

# Middlesex

Fall 2018



# From the Head of School



## Becoming through Bonding

Last week, I heard a marvelous sentence attributed to the American poet e e cummings—“It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are”—and yes, when we articulate the values of honesty, gratitude, kindness, respect, and courage, *that* is the kind of courage perhaps most important to the formation of identity: the courage of integrity. At its most basic, integrity requires a unity of mind, body, spirit, principles, and actions. Achieving that unity with consistency—building integrity into our lives as habit—makes us people worthy of others’ trust. I would offer that any definition of success in *“finding the promise”* presupposes that we are worthy of trust. Integrity is a significant challenge for all of us these days, as screens offer unlimited opportunities for anonymity, along with a freedom from ethical responsibility that so often seems to accompany it. It is clear to me in my sixth decade that the growing up process extends throughout our lives, as long as the “becoming” continues, and as long as there is an “up” to which we as people aspire. That growing up certainly starts for all of us in childhood, and just as certainly, it never really ends.

But e e cummings also offers an insight as important for us today as we celebrate this work of growing up and becoming who we really are. Cummings writes, “We do not believe in ourselves until someone reveals that deep inside us something is valuable, worth listening to, worthy of our trust, sacred to our touch. Once we believe in ourselves we can risk curiosity, wonder, spontaneous

delight, or any experience that reveals the human spirit.” Issues can engage us, and that’s important, the capacity to engage and want to contribute; and urgency can inspire us, galvanize our ability to organize, to plan, to strategize. But building relationships—the real connections with others, based on understanding, respect, and yes, true affection—is what will sustain us, motivate us, and ultimately, over the hopefully long run of our lives, come to satisfy us. In the words of Carmen Beaton, our beloved, now-retired colleague, they are “the gift we give each other”—and they are the proverbial gifts that keep on giving, in that they join us together, past, present, and future.

Almost 20 years ago, the late Chase Peterson ’88 wrote about the “intimacy and intensity” of Middlesex as a crucible for a young person. That crucible of experiences has evolved into its twelfth decade in a world very much changed from the one that Mr. Winsor contemplated in founding this school—and yet, not so much changed in addressing the needs of young people at this critical, formative time in their lives. We still work with young people whose growth and development can be stimulated, nurtured, and, at times, accelerated by the presence of terrific peers and caring teachers. Together, we grow in pursuit of those best selves that we like to imagine—and perhaps more importantly, the contributions those best selves can make.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen C. Giles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## Middlesex

Fall 2018

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## Mission Statement

Middlesex School is an independent, non-denominational, residential, college-preparatory school that, for over 100 years, has been committed to excellence in the intellectual, ethical, creative, and physical development of young people. We honor the ideal, articulated by our founding Head Master, of “finding the promise” in every student, and we work together in an atmosphere of mutual trust and shared responsibility to help students bring their talents to fruition as knowledgeable, capable, responsible, and moral citizens of the world. As a community, we respect the individual interests, strengths, and needs of each student. We also value the rich diversity of belief and experience each of us brings to the School.

We expect that each student will bring his or her best efforts to the shared endeavor of learning and that the School, through its faculty, will engage and encourage each student’s growth, happiness, and well-being. We aspire for all Middlesex students to develop personal integrity, intellectual vitality and discipline, and respect for themselves and for others. We expect each student to engage energetically and cooperatively in the life of the School, and we seek to inspire in all students the desire to seek understanding of themselves and the larger world, both now and in their futures.

### On the Cover

*On a mid-week game day in October, the “Go Middlesex” banner brightly adorned Eliot Hall. Photo by Joel Haskell.*



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*Setting the Stage*



Next summer, at the close of her remarkable 16-year tenure at Middlesex, Head of School Kathy Giles will become the next Rector of St. Paul's School.

## Leadership Transitions

Middlesex's 2018–2019 academic year began with customary energy and optimism— as well as anticipation for new and unique curricular initiatives. A new Citizens course is being launched with the help of junior volunteers, who are discussing what it means to be an ethical citizen in a democracy. Volunteers from the junior class are also embarking on the first phase of the Middlesex Scholars program, which will guide them through a process of self-assessment and résumé building, culminating in a plan to find potential summer opportunities in their areas of interest. And the construction of new and renovated arts facilities has continued apace, approaching completion in the New Year.

### Embracing Change

Along with these developments, another process has been making steady progress. As many alumni, parents, and friends are aware by now, last July brought the announcement

that Head of School Kathy Giles will become the next Rector of St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire, making this her last year at Middlesex. In turn, a search has begun for her successor, the sixth head of school in Middlesex's 117-year history.

As Board President Stephen Lari '90 conveyed in his July letter to the School's constituencies, Kathy will be leaving a school that "due to her stewardship, is flourishing in every way." From outstanding students to record statistics in both admissions recruitment and in fundraising—and with a dedicated faculty and staff, beautifully enhanced campus, and healthy endowment—Middlesex has never been stronger, positioning the School well for a successful search process.

### A Communal Effort

During August, the executive search consulting firm of Spencer Stuart was selected to assist in finding excellent candidates, and seven trustees joined the Head of School Search Committee: Mary Lou Boutwell, John Brooke '81, Rodney Clark, Joy Connolly '87, Abby Doft '87, Ben Nye '83, and Andy Pitts '84. Three faculty members were also named to this committee—Chief Financial Officer Terry Cunningham, English Department Chair Jecca Hutcheson, and Mx Global Director Rob Munro—and an Advisory Committee of past trustees and former faculty was created to capitalize on their expertise in independent school leadership.

In September, the consultants and search committee began to meet regularly to identify the most important qualities to look for in the next head of school. After synthesizing input gathered through a community-wide survey and a campus visit by Spencer Stuart—which included interviews with faculty and staff—a formal, detailed position specification document was drawn up in early October and subsequently posted on the School's website at <https://www.mxschool.edu/head-search>.

Since then, the process has moved on to reviewing potential candidates, and the committee has been pleased and impressed with

the quality of leaders interested in the position. Ideally, the next Middlesex Head of School will be announced in January 2019.

### **Appreciating the Present**

In the meantime, the vibrant, everyday life of classes, chapels, games, and performances takes center stage on campus, with the opening of expansive, beautiful new spaces just on the horizon. Looking forward to all of these happenings, Kathy reflected last summer, “For the past 16 years, it has been an honor and a privilege for me to work with the people of this amazing Middlesex community. It continues to be a great joy to live and work with people of all ages who inspire me to curiosity, wonder, and much spontaneous delight. I speak on behalf of my wonderful husband Ralph and our three children, now grown, in offering our great gratitude for our time here, our abiding love for the people with whom we have stretched and grown and celebrated so much, and our incredible faith in and optimism about this school and community. We will always love Middlesex, and we count ourselves blessed.”

A tribute to Kathy and her many accomplishments will appear in the next issue of the *Alumni Bulletin*. **M**

## **McNall Appointed to Sheldon Chair**

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With the retirement of French teacher Carrie Bolster, the endowed chair that she held for six years became available for reappointment and has now been awarded to Karlyn McNall, the assistant head for faculty and academic affairs. Established in 1990 by gifts from alumni, family, and friends, the David F. and Judith W. Sheldon Chair honors David F. Sheldon—Middlesex’s third headmaster (from 1964 to 1990) and a trustee emeritus, who first joined the faculty in 1957—and his wife, Judith W. Sheldon, who helped establish the School’s Archives.

Karlyn joined the Middlesex faculty in 1994 from New Hampton School, where she chaired the history department, headed a dorm, and coached girls’ varsity soccer and basketball. In the years since, she has continued to teach history, also coaching girls’ varsity soccer and basketball for many seasons and leading LeBaron Briggs House for 18 years. Moving into a more administrative role in 2003, Karlyn first served as the director of studies before becoming the dean of academic affairs in 2005. She was named the assistant head for faculty and academic affairs in 2016.

Prior to her appointment to the Sheldon Chair, Karlyn was the first recipient of the Harrison S. Kravis Memorial Chair, established in memory of Harrison S. Kravis ’90 to support a faculty member teaching history or economics. Karlyn is a graduate of Williams College, where she captained the basketball team and received honors in history and psychology, and later earned her M.Ed. at Harvard. Karlyn lives on campus with her husband, Terrence Cassidy—who keeps the athletic program running smoothly as the School’s equipment manager—and their sons, Gavin ’21 and Tim.

In presenting the Sheldon Chair, Head of School Kathy Giles described Karlyn as



Administrator, teacher, coach, and dorm parent, Karlyn McNall has covered every corner of school life in the course of her 24 years at Middlesex.

“a problem-solver and a fixer,” adding, “Karlyn takes the same care with anyone’s schedule problem as she takes in presenting to our Board of Trustees; her integrity is palpable. As a teammate, she is trustworthy; as a leader, she is inspiring. It is to all of our benefit that she brings her wisdom and knowledge to work every day.” **M**



New faculty members arrived in August for an orientation day of their own. Front row, from left to right: Meg Alexander, Roan Callahan, and Akemi Ueda; middle row: Amy Gleason, Jason Sport, Meaghan Dalton Janger, Annie Kelly, Alejandro Saravia, Danielle Potwin, and John MacMullen; back row: Patrick Pothel and Toby McDougal.

## Welcoming New Colleagues

A busy, successful hiring season followed on the heels of several retirements and relocations at the close of last year, drawing new and talented professionals to Middlesex classrooms and offices.

Previously the dean of students at Austin Preparatory School, **Jason Sport** returns to teaching history full time, as he did earlier at the Williston Northampton School and the Gilman School. He is a graduate of Governor's Academy and Boston College.

Well-known to many from her 21 prior years on the faculty, **Amy Gleason** returns to Middlesex. The mother of three alumni—Danny '09, Sara '11, and Stevie '14—Amy has taught math at several independent schools, most recently, Dana Hall. She is a graduate of Princeton University with an M.Ed. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

New science teacher **John MacMullen** recently completed his A.B. in environmental studies at Brown University. A Taft School graduate, he is supporting the Dean's Office

as an intern. Also joining that office is Administrative Assistant **Kelly Larocque**, who has worked with middle and high school students for the last 12 years through Case Collaborative.

