

Good evening. My name is Andi Lloyd, and I am the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Dean of the Faculty. I am so pleased to have this opportunity to welcome you, the Class of 2019—and to introduce you to the faculty who will teach you, advise you, and mentor you over the next four years.

There are 288 faculty members teaching this year—and like you, we hail from all over the world: from across the United States, Russia, Italy, Greece, Egypt, Chile, Mexico, Canada, Israel, Britain, Uganda, France, India, and many, many other places. Virtually all of us have had the experience of having been, like you, a newcomer here, perhaps, like some of you, from far, far away-- finding our own way in the Green Mountains.

We faculty occupy two distinct roles: we are teachers, and we are scholars. In reality, “distinct” is something of an overstatement since ideas, insights, and moments of discovery tend to flow seamlessly between teaching and scholarship. You will come to know us first as teachers, in the classes that you began this week. And while I could tell you many stories to illustrate how accomplished and committed this faculty truly is, you are now discovering this truth for yourselves, and that direct experience is more powerful than any descriptions I can offer. Know simply that for all of our diversity as faculty, we are united by our deep commitment to—and the joy we derive from—teaching you.

Although you will know us first in the classroom, our role as teachers extends beyond the walls of the classroom. You are joining us as members of an intellectual community, one that has as its foundation a quest for new knowledge and new understanding. Many of you will participate directly with us in that quest -- in the lab, the field, the archives, the studio, the library. This past summer, 59 of us supervised 134 student research assistants, who collectively did somewhere in excess of 40,000 hours of research. Intellectual discovery is very much a shared pursuit here.

Let me try to give you a sense of the scope of our scholarly engagement. Middlebury faculty research literally spans the globe, occurring on all seven continents, and across at least 144 degrees of latitude; our research ranges in scale from individual atoms to large swaths of the universe—and everything in between. Our scholarship spans the eons, too: back to ancient civilizations and further to the early universe. And it looks forward, too, to futures imagined, hoped-for, and predicted. Our scholarship takes place in English—and also in Arabic, Chinese, German, French, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Mahri, Portuguese, Russian, Sanskrit, Spanish, Swahili, Urdu, and no doubt many more. You will find within our ranks scientists who study—among other things-- sex, pollination, dental decay, cancer, quasars, the sun, proteins, addiction, and beetles. We are scholars and writers of poetry; analysts of literature ancient and modern; composers and theorists of music; creators, historians, and critics of film and television. You will find among us exceptionally talented performers and artists, who exhibit our

creative work in theaters, concert halls, and galleries across the world. We write books, we write articles for our peers; many of us devote considerable energy to the work of the public intellectual, bringing our discoveries to the world outside the academy.

In presenting the faculty to you, I can not possibly do justice to the breadth and depth of their accomplishments and talents. So seize the opportunity, over the next four years, to get to know us individually—to engage with us intellectually, to ask us about our pathways here, to debate with us the great, unanswerable questions, to talk with us about what it is to make one's own place here. After all, we are all bound up together, students and faculty, in this marvelous endeavor that is the life of a College. And together, we will do remarkable things.