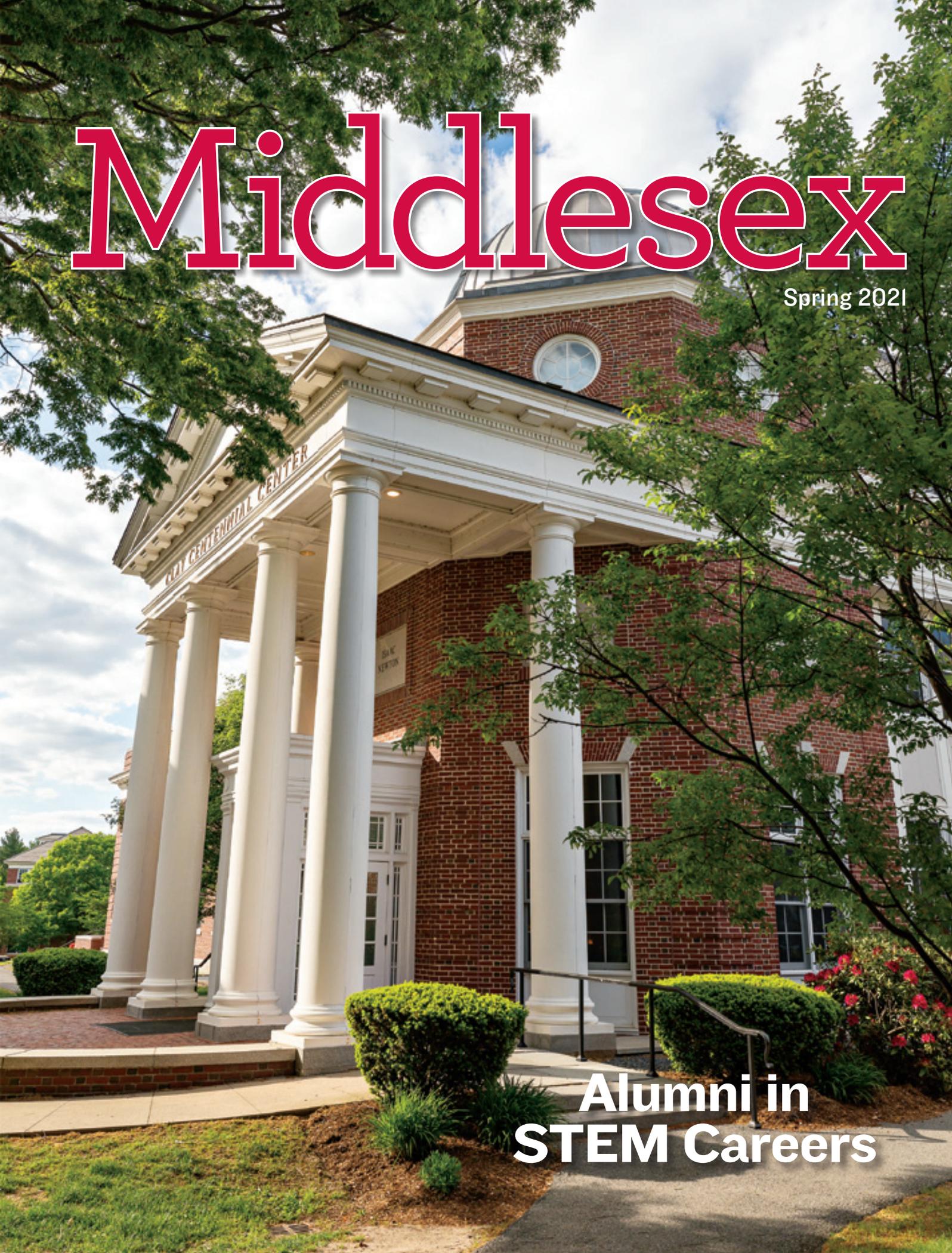


# Middlesex

Spring 2021



**Alumni in  
STEM Careers**

# From the Head of School



## In Gratitude

In the final springtime weeks of this academic year, I am so very thankful for our school community.

Like many students, faculty, and staff, I missed the spring of 2020. In fact, I've never seen Middlesex in its full, busy, springtime glory. Nonetheless, we have made the very best of it in 2021. We have been treated to string performances and steel bands, art exhibits and films, and even a challenging spring musical. Despite the truncated athletics season, we have engaged in high-level competition. The Circle has regained its rightful place as the hub of our campus lives. Perhaps most importantly, we have carried on with learning in all the various ways that it happens on this campus.

Still, this year has underscored for me the desirability of a fully in-person Middlesex experience. If we are to find our promise, individually and collectively, the very best way for that to move forward is schooling that is full time and face to face. This is why I am very happy to convey to all our constituencies that, barring any unforeseen circumstances, Middlesex will be fully in-person next year, with no remote learning. We will practice and compete in the ISL for full seasons, and we will return to classes, clubs, dorms, and the dining hall fully vaccinated and ready to go.

Looking back, one of my favorite memories of the past year was the day, in the dead of winter, when we were able to open the ice on Bateman's Pond for the first time in three years. The hockey teams were out there

almost immediately, clearing patches to skate and practice. Later that afternoon, with a light snow coming down, students and faculty alike enjoyed the day and the simplicity of play, and ice, and companionship. They walked or skated out on that ice with the delightful feeling of being suspended between earth and sky.

I particularly liked seeing those students who had never been on a frozen pond before; they didn't fully trust the ice initially, but then, with each step, they showed growing confidence and a smile that accompanied, perhaps, a feeling of mild peril mixed with support that does not waver.

Isn't this what Middlesex is like?

I wish for something like this experience for our students next year. Returning students will have their feet under them. They know they can trust the ice—and the new ones will learn.

I often ask our community to think about all the ways in which what we do now is built upon foundations laid by others: parents, teachers, coaches, alumni, and friends of the School. So many people are the supportive ice under these students' feet.

When we come back in September, our students will be ever more ready to push off and glide, and the wind they feel on their faces will be the feeling of satisfaction and deep joy that comes with growing accomplishment.

## Middlesex

Spring 2021

### Head of School

David J. Beare

### Director of Development

Heather Parker

### Director of Advancement

George Noble

### Editor

Maria Lindberg

### Design

NonprofitDesign.com

### Photography

Joel Haskell, Tony Rinaldo,  
Risley Sports Photography

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

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**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!

# Contents

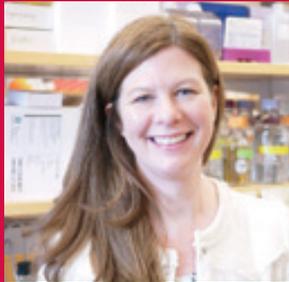
## Mission Statement

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

*The Clay Centennial Center, home to Middlesex’s STEM Division. Photo by Joel Haskell.*



## Features

### 14 COVID and the College Bound

*As Middlesex’s Dean of College Counseling and Student Enrichment, Matt DeGreeff details how the pandemic has altered the college search process and how his office has managed the challenges.*

### 19 The Racial Equity Project

*To help the school community better understand and constructively respond to racism, Middlesex students and Sojourn Theatre created a powerful and unique production, performed online in December.*

### 22 Passionately Curious: Alumni in STEM Careers

*Meet nine lifelong learners who are enthusiastically engaged in finding answers and solving problems in the sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics.*

## Departments

### 2 Life 360

*Expanding Hollywood’s Horizons; Presidential Scholar Harris ’21; Resourceful Weekend Activities; The Big Eleven; On Race and Democracy; Creative Community Service; A PhysicsBowl First*

### 8 Middlesex People

*Careers Amid COVID; Honoring Middlesex’s Black Pioneers*

### 10 Team Highlights

*Soccer All-American Kwabena Kwakwa ’21; Nordic Skiing Revival*

### 31 Alumni Notes and News

*Class Notes; In Memoriam*

“Art without an audience is a journal,” Peter Ray Saji said. “To be good, you have to put your ego on the line and put your work out there. Then lick your wounds if you fail.” (Photo by Bjorn looss for Bonobos)



## Telling Different Stories

Middlesex rounded out its observance of Black History Month on February 23 with an All-School Assembly on Zoom featuring writer and producer Peter Ray Saji, who shared his career path and reflected on diversity in Hollywood. Having been a lead writer for ABC’s hit show *Black-ish* for five seasons, Saji became a co-creator of the successful spinoff *Mixed-ish* and now writes for the show while also pursuing additional projects. His visit was arranged by Erika Prah, dean of diversity, equity, and inclusion, whose friendship with him goes back to their student days at Phillips Academy Andover.

### A Born Writer

Departing from the usual format of delivering an address, Saji was interviewed by Olivia

Clarke ’21, whose comprehensive questions covered everything from his early interests and influences to his thoughts on Hollywood to his advice for Middlesex students. “I always wanted to write,” he said, perhaps from the time he won the principal’s writing award in first grade. If being a Hollywood writer seemed like an impossible dream, his doubts were only confirmed by those who told him, “That’s crazy,” and by his father, who pressed him to go to law school. “My dad was from a different era,” he allowed. “Writing was a hobby, not a career.”

At Andover, however, Saji initially thought he would be a physicist—until his freshman physics course. “I felt like everyone did their thing so well,” he said of his fellow students. “I was feeling like a fraud: I have no thing! Until I found it senior year.” In photography and filmmaking courses that year, he noted, “That was the hardest I ever worked in school; I was always either in the darkroom or the editing room.” And when his project was screened at Andover’s annual film festival, he recalled, “The first joke went over well. People were liking what I did, and I thought, ‘I want this...forever.’”

### Sitcom Start

While majoring in pre-law at the University of Virginia, Saji wrote a couple of screenplays and envisioned himself writing dramas. Instead, “I went to Hollywood and stumbled into comedy,” he said, working on scripts for TV shows like *Cavemen* and *Cougar Town*. “That I was getting paid to write was exciting,” he affirmed, even if the content was not quite what he had in mind, and he was the only person of color in the writers’ room.

At *Black-ish*, Saji found a more inclusive work environment. “I was in a room full of writers who had been ‘the only’ in the room, who had felt marginalized,” he related. “We could all exhale. The experience now is different; there are more opportunities for people telling different stories. It’s so different that it doesn’t feel real.”

Saji is credited with writing some of the most thought-provoking and important *Black-ish* scripts—the very ones that he is most proud of, particularly ‘Juneteenth,’ which commemorated June 19, 1865, when enslaved people in the U.S. were emancipated. “The idea of that episode was, ‘Wouldn’t it be nice if that was a holiday?’” Saji explained. “Then, last year, banks were closed on that day. I never thought that would happen.”

His “Purple Rain” episode about Prince is another favorite, as is “Please, Baby, Please,” which ABC regarded as politically controversial and banned from being aired in 2018. It was released on Hulu last August.

### Learn from Failure

Whether or not Hollywood will continue to expand its openness to diverse stories is “too early to say,” cautions Saji, who is about to pitch a very personal show about his family. Asked for his parting advice, he stressed the value of failure and rejection. “My advice is: Go fail. So many kids are trying to be perfect. You need to try and make mistakes. That’s going to show you what you want to do. It’s going to show you what you want—like me: not physics. It’s also going to help you get better.” **M**

## Presidential Scholar Andrew Harris ’21



As part of his February 2020 photo exhibition, *Mx Fam: My Voice, My Power*, Presidential Scholar Andrew Harris ’21 included a self-portrait.

To an impressive list of leadership positions and awards, Andrew Harris ’21 recently learned that could add one more distinction. On May 13, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education announced that Andrew is one of the 161 high school seniors chosen for the 57th class of U.S. Presidential Scholars.

Created in 1964, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program honors the nation’s top-performing students. This year, of the 3.6 million students expected to graduate from high school, more than 6,000 qualified for the 2021 awards, as determined by outstanding performance on the College Board SAT or ACT exams, or through special nominations. Candidates were then invited to apply for the honor, and approximately 500 semifinalists were chosen from those applicants.

The finalists include two students from each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and U.S. families living abroad. Another 15 were chosen at-large, while 20 were designated scholars in career and technical education, and 20 were named scholars in the arts.

Andrew is among those select scholars in the arts; his photographic portraits have won

top honors in *New York Times* competitions, as well as from the Scholastic Art Awards, the National YoungArts Foundation, and the International Photography Awards. His outstanding exhibition, *Mx Fam: My Voice, My Power*, filled Middlesex’s Ishibashi Gallery in February 2020, and several images appeared in the Concord Public Library’s virtual exhibit last February.

For Andrew, photography offers a way to connect people with one another, as each portrait “not only identifies people’s uniqueness but what brings us together,” he observes. As a digital art form, it also intersects with his interest in computer science. At Tufts University next fall, Andrew will begin a five-year program culminating in two degrees: a B.S. in computer science and a B.F.A. in photography through the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts.

Greatly valuing personal connection, Andrew appreciates everyone who has helped him along the way, giving “a giant thanks to Erika Prah [dean of diversity, equity, and inclusion], Roan Callahan [visual arts faculty], Natalie Martinez [associate director of college counseling], and a lot of other people.” **M**



The joys of pond skating and outdoor hockey were discovered by many when Bateman's Pond froze in February for the first time in a few years. (photo by Doug Worthen '96)

## MX Delivers on Weekend Activities

In a typical year, Middlesex students can look forward to a series of popular weekend events: Random Dance, Dorm Wars, Santa Skate, and Casino Night—as well as off-campus excursions to Cambridge, Boston, and other places nearby. But not during a pandemic. What diversions could the School offer instead?

“We talked about the things they normally have and want to do,” Student Activities Director Anna Marchand '07 says of her discussions with her Student Activity Officers. “It made us look at events through a new lens and think about what is important to keep. And it gave us an opportunity to change things.”

### Adapting and Improvising

With outdoor activities being the safest option, attention focused on making the most of the campus and its natural resources. New fire pits and additional basketball hoops outside the dormitories were immediately appreciated, as were weekend canoe rentals for paddling around Bateman's Pond. Hiking

and biking along the trails in the woods were also great ways to take a break.

Meanwhile, the Circle became even more central to campus life; extra benches and chairs made it an easy place to gather. On different weekends, the lawn turned into a course for mini golf, a prep area for the Baking Club, and a venue for nighttime movies and video games, projected on sizeable screens.

Some traditions required a bit of rethinking, such as replacing typical Dorm Wars contests with COVID-safe ones, like a race-course for pedal carts and water balloon dodge ball. Other ideas came from looking at familiar locations in a new way. The Bancroft Courtyard became the perfect area for a roller-skating rink, a Ping Pong tournament, and Freedom of Speech performances, where students share their talents with the community.

