



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

FEBRUARY CELEBRATION

MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT
SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Established 1800

Virtue Field House
at Peterson Family Athletics Complex



PRELUDE

Jeffrey Buettner

Director of Choral Activities, Christian A. Johnson Professor of Music

PROCESSIONAL

Midd Trad Collective

Cornelia Abakah '28, Sam Lueke '28, Danny Smith '27, Johali Yapemacho '28.5
Jeffrey Buettner, *Christian A. Johnson Professor of Music*

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND INVOCATION

Mark R. Orten

Dean, Director, Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life

STUDENT'S ADDRESS TO THE SENIOR CLASS

Samimah Naiemi '25.5

PRESENTATION OF THE JASON B. FLEISHMAN '03.5 AWARD

Smita Ruzicka

Vice President for Student Affairs

GUEST SPEAKER

Héctor J. Vila

Associate Professor of Writing and Rhetoric

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO THE SENIOR CLASS

Ian B. Baucom

President, Middlebury College

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS

Smita Ruzicka
Vice President for Student Affairs

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION OF CANES

Hannah Burnett '10
President, Middlebury Alumni Association

GAMALIEL PAINTER'S CANE

Led by
Midd Trad Collective and members of the Middlebury College Choir
Phoebe Davis '25.5, Anna Miller '25.5, Peter Shellhaas '25.5
Jeffrey Buettner, *Christian A. Johnson Professor of Music*

BENEDICTION

Mark R. Orten
Dean, Director, Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life

ALMA MATER

Led by
Midd Trad Collective and members of the Middlebury College Choir
Phoebe Davis '25.5, Anna Miller '25.5, Peter Shellhaas '25.5

RECESSIONAL

"Victory" written and composed by Robert E. Bundy, Class of 1914
and Fred P. Lang, Class of 1917



FEBRUARY CLASS PHOTO AND SKI PROCESSION

Noon at Middlebury College Snowbowl

Parking at the Snowbowl is limited to guests with ADA requirements; please park at the Bread Loaf campus. Buses will shuttle you from Bread Loaf to the Snowbowl and back. Look for signs welcoming families. Buses will run for graduates from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Buses will be available to bring families from Bread Loaf to the Snowbowl beginning at 11:30 a.m.

LUNCH RECEPTION

Proctor and Ross Dining Halls, Middlebury Campus

After the ski procession, please stop by Proctor or Ross Dining Hall on the Middlebury campus for lunch.



A special thank you to the members of the February Committee for their hard work and dedication to the February Celebration events, and especially for the leadership of the following students:

Liana Eisner, Hope Jerris, and Anna Miller



Please plan to attend Middlebury's formal Commencement on Sunday, May 24, 2026.

At that time, the College will officially commemorate the graduation of all students who completed their studies during this academic year.

**DIRECTIONS AND
SHUTTLE INFORMATION**

**MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE
BREAD LOAF CAMPUS AND SNOWBOWL**

From Middlebury, go south on Route 7. Drive approximately 3.5 miles and turn left onto Route 125 East. Follow Route 125 East up the mountain for about 6 miles to the Bread Loaf campus.

Parking is a challenge at the Snowbowl, as Saturday is a normal day of business for the ski area, and skiers' cars generally fill the lot by mid-morning. Because of that, we have set up parking and shuttles for families at the Bread Loaf campus. Look for parking signs on the right-hand side, past the entrance to Rikert Outdoor Center. Shuttles will be stopping across the street in front of Maple to transport families to the Snowbowl, dropping you off right at the lodge doors.

Please dress warmly—in layers—with warm winter boots, as Ripton is generally 10 degrees colder than Middlebury.

