highlights

For more sports news, visit athletics.mxschool.edu







Football

Co-captain Luke Felago ’26 (left) rolled out looking for an open receiver in an early contest with Kingswood Oxford. Later, fellow Co-captain Orion Saunders ’26 (above right)) celebrated after Co-captain Frankie Forrest ’26 caught a touchdown pass from Luke. Named All-NEPSAC, Orion and Frankie were selected First Team NEPSAC Class C—along with Nate Bryant ’26, Sam Elfner ’28, Emmett Goodrich ’26, and Jordan Reid-Strachan ’26—while Luke and Nate Keeler ’28 were selected Second Team NEPSAC Class C.

Girls’ Soccer

At the close of the season, Sophie Getchell ’27 was named All-League and earned an All-NEPSAC Honorable Mention, while her team shared the Sportsmanship Award with Groton.

Pickleball

Gathering before an October 16th match at home, Middlesex’s pickle-ball team finished its second competitive season with another perfect record, besting teams from Noble and Greenough and Lawrence Academy.





Volleyball

With Co-captain Dinero Jelley ’26 (#4) at the ready, Co-captain Janie Martin ’26 received the ball in a 3-1 win against Governor’s last October.



Boys’ Cross-Country

Middlesex runners lined up for the start of the October 4th home race against Belmont Hill, Milton, and Thayer. Pictured left to right: Sunny Qian ’27, Jovic Stachelski ’29, Sebastien Aubourg ’27 (who was named All-League and All-NEPSAC), Co-captain Daghan Konur ’26, Chase Phillips ’29, Dylan Fu ’27, Co-captain Terry Qi ’26, and Casey Coleman ’28.



Boys' Soccer

Bryan Mayhew '26 exploded away from a defender in a 6-0 win over Cushing. The team's 11-6-2 season led to its third consecutive NEPSAC Tournament appearance, where Middlesex lost a close quarterfinal match 2-1 against Williston Northampton. Both Bryan and Adriano Valmora '28 were named All-League and All-NEPSAC, with Bryan also receiving Senior All-Star status while Adriano was selected for the Massachusetts All-State Team.

The Extra Edge: Mental Training

With the fall season well underway, the time was right for Middlesex student-athletes to hear from some of the consultants and student leaders involved with the School's Sports Psychology Group, which meets every other week on campus and is open to all. During an assembly on September 30, 2025, Matt Cloutier '26, Lach McCaghren '26, and Thea Salem '27 posed questions to three of the clinicians/coaches who take turns joining the group's meetings: Joey Kang, Abi Schuiling, and Emma Whall.



Coming from different athletic backgrounds—spanning Olympic, NCAA Division I, and recreational levels—each clinician stressed the importance of adding mental training to physical practice for improved preparation, performance, and enjoyment of any given sport. "Practice takes you far, and mental preparation gives you the edge," said Ms. Schuiling, who found that mental training made her feel ready and able to overcome the fear and pressure that could have compromised her during competitions.

"It seems like only when we are down that we are willing to look for help," Mr. Kang noted. "I encourage people to use the support here. Sports psychology can be preventative and prepare you for adversity. You don't need to wait."

As Ms. Whall added, "Anything we do is performance: taking tests, giving presentations, performing on stage." The strategies shared by the Sports Psychology Group—from pre-performance routines to mindfulness practices—are therefore transferable skills that can be applied in many areas of students' lives.

Briefly demonstrating a couple of different techniques, Mr. Kang led the audience in a calming, diaphragmatic breathing exercise followed by a deliberate, goal-setting exercise that centered on the steps to take to reach an objective, rather than on the ultimate outcome. "We're a society focused on the product; it doesn't have to be the biggest focus," he said. "Reflecting on the effort of process should be—those steps that help us get better. Take pride in progress. It's what you can control."

50 Years of Girls' Athletics

Continuing to mark the significant milestone of 50 years of coeducation, Middlesex commemorated 50 years of girls' athletics during the St. George's Day home games on November 8, 2026. Among those who returned to celebrate were: (front row, left to right) Emily Stark '12, Betsy Lawrence '78 P'12, Tory Field Eskelsen '02, Hadley Lapham Horner '94, Melissa Woll Liska '84 P'27, Judi White Tauriac '90, Tory Arnold Bois '08, and Melissa Ostuni Gemmell '99; (back row) Allison Kaveney Farkes '02, Ginny Simonds Ramos '88, Sarah Perkins Thomas '88, Megan Terry Wallace '93 P'26, Middlesex's Head Athletic Trainer Laura Darby McNally '80 P'16, and Elise Terry Brown (daughter of Middlesex's second Headmaster Monk Terry).



Raising the Bar

Whether competing as a team or as individuals, Middlesex athletes strove to put their programs on the map, surpassing previous performances and achieving new personal bests this past winter.

Girls' Hockey: Tournament Contenders

Over the course of their four years together on the girls' varsity hockey team, five players saw their team progress from earning three victories in their freshman season to earning a spot in the 2026 NEPSAC Tournament for the first time in more than a decade. Seeded eighth, Middlesex faced Phillips Exeter in the quarterfinals on March 4, 2026, and nearly defeated the first seed, narrowly losing 4-3 in overtime to the eventual tournament champions. "They have left the program better than they found it, and I could not be prouder of them for that," Head Coach Briana Mastel says of the graduating seniors: Cassidy Bruno '26, Ali Marsters '26, Janie Martin '26, and Co-captains Luisa Ferrari '26 and Lily McTeague '26. "They did everything I asked of them," Briana adds, "and set a new standard for what we expect."



Named All-League and All-NEPSAC, Janie Martin '26 had an outstanding season, scoring her 50th career goal during the February 18th game against Lawrence Academy. She is the first girls' varsity hockey player in the history of Middlesex's program to reach this milestone.



Skating up the ice with poise, Co-captain Luisa Ferrari '26 helped push the offense forward to create scoring opportunities in an early 7-1 win against Proctor Academy.



A team trip to France and Switzerland during the winter break was a great bonding experience and another high point for many varsity players (see page 11).

Top Performances

Wrestling Medal-Winners



Co-captain Caleb Mitchell ’26 looked for an opening at the start of a match with BB&N in January. The following month, at the Graves-Kelsey Tournament on February 7, Caleb took fourth place at 190 lbs., while his teammate, Edgar Choi ’28, finished third at 165 lbs.



Competing in the newly created girls’ division at the Graves-Kelsey Tournament, Co-captain Katherine Deng ’26 (center) emerged as the ISL Champion at 120 lbs., while her teammate, Kassie Schaeberle ’26 (on left), finished second in that class and also claimed first at 114 lbs.



Reaching 1000

During the varsity’s February 6th game against Roxbury Latin, Co-captain Gavin DeLuties ’26 scored his 1000th career point, joining a small group of Middlesex players ever to achieve that milestone. Gavin will continue to play at Salve Regina University next year.



Nordic Night Practice

Head of School Bessie Speers (fifth from left) joined skiers on the Nordic team during a special night practice in February at Great Brook Ski Touring Center.

Season Highlights

For more sports news, visit athletics.mxschool.edu

Alpine Skiing



Co-Captain Andrew Visco ’26 helped lead Middlesex’s efforts in the giant slalom at the NEPSAC Class A Championships, concluding four years as a member of the varsity squad. (Photo by Risley Sports Photography)



Taking a fast and tight line to a top 10 finish in the slalom at the NEPSAC Class A Championships, Captain-elect Morgan Dennes ’26 was subsequently named All-League and All-NEPSAC for the season.



Boys’ Basketball

Along with fellow Co-captains Gavin DeLuties ’26 and Jules Lewis ’26, Co-captain Jake Freeman ’26 was instrumental in leading the Middlesex varsity through adversity this season. Next year will find Jake playing for Rollins College, while Gavin plays for Salve Regina University and Jules plays for Johns Hopkins University.