### Seasonal Alternatives

Winter was more challenging, but with lower capacity limits indoors, open skating was allowed in the Pratt Rink, while Ping Pong tournaments and basketball games moved into the Cage—which was converted into laser tag fields one night. Online offerings expanded, including dorm trivia contests, bingo and board games, yoga sessions, and even a virtual escape room.

Fire pits remained a staple of cold Saturday nights, made warmer by the “faculty snack cart,” which brought around hot chocolate or cider and munchkins. Another favorite service—apart from the occasional food truck—was “MXDelivers” on Sunday evenings, when students could order from a specified restaurant, and faculty on duty would bring their meals back to campus.

Admittedly, this has been “an odd year filled with a lot of figuring things out as we go,” allows Student Activities Officer Olivia Clark '21. Still, she reflects, “I've learned that no idea is too small. Working with a group of people, you can cultivate an idea and make it something worthwhile to set up.” **M**

# The Big Eleven

November 14, 2020

Written by Stephen LaConte

Directed by Ryan DuBray

When the School's gleaming, state-of-the-art Kaye Theatre had to remain empty last fall—not usable given State restrictions on physical distancing and the size of indoor gatherings—Middlesex's Performing Arts Department responded accordingly: Instead of staging one production in person, two would be presented online in the first semester.

Director of Technical Theatre and Design Ryan DuBray took on the first play, *The Big Eleven*, a humorous look at “the chaotic world of nine juniors who are about to make the most important decision of their lives...or so they're told.” Faced with an eccentric guidance counselor, pushy parents, and the stress of achieving impressive test scores and transcripts, the student characters navigate the college search

process as best they can, providing plenty of entertainment along the way.

In having to use a dozen campus classrooms for sets in lieu of the complex ones that he would typically build on stage, Ryan was free to put his directorial skills to work. He held rehearsals over Zoom three evenings a week with the cast of 12, many of whom were first-time performers at Middlesex. After six weeks, they were ready for the live show on Zoom. With great wit and timing, the performers gave all those who tuned in a welcome bit of comedy—and successfully carried out a resourceful solution to creating theatre, even in constrained circumstances.

For a look at the second online play performed last fall—an original production called *The Racial Equity Project*—see page 19. **M**





In America today, “We are facing a moral reckoning,” Dr. Glaude stated. “What does ‘we the people’ mean? How do we imagine unity?” (Photo by Sameer A. Khan, Fotobuddy LLC)

## Reimagining America

As Black History Month began, and Middlesex students and faculty continued to consider how racism can intersect with everyday practices and policies, the community turned its attention to the country’s political system, taking a closer look at democracy and race during a virtual visit with Dr. Eddie Glaude, Jr. on February 6, 2021.

An esteemed scholar and compelling speaker, Dr. Glaude is the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor and chair of Princeton’s Department of African American Studies, a program he first became involved with shaping as a doctoral candidate in religion at the university. In his best-known books, Dr. Glaude focuses on the difficulties of race in the United States and the challenges that democracy faces. Framing his address for his Middlesex audience, he directed his remarks to “where we’ve been, what we’ve done, and what we can be” in terms of race and democracy in America.

### Facing History

Reflecting on the country’s polarized political climate, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic uncertainty, and the deaths of George Floyd and other Black Americans, Dr. Glaude put forward two underlying ideas for the community’s consideration: that the lives of Black people are less valued and that America’s gradually changing racial composition is a worrisome transition. To some people in the country, Dr. Glaude said, “The American idea is in trouble.”

America has been here before, however, as he pointed out, “Reconstruction could have been the realization of a multiracial democracy.” Instead, Jim Crow laws were instituted. Civil rights advances made in the 1960s, he added, have been countered by other oppositional actions, such as gerrymandering and voter suppression efforts. By clinging to a virtuous story of the country’s founding, he continued, “We are trapped in a history we refuse to know.”

To reimagine what America can be, Dr. Glaude advised, “We have to confront what we’ve done and who we are. We have to grapple with a past that continues to haunt us.” Though he acknowledged that America has historically not done well in facing these issues at pivotal moments, he added that he concurs with the author Samuel Beckett, who wrote, “Try again. Fail again. Fail better.”

### Moving Forward

Leaving time for students to ask questions, Dr. Glaude responded thoughtfully to each, encouraging the community to remain hopeful by “keeping track of the goodness of people” and discouraging the demonizing of opponents. “Keep the concept of justice in front of us,” he emphasized. Above all, Dr. Glaude advocated for truth, in words and actions.

Students then met with their advisors to discuss the issues Dr. Glaude raised and think about what they as individuals can do to make the community more inclusive and equitable. **M**

## Service from a Distance

One Middlesex program that has been greatly affected by COVID-19 is community service. Because organizations have had to prohibit or restrict visitors and volunteers, many of the School's usual service activities could not take place.

But when the second semester started, one organization—Heading Home—offered a novel way for students to participate in community service. Founded in 1974, Heading Home provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent housing, and supportive services to homeless and formerly homeless families and individuals in the Boston area. Thanks to the initiative of Ryan Ewing '17, the Middlesex community has been volunteering with Heading Home since 2014, helping to equip and move families into housing.

Through three different Zoom presentations given by Martha Buckley of Heading Home, students learned more about the issue of homelessness and how they could be of assistance. One project involved writing letters of encouragement to Heading Home clients; another required reading storybooks aloud and contributing the recordings to a “digital library” for young children in shelters. The experience was another great example of creative improvisation, finding ways to make a difference, even during a pandemic. **M**

## Physics Teams Triumph



Seniors taking AP Physics C this year—including Brian Choi '21 (standing, fourth from right), who earned the top Division 2 score in the PhysicsBowl—commemorated their last day of class together with a group photo . . . and the right-hand rule for cross products in magnetism and torque. (Photo by Sara Kate May)

Undeterred by pandemic complications, the 2020-2021 Middlesex Physics Teams had their best year ever participating in the annual PhysicsBowl competition, hosted by the American Association of Physics Teachers.

The PhysicsBowl is a challenging, 40-question multiple-choice test, taken this year by 5800 students around the world, including 46 Middlesex students. Middlesex competes in Region 3 (New England schools, both public and private), with first-year physics students competing in Division 1 and second-year students competing in Division 2. Team scores consist of the top five scores from each school.

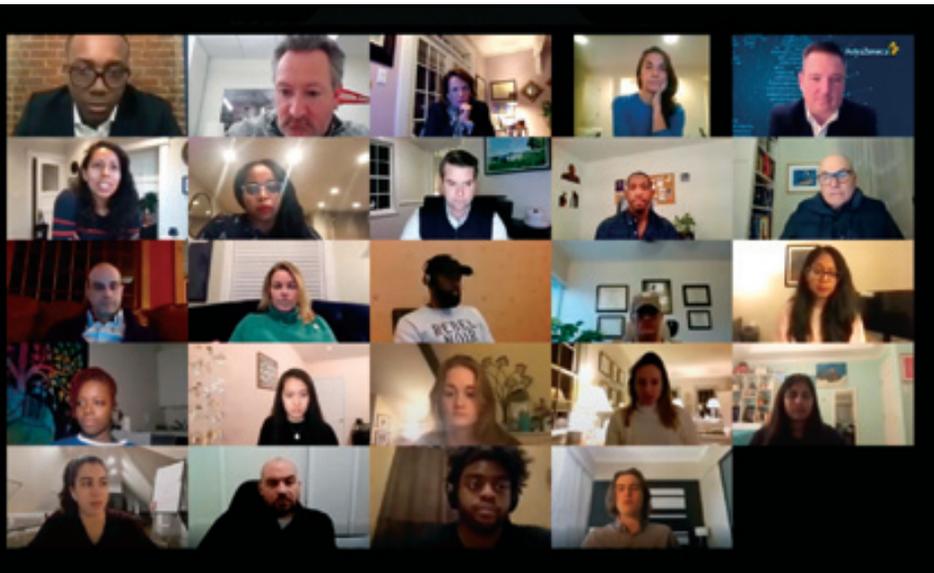
Faculty coaches Tom Erickson, Sara Kate May, and Steven Mylon were pleased to learn that the School's Division 1 team came in second in Region 3, while in Division 2, Middlesex was the Region 3 champion. Brian Choi '21 was the top individual Division 2 scorer.

With a tally of 112 points, the Division 1 team was led by scores of 23 from Henry

Brown '22, Julian Dai '22, and Oliver Mitchell '22. Mariam Craig '22 added 22 points, and either Annabel Austen '22 or Adam Ewing '22 contributed the final 21 points. Also beating the national average score of 16.1 were Lucas DeGreeff '22 (20), Isabel Xue '22 (19), Charlotte Bain '22 (19), Nina Gong '21 (18), Ethan Chang '22 (18), and Linda Qin '22 (17).

In Division 2, Middlesex handily won the region, earning 116 points on this more difficult test. Brian Choi's score of 27 was the highest in the region and more than one standard deviation above the national average of 18.7. He is the first Middlesex student ever to earn the top score in Region 3. Not far behind, Justin Yoon '21 earned 26 points to tie the second highest scorer in the region. The team's total was rounded out by Zan Danoff '21 (23), Ian Dhar '21 (20), and Basha Waxman '21 (20). Also beating the national average with 19 points each were Erin Davies '21, Caleb Krueger '21, and Otis Hutcheson '21—an excellent finish to their Middlesex physics careers. **M**

## Careers During COVID



While in-person career panels certainly have their advantages, January's virtual event made it easier to involve alumni from all around the country.

If they do not realize it during their student days on campus, graduates of the School soon come to learn that their Middlesex circle of friends and mentors can expand to include the entire network of alumni. One of the ways that the Middlesex Alumni Association highlights and fosters these interconnections is through its Career Panels, typically held annually in Boston and New York City. In pandemic times, however, two urban events became one virtual meeting, which allowed more alumni to attend than ever—and made it possible for people to watch a recording of the evening if they could not be present on January 14, 2021.

### The Pandemic Pace

That night, six panelists represented a variety of fields—from finance and technology to education and law—and shared their experiences of the past year, as well as their reflections on the challenges and opportunities they have encountered. A vice president and client advisor at J.P. Morgan, Moderator Gavin Johnson '09 aptly described 2020 as “a wild

year, to put it mildly,” adding, “I don't think I've ever worked harder.” His observation mirrored that of other alumni, like Noelle Nelson '12, a senior staffing services associate in leadership recruiting at Google. “It took us back to our start-up roots,” she found, as the company hurried to meet customers' rapidly changing needs, particularly those of remote teachers and learners. Similarly, COVID had a drastic impact on the work of Prentis Robinson '07, a restructuring associate at Kirkland & Ellis LLP. “When things are not going well, we get extremely busy,” he said of the many hours spent guiding clients through tumultuous times.

For Christina Jordan '01, the deputy chief talent officer at Chicago Public Schools, the pandemic presented multiple challenges, for “school is more than just a place where you get education,” she noted, clarifying that many students receive meals, counseling, and health care there. “I think the pandemic really brought to the surface a number of inequities, not just across the city of Chicago but across the nation,” she said. Dealing with differences in access to technology, distributing meals, trying to make buildings safe, managing a remote workforce, and providing counseling in a traumatic year were among the school system's numerous priorities this year.

### Lessons Learned

At AstraZeneca, where Rich Buckley '87 serves as vice president for global corporate affairs, work became “24/7 since March,” with colleagues feeling “inspired and purposeful but tired.” Over this time, he has noticed “the rise of the introverts”—people who might not speak up in a large meeting but who were comfortable entering a good question into Zoom's “chat” function. “How do we not lose that?” he wondered. “As we transition back, how do we hold onto what works?”

Having had to figure out new ways to interact and educate, Christina also recognizes this period as an opportunity to enact change, to develop structures that can support all students and their needs. “We’re thinking about how to get better than the status quo and how to address the inequities that have come to the surface,” she stated. “It’s forced us to think how to improve our technology and our systems.”

As a senior specialist with the Humanitarian Program Portfolio at Save the Children, Sasha Poll McConnell ’01 has appreciated having the autonomy and flexibility to work from home, especially with two young children there. A recent survey, she reported, showed that among her colleagues, “Ninety-eight percent felt they were doing a good job,” which suggests that the agency could rethink its need for centralized office space. “I think flexible work arrangements are going to stay, and I think that’s across industries,” Gavin predicted.

In the responses to questions at the evening’s end, one recurring recommendation became clear: Keep in touch with Middlesex friends and reach out to the alumni network. Camaraderie and support—as well as advice and inspiration—can always be found through these connections. **M**

## Those Who Came First Honoring Middlesex’s Black Pioneers

Every spring, Alumni Weekend provides the chance not only to celebrate a graduation anniversary with friends and mentors but also to commemorate significant events in the School’s history. This year, part of the weekend’s virtual programming recognizes the School’s first Black graduates—on the occasion of their 50th reunions—and the first Black faculty member, history teacher Ken Whitlock. A special video has been created as a tribute, rightfully honoring them as pioneers.

Decades separated Ken’s arrival from those early students. Duane Jones ’70 and James Ellis ’70 entered the fifth class in 1965 and were soon joined by Dwight Hill ’71, Joe Watkins ’71, and Herbie Graves ’71. Duane, Dwight, and Joe share some of their impressions and memories of their Middlesex years in the film, as do several retired administrators and faculty members from that time, including third Headmaster David Sheldon, Perry Boyden, Brian Davis, and Hugh Fortmiller. Current students contribute their thoughts as well, appreciating that the first Black students to attend the School were paving the way and opening access for future generations of BIPOC alumni. Not surprisingly, the pioneers’ leadership has extended into their careers, families, and communities—like Middlesex, where they have served as trustees and commencement speakers.

Twenty-one years after Black students were admitted to Middlesex, Ken Whitlock was hired as a faculty member, and he continues teaching today, sharing his passion for United States history with the School every year. His colleagues—past and present—and several of his recent students talk in the video about their admiration for Ken, highlighting how his quiet wisdom and firsthand



Attending Middlesex 51 years apart, former Trustee Joe Watkins ’71 and his granddaughter Taylor Portlock ’22 compare and contrast their experiences in the video tribute honoring the School’s Black pioneers. (photo by Whit Wales)

experiences with segregation enlighten his classes. The School recently announced that the Kenneth E. Whitlock, Jr. Black History Month Speaker Series has now been funded in his honor.

