



MIDDLEBRIDGE SCHOOL



MBS Alumni Update Fall 2021

Dear Middlebridge Alumni-

First, and most importantly, we miss seeing you all at Hazard Castle. It's been a beautiful fall here, with days of unseasonably warm weather and bright colors. The trees on campus are just now starting to lose their leaves, and prior to the break, you could find students playing pickup on the new outdoor basketball court, hanging out in hammocks close to the castle and the pond, or walking or biking the loop around school grounds. We're looking forward to the day when we can invite you all back to campus to do the same.

We recently hosted our annual Thanksgiving dinner, a tradition with which all of you are familiar. John spent some time speaking to our current students about the practice of gratitude, and how to take time to be grateful for the good things and good people in your life even in the middle of COVID, even when life might not be exactly the way you want it to be (yet). We wanted to share a quick reflection from his remarks with all of you:

“Life moves faster than you can possibly imagine at your age. And I can promise you that there will be times when things in your life are good but not perfect, when you might forget or not do the work of being thankful. When those times sneak up on you, I hope you startle yourself to awareness and take a moment to celebrate the beautiful things: your health and wellness, a good friendship, the support of your family, the opportunity

to keep trying to change and improve yourself and your life. Gratitude for what you have, and motivation to keep moving forward, is the mark of adulthood. I hope you will all strive to meet that threshold.”

We have felt genuinely lucky to be in touch with so many of you over the past few weeks and months, even from a distance. Every text, email, and call is so appreciated. We share every update and meetup with our faculty because they ALL miss you! We're proud to have so many alums out there striving, learning, becoming.

We hope you take a moment to read the spotlights and updates on your classmates and friends below. And if you would like to be included in the next alumni newsletter, please don't hesitate to reach out:

Katherine Hollander

Shannon Leventhal

John J. Kaufman

Happy Thanksgiving, Owls!

-The Middlebridge School Community

Spotlight On: Baylee Bee

Baylee Donovan (Class of '14)

How did Baylee Bee come to be?

During the quarantine, my mom and I were driving around downtown Natick and saw a lot of empty storefronts. My mom and I were thinking of how Natick needs a clothing store because people who live in Natick have to go to surrounding neighbors such as Wellesley, Framingham, etc., to look for birthday/holiday gifts, and clothes for themselves or their children. So my mom and I thought a clothing store would thrive in Natick. We decided to call the building owner of one of the empty storefronts, and that is how Baylee Bee was born!



What is it like running a business during COVID?

Opening during the middle of the pandemic was challenging because I wasn't sure if people would be comfortable coming into the store because of how small of a space it was. But I was wrong. People were so excited to get out of the house and be able to talk to us and other customers in the store. Everyone was really good at wearing their masks, too. Another challenging experience is learning how

to start and make a successful business especially since this is my first store and I had no idea what I was doing, but I am still learning. The last challenging experience is figuring out how to put the store on social media. My mom and I aren't great at it but we have learned a lot and have people help us like my sisters Dakota, Julia, and Baylee Bee employees, Reed, Sammi, and Paige.

What do you love about the business?

What I love about having a business is working with my mom. She is an amazing business partner and I have learned a lot from her because she has had more experience with working in clothing stores and customer service than me. Another thing I love is making customers happy and having them come back again and again because they are comfortable with me and my mom. The last thing I love is having wonderful business neighbors around us. They all were so welcoming and supportive, too. It is also fun to order clothing online and have them delivered to the store because it is like opening a Christmas present every time. My mom and I get so excited about our clothes that we can't wait to show our customers.

I never thought I would be a business owner but I have always loved fashion. My motto is, "If something is challenging, that's okay as long as you persevere with whatever you are doing. Keep learning, because having true grit will take you very far in life." Also, pushing your boundaries will help you discover what exactly you can do.

**Holiday Shopping??
Check out [Baylee Bee!](#)**



Alumni News & Notes

Hillary Geiger (PG Class of '09)

The last few months have been busy and wonderful. In July, I started working at Marshall's. During the summer I worked three days a week and bounced between working on the floor making sure clothing was organized on racks and in

the fitting room as well. Currently, I work two days a week, and about a month ago started working up at the cash registers. I absolutely love it. The other three days of the week I am back at Suffolk County Community College, finishing my associate's degree in Photography. I will likely graduate next winter, and cannot wait.

I have been doing freelance photography sessions throughout the pandemic. Additionally, I have continued to schedule photo sessions for events, family photos as well as weddings and engagements, on weekends, when I'm not working or in school.

Alan Price (Class of '10, PG Class of '11)

I wanted to let you all know I am included in another article for work. Click the image below to read more!



Jessie Gerstein (Class of '12, PG Class of '13)

I've been busy working at the United States Military Base in Newport, Rhode Island. It's very busy on the Military Base during the mornings and during the night when we serve food to every branch of the military that I work for: The Army, The Navy, The Marine Core, The Coast Guard.

Daire Ellis (Class of '15, PG Class of '16)

Ever since leaving MBS, I've done a lot with my life. I started by joining Americorps NCCC and was sent out to Vinton, Iowa, and worked with a team of seven for 10 months. We worked on projects all over the north-central region of the US, and we also helped with disaster relief down in Texas after Hurricane Harvey.

