

edge of group members and puts on seminars for the larger community. My older son, who lives with his family mostly in California, has bought the house next to me in Cambridge, which makes possible large gatherings of family from both sides of the Atlantic."

Bob Dietz sent his best to the Class of 1968 and expressed his gratitude that Middlebury has gone back to the print version of *Middlebury Magazine*. **Mary Ann Riggie** agreed, writing, "I look forward to clutching each issue of the MAG-AZINE in my hands!" And **Mike Blount**, with tongue in cheek, writes, "I can't thank our class correspondents enough for hanging in there and representing the rest of us lazy bums. I went by Midd while traveling in Vermont and can barely recognize the place. Looks like everyone who died left them a building."

Alanna Shanley '99, from Middlebury's Advancement Office, sent the following report: "It's a pleasure to provide each of you with this update on the Class of 1968 Scholarship Fund. In fall 2022, the Class of 2026 began their academic careers at Middlebury. They came to the College from 43 states and 41 countries. Twenty-one percent are first-generation college students. Thirty-eight percent are students of color. Ten percent are international students. They're different in so many ways, but with one thing in common: *astounding potential*. The support from the Class of 1968 for scholarship aid enables Middlebury to compete for the most talented students, regardless of

their financial circumstances. By removing financial barriers to education, you secure a rich and globally relevant education for every Middlebury student. During the 2022–2023 school year, the Class of 1968 Scholarship Fund, with book and market values of \$577,336 and \$730,236, supported a Chinese major from Maywood, Calif. On behalf of everyone who benefits from the gift of scholarship aid at Middlebury, thank you!"

We regret to inform you of the deaths of three of our classmates. **Christopher Diamond** died on January 12, **Cynthia Camp Barker** died on January 24, and **Elizabeth Eames Roebling** died on April 17. We also learned that **Timothy Dykman** died October 11, 2019.

Chris D'Elia and wife Jenny were in Spain celebrating their 50th anniversary and so were unable to attend our 55th Reunion last June. He writes that after serving for 14 years as dean of Louisiana State University's College of the Coast and Environment, he stepped down in the summer and returned to the full-time faculty as a professor of oceanography and coastal sciences. Chris plans to complete a book about the 1971 Symbios Expedition to Eniwetok Atoll. As a graduate student at the University of Georgia, Chris was one of 25 participants on this iconic team study of the metabolism of coral reef. Additionally, Chris writes, "While we were in Spain, I was contacted by Professor of Religion Elizabeth Morrison, secretary of the Phi Beta Kappa chapter at Midd, telling me that I had been elected to PBK based on my professional accomplishments. I have no idea who nominated me. Elizabeth wrote, 'As the nation's original honor society founded in 1776, PBK serves as a source of intellectual curiosity and connection for our members. We are extraordinarily proud to recognize your outstanding academic achievements in the liberal arts and sciences. Phi Beta Kappa is much more than an undergraduate honor. It's also a diverse network of accomplished individuals in every career field and a

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

ARABIC SCHOOL

Asma Khalid ('06) is a White House correspondent for NPR and cohosts the *NPR Politics Podcast*. She joined NPR's Washington team in 2016 and has reported on numerous election campaigns. Her reporting often dives into the political, cultural, and racial divides in the country.

BREAD LOAF SCHOOL OF ENGLISH

Steven Harvey (MA '84) recently published a fourth collection of personal essays, *The Beloved Republic*, which won the Wandering Aengus Press Nonfiction Award. Pitted against authoritarianism, "The Beloved Republic," taken from a phrase by E. M. Forster, is the peaceful and fragile confederacy of kind, benevolent, and creative people in a world of tyrants, thugs, and loud-mouthed bullies. Steven's book can be read as dispatches from that besieged land. Scott Russell Sanders calls it "a humane and magisterial collection of essays."

Brett Pierce (MA '85) has published *Expanding Literacy: Bringing Digital Storytelling into Your Classroom*, a guide for teachers that provides tools and projects to teach students meaningful, thoughtful digital story creation. You can read a review of the book on middleburymagazine.com in the 2023 January/February Editors' Picks of the Review section.

Laurie Johnson Lambert (MA '94), previously the head of school at the Winchendon (Mass.) School, began her new role as head of Stoneleigh-Burnham School in Greenfield, Mass., this past summer.

The Maine Dept. of Education recently launched its inaugural class of Teacher Leader Fellows and **James St. Pierre** (MA '99), who teaches English and biology at Fryeburg Academy, was one of the five teachers selected for the class. A national-board-certified educator with 30 years of experience, James will help to support educators across Maine by providing access to resources and learning opportunities.

Last March it was announced that Dr. **Tamarah Pfeiffer** (MA '00), a member of the Navajo Nation, had been appointed as the president of Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, a community college operated by the Bureau of Indian Education. She had been serving as the bureau's chief academic officer.

Marcella Pixley (MLitt '00) contributed a short story to the anthology *Ab(solutely) Normal: Short Stories that Smash Mental Health Stereotypes*, a fiction book geared toward young adults that reminds readers that living with a mental health condition doesn't mean you have to be defined by it. Marcella teaches eighth grade language arts in the Carlisle (Mass.) Public Schools.