Note that the ski procession will start at approximately 12:30 p.m. (following the class photo), and while the drive up the mountain is only about 25 minutes, the shuttle from Rikert to the Snowbowl may take an additional 15 minutes, so please plan accordingly.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2025.5

Lima Abed	Takhar, Afghanistan
<i>International and Global Studies-Migration Studies</i>	
Celeste Alden	Saint Paul, MN
<i>Earth and Climate Sciences, Spanish</i>	
Sydney Dunway Alexander	Ellicott City, MD
<i>English, Geography</i>	
Abigail C. Alfaro	Los Angeles, CA
<i>Environmental Studies</i>	
Brooke M. Allison	Los Altos, CA
<i>Political Science, History</i>	
Christopher Auguste	Chicago, IL
<i>Physics</i>	
Schuyler Susanne Awtrey	Louisville, CO
<i>Neuroscience</i>	
Umman Ahmed Azan	New York and Dhaka, Bangladesh
<i>Physics, Computer Science</i>	
Jack Cameron Barnhart	Barnard, VT
<i>Biology</i>	
Trace Barnhart	Barnard, VT
<i>Molecular Biology and Biochemistry</i>	
Catherine Bremner Barry	Minneapolis, MN
<i>Political Science</i>	
Nathaniel A. Belman	Washington, DC
<i>History of Art and Architecture-Architectural Studies</i>	
Eliza Mary Bernene	Sudbury, MA
<i>History of Art and Architecture-Architectural Studies</i>	
Drew Lawrence Bolotsky	New York, NY
<i>Physics</i>	
Tyson Robert Boynton	Brooklyn, NY
<i>Mathematics</i>	
Francesca Pizzagalli Bradley	Canton, CT
<i>Biology, Environmental Studies</i>	
Julia Paige Breckenridge	Mont Vernon, NH
<i>History of Art and Architecture-Art History and Museum Studies</i>	
Ruthie Elizabeth Brown	Carbondale, CO
<i>International and Global Studies-Gender and Sexuality Studies</i>	
Maya Lorelei Bryan	Boise, ID
<i>Political Science</i>	
Marguerite Lucinda Bryson	Alabama and Costa Rica
<i>Psychology, Studio Art</i>	

Caitlin Delaney Budzik <i>Political Science, Spanish</i>	Simsbury, CT	Susan Dong <i>Economics</i>	Old Tappan, NJ
Elizabeth O'Brien Cady <i>Psychology</i>	Wauwatosa, WI	Nila Ann Dudley <i>Classics, Literary Studies</i>	Seattle, WA
Patrice Ann Cahill <i>Neuroscience, Theatre</i>	Franklin Lakes, NJ	Liana Rachel Eisner <i>Earth and Climate Sciences</i>	Durham, NC
Sierra Nell Cameron <i>History of Art and Architecture-Art History and Museum Studies, Italian</i>	San Rafael, CA	Hannah Robinson Elefante <i>History, Italian</i>	Lexington, MA
Sarah Paris Capute <i>Statistics</i>	Cheshire, CT	William Fineas Ellingwood <i>Computer Science</i>	Williamstown, MA
Bardaan Chand <i>Film and Media Culture, Religion</i>	Kathmandu, Nepal	Sodaba Faizi <i>Environmental Studies</i>	Badakhshan, Afghanistan
Sarina Nyah Chitkara <i>English</i>	New York, NY	Alicia Haydee Flores-Guevara <i>History of Art and Architecture-Art History and Museum Studies, Studio Art</i>	Houston, TX
Anthony Cinquina <i>English</i>	Jersey City, NJ	Andrew Frame <i>Economics</i>	Mill Valley, CA
Laura Caroline Clervil <i>History of Art and Architecture-Art History and Museum Studies</i>	Somerville, MA	Artrianna Renee Freeman <i>International and Global Studies-Global Security Studies</i>	Memphis, TN
Aaron Ross Cohen <i>Computer Science</i>	Glastonbury, CT	Adrian Zdeněk Fultner-Maskit <i>History of Art and Architecture-Art History and Museum Studies, International and</i>	Granville, OH
Patrick J. Connolly <i>International Politics and Economics</i>	Chevy Chase, MD	<i>Global Studies-Global Environmental Change</i>	
Ahmad Cooper <i>Psychology</i>	Chicago, IL	Anna Geldert <i>Earth and Climate Sciences</i>	Minnetonka, MN
Evan G. K. Cooper <i>Earth and Climate Sciences</i>	Seattle, WA	Rowan Guinness Goss <i>International and Global Studies-Latin American Studies</i>	Los Angeles, CA
Ronan Christopher Corley <i>Economics</i>	North Mankato, MN	Thomas Henry Gustavson <i>Environmental Studies</i>	Scarborough, ME
Walker Read Coyle <i>Economics</i>	Boise, ID	Zamzama Habibi <i>International and Global Studies-Migration Studies</i>	Kabul, Afghanistan
Georgia Maisa de Forest Crosby <i>International Politics and Economics</i>	Miami, FL	Savanna Josie Hale <i>Neuroscience</i>	Park City, UT
Ting Ting Cui <i>Political Science</i>	Baltimore, MD	Mattias Thomas Hedlund <i>Economics, Computer Science</i>	Eden Prairie, MN
Paige M. Cusanelli <i>Education Studies, English</i>	Orwell, VT	Agnes Heffner <i>German</i>	New York, NY
Phoebe Ming-Ming Rothwell Davis <i>Music</i>	New York, NY	Tess Marryn Hegarty <i>International and Global Studies-Global Environmental Change</i>	Portland, OR
Robsan A. Dinka <i>Computer Science</i>	Lancaster, PA	Cosette Hendrickse <i>Sociology</i>	Austin, TX
Joseph John Disorbo III <i>Independent Scholar</i>	Las Vegas, NV	Ciara Dalton Hoover <i>Neuroscience</i>	Blue Bell, PA
		Rodaba Hussein <i>International and Global Studies-Global Security Studies</i>	Badakhshan Province, Afghanistan

