

INTERNATIONAL PRE-ORIENTATION STUDENT TEAM (2023)

Student Coordinator



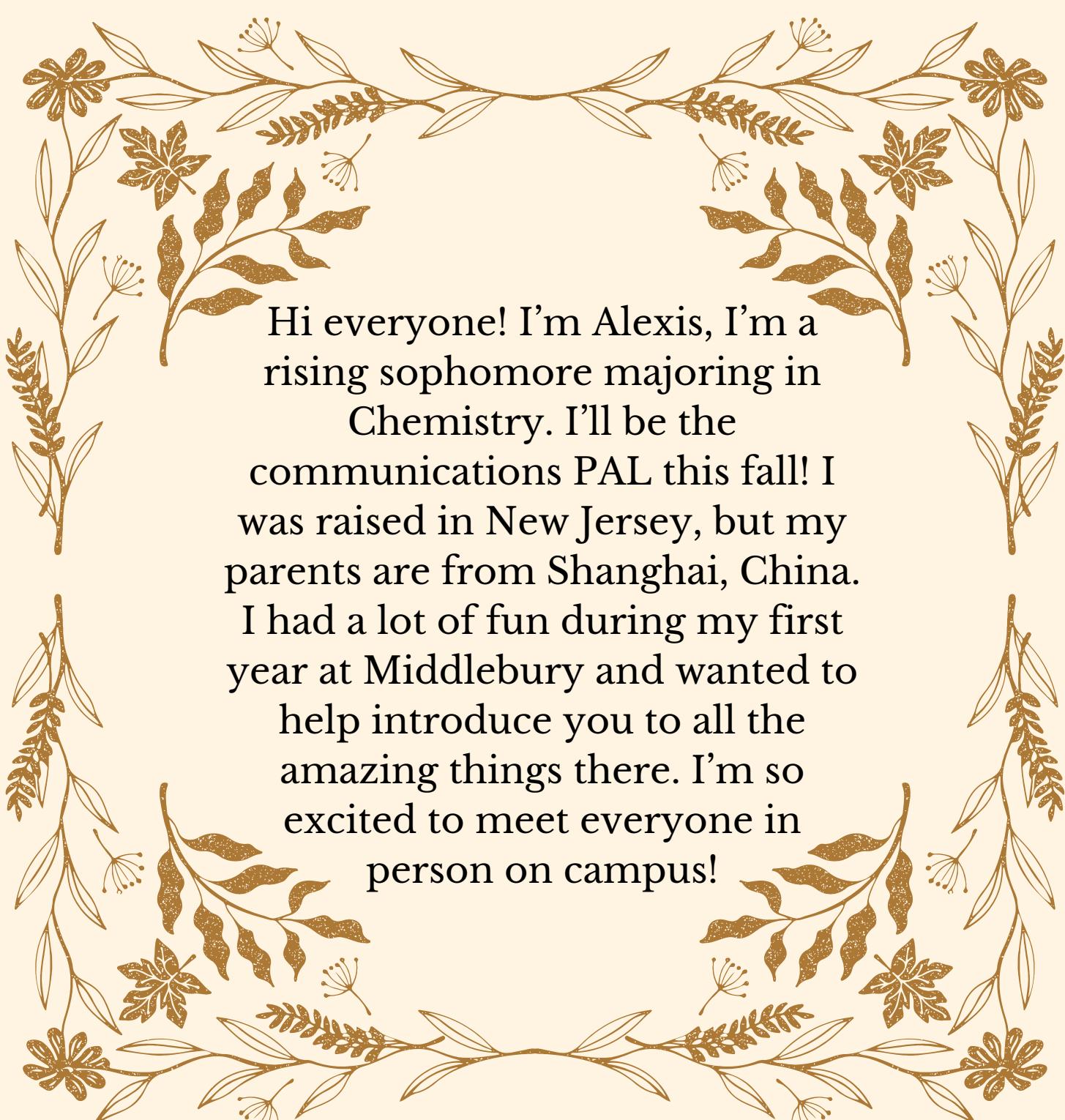
Angela Izi Nkusi '24
(she/her)



Hi everyone 😊 Welcome to Middlebury!! My name is Angela Izi Nkusi, and I am the ISSS Student Coordinator for the Pre-Orientation program this Fall 2023. I am a rising senior majoring in International and Global Studies (IGS) with a focus on global environmental change and a minor in French (lengthy I know lol). I am from Kigali city in Rwanda where I live with my parents and two younger siblings. Participating in the Pre-Orientation program has always been a chance for me to welcome, support, and guide incoming international students as they arrive at Middlebury. I know what it feels like to be in a completely new place with a new culture and novel ways of living, so it is always an opportunity for me to share my experiences and hope that new Midd kids can find a new home far from home.



comPAL



Alexis Zhao '26
(she/her)



Program Arrival Leaders (PALs)

