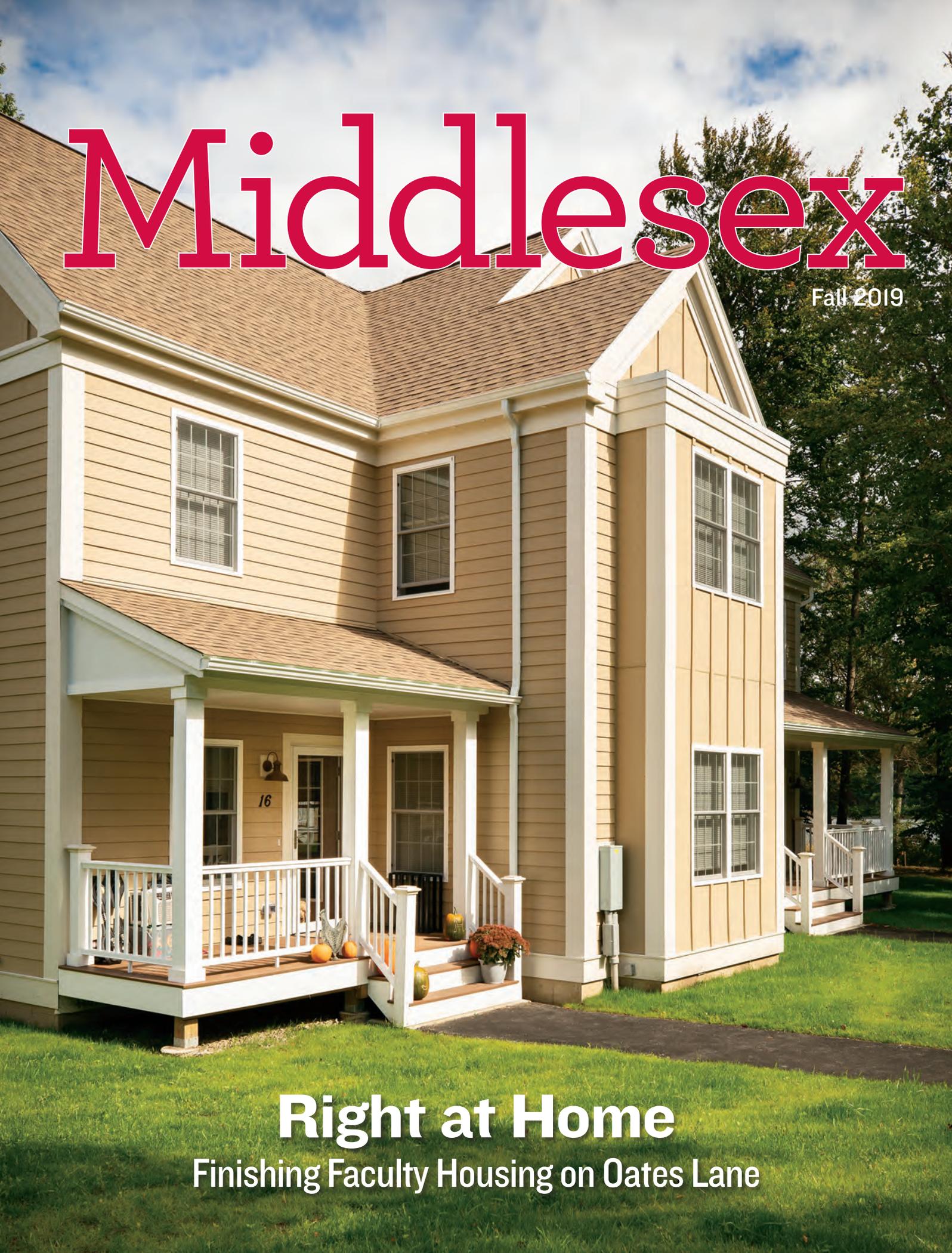


Middlesex

Fall 2019



Right at Home

Finishing Faculty Housing on Oates Lane

From the Head of School



Building Relationships

One of the best parts of my morning during term time is from 7:45 to 8:00. That is when I greet students coming from breakfast or from the parking lot, heading to their first-period class. Standing outside for those 15 minutes, under the oak tree between Eliot and Peabody, gives me a chance to spend a few moments catching up with a student who just got her “boot” off after an ankle injury, or ask another student how things went at the Friday recital, or exchange a few friendly words with colleagues who are themselves off to class.

Greeting the students is a pleasure, to be sure, but it is also part of a larger project to get to know the School and the students as quickly and as well as I can. In my first week, back in July, I spent three days with our COO Matt Crozier walking through every nook and cranny of the buildings, from the rickety ladder going up to the bell tower to the lower reaches of the Rachel Carson Center, where the geothermal heat exchange machinery does its quiet work. Now that school has begun, I have been fascinated to watch the ways in which we inhabit those buildings and witness how well-designed spaces contribute to student learning and social connection.

Of course, it is the people, the program, and the relationships fostered here on this beautiful campus that make Middlesex so distinctive. As a way of getting to know these aspects, I have been sitting in on as many classes, evening programs, club meetings, and spikeball games on the Circle as I possibly

can. I make my way out to athletic contests on Wednesdays and Saturdays and eat my meals in Ware Hall with students and colleagues. I’ve found that the porch of Eliot Hall, with its Adirondack chairs and lovely view of the sun setting behind the Chapel, is a particularly good spot to engage students in conversation. In all these places and situations, students tell me that they love the challenges the program presents to them and the camaraderie they experience with their peers. They feel deeply the care, expertise, and support they receive from their teachers, in and out of the classroom.

I know what the teachers here at Middlesex know: that investing in relationships, and connecting with students as persons with many dimensions, frees kids up to be a little more adventuresome than they might ordinarily be. When students know, in their bones, that they are in the company of teachers who truly care about them, they blossom and are less afraid to make mistakes. This is when teachers can begin to engage those open minds with true rigor, and students can make substantial rather than superficial progress. Middlesex teachers do this exceedingly well, in the classroom, on the field, in advisor meetings, and in the Houses. And sometimes, these relationships start with a simple “hello” on the way to class on a Thursday morning.

Middlesex

Fall 2019

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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 If this magazine is addressed to a son or daughter who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please advise us of his or her new address. Thank you!

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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

Three new duplexes were completed along Oates Lane this summer, thanks to an anonymous challenge that was quickly and generously responded to by alumni, friends, and parents, particularly those of graduating seniors. Photo by Joel Haskell.



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This year’s event featured a full schedule that included dedication ceremonies and tours of new spaces, giving alumni and their families plenty to do together while enjoying their reunions.

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On a beautiful spring day, the class of 2019 crossed the Circle to Eliot Hall, received their well-earned diplomas, and officially joined the ranks of Middlesex alumni.

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A charismatic and motivating speaker, the Reverend John Finley drew a crowd of students after his talk and stayed to continue discussing with them the work of Epiphany School.

Making the Most of Opportunities

What advantages do some people enjoy that may not be available to everyone? How do these opportunities—or lack thereof—affect a person’s experiences and path in life? Can, or should, someone who benefits from having opportunities try to share them to improve the situation of others?

These are among the questions being pondered by members of the Middlesex community this year as they consider the theme of the “ethics of opportunity.” Approaching the idea of the All-School “Read” with a variety of media, students and their faculty advisors were asked to meet and review selected TED Talks, podcasts, and websites that might spur their thinking about opportunities and how a lack of them can give rise to inequalities and injustices in life.

Soon after, in evening chapel on September 20, the School welcomed the Reverend John Finley, co-founder and head of Epiphany School, a tuition-free independent middle school serving children from economically

disadvantaged families in Boston. Mr. Finley traced the roots of his career back to Groton School, where he began to find his “faith and entrepreneurial spirit,” applying both to setting up a recycling program that, in turn, funded community service efforts. Later, at Harvard, he helped establish and run a homeless shelter after a man froze to death in Cambridge. “I had a great Harvard experience,” Mr. Finley remarked, “but the shelter was the most meaningful part of it.”

A Powerful Epiphany

His faith and inclination to work with people eventually led to the idea of founding an Episcopal school. With a mission to “never give up on a child,” Epiphany selects students by lottery and is a “full-service school” that offers a comprehensive academic program and provides personal support for each student and family. Since Epiphany’s founding in 1997, he has helped launch dozens of other schools like it.

To students wondering about their own future paths, Mr. Finley offered three pieces of advice: Be yourself; ask for help; and never give up. Inspired by his work, students had many thoughtful questions about Epiphany. “I drove out here because I do believe that Middlesex is a special place,” Mr. Finley concluded. “I hope your lives reflect the values that you hold. Life is short, and we have so little time to gladden the lives of those who are here with us. So, be quick to love; make haste to be kind.”

Lending a Hand

The community gathered the next morning to hear from John Hamilton, who serves as vice president of economic opportunity for the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund. Founded in 1983, the Fund provides loans, capital, and technical assistance to enable traditionally underserved people to participate more fully in the state’s economy.

“Like some of you, I feel really blessed,” Mr. Hamilton said. “I’ve had lots of opportunities.” He credited his Phillips Andover

roommate with making him more aware of the privileges they enjoyed, and through volunteering at a Boston-area homeless shelter during college, he recognized the unequal way that opportunities are allocated. “How can ethics inform the way we act and the impact they make?” he queried.

Relying predominantly on private investors and donors, the NH Community Loan Fund puts ethics into action, assisting those not deemed “lendable” by standard financial institutions. The Fund supports the goals of small business owners, childcare providers, and homeowners seeking to form resident-owned cooperatives. Notably, the Fund has not lost any investor’s money.

Mr. Hamilton also offered advice to students: Be present here and now; be honest and kind to yourself and others; and look for ways to give of yourself. “Eight citizens came together to make New Hampshire better, so that underserved people could have a better life,” he stated. “I can’t wait to hear about what you get involved in.”

Small group discussions followed, allowing students and faculty to share their thoughts about advantages and advocacy—and their influence on communities. **M**

Rethinking the Classics



Princeton Professor Dan-el Padilla Peralta advocates taking a fresh look at the ancient world, as he sees the study of classics as having a role to play in the pursuit of social justice.