Tessa Stevenson Husted <i>Environmental Studies</i>	Red Hook, NY	William Connor Levy <i>Geography, English</i>	Lincoln, MA
Hope Virginia Jerris <i>Earth and Climate Sciences</i>	Branchburg, NJ	Yiyi Yvonne Liu <i>Statistics</i>	Shanghai, China
Yanran Stone Jiang <i>Philosophy</i>	Shanghai, China	Citlali López <i>History of Art and Architecture-Architectural Studies</i>	Los Angeles, CA
Annalise Marie Johnson <i>History of Art and Architecture-Architectural Studies, Environmental Studies</i>	Minnetonka, MN	Quincy L. Massey-Bierman <i>Film and Media Culture</i>	Burlington, VT
Eloise Blair Johnson <i>Earth and Climate Sciences, Religion</i>	Watertown, NY	Elijah K. McDavid <i>Biology</i>	Chicago, IL
Sorina June Johnston <i>International and Global Studies-Migration Studies</i>	Port Townsend, WA	Col Henry McDermott <i>Computer Science</i>	Williamstown, MA
Madeleine S. Kaptein <i>Comparative Literature</i>	Rochester, NY	William Thomas McDonald <i>Earth and Climate Sciences</i>	Minnetonka, MN
Caroline Haviland Kessler <i>Neuroscience, Psychology</i>	Concord, MA	Samuel Cooley McGarrahan <i>Geography, Economics</i>	Schuylerville, NY
Viet H. Khuong <i>Biochemistry</i>	Los Angeles, CA	Maia McNeill <i>Environmental Studies</i>	Brattleboro, VT
Jack Francis Kincus <i>Economics</i>	Vero Beach, FL	John Tyler Meyer <i>English</i>	Bronxville, NY
Benjamin Faulkner King <i>Computer Science</i>	Keene, NH	Anna Renee Miller <i>English</i>	Latham, NY
Aidan Xavier Kirby <i>Geography</i>	Belmont, MA	Noah Miller <i>International and Global Studies-Global Security Studies</i>	Mountain View, CA
Lilia Noelle Klingler <i>Environmental Studies</i>	Hopkinton, NH	Annika Elizabeth Milliman <i>History of Art and Architecture-Architectural Studies</i>	Hanover, NH
Karina Alexandra Knizek <i>International and Global Studies-Latin American Studies</i>	McLean, VA	Matthew Kahng Mills <i>Geography</i>	San Francisco, CA
Anna Scott Krouse <i>Statistics, Earth and Climate Sciences</i>	Shaker Heights, OH	Matte Miranda <i>Neuroscience</i>	Hialeah, FL
Rachel Sophia Kupferman <i>Neuroscience</i>	Canton, MA	Virginia Montague <i>Chemistry</i>	Billings, MT
Xabier Laquidain <i>Physics</i>	Pamplona, Spain	Ava Moseley <i>Geography, Environmental Studies</i>	Philadelphia, PA
Anna Joffre Leclerc <i>Psychology</i>	Northborough, MA	Jonathan M. Mount <i>Neuroscience, Theatre</i>	Park City, UT
Excel O. Leonard <i>Molecular Biology and Biochemistry</i>	Wethersfield, CT	Elliotte Lucile Elder Muir <i>Environmental Studies</i>	Boulder, CO
Elliott Paul Lepinard <i>International Politics and Economics</i>	Houlgate, France	Jayda Alaine Murray <i>Biochemistry</i>	Waterville, ME
Aidan Skye Levy <i>Studio Art</i>	Miami, FL	Max H. Myers <i>English</i>	Larchmont, NY