Nordic Skiing

Thanks to regular snowfall, Middlesex’s Nordic program fit in a record 10 races last winter. On the “home” course in Weston, Co-captain Alex Hood ’26 (at left), Allan Lu ’28 (below, left), and Co-captain Terry Qi ’26 (below, middle) were among those who competed in the regular “Friday Night Lights” races that included Andover, Rivers, and Belmont Hill.





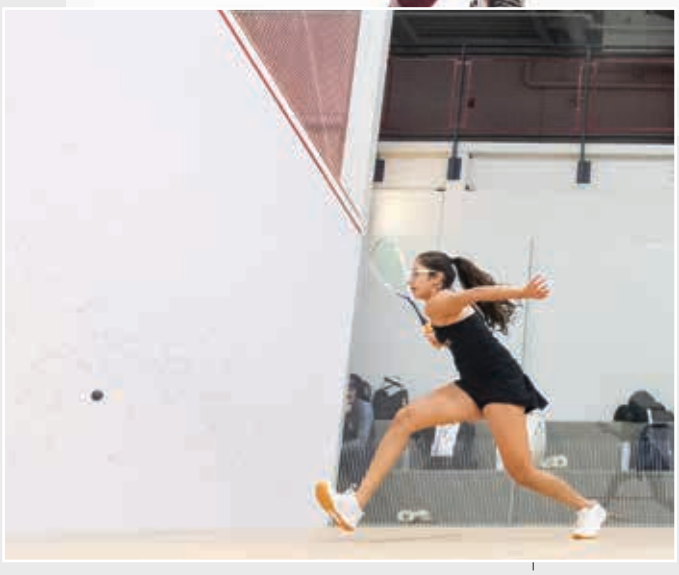
Girls’ Basketball

An All-League Honorable Mention this season, Co-captain Carsen Hill ’27 drove to the basket during an early contest with Deerfield Academy that ended with a 60-24 win for Middlesex.



Boys' Hockey

Captain Charlie Brand '26 charged into the zone to get a shot on the net in an early 5-0 win against Academie Saint-Louis. He earned an All-League Honorable Mention for the season.



Girls' Squash

On her way to an undefeated season, Anjali Mehta '27 stretched for a forehand drive in an early victory over Winsor. Named All-League and All-NEPSAC, she helped her team finish the regular season with a 12-3 record, the program's best since 2001.



Boys' Squash

Captain Evan Hur '26 returned a backhand rail in his January 28th match with Pomfret, ultimately earning All-League and All-NEPSAC Honorable Mentions for his performance this past winter.



Dance

The combination of dynamic choreography and great musical selections made the Winter Dance Concert a hit with the audience on February 20—and a memorable performance for 16 dancers and their co-captains, Sixing Wang '26 and Melissa Chan '27.

PERFORMING Arts

Everybody

Kaye Theatre | November 14 & 15, 2025

A modern riff on the 15th century morality play, *Everyman*, this fast-paced comedy written by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins follows the character of Everybody as they journey through life's greatest mystery: the meaning of living. While Middlesex audiences could probably guess the play's dark ending, they found performances both surprising and surprisingly fun.









Kodachrome

Fortmiller Studio Theatre
January 9 & 10, 2026

Through the narration and pictures of a small town's official photographer, the personal lives of the residents of Colchester are gradually revealed in Adam Szymkowicz's moving play about love, nostalgia, and grief.



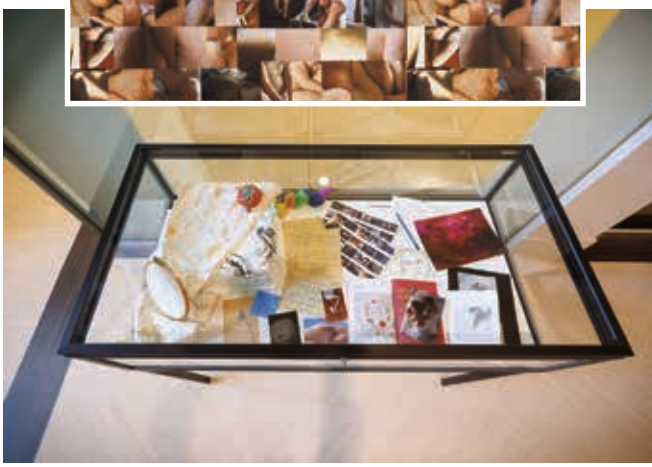




VISUAL Arts

Following the fall's first exhibition—*I know not how to be me* by Cenìnye Harris '21 (see page 52)—Middlesex hosted exhibitions by two dynamic and distinguished artists.





In the Ishibashi Gallery

Changing Skins

Joetta Maue | November 4—December 19, 2025

Presented in conjunction with a nearby exhibition—*Motherhood as Muse* at the Concord Center for Visual Arts—*Changing Skins* was a wonderful opportunity for Middlesex to showcase a solo exhibition of new and selected works by multidisciplinary artist Joetta Maue, while also partnering with a highly regarded cultural hub in downtown Concord. As part of this collaboration, on December 2, Middlesex hosted a panel of *Motherhood as Muse* artists that was moderated by Ms. Maue and featured Merle Comeau, Anastasia Sierra, and Lisa Barthelson.

In *Changing Skins*, Ms. Maue drew on the domestic landscape and her lived experience as a mother and caregiver to illuminate moments of quiet beauty, transformation, and the invisible labor of care. The title of the exhibition was taken from one of the featured works that captures the emotional duality running through the artist's practice: the simultaneous grief and yearning that accompany growth, aging, and change.

Gestations

Wendy Edwards
January 7–February 27, 2026

Bringing together recent work with key earlier pieces, *Gestations* illuminated Wendy Edwards' ongoing exploration of abstraction and the cyclical forces of life. A painter and professor emerita of visual art at Brown University, Professor Edwards has long been recognized for her richly colored and textured paintings filled with abstracted botanical and bodily forms that overlap and entangle across lush, atmospheric surfaces. Confronting life's continuous cycles of birth, loss, sexuality, and regeneration, this body of work emerged in response to the death of the artist's father and the birth of her first grandson.









Contemplating Identity



IN FEBRUARY 2020, when he was a Middlesex junior, Andrew Harris '21—known today by his Liberian name, Cenìnye—became the first student and only the third artist to have a solo exhibition in the School's new Ishibashi Gallery. On view throughout Black History Month that year, *MX Fam: My Voice, My Power* was his impressive display of 59 distinct portraits of Middlesex students and faculty members, with each image celebrating that individual's unique identity. The collection highlighted the variety of experiences and cultures among the School's Black and Latinx community members while also challenging assumptions about a monolithic, group identity.

Continuing to break new ground, Cenìnye can now say he is the very first artist to have a second solo exhibition in the Ishibashi Gallery. Opened on September 4, 2025, *I know not how to be me* still explored the concept of identity, though in a strikingly different way. The exhibition consisted of 16 images, varying in size and placement, most of which were hung on the walls in decorative frames. The visibility of his subjects also varied, as many were enveloped in darkness, with light catching only the brightness of eyes, the gleam of jewelry, or the faint outline of a figure.

As Cenìnye explained in his exhibition statement, "I used to think that if I could name myself completely, I'd feel more certain in the world—that knowing would bring freedom. But the more I searched for answers on identity and purpose, the more I realized that certainty was never the point." Through reading the work of French philosopher and writer Édouard Glissant, Cenìnye came to appreciate Glissant's idea that "we each have a right to not be fully known or explained, a right to opacity."

I know not how to be me, Cenìnye reflected, "is a soft refusal of certainty, an offering of wonder and rest and a slow undoing of the need to be known."

Cenìnye is now completing his B.F.A. at the School of the Art Institute (SAIC), where he was one of the first undergraduates awarded a solo show at SAIC's SITE Galleries, a venue traditionally reserved for graduate students. His work has also been included in group exhibitions across Chicago, as well as in the Griffin Museum of Photography, Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, and the Gene Siskel Film Center.

(Above) Cenìnye Harris '21 with Middlesex photography teacher Roan Callahan and Visual Arts Department Head Stacey McCarthy.