The Humanities Division welcomed six colleagues, including **Akemi Ueda**, previously an Upper School English teacher and dorm assistant at Santa Catalina School. Akemi holds a B.A. in English from Williams College and an M.A. from Stanford University.

A graduate of St. Paul's School and Harvard University, **Toby McDougal** has taught classics at the Noble and Greenough School, Groton School, and Belmont Hill School, where he also coached rowing.

For the last four years, **Patrick Pothel** taught French at the Taft School and coached hockey and baseball. An accomplished athlete in his own right at the University of Dayton, Patrick went on to play Canadian Junior Hockey and Junior Elite and Class A Baseball.

Among the three new Spanish Department members is **Meaghan Dalton Janger**, a veteran teacher with 19 years of classroom experience, most recently at Reading Memorial High School. She is a graduate of Boston College, where she earned her B.A. and M.Ed.

An educator for more than 27 years, **Alejandro Saravia** is teaching Spanish at Middlesex after nine years at St. Paul's School. In addition to his undergraduate and master's degrees, he holds a Ph.D. in educational leadership and organizational development.

As a two-year teaching fellow in Spanish at St. Paul's School, **Annie Kelly** served as a dorm advisor and assistant coach, concurrently completing an M.S.Ed. at the University of Pennsylvania. She is a graduate of Haverford College, where she played varsity lacrosse.

The Arts Division gained three colleagues, including **Meg Alexander**, a working artist and graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Meg knows the School well through her husband, Humanities

Division Head John Hirsch, and their daughters, Lucy '18 and Eliza '21.

Also a practicing artist, **Danielle M. Potwin** earned her B.F.A. at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, where she was an assistant teacher in studio foundation classes. Danielle teaches both drawing and ceramics at Middlesex.

Lawrence Academy graduate **Roan Callahan** served as a teaching assistant for several photography courses as an undergraduate at Skidmore College. He has worked as a commercial photographer for Darby Scott, learning about Middlesex through its owner, Karen Darby Scott '80.

In the administrative realm, **Christine Casperson** is applying 25 years of management and hospitality experience to supporting Head of School Kathy Giles as an assistant. **Erin Higgins** brings five years of working with Concord schools to her work in the Academic Office.

When Beth Hill stepped into the role of assistant to the dean of college counseling, her prior administrative post was ably filled by **Tracy White**, who has worked extensively for universities, from Stanford to Berkeley to Harvard. Finally, with 15 years of advancement experience at Wheelock College, **Lori Saslav** now expertly assists Middlesex's Annual Fund Director and Major Gift Officers. **M**

## Community Service Day

Each fall, once the school year is underway, the Middlesex community heads out into the Greater Boston Area to engage in a variety of service projects. On September 24, 2018, while new and returning sophomores bonded on their class trip, the senior community service officers led ninth and eleventh grade students in a day of service. This year, the School partnered with 13 local organizations at 14 separate locations. While some students harvested and helped at local farms, others assisted nonprofits that support those in need, such as the Merrimack Valley Food Bank, Rosie's Place, and Habitat for Humanity. One particular highlight of the day was an on-campus effort in the Cage involving 40 students and faculty; together, they packaged 10,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger.

With the leadership of Pascale Musto and Paul Torres, who lead the Community Service Program, volunteer opportunities are open to Middlesex students on a weekly basis, sustaining strong partnerships with many of these vital organizations year-round. **M**



Middlesex students pitched in to complete a variety of tasks, such as landscaping a yard for Habitat for Humanity (above) and prepping food for Rosie's Place (below).





“It does matter what platforms you are on and what browsers you use,” Alexander Heffner advised students, explaining that non-profit options generally provide greater privacy protection than for-profit options, which collect and sell personal data.

## The Price of Privacy

Taking a break from the customary All-School Read that has become an annual, summer assignment at Middlesex, the community began this year a bit differently with an “All-School Ethical Topic”—namely, the ethics of privacy in the digital age. On September 21, Stephen Spielberg’s latest science fiction production, *Ready Player One*, was screened on campus to prompt consideration of online privacy concerns. The next morning, the School heard from Alexander Heffner, host of the PBS program “The Open Mind,” who offered his thoughts on the subject and welcomed questions from the audience.

Mr. Heffner, who has covered American politics, civic life, and Millennials since the 2008 presidential campaign, is a writer and lecturer whose work has been profiled and published in many major publications and media outlets. Reflecting on the kind of dystopian world represented in books and

films like *Ready Player One*, he commented, “There are threats to privacy, but not as overwhelming as movies depict. Humanity has not vanished.” Though concerned that individual privacy is compromised today, he added, “I would submit that achieving civility in the digital public square is pivotal to what we will be able to preserve of privacy.”

As host of “The Open Mind” since 2014, Mr. Heffner has appreciated being able to explore issues of technology and democracy without having to “adhere to an orthodox view.” Yet, as a native New Yorker who vividly remembers 9/11, he also understands the difficulty of protecting individual rights and keeping apprised of threats to national security.

“Preserving civil discourse is key to having an open Web,” Mr. Heffner maintained. Currently jeopardizing online civility is the prevalence of bigotry and obstructionism, to the extent that opposing sides cannot listen to each other, nor can they undertake an honest assessment of facts. This, in turn, will lead to dysfunction, which he called “the last stage of incivility.”

In closing, he stressed the importance of voting to his audience of students—all of whom are considered digital natives and members of Gen Z. “You are the generation that is going to write the law because the law has not yet been written,” he said. Returning to the consequences of 9/11, he asked, “How far are we willing to go in giving up privacy to protect our safety? These are all decisions in your hands, and I urge you to take it seriously.”

With insightful questions for Mr. Heffner regarding free speech and hate speech, open websites and those funded by advertising, as well as the pros and cons of net neutrality, Middlesex students were indeed attuned to the issues at hand. In small groups with their advisors, they continued discussing these topics, dwelling on the tradeoffs between privacy and convenience in the digital age. **M**

# The Addams Family—A New Musical

May 4–5, 2018

*Book by* Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice  
*Music & Lyrics by* Andrew Lippa  
*Directed by* Tom Kane  
*Musical Direction by* Pierson Wetzel  
*Technical Design & Direction by*  
Ryan DuBray  
*Choreography by* Meghan Rose  
*Costume Design by* Kim Brown  
*Photography by* Robert D. Perachio

“One normal night” is all that Wednesday asks for when her family is about to meet her (secret) fiancé and his parents for the first time. But when you’re an Addams, that wish is like reaching for the moon—her Uncle Fester’s obsession. While Gomez and Morticia wonder where they went wrong with their darkling daughter, like any parents, they must gradually come to terms with all the “what ifs” that life and love may bring. Accompanied by a chorus of ghostly ancestors and a 12-piece band, the cast of lead actors—most of whom were seniors—threw themselves into these favorite, comedic characters for their last, happy/sad Middlesex production together. **M**





“Small things matter,” Dr. Laura Vandenberg emphasized to her audience. “A small amount of a hormone can make a difference in an animal’s body, so a small amount of BPA matters.”

## In Carson’s Footsteps

Rachel Carson’s urgent call in *Silent Spring* to research and recognize the effects of chemicals on living beings and their environments is heeded today by a new generation of scientists dubbed “Rachel’s grandchildren.” One such metaphorical granddaughter—Dr. Laura Vandenberg—talked about her own career and laboratory findings during Assembly on May 1, 2018. Her visit was made possible through the generosity of a past parent, who established the Middlesex Speaker Series in Math and Science in 2015.

### Toxic Chemical Intake

An assistant professor and graduate program director in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at the UMass Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences, Dr. Vandenberg explores how early life exposures to chemicals and chemical mixtures can predispose individuals to diseases that manifest later in life. While Ms. Carson’s work focused on the pesticide DDT, Dr. Vandenberg is specifically interested in the class of chemicals termed “endocrine disruptors” and has

worked extensively with chemicals used as plasticizers and flame retardants, which people come into contact with more often than they may realize.

While her opposition in 1962 claimed that Rachel Carson preferred “dead children to dead mosquitoes,” Dr. Vandenberg clarified that Ms. Carson never asked for a ban of DDT but instead wrote, “If we are going to live so intimately with these chemicals—eating and drinking them, taking them into the very marrow of our bones—we had better know something about their nature and their power.” In fact, Dr. Vandenberg confirmed, scientists have since determined that all babies are now born “pre-polluted” with hundreds of chemicals in their bodies. “We make choices every day—about the food we eat, the soap and lotion we use, the cleaning products we have in our homes,” she said, “and we don’t think about the effects.”

### Unintended Consequences

Briefly summarizing the work of researchers in the 1980s and 1990s, Dr. Vandenberg stated that a large number of manmade chemicals have been found to have the potential to disrupt the endocrine system of animals and humans, which, in turn, can cause abnormalities in development, growth, and reproduction. Her research advisor at Tufts Medical School, Dr. Ana Soto, found that BPA (a chemical used in making plastic containers and bottles) affects the growth of mammary glands—a change that can certainly alter the chances of offspring survival. That BPA has been banned in manufacturing some products, like baby bottles, has only led to another key question: What is BPA being replaced with?

The answer, Dr. Vandenberg said, is that 29 different chemicals are used in plastics instead of BPA. In her own lab during the last five years, she has been studying one of them, BPS, to observe its effects on the function of mammary glands in mice. Thus far, she has learned that mice exposed to low levels of BPS early in life stop producing milk earlier

in motherhood—and their babies seek milk less often—which leads to starvation. Those who survive often exhibit abnormal obsessive compulsive behaviors.

### Revealing Lab Results

In short, “What was old is new, and what was new is old,” Dr. Vandenberg sighed. “We were not asking to substitute BPA with BPS.” Noting that science is “not just for scientists,” she added, “If we do not speak up, and instead live priest-like in our labs, spending public grant money, we are *not* doing our jobs.” Despite potential backlash from chemical industries and other opponents, she asserted, “This should not keep us from speaking.”