Samimah Naiemi <i>Political Science</i>	Laghman, Afghanistan	Charlotte Nelson Roberts <i>Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, English</i>	Greenfield, MA
Eliot F. Nebolsine <i>Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies</i>	Alexandria, VA	Benjamin T. Rosmarin <i>Environmental Studies</i>	Greenwich, CT
Lucas Frost Nerbonne <i>Earth and Climate Sciences</i>	Minneapolis, MN	Erick Björn Roye <i>Biology, Environmental Studies</i>	Pleasantville, NY
Thomas James Nevins <i>Film and Media Culture</i>	Middlebury, VT	Camilla Salwen <i>Biology</i>	Washington, DC
Hong A. Nguyen <i>Neuroscience</i>	Winter Park, FL	Yenifer Abad Santiago <i>Psychology, Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies</i>	South Central LA, CA
Nabila Noori <i>Psychology</i>	Kabul, Afghanistan	William C. Scheffel <i>Anthropology</i>	Concord, MA
Taniya Noori <i>International and Global Studies-Middle East & North African Studies</i>	Kabul, Afghanistan	Léa Schneider <i>Religion</i>	New York, NY
James Elizabeth Nu'Man <i>Economics</i>	Louisville, KY	Firdaus Ghalib Shallo <i>Political Science</i>	Toronto, Canada
Eliane Odefey <i>History of Art and Architecture-Architectural Studies</i>	Waterbury, VT	Yashodhar Sharma <i>Psychology, Economics</i>	Bombay, India
Maritza Debbie Orozco <i>International Politics and Economics</i>	Houston, TX	Lillian Jessie Shattuck <i>Psychology</i>	Baltimore, MD
Daniela Lucia Ortiz <i>Environmental Studies</i>	Montgomery, NY	Peter Glen Shellhaas <i>International and Global Studies-European Studies</i>	Ann Arbor, MI
Theodora J. Parkinson <i>Earth and Climate Sciences</i>	Hood River, OR	Sanmyukta Shinde <i>Psychology</i>	Mumbai, India
Jesus Pedroza <i>Economics</i>	Chicago, IL	Ali I. Shuaib <i>English</i>	Queens, NY and Nigeria
Claire Lee Perry <i>Biology</i>	New York, NY	Felix Abraham Sierra-Talavera <i>Political Science</i>	Las Vegas, NV
Malia Pollock <i>Neuroscience</i>	San Mateo, CA	Zoe M. Sipe <i>Mathematics</i>	San Diego, CA
Kingsley Chun Kin Poon <i>Biology, Neuroscience</i>	Shanghai, China	Jack Slawner <i>Mathematics, Economics</i>	Brooklyn, NY
Jessica Catherine Quirk <i>Independent Scholar</i>	Topsfield, MA	Sylvia Jade Medeiros Smily <i>Italian</i>	Centerville, MA
Srivatsan S. Ramaswamy <i>Political Science, History</i>	Monterey, CA and Chennai, India	Noel Yiqing Song <i>Philosophy</i>	Anhui, China
Truett Jane Ramsey <i>Economics, Italian</i>	Dallas, TX	Kiki Srivikorn <i>International Politics and Economics</i>	Bangkok, Thailand
Abram Sahara Rau <i>Economics</i>	Arcata, CA	Samantha Jane Surks <i>Earth and Climate Sciences, Biology</i>	Marblehead, MA