Through the combined resources of the Mudge Family Fund for the enrichment of the classics and the Equity and Inclusion Speaker Series, Middlesex welcomed distinguished scholar Dan-el Padilla Peralta on April 2, 2019. An assistant professor of classics at Princeton University—where he earned his undergraduate degree—Professor Padilla Peralta spoke about his personal and academic journey and the need for questioning commonly held beliefs about the ancient world. “What I propose,” he said, “is that classics is a capacious, expansive resource for a more equitable future.”

Born in the Dominican Republic, Professor Padilla Peralta moved to New York City with his family in 1989. His father’s return to the Caribbean led to the family being evicted and living in a homeless shelter, where Dan-el spent much of his time in the library. While there were “curiously not many books that mentioned the Dominican Republic or only mentioned it in passing,” he was drawn to the volume, *How People Lived in Greece and Rome*, which started his trajectory toward classics. After Princeton, he earned an

M.Phil. in Greek and Roman history at Oxford and a Ph.D. in classics at Stanford. In 2015, he published his memoir, *Undocumented: A Dominican Boy’s Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League*.

In classics, he had hoped to find “a place where I was from many different places” as well as “a vocabulary for fleshing out and articulating” his sense of alienation. Instead, he found, “It was a fact that with every step I took, folks with my background were not represented in the classics.” With few other colleagues of color in his discipline, he recognizes now that a traditional curriculum and style of teaching classics gave him “no resources for thinking about his racial or immigrant self.”

Through examples of paintings and political cartoons, Professor Padilla Peralta showed how biases about race, colonization, and immigration have been depicted, sometimes subtly and often offensively. Given that “understandings of classics are shot through with race,” he said, “All of us who enter this area have the responsibility to reexamine critically the discipline.” **M**



Head of School David Beare (at far left) joined new colleagues for their “class picture.” Next to David, from left to right, are Teresa Peralta, Sam Hoar '07, Alex Fernández, Zhenyan Li, Jamie Pine, Vinnie Cimmino, Taylor Leen, Aura Rizzo '07, and Kelsey O'Brien, who joined the Alumni Office as an advancement officer last winter.

New—and Returning—Colleagues

The opening of each academic year brings fresh perspectives and talents to campus with the arrival of new faculty and staff.

This fall, the community welcomed sixth Head of School **David Beare**, who brings 30 years of experience to his work at Middlesex. A veteran teacher of history, philosophy, and religious studies, David has served on the faculty at the Loomis Chaffee School, Phillips Exeter Academy, Lakeside School, and The Hotchkiss School. Most recently, he was the associate head of school at Keystone Academy in Beijing, China, where he was the founding dean of faculty. A graduate of Georgetown University, David holds an Ed.M. from Harvard's Graduate School of Education and an M.Div. from Harvard's Divinity School.

Having stepped away for two years to complete a master's degree in political science at MIT, **Sam Hoar '07** returns to the History Department, which he first joined after graduating from Middlebury College.

Vinnie Cimmino comes to Middlesex from Thayer Academy, where he taught math and coached for seven years. With a B.S. in information systems management from Bridgewater State University, he teaches both math and computer science.

For the past five years, **Taylor Leen** has taught Spanish at Grier School. She earned her B.A. in Spanish and global studies at Providence College and her master's degree at Middlebury College.

As a two-year teaching fellow at Phillips Academy, **Teresa Peralta** taught Spanish, served as a house counselor, and interviewed admission candidates. Born in Ecuador, she earned a B.S. in biology and Spanish at the University at Albany and an M.A.T. at Clarkson University.

A teacher and translator of Mandarin Chinese with 17 years of classroom experience, **Zhenyan Li** taught most recently at Westford Academy. She holds a B.A. in education from Sichuan Normal University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in consumer affairs from Auburn University.

Aura Rizzo '07 returns to her alma mater as a seasoned teacher of classics. She taught Latin and Greek at Rocky Hill School for six years, also coaching varsity field hockey and lacrosse. Aura received her M.A. with honors from the University of Edinburgh and earned her M.A. in classics at Boston College.

After working in recruitment and admissions for three years at Oliver Scholars in New York City, **Alex Fernández** has joined the Admissions Office and is a dorm assistant in Clay House. An alumnus of Oliver Scholars, he is a graduate of Concord Academy and Dickinson College.

Also new to Admissions, **Jamie Pine** is a graduate of the Lincoln School and completed a B.A. at Colby College, where she captained the women's varsity tennis team.

And lastly, **Katy O'Connor** has resumed her administrative post at Middlesex, ably supporting the work of the Academic Office. ✖

Serving the Community

September 23, 2019



In their roles as community service officers, 16 Middlesex seniors led freshmen and juniors in a day of volunteer work—a school tradition since 1994. Venturing into both the greater Boston area and the greater Lowell area to engage in a variety of service projects, students and faculty worked with 11 local organizations on 12 separate assignments. On local farms, they assisted with harvesting produce that supplies the Greater Boston Food Bank. Other opportunities included helping Habitat for Humanity, preparing meals



for a women's shelter and a community supper, and clearing trails for Mass Audubon. A particularly satisfying accomplishment of the day for one group was the packaging of 10,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger, an international nonprofit focused on hunger relief. For many, this was a great introduction to Middlesex's Community Service Program.

Volunteering with several of these organizations continues throughout the year, along with additional initiatives spearheaded by student-run clubs. **M**





Explaining the struggle of a “spiritual materialist” like him, Dr. Lightman said, “Maybe the moment is all there is; but, for me and my fellow travelers, we want to connect moments to eternity. We want something to be permanent.”

From Finite to Infinite: A Search for Meaning

As a former trustee, the father of two graduates, and the sponsor of an enriching, decade-long lecture series called “The Hub at Middlesex,” Dr. Alan Lightman has indeed had “a long association with Middlesex,” as he said at the start of his talk on April 23, 2019. Well-known and highly respected as an astrophysicist and educator, a novelist and essayist, and a social entrepreneur, Dr. Lightman came to campus to share some of the thoughts and experiences that inspired one of his most recent books, *Searching for Stars on an Island in Maine*.

He began by recalling one summer night when, on returning to a small Maine island by boat, he was mesmerized by “the dark sky bristling with stars.” Turning off the motor and running lights, Dr. Lightman lay down

in the boat and gazed upward. “I felt like I was falling into infinity, merging with the stars,” he related. “I felt the vast expanse of time was compressed to a dot, and I felt connected to the entire cosmos.” This “transcendent experience,” as he called it, gave him some understanding of “the attraction of the ethereal”—something that he had not often considered as a physicist who saw the world as being made out of material that operated by certain logical, provable laws.

Faith and Physics

“For thousands of years, humans have been torn between the material and the immaterial,” Dr. Lightman reflected, adding that people seem to want there to be something material that is permanent. “I think this tension is the source of science and religion,” he proposed.

Having discussed cosmology and physics with a Buddhist monk he befriended in Cambodia, Dr. Lightman has discerned that “science and religion differ in the way that truths are discovered.” While believers find the wisdom of divine beings in sacred books like the Bible or the Quran, he noted, “The physical world is the province of science,” where theories must be tested by scientific methods. “All laws of nature are considered provisional,” Dr. Lightman added, “to be revised when we get better information.” Newton’s theory of gravity, for example, was revised by Einstein, whose theory will likely be modified to account for quantum physics. “The irony is that our knowledge of science is uncertain,” he observed, “while religious knowledge is certain.”

A Reconciliation

Ultimately, Dr. Lightman recognizes that “what I’m doing is looking for patterns and meaning”—in effect, searching for the meaning of life with the assumption that “meaning has to have permanence.” Yet, as a physicist who realizes that materials don’t last forever, he knows that in a thousand or more years, not a trace may be left of seemingly eternal

works like *King Lear* or the Sistine Chapel. “Maybe my premise is wrong,” he suggested. “Maybe meaning doesn’t require permanence.”

His ruminations naturally extend from the meaning of life to the certainty of death. “Immortality is not allowed by the laws of nature,” Dr. Lightman stated. “I’m a materialist, but I also consider myself a spiritual person.” How, then, does a self-described “spiritual materialist” confront his own impending death?

From afar, he explained, humans are an assemblage of atoms; with death, consciousness is gone, but the atoms remain. By this reasoning, he affirmed, “My atoms will still be here! They won’t know it, but they will be here.” He continued, “If I could label my atoms, someone could follow them. Some will be part of other people . . . and maybe some will return to the island in Maine.”

For thousands of years, Dr. Lightman reiterated, humans have been searching for meaning and connection. “This is part of what makes us human, and that’s why it’s important,” he concluded. “We need to take time out of every day to get centered and be still with our thoughts, to think about what we want to do with our lives. That’s a challenge of the modern world.” **M**

In the Ishibashi Gallery Heroes & Icons



Brodell’s research is meticulous and thoughtful. “When you’re looking at news articles,” the artist said, “you have to read between the lines. They were writing about people they didn’t understand for people at the time.”

Opened last spring with an inaugural exhibit of works by Rachel Perry ’80, the School’s Ishibashi Gallery is featuring a new exhibition this fall by Ria Brodell, a non-binary trans artist, educator, and author. During Assembly on September 28, 2019, Brodell talked about the inspiration and research behind the portraits comprising “Heroes & Icons,” each of which “uncovers people lost to history,” as Visual Arts Department Head Stacey McCarthy noted in her introduction of the artist.

Showing images of older work that led to the current project, Brodell initially started “looking at my childhood in relation to my Catholic upbringing.” Raised in a conservative family in Idaho, they found Catholicism “comforting,” and loved the pictures and stories of the saints on holy cards. Early pictures Brodell painted often humorously combined religious figures with those from popular culture (as in one titled “St. Anthony Finds G.I. Joe’s Gun”).

In thinking about gender identity and gender transition, Catholicism and homosexuality, Brodell began to wonder, “Had I been

born in a different century, how would I have lived? How did we make a life for ourselves?”

From these reflections, a series of paintings is emerging, 12 of which are in the gallery along with a case containing examples of holy cards. Echoing these cards, the portraits depict the stories of real individuals—how they lived and, sometimes, how they were punished or executed. “I set the criteria as: women assigned female gender at birth but who presented as masculine,” Brodell explained. “I find a story, verify the facts, and then it’s about the painting process.” Libraries, museums, and archives are consulted in order to corroborate, illustrate, and capture each account. “I’m always trying to find their voice and how they felt at the time,” Brodell said. “It’s harder than it seems.”

