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

Continued on p. 2
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.
A Weekend to Remember

As your social planning and fundraising liaisons, we hope you’ll get in touch with any questions or suggestions about your upcoming reunion. We’re happy to report that we’ve been setting records for attendance at post-25th reunions, which makes the experience so much more fun for all. Come back and spend time in a place you love!

As you check out your class Facebook group, you are sure to come across people who once meant a lot to you, but with whom you’ve fallen out of touch. Reunion gives you the opportunity to reconnect and to find out where life has taken those old friends. Don’t let that opportunity pass you by.

We look forward to seeing you in June!

Your reunion staff liaisons,

Ian McCray  Lyn DeGraff  Mike McCord  Lori Hynes Mackey

REUNION PLANNING CONTACTS

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A REUNION QUIZ

1. What Middlebury alumnus became the first “dean of diversity” and an important mentor, advisor, and teacher to students of color in the ’70s?
2. What unusual space became a social hub until it burned down in the summer of 1974?
3. What building constructed in 1974 with a sharp pyramidal (and leaky) roof lasted only two decades? (Hint: it has since been replaced by a spectacular successor.)
4. Name one of the majors or interdisciplinary programs inaugurated during the tenure of President Olin Robison. (There were five of them.)
5. What building at the edge of campus, purchased in 1984 from the town, was renovated for classrooms, seminars, and faculty offices and named for Middlebury’s first African American graduate?
6. In what year did Middlebury first buy its own computer system?
7. What successful student organization did the late Trey Hunt ’78 establish in the mid-1970s?
8. What popular radio program played to sellout crowds at the College in 1983 and 1988?
9. What spiritual leader came to Middlebury at the invitation of professors Steven Rockefeller and Donald Lopez in 1984 and left a deep impression on the campus?
10. What two-time Pulitzer Prize- and National Book Award-winning historian and writer delivered the commencement address at Middlebury in 1986?

(Answers on other side)
Be a Part of Middlebury History

When we walk with our class from Old Chapel to Mead Chapel for Convocation on Reunion Weekend, we’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!”

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 bandmates 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 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

Quiz answers: 1. Arnold McKinney ’70, who was later called to the ministry and held distinguished posts in the Baptist church and on government commissions in Georgia before his death in 1996. 2. The Tree House, constructed in a massive elm tree on the seventh tee of the golf course, 30 feet above the ground. It had two stories, a roof deck, glass windows, a stove, lights, and a stereo powered by a car battery. 3. Paris Fletcher Field House, which could no longer be repaired and was torn down in 2003. 4. Jewish studies, literary studies, classical studies, northern studies, East Asian studies. 5. College Street School, which was located on the foundation of the original Middlebury academy building, was renamed Alexander Twilight Hall after the renovation. 6. The College purchased a PDP-11 from Digital Equipment Corporation in 1975 and anticipated having six to eight terminals. Up to that point, the College had paid to share time on the Dartmouth main computer. 7. Gay People at Middlebury. 8. Garrison Keillor’s A Prairie Home Companion. 9. His Holiness Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama. 10. David McCullough.
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](http://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.