(Below) The 2020 exhibition *MX Fam: My Voice, My Power.*





In an all-school assembly on September 5, Cenìnye spoke about his artistic journey, his current work, and his self-described "obsession" with photography, which he attributed to the courses he took at Middlesex with visual arts teacher Roan Callahan. Back then, even before his first Ishibashi show, Cenìnye's work was already drawing attention beyond the School, as he was among the winners of *The New York Times*' 2019 high school photography contest. Subsequently, in 2021, he was recognized as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts and a YoungArts Finalist in Photography. Grateful to everyone who supported him as a student at Middlesex, Cenìnye said, "I cannot imagine where I would be without this place."

With a different perspective on identity today, Cenìnye advised his Middlesex audience about how to approach the photographs comprising *I know not how to be me*. "The portraits sit in opacity; you can be in relation with them without fully knowing them," he said. "Sit with them—speculate and wonder. It's OK not to know who you are; you're always becoming." **M**



Connect with Middlesex

at one of our upcoming gatherings



Nantucket
Alumni & Parent Reception
Tuesday, July 21, 2026
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Chatham, MA
Alumni & Parent Reception
Sunday, August 16, 2026
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

On Campus
Middlesex's 125th Celebration
Saturday, September 26, 2026

Washington, DC
Alumni & Parent Reception
Thursday, October 8, 2026
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Chicago, IL
Alumni & Parent Reception
Thursday, October 29
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Campus Visits

Sustaining the Middlesex Network

Through a variety of events, both near and far, the Middlesex Alumni Office helped to keep graduates, parents, and friends up to date with each other and the vibrant life of the School.



Boston Area Colleges: (front row, from left to right) Thatcher Foregger ’24, M’Kenzie Thompson ’23, Kennedy Wilson ’23, Ali Petrone ’23, Sydney Cogliano ’23, Gaby Alonso ’25, Jacquelyn Gao ’25, Mary Cummings ’24, Audrey Tang ’24, and Gretta Goorno ’23; (back row) Caio Bernardini ’25, Austin Sheu ’25, Ryan Wolff ’25, Nick Teller ’25, Preston Taylor ’22, Tim Smith ’23, Neha Kommineni ’22, Anna Bonazzoli ’25, Nykarra Graham ’24, Harrison Huang ’24, and Justin Li ’23.



Dartmouth College: (clockwise, from top left) Andrew Cao ’23, Luke Taylor ’24, Thea Choyt ’24, Nick Moore ’24, Sophie Bruno ’24, Maggie Cabot ’25, Dela McCaghren ’24, and Will Frank ’25.



Colby College: (in front, with Middlesex banner) James Counselman ’25, Jacob Thibodeau ’24, Avery Taylor ’24, and Charley DiAdamo ’23; (in back) Gray Malitsky ’24, Nolan Marsters ’25, Ryan Heldenbergh ’25, Alex Clapp ’25, Sophia Schubnel ’22, and Sawyer Rogers ’24.

Parent and Alumni Receptions

New York City

The Frick Collection, November 6, 2025

Sharing Missions of Excellence

The appeal of spending an evening at The Frick Collection drew more than 200 Middlesex guests to this premier museum and research center last fall, thanks to the evening's hosts, Trustee Juan Sabater and his wife, Marianna Nuñez P'26. Finding parallels between the magnificent venue and Middlesex, Head of School Bessie Speers reflected, "These are two time-honored institutions that for generations have been devoted to celebrating and preserving excellence with the goal of serving the greater good. At the heart of both institutions is the belief that human potential and creativity are the foundation upon which our society and communities are built."

While The Frick emphasizes "Art, Architecture, and Audience," Bessie noted, Middlesex's new Strategic Vision "calls for an investment in People, Place, and Program, reflecting a shared belief that physical spaces are formative in people's lives and that fostering a sense of place deepens one's sense of self," she said. "Our strategic plan and campus master planning efforts center on the idea that place and pedagogy are intrinsically entwined. Just like Henry Clay Frick's vision for this space, the Olmsted Brothers and our Founder Frederick Winsor believed that the beauty of our physical surroundings cultivates curiosity, intellect, humility, and civic responsibility."

To that end, Bessie affirmed, "We will preserve our campus, our founding ideals, and our mission, and innovate to best position our school and students for the future. For Middlesex, that means adapting pathways through our program, finding the right institutional posture towards artificial intelligence, promoting healthy relationships with teenagers and their technology, cultivating a philanthropic spirit, learning how to be good stewards of our environment, and engaging students in dialogue about democratic ideals."



Marissa and James Metcalf '92 with Head of School Bessie Speers and Board Chair Jason Robart P'11'13.



Grace Crozier '17, Summer Aslam '17, Louisa Crozier '19 and Middlesex's Head Athletic Trainer Laura Darby McNally '80 P'16.



Katie Waltman '16 and Charlotte Livingston '15.







Below: George Fulton ’21, Peter Gilbert ’21, Middlesex’s Director of Development Courtney Fein P’24, Kevin Campbell ’20, and James Ewing ’20.



Abby Meyers ’16, Emma Pratt ’16, Electra Washburn ’15, Claire Miller ’15, Katherine Khoury ’15, Annabel Schulz ’15, Abby Burden ’16, and Maddie MacMaster ’18.

ALUMNI Events

Boston

The Four Seasons, November 10, 2025



Alison Brown White ’77 P’06 and Head of School Bessie Speers.



Trustee Caroline Counselman P’25’28 with Harley and Bill Creelman P’25’28.



Emily Herter Sprong ’97 P’25’28, Natalie Shettle Herter ’03, Lizzie Bildner ’04, and Middlesex’s Associate Head of School Karlyn McNall P’21’23.



Board Chair Jason Robart ’83 P’11’13.



Middlesex’s Director of Alumni Relations John Morrissey P’18’22 with Mike Saunders P’26 and Lylah Alphonse P’26.



Amy Trumbull ’96, Jessica Haffajee ’96, and Liz Stetson ’96.



Middlesex English teacher Brian Powers ’15, Alex Mehm ’14, Kassiani Nacopoulos ’13, and Sarah Stephenson ’13.

California

San Francisco

THE BATTERY, JANUARY 27, 2026





Left: A Bay Area gathering hosted by Rob Chisholm ’97 (second from the left) drew a large crowd of Middlesex alumni and parents. Pictured with Rob are Tom Speers ’76, Sarah Butterfield Bromma ’98, and Alex Leary ’98. **Right:** Among those in attendance were (in front, from left to right): Chief Advancement Officer Heather Parker P’16’18, Kara Johnson ’91, Heidi Bauer Williams ’91, Thompson Bellingrath ’90, Eugene Awuah P’28, and Chief Advancement Officer George Noble P’23’25. Second row: Tree Tam P’22, Bart Goldie ’65, Hayden Hutson-Wiley ’21, Tom Speers ’76, Bruce Hart ’69, Whit Cheever ’02, Lyz Ferguson and Sam Mills ’60, Loren Kieve ’65, Kirsten Vernon P’24, and Cat Goulet P’22’26. Third row: Head of School Bessie Speers, Patrick Morris P’22, Bob Vernon P’24, Rob Chisholm ’97, Adam Saint-Prix ’90, Alex Leary ’97, Sarah Butterfield Bromma ’98, Ben Whitman ’01, Mal Scovil ’99, Jamie Taylor ’02, Greg Werntz ’03, Pam Hofsass P’24’26, and Daniel Wan ’03.

San Marino

THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, ART MUSEUM,
AND BOTANICAL GARDENS, JANUARY 29, 2026





Head of School Bessie Speers and Terry Trumbull ’77.

Left: Parents and alumni in Southern California enjoyed an evening reception hosted by Chris Norgaard ’66. Seated, left to right: Rebecca Basba P’26, Eugene Koh, Yuri Koh P’28, Ame Eaton ’03, Henry Hetz ’11, Head of School Bessie Speers, and Chief Advancement Officer George Noble P’23’25. Standing: Bayard Veiller ’66, Chief Advancement Officer Heather Parker P’16’18, Tom Speers ’76, JP Labrosse ’93, Chris Norgaard ’66, Mary Odusami ’19, Valerie and Terry Trumbull ’77, Vivian Roknian and Ed Scott ’84, David Sagal ’74, and McNally Sagal.

