

MIDLAND



HONORING OUR DONORS



MIDLAND SCHOOL ■ 2014-2015
Report to our Community



September 2015

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It's our pleasure to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your support of this extraordinary school.

Midland's student body continues to thrive while engaged in a demanding program that asks and expects them to actively juggle daily jobs; academic, athletic and creative endeavors; and community service obligations. This past year, Midland students earned awards and public recognition for their exceptional art, and Midland's student artists were featured in a dedicated exhibit, "Flora and Fauna," at the Solvang Wildling Museum. Midland's women's basketball team made the CIF playoffs, every senior completed a thoughtful thesis project, and each was admitted to an impressive group of colleges and universities. In addition to their rigorous academic responsibilities and weekly community tasks, students found time to host admissions visitors, to camp and to ride horses. One student rebuilt a tractor, and student-led campus improvements included the rebuilding of a footbridge and oak tree planting.

All of this activity is made possible through the generosity of the larger Midland community. Your critical support of the Annual Fund enables Midland to offer financial aid to the many students who want to attend Midland but whose families cannot afford to pay the full tuition. We continue to turn away a waiting list of motivated and qualified students each year because we cannot meet their financial needs.

Midland alumni and alumnae, families and friends strengthen the School in many other ways. We welcomed a tremendous crowd to Alumni/ae, Parents and Friends Weekend this spring, thanks to the efforts of John Stiff '75, Dick Stubbs '75, John Hintzen '75, and James Fahey '75, who spent countless hours organizing the 1970s "Mega Reunion" – an event so successful we aim to begin a new tradition gathering together decades of classes. We increased the number of regional events this year, and enjoyed gathering friends of the school in Portland, Seattle, New York City, San Francisco, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles. Many of those events were made possible through the support of alumni/ae or Trustees, with special thanks to Warner Henry '52 and Carol Henry for hosting Midland at their stunning Pasadena home and gardens, Ed Carpenter '64 and Lauren Sheehan who opened their home in Portland to Midland music and merriment, Joe Hargrave '91 for welcoming us at his Tacolicious restaurant in San Francisco, and Ruth Fisher P '13 for hosting the first Midland gathering in New York at her office atop Grand Central Station in New York.

As we celebrate the many contributions and achievements of the Midland 2014-2015 school year, we take nothing for granted. Attracting new families to Midland requires the school to continue to offer a quality and distinctive educational experience. We know that to earn and grow the support we enjoy from you, our most loyal supporters, we need to remain true to the values and history of this unique educational institution. We are relentlessly focused on those lodestars.

Thank you once again. With your help and financial support highlighted within these pages, Midland confidently looks forward to the future. Drop us a line, visit campus, or attend an upcoming gathering to reconnect with the school and to share your Midland experience with classmates and friends.

With sincere appreciation,

William L. Graham
Head of School

Lorri Hamilton Durbin '85
Chair, Board of Trustees

Celebrating Leaders

MIDLAND RECOGNIZES AND APPRECIATES DEPARTING TRUSTEES



Nick Alexander '60 tells Midland riding students an exciting story about a horse of his who had just won a race at Santa Anita.



NICK ALEXANDER '60

Nick Alexander has been a mainstay at Midland since he joined the Board in 1998. He brought extensive experience in governance to Midland, having served as President and as a Trustee of the St. Francis Hospital Foundation Board and the Huntington Park YMCA. At Midland Nick has served as a trustee and as Board Chair. Nick is responsible for Midland's property being forever protected in a conservation easement with the Land Trust of Santa Barbara County. After Nick graduated from USC, he and his wife Mary made their home in Los Angeles. They have recently become neighbors of the school as they settled in the Santa Ynez Valley. Their son Nicholas was Class of '91. Nick has had a successful career with the founding of Alexander Imports. In addition to his career, Nick enjoys raising horses and restoring antique cars.

The Horse Program continues to benefit from Nick's love of all things "horse" at Midland. Students in the riding classes visit Nick's Santa Ynez Valley ranches throughout the year to learn about managing thoroughbreds; to view firsthand the day-to-day tasks affiliated with the care, nutrition, training, and health issues for working horses; and to see the spring crop of foals. Nick knows that our own herd has similar needs, and he heavily subsidizes our horses' nutritional program each and every year, bringing load after load of his own ranch-grown forage hays and then neatly stacking them in the hay barn. We notice that Nick seems to arrive on the hottest and dustiest of days, when stacking hay is an even mightier job. Is it the Midland in him? We are ever so grateful!