Initially focused solely on people identified by name, they kept finding compelling narratives with no name attached. “The name is important; these are real people and not mythical,” Brodell stated. “But eventually I started to incorporate them because the story is important.” **M**

A Pathfinder and Champion of Education

Patricia Melton '77



“Whatever your journey has entailed,” Patricia Melton '77 told the graduating seniors, “the tie that binds you now is that you have experienced Middlesex, this special place that has transformed us all with its bounty, its love, its beauty, and its friendship.”

From the time she was a student in junior high school, Patricia Melton '77 has been a trailblazer. Raised in a single-parent home until her mother's death when Patricia was 12, she subsequently took it upon herself to secure a scholarship through A Better Chance (ABC) and became one of the first 48 girls to attend Middlesex.

This was just the beginning of Patricia's list of achievements and prizes—to which has now been added the Henry Cabot Lodge (1920) Distinguished Alumni Award. Given annually during Alumni Weekend, the honor recognizes a graduate whose life and career have made significant and lasting contributions to society, thereby bringing great credit to Middlesex. Patricia is the first alumna to receive this distinction.

Leading the Way

During her three years at Middlesex, Patricia excelled in athletics, winning nine letters in field hockey, basketball, and lacrosse. On

graduating, she headed to Yale University, where she continued to shine athletically, this time in track and field. A seven-time individual Ivy League Champion and an All-American, Patricia was an Olympic Trials finalist in the 800-meter event in 1988. She was inducted into the Middlesex Athletic Hall of Fame in 2003.

Patricia became an educator following college, working in urban school districts in Seattle, Boston, Cleveland, and Indianapolis. Highly regarded for her reform work, she helped create nine K-12 schools and, as a result, has significantly improved the educational opportunities for many students.

Finding Their Promise

Today, Patricia is the president of New Haven Promise, a place-based scholarship program collaboratively created by the City of New Haven, Yale, and The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. Through New Haven Promise, local students who maintain a B average and complete 40 hours of community service can qualify for college scholarships—and know that they will be monitored and mentored while earning a degree and launching a career.

Patricia has also generously given her time and expertise to Middlesex, serving as a trustee from 1988 to 2002 and beginning a second term in 2018. For her long-standing commitment to providing educational opportunities for thousands of students, the Middlesex Alumni Association proudly presented her with the Distinguished Alumni Award on May 11, 2019.

Compelling Stories, Caring Friends

At the invitation of the senior class, Patricia returned to campus to serve as this year's graduation speaker. Focusing on the power of story and the gift of friendships, she shared her own journey from Ohio to Middlesex.

As Patricia recounted, her best friend Mary told her, “There is this special school that my next-door neighbor goes to, and you should go there, too.” Because she trusted Mary, she wrote a letter to that neighbor, Curtis Smith ’76, who wrote back and told her all about Middlesex. “For a kid from inner-city Cleveland,” Patricia recalled, “it sounded like a fairy tale, this school with the funny sounding name, where every student could try their hands at everything.” As fate would have it, Middlesex was admitting its very first class of girls the next year.

“I marvel today,” Patricia reflected, “What did Mary see in me that she said with certainty—with a proclamation even—‘You should attend this school!’” But through her career experiences since then, she affirmed, “I have come to trust the power and magic of children and youth and communities that believe in their dreams of a better neighborhood and world for themselves and others—just as we believe here at Middlesex.”

With this chapter of their lives now complete, Patricia encouraged the seniors to “go forth and put your stamp on this country and this world,” concluding, “Now go out there and create many more chapters, even more interesting and bold than the one you’ve done here.” **M**

Celebrating Six Decades of Diversity

In the School’s earliest decades of existence, the word “diversity” pertained only to the geographic representation and religious affiliation of the boys enrolled. The creation of the Middlesex Prize Scholarships in 1934 gradually began to include students from a somewhat broader range of socioeconomic backgrounds, and briefly, a single student from Japan—the son of a diplomat—attended Middlesex for the 1938–1939 school year.

Extending Opportunity—at Last

But another 25 years would pass before another student of color was admitted to the School—a change that coincided with the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The following year, the first three African American students enrolled at Middlesex. By 2001, according to the School history, *Find the Promise*, 18 percent of the student population identified themselves as students of color, and today, in 2019, the percentage has increased to 32 percent. Outstanding scholars, athletes, performers, and leaders, these students have enriched the school community with their talents and made Middlesex proud as alumni. Among them are the School’s first Rhodes

Scholar and its first MacArthur Fellow, just to name two distinctions.

Connecting Past and Present

As the alumni of color community has grown over the past six decades, so has interest in bringing these graduates together to share and discuss their experiences—both positive and negative—in hopes of strengthening the alumni network and informing the culture and work of the School going forward.

As the 50th reunion of those first African American students nears, it seems an opportune time to ask alumni about their interest in planning and attending a celebration of diversity during Alumni Weekend 2020. A brief survey was sent out last summer as a first step toward brainstorming about programming for an event. Potentially, the exchanges and reflections from this celebration could be carried into the next school year, helping to shape such endeavors as the All-School Read and Diversity Weekend.

Ideas and input, especially from alumni of color, are most welcome and can be shared with the Alumni Office at alumni@mxschool.edu or 978-369-5110. **M**



Welcoming New Trustees



On campus for their first Board meeting were Jason Robart '83, Jennifer Burnes Fulton '85, Johanna Boynton, and Cass Sunstein '72. (Also present but not pictured was Bret Stephens '91.)

Just as new students, faculty, and staff revitalize the School each year, new trustees on the Middlesex Board bring different viewpoints, ideas, and areas of expertise to the work of overseeing and guiding a complex educational institution. In September, the Board was joined by five accomplished members, all of whom know Middlesex well as current or past parents and, in most cases, as alumni.

Johanna Boynton will serve on the Board in a pro-tem capacity as president of the Middlesex Parents' Committee. After graduating from St. Paul's School, she matriculated at Harvard, where she was two-time captain of the women's ice hockey team. A "triple threat" faculty member at a series of boarding schools, Johanna served as the associate athletic director, ran LeBaron Briggs House, and coached field hockey, ice hockey, and lacrosse at Middlesex from 1998 to 2000. On "retiring" from her school career, she launched a residential construction company here in Concord and has served in numerous

volunteer roles. With her husband John, she has four children, including Daisy '20, and Chester '23.

Jennifer Burnes Fulton '85 is a program director at Bain & Co. in Boston. Focused on the Americas, she is responsible for undergraduate recruiting, staffing, training, and talent development. A graduate of the University of Vermont, Jennifer is the president of the Board of Trustees at the Epiphany School and serves on the Carroll School Board. She and her husband Will have three children; her son George '21 begins the fourth generation of Jennifer's family to attend Middlesex. Her grandfather, Bunny Burnes '35, was a trustee from 1957 to 1959, and her father Ken '61 and his four brothers are all alumni, as are several cousins.

Jason S. Robart '83 is the co-founder and managing partner of bambü Global Healthcare Advisors, a strategy consulting and venture capital firm. At bambü, he works with companies looking to leverage the intersection of strategy, innovation, and venture to further their competitive position and bring fundamental change to the healthcare system. An experienced and dynamic healthcare executive, Jason previously held executive positions at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Health Dialog, Mercer Human Resource Consulting, Imagitas, and Ceridian Performance Partners Canada. He is a graduate of Middlebury College and chairs the Nashoba Brooks School's Board of Trustees. He and his wife Sarah are the parents of two alumni, Jason '11 and Sophie '13.

Bret L. Stephens '91 joined *The New York Times* as an Op-Ed columnist and associate editor in 2017 after a long career with *The Wall Street Journal*. Prior to that, Bret was editor-in-chief of *The Jerusalem Post*. The author of *America In Retreat: The New Isolationism and the Coming Global Disorder*, Bret has earned many awards, including the

2013 Pulitzer Prize for distinguished commentary. He is a founder of the Renew Democracy Initiative and serves on the advisory boards of several scholarly organizations. Bret holds a B.A. with honors from the University of Chicago and an M.Sc. from the London School of Economics. He and his wife, Corinna da Fonseca-Wollheim, have three children, including Lara '22.

Cass R. Sunstein '72 is the Robert Walmsley University Professor at Harvard Law School and the founder and director of the Program on Behavioral Economics and Public Policy there. From 2009 to 2012, he was administrator of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. A graduate of Harvard and Harvard Law School, Cass was an attorney-adviser at the U.S. Justice Department before joining the faculty at the University of Chicago Law School. In 2008, he joined Harvard Law School's faculty, later returning in 2012 as the Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law. The author of numerous articles and books, Cass has spoken at Middlesex several times and understands the School from a parent's perspective as the father of Elyn Ruddick-Sunstein '09. He and his wife, Samantha Power, have two young children. **M**

Helping the State Fight Hate

During the swearing-in of members of the Massachusetts Governor's Task Force on Hate Crimes, it first struck DJ Williams '16: I'm a part of something huge.

"I heard people saying, 'I'm the district attorney of this place,' 'I'm the head of law enforcement in this city,'" she says. "Here I am, an Amherst sophomore, in the same room with these important people. It was a little intimidating. But I knew from day one that we would be able to effect good and needed change."

DJ was appointed by Governor Charlie Baker to be a part of the 17-person task force he revived in 2017 in response to a rise in anti-Semitic incidents across New England. The group is charged with advising him on issues related to the prevalence, deterrence, and prevention of hate crimes, and on ways to support victims. As a member of the task force's education subgroup, DJ's responsibility is to represent the perspective of, and to advocate for, youth in the state.

A Spanish major, DJ studied in Cuba last spring, participating in task-force meetings remotely—and impressing the more experienced members of the group. "When the task force was first created, it was clear that members brought varied experiences and expertise to the table, including DJ," says City of Northampton Police Chief Jody Kasper. "She is a critical thinker who makes valuable contributions to group discussions. She is also really committed to the mission of the task force and shares her thoughtful and insightful input during meetings."