Deeply grateful for the mentorship of people who either included her in their projects or recommended her for great opportunities, Dr. Vandenberg also thanked all the students who work in her lab. “We can do so much more together,” she reflected. “I hope you will find a community after Middlesex that also makes you better than you are.” **M**

**Right:** Underutilized for decades, the beautifully renovated Paine Barn now serves as the home of Middlesex’s Facilities and Operations Department.

## Pride in Preservation



Last spring, the Concord Historical Commission (CHC) announced seven winners of its 2018 Preservation Awards. In the Adaptive Reuse category, Middlesex earned recognition for the renovation of the School’s Paine Barn, which was completed in the final weeks of 2014. Chief Operating Officer Matt Crozier was on hand to accept the CHC award at the Concord Preservation Awards Ceremony, which was held on May 21, 2018, at the town’s Fowler Branch Library.

Established by the CHC in 2015, the Preservation Awards program aims to honor property owners, architects, contractors, local organizations, and individuals for their contributions to maintaining and enhancing the architectural, historical, and cultural heritage of the Town of Concord. This year’s awards were given to projects that were completed between 2014 and 2017.

As the CHC detailed in its comments, “The Paine Barn’s evolution from agricultural building to the home of the Middlesex School Facilities and Operations team is an outstanding example of sensitively introducing a compatible new use into a historic building. Located in a prominent position on Lowell

Road, the barn retains its original appearance and stands as a reminder of Concord’s rich agrarian heritage.”

Indeed, the Paine Barn is one of the few remaining signs that the Middlesex campus was previously a farm. Constructed with handmade nails and hand-cut lumber, the barn is estimated to have been built in the 1870s—old, yet not quite “historic” in a town that was incorporated in 1635. The building had become a storage site for the School, but once renovated, the attractive, sizeable structure proved to be a great new location for Middlesex’s Facilities and Operations Department. In turn, the School’s emptied, defunct steam plant could be converted into the brighter, “greener” Rachel Carson Music and Campus Center, a beautiful new home for the departments of music and Spanish.

While Middlesex School was listed first as the owner of the Paine Barn, the award also recognized several lead contributors to the success of the project, including Ben Nickerson, architect; B.W. Kennedy, contractor; Stantec Consulting Services, civil engineers; and Commercial Construction Consulting. **M**

## Finding a Life of Value



“My dad thought that America was the greatest country in the world, where you could be born a slave and send all your children to college,” Duane Jones told the seniors. “I always did, too, but I always wanted America to be better. I hope I made her a little better, and I know that you will, too.”

Life has come full circle for E. Duane Jones ’70 on more than one occasion, the most recent of which took place on May 28, 2018, when he returned to Middlesex as the commencement speaker. “I love this place; I came here as a child,” he said at the outset. Comparing the campus to the house where he was born and raised, he affirmed, “This place is more home to me than that.”

Now an attorney and lay minister in Georgia, Duane was one of the first African-American students to attend Middlesex when he arrived as an eighth grader in 1965. He framed his graduation address by saying, “I want to talk about my two dads: Eddie Jones and David Sheldon.” Descended from sharecroppers whose lives were “no different from slavery,” Duane was fortunate to have avoided

that existence when the landowner, Church Ridley, inexplicably gave Duane’s father two acres to farm—and allowed him to keep the entire profit. “I’ve known a lot of sharecroppers,” Duane said. “I’ve never heard of this happening anywhere else.”

Two years later, Duane’s father used his earnings to move to New York City, which would offer greater opportunities to his own children—especially the education that sharecropping had denied him, as he could only attend school on rainy days.

At Middlesex, Duane met Headmaster David Sheldon, whom he described as “the all-powerful emperor of this golden land,” who nonetheless “ruled with the lightest and wisest touch.” He appreciated that example of a caring leader, adding, “When I was here, David Sheldon did everything in his power to make sure that I felt special and normal at the same time.” Reflecting on what he had learned in those years at Middlesex, he observed, “I’ve come to the conclusion that it’s all about values—meaning, what is important to *you*. What do *you* want to accomplish?”

By this, he qualified, he did not mean that everyone must strive to be a senator or to cure cancer. “But until you find what’s valuable to you,” he stressed, “and pursue it full tilt, you will never be satisfied.”

Figuring this out for himself, Duane allowed, took many years. A gifted debater and National Merit Scholarship winner, he went on to Harvard, graduating cum laude in 1974 with a degree in sociology. Since earning his J.D. at the University of California at Berkeley, he has been a practicing attorney in his adopted state of Georgia for nearly 30 years, during which time he has argued before the Georgia Supreme Court. Duane has particularly distinguished himself as an impassioned representative for the marginalized and maltreated, tirelessly pursuing

## A Fulbright First

### Rowena Schenck '14 Merits Scholarship

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justice under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. He briefly shared examples of a few of those cases with his Middlesex audience.

But it was one of those full-circle experiences 10 years ago that put everything into perspective for Duane. Traveling back to his father's hometown in Virginia after a Jones family reunion, he stopped in front of the home of Church Ridley for the very first time—and by chance met Ridley's grandson there. As the two men exchanged business cards, Duane recounted, "I suddenly realized that in heaven, Eddie Jones can see Eddie Junior giving Church Ridley's grandson the card that says that he's a lawyer. He got an education; he went to school every day, rain or shine. Church Ridley, the investment you made in 1936—this is the return on that. Daddy, this is what you lived for: the sum of *all* your hopes and dreams."

Delivering his last words directly to the seniors, Duane advised, "Everything you do in life will have consequences you can never imagine. Find out what is valuable to you, pursue that with reckless abandon, and enjoy your wonderful life. You don't owe anyone anything, but you'll never be right until you give back." **M**



Having graduated last spring from Amherst College as a biochemistry and biophysics major, Rowena Schenck '14 will spend her Fulbright year researching climate change at New Zealand's University of Otago. (photo by Maria Stenzel)

As a Middlesex senior, Rowena Schenck '14 was already accomplished. A four-year competitor on the varsity skiing and lacrosse teams—both of which she captained—she was a recipient of the Outstanding Senior Girl Athletic Award. And after she had ably served as a proctor in Hallowell House and as a peer tutor for biology, chemistry, physics, math, and history, it was not a great surprise that someone who could calmly handle many responsibilities would receive her diploma with highest credit. This past April, just before graduating from Amherst College, Rowena earned another academic distinction when she was offered a Fulbright Scholarship.

#### A Generous Grant

The fellowship is one of the most prestigious in the world, claiming among its alumni 43 Nobel laureates and 78 Pulitzer Prize winners. It operates in more than 155 countries, sponsored by the U.S. government since 1946 to increase mutual understanding between Americans and citizens of other nations. Some Fulbright scholars receive grants to conduct research and/or pursue a one-year master's degree in a participating Fulbright country; others are awarded English Teaching Assistantships to aid in teaching English and U.S. culture to non-native speakers in classrooms abroad.

All grantees receive round-trip transportation to the host country, as well as room, board, living expenses, and health benefits; some grants also include funding for research, enrichment activities, tuition, language study, pre-departure orientations, and training in teaching English as a second language.

#### The Chemistry of Climate

Rowena was offered a Fulbright to research climate changes in New Zealand. A biochemistry and biophysics major, she is off to the University of Otago, where she is looking at the physical and chemical characteristics of New Zealand fjord cores, with the intent of recording carbon burial and wind variability—findings that can help predict climate changes. She plans to join the Otago Lacrosse Club and the school's snow sports club.

Following her Fulbright, Rowena plans to pursue a Ph.D. in earth sciences, focusing on the biogeochemistry of coastal environments and continental margins. Her long-term goals include teaching and research—areas that will undoubtedly welcome her personal strengths and scholarly achievements. **M**

## Honoring Initiative

Distinguished Alumnus Victor Atkins '63



Through his foresight and generosity, Victor Atkins '63 has made a tremendous difference—now and in the future—to the students and faculty of his alma mater. “Middlesex is where it all began,” he told the *Bulletin* years ago. “To me, life is about giving back.”

Though this year’s worthy recipient of the Henry Cabot Lodge ’20 Distinguished Alumni Award was unable to attend the ceremony on May 12, 2018, he was well represented by a great friend and admirer. Accepting the award on behalf of honoree Victor Atkins ’63 was Barrie Landry, widow of former Middlesex Trustee, Board Treasurer, and generous benefactor Kevin Landry ’62 (who received the Lodge Award in 2012). Given annually since 1993, the Lodge Award recognizes a graduate whose life and career have made a significant contribution to society and whose accomplishments have brought great credit to Middlesex. As Barrie affirmed, “Without a doubt, Victor qualifies for this award on both counts.”

After graduating from Middlesex in 1963, Victor majored in economics at Harvard and graduated cum laude. Feeling compelled

to serve his country, he enlisted as an officer in the Navy and volunteered to be deployed to Vietnam, where his bravery and service were acknowledged with the highly coveted Bronze Star. On returning stateside, Victor headed to Harvard Business School, graduating with high distinction and then moving to New York City to begin his career as an investment banker and private investor.

As he found great success in the business world, Victor was determined to share this with others, reflecting the values passed down to him from his parents, Victor and Elizabeth. As Barrie aptly noted, “One only has to take a cursory look around this exquisite campus to see numerous examples of Victor’s deep generosity on vibrant display.” An early gift was the renovation of the Cage, which was subsequently named the Atkins Athletic Center in honor of his parents. In 2002, he spearheaded the renovation of the rink and the expansion of adjacent athletic facilities, creating the Elizabeth Atkins Field House, which was dedicated to his mother.

