

## Greetings from Midland!

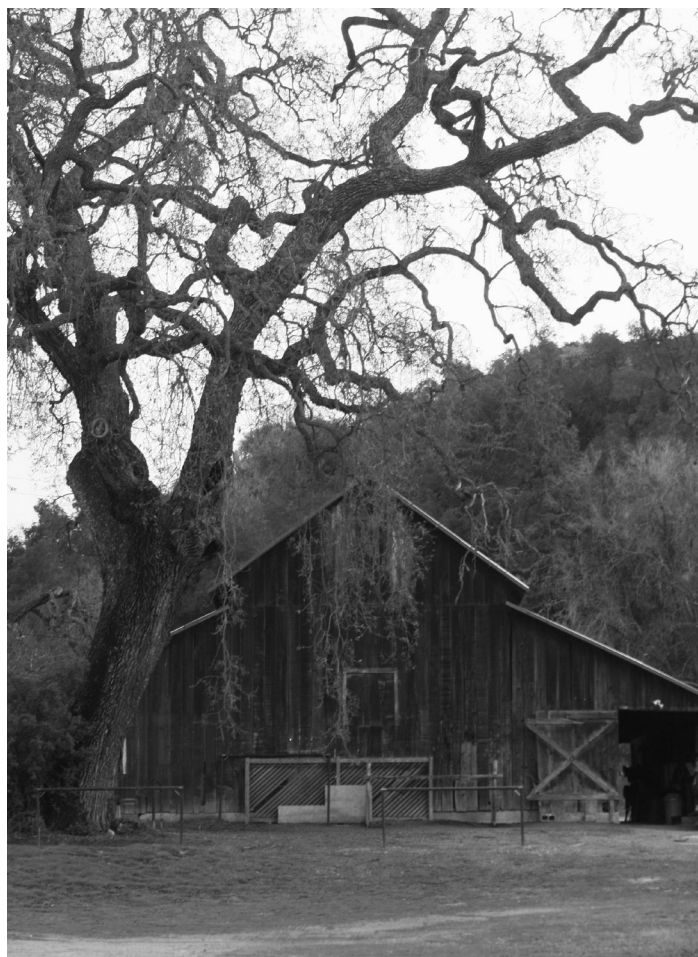
*By Will Graham, Head of School*

The year 2015 brings with it an exciting milestone in Midland School's evolution: a master campus plan for Midland's buildings and grounds has been developed. Historically, campus improvements and repairs have been tackled as urgent needs demand. Until now, there has never been a comprehensive plan for the care and function of the campus.

As the result of Midland's accreditation and strategic planning process, the board of trustees recognized that the school must become more proactive when tending to the needs of the campus, the living yards, and faculty housing. In 2012 Midland's board of trustees created a strategic plan and formed a campus planning committee. They charged the group with "creating a long range plan that surveys existing conditions, establishes priorities, and proposes guidelines for further development of Midland's campus." The board has worked diligently over the past three years to address this significant long-range planning issue.

After careful consideration of the goals and objectives of the strategic directive, Midland selected the firm, Walker/Macy, of Portland, Oregon, to help the school guide the planning process. Walker/Macy has decades of experience helping schools plan for the future of their campuses. It studied Midland's founding principles and history, its unique culture, the needs of the community members, and the natural

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*The campus plan includes ideas for renovating and repurposing Midland's iconic barn.*

## Rich Arts Artfully Remodeled

The Kay Rich Arts building benefitted from substantial upgrades and improvements inside and outside this summer, thanks to a generous grant from the Elizabeth Bixby Janeway Foundation. First, the main studio was enlarged by removing the old darkroom and its partitions. The new workspace is fully equipped with track lighting and blackout curtains for more consistent light in painting and drawing. Adding windows to the back wall allows the precious morning light to come in, thus warming up the art room and making it a more pleasant spot for all. A new darkroom for the digital age – an alcove off the main studio – is set up with a computer for photo editing and a projector and screen to

easily share digital images and information. Double doors lead out back to a new covered patio with a foundation, perfect for carrying out easels and working on other projects in a beautiful outdoor space.

Next, insulation and new double-paned windows were installed. These, combined with more sunlight and our two wood stoves, should make for a warmer art room! Finally, a new ventilation system was added to our ceramic kilns, which will allow for safer firings that don't have to occur in the middle of the night with the doors all propped open.

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### Letter from Will Graham

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landscape that supports the people, the animals, and the vehicles that all live and move together within the campus footprint. Over time they came to deeply understand the Midland School educational model. A year-long planning process ensued in 2013, and with input from Midland's students, faculty, alumni, and alumnae, a master campus plan was produced to identify how the school can be proactive in order to meet the educational needs of its inhabitants and continue to attract students in the future.

Consistent with Midland's philosophy of simplicity, "needs not wants," and self-reliance, the school has found a way to satisfy its needs in terms of its physical campus. Walker/Macy considered all these ideas in their study, which resulted in the final campus plan. We invite you to read the plan, which can be found on our website: [www.midland-school.org/campusplan](http://www.midland-school.org/campusplan). It is important to note that the campus plan is a framework not a blueprint. We will undertake projects as they make sense, given various priorities and available resources, and we will continue the Midland tradition of paying as we go – and will not take on debt to complete these projects.

The campus plan process was inclusive and informative; its findings are inspirational for the students, faculty, and board members. With careful examination, we saw how our past influences our present and future; we have new insight into the Midland educational model; and we know more about ourselves. We clearly see how this unique, powerful, and beautiful landscape helps to support a secondary boarding school education that can only be delivered in this unique place.

Midland's ethic supports the notion that nature's reassuring

presence and the seasons sustain the human spirit. Being good stewards of the Midland property and our rustic campus connects the present with the future. Our conservation easement and the comprehensive master campus plan provide a clear path and outline for an incremental approach to regeneration and renewal. They exist to inform and guide future generations of decision-makers who inherit the responsibility of being good stewards of Midland School.

I hope you will become interested and play a part in this exciting chapter for Midland. When you visit campus you will see the plan implementation in its early stages. Several projects have already been completed including the renovation of the Rich Arts building, the demolition of the Parks House, which had deteriorated beyond safe habitation, new conveyance routes for water drainage, and the construction of a beautiful and functional new Frye Family Farm Building supporting our thriving farm-to-table program. As elements of the campus plan are implemented, the educational experience of our students is enhanced.

Special thanks to Ed Carpenter, '64, chair of the campus planning committee, who led the effort from the beginning to end, and to all the members of the Midland community who contributed to the planning process. We are currently seeking champions and volunteers to participate in our campus plan actualization. It will take our extended network to achieve this ambitious and important project. Please contact me at [wgraham@midland-school.org](mailto:wgraham@midland-school.org) with questions or to offer a helping hand.

Sincerely,

*Will Graham*

Head of School

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### Rich Arts Artfully Remodeled

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The new space is bright, clean, and functional, with plenty of storage space for student work. Students love the new look, and we hope the Rich Arts Building will become a more popular hangout and work spot than it already is!

These upgrades reveal a story of good design and fulfillment of the art program's belief "that the essential ingredients of learning are a student and teacher working together to cultivate a sense of aesthetic and personal expression." (Midland's curriculum guide) Last year, students taking Foundations in Visual Art made models and suggestions for improving the Rich Arts Building in their architectural design unit. Included in their list of top ten suggestions were increased natural light, warmth, improved kiln safety and ventilation, rodent- and dust-proofing, storage, and the ability for multiple projects to take place at the same time. ALL of their top 10 suggestions were actualized in the building's remodel. ■



*Jingya Xun, '15, takes Drawing and Painting and is shown here working on her master study project.*

## B.G. IS LEAVING! EVERYONE PANIC!

### A Farewell to a Beloved Faculty Member

*By Emma Dreyfuss, '15*

September, 2011. It's my second day at Midland as a freshman. I sit with all the other new Midlanders on the bench next to Chapel nervously stirring up dust with my feet. Assembly begins, and, instead of the customary inquiry for announcements, the head prefects stand back. A man steps onto Stillman porch. He has grey hair, and his face is covered with smile lines. He wears square, frameless glasses, a Paul McCartney t-shirt, and jeans. BG Kresse, '68, the school cook, proceeds to rub his hands all over the window on Stillman's left door. Once he has properly smudged the glass, he looks back triumphantly at the crowd. After pausing for dramatic effect, he goes on to explain proper window-washing form. He tells us about the legendary detergent found in the ink of newspapers, about how Paul Squibb taught all of his students the foolproof technique of using one damp piece of newspaper to wash the window and one completely dry one to give the window a final polish. "It's all in the final pass," BG says emphatically.



We take it for granted that BG has always been here. It seems impossible that BG was once a scared freshman shuffling his feet in the assembly area just as we do today. This may be because he has been at Midland for forty-two years, outstripping the impressive Rich legacy by two years. So when I spoke to him, it felt strange to ask him the obligatory question I ask every other Midlander: How did you find out about Midland? It turns out that Midland was a part of BG's life even before he arrived his freshman year. His cousins attended Midland, and, because BG had a rocky academic

history, his mother gave him a few unsavory choices for his secondary school career. It was only then that BG chose Midland, saying, "It seemed like the best option."

When BG drove down our dusty driveway in 1964, he arrived at a very different Midland than the one we know today. BG remembers an all-boys school that lacked

today's academic focus and had a strong division between classes—upperclassmen dished out laps just as readily as faculty members did. With his long history, he has been able to witness the shifts toward the Midland we see today. Rick DeGolia, '68, BG's co-prefect for the freshman class of 1971, noted that "[we] worked closely and well to break an unfortunate tradition where freshman were poorly treated by their prefects." When BG talks about his prefectship, he remembers how much he enjoyed "being a big brother" to his prefectees. He never lost this friendly quality, and it leads countless wayward students into his kitchen every year.

It's two weeks into my freshman year. As I blunder and bumble my way through my kitchen

job, I stop to ask BG where to put the liter measuring cup. Twenty minutes later, the rest of the crew has left, and here I am, pitcher still in hand, listening to BG tell me about the Beatles and the history of some American artifact. Half intrigued and half trying to find a way out of this conversation so I'm not late for class, I marvel at how easy conversation comes to BG, how he can spend twenty full minutes talking to even the most timid freshman. Suddenly, the start-of-class bell rings, and I sprint out of

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## Ben Munger Midland's Bridge

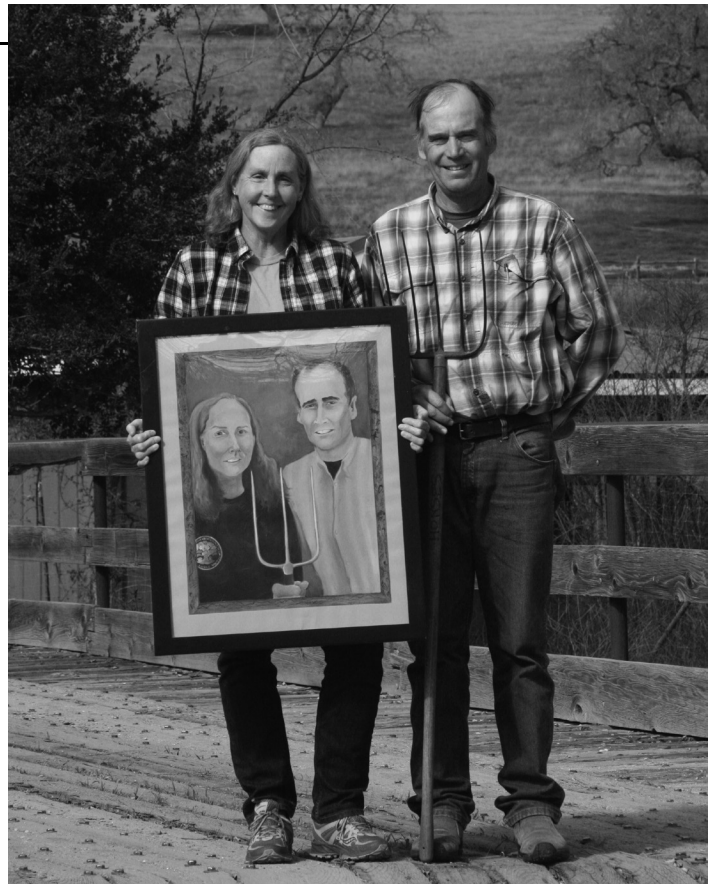
By Talei McCloud, '15

The morning fog is slowly burning off as Ben Munger, '79, closes his sliding door and leaves his house, his loyal, four-legged friend, Coulter, following close by. He sports a weathered Carhartt jacket and a dusty Amish hat. Cracked mud is caked on to his White's boots. Making his way to the garden, he crosses the bridge, glancing down at the familiar Alamo Pintado creek bed. Another day begins at Midland School.