The *Boston Globe* interviewed DJ for a December 2018 article on the rise of hate crimes, noting that she views education as an essential tool. She explains now, "Because



Among her many activities while in college, DJ Williams '16 has been a member of Dancing and Stepping at Amherst College, the women's rugby team, the Resurrect Gospel Choir, and the Black Student Union. (photo by Maria Stenzel/Amherst College)

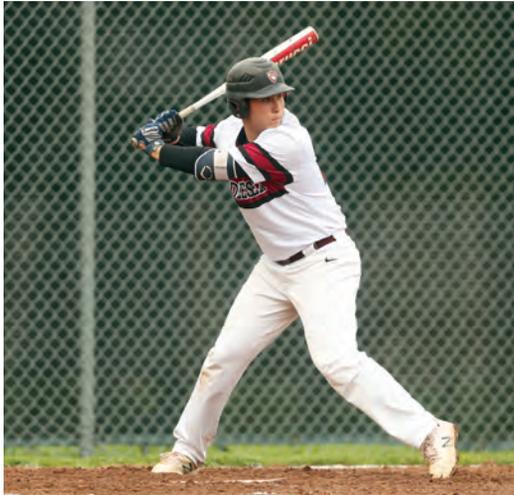
hate is a learned behavior, it's a mistake to focus solely on after-the-fact measures. We'd only be addressing the symptoms and the results of an illness—not the sickness itself."

"That's why it's important to start the conversation about tolerance and acceptance early, with children, in the schools," DJ says. "In doing so, we're creating different, more peaceful and loving learned behaviors."

*Adapted from an Amherst College Magazine article by Caroline Hanna. **M***

Team Highlights

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



Baseball

Kyle Wolff '22 ended a remarkable freshman season as the top hitter in the ISL with an astounding .556 batting average. He also tied for the league lead in home runs with three and finished second in RBI with 15. Kyle was deservedly named All-League, as was teammate Cole Cleary '20.



Girls' Lacrosse

Co-captain Alex Fehnel '19 took the ball to the cage in a 13-9 win against Lawrence Academy. Along with her teammate Carly Tilson '20, she earned an All-League Honorable Mention for the season, while fellow Co-captain Clarissa Hurley '19 was named All-League.



Girls' Tennis

Captain Maud McCole '19 led her team through a winning season that culminated with the semifinals of the NEPSAC Class B Tournament.



Crew

The spring of 2019 marked the 60th year that Middlesex has competed in the NEIRA Regatta, which was first held 63 years ago on Worcester's Lake Quinsigamond. And, for the last 45 years, Middlesex's entries have included its girls' varsity rowers, assembled here for a group photo.



Boys' Lacrosse

On the way to a 10-5 victory, Charlie Mehm '21 accelerated past a Tabor defender.

Spring Achievements

On the court and in track-and-field events, Middlesex athletes gave their best efforts, alone and in unison, achieving gratifying results, as both tennis and track teams competed at the top levels of their respective New England Championships.

Tennis Teams Advance

Both varsity tennis teams headed into the New England Class B Championships on May 18 with strong records: 10-3 for the girls and 10-2 for the boys. Seeded third, the Middlesex girls defeated Cheshire Academy 5-0 in the quarterfinals before ending their tournament run with a loss to Westminster School in the semifinals. Subsequently, the team finished the season on a high note, adding two more wins for a record of 13-4.

Seeded second at the New Englands, the boys' varsity defeated Williston North Hampton 4-0 and went on to best Salisbury School 4-2 in the semifinals. Facing Roxbury Latin, Middlesex fought hard in the finals, but lost 0-4. Three more regular season wins against Belmont Hill, Governor's Academy, and St. George's brought the team record to 15-3—the best performance in recent memory thanks to strong senior leadership and great team chemistry.

Track Takes First and Second

Building on last year's strong performances, the girls' and boys' varsity track teams surpassed their previous achievements, setting new school records in 11 different events during the season. Then, at the New England Championships—hosted by rival St. George's—the girls impressively captured second place for the fourth consecutive year, once again winning the 4x400-meter relay with the strong leadership of Mary Odusami '19, Charlotte O'Toole '19, Gabby Walsh '20, and Alene Fernandes '20. With individual titles won by Love Daley '22 (high jump), Dahlia Galante '20 (javelin), and Abisola Lawal '19 (shot put), this was truly a team effort.

The boys' varsity successfully tied its best-ever team performance at the ISL Championships with its third-place finish, while Anyolo Makatiani '20 emerged as an outright ISL Champion in long and triple jumps. On May 18, the boys went on to win their first-ever New England Championship, with every athlete contributing to the victory. New England Champions in specific events included Anyolo (triple jump), Julian Farr '20 (110-meter high hurdles), Jacob Charles '19 (400-meters), and the 4x400-meter relay unit of Jacob, Haydn Herrema '19, Justin O'Toole '20, and Kofi King '20, who won the final race of the day. With style and hard work, the boys and girls excelled in competition and set high standards for the program next year. **M**



Two-year Co-captain Justin Krayner '20 earned an All-League Honorable Mention at the close of an outstanding 15-3 season that included competing in the finals of the NEPSAC Class B Tournament.



New England Champions: Both the boys' and the girls' 400-meter relay teams came away with gold medals in their event; from left to right are: Mary Odusami '19, Jacob Charles '19, Charlotte O'Toole '19, Haydn Herrema '19, Alene Fernandes '20, Kofi King '20, Gabby Walsh '20, and Justin O'Toole '20.

Alumni Weekend

Whether it had been 75 years since their Middlesex graduation or only five short years, alumni from the classes of 1944 through 2014 were welcomed back to campus on May 10 and 11 to reconnect with old friends, revisit favorite haunts, tour new spaces, and enjoy a spring weekend in Concord.

Kicking off the event on Friday night was the ever-popular New England clambake, once again provided by Woodman's of Essex. After an evening of dinner and dancing, Saturday's full schedule began with a 50th reunion breakfast in the Terry Room for the class of 1969—as well as for any alumni who had already celebrated their 50th reunion. Subsequently heading to the Chapel, graduates took time to remember departed classmates during a Memorial Service thoughtfully led by Rebecca Smedley, director of spiritual and ethical education at Middlesex.

A review of the great state of the School was then provided by Board President Stephen Lari '90 and Head of School Kathy Giles in the brand-new Kaye Theatre within the Bass Pavilion. Following their summary, Patricia Melton '77 became the first woman honored with the School's Henry Cabot Lodge (1920) Distinguished Alumni Award. Then, in front of Eliot Hall, the Athletic Hall of Fame gained three more accomplished members: former Assistant Athletic Director Linda Moulton, Ray Turner '96, and David Lawson '09.

Lunch under the reunion tent preceded a busy slate of afternoon activities, including a series of victorious varsity lacrosse games and tennis matches versus BB&N. Many also attended the dedication of the Fortmiller Studio Theatre—one of several new spaces to be officially celebrated that weekend (see pages 18–19)—before strolling through the Ishibashi Gallery to view the inaugural exhibition, *We Are Open*, and to meet the artist, Rachel Perry '80.

With the closing reception back at the reunion tent, another convivial, well-attended Alumni Weekend concluded. Be sure to mark your calendar for next year's event, set for May 15 and 16, 2020!



At least half the class of 2014 returned for the first official reunion since graduation. Among those in attendance were: (in front, left to right) Juliana Fiore, Grace Jensen, Haley Andonian, and Irene Demoulas; (seated, on the bench) Hailey Porter, Tori Burke, Ali Stephens, Nell Gallogly, Isabelle Hoch, Olivia Dewey, and Cici Frattasio; (standing, in back) Maddie Winslow and Sarah Tabeek.

Now a current Middlesex parent as well as an alumnus, John Baylor '84 caught up with retired Dean of Students Carmen Beaton at the clambake.



As president of the Middlesex Alumni Association, Trustee Rob Trumbull '00 presented the Henry Cabot Lodge (1920) Distinguished Alumni Award to fellow Trustee Patricia Melton '77. Now the president of New Haven Promise, Patricia has dedicated her career to improving educational opportunities for thousands of students, helping many realize the goal of completing college degrees.



Marking 60 years since their Middlesex graduation, members of the class of 1959 assembled for a photo. Seated, from left to right, are: Joanne Salisbury, Marshall Field, Andy and Mal Eaton, Rick and Nonnie Burnes, Art and Leigh Sorensen. Standing behind them are: Bob Van Rensselaer, Peter Webster, Joan Griffith, Ned Kelley, and Judy Gates.



John Brooks '69 and Kendall Hobson '69 had a chance to catch up at the 50th reunion breakfast in the Terry Room.



The class of 1969 lined the steps to the Terry Room stage for a 50th reunion picture. In the first row, from left to right, are: Jack Wickwire, Charlie van Horne, Toby Dewey, Joe Rousmaniere, and Terry Bright. In the middle are: John Brooks, Mark Litvin, Bruce Hart, Andy Hackford, and Sam Campbell. In the back row are: Peter Doering, Bill Merrill, Stan Twarog, George Nagel, Kendall Hobson, Clarke Mullins, and Jeffrey Boutwell.



Alumni Weekend



Several 1994 classmates were on hand for a 25th reunion photo on Saturday. Seated, from left to right, are: Robin Sailer (holding Thomas and Priscilla), Rick Burnes, Albertina Cisneros, T Thomson, Mark Kurtz, Doug Deihl, and Brett Johnson. Standing behind them are: Katie Goodwin, David Dodwell, Topher Sailer, Chris Cavanagh, and Chris Griffin.



Back for the clambake—and their 40th reunion—were (seated) Jake Nunes '79 and John McGovern '79, along with (standing) Chip Chapin '79 and Henry Fisher '79.



Scoping out Alumni Weekend ahead of their upcoming 50th reunion (in 2024!) were class of '74 graduates Bob Atkins, Ian Young, and Peter Stone.

Members of the class of 2009 turned out in force to celebrate their 10th reunion. Seated, left to right, are: Bailey Hoar, Justine Parisi Bensussen, Will Bancroft, Gavin Johnson, Kelsey Hennegen, Hadley Stecker, Julia Hill, Olivia French, and Louisa Savage. Standing behind them are: Caroline Corbett Sizer, Liz Sims, Rebecca Packwood, Jenn Shropshire, Zain Amarshi, Kelsey Gibb, and Stephanie McCarthy Brooks. In the back row are: Ima Edomwonyi, Rob Harty, Griffin Duffy, Dan Giles, Duncan Gillespie, Peter Given, Alden French, and Sam Platt.