Sadly, not long after filming, Dwight Hill ’71 passed away unexpectedly (see page 51), and the final production has been dedicated in his memory. Yet, along with his fellow Black pioneers, Dwight has established a legacy of leadership that has shaped and enriched Middlesex, helping the School to find its own promise. **M**

# Team Highlights

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



## Girls' Cross-Country

With no interscholastic competition in the fall season, girls' cross-country found joy and camaraderie through intrasquad races, with teams-within-the-team led by captains Grace Hu '21 (pictured) and Meena Menon '21. Grace won every one of these races, posting times that place her among the fastest girls in team history.



## Boys' Cross-Country

Named All-League and All-New England in 2019, Co-captain David Latham '21 led the 2020 varsity with Co-captain Caleb Gartner '21, keeping the team primed to defend its 2019 New England Championship title next fall.



## Field Hockey

Closely followed by forward Avery Taylor '24 in an intrasquad scrimmage last fall, Co-captain Zoe Beede '21 capped off her three-year varsity career with earning Middlesex's 1976 Field Hockey Bowl at the end of the season.



## Football

(Below) An All-New England selection in his junior season, Co-captain Sahnai Swain-Price '21 caught a first-down pass in a fall 2020 intrasquad scrimmage, while (left) Quarterback Cam Fries '22 threw one of his many completions.



## Girls' Soccer

Captain Basha Waxman '21 (center) moved the ball upfield while defender Abby Murphy '23 (#15) and forward Grace Maxwell '21 (#4) looked on in a mid-October scrimmage.



# Renewing Team Spirit

Once again, the ISL had to cancel its usual slate of competitions given the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. This time, however, Middlesex was in session on campus, restoring in-person, team practices while following the School's health protocols. Impressively, in a season lacking most of the usual awards and titles, the superlative play of one soccer standout was duly recognized with All-American status.



A standout in the last ISL soccer season before COVID-19, All-American Kwabena Kwakwa '21 demonstrated his skills in this 2019 game against Pingree, where he "produced a man-of-the-match performance," as Head Coach Ken Risley recounted. In addition to earning an assist on the game's only goal, Kwabena "covered every blade of grass on the field and tormented the host of defenders tasked with containing him."



Intrasquad volleyball matches kept the varsity competitive—and gave Middlesex fans something to cheer about when those games were live-streamed on weekend evenings. Here, with the support of Annabelle Lerner '23 (#10) at the net, Captain Sophia Poplyk '21 blocks Parker Boyden '23 (#8), who is covered by teammates Romy Ahn '23 (#14) and Sydney Feeny '22 (#13).

## Fitness and Fellowship

Continuing to develop athletes' skills, strategies, and endurance was the focus of the fall, and though coaches and players alike missed the challenge of league games, they were thrilled to be back training together with their teams on Middlesex's fields, trails, and courts. Intrasquad scrimmages within each program gave students an occasional taste of competition, as well as the chance to cheer for friends. "It was refreshing to experience a hint of normalcy—racing in our uniforms and respective race bibs on the home course," one cross-country captain said. "Although the season was obviously different," noted a soccer captain, "our team spirit was still the same from day one."

## Soccer All-American Kwakwa '21

Without league games and scores, records and championships, it seemed probable that there would also be no individual awards either. But, happily, on December 16, 2020, Middlesex learned that United Soccer Coaches had selected Kwabena Kwakwa '21 as a Fall 2020 High School All-American. Kwabena is among just 59 public and independent school players chosen from across the United States to receive the honor. Additionally, in mid-January, Kwabena was singled out as the Massachusetts High School Player of the Year, selected from all the public and independent school players in the state.

These honors are the latest in a series of accolades garnered by Kwabena throughout his Middlesex career, as he has earned All-League,

All-New England, and All-NEPSAC recognition—and was also selected to the New England Boys' Prep Soccer First XI Team by the *New England Soccer Journal*. A captain in the 2020 season, Kwabena previously helped to lead Middlesex to the ISL and New England Class B Championships in 2018, capping off an undefeated season that fall.

"As his coach," says Athletic Director Ken Risley, "I am so proud of the hard work that has gone into earning All-American and Massachusetts High School State Player of the Year honors—and of all the humility with which Kwabena carries himself. His impact on Middlesex Boys' Soccer is immense, and we are excited to see him play for Stanford next fall."

# Team Highlights

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



## Boys' Basketball

Making a post move to the basket in this 2019 victory over BB&N, Co-captain Stuart McCallum '21 will continue his basketball career at Claremont McKenna next season.



## Girls' Basketball

Captain Sophia Poplyk '21 drives to the basket in a late-February intrasquad scrimmage; a four-year varsity starter for Middlesex, she will be on the Union College roster next year. (photo by Wells Goltra '22)



## Girls' Squash

Natalie McCall '21 strikes a backhand drive; a two-year co-captain and four-year member of the varsity, she helped her team win the 2020 Class C New England Championship in her junior season.



## Wrestling

Before becoming a team co-captain in his senior year, Connor Cross '21 worked to secure a fall in a home dual meet against Roxbury Latin back in January 2019; that year, he placed fifth at the Graves-Kelsey Tournament and won the Northern New England Invitational.



## Boys' Hockey

Varsity goalie Jordan Busner '21 protected the net in a December 2019 game against Brooks, which Middlesex won 5-4 in overtime.



## Girls' Hockey

Garnering All-NEPSAC and All-League Honorable Mentions early in her Middlesex career, Izzy Allieri '21 was a varsity co-captain this year. Here, in a December 2019 contest with Proctor, Izzy scored the first goal unassisted just 34 seconds into the game, which ended in a 5-0 victory.

# A Season for Skiers

As in the fall, Middlesex athletes trained with their teams, substituting intrasquad contests for league competitions given the ongoing pandemic and the need for increased precautions with indoor sports. For skiers, however, the snowy winter of 2021 was closer to normal for alpine enthusiasts—and offered the opportunity to resurrect the Nordic program on campus.

Forgoing poles in order to improve their balance and technique, Nordic skiers make their way around the course that was created and maintained on the football field by Middlesex's Grounds Department.



## Downhill Racers

With only a few COVID protocol adjustments to make, alpine skiers enjoyed regular practices, thanks to the outdoor nature of their sport. Capitalizing on this, ISL coaches collaborated to arrange four alpine races at nearby Nashoba Valley—not bad for a six-week season. Since the schedule was somewhat abbreviated, Head Coach Ben Kulas gave seniors the opportunity to compete in every race during their last winter representing Middlesex on the slopes.



(Left) An All-League selection since his freshman year, Captain Carter McCray '21 schusses down the course one last time for Middlesex. (Right) Julia Boffa '21 charges towards the finish line in the final race of the season at Nashoba Valley. (photos by Adam Richins)

## Nordic Revival

Under the leadership of veteran coach Bob Fitzpatrick—and with the assistance of Middlesex science teacher Tom Erickson and James Randon '13—the Nordic skiing program resumed on campus in 2021, creating another outdoor athletic option in the COVID era. Without ISL competitions in this inaugural year, students could focus entirely on developing their confidence and skill while learning the latest techniques in cross-country ski training. Coach Fitzpatrick has taught skiers of all ages and levels, including high school, collegiate, and U.S. Ski Team athletes, which should give Middlesex students a great start in this lifelong sport.



Still the unchallenged 2020 Class C New England Champions, the senior members of varsity squash ended the season with a single match against Tabor. From left to right are: Coach Rebecca Smedley, Justin Yoon '21, Cole Stewart '21, Co-captain Gavin Cassidy '21, Peter Maheras '21, and Head Coach Terrence Cassidy. (photo by Roan Callahan)

# COVID and the College-Bound

## HOW THE PANDEMIC HAS ALTERED THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Since he joined the Middlesex faculty in 2002, Matt DeGreeff—now dean of college counseling and student enrichment—has been helping students to think deeply about their interests, experiences, and personal objectives, with the goal of finding the next best place to continue their education. A Harvard graduate who worked in undergraduate admissions there for 13 years prior to Middlesex, he knows the college application process inside and out, and he brings that wisdom to his daily work, as well as to the professional associations and committees on which he serves.

For the past year, Matt and his college counseling colleagues—Director Sam Bigelow, Associate Director Natalie Soule Martinez, Assistant to the Dean Beth Hill, and Administrative Assistant Tracy White—have been steadily adjusting their methods and communications, keeping pace with the changes taking place in college admissions. Recently, Matt talked with the *Bulletin* about how COVID-19 has affected the application process and how his office has responded.

**This has been a challenging time for students applying to colleges. A year ago, those in the class of 2020 were unable to revisit colleges to help them make final decisions about where to enroll. How did your office assist them back then?**

When we had to shift online last spring, we had to reinvent ourselves—just as everyone did—but we wanted to maintain our individualized approach with students and their families. Along with all the RingCentral (a.k.a. Zoom) meetings we had with students, we reached out to recent Middlesex graduates and asked if they would be willing to talk with seniors about their college experiences and serve as a personal reference point for them. Over 100 alumni responded to us! Even if our seniors didn't know these alumni—or if they once seemed like intimidating upperclassmen to them—we encouraged them to use these contacts within the Middlesex network.

Then Tracy made a spreadsheet of all the virtual resources that colleges had, with links to virtual tours and information sessions. We wanted to have one resource that parents and kids could go to,

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*Fortunately, with the class of 2020, so many seniors were admitted in Early Action or Early Decision that few needed to make campus visits. They knew the colleges well enough by then to make decisions. However, the wait list situation was very fluid because many students were deciding to take a year off.*

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and Tracy still keeps that updated today for the current juniors and seniors.

Fortunately, with the class of 2020, so many seniors were admitted in Early Action or Early Decision that few needed to make campus visits. They knew the colleges well enough by then to make decisions. However, the wait list situation was very fluid because many students were deciding to take a year off. As a result, we had a record number of students accepted off waitlists: 22 seniors received 31 acceptances. That's nearly a quarter of the class! We worked long and hard throughout the summer, talking with our students and the colleges. So, we learned a lot in 2020 about how to manage the college process through a virtual world.

**What additional adjustments have you had to make in working with the class of 2021, whose application process has been entirely virtual?**

We usually meet three times with juniors in the second semester, but with the class of 2021, we met with everyone four times last spring, just to make sure we had established a strong connection with the students. Many of them didn't get to visit colleges over spring break or in the summer, but they could make use of that spreadsheet of virtual options that Tracy created.

Also, as president of the Boston Independent Schools College Counseling Association, I helped organize and moderate a panel in April 2020 that was hosted over Zoom by BB&N. Four college admissions deans on that panel covered topics such as test-optional admissions, the virtual college search, and how colleges will handle pass grades, and we had over 1000 families from Boston independent schools tune into the program.

We've done all our student appointment scheduling online this year—though Beth and Tracy miss getting to know the seniors by seeing them in person. We can't meet with students in our offices because they are too small for social distancing, but, in the fall, sometimes we walked around the Circle or sat six feet apart on a bench when students needed to meet in person. Because we didn't want students who were remote to feel that those on campus had



**Matt DeGreeff, Middlesex's Dean of College Counseling and Student Enrichment**

an advantage, we held most meetings remotely to keep things fair.

We can't meet in person with parents either, so we've had Zoom meetings with them—including some we might not have seen in person because they live too far away or can't take time from work. Technology has afforded us the ability to reach out in another way.

Similarly, we set up virtual meetings last fall with individual college representatives, so that students could still attend information sessions—and, again, we had several colleges arrange sessions with us that typically don't visit us. We also learned that, because they weren't traveling, college admissions officers were much more available for conversations with us. We set up meetings with many of the 100 colleges our

## MX Scholars: Exploring Future Directions

Now in its second year of implementation, the Middlesex Scholars Program gives life and meaning to the idea of “finding the promise” beyond the Circle, encouraging students to connect their interests, passions, and talents with fields in which they can serve as productive citizens and leaders in the world. Interested juniors progress through a curriculum of self-assessment and self-presentation—also receiving training in research and communication—so that they can identify areas of personal interest to pursue during the summer before senior year. Once they have completed the curriculum, juniors are encouraged to submit proposals to receive funding from the Middlesex Scholars Program, which will help support their summer endeavors.

During the summer of 2020, the pandemic unfortunately impacted the ability of several students to pursue their plans, as many internships and programs were cancelled. Yet, some students were still able to take advantage of funding from the program, including the following seniors:

- **Andrew Harris '21:** Already an award-winning photographer, Andrew used his MX Scholars funding both to pay for materials, such as ink and paper, and to build a website where he could sell his photos. Andrew was able to share his work with a wide audience and raised more than \$7,000 to help support social justice efforts.
- **Eliza Hirsch '21:** A gifted writer, Eliza used her MX Scholars funds to attend the Sewanee Young Writers' Conference, where she participated in the Fantasy, Fabulism, and Science Fiction workshop. This program expanded her understanding of what writing could be, and she was able to write and workshop a publishable short story.
- **Shreya Jain '21:** Passionate about STEM, Shreya used her MX Scholars funding to cover a Coursera Plus subscription that offers advanced online programming classes. Through this, she studied multivariable calculus through Imperial College London, applied machine learning in Python through the University of Michigan, and neural networks and deep learning, which was offered by DeepLearning.AI.

students typically apply to and talked individually with admissions representatives about how things were going for them and what their COVID practices were.

**Standardized testing is another piece of the application process that has been significantly impacted by the pandemic, as many testing centers could not safely open for groups of students. How have Middlesex students been affected by this?**

While many SATs were cancelled in August, we were able to offer the SAT on campus in September, October, and November. Middlesex was a closed testing center for our students, so we could provide a safe environment, checking temperatures and spreading desks out further. That was really helpful for the juniors and for those seniors who wanted to have another chance to take the test again. We added the ACT on campus in October and April, which we've never done before.

**If many applicants were not able to take standardized tests, what did colleges decide to do in terms of requiring them as part of the application process?**

The majority of colleges went test optional; some went test-free. Our experience has been that Middlesex students tend to be strong testers, and the majority benefit from their strong testing in the application process. Whether or not to submit testing was an individual decision for each student, in discussion with their college counselor. The key thing was having those individual conversations about how to approach testing at each college, in order to present the student in the best way possible in each applicant pool. That added another layer of conversations that we didn't previously have because usually, students were just submitting their testing as required by the colleges.

Without required testing for domestic and international students, the opportunity to apply has opened up for kids who were previously held back by their testing. This has led to huge application increases at some highly competitive schools: 137,000 applications at UCLA; 57,000 at Harvard; 100,000 at NYU. But at colleges that have been score optional for a while, the application numbers have not changed much.

**Nonetheless, Middlesex seniors have received lots of good news, haven't they?**

It is remarkable how well the class of 2021 has done and how consistent their results have been with previous classes in the shadows of the pandemic.