JONATHAN COSBY '63

After graduating from Midland Jon served in the Army and then attended University of California, Berkeley as an undergraduate. He earned his MBA from Stanford University. Jon joined Midland's Board in 2003, the 40-year anniversary of his graduation. Over the last 12 years he lent his talent as a CPA, company President, Controller, and Treasurer as an invaluable contributor to Midland's finance and audit committees. Jon and his wife Kathi Gwynn have created an endowed scholarship fund at Midland, providing a Midland student entering his/her senior year a wonderful opportunity for an educational adventure that remains with them throughout their lifetime. The Cosby Summer Internship program allows a selected student to enroll in a course of study which will enhance the student's knowledge and/or ability with respect to an educational, cultural or vocational interest. Jon's impact will remain at Midland through this fund, providing experiential opportunities to students in perpetuity.



Jonathan Cosby '63 as a Midland student



MARGUERITE GRAHAM

Marguerite joined Midland's Board in 2007, when her husband Will became the Head of School. She has made endless contributions in the past nine years in her capacity as assistant to the Head for Special Projects, and in her role as a faculty member teaching Mindfulness, Stress Reduction, and Relaxation Response practices. Marguerite holds degrees from the Center for Mindfulness, University of Massachusetts Medical School, New England College, and the University of New Hampshire. Marguerite says: "Midland fills a need, a deep soulful need, for places where students can learn to be self-reliant world citizens through the mentorship of dedicated scholars – scholars of their disciplines and scholars of life who care about the healthy development of a student's mind, body and spirit."

The Midland Community

REUNIONS ▢ GATHERINGS ▢ EVENTS



Sarah Wilgess and Kerry Livingston visit during Alumni/ae, Parents and Friends weekend



Midland students celebrate the showing of their artwork in the Flora and Fauna exhibit at the Wildling Museum in Solvang



Midland past parent Ana Kimball and Marguerite Graham were all smiles at the Midland gathering in Seattle



Midland past parent Libby Hutt, Jessica Kittson, Hana and Christopher Jacob '93, Jon Lee '99 and Peter Hutt '79 represent Midland in Seattle



Current Board Chair Lorri Hamilton Durbin '85 with immediate past Board Chair, Nick Alexander '60



Kristine Lehmann '97, Kevin Witherell '97, Sarah (Niven) Nielsen '97, and Genevieve Herrick '97 with the next generation of Midlanders



Midlanders from the 1970s gather during the 70s Mega-Reunion in April
 Front row: Karl Tunberg '78, Peter Hutt '79, Zach Taylor '79, Molly Kronberg '79, Jim Dreyfuss '81, Louisa Munger '80, Cece Lewis '81
 Back row: Peter Ewing '77, Rex Underwood '76, Bryce Anderson, '77, Craig Tyler '76



Four generations of the Brossy Family reunited at Midland in April to celebrate Alumni/ae Parents and Friends weekend and honor Ben Munger '79 as he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award



Jill Brady, Assistant to the Head of School, welcomed students at the start of the school year with Zinnias grown in the Midland Garden



Midland students sport their Mighty Oak pride



Toyo and David Levasheff '71 enjoy a reception at the Frye Family Farm Building during Alumni/ae Parents and Friends weekend



Trustee Tom Mone '72 and Gloria Gerace greet guests Pasadena



Johan Schorer '55 and Nancy Peregrin reconnect with Midland in Seattle



Midland alums gather atop Grand Central Station at the first-ever New York City Midland gathering



Parents John and Claire Lichtwardt enjoy visiting campus during Alumni/ae, Parents and Friends weekend



Crawford Cooley '15 and Jack Grimes '16 at Graduation



Trustee Ed Carpenter '64 sits fireside with Chap Milbank '51 in Portland



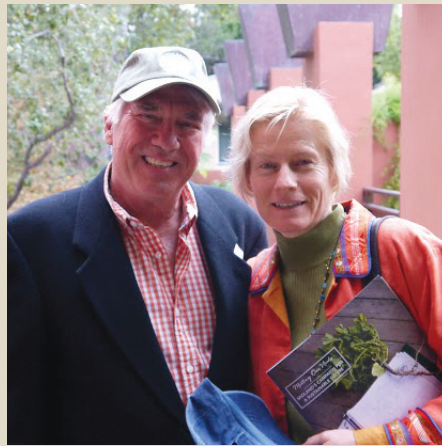
Scott Perkins '74, Ana Zeledon and Trip Friendly '74 honor Ben Munger '79 at the Distinguished Alumnus Awards ceremony during Alumni/ae, Parents and Friends weekend