After completing my time with Americorps I started going to school for aviation maintenance in 2018 and obtained my A&P (airframe & powerplant) certification.



Now, I've been working for Piedmont Airlines as an aircraft technician in Albany, NY, since September of 2019. If you like to travel, the airline industry is definitely for you. I get flight benefits so I can fly stand by. That means if there is an open

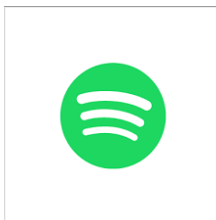
seat on a flight, then I get it for no charge. I've taken weekend trips to see baseball games and I've also traveled to Colombia multiple times now. I also just recently got back from visiting my fellow alum Abé (see photo above) in his home country of Mexico. I plan on moving back to Massachusetts soon and working for American Airline at Logan International Airport.

I still plan on getting my commercial pilots license in the future, but I'll probably still continue to work as an A&P considering the benefits and the yearly income are the same for pilots and technicians. The plus to being a technician is you get to go home after every shift!



Alix Herer (Class of '15, PG Class of '16)

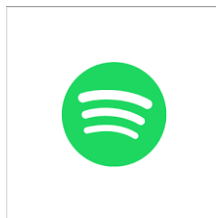
Episode 10:



My name is Alix and I am a graduate of the class of 2015. I have been recognized by Boston University and asked to be on a research team for people with intellectual and learning disabilities. This has provided me with the opportunity to be a speaker at many events about our research and implementation of the program.

The first project was peer mentoring. In this project, we focused on individual needs for someone who may be struggling with mental health. The second project was about workplace disclosure. In this project, we tried to find out if young adults disclose their mental health conditions at work and in job interviews. I am excited to continue doing my research on important topics of inclusion. Recently I have been featured on Spotify on the Mental Health Crossroads Podcast episode 30 and 10.

Episode 30:



I am also a full-time Preschool Teacher working with 2 and 3-year-olds. I am so excited to bring all my knowledge back into a classroom. I enjoy teaching my students every day and watching them learn and grow!

Welcome to the world, mini-est Owl!
Kent Ramsden (Class of '15, PG Class of '16)

Kent and his girlfriend Mariah are so excited to welcome their daughter Ivy into the world. Ivy was born 12:53am on July 25 weighing 7 lbs 9 oz at birth.

Kent and Mariah are both very thankful Ivy is healthy and are looking forward to making future memories with their daughter.



Dima Teeter (Class of '19)

I have received an apprenticeship job offer from 3M, which is a manufacturing company. The Indianapolis facility has a specialty in producing ear/ hearing protection devices and equipment. There is a partnership that works alongside with 3M, and it is called INFAME, which is an apprenticeship program that joins education and employment. I will also be taking classes at Vincennes University, (Indianapolis Campus), which is also part of the INFAME program.

I will receive training in the AMT program, which stands for Advanced Manufacturing Technician. This will allow me to get an associate's degree (going to school two days a week) as well as start my future career. The past covid-year, I have been working at dormakaba in their manufacturing plant, which gave me the experience required for this current opportunity. (This is the same program I was about to start when Covid hit...the program got suspended and is now restarting.)

Thank you again for everything you and the MBS family have given to me to help me move forward in life.

Notes from Proud Parents

Alan Price (Class of '10, PG Class of '11)

Alan is a thriving young adult now in Medford, Massachusetts, because of your life's work! During the pandemic I bought a condo there, since he kindly reminds me, pretty regularly, that he loves me but is probably not coming back to California. It is amazing that not only is he happy and healthy and going on four years with Bank of America (a job and employer he loves) but I am having the privilege of teaching him how to be a homeowner!

He continues to grow and meet or exceed my expectations, but more important- he sets and meets his own his own goals and expectations. The pop-culture saying, "He is living his best life," could not apply more.

So, this is the long way of saying thank you-without Middlebridge, I am not sure any of this would've been possible!

Chase Silvia (PG Class of '17)

Chase is doing excellent! He is

graduating on May 15th with a degree in Elementary Education from Gordon College where he has broken several track & field records... See below!



FIGHTING SCOTS

MT&F MORE

- Chase Silvia broke two records. In the 110H, Silvia recorded a time of 17.11 and then in the 400H, the junior crossed the finish line at 58.87.



Maverick Fisher-Gormley (Class of '21) showing off their Owl gear!

Miss Us? Check out Campus!

Curious to see what campus is looking like in 2021?
Check out our brand new virtual tour!

Alternately, feel free to shoot our staff a text and come visit campus in person. We always welcome visits from friendly faces!





Originally part of Narragansett tribal land, with its rich history of agriculture and hunter/gathering, Hazard Castle is a neo-gothic revival landmark built in the 1800's by Joseph Peace Hazard. In 2012, Middlebridge School opened its doors at its permanent home here.

IT'S HERE!

OWLS
GEAR NOW ONLINE!



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STORE

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- PERSONALIZATION OPTIONS
- SHIPS DIRECT TO YOU

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an Update? Send us a photo
of your news or milestone!***

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togethers, weddings,
graduations, birth
announcements...we would
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