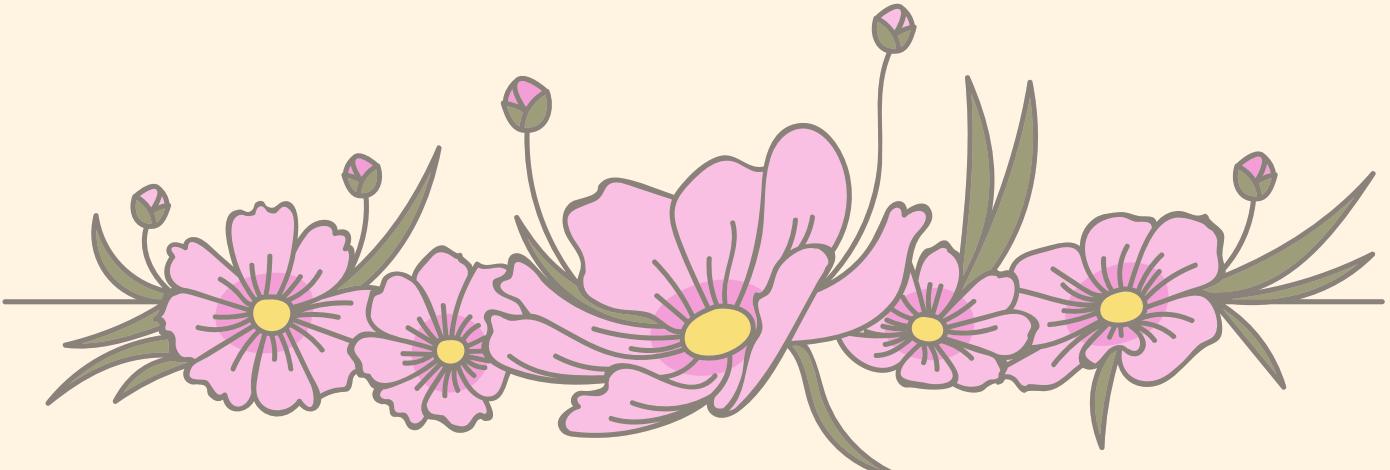


AJ Byambasaikhan '24
(she/her)



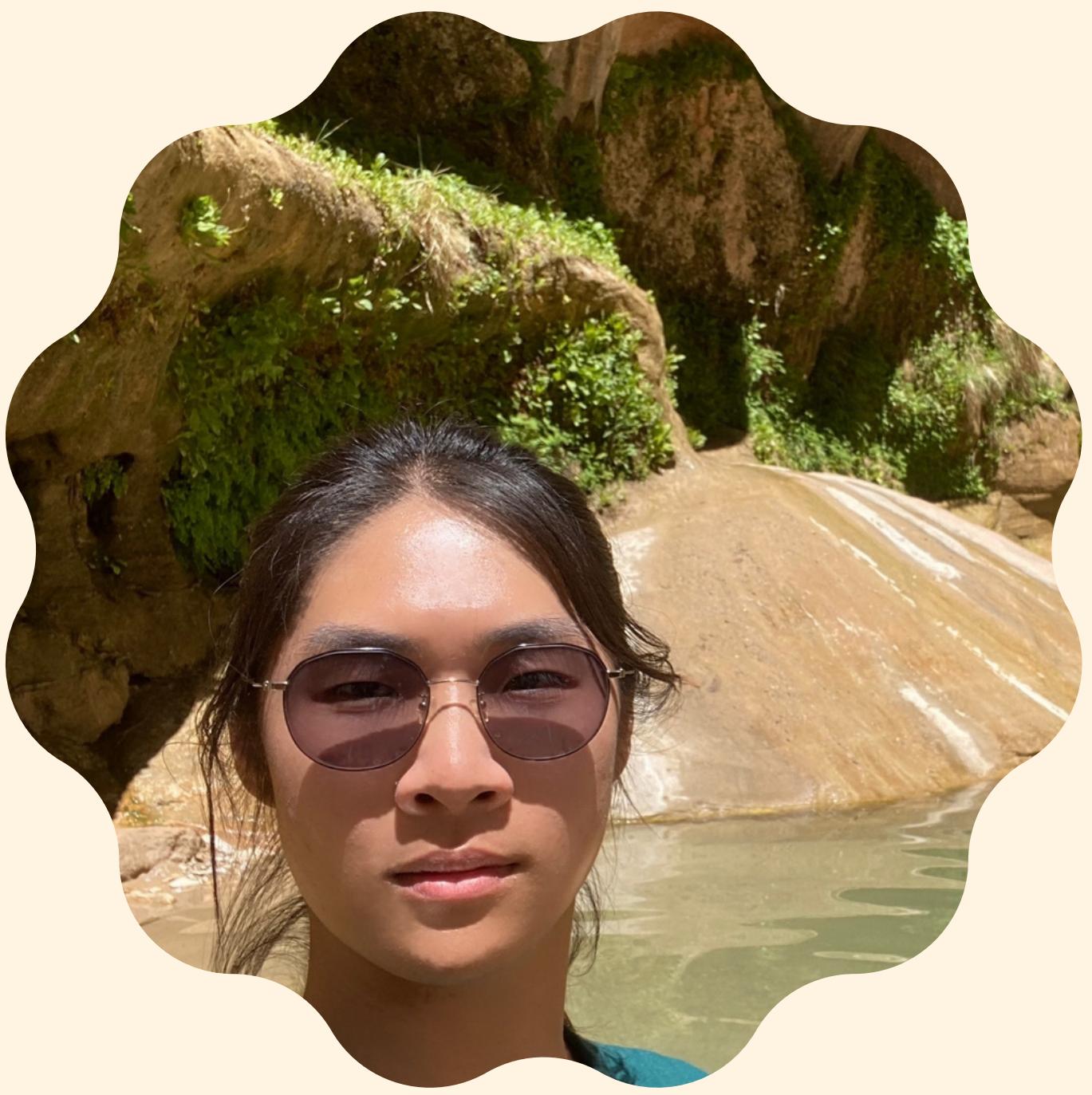
Greetings everyone!