Oakleigh Thorne '49 and Perry Bolton '49 reconnect with Midland in New York



Marie Jones and David Mellon '49 catch up with Midland and one another in Pasadena



Loyal LA gathering guests and past parents John Thomas and Irene Gabriel-Thomas



Current parent Peter Schuyler with Peter Coonradt '64 in Pasadena



Former Trustee and longtime supporter Warner Henry '55 and Carol Henry host Midland friends for a wonderful Sunday luncheon at their home in Pasadena



Steve Featherstone '78 and Christine Featherstone support Midland at the Pasadena gathering



Jaime Schuyler and Jazzy Kelleher '17 celebrate the Class of 2015 at the Senior Awards Ceremony



Ben Munger '79 with former students and southern California residents Tom Flannery '03, Ben Ballentine '01, and Zach Andrews '02



Daniel Prince '89 and his wife Shauna in Portland

Midland recognizes and thanks the following donors during the 2014 -15 fiscal year. Each gift directly impacts the life of students at Midland, and we are grateful for your generosity.

In Appreciation

OF OUR DONORS

Head of School Circle \$50,000+

Jonathan Cosby '63 and Kathi Gwynn
Warner Henry '55 and Carol Henry
Anonymous
Mericos Foundation
Elise M. S. Mudd Trust
Mason Willrich '50 and Wendy Willrich
Ruth Fisher and Stephen Yeazell

Squibb Society \$25,000-\$49,000

Robert and Kathryn Adams
Kit Dreyfuss
 in memory of John Dreyfuss '52
 and Ben Rich
Jeffery and Madeleine Moskowitz
Peter Smith '51 and Betty Smith

Valley Oaks \$10,000-\$24,999

Nick Alexander '60
 and Mary Alexander
Frederic A. Brossy '46
Ed Carpenter '64 and Lauren Sheehan
Carmen Diane Christensen
 and Jean Pierret
Elizabeth Bixby Janeway Foundation
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Louis Jones '45 and Marie Jones
Ogden E. Kellogg, Sr.
Tom Mone '72 and Gloria Gerace
Philip Thomas '70
 and Evette LaPaille-Thomas
Tacolicious
Daniel and Dianne Vapnek
Warren Williamson '46

Blue Oaks \$5,000-\$9,999

Perry Bolton '49
Jason Burns '90
Crawford and Jessie Cooley
Jim Dreyfuss '81 and Beth Dreyfuss
Jonathan Dwighty '73
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Oakleigh B. Thorne '49
Ted Towne '71

Coast Live Oaks \$1,000-\$4,999

Charles H. Agle '58
 in memory of Charles K. Agle
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 in honor of B.G. Kresse '68,
 Laurie and Ben Munger '79 and
 in memory of Nathaniel Allen '89
Jonathan Andrews '64
 and Laureen Andrews
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Barbara Bundy
 in memory of Peter Bundy
James Campbell '64
Barb and Tim Crist
Celia Cummings
Wendy and Glenn Dasmalchi
Bruce de Graaf '67
 and Kathryn de Graaf
Kelly and Oliver Dixon
Lucy Dobson
Pam and Dan Doiron
Peter Ewing '77 and Claire Ewing
 in memory of Joslyn Ewing Sabol '79
Mr. W. Michael Fagen, Ph.D.
James Fahey '75 and Kaoru Fahey
 in honor of John Fahey
Ronald Filbert '61 and Bernice Filbert

Louis Fisher '44 and Gita Fisher
Lauren and Roger Flannery
Trip Friendly '74 and Ana Zeledon
Bob Gillespie '57 and Kathy Gillespie
Richard Hahn '64
Lorri Hamilton '85 and Theodore Durbin
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 in honor of Midland Teachers
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 in memory of Betty Martin

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in memory of Joslyn Ewing Sabol '79
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Phoebe Patterson
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Andy Wallace '61
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Howard Wieman '60
and Leslie Wieman
William Winterhalter '43