The College Counseling team includes (clockwise, from top left) Dean Matt DeGreeff, Director Sam Bigelow, Associate Director Natalie Martinez, Administrative Assistant Tracy White, and Assistant to the Dean Beth Hill.

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*It is remarkable how well the class of 2021 has done and how consistent their results have been with previous classes in the shadows of the pandemic. Ninety-four out of 103 seniors applied early to college, and 89 were accepted through the early process. As of June 11, 63 of our seniors have been accepted to their first-choice college, and 75% of the seniors have been admitted to one of their top five choices.*

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Ninety-four out of 103 seniors applied early to college, and 89 were accepted through the early process. As of June 11, 63 of our seniors have been accepted to their first-choice college, and 75% of the seniors have been admitted to one of their top five choices.

**Another recent announcement that pertains to the class of 2022 (and beyond) is that the SAT essay and the SAT Subject Tests are being discontinued. Is that good news? Will something else take the place of that testing void?**

I think I'm happier about the SAT dropping the essay section. The colleges never really used it as a tool in the admissions process, except for international students. It's just been an additional burden in terms of cost, time, and energy.

For our strongest students, though, the Subject Tests have been a real win in demonstrating their academic strength. But the College Board

has neglected them for the past 10 to 15 years and invested more in the AP program. As a result, many colleges have been dropping Subject Tests as a requirement, and the Ivies made them optional. So, they were already becoming less important. The one area that is unclear is what to do if you are applying to universities in the United Kingdom or Canada, where they like Subject Tests.

These changes will definitely save our families money and time, and they will relieve testing pressure for freshmen and sophomores. Fortunately, we have a robust AP program, and our faculty prepares students exceptionally well for the AP exams. Plus, APs are not only beneficial as a credential in applying but also in giving placement or credit in college. About 220 Middlesex kids took over 600 AP exams last year. That's pretty impressive, and our teachers take great pride in their students' performance.

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*Less standardized testing will place greater emphasis on the student's curriculum and performance in those courses, on what teachers and counselors write, and on the student's voice—putting that narrative together and looking at the whole person instead of just the numbers.*

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Less standardized testing will place greater emphasis on the student's curriculum and performance in those courses, on what teachers and counselors write, and on the student's voice—putting that narrative together and looking at the whole person instead of just the numbers. And while colleges have always wanted kids to articulate *why* they are a good match for the school, today they *really* want to know why students are applying, now that they can't even come to the campus. Colleges want to know that they are not just on a long list of schools.

Because they can't do in-person interviews, some colleges have allowed kids to upload two-minute videos as a way of talking about themselves and what's important to them. Some college counselors got upset about this added task for seniors, but this generation is used to taking pictures and making videos. Maybe we are moving toward creating these kinds of vignettes as part of the application.

**You have spent the past few years developing the Middlesex Scholars Program (see page 16), which will be beneficial to students as they approach and undertake the college application process. Have you been able to launch that program, in spite of the pandemic?**

Last year, in the junior year of the class of 2021, we went through all stages of the curriculum that I've developed, which starts with self-assessment, using different tools to help students think about how their interests align with majors and careers. Then, they learned resume writing. The third part focuses on research and communication. Students need to learn how to research opportunities, how to tap into their networks, and how to use websites and other tools. We're helping kids align their interests with what they might want to do to explore a potential major or career. Jobs and internships are valuable experiences—and can be powerful in terms of writing college essays. The last part of the program is applying for summer funding, but many of the internships dried up last summer because of COVID.

It's all helpful for the college process—including helping them write letters (instead of texts!) and teaching them how to set up appropriate voicemail messages on their phones. Many students don't have a voicemail greeting on their phones—or they got their phones when they were 12 and still have that youthful voice on their greetings. Students must set up their phones to sound professional, as well as have an appropriate e-mail address! These are all life skills that we hope that they can carry forward to internship opportunities and the college process.

**Alongside the college application process, can you and your colleagues assist families with the financial aid application process?**

When I came to Middlesex, I brought my experience as a financial aid officer, which I had been for a long time. I've always been able to help families, one-on-one, with filling out and submitting financial aid forms. Not every office has the skills or knowledge to do this, but we really can help, especially families with greater need. I've trained Sam and Natalie, and they've attended financial aid workshops and shadowed financial aid officers. Through our training and professional development, we are able to work with our families on the financial aid process and help them through one of the more complicated, personal, and scarier parts of the process.

I'm really proud that we're able to assist our families with all aspects of the college process and the financial aid process and help them navigate these tricky, ever-changing waters. We have students with extraordinary talents, interests, and backgrounds, and we have the distinct pleasure of learning about their stories. I'm always excited to work with students whose interests I am not as familiar with, such as flying, diving, fencing, or dance. Our greatest joy is working with students through the process of self-discovery, helping them shape their narratives for the colleges, and guiding them on their journeys to the next phase of their education. **M**

# INSPIRING CHANGE

# The Racial Equity Project

December 3–8, 2020

Created in collaboration with  
Sojourn Theatre. Directed by Bobby  
Bermea and Soneela Nankani

## Middlesex Student Ensemble:

Anna Buell '22  
Emilee Cervantes '23  
Onyera Chibuogwu '22  
AliJah Clark '23  
Olivia Clark '21  
Mohamed Diallo '24  
Maya Dougé '24  
Therese Ejiofor '24  
Andrew Harris '21  
Will Jevon '22  
KJ Johnson '21  
Hadley Keefe '22  
Claire Ngugi '21  
Taylor Portlock '22  
Susan Shin '21  
Leonardo Vargas '23



## What does racism look and sound like?

## What happens when we ignore it? How can we better address it in the moment, rather than later?

The questions seem straightforward enough— yet are typically uncomfortable ones to answer or sort out—which is exactly why an original theatre production like Middlesex's *Racial Equity Project* (better known on campus as *REP*) was especially enlightening and profound. In addition to being a unique solution to delivering theatre in a pandemic, *REP* was novel and effective in its creative process, subject matter, presentation, and interaction with the audience.



Brian



# The Racial Equity Project

The script was developed over several weeks this past fall by a cast of 16 Middlesex students who worked in partnership with Sojourn Theatre, an innovative, award-winning ensemble theatre company based in Portland, Oregon. In collaboration with Sojourn actors—and with input from Performing Arts Head Tom Kane and Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Erika Prah— the students created scenes that were inspired by everyday conversations and statements, providing specific, commonplace examples of racist attitudes and behavior. After some scenes, the audience was separated into small groups (virtually, using Zoom’s “breakout rooms” feature) to discuss what they had just observed and suggest constructive ways to respond in each situation.

Asking viewers to “come curious, caring, and humble” to each collaborative show, the cast performed *REP* from their own respective homes for Middlesex audiences over Zoom—not once, but seven times in six days, so that students and faculty could watch and talk about it with their own dorm or day house, just as they would in Community Life meetings. Ultimately, by paying attention and listening, raising questions and confronting situations when they happen, every person can choose to be an ally who works against racism. “We need to stand together,” as one actor stressed.

At the conclusion of every performance, audience members were asked to think about and then type in (using the “chat” function) an action they intend to take to combat racism, completing the phrase, “I will...” With the responses collected in Zoom, the community can revisit these plans and pledges in future discussions as Middlesex continues to work toward becoming a truly inclusive and equitable school for all students. **M**





At left: *REP* actors performed in simple studios made in their homes. From the top down are Susan Shin '21, Anna Buell '22, Maya Dougé '24, and Onyera Chibuogwu '22.



# Passionately Curious

## *Alumni in STEM Careers*

*Choose a field of inquiry in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and you will likely find a Middlesex graduate there—exploring problems, seeking answers, and devising solutions in hospitals and research labs, universities and companies. In their time on campus, studying four years of math and three or four years of lab science, these alumni learned not only the scientific method and mathematical analysis but also the importance of collaboration and communication. Perhaps most significantly, they continue to delve deeper and ask questions, remaining “passionately curious,” a quality that one renowned scientist said explained his discoveries more than any other.*

### **Christina Seeger '12** **Planetary Geologist**

**T**ina Seeger is living on Mars time. That's because when she is not remotely attending classes for her Ph.D. program at Caltech, Tina is one of the scientists determining the path of Perseverance, NASA's latest rover to land on Mars on February 18, after traveling 169 million miles over nearly seven months. And because a day on the Red Planet is slightly longer than one on Earth, Tina must adjust her schedule to keep pace with that distant world. “We plan all Martian night, and Perseverance works all Martian day,” she explains. “So, my bedtime gets 40 minutes later every day for three months.”

Compensating for the fatigue of her shifting schedule is the thrilling opportunity to be at the center of scientific discovery—to be among the first to see Perseverance's images of Jezero Crater, an impact crater containing an ancient river delta. “We are looking at parts of Mars no one has ever seen before,” Tina marvels. “I'm interested in the water story: how the surface changed over time with wind and water, what the delta's sediments did on Mars compared to what sediments do on Earth. You can start to get at a lot of



questions about how life evolved on Earth by looking at what happened on Mars.”

That she would be studying planetary geology alongside NASA’s Jet Propulsion Lab was not a predetermined goal years ago at Middlesex. “I had no idea that I would land where I am,” Tina says. “My advisor was [Writing Program Director] John Hirsch, and I loved literature, critical theory, and writing. But I also really liked science.” On entering Williams College, she thought she might major in astronomy and English.

Then, she signed up for Geology 101. Finding it “a magical combination of physics, chemistry, and bio,” Tina changed track slightly to astronomy and geology. “But I graduated one course shy of an English degree, too, Mr. Hirsch would be happy to know,” she adds, laughing, “You can be a star English student and still end up driving the Mars rover!”

Although planetary geology particularly fascinated Tina, she was not certain about heading straight to graduate school. Instead, she spent the summer working at Mt. Rainier as the Dark Ranger, happily running the park’s nighttime astronomy program. When the season ended, she presented some of her undergraduate research at a conference—and was promptly offered a job as a lab technician at Caltech.

On the research staff, Tina learned valuable lab skills, worked with grad students—and joined the team running NASA’s Curiosity rover (which she still monitors today). Two years later, having clarified her own research interests, she pursued a master’s degree at Western Washington University. Through her advisor—and with her Curiosity experience—she got on the team for Perseverance and helped plan for its landing. “At that point, I was wholly convinced: I love research and science,” Tina affirms. She applied to do a Ph.D. with a rover focus and circled back to Caltech.

Clearly energized by her current research, Tina is also eager to explore other mysteries. “In 2036, NASA will land a giant drone-like spacecraft named Dragonfly on Saturn’s moon Titan, which has a surface of water ice (instead of rock) carved by rain, rivers, and lakes of liquid methane (instead of water),” she says. “I’m really excited about understanding how those processes exist and shape the landscapes in these very different places.”



## ***Dr. Brianna Atkinson Evans '08*** **Pediatric Resident**

**T**he idea of becoming a doctor has appealed to Brianna Evans since early childhood. “I think from a young age, I was inspired by existence and living things,” she reflects. And though English was her favorite subject at Middlesex, Brianna sees a clear connection among all her interests, observing, “What brings together my love of English and reading, science and math, is the question: Why is this happening?”

What was less clear to Brianna for a time was where she wanted to be seeking answers to that question. Should she be in medicine, interacting with patients, or in public health, determining policies?

Brianna thought the matter was settled when she visited Tufts University, where she sat in on a great class in public health. “I decided to double-major in community health and English,” she recalls. “Because I loved community health so much, I switched from a pre-med track and thought I might help create change on the ground level with public health policies.”

Yet, as Brianna began working in the field after graduation, she realized that something was missing. “I wanted to help people in real time,” she says. “Medicine did that with seeing patients and diagnosing them. That’s when I decided there was no turning back.”

Brianna then completed a post-bac at Harvard while concurrently helping Tufts’ Africana Studies Center to develop a new curriculum on racial injustice. In 2016,

she entered New York Medical College, finding her specialty during third-year rotations. “I decided for sure I wanted to do pediatrics,” Brianna confirms. “I’ve always loved kids. They have so much ability to spring back and are the most inspiring beings.”

The unexpected arrival of COVID-19 transformed her final semester of school; colleagues in emergency medicine had to graduate early to staff hospital front lines. At that same time, Brianna and her husband Brandon learned they would be welcoming their first child in the fall. Because her doctor recommended that she not risk treating COVID-19 patients, Brianna had to stay home. On Halloween 2020, Brandon Edward Evans II arrived—three weeks early but healthy and strong.

At Mt. Sinai Kravis Children’s Hospital in New York City, Brianna now has the long and busy shifts of a first-year resident but is nonetheless grateful for her more balanced schedule. “One of the reasons I chose Mt. Sinai,” she notes, “is that they really try to provide resident wellness, while still making sure you get the hours you need.” Whenever she’s not home enjoying parenthood, Brianna finds, “It makes me work harder to make sure my interactions with patients are more meaningful. I want to do my best at all times.”

Future plans include pursuing a fellowship in gastroenterology. “I like the continuity of care,” Brianna explains, “from the time of diagnosis through working on nutrition, as certain diets can change the course of a child’s life. Oftentimes, you are at that fork in the road: Is it a disease we can put a name on, like Crohn’s, or is it anxiety? I love being able to tease that out. It has a little bit of a psychiatric element, too, which I think is cool.”

That certainly makes sense for someone who loves analyzing the “why” of situations, both medical and literary. “I definitely still think of being a writer someday,” Brianna muses.



## *Jonathan Huggins '08* Assistant Professor of Mathematics & Statistics

In January 2020, Jonathan Huggins was appointed an assistant professor in Boston University’s Department of Mathematics & Statistics, as well as a Data Science Faculty Fellow, a founding member of the Faculty of Computing & Data Sciences at BU, and an affiliated faculty member of the BU Program in Bioinformatics. This may seem like a lot of titles for one person, but it simply an indication of the widely applicable nature of Jonathan’s research, which intersects with both mathematics and computer science—and can make it possible to analyze vast amounts of complex data in many fields of inquiry.

Early on, Jonathan recognized his affinity for numbers. “Math has always been interesting and come naturally to me,” he affirms. At Middlesex, he enjoyed AP Calculus classes with Ron Banay, who referred in one teacher comment to Jonathan’s “bountiful mathematical gifts.” He also found his computer science classes with Paul Roeder to be “super influential” and eventually earned a Ph.D. in the subject at MIT.

His first connection with the university, however, came in 2005, when Jonathan spent the summer interning with the Cognitive Machines Group at the MIT Media Lab. A great opportunity, it ultimately showed him that he did not want to work on the mechanics of robots. Two summers later, while working as a co-op at MITRE, he began a natural language processing project that involved programming computers to skim text for key words or data—a useful tool for many businesses. His research not only confirmed his interest in artificial intelligence but also resulted in Jonathan being named a finalist in the 2008 Intel Science Talent Search.