Not solely focused on “bricks and mortar” projects, Victor significantly strengthened the School’s infrastructure and resources, too. He advocated strongly for keeping the campus up-to-date with technological developments and created matching challenges that raised millions to bolster the funding of faculty compensation and student financial aid. Most recently, Victor played a pivotal role in the Residential Life Challenge that renovated several dorms and brought Landry House to fruition. “Even though Landry House bears our name,” Barrie said, “this dorm was conceived and largely funded by Victor to honor my husband Kevin. This house, in my mind and heart, will always be remembered as the ‘house that friendship built’ and is emblematic of Victor’s profound generosity and abiding loyalty.”

Notably, Victor's generosity is not restricted to Middlesex, and he has left a significant imprint on places such as Harvard, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, and the 1610 Society at the University of Oxford. Victor has also been driven to provide opportunities for others, as he has by supporting the Southampton Fresh Air Home, which hosts free summer sessions for underprivileged children with disabilities.

When Barrie spoke to Victor about the Lodge Award, she asked him what qualities drove his success, to which he replied, "Creativity, diligence, hard work, and perseverance." To this list, Barrie reflected, she would add the word "initiative," or "doing the right thing without being told," as the dramatist Victor Hugo once defined it. "Victor Atkins has always stepped forward to do the right thing," Barrie concluded. "Whether serving his country or giving back to communities and institutions that shaped him—or to causes he believed in—Victor's imprint is wide and deep. Victor wants you to know how deeply appreciative he is of this honor, and we as a community want Victor to know how thankful we are for his friendship and for all that he has done for this beloved school of ours." **M**

## Alumnus, Parent—and now Trustee

### Edward F. Mehm '83 Joins the Board

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Having remained actively involved with Middlesex ever since he received his diploma in 1983, Edward F. Mehm has now joined the School's Board of Trustees for a three-year term. A graduate of Middlebury College, Ted started his career in banking at Bank of Boston and Fleet Real Estate Capital. He is now co-founder and managing partner of Capital Crossing, an industry-leading underwriter, investor, and servicer of commercial real estate and small business loans.

As an alumnus and parent, Ted knows Middlesex well through his participation in a variety of volunteer efforts. Still serving as a class agent, he has previously supported other alumni outreach activities by taking part as a speaker on an Alumni Career Panel and working on reunion committees and on the Alumni Association's Board of Directors. Ted and his wife Margot have been members of the Middlesex Parents' Committee for the last seven years, and they have hosted an admissions reception for the School at their North Shore home. Four years ago, the Mehms initiated and hosted an alumni reception in Hyannis Port, which has already become one of the most well-attended summer events.

Most recently, Ted's sponsorship facilitated holding the 2018 Kingman Cup Golf Tournament on the Myopia Hunt Club's challenging and coveted course. In addition to his efforts on Middlesex's behalf, Ted has served as co-chair of the Brookwood School's endowment campaign, *The Time is Now*, which surpassed its fundraising goal of \$10 million.



A class agent for decades, new Trustee Ted Mehm '83 has stayed connected to Middlesex through many alumni activities and has come to know the current school well through the student experience of his three sons.

All three of the Mehms' sons have followed Ted to Middlesex: Alex '14 is a recent graduate of Hamilton College and is currently attending Tufts University's postbac premedical program; Spencer '17 is a sophomore at Trinity College; and Charlie '21 is a member of the sophomore class at the School. **M**

# Team Highlights

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



## Boys' Tennis

Elected a co-captain for the 2019 season, Sid Smith '20 helped the Middlesex Boys' Varsity reach its first New England Tournament in several years.



## Girls' Crew

Early season seat racing was competitive last spring, as 50 athletes—a record number—joined the girls' crew program for the 2018 season.



## Boys' Lacrosse

An up-and-coming star midfielder for Middlesex, Cole Nye '20 sprinted past a defender in an early game of the 2018 season.



## Baseball

Co-Captain Mike Doherty '18 was named All-League for the second time and finished fourth in the ISL in strikeouts while posting a 1.99 ERA. He will continue his baseball career at Northwestern.



## Girls' Tennis

Captain Helen Lasry '18 had a strong season as the #1 singles player for the Middlesex Girls' Varsity.

# Repeating Success

Contributing outstanding individual performances to their team efforts, Middlesex athletes excelled this spring, bringing home an ISL Championship in girls' lacrosse and several New England Championship medals in track and field.

## Consecutive Championships

Finishing the season 11-1 in the league and 15-1 overall, the girls' varsity lacrosse team clinched its second consecutive ISL title on May 25 with a conclusive 13-2 win against rival St. George's. Exceptional team effort—from the seniors to all three freshmen—characterized the victory, as players took turns both setting up and scoring goals, while the defensive unit achieved a first-half shutout. In the second half, St. George's came out strong and notched its first goal within seconds, but Middlesex answered with three more goals, skillfully maintaining the lead—and the title.

Collectively, the team shattered previous records by earning a total of 232 goals, 162 caused turnovers, 205 draw controls, 212 contested ground balls, and 22 interceptions. Individually, four seniors broke several school records this season: Lucie Gildehaus '18 surpassed her own 2017 goal record; Captain Caroline Hughes '18 topped the ground ball record by one and earned 37 caused turnovers; Sophie MacKeigan '18 notched 68 draw controls and earned a school-high eight interceptions on the season; and Maddie MacMaster '18 snagged 61 draw controls, beating the 2012 record. All four of these seniors, along with Marina Bevacqua '18 and Caroline Fischer '18, will be continuing their lacrosse careers at the collegiate level.

## Top Finishes for Track

May 19 was a great day for the girls' and boys' varsity track teams at the New England Championships, held this year in Bath, Maine. After having finished third in the ISL Championships only six days earlier, the girls took second place—for the third consecutive year—at the New Englands. In the 4x400-meter relay, the girls set new meet and school records, securing the championship title in that event. Team members also scored well in several other events, from sprints and jumps to hurdles and mid-distance races.

Meanwhile, the boys moved up significantly from last year's performance to finish in third place amid stiff competition. Team members earned championship status in four events: the 4x100-meter relay, the 400-meter race, the 110-meter high hurdles, and the 4x400-meter relay. They scored well in several mid-distance races, too, contributing to Middlesex's point tally. With a strong core of athletes returning next spring, the track program's prospects are looking bright. **M**



With its eight seniors featured prominently in front, the girls' varsity lacrosse team had every reason to smile after finishing first in the Independent School League for the second year in a row.



Surrounded by their jubilant teammates, the four captains of track—Nina Thomas '18, Halina Tittmann '18, Micheal Acevedo '18, and Colin McCabe '18—are seated in front, holding their second and third-place trophies from the New England Championships.

# Alumni Weekend

Representing eight decades of Middlesex graduates, hundreds of the School's alumni returned to campus on May 11 and 12, 2018. The festivities began on Friday evening under the Alumni Weekend tent, where classmates and faculty gathered to reconnect while enjoying a delicious clambake provided by Woodman's of Essex.

Saturday's schedule started early with breakfast gatherings for the 50th reunion class of 1968 and for the "Old Guard" (those who have already celebrated a 50th reunion). Afterwards, a moving Memorial Service in the Chapel was ably led by the Reverend Melissa Watt Tustin '93. Heading over to the Danoff Recital Hall within the Rachel Carson Music and Campus Center, Head of School Kathy Giles and Board President Stephen Lari '90 brought alumni up-to-date on the state of the School after its recent, highly successful capital campaign. Their remarks were followed by the presentation of the Distinguished Alumni Award, which was accepted on behalf of Victor Atkins '63 by Barrie Landry (widow of longtime Trustee and Board Treasurer Kevin Landry '62). The morning concluded with the induction of three new Athletic Hall of Fame members: Ned Herter '73, Justin Oates '98, and Rob Borden '00. Curt Curtis '62 was recognized for his enthusiasm and dedication as the Hall of Fame's nominating committee chair, a position he then entrusted to Nick Kondon '80.

Escaping the rain and cold during lunch under the tent, guests later ventured out to watch both varsity lacrosse teams win handily. In the Danoff Recital Hall, musical performances highlighted the talents of current Middlesex students, and a special ceremony dedicated the Steinway piano (a gift of North Whipple '04) in memory of the late Sarah Gray Megan, who led the Middlesex Music Department for 15 years. Subsequently, retiring faculty member Carrie Bolster was honored by the Middlesex Alumni Association for her 35 years of service. The weekend wrapped up with individual, off-campus parties for reunion classes from 1948 to 2013, giving friends more time to catch up and reminisce.



Alumni who had already celebrated a 50th reunion enjoyed breakfast on Saturday in the Terry Room, where they used to gather for morning assembly in their student days. Seated, from left to right, are Hugh Blair-Smith '53, Jay Keyes '53, and Marshall Field '59.



Scott Conant '63, Doug Sears '65, and Stephen Kelly started the weekend at the Friday night clambake.

Below: Members of the class of 1968 who attended Saturday's lunch gathered for a 50th reunion photo. From left to right: Andy Burnes, Bill Hurt, Steve Tatro, Barney Voegtlen, Duncan MacLane, Michael Berry, Jim Rutherford, John Kiley, Dan Shapiro, Ben Russell, Burton Edwards, Sam Bell, George Day, and Lans Burns.





Phil Hirschler '73, David Bull '73, and George Newson '73 returned to mark their 45th reunion.



Settled in the Chapel's balcony, Grayson Allen '93 and his son Gordon listened to the Alumni Memorial Service led by the Reverend Melissa Watt Tustin '93.



Retiring French teacher Carrie Bolster got a big, congratulatory hug from Ally Forman Kirk '93 just before the Saturday afternoon reception honoring Carrie.



Back for their 10th reunion, Hannah Systrom '08, Andres Tello '08, and Alex Kloppenburg '08 caught up at the Friday evening festivities.

Below: Class of 2003 graduates who came back to connect at the clambake included (left to right): Vieve Leslie, Lindsey Franklin, Erin Bergin, Jodie Zhang, Annie Mears, and Holly Daddario.



# Alumni Weekend

The class of 2013 was well-represented at its very first official reunion; among those returning were, from left to right: Andrew Matos, Peter Mattoon, Arvind Balasundaram, Drew Thorne-Stewart, Saejal Chatter, Thad Pryor, and Tom Stone.