Athletic Hall of Fame

2019 Inductees

New Nominating Committee Chair Nick Kondon '80—also a Hall of Famer—presided at this year's ceremony that welcomed three inductees. From left to right are Ray Turner '96, Nick, Linda Moulton, and Dave Lawson '09.

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.



Linda Moulton

Linda was instrumental in the development of the girls' athletic program at Middlesex during her tenure from 1975 to 1979. She served as the assistant athletic director in charge of girls' athletics, an associate dean, and the head coach of the field hockey, basketball, and lacrosse teams, often coaching both the varsity and JV levels. In addition, Linda assisted with the gymnastics program. She went on to become the assistant women's basketball coach at Harvard, following that post with athletic administrative positions at Wellesley, Smith, and William & Mary. In 1987, Linda was appointed the athletic director at Clark University, where she served until her retirement in 2011.



Ray A. Turner '96

Winning nine letters in his Middlesex career—three each in soccer, hockey, and lacrosse—Ray was named All-League three times in hockey and once in soccer. A captain of hockey in 1995 and 1996, he was named the Eberhart Division MVP and the Arnold-Cutler Award winner in 1995 and was All-New England in 1996. Previously, he had represented Team Atlantic Canada in the World U17 Hockey Tournament in 1994. Ray also played on two undefeated, ISL Championship lacrosse teams at Middlesex. He then played two years of college hockey at Middlebury, where he helped win back-to-back national championships, followed by two years at Dalhousie University.



David P. Lawson '09

Dave won 12 letters at Middlesex: four each in football, basketball, and lacrosse. A captain of basketball in 2008 and 2009, and of lacrosse in 2009, he was named All-League in football once and three times in lacrosse. Dave was also named All-New England, All-American, and League MVP in lacrosse as a senior, the same year that he received the Childs Backfield Bowl, the Huckins Basketball Bowl, and the Ty Prince '63 Memorial Bowl—and was named NEPSAC Male Athlete of the Year. Earlier, he had earned the Kelton Athletic Bowl in 2007 and the Class II Alumni Prize in 2008. In his four years of playing lacrosse at Duke, the team won two national championships; as a senior captain, Dave was named All-ACC and First Team All-American. He played professionally for five years in Major League Lacrosse and was a member of the 2014 USA World Lacrosse Team, earning a silver medal and selection to the All-World Team.

Alumni Weekend

Dedications

HONORING DONORS AND MENTORS

Completed in late January, the fantastic facilities within the Bass Pavilion and the Danoff Center for the Visual Arts have both supported and spurred dynamic, creative efforts at Middlesex. In May, the concurrent spring trustees' meeting and Alumni Weekend provided a great opportunity to thank several of the major donors who made this extensive project possible and to honor former faculty for whom two new spaces were named.

After the day's meetings on May 9, the trustees applauded the generosity of three families—the Basses, the Kayes, and the Danoffs—for their essential, foundational gifts in support of the arts at Middlesex. All were then treated to a few highlights from *Kiss Me, Kate*, the first musical to be performed in the state-of-the-art Kaye Theatre, and at noon on May 10, the group reconvened for an official dedication of the spacious Danoff Center for the Visual Arts.

To open the trustees' afternoon session, Board President Stephen Lari '90 offered the School's profound thanks to Bob and Anne Bass for their extraordinary leadership and their transformational gift of the Bass Arts Pavilion, as it was their sizeable contribution, which included a matching challenge, that inspired many people to give and assured the completion of the project. "The Pavilion is a statement to the community about how a school turns aspiration into reality," Stephen said, "and thus captures the roles that Anne and Bob Bass have played on our Board throughout their tenures."

The adjournment of the spring meeting was then followed by the dedication of the Ishibashi Gallery, the gift of former Trustee Hiroshi Ishibashi '66. The ceremony also marked the official opening of the first exhibition, *We Are Open*, which appropriately featured the work of a Middlesex graduate, noted artist Rachel Perry '80.

As part of Alumni Weekend's events on May 11, the School's first Mindfulness Studio was dedicated to honor the late Loring Coleman '38, retired art department head. This light-filled space was a 50th reunion gift from members of the class of 1968, several of whom were in attendance along with Loring's extended family. Following lunch, the Fortmiller Studio Theatre was filled to the brim for an entertaining dedication honoring both the Dolce family for their gift and the theatre's namesake, retired Senior Master Hugh Fortmiller, who taught drama early on in his 40-year tenure.

With Hugh's closing words, the perfect direction was given to all those benefiting from these many wonderful resources: "So may the work continue!"



Steve Kaye and Trustee Judy Kaye—parents of Alli '10, Tom '17, and Laura '17—talked with Head of School Kathy Giles before settling into their Kaye Theatre seats to watch students perform a few spirited numbers from *Kiss Me, Kate*.

As two of the Honorary Co-chairs (along with Victoria and Victor Atkins '63) of the successful *Mx2* capital campaign, Trustees Bob and Anne Bass have served the needs of Middlesex with vision, dedication, and generosity long after the graduation of their son Chris '93.



"This theatre is about Hugh's great, wise heart that lives in many of us," reflected Oscar-winning actor Bill Hurt '68 in his tribute to mentor and longtime friend, Hugh Fortmiller. The dedication included remarks and performances by (from left to right) Eric Dolce '15, Performing Arts Department Head Tom Kane, Ryan Melia '07, Rosie Lowe '07, and Hugh Fortmiller.

"I can't tell you how important it is having a role and a space for mindfulness," affirmed Middlesex's Director of Mindfulness Programs Doug Worthen '96. Noting that Loring Coleman '38 meditated every day, Doug added, "He is the perfect person to have this room named for."



"Together we create great things," said Trustee Will Danoff, speaking at the dedication of the Visual Arts Center that he and his wife Ami funded. "We all need community to discover who we are and to grow."



Hiroshi Ishibashi '66 completes the impressive, collaborative piece, *Silver Wall*, by twisting the last link and adding it to the chain.



Mayari and Hiroshi Ishibashi '66 stand with Rachel Perry '80 and Visual Arts Department Head Stacey McCarthy in the Ishibashi Gallery, where the work of professional and student artists will serve as a source of reflection and inspiration.

Graduation 2019

For seniors and their families, graduation is always a memorable occasion, and for the class of 2019, this was especially true. On a beautiful, blue-skied Memorial Day, members of this class were the last Middlesex students to receive their diplomas and final sendoff from Head of School Kathy Giles. And for their final event together as seniors, they made sure to find ways to remember their classmate, David Andrysiak, who died in March from an inoperable brain tumor. Wearing “DA” labels, each senior carried a white rose to the steps of Eliot Hall, where the flowers were collected in a vase and presented to David’s parents. Reflecting on the day’s mixture of emotions, Valedictorian Haydn Herrema ’19 acknowledged, “Yes, it is a time for goodbyes, but with that comes new beginnings and the assurance that nobody can take our memories from us.”

Josh Quirk '19, Sam Ferrone '19, and Alex Flynn '19 were ready for the official class picture.



Bill Driscoll '87 now shares his Middlesex alumni status with his son Robby '19.



Seniors took their places in the procession line, waiting for the ceremony to begin.



Departing Head of School Kathy Giles welcomed the guest speaker, Trustee Patricia Melton '77, who was also the first female recipient of Middlesex's Distinguished Alumni Award in early May (see page 8). In her last Middlesex graduation address, Kathy encouraged the seniors to continue learning about "the hows" of this world, to put all their hard-won skills to work in furthering our understanding. At the same time, she invited them to "be open to those life-giving moments of transcendence," which will help them find deeper connection to something larger than themselves and, consequently, find greater meaning in their lives.



With the ceremony over, the celebrating began; pictured here are Clarissa Hurley '19 (on left) and Charlotte O'Toole '19.



Chosen by his classmates to speak on their behalf, Valedictorian Haydn Herrema '19 shared his belief that "it is our own responsibility to create for ourselves meaning in this world." He advised returning students to "fully buy into the community and mindset here" to make the most of their Middlesex experience and hoped that his fellow seniors might find meaning in the lifelong pursuit of learning. "I entreat you all to fill your days, and your souls, with the enrichment of learning until the day you die," Haydn said. "May peace, love, and prosperity find you all, but most importantly, may you all find meaning in this beautiful existence."



Senior Class President Jaden Chew '19, School Vice President Emma Murphy '19, and School President Diego Flores '19 led their classmates across the Circle—the official start to graduation.

Graduation 2019



Classmates Grace Crozier '17 (on left) and Eliza Jevon '17 (on right) came prepared to wave their custom-made paddles on behalf of graduating senior Hadley Jevon '19.

Director of Athletics Ken Risley accepted the diploma for his advisee, David Andrysiak '19.



Chidilim Menakaya '19 received her diploma with highest credit.



Alex Rivet '19, Jason Saharia '19, Yumi Sakaguchi '19, Corey Sarazin '19, and Crystal Sealey '19.

All four children of Paul and Martha Chamberlain are now Middlesex alumni; standing between their parents are Grace '19, Eliza '14, Maggie '19, and William '17.





Andoni Barbarena Yuste '19 congratulates Alex Rivet '19.



Seniors at the end of the alphabet patiently waited for their diplomas: Kabelo Tsetetsi '19, Kate Vu '19, Finn Wimberly '19, Ellery Winkler '19, Lyn Wu '19, and Maeve Zimmerman '19.

Anna Ribeiro '19 and Emma Murphy '19 made their way down the receiving line of faculty and staff members.



A Meditation on the Ideal

BY DAVID J. BEARE, SIXTH HEAD OF MIDDLESEX SCHOOL



Each September, as soon as all of Middlesex's students have arrived on campus, the community gathers before dinner for the All-School Opening Chapel to mark the beginning of a new academic year. On September 6, 2019, following welcoming remarks from the students' elected leaders—School President Anyolo Makatiani '20 and Vice President Phoebe Lu '20—new Head of School David Beare offered his thoughts on Middlesex and its Memorial Chapel, and on listening and learning.