Sycamore \$100-\$499

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Ian Anderson '94 and Rebecca Anderson
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Susan Anderson

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Kelley and Bruce Giffin

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Cathy Goe
Geoffrey Gowen '49
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in honor of B.G. Kresse '68
Brack Hale '50
David Hall '85
Jonathan Hamilton
Todd and Cassandra Hannahs
Paul and Roxanne Hanson
in memory of Betty Martin
Richard and Julianne Hartzell '66
Karen Harwell
in honor of Laurie and Ben Munger '79
Jeffrey Held '87 and Roberta Held
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Genevieve Herrick '97
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 Nick and Tracy Karahalios
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 Teresita and Robert Mainer
 Diego Marcogliese '13
 Kerry Marcu
 Kathie and Bruce McBroom
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 Eve Southworth
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Edward S. Carpenter '64

Jonathan Cosby '63

Pam Doiron

Ruth Fisher

Marguerite Graham

Charles 'Kim' Kimbell

Tom Mone '72

Cymbre Thomas '03

Acorn Society

Current students, Alumni
and Alumnae graduating
from the past ten years of
graduating classes

Manuel Espitia '07

Rachel Featherstone '11

Alec Frost '16

Ethan Leavy Kernkraut '04

and Matt Kernkraut

Alexis Kidd '08

Evan Kidd '11

Frances King '09

Renata Lozito '13

Diego Marcogliese '13

Juan Mesones '13

India Salter '14

Emmet Yeazell '13

YOU DESERVE TO BE RECOGNIZED!

We've made every effort to list you as you desire. If we have made an error or an omission, please let us know.

YOU ARE A PART OF MIDLAND. KEEP IN TOUCH.

We love to hear from you! And we want to keep you posted on what's happening at Midland.

Help us keep our records up to date by providing your current contact information. We send mailings throughout the year, including the Midland Mirror, and invitations to events on campus, receptions, and reunions.

Let us know of any news in your life by completing and returning this form. If you are interested in planning a reunion for your class, we are here to help.

Name: _____

Class Year: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

News: _____

Do you know of a student who belongs at Midland?

If so, complete this form or email us at
admissions@midland-school.org
and we will contact them.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone / email: _____

PLEASE CUT HERE.

Envisioning the Future

CAMPUS PLAN

Midland adopted its first comprehensive Campus Plan last year, after a lengthy period of planning, review and input from all Midland constituents (for more details and for a copy of the plan, please see the Midland website under *Strategic Plan* or the article in the winter, 2015 Mirror). The Campus Plan was designed not as a blueprint, but as a way of aligning our priorities and plans for the physical campus, which remains one of Midland's most unique and attractive attributes and is an integral part of our academic program. The Board of Trustees wanted to ensure the School had a framework that would help us be careful stewards of the campus and take a thoughtful approach to the updates, improvements and refurbishments of the campus and its buildings that we will have to make over the near and long term in order to support our students and the Midland residential community.

Enthusiasm for the Campus Plan has been widespread. And we are delighted to announce that a number of projects contemplated by the Campus Plan have already been accomplished. Students have been producing work in a completely refurbished Rich Arts Building, the cost for which was completely underwritten by the Janeway Foundation last summer. In the last academic year, we dedicated the new Frye Family building, which added storage and working space in the farm, made possible by Milt Frye '62. During the 2015 summer, another generous donor made possible the complete refurbishing of all of the student cabins, including new furniture, beds, lights and blinds, and we are completing much-needed renovations made on a number of faculty houses.

The need for additional support for the projects contemplated by the Campus Plan has attracted other significant gifts this year including gifts from Mason Willrich '50, Warner Henry '55, and many Trustees. We are sincerely grateful to those who have made gifts in support of the Campus Plan, and look forward to being able to complete other projects as the funding required for those projects is secured.

For more information or to learn about the priority needs for the Campus Plan, please contact Ed Carpenter '64 at ed@edcarpenter.net



Floors and tables were refinished in Stillman Hall



Ben Munger '79 and Katie Isaacson outside the Frye Family Farm Building



New furnishings in a student cabin

Leave a Legacy

MIDLAND'S MIGHTY OAKS

Members of the Midland Mighty Oaks Legacy Society have provided essential support for students and programs on campus. Through thoughtful estate planning their trusts, bequests, and other gifts have helped to make Midland the vibrant learning environment it is today.



