Who Are They? The Class of 2019

EVERY YEAR, WE THINK WE’VE SEEN THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY AND COMPETITIVE APPLICANT POOL EVER from which to select our incoming class. And then the next year delivers one even more extraordinary than the last. The following statistics provide a snapshot of the strength and diversity of the Class of 2019.

APPLICANTS
Total 8,892
International 1,981
Countries represented 140
U.S. citizens residing abroad 218

ADMITTED
Total 1,768
International 176
U.S. citizens residing abroad 56

MATRICULATING
Targeted September enrollment 590
Targeted February enrollment 90
Non-U.S. citizens 61
U.S. citizens residing abroad 18

14 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED
China Costa Rica England Germany
Hong Kong India Japan Jordan
Pakistan Peru Republic of Korea
Singapore Taiwan United Kingdom

48 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED
Albania Argentina Belgium Brazil Cambodia Canada China Colombia Costa Rica Croatia
Egypt Ethiopia France Germany Ghana Hong Kong Honduras India Indonesia Ireland Israel
Italy Jamaica Japan Jordan Kenya Republic of Korea Latvia Mexico Nepal Netherlands
New Zealand Pakistan Palestine Philippines Poland Portugal Russia Serbia Singapore
Spain Sudan Sweden Taiwan Uganda Ukraine United Kingdom Zimbabwe

Happenings at Middlebury

WELCOMING A NEW PRESIDENT
Last November, the Middlebury Board of Trustees named Laurie L. Patton as Middlebury’s 17th president. And on July 1, the former dean of Duke University’s Trinity College of Arts and Sciences and the Robert F. Durden Professor of Religion began her first official day in office.

Patton hit the ground running, arriving at her Old Chapel office for a day of meetings and introductions, which was capped off by the annual Convocation for the Language Schools. First order of business? Send a campus-wide greeting to the Middlebury community.

“I write to send warm greetings on my first day as Middlebury’s new president,” said Patton in her email. The glorious Vermont summer weather has matched the excitement I feel in coming to work with such an extraordinary community!”

Patton and her husband, Shalom Goldman, who has been appointed Pardon Tillinghast Professor of History, Philosophy, and Religion in the Department of Religion, arrived on campus during a time when most students are not allowed to converse with her due to their pledge to speak no English while enrolled in the summer Language Schools. “I have already used sign language in an effort to respect the Language Pledge,” Patton wrote. “It’s wonderful to begin life as a Middlebury citizen!”

A little after 8:30, Patton steered a silver Prius into her parking spot on Old Chapel Road and was immediately welcomed by a handful of colleagues. Once inside the
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building she made her way up to the third floor, stopping at open doorways to say good morning to people already at their desks.

Middlebury’s 17th president—and first woman to hold the job—spent the rest of the morning in a series of meetings and on several phone calls.

When there was a slight break in the weather in the early afternoon, Patton and Goldman took their two Great Pyrenees dogs, Padma and Suka, for a walk on campus.

While a light rain was keeping the sidewalks sparse, the couple did encounter and chat with a distinguished faculty member; a young alumna; a prospective student and her father visiting from Oregon; and two sophomores, from India and the Philippines, respectively, who stayed on campus for the summer—one to work in Armstrong Library and the other to help a professor revise a textbook. Patton conversed in Hindi with the young woman from India before finishing the loop back to Old Chapel.

Patton takes over from President Ronald Liebowitz, who served as Middlebury president for 11 years. Patton and Goldman, along with Padma and Suka, will reside in the president’s house at 3 South Street.

CLOSING IN ON CARBON NEUTRALITY

Middlebury College is now one step closer to realizing its goal of using renewable natural gas made from cow manure and other organic fuel sources in place of fuel oil in its campus heating plant.

Middlebury will serve as the primary customer of Lincoln Renewable Natural Gas, a Montpelier-based company that filed a petition with the Vermont Public Service Board for a certificate of public good to construct and operate a renewable natural gas (RNG) plant in Salisbury.

Adding RNG to its energy mix will allow Middlebury to reduce its consumption of no. 6 fuel oil by 640,000 gallons a year, a step that will eliminate its use of fuel oil altogether. The change will also bring Middlebury nearer to its goal of carbon neutrality and will further diversify its fuel sources, which include biomass and solar. Middlebury has invested $1.7 million in the last year to retrofit its boilers to burn any fuel source, including RNG.