David's talk was inspired in part by Find the Promise, the history of Middlesex written by former English and drama teacher Hugh Fortmiller (in whose honor the School's new black box theatre is named). In the book, David came across Hugh's account of the debate that once ensued concerning the idea of building a chapel at nonsectarian Middlesex, with opposition to the plan explained most clearly in a surviving letter written to founding Headmaster Frederick Winsor by a young graduate: Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. '20, then a Harvard freshman. In the sincere and very different opinions articulated about the proposed project, David discerned an important, overarching message for all to keep in mind.

You may not know this, but the very space in which we find ourselves, this lovely chapel, was the subject of some controversy when it was built in 1925. You see, some members of the community—most notably Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., class of 1920, who later became a senator and an ambassador—felt strongly that the most fitting memorial to Middlesex boys who had died in the First World

War would be something that students would interact with on a daily basis, like a library, and that the presence of a chapel at a nonsectarian school would, in his words, end up “spoiling the school's non-sectarian spirit which . . . is its greatest attraction.” Lodge believed a chapel to be contrary to what he called the School's “fundamental principal.”

Others, more prosaically, thought it was just a waste of money.

The argument that won the day, though, and the reason we are sitting in this particular building this afternoon, was that it was precisely the limited use of the building—that we *aren't* here often—that would inspire a deeper reflection on sacrifice, much more so than a building we enter on a daily basis for use studying or socializing. The founding head of school, Frederick Winsor, put it this way:

“...in the quiet of the place they (the students) will be called on to forget, for the time, the things that are temporal and meditate on the things that are eternal. Always they will associate the memorial not with the practical, but with the ideal.”

Now, we're not here to debate the appropriateness of the existence of this building as a memorial. Ultimately, the Chapel was built. We're sitting in it, for better or for worse.

What I want to do here is point to some of the things that are going on in these exchanges that have implications for our work together this year. The stories about the building of this chapel intrigue me because they encapsulate some of what is best about Middlesex and the nature of the opportunity for all of us that Middlesex represents.

First, this is a robust intellectual and social atmosphere. People feel, and think, and give power and structure to those feelings and thoughts by the hard, and sometimes courageous, task of writing and speaking. During this year, and during your time at Middlesex, my wish for you is that you become

more and more adept at this fundamental activity: attending to, discovering, and developing your own mind, thoughts, and feelings, and the ability to express them. I want you—all of you—to find your voice—creatively, sensitively, and with confidence. Your teachers and I know you have something to say.

What is harder to discern in the historical record is the extent to which the people engaged in these conversations about the Chapel listened to, and allowed themselves to be informed by, *contrary* opinions. This is my second big wish for you this year, and it is the flip side of the necessity of expression. It is imperative for your development and the health of our community that you listen *carefully*—with care and investment—to the thoughts and feelings of the person right next to you on that bench, and by extension, everyone in this room. I want you to adopt a posture of curiosity. I want you to recover, if you’ve lost it, the delight you had as a five-year-old in learning more about the world. Ask questions; seek first to understand where other people are coming from, rather than rushing to declare a point of view. It will only serve to deepen the sophistication of your engagement with the world and help create the conditions under which you and your classmates can become your better selves. I urge you to listen first and then respond out of your listening.

When I first read about the chapel controversy, I was fascinated by the back and forth. Oh, that’s a good point, Mr. Lodge, I thought. Then, oh, that’s a good point, Mr. Winsor. You may feel that way yourself in class this year, and that’s as it should be. The world of ideas is a complex and subtle one, and that fact is very challenging. But if it wasn’t complex, it would be much less wonderful, perhaps even profoundly boring. There are very real differences in approach and interpretation, and to be aware of them and to understand them is to increase your flexibility and range. Differences matter,

and not only to the persons who represent them, but more profoundly because they give us a sense of the delightful multiplicity of the world. Human society, like any healthy ecosystem, is strengthened—not weakened—by complexity.

At the same time, if you sit quietly and listen carefully to the back and forth, you begin to discern common ground. Both Lodge and Winsor are looking for a fitting way to honor the sacrifices that members of this community made in the First World War. Both look to the highest ideals of the School and of the world. Both clearly love Middlesex. Here I do not intend to diminish their differences, not at all. But recognizing that there is common ground in our humanity is often where productive conversations can find a firm footing. One of your jobs, then, is to develop the capacity to engage complexity thoughtfully and flexibly—to speak as well as to listen, to identify points of connection and continuity as well as points of difference, and to seek ways that difference can open up the world for us all, even as it can unsettle us. The two usually go hand in hand, an unsettling and an opening of new possibility. That’s growth.

And so here we are, as Mr. Winsor imagined, in this place thinking about things that are ideal and aspirational—our best selves and the promise of our community—rather than the practicalities of “what’s for dinner.” (Still, maybe some of you are thinking about what’s for dinner). That is an entirely appropriate way to start the school year.

These, then, are my wishes for not only you, but for us, this year: That we speak authentically, that we listen earnestly, and that we embrace—rather than shy away from—the complexity of the world. If we do these three things, I can guarantee this will be a fantastic year on the athletic fields and courts, in our classes and studios, and around the Circle.

I wish you all good things. ✎



In the Bass Arts Opening the Kaye

Kiss Me, Kate

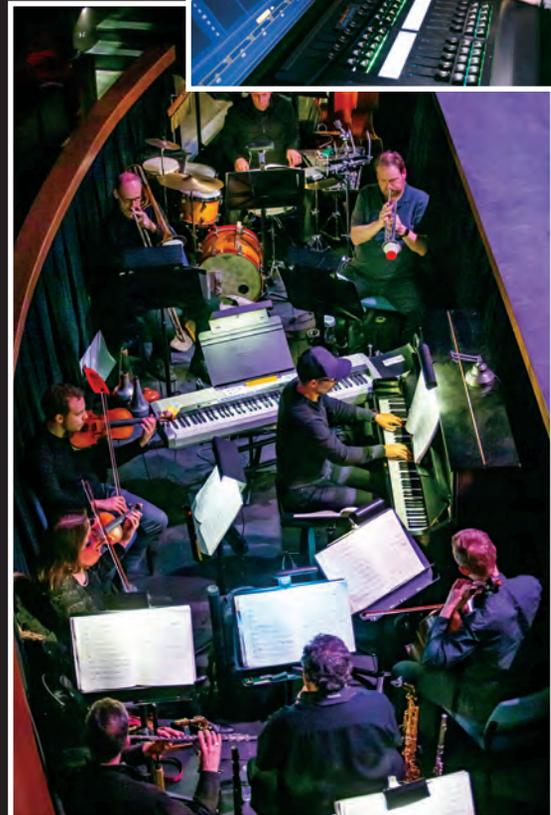
May 3-4, 2019

Book by Bella and Samuel Spewack
Music & Lyrics by Cole Porter
Directed by Tom Kane
Musical Direction by Pierson Wetzell
Technical Design & Direction by
Ryan DuBray
Choreography by Meghan Rose
Costume Design by Kim Brown
Photography by Robert D. Perachio

The production may have been *Kiss Me, Kate*, but it was definitely not just “another op’nin’, another show” last May when the curtain rose on the first musical to be presented in the newly finished Kaye Theatre within the Bass Arts Pavilion. Taking full advantage of the facility’s features—from the professional dressing rooms to the updated lighting and technical equipment to the bona fide orchestra pit—the directors, cast, and crew clearly made the most of their resources and talents, entertaining the Middlesex community with two lively performances of the Tony Award-winning musical comedy. With elaborate sets and costumes, lyrical vocals, complex dance routines, and even a few acrobatics, the final result was...well, more than wunderbar! **M**



Pavilion: Theatre



In Memoriam

John D. Comer '41



John Drewry Comer died on April 4, 2019.

Born in Macon, GA, on April 30, 1923, just one month after his father had died of pneumonia, John was raised by his mother, Maud Gamble Comer, and lived in Macon nearly his entire life. He followed his brother, Hugh M. Comer '34, to Middlesex and,

upon graduating, spent 42 months in the U.S. Army as a first lieutenant in field artillery (Pacific Theater). Subsequently, he earned his bachelor's degree at Harvard College and his law degree cum laude at the University of Georgia, graduating first in his class as a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi.

John built his legal career in Macon and, in 1956, formed the firm Sell & Comer, which by 1980 had evolved to become Sell & Melton; he became of counsel in 2002. A leader of several legal organizations during his career, he merited the UGA Law School Association's highest honor in 2005: The Distinguished Service Scroll Award. John served on many boards, including Middlesex, where he was a trustee from 1953 to 1957 and from 1972 to 1978. With his wife, he also served the Macon community in many capacities, supporting numerous charitable causes, civic groups, and educational and cultural institutions. A lifetime member of the First Presbyterian Church, John is remembered by his family for his deep generosity, intellectual curiosity, fair-minded approach, and commitment to family.

John was predeceased by his wife, Mary Anderson Comer; his sister, Cynthia Comer Ross; his brother Hugh; and his elder son, John Drewry Comer, Jr. '67. He is survived by his son, James A. Comer '71; his daughter Cynthia; two granddaughters, Andrea Comer Goff '03 and Catherine D. Comer '05; two great-grandchildren; and a grandnephew and two grandnieces.

John W. Brewer '38

John Wilmot "Jack" Brewer passed away in the early evening of January 27, 2019, at the age of 99.

Jack was born in Spokane, WA, on September 15, 1919, the son of Oscar Z. and Josephine Oudin Brewer. Growing up in Browne's Addition, the city's oldest neighborhood, he attended Washington School and then Lewis and Clark High School before transferring to Middlesex, joining the fourth class in 1934. On receiving his diploma, he went on to earn a degree in architecture at Princeton University. After his graduation in 1942, Jack worked briefly as a draughtsman for Boeing, prior to being drafted into the Army Air Forces during World War II. His college studies in mapping and photogrammetry led to his being sent to a school for bombsight maintenance in Denver, CO, where he worked on a secret bombsight project loaned by the Navy. Later, he transferred to the Corps of Engineers to gain commission and was sent to Fort Leonard Wood, MO, as a bombsight instructor. In September of 1945, he married Laurelle Marie Evans, and they raised three daughters together, until her death in 1981.

