Join Us for Reunion 2016!

We are still six months away from Reunion 2016, but I hope that you already have it in your minds and on your calendars. This will be my first reunion as president of Middlebury and my first opportunity to meet a large number of the alumni representing more than 70 years of the College’s eventful history. I look forward to hearing your recollections, insights, and suggestions as you reacquaint yourself with our beautiful campus, rekindle old friendships, and make some new ones.

Reunion is a milestone—in your lives and in the life of the College. The Advancement staff is already working with volunteers from your class to plan a program of events—social, recreational, athletic, cultural, and academic—that will appeal to every interest and every age.

If you haven’t already decided to attend your reunion, I hope this newsletter will inspire you to come. Reach out to your Middlebury classmates and friends and tell them how much you would like to see them. We hope to have a record turnout for Reunion 2016, and we need you here to make it a complete success.

Warmly yours,

Laurie L. Patton, President

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. I haven’t been back in a while. What should I expect?

A. Welcome back! You’re in for a great time. Reunion Weekend is filled with activities—from class dinners and panels to hikes, golf, a conversation with the president, and open houses—along with time to hang out with friends and unwind on Battell Beach. Regardless of how much or how little you choose to do, you’ll reconnect with old friends and make new ones. And you’ll enjoy the campus at its most beautiful.

Q. Is there a way to connect with classmates before reunion?

A. Yes, check out your class Facebook page where you can post photos, start a conversation, plan a mini-reunion, and find friends. You can also find contact information for classmates at Middlebury’s online community at go.middlebury.edu/moc.

Q. What counts toward our class gift and toward our class participation goal?

A. Gifts of any size count toward the class gift totals and the class participation goal. We encourage you to consider stretching your gift this year beyond what you might normally give in a nonreunion year. To learn more about how to do that through a multiyear pledge, please be in touch with a reunion committee member or your staff liaison.

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The Celebration Starts Now

A number of your classmates have volunteered to help plan a fabulous reunion celebration and they’ve come up with great ideas. But they still need your help! It’s not too late to get involved. Suggest activities and events and volunteer to organize them. Call your classmates and encourage them to attend and to consider making a gift in honor of this reunion. Get the word out: help generate class connections using your class’s Facebook page and your own social media to build buzz. And mark the dates—June 10–12—on your calendar!

REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

FRIDAY
• College admissions workshop, information session, and tour
• Open houses, faculty lectures, tours
• Cane Society luncheon (by invitation)
• 1800 Society and volunteer reception (by invitation)
• Class dinner and entertainment

SATURDAY
• 5k alumni fun run
• Class-specific reunion activities, including class panels and outdoor activities
• Presentations by Alumni Achievement Award winners
• Conversation with President Laurie L. Patton
• All-class golf scramble
• Veterans’ gathering
• Children’s games and festivities
• Readings, lectures, open houses, receptions, tours
• Ice cream social
• Reunion parade and Convocation in Mead Chapel
• All-class reception, dinner, dancing, and fireworks

SUNDAY
• Farewell breakfast
• Sunday chapel service with reunion choir
• Hillel breakfast

FAQ

Q. Does the cost of attending reunion count as a reunion gift?
A. It doesn’t. Middlebury actually subsidizes a good portion of the weekend for alumni. The cost of reunion includes housing, events, six meals, open bars on Friday and Saturday nights, and entertainment. Prices will be posted in January.

Q. Can I stay off campus?
A. We encourage alumni to stay on campus, so you can easily meet up with friends and explore all that the College has to offer. But there are many lodging options in Middlebury and the surrounding towns. Visit addisoncounty.com and vermontinns.com for more information.

Q. Will there be programming for children?
A. On Saturday afternoon and evening, we will have a robust schedule of child and teen activities, including a bouncy house, face painting, a children’s musician, teen movie night, and other kid-friendly options. We do not have child care for children under five years of age.

Q. How should we dress for the weekend?
A. Vermont casual. You’ll find people wearing everything from shorts and jeans to sundresses during the day. People tend to dress up a little more for the Saturday evening dinner under the tents, but there are no formal events. It does get cool—bring layers!