If you're part the Midland community, regardless of your age or whether or not you attended, you know Ben Munger. His Midland roots run deep like the mighty oaks themselves. He grew up in one of the homes we students see every day, lived in the same cabins some of us occupy, and took notes at one of the same desks on which we lay our binders. Ben was a sophomore when Midland first began accepting female students. He has witnessed this school and its community ebb and flow over five decades. Ben is not only a part of Midland's past, he is, as Will Graham says, "a bridge between the past, present, and future."

When Ben first started crossing the bridge in 1962, he was a faculty baby who had to be carried across. He eventually began strolling across as a young man when he attended as a student between 1975 and 1979. Years later, he drove across that same bridge with his wife, Laurie Munger. Ben and Laurie returned to Midland as teachers in 1985. Laurie taught biology and geology, and Ben taught anthropology, freshman art, and coached soccer and lacrosse.

Seeing Ben on one of the old tractors now, you might think that he has always cultivated these rich soils with their lush lettuce and softball-size onions. However, our now bountiful garden used to be a dusty running track, horse pasture, and hay field. Not too long ago, there were no crops to irrigate and weed, and no tomato vines to tie up. Apricot and apple trees were only a mirage. That all changed in 1996-97 with the transformation of this area into the farm we know today, and in 1999, Ben became the ranch manager—Guardian of the Garden. Since then, he has brought the pigs into the garden, creating a new student job and a plentiful source for raw manure. He has given us the opportunity to eat delicious fruits and vegetables out of season. Most impressively, he has helped create a unique farm-to-table connection with Katie Isaacson Hames. Students see the work that goes into producing their food, and they know where it comes from. Often, they put in some of the work themselves. If this isn't a golden example of experiential learning at its finest, then the sky is green.



*Laurie and Ben Munger inspired their daughter, Emma Munger, '08, to paint a Midland version of the famous work, American Gothic, using her parents as models.*

Laurie also crosses our bridge frequently, often as she joins Ben in teaching a handful of rowdy freshmen during one of the school's most popular classes, Midland 101-Ecosystems and Natural History. Together, they introduced the course in 2003, combining 9th-grade history and science and using our unique 2,860 acres as a focal point and teaching tool. Because of 101, Midland students acquire an education that uses every mountain, tree, strange rock formation, and dry creek bed—and they get to do it in the historic, three-walled Lumber Yard.

It's evening now as Ben pats the dirt off of his naturally faded blue jeans. As he heads towards home, he is joined by a few students crossing the bridge. They talk about his new position at Deep Springs College and how he will be moving from overseeing and caring for 10 acres of garden to 152 acres of alfalfa fields in the eastern Sierras. One student jokes about his Amish hat, and they all laugh a little, trying to cope with the fact that some other young adult will soon be making jokes about it.

When Ben and Laurie Munger leave us this year, we will lose a bridge between the past and present. However, Midland will continue to thrive because of their contributions to this community and the future they've created for us. ■

## Laurie Leaves A Legacy

By Sean Cummings, '15

A few days before the start of my junior year, I left my home at Anderson House and walked down to Laurie Munger's office to make a few last-minute changes to my class schedule. As I explained the changes I had in mind, Laurie put a finger to her lips, stopping me mid-sentence. My ears followed her eyes to the open window, and after a few seconds, a telltale rattling noise drifted in, like the shaking of a maraca. "One second". Laurie rose from her chair, walked outside, and disappeared around the corner of the building, heading towards her house. A minute later she returned carrying a long-handled shovel, which she promptly used to behead the rattlesnake lurking in the bush outside her office door. "Sorry about that," she said casually, leaning the bloodied shovel against the wall of her office. "Now, what classes did you say you wanted?"

Though it may seem odd, I think this moment really shows how much Laurie Munger means to Midland. Laurie and Ben have been at Midland for about forever (second only to B.G. Kresse, who has been here longer than that). Laurie's seen five headmasters come and go, and she taught current faculty members Derek Harwell, '88 and José Juan Ibarra, '87 when they were students. She's served as the dean of studies, overseen the student store, and taught every science class in the school besides physics. She even team-taught what must have been the most entertaining sex-ed class ever, along with B.G. Kresse. This school, which allows its students to live unsupervised in areas with knives and axes, has been her home for several decades. Beheading a rattlesnake won't faze her—she's seen far worse during her time here, and she's carried on just fine. Now, after a total of twenty-five years at Midland, Laurie and Ben are moving on.

In the eyes of Mr. Graham, Laurie is, and always has been, Midland's great female leader. Though women comprise over 60% of Midland's faculty and staff today, Laurie had to carry herself through Midland's transitional years, when the school shifted from a male-dominated population to a more even one. Today, she's a model to the other faculty, providing guidance whenever necessary. Chemistry teacher Lise Goddard picked Laurie as her mentor during the beginning of her career at Midland, recognizing her immediately as a trustworthy and reliable

advisor. "I thought, 'there's a lot I need to learn from this woman,'" Lise remembers. Laurie's self-reliant lifestyle hasn't faded, either. Says Mr. Graham, "She's 'needs not wants' right down to her patched pants."

In terms of utilizing Midland's property as a living classroom, Laurie and Ben beat all. "There is no one better," Mr. Graham claims, "No one more competent in understanding the ground on which we live." Laurie and Ben's takeover of the Midland 101 class ensures that students get outside and experience Midland's property, a weekly treat for study-weary freshmen. And though many students know Laurie for her sarcastic, no-nonsense attitude, nobody can deny that Laurie truly cares for her pupils. Having worked with teenagers for so much of her life, Laurie often knows them better than they do. She's not afraid to discuss her students' performances bluntly, pushing and guiding them towards areas where they most need to shape up. Lise Goddard agrees, saying, "The thing that I admire most about [Laurie] is that you always know what you're gonna get from her...she doesn't sugar-coat anything, and you always get an honest response." At the same time, Laurie keeps her tougher side in balance with a casual attitude. When teaching students about Midland's property, she's been known to compare certain landmarks to inappropriate anatomical structures, adding humor to the class while at the same time providing a foolproof way for students to remember the material. Laurie shows immense kindness, too: Cymbre Thomas, '03, remembers the bag of homemade bagels Laurie gave her as a graduation present and feels gratitude for the support her advisor provided whenever she had trouble with her friends' poor decisions.

Sadly for us, all of this must pass. Ben has landed a job as the new Ranch Manager at Deep Springs College, an isolated school of twenty-six students located in California's high desert. Laurie herself has no position at Deep Springs as of now, and says she has no definite plan to acquire one. Perhaps she'll discover there's something there for her later, but for now she's content to just hang out. Despite lacking a paid position, however, she expects to be active in the Deep Springs community. Laurie loves the area of the eastern Sierra, and volunteering on field

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# How To Win The Munger Games

## Hint: Read the Map Right-side Up

*By Sofie Lebow, '16*

I was part of the slowpoke group. We were the complainers, the ones whose glasses did not work when it came to map-reading. When Laurie Munger announced to her Midland 101 class that Isabelle Adams, '16, Alec Frost, '16, Lauren Dasmalchi, '16, and I were in a group together, my classmates laughed and gave us looks of pity. From the start, everyone doubted that our group could survive the test. Before I had time to complain, Laurie handed us our maps in manila envelopes, checked us for our red compasses, then yelled, "Let the Munger Games begin!"

Laurie's famous, hands-on final exam required us to have a compass and to dress in heavy hiking boots and wool socks instead of sitting uncomfortably in chairs. She gave us topographic maps of the Midland property with thick black X marks indicating the locations we needed to find. Four different teachers at each spot would administer a written part of the exam with questions on longitude and latitude, township and range, and elevations.

Being the anxious, excited, and assertive freshman that I was, I hogged the envelope with the map and opened it as my team huddled together. Unknowingly holding the map upside down, I pointed to the direction of Trash Canyon. We marched to where I thought the first teacher, Paul Gelles, would be. Boy, was I wrong! We didn't find Paul, so we looked more closely at the map and realized it was upside down. Lauren, the true genius of our group, glared at me when she realized we needed to travel to the opposite side of the property: Kimpton Field. Despite our detour, we still thought we could finish and ace the final.

After we reached the field, we decided to follow my second not-so-educated-guess about Paul. I was hoping that we would find him waiting by the Rhodes house, where Johnny and Ashley Ninos live. But Paul was not there either. So... we climbed upward to see if we could spot any stations where faculty might be from a greater altitude, but all we saw was our own failure: a group of classmates were already sprinting back to Laurie to claim first place.

We broke down. Isabelle sat on the dirt, resigned. After wasting vital time getting her moving again, we trudged

back to the field. Still hoping to find Paul (but forgetting to look at the map again!) we meandered down the Res Road. After wandering up a nearby hill, we started to yell Paul's name. No response. Then I heard a kahkaaah bird noise. "Does anyone else hear that?" I asked. Then I heard the noise again and again. "Guys! It's Paul!" I exclaimed. After standing quietly, they too heard the awful mimic of a bird. We followed the sound up a hill covered with poison oak and sharp leaves. Cuts emerged on my legs, but I did not care. We reached the hilltop, stopped, and looked around. Paul sat under a tree quietly reading a book.

We finished the first section of the written exam and set off to find the next X on the map—our outdoor education teacher, Derek Harwell. We spotted him surprisingly quickly—he was walking toward us. Instead of giving us the next portion of the written test, he explained that time was up. Tears streamed down my face, washing the dirt from my epic journey of failure. The crying got worse when Lauren joined in. In a state of hysterics, I said, "This is so ridiculous and unfair. No other school had a final like this. Now I won't get into Stanford." Derek tried to explain to us that the world was not ending, and he guided us back to campus. When we reached Laurie, she tried to tell me that finishing the final the way I did "was not a big deal," but I couldn't hear her through my sobs.

At dinner assembly, Laurie announced the winners as well as the losers of the Munger Games. Then she said, with her characteristic chuckle, "If you don't get lost on your way to Van Alostine, you can finish the written part of the exam during status." I held my tears back, knowing the winners would get awarded extra credit points, but I was glad that she gave us the opportunity to finish the exam.