Given by North Whipple '04 in memory of Sarah Gray Megan (Middlesex's Music Department Head from 1989 to 2004), this beautiful Steinway piano was officially dedicated on Saturday, with Jack Megan (Sarah's husband), Head of School Kathy Giles, and North and Emily Whipple present for the ceremony. Reflecting Sarah's own feelings, the commemorative plaque in the Danoff Recital Hall appropriately reads, "To all who come here to play, may music be the very expression of your soul."



Though this year's recipient was unable to attend the ceremony, his longtime friend Barrie Landry (widow of former Trustee and Treasurer Kevin Landry '62) graciously accepted the Distinguished Alumni Award on behalf of Victor Atkins '63. As president of the Middlesex Alumni Association, Trustee Rob Trumbull '00 presided over the 2018 presentation.



# Athletic Hall of Fame

## 2018 Inductees

Having chaired the nominating committee for the past seven years, Hall of Famer Curt Curtis '62 (far left) passed that honor to fellow Hall of Famer Nick Kondon '80, who joined in the ceremony for the 2018 inductees: Rob Borden '00, Ned Herter '73, and Justin Oates '98.

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



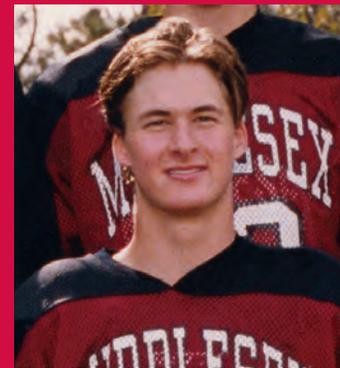
Edward "Ned" Herter '73

Ned won a total of nine letters in his Middlesex career—three each in football, basketball, and baseball—and served as baseball captain in 1973. He then played football and lacrosse at Bowdoin College. A boys' lacrosse coach at Middlesex for 38 years, Ned compiled a record of 346-77 in his 29 years as the head coach, securing 12 ISL championships. He was named the ISL Coach of the Year four times and is a member of the New England Lacrosse and the Eastern Massachusetts Lacrosse Halls of Fame. Additionally, Ned served as an assistant football coach at Middlesex for many years and helped the team secure multiple New England Championships.



Justin E. Oates '98

Earning 11 letters in his Middlesex career, including three in soccer and four each in ice hockey and lacrosse, Justin was named All-League three times in hockey and once in lacrosse, also receiving an All-League Honorable Mention once in soccer. As a senior, he served as captain of ice hockey and lacrosse, and he was named All-New England in both sports. Justin won the Kelton Bowl in 1996, the Class II Athletic Prize in 1997, and then three Middlesex athletic awards in 1998: the Ty Prince '63 Memorial Bowl, the Joseph Morrill, Jr. Hockey Bowl, and the Ruth S. Kondon Memorial Lacrosse Bowl. He continued to play lacrosse at Cornell.



Robert R. Borden IV '00

In his Middlesex athletic career, Rob won a total of 11 letters, with four in football and ice hockey and three in lacrosse. He not only captained all three sports as a senior but was also named All-League in football and All-League and All-New England in lacrosse that year. Rob earned the Class II Alumni Prize in 1999, followed by the Ty Prince '63 Memorial Bowl in 2000. While playing lacrosse at Middlebury for four years, he helped his team to win two National Championships.

# Fond Farewells

## Carrie Bolster: *Language of Love*

*After four decades of teaching French with passion and verve,  
Madame Carrie Bolster retires.*

BY BETH SAULNIER '87

In one of the odd quirks of fate that nudge our lives in unexpected directions—and which have buffeted the heroines of many a French novel—four decades of Middlesex students would have missed out on an extraordinary teacher, if it weren't for one misbehaving piece of heavy machinery.

*J'explique.* When Carrie Bolster was in her mid-twenties, she owned an industrial painting business in Corvallis, Oregon. One day, she was in the basket of a boom truck, 150 feet in the air, when the lift sprung a hydraulic leak. As she slowly descended, the episode prompted some self-reflection. "I was up there thinking, 'Do I really want to be doing this for the rest of my life?'" Carrie recalls. "I said, 'This is worthy work—but I don't.'"

Already fluent in French—a language she'd perfected during her junior year of college, when she lived in Lyon and Paris—Carrie decided to pursue a master's in teaching at the University of Oregon. While in grad school, she taught French to undergrads. Those of us who knew Carrie when she arrived at Middlesex in 1983—when members of the class of '87 were freshmen and the petite and ever-youthful Carrie might plausibly have been mistaken for a senior—will smile quietly at her description of her first teaching gig at Oregon. She walked into a packed classroom—no seats left, students perched on windowsills—and made her way to the front, every eye upon her. "They all looked at me like, 'No, *she's* our French teacher? Yeah, right!'" Carrie recalls with a laugh. "So I said, '*Vous êtes prêts, tout le monde? On va commencer? Des le début, on va parler en français.*' [Is everyone ready? Shall we start? From the beginning, we're going to speak in French.] They immediately got it."

It was the beginning of a remarkable teaching career that came to a close last spring, when Carrie retired from Middlesex.

In the intervening decades, she shared her infectious love of the French language, literature, and culture with thousands of students, who were lucky enough to count her as a teacher, mentor, coach, and friend. Carrie's classroom was a vibrant, thrilling place—she got her students conversing (and sometimes dancing), parsing Baudelaire poems, diving into Flaubert and Duras and Sartre. Learning standard vocabulary like "left, right, straight ahead"? Carrie took you on a *Tour de Middlesex*, so you barely noticed you were inhaling the language while you navigated campus (and ended in her L.B. apartment for ice cream pie). "I really, really love to teach," she says. "It's in my blood."

In addition to covering the traditional giants of French literature, Carrie relished sharing the voices of the wider Francophone world; in a course for advanced students, she included writers from Vietnam, Québec, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, and more. And she brought a bracingly fresh eye to the classics. When she taught Racine's play *Phèdre*—about a queen from Greek myth who falls for her stepson, with fatal consequences—she did it from a feminist perspective. The title character, she told us, was the only one who saw the future clearly; the real tragedy was that no one would listen.

Carrie moved off campus in 1990, when she married Rob Houghton (a nephew of then-Headmaster David Sheldon and his late wife Judy, who played matchmaker). They have two children, both Middlesex alumni: Kate Bolster-Houghton '11, a freelance designer in New York City, and Michael Mac Bolster-Houghton '14, who works in marketing in Boston. Anyone who's visited their Colonial-era home in Acton knows that she and Rob—a retired teacher and highly accomplished photographer—arguably have a third progeny: a massive, gorgeous, phenomenally productive backyard garden.

Speaking of horticulture, in recent years, Carrie was the primary steward of the Middlesex garden, an Edenic spot that periodically supplied the dining hall with fresh vegetables and herbs. In summer, Carrie would come by a few days a week to labor and harvest, reveling in the early morning beauty, hawks circling overhead as she'd weed and vanquish squash bugs. She expects her retirement to evolve as organically as the gardens.

She knows there will be plenty of travel—she and Rob went to Vietnam in September—and she'll spend more time with her widowed father, who's retired from a long career as Princeton's head of annual giving. She'll see more of her extended family, of whom there are many: Carrie is the second-oldest of 14 siblings. And, being generous of spirit, she plans to be useful to others, in what arena she isn't yet sure. "I feel very fortunate to retire in good health," she says, "and with lots of energy." Asked what she'll miss most, Carrie cites her beloved friend and colleague Chantal Jordan—and her students. "Of course, they vex you sometimes," she says. "But they make you smile and laugh, and they give you the energy to say, 'OK, that didn't work; that lesson fell flat. How can I do better next time?'"

When I got together with Carrie and Rob to chat for this tribute, I asked her to list her favorite French writings—one poem, one short story, one novel, and one work of nonfiction—with an eye toward offering alumni a "Bolster Essentials" reading list. It was, as they say in Intro French, *une bêtise*—a stupid thing to do. How could I expect such a passionate lover of the literature and culture to be so reductive? (And as it turned out, her beautifully curated, e-mailed list would have taken up an entire column.) But I also asked her to reflect on what she'd carve as a graduation plaque; her answer was thoughtful and perfect.

She would, she said, carve a sunflower, a tomato plant, and a thyme



plant. She'd caption it with Voltaire's classic closing line from *Candide*, when the title character says, "... *il faut cultiver notre jardin*" ("we must cultivate our garden"). For her, she explained, the phrase is both literal and metaphorical. She takes immense, tactile pleasure in working the soil, tending the plants, harvesting the produce, sharing the bounty. Similarly, we must grow the garden of our own minds, passionately pursue our interests, and bring beauty and

harmony to the world. "As a teacher, one needs to do this for oneself," she wrote me, "and encourage this development and growth in one's students."

*Bravo, Carrie. Bravo!* **M**

*Beth Saulnier '87 is the longtime senior editor of Cornell Alumni Magazine and the author of seven mystery novels. She credits Madame Bolster with inspiring her to major in French literature at Vassar.*

# Steve Butera

**A**fter 30 years at Middlesex, Steve Butera has headed out West, packing the Subaru wagon last August and driving off into the sunset—or at least in that general direction. He may not have been planning to retire just yet, but as Steve explained, “My parents need my help, and I’m happy to go and be with them.”

Family responsibilities also brought Steve to Middlesex back in late December 1987. He had been working for 14 years as a freelance photographer, but with his first child on the way, he opted for the more regular employment of supervising Middlesex’s painting crew, getting to know the campus and its community in the process. In 1998, when a visual arts post became available, Steve was hired, calling on his expertise in photography

and his prior experience teaching art at the Lexington Waldorf School.

