

MBS Alumni news & updates

Spring 2021



Greetings, Middlebridge Owls Alumni-

We would like to thank each and every one of you who reached out to share a glimpse of where life has taken you since leaving Middlebridge School. We had more updates than we were even able to contain in just one newsletter...so stay tuned for the next edition! It was downright humbling to see and hear where your paths have taken you.

Speaking of humbling, we wanted to take a moment today to remind you all of how much you matter. To us, to your friends and families, and to the new communities of belonging you're creating at school, work, and in the world. We have weathered some hard news as a community this year, and we've been buoyed and heartened by your genuine care for this community, for us, and for each other. The world needs more people like you, and we can't wait to see all that you'll do and everything that you'll become.

Special shout out to Mike Deutschman, who jumped in to make alumni calls after the New Year and provided real time updates to your former teachers, tutors, residential staffers, and our undergrads. Thanks, Mike!

This year has been unlike any other we've seen or experienced. At every turn, the months have shown us just how flexible, essential, and powerful the ideas and actions of "community" can be. In the many emails, texts, phone calls, and Zoom sessions with MBS alumni, a few

common themes arose for this newsletter. First and foremost, you are valued! Second, there is an admirable resiliency among our graduates. Some of you stepped into a college, work, or life setting that is completely different than you would have expected. Others are navigating online classes and offices, virtual activities, and/or limited opportunities to see family and friends. Some entered the workforce as essential employees and/or are working hard to help family and community get through these trying times. As Middlebridge alums, you have not shied away from the challenge. You've met this year with endurance and tenacity, showing compassion for yourself and others. In doing so, you have demonstrated your spirit and will to succeed.

When we asked you all, "What is one of the first things you will do when the country opens back up?" the response was a resounding, "Visit Middlebridge School!" Almost every graduate wished to return and experience the MBS community in person and to proudly display the growth you have achieved so far. Until the moment when we can all safely be together again, please take the time to read these updates on how your fellow alums are doing. And as always, if you want to share your experiences or story, or you just want to check in and connect, please reach out.

We are always happy to hear from you.

Warmly,
John J. Kaufman, Head of School
Shannon Leventhal & Katherine Hollander, Admissions
& The Entire Middlebridge Community

Alumni Updates



Nora Beard (Class of '13) moved into her own New York City apartment in December. She is currently working at a nearby Montessori school, teaching in their after-school program, and is pursuing her Montessori teaching certificate. Thank you, Nora, for being a dedicated front-line worker.

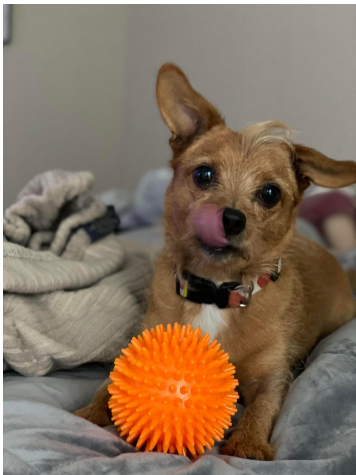


Matt James (Class of '14, PG Class of '15) has been traveling all over the country to continue his passion for exploring and studying nature. Matt went to Idaho in October and visited the Boise National Forest and Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. Soon he will be heading to the coastal plain region of Florida, which has some of the biggest amphibian, reptile, and bird biodiversity in the world. In his free time, Matt enjoys learning different languages of the world and is currently learning Bahasa Indonesia.

Abe Merino-Jimenez (Class of '14, PG Class of '15) graduated December of 2018 with a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and a minor in History from Dean College. Abe returned home to Mexico after college with plans to stay for a year and teach abroad in 2020. He completed a TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) certification in September 2019 in Heredia Costa Rica. He is currently teaching at a school in Mexico and taking classes online at Dean College as he pursues his History degree. Abe hopes to teach in Europe or Asia after he graduates this summer.

MaryGrace Kuzmic (Class of '15, PG Class of '16) has accomplished many goals since graduating from Middlebridge. She received her Teaching Assistant Certificate, which led her to work in an after-school program through the YMCA in Westerly, Rhode Island. She also enjoys volunteering at her church's youth group program for kids in eighth grade through high school. MaryGrace teaches religion at her church and loves sharing her faith with children. During the summer, MaryGrace volunteered as a camp counselor for a Bible camp. Working with kids has always been an interest of MaryGrace's and she hopes to continue working with children in the future.

Sam Ellington (Class of '16, PG Class of '17) is in the homestretch of classes at Wentworth Institute of Technology and will be graduating in spring of 2021. Sam is currently working as an IT support engineer intern at Boston Engineering. Sam's COVID Hobby has been cooking, which they are getting pretty good at! They also built a computer from scratch and have been enjoying tinkering with it.



Josh Meyers (Class of '16) is currently at a marketing firm in Atlanta, working on AT&T's fiber-optic and Television campaigns. Recently, Josh has shifted his attention to a new business venture and is excited to be moving to New Jersey soon, to research the market and make local connections. Josh and his girlfriend, Sophie, adopted a new dog, Ziggy, who has made the perfect COVID companion. Josh recently returned to Narragansett to propose to Sophie...and she said YES! We wish Josh the best of luck in the upcoming year and hope he continues to chase his dreams.

Sacha Presburger (Class of '16) is in his final semester at Ithaca College (attending remotely from L.A.) and will soon get his Bachelor's degree in Writing. Sacha is currently working at a virtual internship for a publishing house in Ithaca, where he is doing website development, social media work, and interviewing writers. After Sacha graduates in May, he will be looking for publications to write for in the Los Angeles area. In his free time, Sacha is continuing his passion for creating music and has plans to record an album this summer.