Looking back at this freshman experience filled with my silly tantrums, our group bickering, the upside-down map reading, and odd bird calls, I smile now because I see how much I've learned and grown. And, at the very least, now I do know how to read a topographic map without getting lost. ■



*Crawford Cooley, '15, driving Baine on the Midland farm.*

## Baine Outstanding in His Field

*By Crawford Cooley, '15*

I first met Baine four years ago on a crisp, early October afternoon in the garden. There I was, hanging out and working in the garden with Ben Munger, running my mouth and talking tractor stories. Finally, after a sufficient amount of pestering, Ben gave in on his general rule of waiting at least a semester to begin Midland tractor certification. Soon, I had Baine's old, black, cracked steering wheel in my hand.

Baine arrived at Midland in 2008. He (yes, Baine is a male) was donated by Esther Isaacson, Katie Isaacson's grandmother. Baine is a 1949 Ford 8N, one of the longest-lasting tractors still in existence today. Though Ford did not continue production of these American workhorses, their giant metal hearts still beat half a million strong even after sixty-five years.

After arriving at Midland, Ben spent countless hours servicing Baine and has returned him to his almost perfect running condition. Although Baine could use a fresh coat of the standard paint job of gray and red, he is beautiful in his own ways. We use Baine for all kinds of projects, and

he is considered the main medium-duty tractor for the school. Recently on the farm, Baine has spread manure over two acres, he has helped prepare the fields to be tilled, and he is the essential piece of equipment in keeping the horse riding arena in rideable shape.

Not only does Baine contribute to the farm and horse program, but he also acts as a teacher. Ben commented that Baine "is very good as an introductory tractor, because it's the first tractor [students] are exposed to." Over the past six years, countless students have learned about machinery, how engines work, and how to properly care for a machine thanks to Baine.

Baine was named for his original owner, Baine Isaacson, Katie's grandfather. Mr. Isaacson had a love for machines, but specifically trains. Unfortunately, Mr. Isaacson passed away before Katie was born, but she likes having his tractor here. "Farming wasn't really on my radar," she said, "but now that I am here working on the farm, I am able to use his tractor even though I never had the chance to have a relationship with him." ■



## New Farm Internship Class A Success

*By Crawford Cooley, '15*

Last summer, Laurie Munger got inspired. She knew that many students wanted to spend more time on the farm. She also knew that Midland's busy and complex schedule often prevented such exploration. Her solution? A new pass/fail, one-quarter-credit class called Farm Internship that meets three days per week during the regular academic schedule.

The farm internship class is a hands-on, get-down-to-the-nitty-gritty-of-farming class where students learn about all aspects of the farm. The internship introduces students to the school's farm-to-table connection, basic farm management, how to properly care for the soil, machinery skills, and equipment maintenance. Each intern has a specialization. For example, Jack Grimes, '16, Cody Swabash,

'15, and I are the designated mechanics. We focus on tractors and farm implements, and often this leads us to work on irrigation, fencing, tool maintenance, and anything involving the tractors, like learning how to replace stabilizer bars. Root Wang, '15, works closely with Katie Isaacson, picks many of the farm's fresh fruit and vegetables, and generally helps streamline Midland's farm-to-table process.

Recently the farm interns have harvested multiple twenty-pound cases of carrots, five cases of heirloom tomatoes, and multiple cases of cucumbers. All of this food has been utilized by Midland's cooks and eaten by Midland's students. We also distributed compost over two of the eight acres using a 1948 8N

Ford tractor and a 1940's manure spreader. My favorite tasks involve fixing things. Ben assigned Jack, Cody, and I the job of repairing a 6-gang disc's bearings. After forty-five minutes, we were covered in lots of dust, oil, dirt, and big toothy smiles. But the bearings functioned perfectly, and the piece of machinery was able to go back to work.

Although students find the internship extremely fun and rewarding, they also do a lot of hard work. As Ben said, the farm internship "is not fooling around on the farm. It's actually getting things done that Katie and I need to get done, but don't have the time. What the students do reflects the quarter credit and actually helps the farm." And, of course, helps the school too. ■

### Laurie Leaves a Legacy

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trips and similar "fun stuff" would allow her to explore the region while simultaneously building a relationship with the students and faculty. Whatever she does, Midlanders remain confident that Laurie will feel right at home at Deep Springs: the school bears many similarities to Midland yet boasts enough differences to feel like a fresh chapter in the Mungers' lives.

Still, Laurie will certainly miss many aspects of Midland. Laurie's made many close friends here: she has an incredibly strong relationship with the faculty. The social connections she's built here will surely prove hard to replace. In addition to the people, Laurie will miss the place itself. She's spent years teaching and exploring here alongside Ben, Coulter the dog, and years upon years of high school kids. This landscape holds

a special place in Laurie's heart, and it always will, no matter where she goes.

As for those of us still here, we wish Laurie and Ben a heartfelt farewell, and we do our best to prepare for life at a Munger-less Midland. Reflecting upon Midland's future without Laurie, Mr. Graham says, "It's up to me to make sure that we stay true to her compass bearing [...] with deep, deep appreciation and affection." No matter how much we may wish for her to stay, Laurie remains confident that Midland will carry on just fine without her, as it always has. As she told me, "Midland is way bigger than just the people that are here." It has something to offer everyone, she says, and so no matter who comes and goes, each new person finds a way to make an impact, and the place keeps going. ■



## Midland Girls Win First Joselyn Ewing Memorial Award at Thanksgiving Game

By Emma Dreyfuss, '15

This Thanksgiving, the girls' Varsity/Alumnae game experienced a drastic change in culture. In recent years, the alumnae team has included one or two alumnae, some girls from the Midland student team, and some students' friends and/or family members. Kim Linse, '82, played in 2012, but missed the 2013 game. She later said, "I was upset that the girls' game didn't get mentioned at the post-game assembly and embarrassed that I didn't play...and disgusted that there was only one female alum, (Nora Livingston, '09) on the field for the game." It was then that she decided to scrounge up a real alumnae team for the next year and to have a trophy made for the girls—just like there is one for the boys.

The Joselyn Ewing, '79, Memorial Award gets its name from one of

the first female students at Midland. In fact, according to her brother, Peter Ewing, '77, "Joselyn was the very first girl to arrive on campus as a Midland student...

in September 1976." Her classmates remember her as, he said, having "full-throated enthusiasm and stamina on the soccer field." She captained the first girls' soccer team, so it is only fitting that the award be named after her. Joselyn died in 2007 after a battle with cancer, but her legacy lives on at Midland through her nephew, Tate Ewing, '17, and now through this annual award.



*This photo of Joselyn Ewing was provided by her family.*

The Midland girls' varsity team was the first recipients of the Joselyn Ewing Memorial award after a 6-0 win this fall. Seven alumnae played in the game, including Blaze Elation, '09, Kim Linse, '82, Vanessa Barrera, '08, Becca Towne, '09, Stephanie Anderson, '94, Natalie D'Attilie, '87, and Genevieve Herrick, '97. A few of our new girls filled the rest of the alumnae team, but, for the first time in many years, the team was more alumnae than not. ■



Midland's director of the equestrian program, Celeste Carlise, has a connection at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena—her father works there! Roddy Taylor's Honors Physics class was able to spend a day in October touring the facility and learning about various aspects of launching spacecraft into orbit. The group finished the field trip with a stop at the Mount Wilson Observatory.

*Pictured: Lupita Valle, Ezi Nwakanma, Lei Zeng, Ralph Best, Sylvia Nwakanma, Jingya Xun, Fanrui Sha, Emma Thorpe, Oliver Rothenburg, and Emma Dreyfuss; all are class of 2015.*

## Rain and Laughs Under the Sequoias

By Talei McCloud, '15

2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Wilderness Act, the act that created the expansive wilderness areas we explore and enjoy today. In honor of this anniversary, Derek Harwell, '88, proposed that, as a community, we try to complete 50 outdoor activities and/or trips. Without hesitation, he got started by offering us a four-day trip to the Sierras.

On October 27th, our small group set out for our four-day backpacking trip to the Sierras. As our dusty Ford Expedition approached the entrance to Sequoia National Park, full to the brim with backpacks, bear cans, and wrappers from gas station goodies, rain gathered on the windows. We rolled them down and took in the crisp smell of rain hitting the lodgepole pines and red firs.

As we made our way into the park, we decided to visit the world's largest tree, General Sherman, before setting up camp for the night. General Sherman isn't the tallest tree, but its whopping circumference of 102.6 feet around the base, with an estimated bole (trunk) volume of 1,487 cubic meters, makes it the world's largest. After a surreal sunset and an impromptu lip syncing and dance session, we headed to Lodgepole Campground. We then carefully chose the perfect spot, and Cameron, Sophia, and I set up tents under leaky trees as Graceson, Adrienne, and Derek cooked dinner. We headed off to bed in our dry tents after warm cups of hot cocoa and peppermint tea, only to be awakened by the celestial sound of rain.

We all slept late that morning, taking advantage of being away from Midland's demanding schedule. However, forecasts for thunderstorms, rain, and, in some places, snow, kept us from backpacking to our destination.



Adrienne Howard, '18, Graceson Aufderheide, '16, Cameron Mulberry, '16, Talei Cody, '15, and Sophia Wang, '16

Instead, we adjusted our plans and hiked a three-mile loop trail outlining Crescent Meadow, twisting through ancient sequoias. As we stopped for a trail mix break, the constant drizzle quickly turned into a downpour, which in turn formed into icy hail. For a moment we all sat in silence, listening to the hail strike the sequoias like rice thrown into a pot. At the end of our hike, we spotted our third black bear, sauntering through the foliage. Our presence didn't seem to bother him, which allowed us to observe and appreciate him for some time.

On the third day, we decided to cut the trip short and head back, but not before one last hike. As we set off on a 1.7-mile hike to Tokopah Falls, dewdrops lay like gems on the ferns, and evaporated steam danced around our swift feet. In that moment, I felt that this land was sacred in its unique and mystical way. When we reached the top of the falls, some of us dabbled

with a watercolor paint set, some explored the surrounding area, and others just soaked in the sun amidst the granite. After enjoying each other's company for an hour or so, we headed back and broke down camp. We said our farewells to the park with a quick and numbing wade in the Kaweah River. Heading back to Midland with dirt under our nails and golden memories, we added one more tally to Derek's goal. ■

## Dust

By Sean Cummings, '15

*Editor's note: Sean is a Midland faculty child who was born and raised at Midland.*

The dust is everywhere.

It settles on the mantle and on top of my desk. It gathers on the television screen and collects on the shoulders of my suit jackets and collared shirts. It burrows into the fabric of our couch, and when I smack my hand down –WHAM– on the cushions, it billows up in a great grey cloud before dispersing to find some other place to rest. If I throw open the curtains of my bedroom window in the morning, welcoming the river of warm, golden light into my private space, I see them floating in the air, little glowing specks, drifting calmly by in no particular direction. I watch them for a while, then fill my lungs and blow into the golden river of dust, and the little glowing specks jump and dance, creating swirling eddies in the wake of my breath.