After Middlesex, Jonathan recalls, “I wanted to go somewhere different from Boston. I loved the idea of a well-rounded education, and Columbia had the core curriculum. I already knew I wanted to go into AI and

machine learning, so it was my last chance to take other classes.” On receiving his B.A. in mathematics in 2012, Jonathan began a Ph.D. in computer science at MIT, finishing that degree in 2018. He then spent two years as a postdoctoral research fellow in Harvard’s Department of Biostatistics before moving over to BU.

Jonathan has joined the university at a momentous time, as an impressive BU Center for Computing & Data Sciences is now being built to facilitate collaboration among several programs

and departments. In 2022, his department will move to the new center, where he will teach, advise graduate students, collaborate with colleagues in related disciplines, and continue his own research: creating trustworthy algorithms that process complicated data, thereby enabling scientific discoveries.

“I’m really interested in applications in statistical genomics, analyzing cancer data,” Jonathan explains. “We want to learn about how cells work and how tumors form using genomic

sequencing data. I am coming up with methods for doing this that are principled, theoretically sound, easy to use, and don’t take forever to run.” This is no small task, given the vast amount of information present in DNA or RNA sequencing data, but it’s the kind of challenge—in the kind of setting—he has been aiming toward for a long time. “I imagined from early on I would be in academia,” Jonathan reflects. “I’m lucky to have had a clear path in my mind of what I wanted to do—and lucky I am able to do it.”

## **Dr. L. Stirling Churchman '95** **Associate Professor of Genetics, Churchman Lab**

Inside the lab that bears her name at Harvard Medical School’s Blavatnik Institute, Stirling Churchman is focused on understanding the innermost workings of cells—how their microscopic structures carry out the protein-building instructions encoded in their DNA. “From the nucleus to mitochondria, we study gene regulation at high resolution,” as it says on her lab website. “We seek an integrative view of gene regulation to understand where, when, and how genes are controlled.”

Figuring this out is a formidable challenge in the field of molecular biology, where it may seem surprising to find a physicist like Stirling. Perhaps more surprising is the fact that she never studied biology in high school. “My path was not traditional,” Stirling allows. In transferring to Middlesex and filling her schedule with language courses, biology just never fit in. “I took physics junior year and totally fell in love with it,” she remembers. “Doc Pittelli was a wonderful teacher. I also loved calculus with Kelly Marchand and the elegance of the math.”

A physics major at Cornell, Stirling first strayed into biology thanks to the university’s distribution requirements.

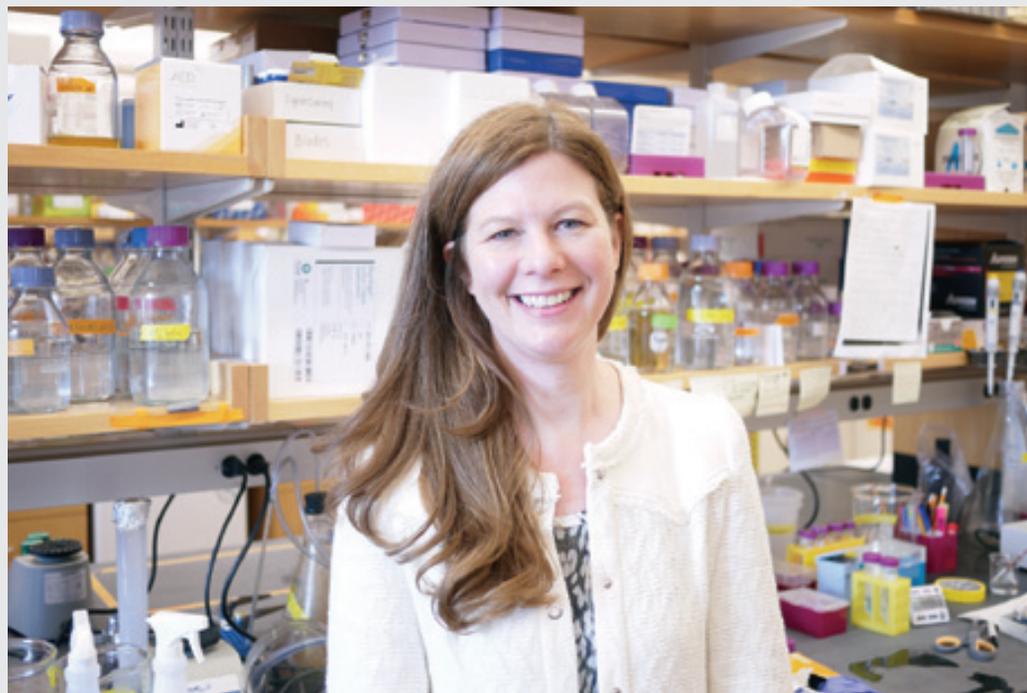


Photo taken by Heather Landry Drexler '08 during her days as a graduate student in Churchman Lab.

“I had to take a history class,” she explains, “and I chose the History of Evolution, which is where you read Darwin’s *Origin of the Species* and other texts. We looked at how evolution changed the world, and that got me interested in biology.” She did research in a biophysics lab, too, yet

still concentrated on physics for her Ph.D. at Stanford.

On earning a Damon Runyon Fellowship, Stirling moved to the University of California, San Francisco as a postdoc in cellular and molecular pharmacology. Through working with Dr. Jonathan Weissman—a physicist

who had transitioned into biology—she learned genetics and determined that she would like to study mitochondria. Since establishing her own lab at Harvard in 2011, Stirling and her team of post-docs and graduate students have been deciphering how this “powerhouse of the cell” operates.

“The cool thing about mitochondria,” she relates, “is the way it originated: One bacteria cell engulfed another bacteria cell. That new cell was the ancestor of all subsequent life. The big bacteria said, ‘You will be my powerhouse,’ and that enabled such complex biology to emerge. Through billions of years of evolution, the big bacteria’s nucleic DNA became the 23 chromosomes, while the DNA in the engulfed bacteria, or mitochondrion, became smaller and smaller.”

Her fundamental questions concern how these two separate genomes work together within the cell: How do they communicate and coordinate? “What we’ve done so far is unravel how exquisitely in tune they are with each other,” Stirling confirms. “They are making proteins at the same time; it’s a really beautiful system. Ultimately, we want to figure out all the gears behind that.”

Mitochondria, she adds, are incredibly important in human health. “If your powerhouse starts to go, a lot of bad things can happen; cancer and degenerative nerve diseases may be due to mitochondrial malfunction,” she says. Understanding how mitochondria work in healthy cells is therefore critical to discovering what causes certain diseases—and how they might be treated.

With new technologies that have revolutionized research in recent years, Stirling finds, “It’s an exciting time to be in biology. We can analyze cells at high resolution, which is mind boggling. I’m never bored! And I take nothing for granted.”



## **Dr. Cinda Scott '95** **Marine Biologist and Conservation Advocate**

**W**hen the *Bulletin* last checked in with Cinda Scott, she was revealing in the second year of her dream job as the center director for The School for Field Studies (SFS) in Panamá. There, in Bocas del Toro—a small island archipelago on the Caribbean coast—her work combined “my love of the ocean, my passion for teaching and developing curriculum, and the challenge of leading,” as she related in 2016.

Since then, Cinda’s leadership has expanded beyond the SFS program to the region that has become her home, as she strives to influence policies that will conserve the marine environment while allowing human interaction within it. In addition to helping local authorities navigate problems like pollution and habitat destruction, she also serves on the board of directors of the Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean, with whom she discusses the different threats to marine ecosystems occurring throughout the region.

“I’ve learned so much in the last seven years,” Cinda reflects. “I want to be in the room when the policy is made. I want to communicate the science and make it understandable, so that communities can make the necessary changes to have sustainable tourism and protect fragile ecosystems.”

She is uniquely qualified for this important role. With a lifelong love of science, Cinda went from Middlesex to Middlebury, where she majored in biology and environmental studies. A semester abroad in a tropical marine biology program in Costa Rica—and two summers at Maine’s Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory—proved to be pivotal experiences, introducing her to the wonders of the ocean and molecular biology. She would return to these fascinations after a pre-med post-bac program at Columbia University convinced her that the scientific process—rather than medicine—was her true calling.

At the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, Cinda explored the extent to which genetic expression in fish—our oldest vertebrate ancestor—is inherited, as well as the degree to which it is affected by environmental factors. In 2009, she received her Ph.D. in marine biology and fisheries, with a concentration in molecular evolutionary genomics.

Having learned that environment plays a large role in patterns of gene expression, Cinda moved to New York City College of Technology, teaching biology part time while overseeing a National Science Foundation grant to inspire more students to engage deeply in STEM fields. Through training faculty in case study teaching methods and developing partnerships and internships with nearby organizations, Cinda connected students to real world issues, enriching their experiences. "My work was about providing and creating opportunities," she says of her four years there. "That was very rewarding. At some point, though, I needed to get back in the water."

In Panamá, all of her skills—as a scientist, administrator, and educator—are called upon as she manages the SFS program, teaches undergraduates, supervises their research projects, and shares her expertise in order to counteract ecosystem damage caused by pollution, overdevelopment, and climate change. "I look at mangrove habitat complexity," Cinda explains. "If there is more complexity, we see greater biodiversity. I'm very involved with making sure that local and national officials are aware of this. We have to do this field work, so that they know firsthand what the implications are of removing hectares of mangroves. This destroys biodiversity—and that's what people come to see."

## Gage Coffin '09 Senior Mechanical Design Engineer

You might guess from his Middlesex plaque that Gage Coffin has a talent for building, as well as a strong sense of design and an eye for detail. On that panel, he constructed an ornate door that can be turned back and forth to reveal two different images. One is a motorcyclist riding toward mountains (depicting a post-graduation trip across Alaska), while the other has scattered puzzle pieces and a quote from *Terminator 2*: "The future is not set; there is no fate but what we make for ourselves."

This may be just a line from a movie. Nonetheless, in recent years, Gage has been devising solutions that truly could make the future better for many people, whether by decreasing their reliance on limited resources or by improving their access to fresh, healthy food.

After graduating from Stanford University in 2015 with both bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering, Gage was hired as a manufacturing engineer at Tesla. "People would say that there are two types of people at Tesla: the hard-core car enthusiasts and those who are there for the engineering challenges," he says. Falling into the latter category, Gage worked on the team designing the manufacturing lines that built battery modules for both the automotive and industrial energy storage product lines. "It was exciting to work in an emerging market and try to automate that process," Gage reflects. "The company's mission and environmental benefit give it all a meaningful purpose."

From Tesla, Gage moved on to a completely different venture at Plenty, an indoor vertical farming company with a mission to build large-scale, indoor farms outside metropolitan areas to provide fresh, tasty produce only 48 hours after it has been harvested. By setting up near underserved areas, Plenty can eliminate trucking food long distances and grow produce in ideal conditions—free of pesticides—using about one percent of the land and five percent of the water required for traditional farming.



“Agriculture isn’t necessarily an area where I originally saw myself,” Gage allows, “but when this was described to me, it was similar to Tesla in terms of the design of automation systems. Plenty has similar challenges—but applied to plants. At the end, you get a clamshell of lettuce instead of an electric car.”

When Gage arrived at Plenty, the company had been perfecting its indoor growing technique. “But it was a hugely labor-intensive process to harvest all the plants, clean the towers, and replant them with seedlings,” he notes. “So, we developed automation to accomplish those tasks. Now, we have an automated production farm in our South San Francisco headquarters that is supplying 40 stores in the Bay Area.”

The next step is to open a full-scale industrial farm in Los Angeles that will serve 400 grocery stores. “We’re not trying to replace farmers,” Gage clarifies. “We’re trying to supplement them and supply places that don’t have local farms or that can’t grow produce in certain conditions.” In time, Plenty hopes to have farms situated outside many major metropolitan areas—a goal that aligns well with Gage’s personal and professional objectives.

“I have sought out companies that have an important mission, and as food is a growing problem for humanity, a lot of new engineering challenges are in that area,” Gage explains. “It’s good for humanity and fun for engineers.”

## Jay Welch '13 Aerospace Engineer

For someone who has always loved tinkering and tackling hands-on challenges, Jay Welch has an ideal job: He’s an aerospace engineer whose skills are critical to ensuring that Blue Origin’s reusable rockets are ready for the next launch.

The signs of his engineering future seem apparent in retrospect. Jay was the kid who disassembled the kitchen cabinets while his mother was on the phone; he was the brother who wanted to rig some lights on the Barbie Jeep of his little sister Jenny ’15. “I always enjoyed messing around with stuff,” Jay says. Moreover, as he wrote in a questionnaire for Middlesex’s College Office, “I just want to be free of the doldrums of 9-5 in a cubicle. I’m happy to put in time for a few years, but I’d rather it not be my career.” Trouble-shooting rocket repairs inside a hangar in the Texas desert certainly fulfills that wish.

He might have become a chemical engineer, however, thanks to his enjoyment of AP Chemistry with Michael Schaeberle at Middlesex. “Then, I took my first organic chemistry midterm...and went into mechanical,” Jay recalls. “It made more sense to me.” A self-described “car guy,” he also got involved with his university’s Northwestern Formula Racing team. Initially tuning the engine to get it ready for competition, he soon became the powertrain lead, directing a two-year overhaul of the whole system. “That was a great exposure to everything you have to do with an engineering design, build, and test cycle,” Jay reflects.

Unexpectedly, this experience set him on his current course, as SpaceX was recruiting talent from college Formula teams and offered Jay an internship in Los Angeles. “That was my whole exposure to the aerospace industry,” he says. “I could see what I liked and didn’t like, what I wanted to do and didn’t want to do.” After two summers at SpaceX, he joined Blue Origin following graduation, moving to its headquarters in Kent, Washington.



Jay first worked on New Shepard, the rocket for short, sub-orbital missions, and occasionally headed to Texas to lend hands-on support. Moving over to focus on New Glenn—the orbital launch vehicle for longer flights—Jay found himself in “a full-on cube farm.” So, when the opportunity came to rejoin New Shepard’s team, he asked if he could save the company time and money by relocating to Texas—which he did in January 2020.

“I’m the engineering triage ward,” Jay explains. “On any given day, 10 to 30 technicians are replacing hardware on two rockets and two capsules in the hanger. My goal is to fix as many problems on the floor as I can because all the other engineers are 2000 miles away.” If he is not certain about a solution, he can call his counterparts in Kent for their input. For Jay, working on rockets every day like this is “the coolest way to do the engineering that I enjoy.”