Vivian Mbithe Syengo <i>English, Computer Science</i>	Oloitokitok, Kenya	Jacob Zhang <i>Computer Science</i>	Acton, MA
Sylvi Reine Teich <i>German</i>	Potsdam, NY	Alexis Shen Zhao <i>Chemistry</i>	Basking Ridge, NJ
Liefe J. Temple <i>Dance, English</i>	Lincolnton, ME		
Meron Seyoum Tesfa <i>Economics</i>	Calgary, Canada		
Prannoy Thakore <i>Spanish, Political Science</i>	Singapore, Singapore		
Aishworya Thapaliya <i>Environmental Studies</i>	Delray Beach, FL		
Oliscia Kalynn Thornton <i>Computer Science</i>	Soso, MS		
Brittney Josephine Tipaz <i>Psychology</i>	Houston, TX		
Yaritza Lizbeth Torrez <i>Psychology</i>	Houston, TX		
Emmanuel Towner <i>Computer Science</i>	Newton, MA		
Nora Tripp <i>English</i>	Bozeman, MT		
Annika Raiha Vikstrom <i>Earth and Climate Sciences, Biology</i>	Bridgewater, CT		
Caitlin Hocking Viola <i>Economics</i>	Marshfield, MA		
Cynthia Niccole Myecal Walton <i>Neuroscience</i>	Gardena, CA		
Lake Alexander Willett <i>Earth and Climate Sciences</i>	New Paltz, NY		
Lukka Alexander Mackay Wolff <i>History of Art and Architecture-Architectural Studies, Computer Science</i>	Kampala, Uganda		
Aida Eva Tsegereda Worku <i>Japanese Studies, Environmental Studies</i>	Espoo, Finland		
Samanyupratap S. Yadav <i>Computer Science</i>	Mumbai, India		
Sajia Yaqouby <i>History of Art and Architecture-Art History and Museum Studies</i>	Badakhshan, Afghanistan		
Dalyan Yet <i>International Politics and Economics, German</i>	Atlanta, GA		
Henry Zhan <i>Mathematics</i>	Shanghai, China		

THE JASON B. FLEISHMAN '03.5 AWARD

Established in 2004 by family and friends of Jason Fleishman. Awarded annually as part of the February Celebration program to recognize outstanding students who matriculated as part of the February First-Year Program four years earlier, regardless of their actual date of graduation. Recipients epitomize Jason's leadership, academic passion, determination, and care for others.

Jason Fleishman was a positive, caring, committed, motivated, and compassionate leader, student, and friend as a Feb at Middlebury College. Jason died unexpectedly February 1, 2004, after Feb Celebration weekend. While a student, he was a member of the Middlebury College Ski Patrol, the board of directors of the Epilepsy Foundation of Vermont, and the crew team. He was a trained EMT and worked as a trainer for the Middlebury Rugby Clubs. In addition, he held numerous leadership roles, including being an active participant in the February Outdoor Orientation and campus orientation programs.