If approved, the LincolnRNG plant will be located on the Goodrich family farm in Salisbury. The plant will generate renewable natural gas from manure produced by the Goodrich farm and a group of neighboring dairy farms, as well as other organic fuel sources from the local area.

An anaerobic-digester tank system will enable the plant to produce biogas from manure and natural fuel sources. Additional equipment will strip out carbon dioxide and trace contaminants and convert the biogas into pure RNG. The resulting product is indistinguishable from conventional natural gas and can be commingled with it for distribution.

“We are very pleased that the project has advanced to this most important next step,” said Patrick Norton, vice president for finance and treasurer at Middlebury.

“We believe LincolnRNG has made a compelling case to the public service board, and we look forward to our first delivery of renewable natural gas.”

LincolnRNG has asked the board for an expedited review of its petition filing. If the board authorizes construction by August, the plant could be up and running by the end of this year.

MIDDLEBURY INSTITUTE LAUNCHES NEW CENTER

The Middlebury Institute of International Studies, Middlebury’s graduate school in Monterey, California, celebrated the launch of its new Center for Social Impact Learning (CSIL) in March. CSIL was founded to advance millennial engagement in the emerging fields of social entrepreneurship and impact investing through academics, experiential opportunities, and active research. Its programs include the popular Frontier
New Faces in the First-Year Class

We look forward to enjoying the talents of these and all of our new students in the coming year.

CEILIA CHOY
Celia was born in the United States but grew up and attended school in Seoul. Vibrant and personable, she made her mark throughout high school, doing everything from athletics to activism to community service. In 2014, she captained the U17 National Lacrosse Team. She served as president of her school’s DMZ Expedition Club and kept a blog on blue economy potentials in Korea. She also founded an organization called Happy Youth Keeper to protect labor rights for teenage workers. We are excited for Celia to bring her energy to campus.

JEFFREY FORMEN
Born to a German father and a Burmese mother, Jeffrey grew up in Belgium before attending the British School in Shanghai. He never lived in Burma but maintained a strong connection, visiting yearly. With reverence for his Burmese culture, he joined a monastery for a month in solitary confinement and experienced a renewed appreciation for the world. Sharp, good-natured, and kind, Jeffrey is known around school as the go-to guy for problem solving and dissecting open-ended questions. We look forward to him joining our community.

TATSATOM GONCALVES
Tatsatom has spent his life in Brazil. Before college, he took a gap year to learn Italian, Russian, and French, and to work as an English teacher. His enthusiasm for his studies has positively influenced his peers and equipped him to be an effective teacher. In high school he was active in basketball and swimming and was a production manager for a “mini-company” that was awarded best in the region and among the top 30 in the country. He enjoys the hills and woods of his hometown and is eager to continue that passion here.

HALA KASSEM
Hala is from Cairo. With an Egyptian father and Chinese mother, she cherishes both age-old cultures. She speaks Mandarin and Arabic at home, celebrates Chinese and Egyptian festivals, and hangs photographs of the Great Pyramids of Giza and the Great Wall of China. In high school, she was a top student and active in journalism, debate, athletics, and translation for English, Arabic, and Mandarin. She was president of EducationUSA, encouraging study abroad for other students. With her open-minded sensitivity, Hala brings an important perspective to campus.

SARA JARRAR
Sara hails from Palestine and attended UWC-USA, and she has always been interested in the world around her. She wrote a proposal for a sustainability initiative for her hometown, which resulted in a $4,000 donation from the prime minister of Palestine. At UWC-USA, she was active in student council, politics, debate club, Model UN, and Palestinian dance. She was a mentor to girls in her community through an organization called Phenomenal Women. We’re delighted to have her join the Middlebury community, where she hopes to study international politics and economics.

GAD LOTIOLO
Gad is from the Cherangany Hills in western Kenya, where he speaks the traditional language of his people, the Pokot. He is also very much of the 21st century—worldly, outgoing, and computer-savvy. He was one of 13 students selected for the Kenya Scholar-Athlete Project, and, since graduating high school in 2013, he has helped run his family’s small shop, worked for the Kick Polio Out of Kenya campaign, and taught biology and math at two schools in his village. We are delighted to welcome Gad to the Middlebury community, where he hopes to study international politics and economics.