After the war, Jack returned to Spokane and joined his father in the lumber business. They formed a new corporation, Brewer Lumber Mills, Inc., which then purchased and operated a sawmill near Gonzaga University to furnish lumber for their box factory, Brewer Pine Box Co. Jack served at various times as president of Brewer Lumber Mills, Inc., Brewer Pine Box Co., Lumber By-Products Co., Spokane Pulp Supply Co., Inland Empire Wooden Box Association, and Wood Products Clinic. Brewer Pine Box Co. was liquidated in 1959. Brewer Lumber Mills, Inc. continued operations until 1965, at which time the mill

shut down for good. The corporation, however, remained as an entity until 1989, the year it was officially liquidated. After the sale of the mill property in 1968, Jack moved to a small office, which he continued to use daily until July 2018.

Jack spent his summers at Lake Coeur d'Alene with his family as a young child, and he continued that tradition, commuting daily to his office in Spokane until the last few years. He had a lifelong love for sailing and participated for many years in Spokane Sailing Club races on the lake. In 1983, he married Frances Fairchild Holbrook. He and Frances enjoyed many years of international and domestic travel.

Jack is survived by his wife Frances; his three daughters, Anne Lauderbaugh, Lisa Stowers, and Mary Thomson; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Felix M. Warburg '42

Felix Max "Peter" Warburg died at home on August 11, 2019, following a brief illness.

He was born in Vienna, Austria, on May 24, 1924, to Marian Bab and **Gerald F. Warburg (1919)**. Educated at Middlesex and Harvard, he twice interrupted his studies during wartime to serve as an Army intelligence officer, first from 1944 to 1946 and again from 1952 to 1953. After completing his graduate degree at Harvard's School of Architecture, Peter moved with his wife, the late Sandol Milliken Stoddard, and their children to California. There, he played a significant role in designing noted public spaces and private homes in Northern California, including Ghirardelli Square and Sea Ranch, for which he served as project manager for the award-winning firm of Lawrence Halprin. As chair of the Marin County Planning Commission in the early 1960s,

Peter pushed for the creation of Point Reyes National Seashore and helped preserve the Marin Headlands, now part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. A longtime supporter of preservation efforts, he also led Jewish history tours throughout Old West sites and helped preserve San Francisco's Bush Street synagogue.

Peter's second marriage in 1966 to the late Sue Rayner and their move into San Francisco led to his further engagement with the city's arts community and his interest in Jewish history from the Gold Rush era. He was appointed to the San Francisco Arts Commission and continued his commitment to environmental causes, advocating against the location of a nuclear power plant on the coastline north of Monterey Bay.

Predeceased by his son Joshua in 1960 and his wife Susan in 2014, Peter is survived by five sons, Anthony, Peter, Gerald, Jason, and Matthew; two sisters, Geraldine Zetzel and Jeremy Warburg Russo; one brother, **Jonathan F. Warburg '59**; 10 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. Spanning four generations, Peter's Middlesex family legacy is extensive and includes his uncles, **Frederick M. Warburg (1915)**, **Paul F. Warburg (1922)**, and **Edward M. M. Warburg (1926)**; his nephew, **Frederick M. Warburg '00**; and his cousins, **James P. Warburg (1913)**, **Walter N. Rothschild, Jr. '38**, **James P. Warburg, Jr. '68**, **Philip N. Warburg '72**, **Antonio G. de Almeida '72**, **Jeffrey P. Maass '73**, **Alexander R. Peters '75**, **Brian H. Maass '76**, **Gregory H. Maass '81**, **Ian E. Warburg '81**, **Lucy S. Weber '00**, and **Isabella M. Warburg '14**.

Eliot C. Clarke '47

Eliot Channing Clarke died on April 9, 2019, from injuries he sustained when he was struck by a car while crossing the street in Boca Grande, FL.

Born in Boston, MA, on September 22, 1928, EC (as he was known at Middlesex) was the son of Aleen Hughes and **James F. Clarke (1906)**. He entered the fifth class from Dexter School in 1942 and, after graduating, went to Harvard and earned an A.B. in English history and literature. He served as a first lieutenant in the Army in the Korean War. Returning to Cambridge, he earned an M.B.A. at Harvard in 1955 and married Diana Yandell Dillon that same year; they had three children together.

After three years at Brown Brothers Harriman & Co., EC moved to J.P. Morgan in New York. He spent most of his career as an investment banker; starting at Morgan Guaranty Trust, he became a senior vice president at J.P. Morgan and then took over as president of Travelers Asset Management. On retiring, EC spent some time as a venture capitalist, primarily focusing on hydroelectric power in Canada.

EC married Susanne Low in 1975, and they had one son. At Lithgow, EC's landholdings in Millbrook, NY, he created a successful fallow deer farm and magnificent gardens, populated by free-roaming peacocks and guinea fowl; the property was featured in magazines such as *House & Garden* and *Town & Country*. A master gardener, EC wrote a weekly column for the local newspaper about his own gardens and those he visited on his worldwide travels—a passion he shared with Susie. A lifelong, avid sportsman, he enjoyed skiing in Austria and fishing in Patagonia and the Seychelles. EC's creative pursuits

Richard A. Chenoweth '42



Richard Anderson Chenoweth passed away peacefully on May 6, 2019, in Naples, FL, with his loving children by his side.

Dick was born to Lawrence and Elizabeth Chenoweth on July 9, 1925, and attended King Elementary School in Akron until he won a

prestigious Middlesex Prize Scholarship in 1936. On graduating at the top of his class, he attended Harvard University on a National Scholarship and completed his undergraduate work while on active duty in the Naval Reserve Officers Training program. Dick then earned his law degree at Western Reserve University (now Case Western Reserve). He joined the Akron law firm of Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs in 1948 and had a successful career, retiring on January 1, 1996. He was presented with the prestigious Sir Thomas More Award for extraordinary community service in the legal profession.

Dick's passion for his community was evident in the number of boards he served on, from businesses to health and service organizations to schools, including Middlesex, where he served two terms as a trustee. He continued as a trustee for the GAR Foundation (where he was also executive director) and the Burton D. Morgan Foundation well into his retirement.

An exemplary role model and mentor, Dick will be remembered for his kindness, wisdom, patience, and approachability. While an avid golfer, he always put his family first. After the 1969 death of his first wife, Mary Lou, he married Dorothy Christie "Chris" Tomkinson, and they joined their six children into one loving family.

Dick was predeceased by his parents; his sisters, Virginia Friederici and Connie Christie; and his wife Chris. He is survived by his sons, Rick Tomkinson and Bill Chenoweth; his daughters, Christine Yuhasz, Betsy Getz, Gindy Smith, and Jean Vernon; 17 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

In Memoriam

Thomas M. Bancroft, Jr. '47



Trustee Emeritus **Thomas Moore Bancroft, Jr.** died on **October 6, 2019**.

The son of Edith and **Thomas M. Bancroft (1920)**, Tom was born on **January 1, 1930**, and joined the third class at Middlesex in 1944. On earning his diploma, he went on to graduate from Princeton University in 1951 and

spent four years in the Navy, reaching the rank of LTJG.

In 1955, Tom began his long business career with Mount Vernon Mills. After seven years as chairman and CEO, the company was sold. He then became chairman and CEO of the New York Racing Association for seven years. From 1972 until 1995, he and his late brother, **William W. Bancroft '49**, successfully bred and raced thoroughbreds. Retired since 1990, Tom served on the Board of Directors of Victaulic Corporation, a manufacturer of couplings and fire protection products.

Like his father, who served as a trustee from 1945 until 1970, Tom was a loyal and generous alumnus. A Middlesex trustee since 1972, he served as board president from 1980 to 1985 and continued to serve the School as a trustee emeritus. In 2002, he received Middlesex's Henry Cabot Lodge (1920) Distinguished Alumni Award.

Tom is survived by his wife Barbara; his daughters, Muffie and Jenny, and his stepdaughter, **Anne Wiedemann Churchill '89**; his sons, John Bancroft, **Thomas M. Bancroft III '84**, **Townsend W. Bancroft '96**, and **J. Cryder Bancroft '06**, and his stepson, Christopher Wiedemann; 13 grandchildren; and a large extended family. Other alumni relatives include Tom's nephews, **William W. Bancroft, Jr. '73**, **Montgomery E. Bancroft '77**, and **Frederic M. Bancroft '81**. The fourth generation of the Bancroft legacy has continued with his nephews' children: **Charlotte M. Bancroft '08**, **William W. Bancroft '09**, **Julie E. Bancroft '10**, and **Frederic W. W. Bancroft '22**.

included painting large-scale, colorful works and writing. His 2004 book, *Land of the Free and Home of the Brave*, traces the evolution of American beliefs from the times of the earliest colonial settlements until the U.S. became a world power. As part of his research, he documented his ancestors' contributions and was proud that they were among the first families at Middlesex. Sadly, EC did not get to see the newly finished James Freeman Clarke Labyrinth that he and his daughter donated to Middlesex in memory of his late father.

EC is survived by his wife Susie; his sons, Amory, Laughlin, and Eliot; his daughter, **Victoria A.L. Clarke '85**; and three grandchildren. His nephew, **Francis J. Humann '83**, and his cousins, the late **Charles Eliot Ware '30**, **Daniel E. Lenos '92**, and **Anna Lenos Januskiewicz '96**, are also Middlesex alumni.

William M. G. Fletcher '49

William McCrillin Griswold Fletcher died on April 9, 2019.

Born on January 26, 1931, Bill followed in the footsteps of his father, **Arthur W. Fletcher (1906)**, in coming to Middlesex. He joined the fourth class in 1945 and, on graduating, earned a B.A. in economics at Hobart College. Bill had a long career in investment banking with White, Weld & Co. In retirement, he moved first to Meriden, NH, before settling on Little Deer Isle, ME.

Bill was predeceased by his first wife Barbara in 1968 and by his second wife Adele in 2015. He is survived by his children, Ted, Marian, Charles, Jacqueline, Sarah, and Thomas; and 13 grandchildren, including **William G. Fletcher '16**. Bill's late brother, **Henry F. Fletcher '46**, and their cousins, **Edwin K. Merrill (1920)** and **Dudley Merrill (1922)**, were also Middlesex graduates.

James. L. Walsh '55

James Lillis Walsh passed away on March 26, 2018, at his home in Stuart, FL.