ALUMNI Events

Travels in Asia

Connecting once again with alumni and parents, Chief Advancement Officer George Noble P'23'25 made stops in six cities over nine days last December. Along the way, he was accompanied in five of those locations by Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Starry Zhu, who held admissions receptions for prospective families interested in knowing more about living and learning at Middlesex.

Seoul, Korea

Alumni and parents gathered for dinner at the Grand Hyatt on December 11, 2025. Seated, left to right: Dongmin Baik P'28, Jonathan Baek '03, Ji Sung Park '02, Na Young Cho '02, Starry and George, Judy Chi '05, Soobin Kim '06, and Haejung Chung '06. Standing: Jane Sung P'28, Suzy Min P'29, Sonia Chang P'27, Wendy Kim P'28, Jamie Park P'27, Judy Park P'24'26, Jun Hur P'24'26, Taeho Choi P'28, Sewhan Chon P'29, and Beomseok Oh P'29.



Shanghai, China

In each city, Head of School Bessie Speers spoke with families via Zoom before dinner, as she did here in Shanghai.





In attendance at Carys in Shanghai were (in front, left to right): Zhigao Zhang P'27, Jidong Cao P'28, Jinghuan Jiang P'29, Cathy You P'28, Judy Qian P'27, Hellen Liu P'26, Jin Yan P'20, Vicky Chen P'26, and Ying Zhang P'29. In back: Dawei Shi P'28, Tony Deng P'25, George, Zinan Wang P'29, Starry, Jie Dai P'25, Tom Lu P'20, and Hao Wu P'27.

Bangkok, Thailand

Joining the dinner at Bangkok's InterContinental Hotel were (from left to right): Worarat Paiboonbudsrakum P'27, Tooy Taepaisitphongse P'23, Micky Assakul '86, George, Worapol Paiboonbudsrakum, Supot Tanglertsumphun P'27, Francois and Dina Gallien P'29, Kiran Budhraja P'26, and Starry.





Beijing, China

Middlesex's second evening in Beijing gave parents of both current students and alumni a chance to meet and talk during dinner. From left to right: Hongwei Ma P'19'28 (kneeling), James Li P'17 and Jessie Liang P'17, Starry, Pei Pei Zhang P'15, Lixin Xia P'21'23, Xia Feng P'29, Sophy Zhang P'21, Jin Wang P'29, Yongli Fan P'15, Birong Zhang P'27, Lan Shao P'29, and George (kneeling).

Hong Kong

Standing between George and Starry are Steven Leung '03, Candace Hahm '09, and Boris Yu '10.





The final stop on Middlesex's tour drew alumni and families to The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club for dinner on December 18, 2026. From left to right: Brandon Zhao, Angela Zhou P'29, Chelsea Zhang P'28, Lawrence Chan and Carol Won P'26'27, Boris Yu '10, Starry, Noven Wan P'16, George, Eunice Yuen P'26, Wendy Liu P'28, Steven Leung '03, Kevin Chan P'26, and Willian Chan P'29'27.

Annual Career Panels

The Middlesex Alumni Association's 2026 Career Panels were once again well-attended and highly informative sessions for those exploring a variety of professional fields.

Boston Panelists

January 6, 2026

Greg Romero '99
Founder and Principal of Romero Solutions Group

Bill Creelman P'25'28
CEO of Spindrift Beverages Company

Nancy House Marchand '11
Wealth Advisor at J.P. Morgan

Hadley Stecker Sims '09
Director of Industry Communications at Zillow

Grace Mahoney '10
Director of R&D Data Science and Digital Health at Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine

Tap Stephenson '10
Co-founder and CTO of Claim



Serving as panelists in Boston were (from left to right): Greg Romero '99, Bill Creelman P'25'28, Nancy House Marchand '11 (who arranged for the event to be held at J.P. Morgan's Rowes Wharf Offices), Hadley Stecker Sims '09, Grace Mahoney '10, and Tap Stephenson '10.

New York City Panelists

January 7, 2026

Hadley Brooke '12
Senior Associate at Starr Private Equity Partners

Alden French '09
Director of Relationship Management at Grata

Odamea Akomah Gbamuse '04
Associate Director of Enterprise Technology User Success and Advocacy at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Andy Pitts '84
Partner at Cravath Swaine & Moore

Arushi Ray '14
Co-founder and COO of Forty5Park

Tom Scott '06
Senior Director at E-Y Parthenon

Gergana Thiel P'28
Global Co-head of Macro Sales at J.P. Morgan

The Park Avenue Headquarters of JPMorganChase was the place for Middlesex alumni to meet, thanks to arrangements made by current parent Gergana Thiel P'28.



Fam Reception

January 8, 2026

Graduates from the last six decades stopped by Chica and The Don in New York City to meet fellow alumni and catch up on Middlesex news. Seated, left to right: Chief Officer for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Jason Sport, Taylor Portlock ’22, and Head of School Bessie Speers. Standing, left to right: Carlos Quirola ’05, Steve Gunn ’06, Andrew Granato ’13, Awilda Rivera ’02, Joanne Orhue Raji ’01, Prentis Robinson ’07, Rhoden Monrose ’05, Ray Sanchez ’96, Middlesex Alumni Association President and Trustee Gavin Johnson ’09, Diego Maquieira ’09, Chris Lawrence ’09, Tom Speers ’76, Jacqueline Oyola, Trustee Freddie Pantoja ’85, and Trustee Courtney Portlock P’20’22.





Carlos Quirola ’05, Joanne Orhue Raji ’01, Steve Gunn ’06, and Andrew Granato ’13.



Tom Speers ’76 and Trustee Freddie Pantoja ’85.



Head of School Bessie Speers and Prentis Robinson ’07.



Trustee Courtney Portlock P’20’22 greets Chris Lawrence ’09.

IN Memoriam

Douglas P. Stickley, Jr. '43

The School recently learned that Douglas Penn Stickley, Jr. died on October 5, 2019.

The son of Julia Ward and Captain Douglas P. Stickley, Doug was born on November 1, 1925, and joined the fifth class at Middlesex in 1938. After receiving his diploma, he attended Harvard for a year before transferring first to the U.S. Naval Academy and then to the U.S. Military Academy. Doug graduated in 1949 with a B.S. in military engineering and was later discharged from active duty in 1964 at the rank of captain. He subsequently earned his M.A. in American literature at George Washington University and worked as a writer and editor for the National Archives in Washington, DC, until his retirement in 1985.

At the time of his death, Doug was survived by his wife Joan; his three daughters, Victoria Lynch, Stephanie Stickley, and Alexandra Albright; his two sons, Douglas and Patrick; 11 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. His uncle, **Thomas C. Howard (1920)**, was also a Middlesex alumnus.

John Bisbee '44

John Bisbee died on October 24, 2025, at Wake Robin in Shelburne, VT.

Born in Concord, MA, on October 22, 1926, John was the son of Dorothy Winsor and Elliot W. Bisbee (Middlesex faculty member from 1919 to 1922 and 1925-1946). John had two homes: Middlesex, where his grandfather—the School's founder, Frederick Winsor—reigned as a stern headmaster, and Fisher Hill, his parents' farmhouse in Fayston, VT, where he spent his summers and eventually moved full time. John earned an A.B in astronomy at Harvard College and an M.S. in astronomy at Case Institute of Technology. He married Margaret Kim Bisbee, with whom he had four children, and later married Brenda Bradley Bisbee, thereby gaining two stepsons.

As an engineer in the aerospace industry, John developed optical systems for reconnaissance during the Cold War but refused to work on any weapon-related projects. He then transitioned to space exploration, helping design cameras for locating options for the first moon landing and the first camera that landed on the surface of Mars. John was very proud of his prowess with the lost art of a slide rule and later spreadsheets. He continued to pursue his passion for woodworking until his late 80s, crafting beautiful furniture and creating unique woodworking jigs.