On July 1, **Martin Mooney** (MA '02) began his new position as the head of school at Wyoming Seminary in Kingston, Penn. He was serving as the head of Brighton Academy in Syracuse, N.Y., when he was tapped for the job and has had a long career in independent school education.

To commemorate 27 years of public school teaching in Massachusetts and Florida, **Ben Klemer** (MA '05) threw out the first pitch at a AAA Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp game. The Jumbo Shrimp are an affiliate of the Florida Marlins. Ben retired last June.

Rachel Wortman Morris (MA '08) is the director of the Future Skill Initiative—Talent and Employability program at Microsoft. She was one of the creators behind the Microsoft Learn for Educators program and former codirector of the Microsoft AI Business School.

Shereem Herndon-Brown (MA '10) is a coauthor of *The Black Family's Guide to College's Admissions*, which helps Black families deal with the challenges and questions they face as they navigate the admissions process. Shereem is an educational consultant, who previously worked as an admissions officer at Georgetown Univ. and as a guidance counselor at two high schools.

Black Filipinx playwright and Kilroys List honoree **Roger Q. Mason** (MA '14) received a developmental reading of their new play, *The Pink*, with Primary Stages as part of their Creative Access Grant Reading Series on April 3. The reading took place at 59E59 Theaters.

About a decade ago, when he began teaching middle school English, **Ryan Tahmaseb** (MA '15) began taking his writing seriously, and this year his first picture book, *Rostam's Picture-Day Pusteen*, will be published. It's based on a story his father, an Iranian-American immigrant, told him from his childhood.

Ariane Lewis (MA '16) is the program manager for storytelling at the Law and Racial Justice Center at Yale Univ. Law School. She supports their advocacy and research work and the Access to Law School pipeline program.

BETTY ASHBURY JONES MA '86 SCHOOL OF FRENCH

At the end of 2022, **Himalee Arunatilaka** (MA '96) was appointed the permanent representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office at Geneva, Switzerland. Prior to her appointment, she was serving as Sri Lanka's ambassador to Nepal, which she had done since 2019. A career diplomat, she has held numerous postings since 1998.

Azusa Kubota ('96), a citizen of Japan, was recently appointed the new resident representative for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Sri Lanka. Previously, she served as the resident representative at UNDP in Bhutan for four years.

ITALIAN SCHOOL

Costanza Menchi (MA '08) is a professor at Florida State University Florence, Italy, where she teaches textile sciences and is the fashion merchandising and communication program coordinator. She is also one of the directors for the *Italianoles* magazine, a student-written publication highlighting their experiences in Florence.

SCHOOL OF JAPANESE

Tobias Maxwell ('84) had his sixth novel, *Rafael Jerome*, a mystery, published last January. This is his 12th book to date, and you can read a review of it on middleburymagazine.com in the May/June Editors' Picks under Review. You can also follow Tobias on YouTube.

MIDDLEBURY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AT MONTEREY

Alfonso Montuori (MAIPS '87) sent word that he has a new book out called *Routledge Handbook for Creative Futures*. He is a professor at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco.

Freedom House recently announced that **Camaran Pipes** (MPA '09) had been selected as the director of Asia programs. She has two decades of experience in civic engagement, peace building, combating violent extremism, and supporting the role of women in peace and security.

While a student at MIIS, **Leon Taubitz** (MACI '23) won the prestigious United Nations St. Jerome Translation Contest for German. He says he chose to translate a rather humorous Irish news article full of irony and figures of speech, making it challenging to translate. He is planning to become an English-German translator and interpreter.

KATHRYN WASSERMAN DAVIS SCHOOL OF RUSSIAN

Fairleigh Dickinson University recently announced that **Benjamin Rifkin**, former director of the School of Russian, had been named the interim university provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. Previously he had been serving as the dean of the Maxwell Becton College of Arts and Sciences.

Kenneth Yin ('88–89, '91, Chinese '90) has published *Mystical Forest: Collected Poems and Short Stories of Dungan Ethnographer Ali Dzhan*. Ali Dzhan is widely regarded as the preeminent writer on the material and spiritual culture and history of the Dungan people, the Sinophone Muslims of Central Asia. You can read a review of the book on middleburymagazine.com in the September/October Editors' Picks under Review.

SCHOOL OF SPANISH

Governor Ron DeSantis recently announced the appointment of **Marielena Cosa Villamil** (MA '70) to the Florida Small Business Development Center Network Statewide Advisory Board. She is the cofounder and chief executive officer of the Washington Economics Group.

Antonella Ciamacco Merolla (MA '98) recently served as a judge for Berk's Best academic award project. She is an instructor of Spanish and Italian and the world languages coordinator at Alvernia University in Reading, Pa.

Sussex Technical High School in Delaware recently announced that **Jason Peel** (MA '99) had been hired as its director of human resources and support services. He began his career in education as a Spanish teacher and over 22 years has served in different teaching and administrative roles.