Kat Sippl (Class of '16, PG Class of '17) completed her Bachelor's degree at Lynn University and is currently enrolled in their Masters program for Clinical Mental Health Counseling. When Kat is not reading or studying for her busy graduate school workload, she enjoys riding her



bicycle in the sunny Florida weather and continuing to work on becoming a Certified Diving Instructor.

Jacob Gutow-Ellis (Class of '17) Before the pandemic, Jacob traveled with his grandmother to Sicily, Italy, and saw the house where his Great-Great Grandfather grew up! Jacob is currently in his 2nd semester of his senior year at Dean College. He will graduate with a Bachelor's degree in History and is considering graduate school to potentially obtain a Master's in Middle Eastern studies, to further study the complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



Miguel Huarte (Class of '17) is currently studying at Lynn University and is hoping to finish his undergraduate degree in Communications by January. Miguel enjoys being a part of the soccer club and playing pick-up games with friends in his free time. After Miguel graduates he is planning on returning to Spain and finding a job in the field of professional sports. Miguel cannot wait to get back to traveling and seeing the world. (Us, too, Miguel!)

Jennifer Masterson (Class of '17) is working hard at the University of Connecticut studying Financial Management. She had transferred from the main campus at Storrs to the campus in downtown Hartford to be closer to potential employers. She made the Dean's List during several semesters. Jennifer is currently interning virtually at a company called Tetúan Valley, which helps startup organizations to grow and thrive. She also plans on taking the first CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) exam after she graduates next year.

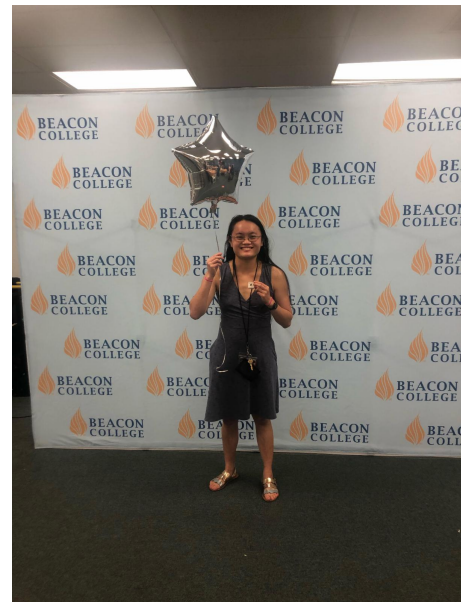
Walt Snider (Class of '17, PG Class of '18) is in his junior year at Lynn University with a major in Criminal Justice and Legal Studies and a minor in Psychology. Walt joined the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity on campus and has held many positions within the organization such as Vice President, Treasurer, and Fraternity Secretary. The fraternity has given Walt many opportunities to give back through community service work such as working with veterans, and soon, working with Special Spaces, an organization that helps create dream bedroom makeovers for children ages 2-19 with cancer who are within one year of treatment. Walt describes his time at Lynn University as "more than

amazing,” and he is excited to start prepping for the LSAT and hopefully being able to go to Law School in the future. Walt wants to thank Middlebridge and shared his progress wouldn't be possible if not for the help of everyone while he was in Rhode Island.

Darian Bahramipour (Class of '18, PG Class of '19) is a Sophomore at Lynn University, studying Sports Management. He is currently helping both the Lynn University's Men's and Women's basketball teams as a manager. Darian enjoys being in the gym with other athletes, working out, and participating in the recreational leagues for basketball and soccer.

Anna Pembroke (Class of '19, PG Class of '20) started her college experience at Dean College with virtual classes from home. Being virtual did not slow Anna down, as she worked part time and still excelled academically to land on the Dean's List. She is excited to now be back on campus keep her momentum rolling into the second semester!

Gwei Strong-Allen (PG Class of '19) is a sophomore at Beacon College in Leesburg, Florida, Studying Human Services and Education. Gwei enjoys being part of many clubs on campus such as the Behavioral Science Organization (a community service awareness group), the Beacon Voices (the campus choir), Cross Cultural Club, and the Gay Straight Alliance. Gwei also runs for the cross-country team and has many good friends through the athletic program. She was an Orientation Leader for Fall and Spring Semester and Peer Leader for both semester for Beacon Experience.



Adrienne Franck (Class of '20) Everything is going smoothly for Adrienne in college despite living through COVID. She loves living in Boston and being surrounded by many different colleges and people her own age. Adrienne has made many good friends in surrounding colleges, which has helped her feel more comfortable in the city. On weekends, she enjoys going to art museums, exploring Boston, studying in coffee shops or simply just hanging out in the dorms. Although the workload at college has increased compared to classes in high school, Adrienne uses all the skills she learned at Middlebridge to help her manage her time, organize, and is continuing to utilize her famous color-coded note system to stay on track. In a couple of weeks, she is excited to declare her Major in the field of Architecture and a Minor in Sustainability.

Cal McMeekin (Class of '20) is truly enjoying his experience at Presbyterian



College, in South Carolina, and has found his footing academically in his second semester. Cal joined a fraternity, Alpha Sigma Phi, where he currently holds the position of Vice President of Ritual and Tradition.

Jim Miller (Class of '20) Jim is in his second semester at the University of Alabama and really enjoying his time on campus, especially when the Alabama football team won the national championship. “Roll Tide!” Jim enjoys hanging out with his new friends, either playing poker in the dorms or dominating on the golf course.



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