Though he taught a variety of courses over the years, including art history, drawing, and sculpture, Steve was best known for his photography classes. From the first, he was adept at taking students beyond their basic interest in learning how to use a camera, teaching them the deliberate approach and visual skills that are essential to creating art in any medium. “I liked to emphasize design and composition,” he says. “That’s fundamental, and you don’t need a lot of fancy technique or equipment. I wanted students to explore the world outside themselves, to engage with that world and learn how to express their feelings and their ideas visually. For some kids, it was a revelation.”

That journey of discovery was certainly facilitated by Steve’s genial demeanor and manner. “He was super patient, which was awesome,” remembers Jay Welch ’13. “He wanted to take people out shooting and spend time practicing, and then highlight the good stuff in the photos—emphasize that and build on it. Art is an interesting thing to be grading, and it was the most welcoming way I had ever had to learning art.”

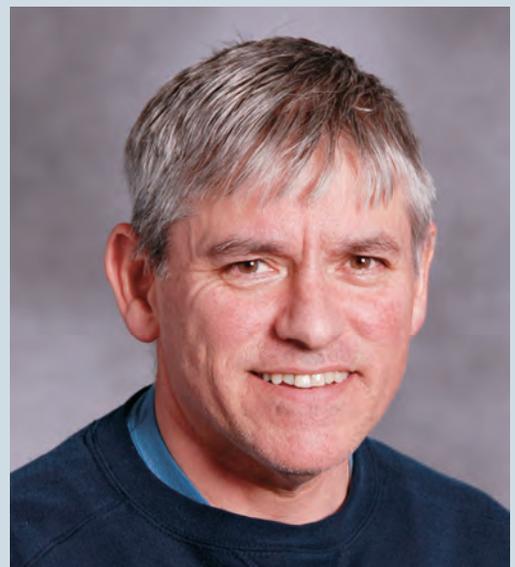
At the same time, Khanh Dang ’15 adds, “Steve had very high standards for a student’s work. He was willing to spend a lot of time helping, but he also expected a lot. He really cared about his students, but he wanted *them* to care about the work, too. You couldn’t just slack off.” In fact, both Khanh and Christina Sotirescu ’16 cared enough

## Frank Boisvert

Early in 2001, Middlesex’s Facilities and Operations Department was in need of a second carpenter and was fortunate to find Frank Boisvert. “He was just the type of person we were looking for,” remembers George Torigian, director of the department. “He was a veteran of the trade who was tired of traveling from job to job and was looking to settle down at this stage of his career.”

For nearly 16 years, Frank took care of innumerable projects and tasks around campus, working capably and efficiently in his amiable, quiet way. “He did everything from hanging pictures and fixing locks or broken window shades to building elaborate shelving systems, cabinets, and work stations,” George recalls. “He was a very detailed carpenter, very skilled at his craft,” adds Mike Rivetts, facilities superintendent and grounds foreman, “and he was a great colleague who was team-oriented, always willing to help out other departments for school events.”

As unobtrusively as he went about his work at Middlesex, Frank retired in the same manner in late December 2017, preferring little fanfare—or probably even this attention in the *Bulletin*. Nonetheless, as someone who is described as being “a great coworker,” “impossible not to like,” and “always here for the School,” Frank has certainly earned the Middlesex community’s gratitude and best wishes for a long and happy life in retirement. **M**



about their progress that they requested their own Advanced Placement Photography course, so that they could assemble formal portfolios for evaluation. Of course, Steve obliged—and both earned the highest possible AP score.

“Mr. Butera was one of the most influential teachers I had at Middlesex,” Christina affirms. “He taught me how to see.” Still applying that training in visual composition to different projects today, she reflects, “I really consider myself a creative person purely because of photography and what he taught me.”

At all levels of instruction, Steve emphasized the importance of practice, of getting off campus and looking with fresh eyes at new places, and he was generous in helping students achieve that. “He had to fit shooting times around the very full Middlesex schedule,” says English teacher KP Van Norden, Steve’s longtime colleague, friend, and de facto photo student. “He made himself available almost every day and time that he didn’t have a Middlesex obligation. That’s about the quintessence of accessibility.”

These outings were memorable experiences for many students. “We went out dozens of times, often little trips to West Concord,” recalls Jay, who especially enjoyed an excursion to a Cambodian New Year celebration in Lowell. “I’m very appreciative for all those trips—and how much gas he probably used up on them!”

Some really needed that extra push to recognize the primacy of shooting. “My sophomore year, I spent countless hours in the darkroom developing negatives and prints, hoping to build a portfolio over time,” remembers Kevin Systrom ’02. “Mr. Butera could have simply let photography be a technical skill, one about timing, chemical baths, and paper types. Instead, he transformed my passion for photography into a passion for adventure. He taught me that photography isn’t about the darkroom; it’s about discovering the world. Our countless photo trips into



Steve Butera with  
Timothy Ren '18

*“Mr. Butera was one of the most influential teachers I had at Middlesex,” Christina Sotirescu ’16 affirms. “He taught me how to see.”*

Boston or neighboring towns will remain some of my favorite adventures in high school.”

Five years after Kevin graduated, the darkroom itself was transformed, as digital photography was steadily replacing film and its chemical-dependent processing. With gifts and advice from

Middlesex parents, Steve was able to convert the old “wet” darkroom into an entirely digital lab, complete with cameras, computers, scanners, and ink jet printers. “There are so many more things you can do with digital than you could with the wet process,” Steve observes. “As a teaching aid, it’s fantastic



## Susan Murphy

As Susan wrote in an e-mail to her colleagues last March, “It’s hard to believe the day has come that I am retiring. When I first came to Middlesex, I worked mother’s hours and never thought I would be here 35 years later.”

With two young daughters back in 1983, Susan initially accepted a part-time position in the School’s Alumni Office, joining Mary Barkas in the College Office two years later because she was interested in working more with Middlesex’s current students. Eventually, when Mary wanted to “retire” to a part-time schedule, she exchanged places with Susan, who was ready and able to take on the role of full-time administrative assistant. And there Susan stayed, steadily working for three successive heads of school and five college counseling directors.

As the office’s new director in 2002, Matt DeGreeff was grateful for Susan’s meticulous organization and institutional knowledge. “She knew all the ins and outs of the School, all the processes, all the players,” he says. He quickly came to appreciate her detail-oriented, solicitous support, both professionally and personally. “She loved to laugh,” Matt adds, “and she cared about my family and my children. Susan cared deeply about the students and serving them well and maintaining the integrity of the college process.”

Much changed in the work of her office over the course of Susan’s tenure. “We used to type the recommendations on a typewriter with carbon copies,” she remembers. “The computer and the program Naviance have made things easier—no more massive mailings of applications and midyear reports.” Nonetheless, given her conscientious attention to the multiple steps of the process each year, Susan can take credit for helping at least 2700 students file roughly 17,000 applications—astonishing numbers for one career!

Among the many Middlesex alumni who are grateful for her warmth, compassion, and reassurance is Adam Johnson ’99, who still considers Susan his “East Coast mother,” keeping in touch by phone or over lunch when he’s in town. “I doubt your job description from years ago said, ‘Forge lifelong friendships with the kids after you assist them with getting into college,’ but that is what you have done with me,” he wrote in a tribute to her. “Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for the role you have played in my life.”

Last spring, Susan handed the reins to her colleague, Beth Hill, who joined the office five years ago. “Susan could not have been more patient and kind with me as I was learning the ropes,” Beth affirms, “and she basically spent the last year making sure that I knew everything about this office. She left it in the best state possible.”

Yet Susan won’t be leaving her expertise of the last 35 years behind her entirely, for she is retiring just in time for the eldest of her four grandchildren to undertake the college application process. He will be in the best of hands. **M**

because you can go out with a student and see what they did and critique it right there, which speeds up the learning process. I’m very happy with digital as a teaching medium.”

Inspiring students through the work of other photographers was another of his effective methods, and Steve took care in building the Warburg Library’s collection, regularly suggesting books to purchase. “It was interesting to see the variety that he chose,” says Reference Librarian Zaiga Alksnitis, “as he clearly wanted to expose kids to different styles and periods.” Remarkably, those many volumes hardly represented his own visual record. “There is not a living photographer whose work he hasn’t looked at,” Khanh contends. “It’s mind boggling that if I went to a random exhibition in an out-of-the-way gallery, he would know who the artist was and have an opinion about it.”

And photography was not Steve’s only enthusiasm. “Mr. Butera heard that I loved Italian food and hosted me and my best friend, Garrett Albright ’02, for pasta and movie nights,” relates Kevin. “We’d learn the art of preparing traditional pasta puttanesca and watch classic movies that defined cinema, like *Metropolis*. I owe my love of cooking, movies, and photography to Mr. Butera.”

For Khanh—far from her home in Vietnam—Steve was a valued “mentor and family,” an excellent listener and trusted advisor. “I always loved talking to Steve because he has such an encyclopedic knowledge about many topics, especially art, culture, and history,” she says, “but I think his most important qualities are his compassion and generosity.”

For these strengths—and for his humor and excellent restaurant recommendations—Steve is already missed. “We all have a handful of influential people in our lives that have defined our interests and passions,” Kevin aptly sums up, “and I thank him for being a mentor to me.” **M**

# Graduation 2018

Sophie Stewart '18 and Nina Thomas '18.

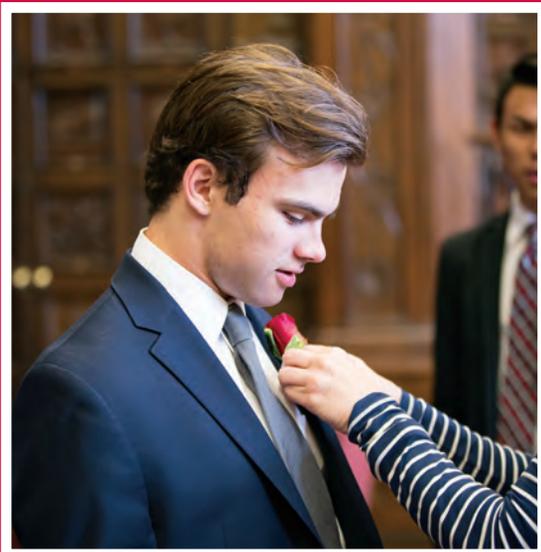


Harry Craig '18, Cooper Rumrill '18, Ezra Muratoglu '18, Teddy Matel '18, and Giao Phan '18.