I've never considered our house dirty. After all, every other building on Midland School's campus is just the same: constructed Lincoln Log-style, smelling of rich cedar, and perpetually covered in dust and cobwebs. I've had a person or two exclaim that surely I must feel uncomfortable brushing spiders from my bed before going to sleep. But I don't. Growing up at Midland taught me differently. I understand that a few mud stains are a small price for a childhood spent playing in a ten-acre organic garden, consuming all the fresh berries and cherry tomatoes I could pick, straight off the vine, so much more delicious than their store-bought counterparts. I know from experience that eating every day in a dusty dining hall shared by one hundred other people, many of them teenage boys with less than perfect hygiene, leaves a person with an excellent immune system and strong conversational skills. I've realized that squashing a spider means more flies buzzing around my head and fewer of those perfectly geometric spiderwebs sparkling with dew in the morning. I know that

living in a Midland house, a house out in the countryside five miles from the nearest town, a house so full of dust and cobwebs that the only cleaning lady we ever had fired us after two weeks of work, is totally worth it when the backyard of that house consists of 2,860 acres of wild oak woodlands to explore. Every tree I climbed and secret place I found told me that I didn't need a Nintendo system or an iPhone to have fun, I just needed a forest and some curiosity. Midland gave me a connection with the natural world that I feel extremely lucky to have.

It's not that we don't try. Every Sunday morning, the students and faculty work together to clean the campus. I smile to watch whichever poor student has been assigned to clean the three-walled geology classroom, sweeping dirt out the open space where the fourth wall should be only for the wind to blow it right back in. Next Sunday, we'll clean it again. But the dust always returns. The spiders weave new webs. The weeds and vines grow back. And herein lies one of the most valuable lessons this place has taught me.

The natural world here is just permissive enough to let us know that, yes, with a little work and cooperation, we can live here perfectly comfortably. At the same time, it is persistent enough, even inside our own dwellings, to remind us at all times that we do not own this place. We are allowed to coexist, not to dominate. The spiders in my bed are a harmless reminder of this, there to keep the runaway human ego in check. I share my world with the spiders, with the vines and weeds, with the dogs and cats the students bring here who wander about the campus, and with the other people.

And with the dust, never to be conquered. ■



## The Hot Pot Club

By Muning Wang, '17

The saying in China, “You won’t get homesick if you are full,” does not always apply to a young Chinese stomach tired of consuming American “simple cuisine.” When I first got to Midland, I thought I had an open-minded appetite. But after a few weeks, I realized that dietary habit is not a thing that one changes easily. I have been eating stir-fried vegetables for sixteen years, and now, every time I pass the salad bar, I move quickly without even taking a look. I think, “I don’t want to be a bunny chewing raw carrots and lettuce!”

My beloved Beijing senior, Jingya Xun, '15, surprised me when she invited me to her hot pot club that would be held at Jill Brady’s house on a Tuesday. Hot pot is a stew cuisine, one of my favorite Chinese meals, cooked in a simmering metal pot placed at the center of the table. “I brought sliced meat, Chinese typical vegetables, various mushrooms, tofu, noodles, even dipping sesame sauce that I bought during the break. They are all frozen in the fridge in Stillman,” she said, with a bag of instant hot pot soup base in her hand. “Tomorrow. 4:30. In front of the Main House. Don’t eat too much for lunch!”

Hunger is always the best condiment, especially for hot pot. I basically skipped that day’s lunch.

We enjoyed the fun of cooking by preparing ingredients. Sophia Wang, '16, peeled potatoes while Sylvia Nwakanma, '15, chopped them. Ezi Nwakanma, '15, cut an unfamiliar melon-like vegetable into pieces. “Winter Melon,” I told Ezi. I was sure that was the English name because I had just read about it in *The Joy Luck Club*. Northerners in China eat winter melons and bok choy because they are cheap and easily stored in the extreme cold weather. Also, they are indispensable ingredients for hot pot. Both bok choy and winter melon contain lots of water, and they dilute the greasy taste of the broth.

Jingya asked me to cut the mushrooms. While I was arranging them on the plate, Sylvia and Ezi asked me in a surprised voice, “What are these?” I learned another fact—Americans don’t eat a huge variety of mushrooms. “They are most magical foods in the world. They detox. They make you smart!” I tried to persuade them to like my favorite hot pot ingredient, although they doubted whether the mushrooms were even edible all the time.

Ours was not a typical hot pot feast. It was a homesick hot pot parody. Though the ingredients did not look like they would in China, the smell of hot pot steam lured our appetite!

Honestly, I was about to burst into tears when I took the first sip. “Taste of home,” Jingya said, with a mouthful of food and in a trembling voice. She, too, was moved by the familiar taste. The juice of bok choy and winter melon combined in my mouth with strong-flavored broth. I slowed down the pace, chewing and feeling the sense of familiar taste. Jill and her husband praised every exotic ingredient they tried—winter melon, fish ball, mushroom, bok choy. I was glad that people who have completely different diets enjoyed the food we grew up on. We created a spiritual bond through sharing joyful life experience—HOT POT.

For dessert, Jill served us French vanilla ice cream and chocolate cake. It was the best ice cream I have ever had. The extent of sweet was just right. One spoon of ice cream instantly melted in my mouth with the heat of Jill’s enthusiasm. The joy of sharing my pleasures that others have not experienced in their lives relieved my homesickness. ■





## The Naked Truth

By Emma Thorpe, '15

While I stood in the bathroom my first day of freshman year, the only noise enclosed by the salmon pink walls came from the water hitting the ground. I peeked into the small shower room. No walls. No curtains. Just three shower heads providing mild water pressure. I made eye contact with my new roommate, Talei Cody, '15. She, like myself, wore a bathing suit—typical freshman etiquette in the showers. We did not talk—also typical freshman etiquette in the showers. Although we both entered the room with bathing suits, inconvenience forced us to abandon them, and our showering turned into rushed awkwardness. I hardly felt comfortable being naked around a girl whom I had known for less than twenty-four hours.

When I first arrived at Midland, I was shocked to learn that I had to shower in front of other girls. Daily routine included piling into these small shower rooms in order to get clean. Like many girls, in middle school I went through what I now consider my awkward stage. I looked and felt awkward, my friends belittled me, and I never felt comfortable sharing my thoughts and feelings with anyone. In other words, middle school wrecked my self-esteem. So naturally, communal showers were not my ideal situation. Nevertheless, I braved the first day with my new roommate. I was proud of myself for ditching the bathing suit, regardless of my terror and discomfort. Nothing fits the definition of “vulnerable” better than that first day and the next few days to follow.

Even though I felt vulnerable those first few days, five o'clock shower time soon became one of my favorite times of day. Of course, I enjoyed showering before—warm water and being clean is always nice—but Midland showers are different. Sometimes while

at school, I miss the quiet, private showers at home because I can be alone and in my head for a bit. However, while I'm at home, I miss the atmosphere of the small shower room with my closest friends a lot more. Shower time at Midland is pretty much the best time to reconnect with friends after a long, often exhausting day of school. Whether we belt out Bohemian Rhapsody or our recent chorus songs, talk about boys, school, or stress, or try each other's shampoo, that steam-filled shower room is infinitely more welcoming than any shower at home.

Midland's showering routine had quickly become normal, but I didn't notice significant change in myself until the end of sophomore year. By that time, I had almost completely lost touch with my middle school friends, and I had developed solid social roots at Midland. I gradually realized how relaxed I felt around my friends in contrast with years before. My new classmates and I bonded over our different backgrounds, personalities, and body types. Soon, I became open about everything I said; I no longer kept my personal life a secret. My friends now know more about me than even my own parents. Once timid and self-conscious, I am now more comfortable in my own skin than ever. I have shed the bindings of discomfort, and most importantly, I have stopped caring what people think of me.

I'm sure that, over time, I would have gained self-confidence without the assistance of communal showers. However, nothing breaks the ice like forcing awkward freshman girls to live together, shower together, and coexist together. Now that we've gotten comfortable seeing each other naked, we share a heightened sense of trust that I haven't found anywhere else. There is no room for judgment anymore, and all that's left is the naked truth. ■

## What A Name Can Mean

*By Muning Wang, '17*

During the second day of school at Midland, I sat in front of a computer during tea time to have a glimpse of my life in Shijiazhuang, the city I have lived in for eleven years and that I abandoned temporarily. I logged on to the Chinese version of Facebook. While I watched everything happening among my friends and old classmates, I felt unexpectedly distant from my life. Indeed, the vast Pacific Ocean now separates us.

"Muning!" How familiar but distant that name was. I suddenly turned around and saw it was Don Redl, the teacher who took my phone away on my second day. I recognized Don's voice, but I was surprised that a native speaker of English could pronounce my Chinese name so accurately.

My pride for my Chinese name led me to tell Don the story behind it. "Muning" is made up of two characters. "Mu" means shepherding, but in ancient times, it stood for controlling and ruling. "Ning" means peace and harmony. Combined they mean "control to gain peace." Over the course of sixteen years, I have gradually come to realize that my name is more than my parents' expectations for me to become a great leader; it means that I should learn to pursue eternal harmony and balance by controlling and managing myself. Muning means so much more than Belinda, my English name, which my mother randomly picked for me when I was five. We don't know what it means, yet I become Belinda whenever I am with people who speak English.

At Midland, Don helped me find a sense of my real identity in America. Don soon mentioned my Chinese name at a faculty meeting. My Chinese name became immediately popular. Recently, my advisor, Johnny Ninos, came to me while I was setting a table in Stillman and asked, "Do you want to get back to your real name, 'Muning'?" Soon faculty asked me to teach them to pronounce my Chinese name. I wrote down "Muning" with accent marks on the "u" and the "i" for José Juan Ibarra. After a three-mile run during cross country, I told Jill Redl and Johnny that the pronunciation of "Muning" is similar to the word "morning." Jill tried so hard to pronounce my name, but it came out "Muniu" every time, which means cow. Lynda Cummings asked me to spell my Chinese name in writing class, and she made the other writers call me "Muning." She emphasized that Belinda may be easy for those whose mother language is English, but it is not my real name.

Most of the faculty call me Muning now. However, classmates still call me Belinda, probably out of habit, or because it is easier to catch my attention. It is certainly easier for them to pronounce "Belinda" correctly.

Actually, I do not care what my classmates call me, and here is why. At five o'clock in the afternoon, my class of girls sings musicals in the shower room or they lie down and let the water fall on their bodies. At the end of status time, my roommate, Angelica Murrillo, '17, makes me origami paper

boats and shares her American junk food so that we can dally during status time (I still don't know the names of those candies and that puffed food). Nefertari Arbuckle, '17, styles my hair during tea times. I find myself comfortable living here.

In China, teachers rarely call students by their first names. Instead they use our full names because we have seventy students in a class and 1,800 students in a grade. It would be impossible for them to distribute their concern to everyone. I have only been at Midland for four weeks, but I have already witnessed how every member of this community feels concern for friends and makes an effort to respect each other.