MELISANDE MCLAUGHLIN
Melisande was born in Canada before living in Thailand, France, and Wales. In high school, she placed second in the 2011 Thai National Hobie Open Championship, and she was also a music therapist for children with autism and Down syndrome and elderly people with dementia. She helped organize her school’s annual sustainability conference and chaired UNESCO at the Atlantic College MUN conference. She was a troupe member for Amnesty International’s street theater and has directed and acted in performances and films. At Middlebury, she intends to major in film and media culture and literary studies.
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Market Scouts fellowship program for young professionals and graduate students seeking a career in the field of social enterprise management and impact investing, and the Ambassador Corps, a cross-cultural training and internship field placement program providing valuable international professional experience for undergraduate students.

The launch celebration included a pop-up market and brunch buffet, followed by presentations, poetry, and music. Daniel Epstein, founder and CEO of the Unreasonable Group and director at the Girl Effect Accelerator, delivered the keynote address after welcome remarks by Ron Cordes of the Cordes Foundation, CSIL Director Jerry Hildebrand, and former Institute President Sunder Ramaswamy.

“REAL FOOD” CHALLENGE
Middlebury reaffirmed its longstanding commitment to sustainable dining by signing on to the national Real Food Challenge (RFC) and pledging that in 2016, 30 percent of food purchased for Dining Services will meet RFC criteria, including local (within 150 miles), ecologically sound, fair working conditions, and humane animal treatment.

RFC is a national campaign to shift $1 billion of existing college and university food budgets away from industrial farms and junk food toward healthy, community-based food sources by 2020. RFC provides the schools with a Real Food calculator for tracking purchasing over time. According to Middlebury students’ economic research and modeling, it will cost the College approximately $70,000 to increase the amount of real food in the dining halls from its current level to 30%.

The RFC agreement is the result of a lengthy collaboration among several campus groups, including the student organization EatReal Middlebury, Dining Services, the Office of Sustainability Integration, Environmental Council, and the Student Government Association.

As an early adopter of sustainable dining practices, Middlebury Dining Services works with more than 50 local vendors, buys fresh vegetables from the College’s student-supported farm in the summer, and comports practically all of its food waste.

Students began organizing around the Real Food idea in 2012. They gathered data from fellow students and found campuswide support for their work to create a more sustainable food system. They also started discussions with Dining Services and received a grant from the Environmental Council to fund the first Real Food internships in 2014. During these internships, students tracked and recorded three months worth of purchasing receipts to create a baseline measurement of Middlebury’s real food, which was about 22 percent. Over the summer the students worked with Dining Services to implement five new food products that qualified as real food, lifting the overall real food percentage to 25.

The students, faculty, and staff who proposed Middlebury’s involvement with RFC have ambitious plans to push even further than the 30 percent goal. They are currently researching the feasibility of a second phase that would increase Middlebury’s commitment to 50 percent by 2020.

STAY CONNECTED
Here is a collection of useful websites for prospective students seeking information about Middlebury.

ACADEMICS
go.middlebury.edu/academics
Enrollment, curricular offerings, advanced placement, and other academic information

ADMISSIONS
go.middlebury.edu/apply
Apply online or download the application and submit it through the mail

FINANCIAL AID
go.middlebury.edu/finaid
General information from the Financial Aid Office

QUESTIONS FOR A STUDENT
Ask a Middlebury student your question at middkid@middlebury.edu

COMMUNICATIONS AND STUDENT LIFE
go.middlebury.edu/iso
The student-run International Students’ Organization

www.middlebury.edu/admissions/who/meet
Middlebury students answer questions about life at Middlebury

go.middlebury.edu/ccal
Student clubs, events, and campus activities

go.middlebury.edu/dosa7is
The international student advising office

BE IN TOUCH
We hope this campus update and glimpse of the first-year class is helpful to you. Feel free to get in touch if you have further questions or would like more information about anything in this newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.

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Don’t forget to join our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter to stay connected with current news and happenings on campus.

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