In retirement, John and Brenda volunteered full time. After serving as a hospice visitor for a decade, he became a guardian ad litem for the next 29 years, working in the interest of children in court cases in Burlington. As with all his beliefs—the importance of family, volunteerism, and philanthropy; a women's right to choose; a song for every occasion; the right to ice cream at least once a day—he advocated for and ultimately embodied the concept of death with dignity as a fundamental right. John was a gentleman in the sense that he was a very gentle man: courtly, kind, and humble. His family is deeply indebted to the Wake Robin staff who showered him with love and care in his final years.

In addition to his wife Brenda, John was predeceased by his brothers, **Frederick W. Bisbee '41** and **Ethan W. Bisbee '46**, and his sisters,

J. William Middendorf II '43



John William Middendorf II died on October 24, 2025, in Fall River, MA.

Born in Baltimore, MD, Bill entered Middlesex's third class in 1940 as a Prize Scholar. On graduating, he studied naval science at the College of the Holy Cross and served as an engineer officer and navigator aboard the USS LCS(L) 53 in the Pacific during World War II. After the war, Bill earned degrees from Harvard University and New York University before embarking on a career in investment banking, co-founding Middendorf, Colgate & Company, which held a seat on the New York Stock Exchange.

Bill rose to national prominence as the treasurer of the Republican National Committee and Barry Goldwater's 1964 presidential campaign. In 1969, President Nixon appointed Bill as ambassador to the Netherlands, a role he held until 1973. He later served as undersecretary and then secretary of the Navy under Presidents Nixon and Ford. President Reagan appointed him as U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States and later to the European Community. A destroyer now being built for the U.S. Navy will bear his name: the USS *J. William Middendorf*.

In recognition of his impressive service, Bill was the first recipient of Middlesex's Henry Cabot Lodge (1920) Distinguished Alumni Award in 1993. Beyond government, he was an accomplished artist, author, and composer. A longtime resident of Little Compton, RI, Bill remained active in community life there.

Predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Isabelle Jackson Paine, his daughter Martha, and his son John, Bill is survived by two daughters, Frances Middendorf and Dr. Amy Givler; a son, **Ralph H. Middendorf '84**; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Middlesex graduates in Bill's family include his late brother, **W. Kennedy B. Middendorf '45**; his late cousin, **Peter B. Middendorf '63**; and his nephew, **Christopher S. Middendorf '70**.

IN Memoriam

G. Alan Austin-Nelson, Jr. ’53



Retired Middlesex faculty member Gunnard Alan Austin-Nelson—affectionately known as Al Nelson—passed away peacefully on September 24, 2025, surrounded by loved ones.

Born on April 12, 1935, in New Britain, CT, Al was a graduate of Mooreland Hill School and Middlesex. He went on to graduate from Yale University, where his academic pursuits were briefly paused for service in the U.S. Army 11th Airborne, where he saw action as a medic in the Korean War. Al later received a graduate degree from Princeton University. His life was filled with a remarkable range of vocations and passions: He was a police officer in New Britain, CT; a professor of English and Latin at Dartmouth College; a lumberjack and owner of Middlesex Wood Co.; and a beloved, dynamic teacher, dean, and coach during his Middlesex tenure from 1972 to 2000.

Al was a true Renaissance man. A member of the Yale football team, he gained the lifelong distinction of having scored a touchdown against Harvard in his freshman year. He was also a Minor League baseball player, a devoted lover of music, and a fierce and tireless chess competitor who never let his grandchildren win a match, no matter how hard they tried. His intellect was matched only by his warmth, generosity, merrymaking, and wit. An adventurer, scholar, family man, and mentor to many, he will be deeply missed, but his spirit will live on in the stories, laughter, and love he shared with all who knew him.

Predeceased by his first wife, Susan Twichell Nelson, Al is survived by his wife of more than 20 years, Marilyn Austin-Nelson; his children, **Constance Nelson White ’76**, **Karen Nelson Tassinari ’77**, **Kimberly Nelson Lander ’81**, and Jay Nelson; his stepdaughters, Emily and Rebecca Baldwin; 11 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two sisters; and three brothers.

Frederick C. Calder ’53

Frederick Coverly Calder passed away on November 4, 2025.

Born on July 19, 1935, Fred spent his early childhood in Brooklyn, NY, before moving with his family to Garden City, Long Island, in 1941, where he attended St. Paul’s School. In 1950, his family settled in Concord, MA, and Fred entered Middlesex’s third class. After graduating, he went on to Harvard College and later earned his master’s degrees in education and administration from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Fred began his career teaching American history at Belmont Hill School before becoming head of the Town School in New York City in 1965. He later served as the head of Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia (1970–1986) and as executive director of the New York State Association of Independent Schools (1986–2007). Following his retirement, he continued to consult with schools for several years and served on numerous educational and nonprofit boards throughout his life.

Fred had a lifelong devotion to Lake Placid, NY, both the community and the lake, as his family began staying at the Lake Placid Club in 1943. Fred and his family rented camps there for several summers until he and his second wife, Gail, bought Camp Alouette on the west shore and later purchased Camp Blackhawk, which Fred owned for 39 years. In addition to his long association with the Shore Owners Association, he chaired the Lake Placid Education Foundation and served on the boards of the Lake Placid Center for the Arts and the Adirondack Community Foundation (AFC).

He is survived by his partner of 27 years, Meredith Prime; his first wife, Lelia Calder; his brother, **Bartley H. Calder ’58**; his sons, Grant, Wynn, and Max Calder; his stepdaughter, Alison Wald; five grandchildren; and two nieces and two nephews. Fred was predeceased by his sister, Norma Juliani; his brother, Bill Calder; his second wife, Gail Calder; and his stepson, John Wald.

Skip Newhall ’56

Skip Newhall died on May 4, 2025.

Skip was born on April 15, 1938, in San Francisco, CA, to Scott and Ruth Newhall. The recipient of a Middlesex Prize Scholarship, Skip joined the fourth class in 1952 and, on receiving his diploma, went on to graduate with distinction from Stanford University in 1960 with a B.S. in mathematics and a minor in physics. He received his Ph.D. in applied mathematics in 1972 from the California Institute of Technology. In the 1980s, Skip legally

Alice Bisbee Zamore and Joyce Bisbee Andrews.

He is survived by his four children, Daniel, Alice, Janet, and **Michael K. Bisbee ’71**; two stepsons, **Robert B. Simonds ’74** and **Joshua L. Simonds ’80**; 10 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and his brother, **Thomas Bisbee ’51**. John’s Middlesex family connections are even more extensive and include two nephews, **Frederick W. Zamore ’67** and **Peter H. Zamore ’70**; his niece, **Lisa Andrews Hooper ’78**; a grandnephew, **Ian P. Dwyer ’84**, and grandniece, **Jessica W. Andrews ’21**; and many cousins, among whom are **John W. Pratt ’48**, **Frederick A. Pratt ’50**, **Hugh R. Beyer ’76**, **Thomas P. Beyer ’81**, **Maria Theresa Pratt ’83**, and **Samuel F. Pratt ’85**.

changed his name to X.X. from his birth name Nicholas.

From 1961 to 1997, Skip was a member of the technical staff for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, CA. His areas of work and research included spacecraft trajectory calculation, spacecraft mission operations, and spacecraft orbit determination, along with planetary ephemeris development, radio astronomy, and very long baseline interferometry, as well as solar system astronomy and lunar laser ranging. After retiring from the JPL, Skip frequently gave presentations on scientific topics.

Skip spent years on personal projects and science-related hobbies, including a project he started in 2004: taking the temperature at Death Valley National Park. His notable findings included recording a temperature of 134 degrees Fahrenheit on July 17, 2005, at about 5:00 p.m., tying the world record set in Death Valley in 1913. He traveled to Death Valley every few weeks in his trusty 1988 Toyota Celica, which racked up more than 500,000 original miles. Skip, who enjoyed throwing parties, held a birthday party for his Toyota every 100,000 miles, with the last one held for the car in 2009.