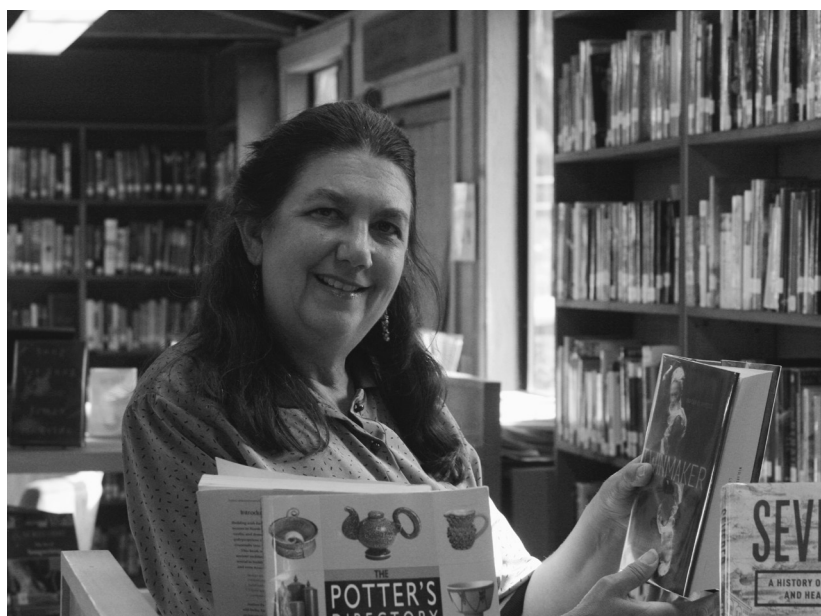
I like it when teachers call me Muning in class, and girls call me Belinda in Lower Yard. When teachers say, "Muning, here is your assignment," I immerse myself into my academic world. When my friends say, "Belinda, let's have fun," I play, laugh hard, and let go of the intense "Muning" personality. The result of people calling me "Muning" in a relaxed context surprises me. The "Muning" me has gained happiness and fun in addition to just skills and knowledge at Midland. I have gained balance and harmony through the process of discovering identity. Sometimes for me, a name is literally just ink on a tag. But at Midland, where people call me by my real name, Muning, I find myself belonging to this piece of land. ■



## A Musical Librarian Joins Midland

*By Emma Dreyfuss, '15*

This September, Midland added more than just thirty-three new students to its community. It also received Susan Gentry, who succeeded Michelle Bone as the librarian. Susan described her arrival at Midland as fate. Her job as librarian at the Brooks Institute of Photography had come to a close, and, on the very first day she started her job search, she found Midland. The next day she spoke to Mr. Graham and got the job! It wasn't until after all this that she discovered that Midland was the very school that her friend and co-worker at Santa Barbara City College, Michelle Bone, had praised so highly.



Susan may appear to be your standard librarian. She received her master's degree in library science from San Jose State University. Since then, she has worked as the librarian at the Santa Barbara Research Center and the Brooks Institute of Photography and as an adjunct librarian at Santa Barbara City College. At Midland, she will teach Senior Thesis, just as the past librarians have.

But Susan has a passion that sets her apart. She has a lifelong love of music. She began playing the oboe in the seventh grade and has continued playing her whole life, picking up piano and guitar along the way. She received an associate's degree in music from Ventura College and a bachelor's degree from UCSB. Today, she puts her oboe training to use in a classical trio. She and her compatriots play at weddings and have played here at Midland as well. Her musical interests incorporate dance as well. At UCSB, she took a belly dancing class, and she has danced in the Summer Solstice Parade every year since 1978.

Susan now spreads her love of music all around the campus. She holds many musical clubs, like karaoke and Wii Rock Band. She speaks to whoever is willing to listen about music, and, as a consequence, she has learned more about the student body's musical abilities in a month than I have in four years. As for the rest of the year, she will continue to play Wii with the students and hopes to create new clubs, perhaps even organizing a few new classical trios.

Even though Susan must drive for an hour from her downtown Santa Barbara apartment over the San Marcos Pass whenever she comes to work, she doesn't mind the journey and says, "There is a sense of peace found here. The nature entralls me!" As for Midland itself, Susan claims that her favorite part is the sense of community and the fact that there are no locks on the doors. "The level of trust here is just fantastic," she asserts. She closed our interview by telling me about her plans for dusting all of the long-untouched books, getting more e-books, and adding new online science databases to Midland's arsenal. She loves introducing students to the wealth of information at her disposal. ■



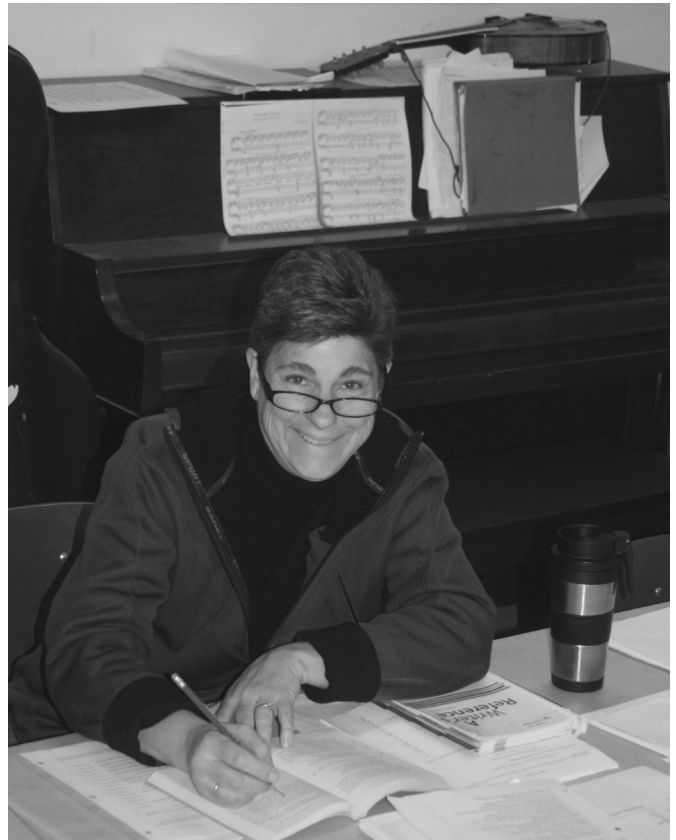
## Alison Nikitopoulos Ushers in New Era of Music

By Emma Thorpe, '15

This year, Midland gained a new resident and faculty member—the talented Alison Nikitopoulos. Not only has she eagerly taken the role of the 9th- and 10th-grade English teacher, but she has also brought her love of music to Midland. Alison gave a fabulous first impression during opening days by singing her name. A catalyst for her impact on Midland's music, her mini-performance was only a sneak-peek of her musical influence.

Originally from Pasadena, Alison graduated from The Thacher School. She then attended Brown University, earning her bachelor of arts with a concentration in music, and Princeton for her PhD in musicology. Following her passion for music, she attended Louisiana State University for a master's in vocal performance. There, she taught music appreciation in the School of Music as well as a writing class called "Colloquium in the Arts - Critical Responses to Western Art Music" in the Honors College for the next 12 years. Tired of the busy and heavily populated atmosphere of a large university, she moved on to teach English to 5th- and 7th-graders for the next four years. In the meantime, she directed children's choirs and taught private music lessons for twenty years. Now, as a Midland faculty member, she resides in Schwartz house, adjacent to the soccer field. Although Alison currently lives alone, she hopes her husband, the chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at LSU, will join her after his retirement. They have two sons, who, coincidentally, have followed her footsteps, one attending Brown University and the other attending Thacher.

During a trip to town with Alison, Hannah Drew, '16, did some unintentional interviewing for me. When Hannah asked Alison why she chose Midland, she responded, "It's been a long-time dream of mine to work at a boarding school. I also really like teenagers. They are often squashed down by adults, but I feel like they have a lot to say." The opportunity to teach both English and music, combined with this lifelong dream, made Midland an obvious choice. While her responsibilities have led to a heavy course load (teaching six out of seven of the class periods), she appreciates the short commute to work and the close interactions she has with students. She enjoys having the freedom to sit with students, long after



normal school-time is over, to help them improve their writing. Alison also has big, long-term music goals for the school. She would love to see more student performances, more all-school participation in chapel songs, and more music classes, including instrumental music or music appreciation. Midland had little to no music program before Alison, and now the chorus performs almost weekly for chapels and other small venues. She also hopes to get more boys in the chorus next year, so guys should start tuning their vocal chords!

Six other girls and I joined the new chorus class, and I've appreciated the ample opportunities to perform. Alison's love of classical music also makes her a thorough and effective choral instructor, an aspect that has made me a better singer in just a few months. Her class, while productive, is also a lot of fun for Emma Dreyfuss '15, and me. Alison takes full advantage of our two-person class,

*Continued on page 18*

## “Valley Girl” Joins Advancement Team

By Sofie Lebow, '16

Students recognize Cierra Ensign, the newest member of Main House, by her bright smile, optimistic attitude, and plaid shirt. When not working in her office, she likes to ride her horse, go fishing, hike with her two dogs, or camp. Cierra's admiration of nature, appreciation for Midland's philosophy, and her desire to help others have allowed her to easily fit in with the Midland community.

Will Graham hired Cierra as the advancement assistant. In her job, she helps Amy Graham with admissions and Rebecca Anderson with various development tasks such as editing the monthly e-newsletter, updating Midland's website and Facebook page, and helping organize alumni/ae gatherings. Cierra's work for admissions requires her to travel—mainly around California. She attends school fairs to present information about Midland School to prospective students. Before working at Midland, she worked full-time at Farm Supply in Buellton, where she still works part-time. Celeste Carlisle gets supplies for Midland's horses there,

so Celeste and Cierra bonded over their love for horses. Celeste told Cierra about the Midland horse trails, which Cierra hopes to have time to ride soon!

Cierra graduated from Santa Ynez Valley Union High School in 2007,



and then attended California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. She said that, “Growing up in the Valley gave me a strong love for the outdoors and agriculture.” She and her friends used to drive up Figueroa Mountain Road to see the first snow on Grass Mountain. Also during her high school years, she participated in FFA (Future Farmers of America), where she took sheep and heifers to the Santa Barbara County Fair in Santa Maria. Cierra

graduated from Cal Poly in 2013, majoring in sociology with a concentration in business and organizations. She also earned a minor in women's and gender studies. In college, Cierra worked for Safer, Cal Poly's campus sexual assault education and prevention organization. She started as an intern, and, after working there for a year, was offered a job. Cierra gave presentations on sexual assault either in classrooms, freshman dorms, or fraternity and sorority houses. She one day hopes to run a non-profit in the Santa Ynez Valley educating people about sexual violence.

After graduating from college, many of her friends moved to huge cities, but

Cierra wanted to go back to a small town. She did not want to work in an office where she saw only dull cement buildings and heard only the noises of loud congested freeways. Cierra said, “Getting a job at Midland enabled me to stay in the valley that I love... The view out of my office window can't be beat.” Indeed, Grass Mountain dominates the landscape visible from her upstairs office window ■

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## BG is Leaving

*Continued from page 3*

the kitchen with BG still saying “But then my motorcycle crashed and ...”

When BG left Midland in 1968, he thought it was for good. He attended the United States International University, a small liberal arts college in San Diego, then worked odd jobs, such as a “ski bum” or a cook. Several years after graduation, BG says, Carl Munger “asked me if I wanted to come work here...I said no.” Carl pestered BG for two more years before he finally convinced BG to take the position. Almost ten years after his graduation, BG arrived back on campus, this time as a geometry teacher and second cook.

Over the course of his Midland career, BG has worked as volleyball coach, track coach, softball coach, geometry teacher, physics lab teacher, programing teacher, electronics teacher, health teacher, cook, librarian, head of maintenance, fire marshal, and electrician. He was busy from the beginning; by his second year he was coaching volleyball in the afternoon four days a week, teaching geometry in the morning five days a week, and preparing dinner in the evening six days a week. He worked this schedule for decades. “I loved it,” BG says. “I didn’t really think of it as being impressive. It was just what I was doing.” This love for what he does is, and must always have been, palpable. Anyone who enters the kitchen sees BG cheerfully singing along to the radio, making the kitchen a friendly place for all.