This summer may bring New Shepard’s first passenger mission, which could then set Blue Origin’s expansion plans into motion and perhaps give Jay his own team of technicians to manage—an appealing prospect to him. Thinking long-term, though, he predicts, “I’d like to do my own thing. I just have to figure out what that is.”

***Benson S. Ku, MD '09***  
**Psychiatry Resident and  
Postdoctoral Fellow**

“**T**here is a saying in medicine that your zip code may matter more than your genetic code,” Dr. Benson Ku says. “It’s true of asthma, cancer, and cardiovascular disease—I suspect this to be true of mental health as well.”

To Benson, mental illnesses may be preventable, just as many physical conditions often are. Pinpointing what risk factors could predispose a person to mental illness is therefore critical to prevention. However, research that guides clinical practice in this area is currently lacking.

A third-year resident and postdoctoral fellow in psychiatry at Emory, Benson has been interested in preventative medicine ever since serving as a clinical analyst at Bronx-Lebanon Hospital, working in an underserved community in the South Bronx. After graduating from Columbia with a degree in neuroscience and behavior, Benson recalls, “Working in the back end of a medical setting opened my eyes to how healthcare can be shaped by various psychosocial, economic, and physical environments.”

For medical school, Benson attended Hofstra, where a novel approach to teaching highlighted for him the connection between peoples’ health and their home environments. First, students were trained as emergency medical technicians; then, they drove to neighborhoods across NYC to transport and care for patients. “From day one, it was attending to patient-centered care,” Benson asserts. “It was a humanizing and humbling experience to care for patients where they lived. That has stuck with me.”

Psychiatry is the specialty where many of his interests—neuroscience and behavior, treatment and prevention, and social determinants of mental health—came together for Benson. “In psychiatry,” he notes, “we are trained to think in a bio-psycho-social-cultural framework, integrating these together and thinking about the human condition.”

Curious to learn more about the interplay between place and mental health, Benson traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, for his residency at Emory, where he has had the privilege to train at Grady Hospital and provide treatment for individuals living in underserved communities. During his first three years of residency, he published five first-authored, original research papers and was invited to give four oral presentations. His research has led to local, state-wide, and national



awards, including the AΩA Postgraduate Fellowship Award, which has helped him generate preliminary findings suggesting that living in neighborhoods with high residential instability (the population turnover rate in the neighborhood) may be a stronger predictor of the development of psychosis and schizophrenia compared to known risk factors—even among at-risk youth who never moved. “We don’t exactly know how or why, but understanding the mechanisms of this association has implications for early intervention and prevention of this debilitating disorder,” Benson says.

Benson continues to see patients with serious mental illness at Grady Hospital, knowing that—as with so many matters of health—the earlier he is able to intervene and treat, the better their prognosis will be. Given the shortage of mental health professionals in the U.S., especially in rural areas, and the inequities in care that this entails, he recognizes the importance of helping the broader community through serving on the Board of Trustees at the Georgia Psychiatric Physicians Association and advocating for policy reforms.

“There continue to be significant disparities and inequities in mental health care, and we need to start addressing them,” Benson affirms. “If not us, then who?”

## *Marianna Zak Hill '08* Environmental Engineer and Planner

**G**uided by her concern for the environment and its inhabitants—both present and future—Marianna Zak Hill applies her training in civil engineering, sustainable planning, and landscape design to shaping and improving site plans for a variety of development projects. As she explains, “The role I get to take on is this: This building is going in here. How do we have the least negative impact? In many cases, there is an opportunity to make it more sustainable.”

As an environmental engineer and planner with Nitsch Engineering in Boston, Marianna appreciates working for a company that shares her commitment to sustainable development. Within projects involving hospitals and housing, airports and bridges, museums and universities, she is focused on the sustainable stormwater management aspect of site development engineering.

“My team is the design team,” Marianna says. “We get involved early in a project and identify ways to do things better before the technical design phase. We integrate stormwater with the landscape, so that there are co-benefits to the area, like supporting native vegetation, managing flooding, and recharging groundwater. Every pocket of green space can provide shade and cooling.”

Marianna traces her professional path back to early, influential teachers who always encouraged her questions in math and science, first at Nashoba Brooks School and then at Middlesex. “Faculty were so nurturing and supportive,” she remembers. “Chris Coffin was my math teacher and head of house; Natalie Martinez was a great mentor as my advisor and coach.” As a four-year varsity goalie and senior captain, Marianna knew she wanted to play field hockey in college, and she was also considering studying engineering, though “I didn’t really know what to do with it,” she admits. “I was approaching it from an angle of climate change—that this is what I needed to work on with my career.”

Tufts University met Marianna’s criteria. “I had a wonderful experience there,” she says. Coached by Tina Mattera, the field hockey team won the 2009 NESCAC Championship, and Marianna earned 21 shutouts in her career. Academically, she found civil engineering to her



photo by Ellen Sargent

liking. “The spatial reasoning element clicked with me—the concreteness, excuse the pun!” she laughs. “Water and soil and gravity: Those things are real. It’s a complicated puzzle, and that’s what I wanted to work on.” Further broadening her understanding, Marianna completed a course in landscape architecture at Harvard’s School of Design.

Moving to Lake Tahoe after graduation, she found a job with an architecture and engineering firm, where she learned about the stringent water regulations that keep the Tahoe basin beautifully blue. In 2014, Marianna returned to the Boston area, working for the engineering firms of Weston & Sampson and then Stantec before devoting a year to the Conway School’s Graduate Program in Sustainable Planning. That immersive, comprehensive experience, with an emphasis on resilience and adaptation, is already proving to be invaluable.

“The industry is looking beyond sustainable and toward what is regenerative,” Marianna notes. “We’ve gotten to a point where we need to grow back. So, we are trying to compensate for the neighbors who may not be doing things sustainably.”

Given Nitsch’s team-oriented approach, Marianna is optimistic that thoughtful design will make an environmental difference. “There is so much good work happening,” she affirms, “and so many great minds working creatively together.” **M**

# In Memoriam

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## John Reed '41

John Reed died peacefully at his home at Maplewood Park Place in Bethesda, MD, on August 13, 2020.

John and his identical twin, **Francis W. Reed '41**, were born to Henry Green and Margaret Young Reed on February 9, 1923, in Portland, OR. On winning a Middlesex Prize Scholarship, John joined the fourth class along with his brother in 1937. After graduating, both entered Harvard College in 1941. John was drafted into the Army in 1943 and spent 36 months as a combat infantryman in the Rhineland and Central European campaigns, receiving a Bronze Star for valor and a Purple Heart. He returned to Harvard after the war and received his B.A. in English.

Working first as a reporter for the *San Francisco Chronicle* for two years, John then moved to Washington, DC, where he joined the Department of State. In 1952, he married Helen "Andy" Anderson. In 1955, John was sworn into the U.S. Foreign Service. The Reed family spent the next 12 years living in Washington, DC, Bangkok, Thailand, and Vientiane, Laos; they lived in Chevy Chase Village for 48 years. In addition to his family, John's great loves included reading, bridge, crossword puzzles, and horseback riding. In March 2012, the Reeds moved to Maplewood Park Place, where Andy died in March 2020. He will be remembered, missed, and loved forever.

Predeceased by his wife, brother, and parents, John is survived by his daughters, Susan and Diana; three nieces; and a grandnephew.

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## Geoffrey Massey '43

Geoffrey Massey died on December 1, 2020.

Geoffrey was born on October 29, 1924, in London, England, to Raymond Massey and Peggy

Freemantle. His parents divorced in 1929, and Geoffrey was raised by his father and second wife, Adrienne Allen. When the family moved to the United States in 1939, Geoffrey entered the fourth class at Middlesex. In 1942, he joined the Canadian Army and became a paratrooper. Geoffrey then studied architecture at Harvard, earning a master's degree in 1952, and worked briefly in Montreal.

Moving to Vancouver, he worked with Sharp & Thompson, Berwick and Pratt, and became friends with architect Arthur Erickson. Eager to work on their own, Geoffrey and Arthur worked in partnership from 1963 to 1972 and created projects including the Simon Fraser University campus, the MacMillan Bloedel Building, and the University of Lethbridge's University Hall, along with an initial plan for Robson Square. They also designed a house for artist Ruth Killam, whom Geoffrey later married.

After the architecture partnership ended amicably in 1972, Geoffrey was elected a Vancouver city councilor, a position he held for two years. He continued his own architectural practice over the following decades, working mostly on private homes. Throughout his career, Geoffrey was a behind-the-scenes advocate for architectural culture in Canada. He retired in 1991.

Predeceased by his wife Ruth Killam in 2011, Geoffrey is survived by his children, Eliza, Raymond, Vincent, and Nathaniel.

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## Ethan W. Bisbee '46

Ethan Wyatt Bisbee died on January 10, 2021.

A grandson of Middlesex's founder, Frederick Winsor, Ethan was born in Concord, MA, on May 16, 1928; he was the fourth child of Dorothy Winsor and Elliot W. Bisbee (Middlesex faculty member from 1919–1922 and 1925–1946). Ethan attended the Fenn School before joining the

sixth class at Middlesex in 1940. On graduating, he went on to Harvard, receiving an A.B. in government cum laude in 1950 and an A.M. in history in 1961.

Ethan married Mary Susan Gongaware on September 10, 1955, and they raised three children together. A faculty member at Milton Academy from 1953 to 1993, Ethan taught history, both U.S. and world; brought current events into discussion; and tried to draw out the reluctant speaker or student as a worthy equal. Always a coach and long an adviser, he went on to teach economics and to chair the history department.

In retirement, the Bisbees spent winters in Westerly, RI, and summers in Fayston, VT. Ethan maintained woodland walking trails in Westerly, volunteered in Mystic at the Seaport Museum, and assisted the Vermont Historical Society in researching and archiving. He had more time to connect with friends, stay well informed, and help raise four grandchildren. After his wife Sue died, Ethan began life at the retirement community of Wake Robin in Shelburne, VT. A year later, he lost his eldest daughter, Ann Scheffler, to cancer. Though he worked through much grief and continued to stay involved, he was never the same. He died independently and peacefully, having fulfilled a noble career and a happy life.

In addition to his wife Sue and daughter Ann, Ethan was predeceased by his parents; his sisters, Alice Bisbee Zamore and Joyce Bisbee Andrews; and his brother, **Frederick W. Bisbee '41**. He is survived by his daughter Liz and his son Fred; four grandchildren; two brothers, **John Bisbee '44** and **Thomas Bisbee '51**; 17 nephews, including **Frederick W. Zamore '67**, **Peter H. Zamore '70**, **Robert B. Simonds '74**, and **Joshua L. Simonds '80**; 10 nieces, including **Lisa Andrews Hooper '78**; and many cousins, including **John W. Pratt '48**, **Frederick A. Pratt '50**, **Hugh R. Beyer '76**, **Thomas P. Beyer '81**, **Maria Theresa W. Pratt '83**,

and **Samuel F. Pratt '85**. Ethan's Middlesex family connections are even more extensive than this, but his nearest relations also include a grandnephew, **Ian P. Dwyer '84**, and a grandniece, **Jessica W. Andrews '21**.

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## Warren H. Clark '47

Warren Hopkins Clark passed away peacefully in the comfort of his home in San Francisco, CA, on January 30, 2021.

Born in San Francisco on March 25, 1928, he was the son of Warren Hopkins Clark and Dorothea Williamson Walker. Warren attended the Punahou School in Honolulu, HI, while his stepfather, Richard Walker, was stationed with the U.S. Navy. After Pearl Harbor was attacked, Warren returned to San Francisco, with his mother and brother, and attended Town School for Boys. Warren joined the fifth class at Middlesex in 1942; feeling the call of duty, he enlisted in the Army and was stationed in Northern Italy for a year. Upon completion of his military service, he entered Harvard College and graduated in 1952 with a B.A. in government; he was the coxswain of an undefeated crew and a member of the Fly Club. Warren returned to San Francisco to begin his business career, forming a group of investors that bought, renovated, and managed apartment buildings in Northern California and Arizona.

Warren was an avid skier in The Sugar Bowl and in St. Anton am Arlberg, Austria. There, he met his first wife, Monika Hunt. Warren was a trustee emeritus at The Hamlin School and later was on the Town School Board for six years. A passionate traveler, he journeyed to all ends of the world, going on many of these adventures with his wife of 18 years, Claire Clark. Warren's dry sense of humor, daily political analysis, and wise counsel will be greatly missed but forever celebrated and remembered by all who knew him.

# In Memoriam

Predeceased by his wife Claire, Warren is survived by his daughter, Antonia H. Cohen; his brother, Richard Walker; and two grandchildren.

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## *M. Lawrence Harris '49*

Maynard Lawrence Harris passed away peacefully on October 17, 2020.

Larry was born to Maynard and Edith Harris on May 14, 1930, in Plainfield, NJ. He and his younger brother, **Christopher Harris '51**, lost their mother when they were young and became a part of a larger family when their father remarried, giving them three stepsisters and a stepbrother, **Andrew T. McMillan '54**. Larry entered the fourth class at Middlesex in 1945 and, following graduation, earned a degree in history at Yale. He was an ensign in the Navy at the end of the Korean War, after which he worked at U.S. Shipping Lines. Larry earned an M.A. in European history from Columbia University in 1958 and later pursued graduate work in anthropology at the University of Washington.

An insatiably curious soul, Larry pursued a lifelong career in education. After marrying Sally Robinson in 1956, he taught history and coached ice hockey at Cranbrook School. Following that were teaching positions at the Makere College School in Kampala, Uganda, and then at Athenian School in Danville, CA. Next, Larry became principal of the large American Community School in Beirut, Lebanon, which he left only when war drove his family out. He returned to the U.S. to become director of the upper school at Lakeside School in Seattle, WA. His last job in education was as principal of the American Embassy School in New Delhi, India, where he moved with his second wife Cathy and two stepsons.

Larry had a robust sense of civic duty, serving in leadership positions for many organizations.

In 1995, he moved to Whidbey Island, where he became active in local island political activities. Along the way, Larry met and married fellow environmental and political activist Betty Azar. A Renaissance man with many talents and interests, Larry was a proud father and grandfather who took an interest in and encouraged everyone's varied interests. His experiences, contributions, and lessons will continue to enrich the lives of family, friends, and communities.

Predeceased by his son Jeffrey in 1960, Larry is survived by his wife Betty; his brother Chris; his stepsisters, Edie and Ellen; his children, Becky Jasperse and Nick Harris, and their mother Sally; two grandchildren; his stepsons, Andrew and Ryan, and their mother Cathy; and his stepdaughter Chelsea Azar Feldman.