Nicholas Brownrigg '50 and Valerie Brownrigg
Peyton Carr '62
James Cooley '49
Jonathan Cosby '63 and Kathi Gwynn
Howard Cusic*
Harry Cross '62
Oliver Dibble III '45*
Greg Donovan and Amy Derryberry
Jim Dodds '53 and Polly Dodds
Jim Dreyfuss '81 and Beth Dreyfuss
Katherine Rich Dreyfuss
Sheafe Ewing '50 and Jacqui Ewing
Ronald Filbert '61 and Bernice Filbert
Trip Friendly '74 and Ana Zeledon
Frederick Frye '52 and Joy Frye
Milton Frye '62 and Carolyn Frye
Frank Frye '56
Brack Hale '50
Karen Harwell
Mike Hermes '57*
Dennis Holding '56
Nickels Huston '72
Ethan Leavy Kernkraut '04
and Matt Kernkraut

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Peter and Maria Labahn
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David Mellon '49
Elise Marvin Mudd*
R.J. Mueller '52 and Marylynne Mueller
Benjamin Nyce '50
Scott Rayburn '72
William Roberts '40
Allen and Diana Russell
Arent "Barry" Schuyler '41*
Robert E. Shafer '54*
Charles H. Soley '63*
Timothy Tibbits '67
David Vaughan*
Heather and Allan Wentworth '62
Frank Wentworth '62
Katherine Whitten*
Susan Zalon and Ronald I. Green*

*deceased

BECOME A MIGHTY OAK!

Remember Midland in your estate plans. Your legacy gift will make a lasting impact at Midland School. Make a transformative gift to Midland, and leave more for your heirs and less for the Internal Revenue Service. These forward-looking "planned" gifts continue to be part of Midland's lifeblood and help ensure its continued vitality. A bequest is one of the easiest ways to leave a legacy. With the help of an advisor, you can include language in your will or trust specifying a gift be made to Midland School as part of your estate plan.

SAMPLE BEQUEST LANGUAGE

I devise and bequeath [X%] or [the remainder and residue of my property, whether real or personal], to Midland School, 5100 Guigeroa Mountain Road, Los Olivos, CA 93441 Tax ID # 95-1684072

OTHER TYPES OF BEQUESTS

Specific gifts of an IRA or insurance policy make excellent bequests. Designating Midland as the beneficiary of a portion or of all such assets helps your estate to avoid paying tax on them while your estate receives a charitable deduction. For information on these bequests or tax-advantaged giving, please contact Suzi Schomer, Vice President at Montecito Bank & Trust, Wealth Management office. Suzi is an experienced trust officer and is available as a volunteer for Midland to help you understand which gifts are best for your particular situation. She may be reached at 805.560.3413 or by email: sschomer@montecito.com

Meet Midland STUDENTS

Michael Wilson '16 and Deyanira Ibarra '16 spent much of the summer of 2015 working hard at Midland. Michael and Deya have done everything from regular building maintenance to moving and building furniture in Main House, faculty homes and student cabins, to splitting wood, painting, powerwashing, gardening, and recycling building materials.

DEYANIRA IBARRA '16

Deya grew up a Midlander, living on Campus with her mother and father, José Juan Ibarra '87, who has taught Spanish at Midland for 20 years. Deya is an excellent student as well as an extremely competitive athlete who is being recruited by prestigious colleges and universities. She has been a valued member on several of the School's teams over the last three years but her best game is soccer, where she is a star forward. Deya has been awarded several academic and athletic awards at Midland including, the the female 'Player of the Day' award with the inaugural Joslyn Ewing '79 Memorial Soccer trophy granted last Thanksgiving after the Alumnae vs. girls match.

MICHAEL WILSON '16

Michael discovered Midland from a neighbor who rides horses on campus, and he eagerly joined Midland as a junior in 2014. He came because he "wanted to live in a cabin in the woods." He likes the independence and responsibility Midland awards and expects of its students. He appreciates the physical and academic rigor, and says his work on campus this summer allowed him real-world experience and the chance to be productive. Michael enjoyed getting to know Midland staff and faculty better and recognizes he is coming into his adulthood as a result of the work and education at Midland.