Jason had an overwhelming love for the outdoors and lived with the most positive attitude, no matter the obstacles. A neuroscience major with a premed track, he was determined to make the best of his education at Middlebury. Above all, Jason identified himself as a Feb, through and through. Jason was committed to making a difference at Middlebury College and in the world and in the lives of the people around him. He always put other people first.

PAST RECIPIENTS

Devin L. Green '04.5
Katherine Stamper Sullivan '05.5
Daniel D. Stone '06.5
Matthew K. Griswold '07.5
Maria Chauncy Bryant, W. Scott Buckley, Jeffrey Marc Stern '08.5
Claire Dorothy Graves, Alexandra Jane Schloss '09.5
Pier Folger LaFarge '10.5
Lorena Espinoza Guerrero '11.5
Erik Fendik '12.5
Cayla Marvil '13.5
Teresa (Tess) Johnson Sneeringer '14.5
Caitlin Duffy '15.5
Matthew J. Witkin '16.5
Elizabeth Stears '17.5
Paige Guarino '18.5
Julia Beck '19.5
Julia Sinton '20.5
Arlo Fleischer '21.5
Elissa Asch '22.5
Crystal Zhou '23.5
Alexander Takoudes '24.5

GAMALIEL PAINTER'S CANE

*Words by Charles B. Wright, Professor Emeritus of English,
Hon DLitt, Class of 1915*

Music by E. Pruda Harwood Wiley, Class of 1912

When Gamaliel Painter died,
He was Middlebury's pride,
A sturdy pioneer without a stain;
And he left his all by will
To the college on the hill
And included in a codicil a cane.

Oh, his blessed bones are hid,
'Neath a marble pyramid,
For ever there in honor to remain;
But he built us Painter Hall
Noblest monument of all,
And he left to us his courage
and his cane.

Chorus
*Oh, it's rap rap rap,
And it's tap tap tap,
If you listen you can hear it sounding plain;
For a helper true and tried,
As the generations glide,
There is nothing like
Gamaliel Painter's cane.*

ALMA MATER

Words by Margaret Dounce Dale '43; arr. Dorothy Hood Bittmann '43

Walls of ivy, paths of beauty,
We have known and loved them
well.
Spir-ed chapel rising proudly,
Morning hymn and evening bell.
Chorus

Sunset glowing o'er the mountains
Snowy peaks and winding ways
Peaceful stillness o'er the campus
Mem'ries of most happy days.
Chorus

Loyal ever in these friendships
We have spent four glorious years
Filling us with hope and courage
Till the hour of parting nears.
Chorus

Chorus
*Middlebury, Alma Mater
Symbol of His strength and truth.
Symbol of His strength and truth.*

- or -

*Middlebury, Alma Mater
Symbol of our strength and truth.
Symbol of our strength and truth.*

THE SEAL

The official seal of Middlebury College shows an open book, with simple marks for letters. The College's motto, *Scientia et Virtus* (Knowledge and Virtue), is written on either side of the book. Around the edge of the seal are four abbreviated Latin words: *Coll. Med. Virid. Mon.* Their full form is *Collegium Medioburiense Viridis Montis*; in English, Middlebury College of Vermont.

THE MEDALLION

The presidential medallion, which is worn on all ceremonial occasions, carries the official seal of Middlebury College on the obverse and the name of the current president and date of inauguration on the reverse. The first presidential medallion was presented to Samuel S. Stratton by the Board of Trustees upon his inauguration as the 11th president of Middlebury College in 1943.

GAMALIEL PAINTER'S CANE

Gamaliel Painter's cane is one of the most treasured artifacts of the College. Once the walking stick of the founder of both the town and the College, today it is carried by the president in the academic procession. It serves as the College's mace and as a symbol of institutional strength and character. The Class of 2024.5 will receive a replica of the original cane, reminding the graduates that they go forward from Middlebury with the strength and character of the College always at their side.

If you are planning to attend the formal May Commencement, please remember to bring your cane with you.



Middlebury
College