An active supporter of numerous Santa Clarita Valley nonprofits, Skip served on the College of the Canyons Foundation Board of Directors from 2010 to 2013 and was involved in the early years with the Boys & Girls Club of the Santa Clarita Valley's annual fundraising auction.

Skip is survived by his wife, Lorena Sumaoang; and his brother **Anthony Newhall '59**. He was preceded in death by his parents and his siblings, Penny Newhall and Jonathan Newhall.

Edward D. Priest '56

The School recently learned that Edward Dwight Priest died on September 8, 2023.

The son of Emma Louis Havens and Dwight Edward Priest, Ted was born on December 1, 1936, and attended Fay School before entering Middlesex in 1951. After graduating, he attended the University of Virginia and served in the U.S. Army before beginning his career in 1961 with Parker Manufacturing Company in Worcester, MA. By 1966, Ted had become the company's president.

Further details about Ted's life were not available at the time of publication; if available, additional information will be printed in a future issue.

Oren K. Boynton '58

On February 14, 2026, Oren Kendall Boynton passed away in peace at his home, surrounded by his three children. He had stoically fought against cancer for over a decade.

Born in White Plains, NY, on May 16, 1940, Oren was the only child of Margaret Pratt and **Elwood D. Boynton '31**. As a young child during WWII, he and his mother moved from Panama to the West Coast, following his father's Navy vessel. After the war, they settled in Scarsdale, NY, where Oren attended school until he joined the fourth class at Middlesex in 1954. On graduating, he attended Hobart College for a year and then transferred to the University of Pennsylvania, where he was member of the varsity swimming team and broke numerous college records. He earned a B.S. in economics in 1962 from the Wharton School of Business.

At his father's 25th Harvard Reunion, Oren met his wife Beth, and the rest is history. They settled in Rye Brook, NY, while he worked on Wall Street for U.S. Trust, Lehman Brothers, Bacon Stevens and Co., and the John Muir/Rooney Pace Co. In 1975, the family relocated to Litchfield, CT, where Oren was actively involved in many aspects of the local community, including driving for the Litchfield Volunteer Ambulance with Beth by his side. He guided his children to be productive and honest in life, words that he most certainly lived by.

Oren loved the water and all things nautical—cruising the New England Coast, the Inland Waterway, and islands in the Caribbean—and he also canoed with his children in Maine. He enjoyed traveling the world, especially his trip down the Nile to visit the great pyramids and hiking the Inca trail up to Machu Picchu in Peru.

Oren was predeceased by his beloved wife Beth just two weeks before he passed away. They are survived by their sons, William and Alden; their daughter, Meghan Lyons; and five grandchildren. His late uncle, **William W. Boynton '33**, was also a Middlesex graduate.

P. David Junkin '59

Peter David Junkin passed away on January 13, 2024, after a short illness.

David was born in New York City to Lois Swan and **Joseph de Forest Junkin (1927)** on October 9, 1941.

Like his father, uncle, **Peter D. Junkin '32**, and older brother, **Joseph S. Junkin '57**, David came to Middlesex, joining the sixth class in 1953. On receiving his diploma, he earned a degree in business administration with an emphasis on wildlife business management from Nichols College and went on to earn a B.S. in nature interpretation at Springfield College. After college, he served in the Navy for four years. During his tour in the Mediterranean Sea, he spent most of his shore leaves searching for birds, which he recorded in journals that he maintained throughout his life.

In 1978, David moved to the Buffalo area to become the director of the Buffalo Audubon Society Beaver Meadow Nature Center in North Java, NY, where he remained until his retirement in 1998. He married Sandra Limburg on October 28, 1998, and they settled in Bliss, NY. Well-known "birders" in Western New York, they have been instrumental in the education of hundreds of bird enthusiasts.

Starting at age 16, David had a federal bird banding permit, and one of his favorite places to spend time was in the bird banding lab at his home. In 2007, he discovered a hybrid warbler, which—after DNA testing at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology—was named "Junkin's Warbler." One of David's greatest gifts to his family was sharing his knowledge of birds and bird banding with multiple generations of nieces, nephews, and grandchildren. David's enthusiasm and interest in birding was contagious, and he will be long remembered for his work in this area.

In addition to his wife Sandra, David is survived by his stepson, Sean Burton; three grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews, including **Angus H. Junkin '90**.

William M. Mathers '62

William Martin Mathers died suddenly and unexpectedly of cardiac arrest in Portsmouth, NH, on January 19, 2026.

Bill was born on October 5, 1943, and joined the fourth class at Middlesex from East

IN Memoriam

Woods School in 1958. After serving as senior class president and receiving his diploma, Bill earned his B.A. at Yale University and then joined the U.S. Navy, serving until 1970. His experience as a salvage and diving officer led to Bill becoming a salvage master and deep-sea diver for Oceaneering International and Wallem & Company from 1970 to 1974. Subsequently, from 1975 to 1984, he was a founding partner and project manager of IPCO Marine, a construction company specializing in rapid installation of onshore and offshore oil and gas-related projects, marine facilities, and industrial plants.

In July 1984, while sailing near Vietnamese territorial waters, Bill and his crew were captured by the Vietnamese Navy. His sailboat was impounded, and Bill was kept in solitary confinement until his release in March 1985 after long diplomatic involvement. He then founded and led Pacific Sea Resources from 1986 to 2025, directing multiple archaeological recoveries, including the Concepción Project, which located a Manila galleon lost off Saipan in 1638. The collection of recovered artifacts is now on permanent display in the National Museum in Saipan. His work was documented in a *National Geographic* cover article in September 1990 and in a book, *The Treasure of the Concepción*.

Wherever he lived, Bill quickly made friends and involved himself in projects to help the community. He coached young women runners in the Girls on the Run organization and started a financial/investing strategy forum for his grandnieces and grandnephews. If anyone needed help, Bill made himself available. His family and large, diverse circle of friends are feeling the void left behind by this man known for his generosity, humor, and creativity.

Bill is survived by his three sisters, Ursula M. Nehrt, Myra M. McAnulty, and Ann C. Mathers; and several nieces and nephews, including **Spenser S. Nehrt '09**. His cousin, **Katherine L. T. Koehne '19**, is also a Middlesex graduate, as were his late brothers, **Michael H. Mathers '64** and **John G. Mathers '65**, and his late grandfather, **Grinnell Martin (1906)**.

Raymond E. Clark '66

Raymond Evans Clark passed away on December 8, 2025.

The son of Rosemary R. and Edward F. Clark, Ray was born on June 12, 1948. From St. Bernard's School in New York City, he entered the fifth class at Middlesex in 1961; on graduating, he earned an A.B. in fine arts at Harvard College, followed by an M.R.P. in city and regional planning at Harvard's Graduate School of Design.

Ray began his career as a regional planner in Billings, MT, where he worked for five years before joining Baugh Construction, serving as the director of development for this general contractor with projects in Washington, Oregon, and California. In 1982, after moving to Denver, CO, Ray became a general partner at the real estate firm of Burlington Properties, focusing on development in both Denver and Billings. Returning to Montana, he became the CEO of Riversage Inns in Billings.

In addition to his wife, Juni Henrickson Clark, Ray is survived by their daughter Lucy.

Robert S. Rooth '67

Robert Stephen Rooth died peacefully, with his family by his side, in New Orleans, LA, on December 15, 2025, after a valiant battle with cancer.

Bob was born on February 6, 1949, in Dallas, TX, to Ethelyn Kennedy and **Stephen Rooth '37**. He entered Middlesex's fifth class in 1962 and, after graduating, received his B.A. from Princeton University in 1971. In 1972, Bob married Ann Carroll Rooth in Italy. The couple then moved to New Orleans, where Robert earned his J.D. from the Tulane University School of Law in 1977. Upon his graduation, they made New Orleans their permanent home, and Bob began his long career as a highly distinguished attorney at Chaffe McCall, LLP.