Braving the chilly, misty Memorial Day weather, 104 members of the class of 2018 set out from the Chapel to Eliot Hall, with Senior Class President Ameya Shere, School President Luke Collins, and School Vice President Alice Crow leading the way.



# Graduation 2018



Almost ready for the ceremony, Ted Pyne '18 stopped by the Terry Room to have a boutonniere pinned on his lapel.



Elizabeth Ensslin '18 and Nina Huttemann '18 exchange thanks and congratulations with faculty and staff in the post-ceremony receiving line.



Ashlee Falconer '18 and Dereck Marmolejos '18, both bound for NYU, smile for a photo with Ashlee's mother Yvonne.



Head of School Kathy Giles handed a diploma "with credit" to Harrison Clark '18. In her graduation remarks, she cautioned seniors against a life focused on surface appearance and "likes," as recent research has found that more screen time correlates with less happiness. "Real connection is what we humans crave," she affirmed. "Continuing to work on your skills as a connector will turn out to be the most valuable contribution you can make to the people of the communities you will join over the next year and throughout the rest of your lives."



Seniors sang the School hymn, "Rank by Rank," one last time together.



Guest speaker Duane Jones '70 stands between Board President Stephen Lari '90 and Head of School Kathy Giles.



Elected Valedictorian Walker Cook '18 looked back on his four years at Middlesex as a time of both struggle and success, throughout which he valued the support of family, faculty, and fellow students. "We have made friendships and memories here that I hope, for all of us, will last a lifetime," he told his classmates. "As we prepare to leave this Circle for the last time, it is okay to be sad, but remember that this is not the end. Carry your experiences and friendships with you, and I am confident that you will be successful in whatever it is you desire."

Diplomas in hand, the School's newest alumni closed the ceremony with "Jerusalem," known to Middlesex graduates as "Hymn 110."



The Boelhouwer family gained another Middlesex graduate with Charlotte '18, standing between her mother and brother Will '16.



# In Memoriam

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## *William E. Bright III '40*

William Ellery Bright III passed away peacefully at Somerset House, in Oak Harbor, Vero Beach, FL, on September 2, 2018.

Bill was born in Worcester, MA, to **William Ellery Bright, Jr. (1910)** and Margaret Norcross Denholm on March 6, 1922. Following in his father's footsteps, he graduated from Middlesex and continued on to Harvard University. He enlisted in the Army Air Corp (precursor to the U.S. Air Force) in 1942, graduating as an aerial navigator in 1943. He became a second lieutenant in the 8th Army Air Force, based in Bury St. Edmund, England, the "family seat" of the Brights. On March 18, 1944, his B-17, *The Little Audrey*, was on its 14th bombing run over Munich when his plane was struck by an incendiary bomb from a U.S. B-17 flying out of formation. Bill had the awareness to act quickly and kicked out the front escape hatch, parachuting with four others to farmland in Aschein, Germany. Seven of the ten crew members survived and were transferred to Stalag Luft III, a day after The Great Escape, for the remaining 13 months of the war.

In 1946, Bill married Elizabeth "Bunny" Trumbull Barton, and they resided in Worcester, MA. Bill held executive positions at Crompton Knowles Corporation, Rice Barton Corporation, and White and Bagley Company. The Brights moved to Vero Beach in 1991 to enjoy their shared passion for golf. Although Bill suffered with dementia for the last nine years, he never lost his irrepresible wit and humor.

Predeceased by his wife Bunny in 2004, Bill leaves behind three children, Elizabeth Trumbull Bright, **William E. Bright IV '69**, and Jeffery Bright; two grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren, including **Eliza S. Chamberlain '14**, **William E. Chamberlain '17**, **Grace E. Chamberlain '19**, and

**Margaret A. Chamberlain '19**. His late uncle, **Jackson V.R. Bright (1918)**, and his late brother, **Jonathan Bright '57**, were also Middlesex graduates. The family wishes to thank all of Bill's nurses and the staff at Somerset House for all their care and love.

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## *L. Patton Kline '46*

Leonard Patton Kline died peacefully at the Summer House Hospice in Sebring, FL, on May 16, 2018.

The son of Ruth Carr Patton and Leonard Charles Kline, Patton was born in Kansas City, MO, on November 6, 1928. He joined the fourth class in 1942 as a Middlesex Prize Scholar, and after graduating, he earned a B.S. in applied economics at Yale University. In December 1950, he married Jean Caruthers Lysle, and they were married for 49 years, until her death in 1999. Patton was a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force from 1951 to 1953 and then returned to Kansas City to begin a career at the insurance firm of Mann, Kerdolff, Kline & Welsh. In 1975, he moved to New York City to become the head of the New York office of Marsh & McLennan, Inc. He rose to become president of Marsh & McLennan Companies before retiring in 1988. Patton was fortunate to be remarried to Myrna Christopherson, and they had 12 years together before she passed away in 2012.

Patton was president of the Missouri Historical Society and chaired the Board of the New York College of Insurance during a critical period in its development. He was also a long-term director of the PHH Corporation and Utilicorp. An accomplished golfer who was a member of many clubs, Patton was active in the United States Senior Golf Association and served as the chairman of the invitational tournaments, winning six of them himself. When he could no longer play golf, he brought the same

competitive drive to croquet and, at age 86, won both the single and double championships at the Mountain Lake Club.

His survivors include his daughter, Laura Lazarus; two sons, Leonard and Charles Kline; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and his brother, **William P. Kline '49**. His late uncle, **Henry C. Flower, Jr. (1915)**, and late cousins, **Claiborn M. Carr, Jr. '30**, **M. Boylan Carr '33**, and **John W. Carr '34**, also attended Middlesex. The family would like to extend its thanks to Patton's caregivers.

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## *Abbot L. Mills III '46*

Abbot Low Mills III died on February 7, 2017.

He was born on April 20, 1927, in Portland, OR, to **Abbot Low Mills II (1917)**, who became a governor on the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, DC, and Katherine Ainsworth Mills, who became the director of the American Red Cross. Following Mills family tradition, Abbot was sent to Middlesex and attended for three years, beginning in 1941. In 1944, Abbot joined the U.S. Marine Corps, which was preparing to invade Japan. After the atom bombs ended the war, Abbot finished his military service as an MP in China. He then attended Pomona College, where he earned a degree in journalism and met Jody, who was attending Scripps College. They were married and started a family; Abbot Low Mills IV was their firstborn.

Abbot learned to be a good photographer to enhance his value as a newspaper reporter, but his natural talent in the medium took over his career, and he moved to the East Coast to become a photography editor for *Ladies Home Journal*. In the 1960s, Abbot was invited to become one of the elite crew of documentary film photographers for Drew Associates. Together they created the genre that was labeled "cinema

verité." Abbot's documentaries not only recorded history, but they also influenced history. Never one to shy away from danger, he filmed in combat in Vietnam, in the midst of racial strife in the 1960s, and even with the SPCA, saving animals from piranha-infested waters in Surinam. He filmed musicians, dancers, test pilots, race car drivers, and everyday working people, many of whom became well known through his work. Abbot will be remembered for showing the truth through his unassuming observations.

Abbot is survived by Jody Rich Mills, his wife of 68 years; his children, Abbot Low Mills IV, David Mills, Lauren Mills, and Richard Mills; and five grandchildren. His family's Middlesex legacy spans three generations and includes not only his father but also his late uncles, **Lewis H. Mills (1910)** and **Thomas H. Mills (1917)**; his late brother, **John A. Mills '49**; his late cousin, **Frederic C. Mills '47**; and a nephew, **John A. Mills, Jr. '71**.

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## *Peter B. Hjorth '55*

Peter Bowen Hjorth died on February 10, 2018.

Born on June 24, 1935, Peter graduated from Greenwich Country Day School in 1950 and attended St. James School in Maryland for one year before entering the fourth class at Middlesex in 1951. He left after that year to attend Lane High School in Charlottesville, VA, which was closer to his family's new home. Peter subsequently earned a B.A. in business at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1958 and spent his career in import and export investments. Married in 1956, he and his wife Elizabeth raised a family of three children.

Peter leaves his wife of 62 years; other survivors could not be determined, as an obituary was not available by the time of the *Bulletin's* publication.

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### *James M. Duryea '62*

James Mairs Duryea died peacefully on May 17, 2018, after a long journey with Alzheimer's.

Jay was born on July 25, 1943, and attended Green Vale School and Aiken Preparatory School before coming to Middlesex in 1957. On graduating, he attended Boston University and worked briefly as an operating room technician at Glen Cove Hospital before serving in the U.S. Marine Corps. As a commercial pilot, Jay flew twin otters for Pilgrim Airlines and then 727s for Northeast Airlines. He was both a governor and a director of the New York Stock Exchange, where he worked as an independent floor trader for J.M. Duryea, Inc. for 35 years.

Jay served on the Board of the Glen Cove Boys and Girls Club, where he is an honorary director, and also served on the Boards of Lattingtown Village and Locust Valley Cemetery. He volunteered as a coach and referee for many years at Beaver Dam Winter Sports Club, serving as treasurer of its Board as well.

Predeceased by his parents, Bub and Sis Duryea, his brother, Center Hitchcock, and his sister Missy Duryea Butterfield, Jay is survived by his wife Linda; his children, Mindy, Megan Scott, and Oakley; seven grandchildren; his brother, **William M. Duryea, Jr. '56**; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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### *Christopher K. Lawford '73*

Christopher Kennedy Lawford died of a heart attack in Vancouver, Canada, on September 4, 2018.

Born on March 29, 1955, Chris was the only son of Patricia Kennedy and Peter Lawford. He attended St. David's School before joining the fourth class at Middlesex in 1969. After receiving his diploma, he completed his bachelor's degree at Tufts University in 1977 and his J.D. at Boston College Law School in 1983.