Born in Peabody, MA, on January 6, 1937, Jim came to Middlesex from Shore Country Day School and joined the fifth class. After three years, he transferred to the Browne and Nichols School; on receiving his diploma, he attended the University of Pennsylvania and graduated from Boston University. Jim served as president of the Colt Microfiche Corporation, and, in retirement, moved from Little Silver, NJ, to Stuart, where he lived for 16 years.

Jim is survived by his wife, Janet; his daughters, Catherine Walsh, Deborah Shea, and Janet Kiger; his brother John; five grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

George A. Watkins II '55

The School recently learned of the death of George A. Watkins II, who passed away on October 21, 2012.

George was born in Boston, MA, on June 12, 1937, and attended Middlesex for the 1949-1950 academic year. Transferring to Concord High School, he graduated in 1955 and attended Bowdoin College from 1955 to 1957. George then worked as a production manager for the Juice Corporation of America.

At the time of his death, he was survived by his wife, Barbara A. O'Keefe Watkins; two sons, Edward Roger and George A. Watkins III; a daughter, Elizabeth Morrow Tomasini; and five grandchildren. He was predeceased in 1981 by his son, James Michael Watkins.

Mark M. Neises '75

Mark Matthew Neises passed away suddenly on September 13, 2016, with his beloved wife Beth by his side.

Born in Cincinnati, OH, on July 8, 1957, Mark grew up in Rochester, NY, and Boston, MA, eventually settling in Knoxville, TN. Mark joined the third class at Middlesex in 1972 and continued on to earn a B.S. in industrial engineering at Northwestern University, as well as a master's degree in business administration at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Though he was an entrepreneur and investor, Mark was most proud of his decade-long service in the U.S. Marine Corps. As a captain, he served as a helicopter command pilot in CH-46 aircraft, flying in many areas around the world; he then transitioned to a role as a pilot instructor in fixed-wing aircraft. A member of The Church at Knoxville, Mark also served as a volunteer on the staff of FOCUS Group Ministries, working with inmates during weekly visits to area corrections facilities.

Predeceased by his parents, John and Grace Neises, Mark is survived by his wife Beth; his daughter Laura and son Matthew; his brother Dave; and his sister Ellen.

Michael A. Truesdale '76

Michael Alexander Truesdale died at his home in Studio City, CA, on January 1, 2019, after battling esophageal cancer.

Born in Palo Alto, CA, on August 4, 1958, he was given his middle name in honor of the late **Alexander E. Doyle '45**, who was killed in World War II and was the best friend of Michael's father, **John D. Truesdale '45**. In 1974, Michael joined his brother, **James F. Truesdale '75**, at Middlesex; after graduating with the School's first coeducational class, he earned a degree in English literature at the University of Santa Clara.

For many years, Michael worked as a librarian at The Hoover Institution Library at Stanford University; he then worked with his sister Julia, a real estate broker. Moving to Hollywood in 1989 to join his brother Jim in the film industry, Michael started out as a production assistant for the show "Quantum Leap," moving on to other shows as a writer's assistant and producer's assistant. He worked for the first four seasons of "Friends" before leaving the production office to become an art department coordinator. Michael was also a prolific writer, completing about ten feature-length screenplays.

He loved sports, from playing basketball at the local YMCA to organizing softball leagues, pitting one TV show's cast and crew against another show. An avid fantasy football enthusiast and collector of baseball cards and comic books, he loved to draw superheroes and attend Comicon. Michael also belonged to several organizations that shared his concerns about the environment and about impoverished children worldwide.

In addition to his brothers, Jim and John, and his sister, Julia Keady Morris, Michael is survived by his mother, Jacqueline Flood Truesdale; and his companion, Anita Lebonite. He was like a second parent to his nephew Cammeron and loved all his siblings' children. His family's Middlesex legacy also includes his late uncles, **Robert Truesdale '37** and **Philemon E. Truesdale, Jr. '40**; and his cousins, **Robert S. Truesdale '65**, **William McL. Truesdale '75**, **Philemon E. Truesdale III '70**, and **Robert S. Truesdale '11**.

Stratton C. French '77

Stratton Cole French died peacefully after a long journey with cancer at his home in Calais, VT, on April 24, 2019, with his family at his side.

Tony was born on September 29, 1959, to Jack and Deb French. He grew up in Lincoln, MA, and was a graceful athlete who

excelled at soccer, Telemark skiing, and any other sport he tried. After graduating from Middlesex, Tony made an epic trip to Europe that provided a lifetime of stories: hitchhiking across the continent, working in Greece and the Isle of Skye, and skiing in Austria. He went on to the University of Vermont, earning a B.A. in geography and a minor in geology. While working in Alaska as a geologist for the U.S. government, he met his wife Julie, and they first settled in eastern Oregon. Tony wanted to do something positive for the earth and identified hydrology as a viable career choice. After moving to Maine in 1985 to work for a small consulting firm, he left to obtain an M.S. in hydrology at the University of New Hampshire.

He later became a certified ground water professional. Moving to Montpelier, VT, Tony continued to work as a hydrological consultant and then started his own business. He became an active member of the Old Meeting House, serving for many years as a trustee. He was also a founding parent and volunteer for the Orchard Valley Waldorf School.

In 2007, Tony was diagnosed with glioblastoma, beginning a nearly 12-year journey with illness. He never considered himself to be battling cancer; instead, he lived his life to the fullest, enduring numerous surgeries and treatments. His family is deeply grateful to the medical professionals at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center for their years of incredible support. Tony volunteered for the Vermont Foodbank and Vermont Restorative Justice, also providing expert testimony of behalf of the Conservation Law Foundation in its effort to shut down the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. He also enjoyed working in the woods, sugaring, and getting together with friends. Tony had a deep and abiding affection for the Maine coast and particularly for the island of Vinalhaven, where his family spent summer vacations. He loved his children deeply and

was so very grateful to see them reach adulthood. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Tony is survived by his wife, Julie Henderson; his children, Piper and Elias French; his mother, Deborah French; and his siblings, John, Lindsay, Hilary, and their families. His extended family includes many alumni cousins: **Rachel L. Perry '80**, **Julia French Veghte '86**, **Hannah F. French '06**, **Alden B. French '09**, **Olivia P. French '09**, **Emily French '08**, **Louisa French '10**, **Katharine H. French '17**, and **Susannah Wilkins Barry '09**. Susannah's father, **Stephen M. Wilkins '73**, and her aunt, **Kate Wilkins McManus '79**, are also Middlesex graduates.

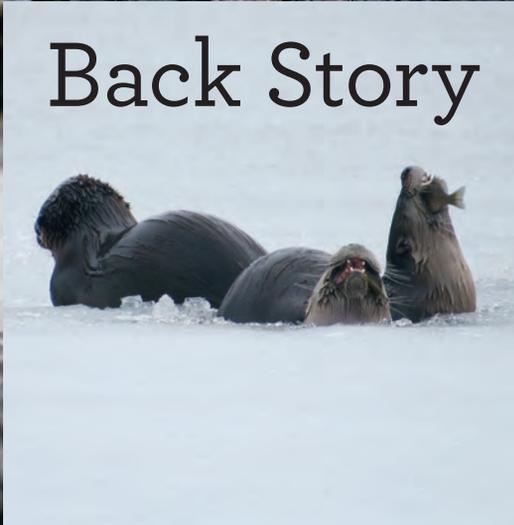
Katherine W. Collin '96

Katherine Whittemore Collin died suddenly and unexpectedly on May 22, 2019, while out running.

The daughter of Janice Basile and Edwin P. Whittemore, Katie was born on May 12, 1978, and grew up in Lexington, MA. She came to Middlesex as a freshman in 1992 and, after receiving her diploma, earned a B.A. in English at Bowdoin College. While earning her J.D. at Suffolk University Law School, she met J. Fraser Collin, and they married on Nantucket in 2006.

Katie began her legal career as an associate with the firm of Taylor, Ganson & Perrin, LLP, where she worked for four years. She then joined her father's law office as an associate, working there for nearly six years. Remembered as a fun-loving and incredibly supportive wife and mother, Katie lived an action-packed 41 years; her family and friends just wish she could have been in their lives longer.

In addition to her parents and her husband Fraser, Katie is survived by her four children, James, Maisie, Micaela, and Hadley; her sister, Kimberly Collin Harris; her brother, Teddy Whittemore; and many nieces and nephews.



Ecosystem Images:
(clockwise, from top left) a nest of bald-faced hornets, “chicken of the woods” fungus, a painted turtle, a barred owl, lunchtime for three otters, and a katydid.

Otters—yes, otters—frolic in icy Bateman’s Pond during March break. A praying mantis rests beside a Landry House doorway in September. And in October, a stately barred owl perches in a pine tree long enough for a stunning portrait.

Images like this, plus 100 other sights and sounds of the natural world around Middlesex, can be found on Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/mxschool_nature. It’s all thanks to the efforts of faculty member Willy Hutcheson, teacher of biology and AP environmental science, who has found the perfect way to share “photos and fascinating factoids” with any number of curious viewers. “For a few years I was doing a blog,” Willy says, “but it was a little more cumbersome as a platform, and I didn’t always have the time to sit down and write a post.”

Since switching to Instagram in August 2018, Willy has taken (and welcomed from contributors) a beautiful array of images featuring all kinds of flora and fauna. “My own bias is for birds,” he allows, “but anything goes. If you go for a walk in the woods or

go down to the dock and wait, these are the interesting things you will see.” In some posts, the revelation is what can be heard—a screechy raccoon fight or a cheerful chorus of spring peepers. Others include short videos of creatures crawling, swimming, or feeding. Each unique post, accompanied by a brief description, achieves Willy’s primary goals: to share information and encourage people to pause and notice their surroundings.

Because he knows the environment so well, Willy also recognizes the damaging effects of invasive species. The emerald ash borer is destroying ash trees, for example, while non-native ornamentals like barberry, honeysuckle, and burning bush are crowding out native plants. “But the water quality in Bateman’s is good,” he notes. “The otters are a sign of that.”

For those wondering if it’s true that a giant, ancient snapping turtle lurks in the pond, Willy reports that some big, potentially 40-year-old turtles do dwell there. “Just don’t put your feet on the bottom,” he advises. **M**



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