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## *Lawrence D. Brownell '50*

Lawrence Dickey Brownell passed away peacefully on April 27, 2020, of natural causes.

He was born in New York City on February 19, 1932, as the oldest son of Gwladys Bigelow and **Morris R. Brownell, Jr. '26**. Larry attended Chestnut Hill Academy before joining the fifth class at Middlesex in 1945. After receiving his diploma, he moved on to Harvard College, where he was an accomplished oarsman and squash player. Larry also was an ROTC cadet during college and, upon graduating, spent two years in active service as a captain in the Air Force. After his service, he began his career in banking at First Pennsylvania and PNC Banks in Philadelphia and at Linden Bank and Trust in Westfield, NJ. He later served as director of development at the Hill School in Pottstown, PA, before he and his wife Sally realized their dream job as co-proprietors of the Salt Marsh Farm Bed and Breakfast in South Dartmouth, MA.

Larry was an avid gardener, photographer, golfer, craftsman,

pulley collector, tinkerer, and jolly merriment-maker. He and Sally served as docents at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, supported the Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust in Massachusetts, and volunteered at the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia.

Preceded in death by Sally and his brother, **Morris R. Brownell III '51**, Larry is survived by his large and loving family; he will be missed by his many acquaintances at The Hill at Whitmarsh in Lafayette Hill, PA, his dear friends throughout the New Bedford (MA) area, and others whose lives he touched, both near and far. His late uncle, **Frederic H. Brownell '34**, was also a Middlesex alumnus.

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## *James A. Ostheimer '51*

James Alfred Ostheimer died on March 16, 2021, following complications sustained from a fall.

Born on June 27, 1932, in Germantown, PA, Jim was the second child of Elizabeth Gray and Alfred J. Ostheimer III. He came to Middlesex in 1946 and, after graduating, earned a B.A. from Yale University in 1955. Jim married Cornelia Duffy on June 24, 1955, and they had four children. Commissioned into the Air Force after Yale, Jim flew F86D and F89J interceptors; he ended his aviation career in the Air National Guard while continuing to raise his young family. He had a long career in the employee benefits field, working for Ostheimer and Company, Inc. (his father's business) through its assimilation into Peat Marwick. In the late 1980s, Jim established his own employee benefits consulting and executive compensation firm, Ostheimer & Company.

Jim loved sports, especially sailing competitively. He discovered cruising later in life and spent many days sailing with Cornelia on their Triton on Penobscot Bay. Challenging himself to accomplish

a milestone in his 50th year, he trained for and unofficially ran the Boston Marathon. He was also a devoted fan of the Patriots and Red Sox, as well as his grandchildren's teams. Jim had a gentle and sentimental side, too; he loved animals and wrote poetry, publishing assorted collections in his later years.

He was predeceased by Cornelia, his wife of 63 years; his sister, Barbara St. Georges; and brothers, John and **Anthony Mcl. Ostheimer '53**. Jim is survived by his children, Emily Jones, Martha Ostheimer, Tom Ostheimer, and Sarah Trapani; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Martha Luster and Maggi Hill.

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## *Allen O. Fordyce '55*

Allen Orrick Fordyce died on February 14, 2021.

Ike was born to Allen and Marian Fordyce on June 30, 1936, and was raised in Sheridan, WY. He attended the Big Horn Public Schools prior to joining the fifth class at Middlesex in 1950, and after receiving his diploma, he went on to earn a B.S. at Colorado State University. In 1956, Ike married Gwynne Jones, and they raised two daughters.

Like his father, Ike went into the cattle business, also managing a guest ranch in Wyoming during the summer for many years. He later moved to New Mexico, continuing in the ranching business while taking up photography.

Ike is survived by his second wife, Jane; and his daughters, Shirley and Elizabeth. His Middlesex family connections include his cousin, **John R. Fordyce III '50**, and the late **Edward W. Fordyce '26**.

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## *Charles C. Lund II '56*

Charles Carroll Lund II died from COVID-19 at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, DC, on November 30, 2020.

Born in Boston, MA, on June 4, 1938, Charlie joined the fifth class at Middlesex from Dexter School in 1951. On graduating, he studied English and earned a B.A. in philosophy at Dartmouth College. Before being called into the Army, he began graduate work in English literature at Boston University. Following his service, he resumed his studies at the University of Maryland and went on to earn a Ph.D. in American and British literature at Tufts University in 1973. He married Viola Berry in 1961 and eventually moved to Montgomery County in Maryland, where they raised two daughters. Charlie took a job at Federal City College, now called the University of the District of Columbia, and he taught there until retirement. His greatest joy was when students went on to become published writers.

From childhood to retirement, Charlie listened to birdsong and squinted at the stars with the same deep curiosity that drove him to read and reread great American novels. He sought out new scientific developments and new literary forms, also preserving a sense of fun and keeping busy after retiring in 2004. Charlie tutored middle-schoolers, wrote letters for Amnesty International, and traveled to India, Italy, and England. Always thinking of others, he will especially be remembered for his warmth and kindness.

Charlie is survived by his wife Viola; two daughters, Louisa Lund and Anne Lund-Elvir; and his grandchildren.

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### *William R. Bale '57*

William Richard Bale passed away peacefully on November 28, 2019, at West Penn Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA.

A son of the late Hattie Lorcher and H. William Bale, Bill was born on May 2, 1939, in Ligonier, PA. On earning a Middlesex Prize Scholarship in 1953, he entered the fourth class that fall. After earning his diploma, he continued his studies at Penn State University,

earning a degree in finance. Bill was employed as a claims adjuster with Travelers and Citi Group insurance companies for 32 years; he retired in 1999. A member of the Tarentum District Sportsman Club, he enjoyed target shooting, traveling, and spending time with his family.

Bill is survived by his wife of 52 years, Maryellyn Harvey Bale; his daughter Hope Gaulin; two grandchildren; and his sister, Margery Bale.

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### *John Adams '59*

John Adams died on October 7, 2020, of Parkinson's disease and Lewy body dementia.

Born on April 13, 1941, John was the first of five children of Ramelle Cochrane and Thomas Boylston Adams. A direct descendant of two U.S. presidents, John Adams and John Quincy Adams, he maintained strong ties to the Adams Historical Site in Quincy, often giving talks about important events in the Adams' lives. Given the advent of World War II, John's early childhood was spent on various Army bases, where his father served as a gunnery instructor; he subsequently grew up in Lincoln, MA—home to three prior generations of the Adams family—and joined the fourth class at Middlesex in 1955. After graduating, he majored in math at Harvard. By 1974, John had earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. in structural engineering from Tufts University and MIT, respectively.

His special insight was seeing early on the possibilities of the computer as it applied to the practice of engineering; in 1965, John had been given the opportunity to run the computer center at Tufts and gained so many insights about its application to engineering that he taught a course using the computer to design the structures of buildings. At Tufts, he also met Patricia Jones, to whom he was married for 53 years.

John was a caretaker and teacher to his siblings and children,

enthusiastic cheerleader and supporter of his wife, and mentor to and leader of the large groups of engineers over whose careers he watched as they built complex products together. Working in a fast-paced and competitive environment, first at Digital (1976–1996) and later at RSA Security (1996–2001), John was especially proud of his contributions to bringing the pioneering Ethernet LAN technology to market while at Digital. He was also proud of being an integral part of the acquisition of RSA Data Security when he worked for Security Dynamics. His vision for their integration into RSA Security helped set the tone for the merged companies, ultimately creating one of the most recognized names in cybersecurity.

Predeceased by his parents and one brother, Peter Boylston Adams, John is survived by his beloved wife Patricia; two sons, Darcy and **Samuel Adams '91**; five granddaughters; his sister Ramelle; and his brothers, **Douglas F. Adams '63** and **Henry B. Adams '67**. His Middlesex family connections also include his daughter-in-law, **Courtney Stone Adams '92**; his nephew, **Sturgis I. Adams '97**; and his sister-in-law, Trish Adams, who taught ceramics at the School from 1997 to 2004.

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### *Thomas H. Meyer '59*

Thomas Hard Meyer died peacefully in his sleep on February 11, 2020.

The son of Isabelle Heins and **Henry von L. Meyer, Jr. '29**, Tom was born on May 5, 1941, in New York City and spent his childhood years on Cobblestone Farm in Suffern, NY. Following his father and older brother, **Henry von L. Meyer III '57**, to Middlesex, Tom joined the sixth class in 1953 and, after graduating, went on to earn a B.A. in speech from Denison University. Tom had a distinguished career as an investment advisor working on Wall Street and then in White Plains for the Bank of New York.

Tom and his wife Betsy moved to Bedford, NY, in 1968. Passionate about nature his entire life, he was able to devote much of his time to birdwatching after retiring. Many will remember Tom for the hundreds of bluebird houses he put up and monitored around the community, helping to restore the population to what it is today. Also an avid sportsman, Tom particularly loved fishing. For many years, he coached his sons' Little League teams and, even after they went on to boarding school and college, rarely missed one of their games (whether it be baseball, lacrosse, or hockey).

Predeceased by his parents and his brother, Tom is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Elizabeth (Betsy) Catron Meyer; his sons, **Thomas H. Meyer, Jr. '85** and **William A. Meyer '87**; and his four grandchildren.

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### *Kevin S. McCoy '64*

Kevin Steward McCoy passed away peacefully on April 10, 2021, with his wife and son by his side.

Born in Washington, DC, on March 7, 1946, Kevin spent most of his youth in the area, with summers abroad in Spain and Italy, while his father worked for the CIA. He joined the fourth class at Middlesex in 1960 and, after graduating, earned a B.A. in political science at Trinity College and an M.B.A. at Columbia Business School. Starting out at Chemical Bank in New York City in 1968, Kevin soon moved to Maryland and spent most of his career at Inland Steel, Carey Winston, and ASB Capital Management, enjoying the commercial real estate business.

Kevin married Jane Herron in 1970; with their son Sean, they treasured their time as a family, especially traveling, playing tennis, and dining together. Family was a great priority and source of pride for Kevin, who was the eldest of six children. That importance only grew greater when his sister Sarah provided him with the

# In Memoriam

gift of life in the form of her kidney in 1983. Surpassing all expectations, Kevin was able to enjoy life for nearly 40 more years. He made the most of it, living passionately and doing everything with great conviction and youthful enjoyment. One of his more recent and greatest joys were his two grandchildren, and he followed their lives with devotion.

Predeceased by his father, Thomas F. McCoy, his brother, **David L. McCoy '71**, and his sister, Sarah McCarthy, Kevin is survived by his beloved wife Jane; his son Sean; his treasured grandchildren, Andrew and Brooke; his mother, Priscilla J. McCoy; three sisters, Stephanie Keith, Laura Anderson, and Anne Edwards; 11 nieces and nephews; and many other close family and friends.

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## *Charles Henderson III '65*

The Reverend Charles Henderson III passed away peacefully on December 13, 2019, at his home in Rockport, MA.

The son of **Charles Henderson, Jr. '40** and Ethel Bolton Henderson, Charles was born on August 13, 1946, in Lawrence, MA. He entered the fourth class at Middlesex in 1961 from Durham Academy in North Carolina. On receiving his diploma, Charles went on to earn a B.A. in English at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an M.Div. at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. He served as a medic in the Army during the Vietnam War.

Charles was ordained in the Anglican Church in Newfoundland, Canada, where he served as rector of several churches before moving to Adams, NY. There, he served for 16 years as rector of Emmanuel Episcopal Church and its sister parish, Zion Church in Pierrepont Manor, NY. After his retirement, Charles and his wife moved to Northampton, MA, and three years later, they also bought a condo in Rockport,

which became a part-time home. Between these two towns, he participated actively in several church communities. In addition to his ministry, Charles was involved in many other creative pursuits. He loved painting, especially landscapes featuring his beloved Rockport, and he enjoyed writing and cooking.

Charles is survived by his wife Elise, his son Charles and daughter Abigail; three granddaughters; two sisters, Elizabeth Kilduff and Rosalie Godfrey; and two brothers, **William A. Henderson '66** and John Quintus Henderson.

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## *Edward S. Seligman '65*

Edward Stow Seligman died on January 7, 2021, in São Tomé e Príncipe.

Ned was born to Peggy Van Horne and Joseph L. Seligman, Jr., on August 7, 1947, in San Francisco, CA. After graduating from the Town School for Boys in 1961, he came to Middlesex, and on receiving his diploma, he headed to Yale, where he earned a B.A. in history in 1969. Ned then joined the Peace Corps and became dedicated to helping rural communities throughout Africa, also working with organizations such as Catholic Relief Services, the American Friends Service Committee, and the World Wildlife Fund. In 1986, he completed a master's degree in public policy at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.

On a Peace Corps mission in 1993, Ned traveled for the first time to São Tomé e Príncipe, a small country located 200 miles off the coast of Gabon. Following another assignment in Guinea-Bissau, he returned to São Tomé in 1998 and started STeP UP, an NGO focused on working with grassroots organizations to address issues related to education, health, income-generation, and agricultural training. While small in scale, STeP UP had

considerable impact, and, per Ned's wishes, it will continue under the guidance of local staff.

In 2004, during his annual visit to the U.S., Ned became ill and was rushed to the hospital, where he fell into a coma and was diagnosed with MRSA. The infection attacked multiple organs and his extremities, requiring the amputation of both legs below the knees and most of his fingertips. Amazingly, a year later, Ned was back at his post in São Tomé; for his unwavering commitment to improving the lives of others, he received Middlesex's Henry Cabot Lodge (1920) Distinguished Alumni Award in 2015.

Ned is survived by his brothers, Thomas K. and **Garrett V. H. Seligman '70**, and three nephews. His Middlesex family legacy also includes many cousins; among them are **James P. Warburg (1913)**, **Frederick M. Warburg (1915)**, **Gerald F. Warburg (1919)**, **Paul F. Warburg (1922)**, **Edward M. M. Warburg (1926)**, **Walter N. Rothschild, Jr. '38**, **Felix M. Warburg '42**, **Jonathan F. Warburg '59**, **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**, **Frederick M. Warburg '00**, **Lucy S. Weber '00**, and **Isabella M. Warburg '14**.

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## *W. McHenry Keyser '72*

After struggling with aggressive pneumonia and complications from lifelong diabetes, William McHenry Keyser died peacefully on December 15, 2020, with his wife Virginia by his side, near their new home in Lake Wales, FL.