Q. What is the 1800 Society?
A. The 1800 Society recognizes donors who support Middlebury at a leadership level, beginning with annual gifts of $2,500 or more for alumni who graduated 10 or more years ago. The Panther Society offers specific membership levels for young alumni according to the number of years since graduation. For the 5th reunion class, a gift of $500 qualifies for membership. Members of the 1800 Society are invited to a special reception during Reunion Weekend. To learn more, visit go.middlebury.edu/The1800society.
Bring the Kids!

Reunion is a great party for kids as well as parents, and many alumni do bring their children.

Saturday afternoon take the kids to Battell Beach to play games, enjoy balloon animals, jump in the bouncy house, and get their faces painted.

On Saturday evening, the College offers childcare for children ages five years and older, while teens are invited to hang out at the Grille at the McCullough Student Center to play pool or watch a movie. Pizza and beverages are served at the Grille. For children under five years of age, we encourage you to contact babiestoboomersvt.com or care.com for help in finding appropriate childcare.

CLASS OF 2001 QUIZ

1. What television policeman came to Middlebury in 1997 and served as the Alexander Twilight Artist in Residence until his retirement in 2013?

2. What building transformed academic life on campus during our time on campus and what year did it open?

3. What were the top two best-selling fiction books in the U.S. in 2001?

4. What song topped the charts in 2001?

CLASS OF 1996 QUIZ

1. In 1992, the College decided to increase the size of what group?

2. Name three of the seven buildings that were constructed or renovated between 1992 and 1996.

3. What television show won Outstanding Drama Series and had a total of 11 nominations at the Emmys in 1996?

4. What was Billboard’s number one song in 1996?

(Answers on other side)

REUNION PLANNING CONTACTS

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**Rockin’ Out at Reunion**

“It’s so special to be back for reunion—the vibe is so jubilant,” says Peter Day ’01. He’s got a great vantage point: Day sings and plays bass in The Grift, the crowd-pleasing band of Middlebury alumni that has played the Saturday night dance at Reunion Weekend since 2004.

Choosing songs for a crowd whose ages range widely is “kind of the fun of it, and I think that comes through,” says Day, whose band mates include guitarist/vocalist Clint Bierman ’97 and drummer/vocalist Jeff Vallone ’98.5. “We want to play songs that excite us, and we want people dancing all the time.

“I don’t want to tip our hand entirely, but we love the Beatles, and Stevie Wonder translates across all ages. We’ll pull from modern stuff, too. Half the fun for the crowd—dancing—is that element of surprise.”

Reunion is an exciting gig for The Grift, which recently celebrated its 15th year together. “You never know who you’ll run into,” Day says. “And we get to see everybody!”

**A REUNION TOP FIVE**

The band The Grift has been playing the Saturday night dance since 2004. Here are five songs that really get the crowd dancing.

- **“Like a Prayer”**  
  —Madonna

- **“I Saw Her Standing There”**  
  —The Beatles

- **“Mr. Brightside”**  
  —The Killers

- **“Boogie On Reggae Woman”**  
  —Stevie Wonder

- **“Runaround Sue”**  
  —Dion

**Be a Part of Middlebury History**

When alumni walk with their classes from Old Chapel to Mead Chapel for Convocation on Reunion Weekend, they’ll be part of a living tradition—one that goes back more than 150 years.

In 1850, the year of the College’s 50th anniversary, every graduate with a known address received a mailed invitation to what appears to have been the first organized gathering for all alumni. “Probably the largest assemblage of graduates of the College, which has ever met, was gathered on the morning of Commencement day at the College Chapel,” reports the official record of that reunion.

For the next 83 years, alumni joined graduating seniors, faculty, trustees, and administration in marching from Old Chapel to the Congregational Church in Middlebury village for Commencement. In 1938 the popular parade shifted to go from Old Chapel up to Mead.

Even as Commencement moved to the Memorial Field House in 1950, alumni continued to march that weekend with the graduates. The first year reunion became a separate event was 1978. Each year since then, alumni have paraded from Old Chapel into Mead, lining up from youngest to oldest, with the 50th-reunion class marching in last to wild applause.