Chris worked steadily as an actor. He had a small part in *Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines*, made appearances on TV shows, including "Frazier" and "The O.C.," and had recurring roles on the soaps "All My Children" and "General Hospital." But Chris was perhaps best known for his work as an author. His 2005 memoir, *Symptoms of Withdrawal: A Memoir of Snapshots and Redemption*, which details his own addiction to drugs and alcohol in the wake of his uncles' assassinations, was a *New York Times* bestseller. After his memoir, Chris authored several more books on addiction and recovery, the most recent of which was *What Addicts Know*. He studied counseling at Harvard University and lectured on addiction at Harvard, Columbia University, and other college campuses; he was also a spokesman for the Caron Foundation, a nationwide drug and alcohol rehabilitation network.

Chris is survived by three children, David, Savannah, and Matt; his sisters, Sydney, Victoria and Robin; and many cousins and members of his extended family. His late cousin, **David A. Kennedy '74**, was also a Middlesex graduate.

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### *Geoffrey N. Gibbons '77*

Geoffrey Norton Gibbons passed away peacefully with family members at his side on June 21, 2018, at Care Dimensions Hospice in Lincoln, MA.

Geoff was born on June 27, 1958, and grew up on the outskirts of Boston. He came to Middlesex from Weston Junior High School and, following his graduation, he continued on to the University of Vermont, excelling in sports. Geoff's professional life was focused on residential and commercial real estate, including the last ten years at First Boston Realty. He was reliable, courteous, honest, and dedicated to all. Geoff enjoyed exploring in his jeep, surfcasting, and living a very health-conscious life. He loved bringing his family

together and was above all a gentleman. Always maintaining a positive outlook on life, Geoff was an inspiration to others, and will be greatly missed.

Predeceased by his father, Geoff is survived by his mother; his brothers, Prescott Gibbons and Robert Young; his sisters, Angella and Leslie; and one niece.

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### *Brian W. Chase '83*

After a long, courageous journey through Stage 4 glioblastoma brain cancer, Brian Wolcott Chase died at home on July 12, 2018, surrounded by the love of family and friends.

Born and raised in Charlottesville, VA, Brian attended St. Anne's-Belfield School before joining the third class at Middlesex in 1980. After graduating, he earned his bachelor's degree at Wake Forest University and subsequently moved to Dallas, TX, where he worked as a computer consultant for three years. Returning home to Charlottesville in 1990, Brian earned an M.B.A. at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business. Following a stint in advertising with Ogilvy & Mather in Chicago, IL, he moved back again to Charlottesville in 1993. Brian pursued a number of personal and entrepreneurial interests, eventually joining Roy Wheeler Realty Co. in 2001.

During his illness, Brian was blessed to receive prayers and positive energy from all over the world, and he remained grateful to the end. This incredible support allowed him to survive far longer than any expected and share his courage with all around him.

Brian is survived by Charlee Channing, his wife of more than 25 years; his father, Derwood Chase; two older brothers, Sumner and Stuart; Charlee's children, Chris, Lisa, and Matt Pawlina; and two grandchildren. His uncle, **Frederick Stow '50** is also a Middlesex graduate.

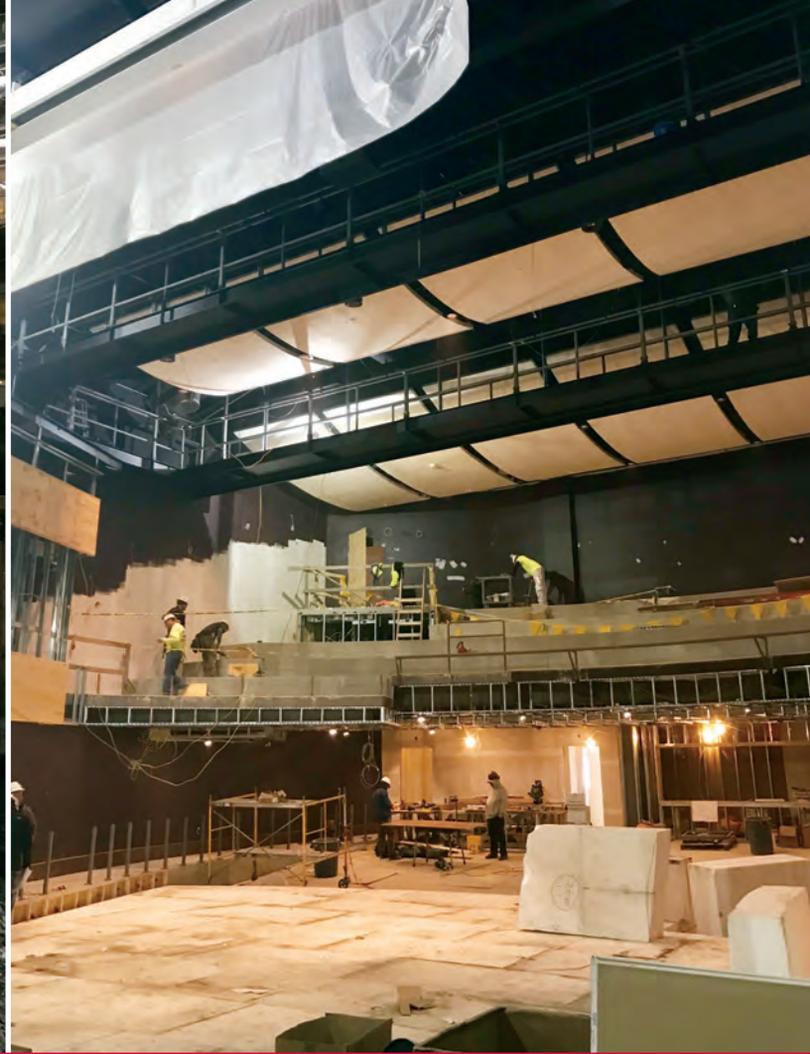
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### *Jennifer McLernon Bjercke '88*

Jennifer McLernon Bjercke passed away peacefully in Boston, MA, surrounded by family, on June 28, 2018, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

The daughter of Pam and David McLernon, Jen was born in Montreal, Quebec, on May 12, 1980. Wonderful family summers in Kennebunk Beach, ME, led her to an interesting and exciting international life. Starting out at ECS School in Montreal, Jen came to Middlesex as a freshman in 1994 and competed on the varsity tennis, squash, and cross-country teams. She attended Boston College and transferred to the American University in London, England, where she graduated with a degree in international relations. While working as a press officer at the Jordanian Embassy in London, Jen met Ulrik, with whom she visited many special places throughout the world, including regular trips to his native Norway. They moved to New York City soon after, where Jen worked in real estate, and their first child was born. In 2011, they moved to Boston, where Sebastian was born, and Jen continued her real estate career. The family had just moved to the wonderful community of Winchester, MA, shortly before she was diagnosed with Stage 4 breast cancer, which she battled for almost five years. Jen was witty and fun-loving, caring and kind, and was always concerned about helping others to live and enjoy life to the fullest. Most recently, she was raising funds for and sending clothing to Syrian refugee camps, also fundraising for breast cancer research. Jen is survived by her husband Ulrik; their children, Charlotte and Sebastian; her parents and sister Laura; and many uncles, aunts, and cousins. She also leaves behind her devoted nanny/caregiver, Teresa Salazar, and her inseparable companion dog Snickers.

# Back Story: Setting the Stage



Early in August, Arts Division Head Tom Kane (above, on left) and Technical Theater and Design Director Ryan DuBray stood on the spot where Middlesex's new main stage would eventually be—although at the time, it appeared to be a pile of crushed stone. Two months later, a picture of the same location (above, on right) shows more clearly the shape of the theater to come, with the stage in the foreground and mezzanine seating in back.

Remarkably, just a year ago, the entire site where Middlesex's visual and theater arts facilities once stood looked more like a blank canvas than the beautiful renderings of future creative spaces. But by January, the project had begun to take shape with concrete foundations poured and steel beams in place. Late in March, the full steel skeleton of the Danoff Center for the Visual Arts and the Bass Pavilion could be seen; and as graduation neared, exterior and interior framing was well underway, making the structures weather tight—and much more like the architectural drawings displayed nearby.

And then summer arrived, and construction went into overdrive. The installation of windows, a red brick façade, and slate roofing soon connected the buildings with the prevailing style of the Middlesex campus. Inside, while fire sprinklers, catwalks, and mechanical systems went into the theater, sheetrocking and the first coat of paint defined studios within the cavernous visual arts space. Concurrently, the old courtyard was regraded, and granite treads were laid for four new staircases. By September, young trees and plantings were in place near the Circle, as the landscaping of the site's perimeter was finished in time for the start of the academic year.

It won't be long until January 2019 arrives, and along with the New Year will come light-filled studios for drawing and painting; rooms specifically designed for ceramics, photography, plaque carving, and art history; the spacious, secure Ishibashi Gallery; a brand new black box theater; and a sizeable, renovated theater—ready for its musical debut with *Kiss Me, Kate* next spring. **M**

# Gala Benefit & Auction

Middlesex Alumni Association | April 5, 2019 | Four Seasons Hotel, Boston



Please join fellow parents and alumni for a fabulous evening featuring both silent and live auctions!

Hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, a three-course dinner, and some good-natured, competitive bidding are in store at the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston on April 5, 2019.

Previous Gala Auctions have cumulatively raised over \$700,000 to help support the MxAA's outreach events and programs, from Summer Internship Stipends and Alumni Career Panels to College-Age Alumni Gatherings and Parent/Alumni Golf Tournaments. To date, more than \$150,000 has also been directed to the School's financial aid budget, supporting the Middlesex experience of scholarship students.

For more information about the Gala—or to inquire about reserving a table or donating an auction item or experience—please contact Director of Alumni Relations John Morrissey at 978-371-6523, or [jmorrissey@mxschool.edu](mailto:jmorrissey@mxschool.edu).





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for  
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