Thanksgiving, 2014. Waiting in the mile-long line, I see BG heaving an enormous cauldron of peas onto the table. This may be his last Thanksgiving. He has served this Thanksgiving meal to hundreds of people for decades. How many people does that amount to? Thousands? Tens of thousands? Maybe even hundreds of thousands? As I make my way to the front of the line trying unsuccessfully to do the mental math, I see BG bring a new batch of rolls out right in front of me. He looks down, laughs, and states, “Why, there is a dog under here.” I look down and see that, indeed, there is a dog under a table. I become panicky. Surely this dog will ruin Thanksgiving! But, as I rush to remove this small, fluffy stowaway, BG is still laughing goodnaturedly, unperturbed.

What will happen next Thanksgiving? What will happen at all next year? BG assures me that Midland’s other cook, Gloria Murillo, is very capable. So, while it is unclear at this time whether she will take his position, we can trust that with her presence in the kitchen, the students will not starve. BG’s future with the school remains unclear. He says, “It’s a very interesting thing to try and think about what’s on the other side of something that’s,” he pauses, “encompassed your whole life.” He also jokes, “I’ve been a high school student all my life.” The transition is sure to be a difficult one. Maybe he will come back and work Thanksgivings. Perhaps he’ll even work one day a week. He certainly intends to ride his bike on the property and exercise his dog. While BG will certainly be missed, we know we haven’t seen the last of him. Next year, he will move with his wife, Joanne, and their dog, Sophie, to a suburban house in Solvang, which, coincidentally, has a view of Grass Mountain from its back yard. ■

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## Alison Nikitopoulos

*Continued from page 16*

which gives us a lot of flexibility. Additionally, she shows her sense of humor through her duet assignment for Emma and me: “Duetto Buffo di Due Gatti.” For those of you who don’t know, this piece is the opera equivalent of a parody, and the lyrics are composed entirely of “Meow.” Aside from the meowing, we dance, laugh, and enjoy Alison’s remarks on “weird, “pukey,” or “fabulous” music.

Alison fancies other aspects of Midland. Every morning, she walks the Bowl trail, taking advantage of Midland’s natural

beauty. She enjoys overseeing the trash and recycling program every Sunday work period. She has also held many clubs during half-holidays involving music and theatre. Finally, the spring theatre production will fall into her hands, which will be performed during Parents’ Weekend.

It’s been fun seeing Alison adjust to Midland while adding touches of her own to the community. Whether it’s attempting to direct a Stillman-wide birthday song (and failing miserably to add order to our ruckus) or adding song to the dinnertime grace, her passion for music has thoroughly permeated Midland life. I look forward to all her future plans to further the new era of music at Midland. ■



## Girls' Cross Country Team Combines Serious Training With Crazy Fun

by Emma Dreyfuss, '15

One of my secret motives for joining cross country my freshman year was to “get in” with Jill Redl. I hadn’t gotten to know her, so I let upperclassmen’s rumours and complaints help me form my opinion of her. Apparently, she was terrifying. What people who have not run cross country or been in her class fail to understand is this: Jill is hilarious. Easily one of the silliest teachers I’ve ever had, she has brought her lighthearted attitude to the team for nine years. When students run next to Jill, they run faster not only to impress the coach but also to hear her interesting conversation. An extremely kind person, she also makes an excellent mother hen for all her budding runners.

This year, girls’ cross country experienced a season filled with team spirit and development. We struggled through one of the hottest seasons in recent history. Temperatures once even hit 109. Ironically, these high temperatures sparked a record-high morale. One day both the boys’ and girls’ teams dressed up in sweatbands and legwarmers to partake in a jazzercise/aerobics

“80’s Workout.” All of our enthusiasm led to steady growth as individual runners and an increasingly high score in the Condor League. By our final race, we closed in on our rivals, finishing only five points behind Dunn.

Of our fifteen runners, nearly half were new. Martha Rothenberg, '18, Cynthia Hannahs, '18, Muning Wang, '17, Grace Kelly, '17, Lauren Dasmalchi, '16, Christina Frausto, '16, and Deyanira Ibarra, '16, all joined our team this year. Of our returning girls, six achieved personal records, some shaving as much as two minutes off their previous times! Emma Struebing, '16, finished an impressive fifth in the league, earning her a Condor League medal. This achievement, paired with her streak of first places in the Midland team and her unbeaten personal record, also qualified her for the Jill Redl Coach’s Award. Martha Rothenberg made an especially impressive start to her cross country career, always placing in the top three for Midland girls; finishing eighth overall in the Condor League finals, she was the first female freshman ever at Midland to receive a medal. ■

## A Present for Don

### The Strongest Boys’ Cross Country Team in Seven Years

By Sean Cummings, '15

This year, at the assembly preceding the first day of the fall sports season, coach Don Redl wore a Santa hat. He does this, he says, in anticipation of “early Christmas presents,” a term which translates to “new cross-country runners.” Little did Don know, at the beginning of this year, just how many surprises we’d be unwrapping this season.

Don’s two biggest “presents” this year share the same name. David Kashyap, '16, discovered a passion for running and rose quickly through the ranks of the team. By the end of the season, he’d become one of Delta’s top runners, placed eighth in the Condor League final race, and earned the Coaches’ Award, given by the coaches to the runner who best embodies the qualities they look for in a Midland cross-country team

member. Freshman David D’Attili, '18, astounded everyone when he shattered the previous freshman record of 18:00 (Evan Kidd, '11), running a jaw-dropping 16:54 at a Santa Barbara County invitational and placing second in the entire county for the freshmen and sophomore division. In addition to these two newcomers, many of Don’s returning “presents” upgraded their performances as well. Cruz Avendaño-Dreyfuss, '16, logged over 200 total miles over the course of the season and shared the Coaches’ Award with David Kashyap. And team co-captain Miles Crawford, '15, placed third in the league final and earned Midland’s C.E. Myers Award for boys’ cross-country.

Overall, the Midland boys’ team placed first in the Condor League, allowing Delta the opportunity to race in the sectional

*Continued on page 20*

## Coach Sarah Perkins Leaves Girls' Volleyball In Fantastic Shape

by Emma Thorpe, '15

The 2014 varsity volleyball team has grown into a truly talented and organized team, one that I am proud to be a part of. This season, we have spent ample time fine-tuning our serving, hitting, and passing. Even the referees noted to our coach, Sarah Perkins, how much we have improved in the past couple of years, and even since the season started. In fact, we improved so much that next year we have a realistic chance of going to the CIFs!

Eight strong girls composed this year's varsity volleyball team, three of whom were new additions. Julia Yamasaki, '18, the only freshman on the team, proved an essential team member and became one of our two middle blockers. Hannah Drew, '16, an incoming junior, became the team's first libero, working in the back row to deliver beautiful passes every game. Eziaku "Sydney" Nwakanma, '15, has worked hard for the past three years on JV but became a varsity player for her last year at Midland. Careful passes and strong, deadly serves made her a valuable team member. Lona Dreyfuss, '17, our strong middle blocker and Jaime Schuyler, '18, who serves with unerring consistency, both returned to the team this year, and I expect that they will be a strong backbone for the next two years. The seniors, Jordan Swidenbank, '15, Lupita Valle, '15, Ezi, and I, played our last year at Midland with this fabulous team. Jordan was our secret weapon when it came to serving, and she often went whole games without missing a single serve. Lupita co-captained the team with me this year;



her leadership ultimately brought the team closer together this year than any year I've seen.

Unfortunately, the seniors aren't the only ones leaving the team this year; Sarah's work pulls her up north, and she will not return to coach us next fall. Sarah began coaching the varsity volleyball team when I was a sophomore, and, since then, she introduced new techniques that improved us on every level. For example, during passing practice we have to wear rubber "shackles." We strap the rubber shackles around our wrists and ankles in order to prevent us from swinging our arms while passing, a habit that Sarah abhors. Sarah also introduced a team ritual—we begin and end each game with goals. By stating our individual and team goals, each of us gets a chance to find something to focus on in practice. More than anything, Sarah has instilled a better sense of teamwork in all of us. She expected dedicated and motivated captains and continually pushed Lupita and me to be strong leaders. She always promoted enthusiasm and support between all team members. Most importantly she taught that volleyball (or any sport) is mostly mental, and she helped us stay focused and optimistic. We are sad to see Sarah leave, but we all wish her the best in Northern California. ■



### A Present for Don

*Continued from page 19*

prelims at Mt. San Antonio College, from which, unfortunately, we did not progress. However, my hopes remain high that the team will have a strong chance at the prelims next year.

I do not exaggerate when I say that, in my four years in the program, I've never run with a stronger, more motivated team, or with people who simply love to run as much as these boys do. Merry Christmas, Don!

It seems only fitting that, for Don's last year at Midland, he should coach the strongest boys' cross-country team Midland has had in at least seven years. Congratulations on a great season, boys.

Despite Don Redl's departure from the school next year, the boys will stay in good hands: Johnny Ninos, with his infamous intensity, will help the team blaze down the property's countless trails faster than ever. ■

**Class of 1939**

Will Graham appreciated receiving a heartfelt letter from **Philip Griggs**. Although Philip was only at Midland for one year, he reports that it, "set many of my values and habits and built a foundation for the thinking of a lifetime."

**Class of 1940**

**Brooks Hoar** visited Midland in April, 2014, and wrote to Midland recently, reminding us that he attended 7th - 9th grade at Midland before transferring to Webb. Brooks felt strongly enough about his Midland experience to send his son, **John Hoar, '81**, who was first prefect. **Dick Kelsey** joined the Grahams, alumni/ae, and friends of Midland at the Pasadena home of Carol and **Warner Henry, '55**, last December. Dick shared his gratitude for Paul Squibb's desire to help families who wanted their children to have a boarding school experience during the Depression era's hard times.

**Class of 1945**

Former Midland Trustee and alumnus **Lou Jones** and his wife, Marie, visited the campus over the summer and joined Midland friends at the Pasadena gathering in December. Lou reports he and his brother, **Harry Jones, '42**, were both impacted by their time at the school. **Knox Mellon** remembers that Paul Squibb thought it wasteful to write a short note on a full sheet of paper; Knox continues to save the unused portion of paper in his correspondence, and he sent a gift and his own note of greetings and fond memories on 1/8 of a sheet from a yellow pad.

**Class of 1947**

**Frank Mosher** who, for many years, ran the world-famous Oriental Bookstore in Pasadena, is continuing to sell books in Altadena, CA. Visit [www.franksbookstore.com](http://www.franksbookstore.com) for more information.

**Class of 1948**

**Jeffery Morshead** has become an unwilling expert on caregiving since his wife, Catherine, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2005. If there are Midland alumni/ae who wish to share their experiences or seek Jeffery's counsel, he offers his email: [jmorshead58@comcast.net](mailto:jmorshead58@comcast.net).

**Class of 1949**

Midland cabin mates **Perry Bolton** and **Oakleigh Thorne** reunited at the New York City gathering of alumni/ae and friends. **David Corcoran Mellon** joined his prefect, **Lou Jones, '45**, at the Pasadena gathering of alumni/ae and friends where David warmly remembered there being forty-four boys from Pasadena at a time when the school only had about 65 students.

**Class of 1951**

**Chap and Dee Milbank** joined Midland alumni/ae and friends at the Portland gathering

in October, where Chap was able to relive a bit of his Midland experience sharing stories with host **Ed Carpenter, '64**, as they sat by the light of a fire pit on Ed's terrace.