An esteemed senior partner at the firm, Bob devoted more than 45 years to the practice of law, and his career was marked by significant achievements and awards. He was a wise and steady presence whose generosity knew no bounds. Bob particularly cherished participating in the firm's Summer Associate Program, where he was known for his thoughtful mentorship of students entering the legal profession.

Bob was actively involved in many community and civic organizations. He was an avid reader, writer, cook, cartoonist, and outdoorsman who loved travel, music, and good food. Bob was also a skilled fisherman and sailor. In 1971, he and a group of friends built a home on Bequia, a small island in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and the house is part of Moonhole, a private nature preserve and community. Profoundly kind, and with a generous spirit, Bob moved through the world with a remarkable gentleness and sparkling wit, both of which made him a friend to all he met.

Predeceased by his parents and his brother, **Scott K. Rooth '70**, Bob is survived by his wife of 54 years, Ann Carroll Rooth; their daughters, **Carroll Livingston Rooth '99** and Stephanie Schuyler Rooth; his sister, Susan Milliorn; six nieces and nephews; several cousins, including **Robert G. Atkins '74**, **James P. Atkins '06,** and **Elizabeth G. Atkins '11**; many members of the Moonhole Company community; and his many friends and colleagues. Bob's Middlesex legacy also includes his late uncle, **Edwin F. Atkins '47**; his late granduncle, **Edwin F. Atkins, Jr. (1911)**; and his late grandfather, **Robert W. Atkins (1906**).

Stephen K. Terhune '70

Stephen King Terhune died peacefully at his home on December 8, 2025, due to complications from cancer.

Born in Dallas, TX, on June 6, 1952, Steve was the youngest child of Helen "Chee" and Robert "Moose" Terhune. He joined Middlesex's fourth class in 1966 and, after receiving his diploma, earned a B.A. in history at Dartmouth College. Steve went on to study law at the University of Chicago. He believed strongly in the importance of education and was very proud of his academic achievements; he believed in giving back, and his vocal support for education had a big impact on those around him.

Steve was also a tireless supporter of the arts and enjoyed collecting art and antiques. He loved New York City and split his time between Illinois and New York, where he would attend Broadway shows, visit museums, and attend performances at Lincoln Center as part of the Metropolitan Opera Club, of which he

was a member and supporter for many years. Steve enjoyed golf and played until his body no longer allowed it. He was an expert on the *Titanic*, having read volumes about it, and owned an impressive collection of authentic and reproduced *Titanic* relics.

While Steve traveled extensively and enjoyed experiencing new cultures—often bringing a nephew or niece along—his favorite place to spend time was, without question, Northport Point, MI, where he enjoyed all his summers with his closest friends and relatives. Although Steve never married, he had a wonderful, large family and friends whom he cherished and who cherished him. He fought his cancer admirably with the help of many doctors, nurses, friends, and relatives, whom we offer heartfelt thanks.

Predeceased by his parents, Steve is survived by his brother Terry; two sisters, Taffy and Patty; as well as two nephews, a niece, and their respective children.

Barnaby Myhrum '76

Barnaby Myhrum passed away from a heart attack on December 27, 2025, in Chester, VT.

The youngest of four children, Barnaby was born in Mt. Kisco, NY, on February 21, 1958, to Barbara Bentley and Robert Myhrum. The family moved to their home in Peru, VT, when he was young, and from then on, he considered the Vermont lifestyle to be his true north.

Barnaby arrived at Middlesex as a tenth grader in 1973 and, after graduating, earned a B.S. in mechanical engineering at the University of Vermont. While there, he helped start the men's lacrosse team and was a co-captain in his senior year. Barnaby was also the Charlie Catamount mascot for the winter season, and he both skated and skied at events in costume, winning over the crowds with his humor. He went on to earn an M.B.A. from Carnegie Mellon University.

Barnaby's professional career included several years in aeronautical engineering, working on the design of turbine engines for large commercial and military applications. After completing his M.B.A., he went on to manage engineering and manufacturing businesses in Pittsburgh, PA, and later in southern Vermont, where he lived for the rest of his life.

A well-informed person whose intelligence and dry sense of humor marked his conversations and friendships, Barnaby had a deep love for poetry. He was always curious about how things worked and was a news junkie who stayed on top of understanding and analyzing events. Barnaby was a great observer of nature who enjoyed bird hunting, fishing, hiking, and skiing, at which he excelled. He also enjoyed tennis and golf— and food; he was happy to go from diner to fine dining as long as the service was great. In retirement, Barnaby enjoyed working on building projects at home and puttering in the kitchen.

Barnaby is survived by his wife, Lisa McNealus; his children, Cally Myhrum and Phoebe Bentley; his stepchildren, Cooper McNealus and Leyte McNealus; and his siblings, Phoebe Clark, Polly Myhrum, and Christopher Myhrum, along with beloved nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and a grandnephew.

Christopher C. Badger '77

Christopher Clark Badger passed away from sudden complications while mountain

Archibald L. Gwathmey '70



Archibald Llewellyn Gwathmey died January 30, 2026, on Spring Island, SC, surrounded by the family he loved.

Born in Glen Cove, NY, on September 24, 1951, Archie grew up in Tuxedo Park, NY, where he attended the Tuxedo Park School before joining the fourth class at Middlesex in 1966. After graduating, he majored in classics and English at Harvard University, graduating cum laude in 1974. All along the way and thereafter, Archie was a devoted sportsman, particularly in racket sports of every kind, golf, and bridge. Always a determined and skillful competitor, he never lost sight of his goal to exit his contests as a generous opponent and true gentleman.

Soon after Harvard, Archie commenced what would be his 35-year career at Bunge, Ltd., the global agribusiness company. Starting in their New York Commodities Training Program, he continued developing his expertise in global grain and oilseed markets, advancing through trading, merchandising, strategic organizational, and executive management roles. Archie was named CEO of the newly formed Bunge Global Markets, where he was instrumental in helping build Bunge's global footprint in the Americas, Europe, and Asia, expanding commodity processing and marketing of finished products, and connecting global trading activities and competencies. By his retirement in 2011, he had become a CEO of Bunge Global Agribusiness.

Throughout his tenure, Archie developed a reputation for disciplined risk management alongside deep market knowledge. As important to him was his steadfast devotion to doing what was best for the company and his employees' well-being. With the same approach, he ably served as on the Middlesex Board of Trustees from 2006 to 2017.

Archie is survived by his wife Anne; his daughter Lucy; his son, **Archibald L. Gwathmey, Jr. '11**; and his brother, **Gaines Gwathmey III '65**. He also leaves behind a legion of loyal friends who knew him as smart, fun, kind, and generous—always willing to laugh, particularly in a self-deprecating way.

IN Memoriam

Faculty

Arthur Raybold, Jr.



Former Middlesex faculty member Arthur Raybold, Jr. died on February 23, 2026, which was his 95th birthday.

Art grew up in Mattapoisett, MA, and graduated from Fairhaven High School; he went on to earn a B.A. at Trinity College and an M.Ed. at Columbia University. Beginning his career teaching English at Nantucket High School, Art joined the Middlesex faculty in 1959 as an English teacher. During his decade-long tenure, he chaired that department, coached football, and lived with his family in Bryant-Paine House before moving to the farmhouse across Lowell Road. Art also taught and molded the curriculum for the newly established "A Better Chance" program, which was founded in 1963 to identify, recruit, and develop leaders among historically underserved young people throughout the United States.

On leaving Middlesex in 1969, Art co-founded the Dynamy Program in Worcester, MA, and later became the director of Project Learn for the Worcester Public School System. After a career in public education, he took his skills to the business world and retired at age 88 after a successful career in sales and marketing for several prominent companies in San Diego, CA.

A lifelong learner and educator, Art published a book of poetry in 2012 and his memoirs in 2018. He especially loved his dogs, writing, politics, and travel. Known for his energy, positive personality, and quick wit, Art will be missed by many, but his legacy lives on in all those he influenced. Many Middlesex students fondly remember Art not only as a teacher and mentor but as someone who opened their eyes to social action by bringing them into Boston to tutor students and to work with the Boston Redevelopment Authority. Social justice was his lifelong passion.