School and Events

CALENDAR

2015

- September 1** ▪ All Seniors Arrive
- September 2-3** ▪ Senior Meetings / Work Days
- September 4** ▪ New Students Arrive
- September 6** ▪ Returning Students Arrive
- September 7** ▪ First Day of Classes
- October 3-4** ▪ Round-Up Weekend for Parents
- October 16-17** ▪ Fall Board Meeting
- October 17** ▪ Fall Break Begins at 8AM
- October 21** ▪ Boston Gathering
- October 25** ▪ Fall Break Ends at 6PM
- November 26** ▪ Thanksgiving at Midland
- November 15** ▪ Los Angeles Gathering
- December 12** ▪ Holiday Break Begins at 8AM

2016

- January 3** ▪ Holiday Break Ends at 6PM
- January 18** ▪ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Seminar
- February 5 - 7** ▪ Winter Board Meeting
- February 13** ▪ Winter Break begins
- February 13** ▪ San Francisco Gathering
- February 21** ▪ Winter Break ends
- March 27 - April 1** ▪ Experiential Week
- April 2** ▪ Spring Break begins
- April 10** ▪ Spring Break ends
- April 23 - 24** ▪ Alumni/ae, Parents and Friends Weekend
- May 13 - 15** ▪ Spring Board Meeting
- May 27** ▪ Senior Dinner & Awards
- May 28** ▪ Graduation

For questions, please contact
office@midland-school.org
or call: 805.688.5114

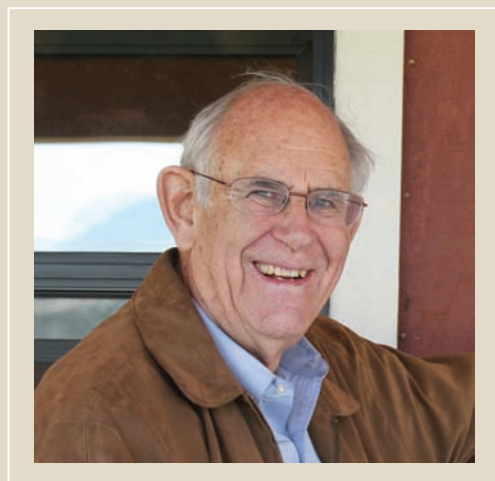
Meet Midland

ALUMNI AND ALUMNAE

WHO ARE GIVING BACK

"I like to say that my Midland experience was a kind of *Outward Bound* experience that lasted nine months and then you returned to start it all over again every Fall. Self-reliance, teamwork, collective decision making and leadership opportunities were there. The Midland life defined my lifetime and I have tried very hard to pass this on to my children and grandchildren. I think that they have got the message. I thank Midland School, my headmaster Paul Squibb and my teachers for shaping my life. My Midland diploma is a simple handwritten document penned by Paul Squibb that hangs in my office today."

– Fred Frye '62



"A balanced education should include exposure to the creative arts – the Midland Metals Lab provides a space to engage the hands, the eyes, and the imagination of generations. I've forgotten much of my class work from chemistry, algebra and similar subjects – but I vividly recall photography, sculpting, and...creative effort with my shower fires. I recall the Library as a place where I could expand my horizons, or read quietly and comfortably. The creativity and love of learning fostered at Midland continues in my life and I wish to pay it forward."

– Ken Edwards '76

"The opportunity to work with the Midland archives this summer gave me a whole new perspective and appreciation for those who came before me and for the legacy they left."

Midland is such a wonderful place thanks to those who paved the way. Each person has their own connection to Midland, each a different story, but Midland allows you to make connections to a place like no other.

I have grown even more attached to Midland and feel a better sense of belonging knowing that Midland is where we all wanted to be."

–India Salter '14



“Through the 70’s Mega Reunion we discovered we still have our relationships – with both faculty and fellow students. Students and teachers alike had had highly varied careers. Most of us had families. And on that Friday in late April, we returned to a key element of “Midland”: the people.

Midland’s education gets you into and through college; the relationships built in the dish-house, on wood crew, and in study hall last a lifetime.”

– The 1975 “Gang of Four”:
Dick Stubbs, John Stiff,
John Hintzen, James Fahey



“Without Midland I would not have succeeded academically. I also learned the value of education, hard work, and thrift.”

– Allan Wentworth '62



Joe Hobbs '74 pictured with Kareem Attia '18

“At Midland I discovered a love of learning and a respect for the teachers who inspire it. Because of my Midland teachers, my life has been about learning and teaching. Another thing I got out of Midland was Carl Munger. After my own father and my mom’s Father, he was – and continues to be – my idea of what rightness is all about.