**Class of 1953**

**Pete Hermes'** son and daughter-in-law visited Midland from Kasilof, Alaska, as part of a California tour to visit Hermes family members. Before the trip Pete told them that he applied his experience in making do with the materials at hand and Midland's ethos of self-reliance into his professional life. Together with his partners, he created California Cedar Wood Blocks, which he later adapted with sawdust and wax—the genesis of the firelogs known today as Duraflame. Upon his retirement in 1999 as the western distributor for Duraflame, sales had quadrupled and Pete was crowned "The King of Duraflame."

**Class of 1955**

Much gratitude to Carol and **Warner Henry** for opening their Pasadena home for a gathering of Midland alumni/ae and friends in December. As Warner introduced Head of School Will Graham, he shared his enthusiasm for the way the school is holding true to Paul Squibb's vision. **Erik Holtsmark** returned to Thanksgiving at Midland to dress for the annual alumni soccer game, representing the era of Midland's most successful team. Eric accepted the Peter Mack, '53, Alumni Soccer Trophy for the victorious alumni team and encouraged all in attendance at the post game assembly to remember to hold true to the vision of Paul and Louise Squibb. **Johan Schorer** and Nancy Peregrine joined Midlanders at the Seattle gathering, where Johan noted that it has been fifty years since the last time he visited Midland.

**Class of 1956**

**Bill Dane** wrote in a response to the annual fund appeal that he warmly remembers **Barry Schuyler, '41**, and Headmaster Ben Rich trying to talk him out of leaving his senior year. **Harry Madsen** supported Midland from both sides of the country in 2014, visiting campus in June and joining alumni/ae and friends at the Midland gathering in New York City.

**Class of 1958**

**Tom Merrill, PhD, ABPP**, is an author, consultant, and professional speaker with a full-time clinical and forensic private practice centering on marital and family therapy. Tom is past president of the Hawaii Psychological Association and past chairman of the Hawaii State Psychology Licensing Board. In his role as a forensic psychologist, he has served as an expert witness in state and federal courts, testified in capital murder cases, and advised the U.S. Dept. of Justice on conditions of confinement, assessment, and treatment of incarcerated adolescents.

**Class of 1959**

**Torrence Eddy** shared a bit of history of the Peter Mack, '53, Alumni Soccer Trophy. Torrence's father, James Eddy, carved the soccer player for the trophy and tried to make it a likeness of Torrence, who gave up amateur competitive soccer at the age of 50.

**Class of 1965**

**John Bartlett** drove from his home in Mt. Hood to attend Midland's Portland gathering at the home of Lauren and **Ed Carpenter, '64**.

**Class of 1964**

**Tom Hazlet** joined Midland friends at the October gathering in Seattle, where he works as a faculty member at the University of Washington's School of Pharmacy. Tom's recent projects have included an assessment of developing countries' application of measles vaccines, insurance coverage for gastrointestinal disease drugs in British Columbia's Pharmacare program, and a comparison of insurance coverage for drugs in Washington.

**Class of 1966**

**Paul Wegener** writes, "I spend too much time gardening, although after two years have almost tamed this plot of land completely. I put in a farm....Growing food is for the pros; now I have weeds I do not need. I put the plot next to the farm into wildflowers and all I do is admire. Work is also rather full, three projects, one actually on the market. So my hands are full, my time is full, I have time to myself and even have a formal daily practice, for the first time in many years." **Kristian Whitten** is contacting classmates to begin planning their 50th Reunion in 2016. Please contact Kris by email at [fristian@pacbell.net](mailto:fristian@pacbell.net) to share ideas and to be informed of reunion plans.

**Class of 1967**

Geologist **Tom Doe** guided the Grahams, alumni/ae, and friends on a fascinating hike and tour of the area once home to the Ford Slope Mine near Cougar Mountain southeast of Seattle. Although the forest has reclaimed the land, Tom knew just the spots to explore so that the group could understand the magnitude of this once enormous coal mining area.

**Class of 1968**

Last year **Rick DeGolia** was elected to the Atherton, CA, city council and appointed vice mayor. Rick writes that he is now completing his first year of service which has been terrific and surprisingly strategic. "I am now working with a residents committee to select an architect and design team for what I hope will be the first Zero Net Energy civic center in CA. We are also beginning the process to design a new telecommunications network, which may be fiber-to-the-home for all residents." Rick continues to advise high-tech startups with

respect to formation structure and business strategy. Visit Rick's website at <http://rickdegolia.com/>. Nancy and **David Twichell** traveled from their home in West Falmouth, MA, to New York City to support Midland at the first East Coast gathering of alumni/ae and friends. David spent many years working as a geologist at the US Geological Survey in Woods Hole while Nancy taught at Falmouth Academy. Now, both enjoy busy retirement schedules.

### Class of 1970

When reading the Midland Mirror, **Sam Jones** noticed the pine trees, planted by the class of 1970, are slowly dying along the entrance drive into Midland. Faculty member Lise Goddard and current students spend Sunday work periods tending the newly planted valley oaks that replaced the pines. **Rick Sawyer** is in the process of republishing his early poetry book, *Within The Shells*. Owner of Sawyer Real Estate ([www.hollisterranch.com](http://www.hollisterranch.com)) in Santa Barbara, Rick offers home buyer and seller discounts for people connected to Midland, and he will donate 10% of the commission to Midland's annual fund.

### Class of 1971

**Jed Manwaring** co-authored, with his partner, Brenda Tharp, *Extraordinary Everyday Photography-Awaken Your Vision to Create Stunning Images*, published by Random House in 2012.

### Class of 1972

Last July, **Craig Hendricks** and eleven members of the class of 1972 attended a reunion graciously hosted by Skye and **Sam Dakin** at their family's Leonard Lake Reserve (near Ukiah, CA). Craig writes: "We enjoyed amazing dinners prepared by a chef arranged by Sam for the weekend. **Miles Dakin**, '13, made awesome pizzas in the outdoor wood-fired oven for Saturday lunch....You often hear of 'reconnection' in association with accounts of reunions; we all agree this term is inaccurate when describing our class gatherings, as it implies a degree of disconnection existed. Our relationship feels seamless, and we merely resume where we left off, with little sense of reconnection."

### Class of 1973

Congratulations to **Philip Truax** upon earning a master's of divinity at Yale University.

### Class of 1974

**Trip Friendly** arrived home from Japan just in time to attend his first Midland alumni/ae gathering in Pasadena last December.

### Class of 1975

**James Fahey** fondly remembered being a student at Midland as he watched a short Midland film during the New York City gathering he attended with his wife, Kaoru. Although James works in the world of technology, living and working

near Princeton, NJ, he shared appreciation for his experience at Midland, where he lived close to the natural world in the simplicity we all know so well. **James and Dick Stubbs** are working with classmates **John Hintzen** and **John Stiff** to organize the Midland 70's Mega-Reunion on April 24 from 11am-4pm at Nojoqui Falls Park in honor of their 40th reunion. For more details contact John Hintzen at [john.hintzen@citrix.com](mailto:john.hintzen@citrix.com).

### Class of 1978

Many thanks to **Richard Melling** and Karen McCracken for sharing music with alumni/ae and friends at the Portland gathering in October. Richard works as a kindergarten teacher and moonlights as a musician. **Karl Tunberg** and Dennette enjoyed their first Fall Round Up Weekend at Midland attending classes with their daughter **Annabelle Tunberg**, '19, and participating in the weekend activities. Having business in New York the following week afforded Karl the opportunity to attend Midland's first East Coast gathering, where he shared enthusiasm for his daughter's experience.

### Class of 1979

Many thanks to **Philip Davies** for taking the time to join alumni/ae and friends and take photographs for Midland at the New York City gathering. Phil is the eldest sibling of three Midland graduates (**Thalia Davies Brennan**, '83, and **Dorien Davies**, '94) and lives with his family in New York, where he works in the development and management of large e-commerce websites. Prior to that, Phil worked for more than a decade as a staff photojournalist for Newsday Media Group. Libby and **Peter Hutt** attended Midland's Seattle gathering and report that their son, **JT Hutt**, '11, is doing well at Kenyon College. Peter works at Nordstrom in finance. **Molly Kronberg** writes, "Midland gave me a rich foundation from which to continue learning and growing. Spending several years at Midland changed the way I interacted with those around me and with the natural environment. Midland enabled me to question and yet accept, be open and yet decisive. Of the gifts Midland gave me, the most profound has been the enduring and wonderful relationships with friends, and now family." **Sidney (Sid) Rhodes-Greene** attended Midland the first two years girls were admitted when girls lived in the infirmary and in Main House. Sidney's father, **Richard deHart Rhodes**, '48, and her uncle, **Lee Rhodes**, '47, both went to Midland. Sid writes: "The best blessings I received from Midland were knowing I could write, and learning how to write better."

### Class of 1981

**Hal O'Brien** joined Midland alumni/ae in Seattle, where he lives with his wife and works as a software analyst at Demand Media. **Shelly Gann Redding** lives in Sebastopol with her husband, Brian, and their daughter, Cassie. Shelly works in government accounting for the County

of Sonoma. **Rob Goldberg** attended the Midland gathering in Seattle, where he lives with his family and works as executive vice president of marketing for the Tommy Bahama Group.

### Class of 1982

Many thanks to **Kim Dreyfuss Linse** for giving renewed energy to the Thanksgiving alumnae vs. girls' varsity soccer game and helping to establish the Joselyn Ewing, '79, trophy for the winning team. **Jennifer Stine** holds a PhD from Stanford and is an independent consultant, teacher, and innovator. She is an expert in the development of world-class executive and professional programs, with over a decade of leadership experience at Harvard and MIT. Her current focus is developing university-corporate partnerships that lead to innovative, co-created educational experiences. Jennifer conducts research in executive and professional education, and she is an instructor at Harvard Extension School where she teaches organizational behavior, leadership, and teamwork.

### Class of 1983

**Anne Russell Grider** lives and works in the Santa Ynez Valley with her husband, Andy, and their daughter, Marley. Marley is 16, and Andy races off-road professionally around the world.

### Class of 1984

**Jenny Nuckton** lives in Carmel Valley, where she enjoys part-time work as a physical therapist; she also helps her father with bookkeeping and property management, and competes in dressage with her horse, Valentino.

### Class of 1985

Aimee and **Tim D'Attille** joined classmate **Andrew McCarthy** as new Midland parents (**Duncan McCarthy**, '17, and **David D'Attille**, '18).

### Class of 1986

**Stephanie Parsons** attended Midland's first East Coast gathering in Manhattan. She works as a middle school teacher in Brooklyn.

### Class of 1987

**Sam Neville** and his wife live in Port Townsend, WA, where they are raising three children and where Sam works as a firefighter and paramedic. **Jeff Ramos** lives in Waialua, HI, where he, too, works as a firefighter.

### Class of 1989

**Daniel Prince** and his wife joined Midland alumni/ae and friends at the Midland gathering in Portland. Daniel works as a digital marketing professional for Hewlett Packard.

### Class of 1993

**Chris Jacob** and his wife, Hana, attended the Seattle gathering of alumni/ae. Chris, an attorney, counsels aircraft owners and operators on regulatory, finance, tax, insurance and other transactional concerns in connection with



aircraft acquisition, disposition, and leasing, as well as pilots and mechanics with respect to FAA enforcement actions. When not practicing law, Chris flies floatplanes on scheduled and charter flights throughout Puget Sound and offers flight instruction.