“Being part of the parade and Convocation is a fantastic, moving experience,” says Ian McCray ’95, director of Alumni and Parent Programs. “During Convocation, classes share memories from their time at Middlebury going back 70, 75, or even 80 years. You see your place in the continuum of time and realize how much has changed and how much has stayed the same. Don’t miss it!”

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**Class of 2001 quiz answers:**  
1. François Clemmons, the singer, actor, and playwright who performed the role of Officer Clemmons, the friendly neighborhood policeman on Mister Rodgers’ Neighborhood  
2. McCardell Bicentennial Hall  
3. Desecration by Jerry B. Jenkins and Tim LaHaye and Skipping Christmas by John Grisham  
4. “Hanging by a Moment” by Lifehouse

**Class of 1996 quiz answers:**  
1. Students. Middlebury increased the size of the student body from 1,950 to 2,225 students.  
2. The Center for the Arts, Ridgeline Woods housing, and the Natatorium were built; Kelly, Lang, Milliken, and Hadley were expanded and renovated.  
3. ER  
4. “Macarena” by Los del Rio
Share the Middlebury Experience with Today’s Students

Reunion is an opportunity to celebrate your time at Middlebury and its impact on your life. It’s also a chance to make that experience available to the next generation of students through a gift in honor of your reunion.

Here are two key ways you can help:

The Annual Fund
Gifts to the Annual Fund create the Middlebury experience. They provide opportunities for learning and discovery. They give the College the flexibility to take advantage of unexpected opportunities and fresh ideas and the ability to respond to immediate needs. Because Annual Fund gifts can be directed to the College’s highest priorities and can be spent as they come in, they make an immediate difference in the lives of students and faculty.

Scholarship Support
We know that students learn best when they come together with others from different backgrounds and experiences to explore complex issues or tackle difficult projects. Scholarships enable us to create a community as diverse as the country and world we live in, so we can prepare all students to be tomorrow’s leaders and change makers.

Each class sets a participation goal. Gifts of any size count. In fact, last year gifts under $250 amounted to $843,759. It’s easy to make your gift online at go.middlebury.edu/give. Or call 888-367-6443, or mail your gift to Office of Advancement, 700 Exchange St., Middlebury, VT 05753.

“I hope to utilize the intercultural competence I’ve gained at Middlebury in both professional and daily spheres. I want to help people from different parts of the world to understand one another better.”

Meet a Middlebury Student

Name: Chuyou “Chelsea” Wang ’16
Hometown: Shenyang, China
Majors: Art history and German
Community service: Community Friends mentor to a local fifth grader

A MiddSTART International Student Scholar, Chelsea was drawn to Middlebury by its reputation as a supportive community with challenging academics—but the College has also opened her up to the wider world. An art history and German major, she studied dance in Trinidad with the Middlebury Dance Company, then spent 2014–15 at the Free University of Berlin, where, in addition to doing her course work, she interned with a local fashion brand. Reunion gifts enrich the experience of all students and prepare them to engage the world.
REUNION BY THE NUMBERS

1,949 | Alumni and friends attended in 2015

329 | Reunion volunteers

61 | Student reunion hosts

1,500 cups | lu•lu ice cream served before the reunion parade

132 gallons | Coffee consumed

64 percent | Alumni in reunion years who made a gift

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March: Online registration opens for reunion

Late May: Deadline for reunion registration

June 10–12: Reunion Weekend

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Check out Middlebury’s social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Reconnect by joining your class Facebook group at go.middlebury.edu/alumnigroups.

FACEBOOK
• Like Midd Alum, the alumni office page at http://facebook.com/middalum.
• Like Middlebury College, the official Midd page at http://facebook.com/middleburycollege.

TWITTER
• Follow middalumni and middleburycollege.

INSTAGRAM
• Check out the scene at https://instagram.com/middleburycollege.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Don’t miss out on reunion news. Most information will be provided via email. Update your contact information at www.middlebury.edu/alumni/update.