The 1970s Mega Reunion was great because I was able to thank those who are still with us, and to see my student buddies and be reminded I need to catch up with them too.

Finally, Grass Mountain is simply a beautiful place in the world. There are only a couple of other places that give me the chills of joy and reverence I feel when I see that Midland skyline.”

– Joe Hobbs '74

Meet Midland FAMILIES

ALUMNUS ETHAN LEAVY KERNKRAUT HONORS GRANDMOTHER NANCY GONZALEZ

Nancy Gonzalez's commitment to her grandsons allowed them to attend Midland. Today, they remember and honor her with a legacy gift to support access to Midland for future generations of students.

Nancy Gonzalez was a longtime supporter of educational institutions, including Midland during her grandson Ethan's four years. Conversations about giving priorities and gift planning helped younger donors Ethan (Leavy) Kernkraut '04 and his husband Matt Kernkraut to include Midland School in their estate plans. As a tribute to Nancy, Ethan and Matt have created a legacy gift plan which will support the endowed scholarship fund at Midland in perpetuity.



Nancy Gonzalez and Ethan (Leavy) Kernkraut '04



"Midland is an oasis of adolescence in the wilderness of childhood, a place where students can make their own maps and find themselves. Midland boasts a working farm where the students hold the jobs that make the place tick while studying hard and living in rustic cabins. For more than 80 years, Midland has devoted itself to values that are timeless, and yet somehow profoundly and newly relevant today. The school's motto is "live your education," and the rigorous schedule supports students as they focus on college-prep academics while performing all the tasks necessary to keep the place running. Midland has managed, somehow, to preserve that timeless feeling of integrity, of the value of actual work, of a studious life, while folding in some treasures of modernity. This is the reason I choose Midland –to encourage my happy, healthy, nature loving child."

– Michelle Howard, Parent



May this next year be another one where Midland, and all who are there, experience the 'Midland' of my past... brought up to date and "current" to our world now... without sacrificing any of Midland's heritage. I recognize the imprint of Louise and Paul Squibb... it's still there, now, thanks to all of you!

– Sheafe Ewing '50

“The physical look of the Midland campus and the dedication of the teaching staff convinced me that this school would provide my son with the resources and skills to inspire him. My visits during the course of the two years he spent at Midland further reinforced my appreciation, seeing the involvement of the students in tending the vegetable garden and the animals, sourcing materials to build and repair structures and repairing existing structures and cleaning and maintaining the campus.

I was perplexed and delighted by stories my son would tell, filling a barrel with water so that students could jump in and cool off as the weather, having to forego a heating stove in Winter because the Mexican exchange student was sharing the cabin. He has been back many times since graduating to visit Midland and the staff, and he continues to find inspiration from the ideals that Midland espouses. He continues to explore meaningful ways to establish a connection with the processes that bring food to the table, including the ethical treatment of animals and sustainable production of vegetables. Much to Midland's credit, he works to connect communities with the land, with housing materials and with their traditions. Midland has taught him to use tools and strengths that many schools overlook as outdated in today's high-tech world. I hope that my donation and others will allow the school to continue to inspire students to challenge conventional ideas of development, deepen their physical relationship with the environment and search for solutions for our disconnect with our limited natural resources.”

– Deborah Fordyce, Parent

Both our girls have blossomed at Midland School: excelling scholastically, in their art programs, and in athletics. In Midland's small environment they have learned to interact with a diverse group of people, and have become good friends with people they never would have met and befriended in a larger school. Their relationships with their teachers is a differentiator. Because they are not only taught by the faculty, but live and work together in community, they form bonds that would never occur in a more traditional school environment. Midland's leadership and jobs programs give our children valuable real-world experience learning to know and claim their place in a community. Midland's model, while academically rigorous, goes far beyond the classroom, shaping its students to be responsible community participants, stewards, and leaders.

– Beth and Jim Dreyfuss '81



Emma '15, Jim '81, and Lona '17 Dreyfuss

Midland School Corporation
Post Office Box 8
Los Olivos, CA 93441



Midland School provides a unique college preparatory boarding school experience to a diverse student body. Through study and work it teaches the value of a lifetime of learning, self-reliance, simplicity, responsibility to community and the environment, and love for the outdoors.