#### Class of 1994

**John Isaacson** and **Jenny Petersen**, '97, recently moved back to their home state of California from Portland, OR, just in time for their twin daughters' first birthday. John teaches English at Goleta Valley Junior High School.

#### Class of 1996

Carolyn and **Tyler Jones** live in Walnut Creek, CA, and are the proud parents of two sons, Westley and Lachlan. **Lisa Lynch** writes, "I feel like my education never stopped after I left Midland!" Lisa earned her doctorate at the Palmer College of Chiropractic West in San Jose, CA, in September, 2010. After working as an associate doctor for several years, Lisa opened Specialized Chiropractic in Los Gatos, CA.

**J.D. (Julianna) Sassaman** is shop manager for creative projects at Autodesk's Pier 9 Workshop in San Francisco, CA. The workshop is a space for instructables.com to create and inspire the tools built for the company; it includes a digital fabrication lab, a woodworking shop, a metalworking shop, a 3D printing lab, laser cutting and printing capabilities, an electronics workshop, a commercial test kitchen, and an industrial sewing center as well as smaller specialty project areas. Ali and **Jamie Seborer** look forward to the birth of their first child in May. **Nell Warren** attended the Midland Portland gathering with her daughter, Gigi. Nell is an established painter and shows her work at the PDX Contemporary Art Gallery.

#### Class of 1997

Special thanks to **Elliot Anders** for traveling the farthest to join us at the New York City gathering. Elliot lives in southern Vermont with his wife, Tessa, and their two children, Jude (5) and Elsa (2). Elliot works in IT at Marlboro College and would love to host any Midlanders visiting the area. After moving to Santa Barbara with her husband, **John Isaacson**, '94, **Jenny Peterson** is taking time off from teaching to stay home with their one-year-old twin daughters, Candice and Katherine.

#### Class of 1999

**Jon Lee** attended Midland's Seattle, WA, gathering and reports he is currently working as a programmer for Microsoft. Jon will visit Midland this spring to offer a Tuesday club. Students and faculty look forward to learning more about Jon's journey from Midland to Microsoft and the opportunities a Midland education affords its graduates in the ever changing world of technology.

#### Class of 2000

Congratulations to **Michael Corman**, who received his PhD in November. Michael is an assistant professor at the University of Calgary, Faculty of Nursing, in Qatar. Prior to joining the faculty at UCQ, Mike taught in the department of sociology at both the University of Calgary and Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta. Michael's current research explores the social organization of emergency medical services, specifically the work of paramedics. Michael and Tara are the parents of twin boys and his brother **Jacob Corman**, '00, is also a father of twins!

#### Class of 2001

**Yuna Park** and her husband, Pedro Teixrits, joined the Seattle area Midland gathering in October. **Ryan Hofman** runs a successful string of eateries throughout Southern California including Hof's Hut restaurant and bakery, Lucille's Smokehouse BBQ, and Spin Neapolitan Pizza.

#### Class of 2003

**Tom Flannery** lives and works in Carpinteria, CA, as a project developer at TAKTL. Congratulations to Midland trustee **Cymbre Thomas** and Kris Swett, who will be married in June at Cymbre's parents' home in Northern California. **Amanda Sargent** and her family live in Bellingham, WA, where she embraces Midland's environmental teachings in her work as a conservation analyst at the Cascade Natural Gas Corporation.

#### Class of 2004

**Yaena Park** graduated from Midland, earned her bachelor's degree at Bryn Mawr, then returned to CA for medical school at Pomona. Congratulations to **Bryce Kellogg**, who is soon to graduate from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Science. Bryce also holds degrees from Deep Springs College and University of California, Berkeley.

#### Class of 2006

**Christopher Abatemarco** works as a Cisco test and repair technician at an international tech company based in Santa Barbara. He plans to return to school for aeronautical engineering and plots a road trip from Alaska to Brazil.

#### Class of 2008

After graduating from Sarah Lawrence College, **Zeph Colombatto** entered the field of fashion and fashion photography. Zeph joined alumni/ae and friends at the Midland October gathering in Manhattan, and he reminded a few of us that fashion is about expression, and personal style starts with fit. **Tasslyn Gester** moved to Portland, OR, in September to pursue a job with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry as a science education/communication exhibit researcher and designer. She also has a position as a telecommuting copy editor for a UC

Davis milk genomics science newsletter. **Emma Duncan Went** recently became the assistant director for *Much Ado About Nothing* at The Oregon Shakespeare Festival. On the other side of the country, Emma's theater company, Easy Leap, specializes in modern adaptations of classic language plays. **Emma Munger** recently had her Twin Peaks charter art pin-up drawings featured in *The Huffington Post*.

#### Class of 2009

**Becca Towne** and **Blaze Elation** returned to campus for Thanksgiving and added strength to the alumnae soccer team. **Ross Kellogg** is studying furniture design at the Rhode Island School of Design.

#### Class of 2010

While attending classes and gaining college credit, **Beau Lino** has also worked as a carpenter, a prep-cook, a cheese seller, and an oyster shucker. Beau writes, "As I look forward to the beginning of a new school year and new challenges, I recall Will Graham's mantra, 'Slow down. Breathe. We are right where we need to be.'"

#### Class of 2010

**Libang Shi** graduated from Drew University in Madison, NJ, with a BS in economics. After many years of studying in USA, he hopes to find a job in the New York area. Libang's father recently wrote to Will Graham in appreciation for all Libang gained at Midland; he noted particularly his academic studies, his experience with US culture, his opportunities for genuine leadership, and his deep sense of responsibility to community and environment.

#### Class of 2011

**Mariah Chen** took time out from the demands of senior year at Barnard College to join Midland alumni/ae and friends at the Manhattan gathering in October.

#### Class of 2013

**Miles Dakin** returned to campus for Thanksgiving and shared great enthusiasm for his college experience studying computer science at Tulane. **Juan Mesones** returned for Thanksgiving and joined other young alumni/ae who offered their help to prepare the Thanksgiving meal.

#### In Memoriam

July, 2014  
**Walt Hotchkiss**, '44

January, 2015  
**Jeremiah Furyk Clark**, '92

## DIRECTORY

### FACULTY & STAFF

Will Graham	2006
<i>Head of School</i>	
BG Kresse, '68	1977
Ben Munger, '79	1985-89; 1999
Laurie Munger	1985-95; 1999
Doris Adams	1990
Lynda Cummings	1994-96; 2004
José Juan Ibarra, '87	1996
Tom Rogowski	1998
Faith Nygren	2001
Phil Hasseljian	2001-03; 2004
Jill Brady	2002
Lise Goddard	2003
Don Redl	2004
Jill Redl	2004
Paul Gelles	2005
Gloria Murillo	2006
Marguerite Graham	2007
Ashleigh Ninos	2007
Johnny Ninos	2007
Gillian Kinnear, '04	2008
Donna Williams	2008
Katie Isaacson-Hames	2009
Elliot Shulman	2009
Celeste Carlisle	2010
Derek Harwell, '88	2010
Kyle Taylor	2010
Roddy Taylor	2010
Amy Graham	2011
Eve Southworth	2012
Rebecca Anderson	2013
Cierra Ensign	2014
Susan Gentry	2014
Alison Nikitopolous	2014

### CLASS OF 2015

Valle, Lupita	Orland, CA
<i>President</i>	
Cooley, Crawford	Penngrove, CA
Nwakanma, Ezi	Castro Valley, CA
Cummings, Sean	Los Olivos, CA
Dreyfuss, Emma	Los Angeles, CA
Cody, Talei	Los Olivos, CA
Crawford, Miles	Los Angeles, CA
Hummingbird, Nayana	Cambria, CA
Murillo, Isa	Santa Ynez, CA
Nwakanma, Sylvia	Castro Valley, CA
Swidenbank, Jordan	Monrovia, CA
Thorpe, Emma	Boise, ID
Sha, Fanrui	Dalian, China
Zeng, Lei	Fuzhon City, China
Wang, Johnny	Shenyang, China
Wang, Root	Shanghai, China
Xun, Jingya	Beijing, China

### CLASS OF 2016

Ibarra, Deyanira	Los Olivos, CA
<i>President</i>	
Mills, Graham	Santa Barbara, CA
Salehpour, Sawyeh	Upland, CA
Weatherford, Madison	Lompoc, CA
Aufderheide, Graceson	Ojai, CA
Avendaño Dreyfuss, Cruz	Los Angeles, CA
Dasmalchi, Lauren	Half Moon Bay, CA
Frost, Alec	Santa Barbara, CA
Lebow, Sofie	Santa Barbara, CA
Mulberry, Cameron	Arvada, CO
Struebing, Emma	Summerland, CA
Choi, Jae	Diamond Bar, CA
Grimes, Jack	Austin, TX
Kashyap, David	Guwahati, India

Koehler, Derek	Los Olivos, CA
Drew, Hannah	Mammoth Lakes, CA
Melican, Jack	Encinitas, CA
Moskowitz, James	Los Angeles, CA
Wang, Sophia	Chino Hills, CA
Wilson, Michael	Santa Barbara, CA
Frausto, Cristina	La Paz, Mexico

### CLASS OF 2017

Kelleher, Jazzy	Cambria, CA
<i>President</i>	
Derbyshire, Derby	Salt Lake City, UT
Arbuckle, Nef	Minden, NV
Ciani, Olivia	Santa Barbara, CA
Dreyfuss, Lona	Los Angeles, CA
Engelbrechtsen, Bernt	Fairfield, CA
Ewing, Tate	La Grange, IL
Furmanski, Roan	Ventura, CA
Gong, Mark	Chengdu, China
Kelley, Grace	Santa Ynez, CA
McCarthy, Duncan	Pleasanton, CA
Murillo, Angie	Santa Ynez, CA
Nguyen, Skyler	El Cerrito, CA
Schuyler, Jaime	Santa Barbara, CA
Silveyra, Anneliese	Sherman Oaks, CA
Barrera, Matias	Mexico City, Mexico
He, Ashley	Zhejiang, China
Liu, Anna	Daqing, China
Wang, Muning	Shijiazhuang, China

### CLASS OF 2018

White, Andrew	Berkeley, CA
<i>President</i>	
Alvarez, Ashley	Orange, CA
Attia, Kareem	Mission Viejo, CA
Burton-Orton, Chris	Discovery Bay, CA

D'Attila, David	Banning, CA
Ehrhart, Nayeli	Encinitas, CA
Fagen, Shannon	Carson City, NV
Frost, Erynn	Santa Barbara, CA
Hannahs, Cynthia	Atascadero, CA
Higuera, Quincy	Napa, CA
Howard, Adrienne	Santa Barbara, CA
Kuyper, Thomas	Paso Robles, CA
Li, Paul	San Jose, CA
Lichtwardt, Claire	Altadena, CA
Rothenburg, Martha	Santa Monica, CA
Struebing, Dorcy	Summerland, CA
Swidenbank, Braeden	Monrovia, CA
Tang, Maggie	Eastvale, CA
Tunberg, Annabelle	Tempe, AZ
Ungard, Wolfie	Altadena, CA
Wang, Patrick	Glendora, CA
Williams, Jireh	Inglewood, CA
Yamasaki, Julia	Seaside, CA

### MIDLAND MIRROR

**Founded in 1932 by**  
George Martin, '33,  
and Paul Squibb

**Editor**  
Lynda Cummings

**Photographers**  
Lynda Cummings, Celeste Carlisle,  
Derek Harwell, John Lichtwardt