Mac was born on August 2, 1952, in New Bedford, MA. The son of Helen Angier and R. Brent Keyser, Mac spent his youngest years in his father's native Baltimore. He attended the Gilman School and the Harvey School before joining Middlesex's fourth

class in 1968. After graduating, he majored in business at New England College. On completing his degree, he moved to Vermont, where he resided for more than 40 years.

During summers in Marion, MA, Mac became an accomplished sailboat racer. He also loved to tinker and was best known for his ability to work on bikes. The Shelburne Bike Club, established by Mac in the 1980s, continues today as the Wednesday Night Riders. Mac led many trips throughout New England, Québec, Canada, and the U.S., and he helped form the Vermont Iowa Pedalist group, which participated in the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa on a dozen different Julys.

Mac's humor and good nature kindled many loyal friends. He did not allow diabetes to slow him down and responded by living his life by his famous motto: Go fast, take chances. He was a remarkable soul and will be remembered and profoundly missed by those who were fortunate to know him.

Predeceased by his father and his sister, Elizabeth H. Keyser Evans, Mac is survived by his wife, Virginia Bartholomew Keyser; his mother, Helen A. Trumbull, and stepfather, **Walter H. Trumbull, Jr. '42**; his sister, Leigh Keyser Phillips; his brothers, Donald A. Keyser and Peter S. Adamson; numerous nephews and nieces, including **Phoebe Evans Walsh '00**; and many godchildren. His Middlesex family connections also include his cousin, **Marjorie Hoblitzell Baldwin '81**, and his late uncle, **W. McHenry Keyser '44**.

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## *Henry W. Lane '74*

Henry Welling Lane died at his home in Bay Head, NJ, on December 12, 2020, after battling pancreatic cancer for 27 months.

The fifth of seven children of Arthur Stephen and Sally Kuser Lane, Henry was born on August 25, 1955, and grew up in Harbourton, NJ. He was a fiercely competitive

natural athlete who played hockey, football, and lacrosse at Princeton Day School and at Middlesex.

Henry then attended Princeton University, where he played on freshman and varsity teams in all three sports. Following graduation, he was accepted into Proctor and Gamble's sales training program, working for the food division in New England. Henry went on to management sales positions in Tom's of Maine, Environmental Products Corp., and Nestlé Waters North America. In 1991, he married Cecily Maureen Glavin. Five years later, when Henry became a partner in Dioptrics Medical Products, the Lanes moved to San Luis Obispo, CA. While serving as CEO/president, Henry's interest in innovation led to his being granted 114 patents.

In California, Henry was active in working with several non-profits, often serving on their boards. He helped chauffeur his sons to practice, games, and tournaments, missing his front-row seat at their competitions only when he was traveling for business. Following his divorce and his family's relocation to the East, Henry drove east in 2015 to live full time at his favorite place, the Lane family shore house, where he settled into a life of hosting family and friends. His interest in the small town's growth led him to work on other house histories, which he donated to the Bay Head Historical Society as a fundraiser.

Diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2018, Henry started this unexpected chapter by determining to live in the present, facing his diagnosis head-on. He became a grandfather in September; to his great joy, all three sons, his daughter-in-law, and granddaughter visited before his death.

Henry is survived by his three sons, Arthur, Kerney, and Everett; his granddaughter Camden; six siblings, Sarah, Stephen, Mark, Catherine, Mary, and **Teresa D. Lane '79**; 13 nieces and nephews, as well as great-nieces and great-nephews; and many cousins.

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### *Peter H. Makepeace '82*

Peter Harper Makepeace died on November 19, 2020, in Fairfax, CA.

Born on October 6, 1964, Peter was the son of LeRoy and Lindsay Makepeace. He entered the third class at Middlesex in 1979 from the Potomac School. After receiving his diploma and taking a gap year, Peter began his college studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and later transferred to the San Francisco Art Institute to earn a B.F.A. in filmmaking. Based in the Bay Area for more than 30 years, Peter worked as a freelance film and video maker, creating everything from short documentaries to music videos to commercials.

Peter is survived by his daughter Hanako and son William; his sister, **Anne-Lindsay Makepeace '76**; and his brother, **Timothy S. Makepeace '80**.

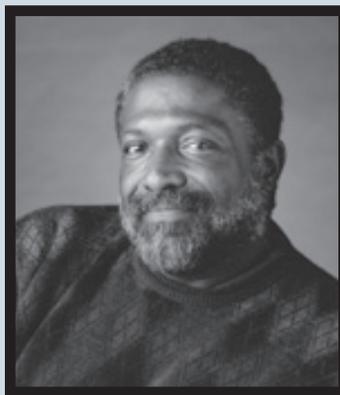
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### *Charles B. Packard*

A member of the Middlesex faculty from 1960 to 1964, Charles Bartlett Packard passed away at home on November 27, 2020, after several years of declining health.

Born to Kenneth and Helen Moakley Packard in Arlington, MA, on March 26, 1935, Charles graduated from Lexington High School, received a B.A. in classics from Bowdoin College, and then earned an M.A.T. at Harvard University. He went on to teach Latin and coach basketball, football, and tennis at Middlesex and Phillips Academy in Andover. Although he was passionate about teaching, Charles also greatly enjoyed writing; thus, he decided to become an editor and an author of language arts textbooks for Random House, McGraw Hill, and D.C. Heath. Charles made this career change upon marrying (Joan) Pamela Gilson, and the couple settled in Manhattan, where their daughter was born. The family relocated

## Elton D. Hill '71



Elton Dwight Hill died suddenly on May 12, 2021.

Dwight was born on February 12, 1953, in Flushing, NY, to Robert Lee and the late Queen Elizabeth Hill. Among the first Black students to attend Middlesex, Dwight joined the fifth class in 1966. On graduating, he earned an A.B. in

economics at Harvard University and a J.D. at Georgetown University Law School.

Beginning his legal career at the Civil Aeronautics Board in Washington, DC, Dwight moved on after six years to the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. This became the Office of Thrift Supervision, and Dwight served as the associate deputy director of the office of enforcement. He then joined the Federal Reserve Board, where he was the senior supervisory financial analyst in the Division of Banking Supervision and Regulation. Dwight served on the Middlesex Board of Trustees from 2000 to 2004.

Many at Middlesex remember Dwight as a remarkable athlete. With his Bayside Little League team, he was an All-Star player who pitched a perfect game against the league's best hitters. Dwight went on to play five seasons of varsity baseball for Middlesex, serving as captain in 1971. In addition to three seasons of varsity basketball, Dwight played four seasons of varsity football, serving as captain in 1969 and 1970. He graduated with 12 varsity letters to his credit.

Dwight was deservedly inducted into Middlesex's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2003. Perhaps most of all, he will be remembered for his dignity, reserve, and humility, which inspired those around him.

Predeceased by a sister, Portia Hill, Dwight is survived by his wife Earline; their sons, Elton Dwight II and Evan; their daughter Elyse; his brother Robert; and many family members and friends.

# In Memoriam

to Westport, CT, where Charles started his own company called Instruction Systems Incorporated, allowing him to stop commuting to New York and be present for his daughter's school and extra-curricular activities.

Moving to Camden, ME, in 1987, Charles began writing opinion pieces and columns for several Maine newspapers. He eventually returned to teaching, volunteering first at Ashwood Waldorf School and then at Watershed School. Charles' other great passion was for animals, and he and Pamela were supporters of PAWS Animal Adoption Center. He will be remembered as a champion of the underdog among humans as well, for he was admired for his mentorship and advocacy on behalf of his pupils.

Predeceased by his wife Pamela and two sisters, Jane P. Ackley and Ann Packard, Charles is survived by his daughter, Amy Packard Smereck; his grandson Jeb; his brother John; three nephews

and two nieces; and many dear friends.

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## Warren S. Geissinger

Warren S. Geissinger died on November 21, 2020, at the Havenwood retirement community in Concord, NH, in the arms of his wife Barbara. He led Middlesex's music department from 1975 to 1989.

He was the third son of Monroe and Annie Stichter Geissinger. Warren's life was defined by music; as a child, he attended two church services every Sunday, singing in the choirs and, later, accompanying on piano and organ. He studied music at West Chester State College, where he met his wife Barbara. In 1943, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force, serving as a bombardier, first lieutenant, in southern Italy. When he wasn't on a mission, he led an on-base barbershop quartet, played the pump organ for services, and practiced the

pipe organ in the local cathedral in Cerignola.

Thanks to the GI Bill, Warren earned a master's in music education from Temple University and a master's in sacred music from Union Theological Seminary. He taught for many years at St. Mary's-in-the-Mountains, Pomfret School, and Middlesex, also serving as organist/choirmaster at several churches. In 1959, Warren founded The Concert Choir of Northeastern Connecticut, a community chorus that continues to thrive today. He played organ for church services until he was 97.

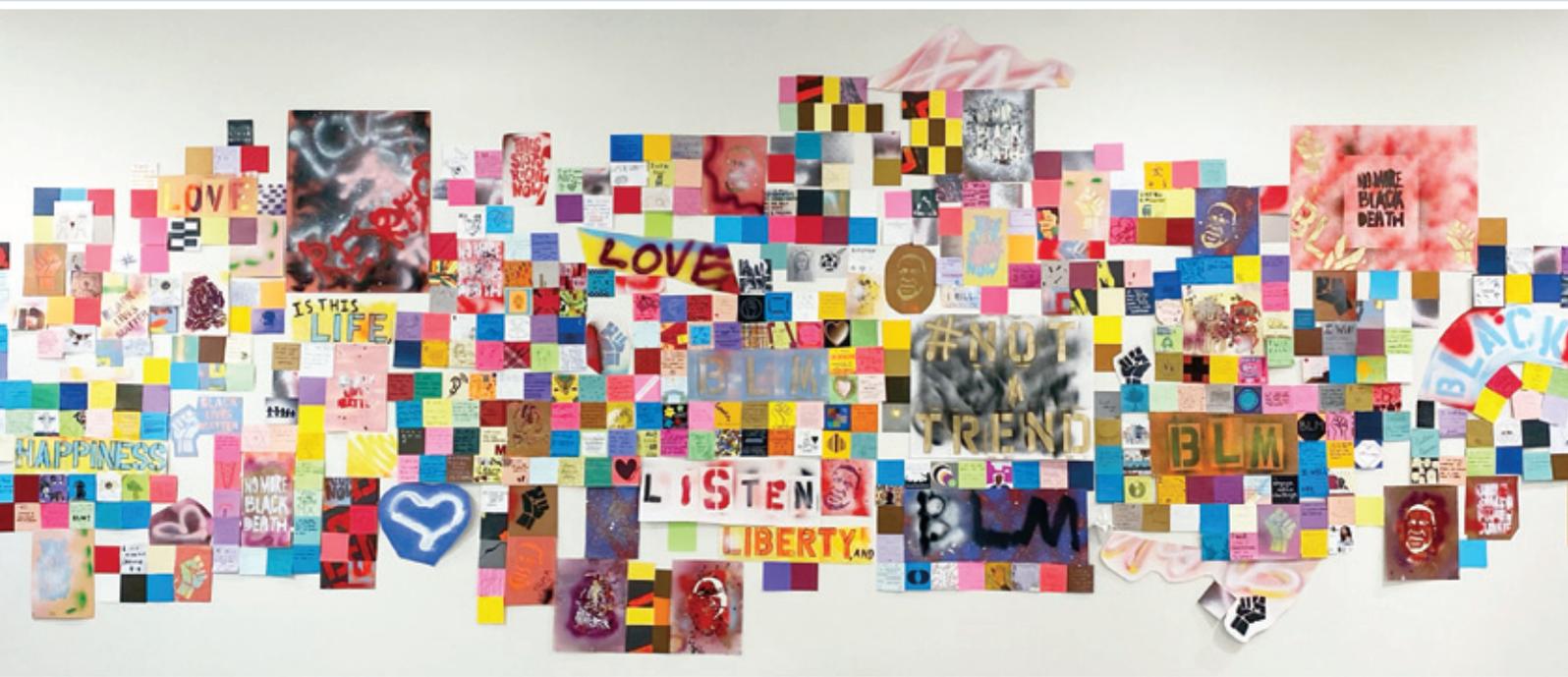
From the organ bench, piano bench, conductor's podium, theater pit, or front of the classroom, Warren radiated the joy he felt in sharing the beauty and power of music, energizing the room with his enthusiasm, empathy, and humor. His standards were high, and he elevated students and amateurs alike with his depth of understanding and generosity.

Warren and Barbara loved to

travel and took a group of students to Africa on an International Affairs Seminar in 1963. Two years later, they spent a sabbatical year at Kodaikanal School in southern India. They toured England with many Middlesex shows and Europe with the North Country Chorus. Closer to home, they loved hiking in the White Mountains.

In 1992, Warren and Barbara suffered the devastating loss of their eldest daughter, Eve. They turned their heartbreak into action, testifying in the New Hampshire State Legislature to lower the legal limit of blood alcohol levels in drivers and completing the training for the Support Center for Domestic Violence. They were also longtime volunteers for Meals-on-Wheels, Hospice, The Friendly Kitchen, and the office of Bishop Gene Robinson.

In addition to Barbara, Warren is survived by his daughters, Annie and Katie; a grandson; a niece and two nephews; and many admiring students, colleagues, and friends.



**A Quilt of Commitment:** At the end of last December's play, *The Racial Equity Project*, audience members were asked to write down an action they intended to take to combat racism, completing the phrase, "I will...." In February, Black History Month, the community circled back to those pledges and expressed them in a new way on small, colorful squares of paper. These were then assembled by Visual Arts Department Head Stacey McCarthy, Art History teacher Sarah Munro, and Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Erika Prahl—along with student and faculty helpers—to form a vibrant, intricate quilt in the Ishibashi Gallery.



THANK YOU

Our third annual Giving Day,  
**MX**GIVES, took place on April 27, 2021.

We set a lofty goal to receive 609 gifts in support of the Annual Fund to honor the 609 students, faculty, and staff who make up our community for their extraordinary work this year.

Our extended community of alumni, parents, and friends rose to the occasion and helped us far exceed our goal with **882 gifts totaling over \$500,000** to the Middlesex Annual Fund. The Annual Fund helps maintain the excellence of Middlesex—from academics, arts, and athletics to student life and faculty development.

We are forever grateful for the ongoing support we have received during this challenging year.

Thank You.

Every Gift Matters, Every Year!



# Middlesex

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## At Last

On June 5, 2021, 86 members of the class of 2020 were able to return to campus for their long-awaited, in-person graduation ceremony. Finally crossing the Circle to Eliot Hall, they officially celebrated this milestone together in traditional Middlesex style.