Art is survived by his wife, Suzanne Cadwallader; his son Tersh and daughter Alison; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

biking in the hills of San Jose, CA, on November 9, 2025.

Born on October 9, 1958, Chris was the son of Bill Badger and Betsy Badger Carlson. He grew up in Carlisle, MA, and graduated from The Fenn School before coming to Middlesex. On receiving his diploma, Chris went to Dartmouth College, where he rowed on the varsity crew and proudly competed at the Henley Royal Regatta in 1980. He graduated with a B.A. in engineering science in 1981 and went on to earn his M.S. in engineering science at Stanford University in 1983. In California, Chris found his stride as a Silicon Valley entrepreneur and technology evangelist.

Chris loved life on the West Coast— skiing in Sun Valley, duck hunting in the Bay, and biking year-round. Even into his 60s, he was a formidable athlete and outdoorsman. In 1989, he married Dene Rowell, and they eventually settled in Portola Valley. Over 35 years, Chris and Dene transformed their property from wild grass into a thriving homestead with fruit trees and vegetables, chickens and horses, and Chris' beloved beehives.

A historian at heart, Chris was deeply committed to land conservation—particularly in the Ketchum-Sun Valley area and at Fort Union Ranch in New Mexico—and was eager to ensure that the land would be better for the next generation. Chris was a supportive partner to Dene and offered patience and encouragement to his three sons. He lived with remarkable intention.

Predeceased by his father, Chris is survived by his wife Dene; their sons, Jackson, Carson, and Macklan; his mother; his sister, **Lisa Badger '80**; and the extended Rowell and Crist families in the Bay Area and Sun Valley.

Thomas M. Gardner '79

Thomas Miller Gardner—known to all who loved him as "Beau"—passed away on March 6, 2026, in Orlando, FL, following a courageous battle with cancer.

Born on August 15, 1961, in Honolulu, HI, Beau entered Middlesex in 1976 and, after graduating, earned his undergraduate degree from Southern Methodist University. He later pursued his passion for the culinary arts at Le Cordon Bleu, where he refined the skills that would bring so much joy to those fortunate enough to share his table.

In his final years, Beau divided his time between Vero Beach, FL, and San Sebastián, Spain. Among his most beloved escapes was Nantucket, MA, where the sea called to him as it always had. His passions were many: traveling to far-flung corners of the world, cooking with artistry and generosity, and running with the bulls at the Festival of San Fermín in Pamplona alongside his cherished friends—a tradition that captured everything Beau embraced about life. Tennis and fishing were his truest pastimes, pursuits that brought him equal measures of competition, calm, and joy. Cheering on his beloved Miami Dolphins was also a lifelong passion; every game was a must-watch, and Beau wouldn't have had it any other way. He leaves behind a world made warmer, more flavorful, and more alive for having known him. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

Beau is survived by his siblings, **Peter C. Gardner '85** and Courtney Gardner; and four nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Frances and **Frank C. Gardner '47**.



You made our year a tremendous success!

A heartfelt acknowledgment to our alumni, parents, grandparents, faculty, and staff, whose generosity supported our students and community during the 2025–2026 fiscal year.

Your collective support helped propel the Middlesex Annual Fund to over $3 million this year and alumni participation reached 40%, its highest level in seven years. We are also incredibly grateful to everyone who made 1,086 gifts during **MX**GIVES, our annual Giving Day this spring. A special congratulations to our senior class, whose efforts resulted in 100% participation during **MX**GIVES.

Every Annual Fund gift, no matter the size, enriches every aspect of the student experience. We are deeply grateful for the spirit and generosity of the entire Middlesex community.

Thank you!

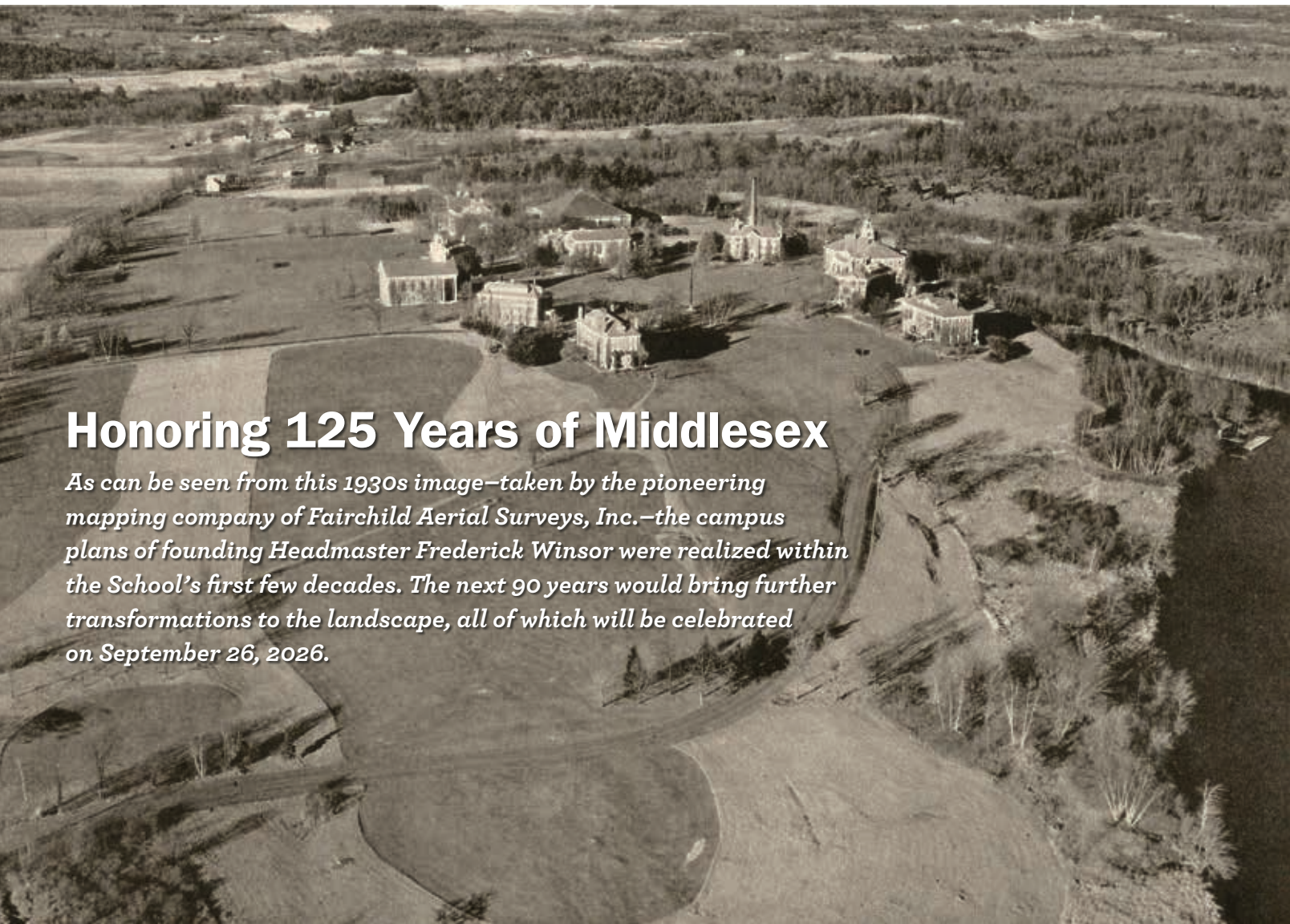
The Middlesex fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.
Gifts can be made at mxschool.edu/give.

Middlesex

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Honoring 125 Years of Middlesex

As can be seen from this 1930s image—taken by the pioneering mapping company of Fairchild Aerial Surveys, Inc.—the campus plans of founding Headmaster Frederick Winsor were realized within the School's first few decades. The next 90 years would bring further transformations to the landscape, all of which will be celebrated on September 26, 2026.