This is AJ Byambasaikhan (she/her) here, returning as a PAL for the second year. As a rising senior who is about to finish the International Politics and Economics major, I figured the best way to kick off this Fall was joining the Pre-O team. So why do it again? Well, I did branch out and make new friends throughout my Midd journey, but I also met a lot of my current best friends through my early orientation three years ago. So I would love to see you all make new pals and cherish these moments with us too!



Hi!

My name is Autumn (they/them) and I'm an international student from Beijing. I study physics and engineering, but I also like art history (despite having little artistic skill). Some of my best friends over the years have been international students, and I'm looking forward to meeting the next cohort of Middlebury's internationals!



Autumn Zhong '24
(They/them)





¡Holis! Hope everyone is doing well this summer so far. My name is José, and I am a rising sophomore at Midd. I grew up in Monterrey, Mexico and have lived the past couple of years in St. Joseph, Michigan! I have yet to declare my major, but I intend in majoring in Film and Media Culture or Linguistics—as an Independent Scholar—and minoring in Chinese. I’m very much excited to welcome you all to Midd during the ISSS Pre-O and be involved as a PAL this year. With just one year here, I’ve been able to tell that the magic of a small liberal arts college is how personally suited and world-exploring it can be as long as you look in the right places. And, ISSS Pre-O is definitely the best first experience at it. Having fun and meeting some of the best people all over the world, it has easily become one of my favorite memories at Middlebury. Hope you all can make the most of it, and wish you safe travels to Midd. See you all soon and feel free to reach out with any questions!

José Antonio Hernández Morales '26
(He/him)



Hi everyone!

I'm Onat (he/him), a very confused junior majoring in economics while contemplating minors in German and math. I was born and raised in Turkey, but had the opportunity to spend the last two years of high school in Hong Kong at LPCUWC (yes, we are everywhere). I enjoy playing video games and collecting Lego sets. You can find me at the German House on your way to town, or drinking copious amounts of bubble tea at Yogurt City. Welcome to Midd, and see you all in a bit!



Onat Birsen '25
(He/him)





Luna Simone-Gonzalez '24.5
(She/her)



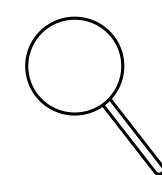
Hey y'all! My name is Luna Simone-Gonzalez (she/her) and I'm a senior feb majoring in biology and double minoring in computer science and portuguese. I am Venezuelan and Brazilian but am a born and raised New Yorker. I came to Middlebury as a city kid to find how diversity can be found in smaller communities, and discovered that diversity within the language programs and students coming to Midd from places far different from New York City. I was a PAL two years ago and could not wait to be one again, last year I was unable to join in on the fun due to studying abroad in Uganda and Spain! I can't wait to meet you all and discover Middlebury again with y'all after being away for so long. Vermont is a beautiful and fun place and I hope to enjoy that alongside each other.



Hello hello! My name is Barry, and I am a rising junior (the American way of saying Year 3) from Shenzhen, China. I major in IGS European Studies and Economics- a good balance, in my opinion, between daydreaming and reality. If you actually took the time to read our bios- a very heartfelt welcome to Middlebury! If you did not- also a very heartfelt welcome to Middlebury! We are so, so happy that you are (about to be) here! I love this place, and I am sure that we are going to have so much fun during the pre-o (and beyond). Cannot wait to see you in September, if not sooner! You can also find me at the German House on your way to town. An exciting journey awaits :).



Barry Yang '25
(He/him)





Prashanth Babu (PB) '26
(He/him)



Hey y'all! Welcome to Midd! I am PB, and I come from India. I am a rising sophomore studying Computer Science and Economics. International Pre-orientation was an exhilarating and memorable experience. Pre-Orientation allowed me to build community and I want to reciprocate that by making these events as memorable as possible. Look forward to seeing y'all soon!

Hi everyone! Welcome to Midd! My name is Yifan Yin (She/Her) and I am a rising sophomore this fall. I am from Qingdao, China, and I went to high school in New Hampshire. I am planning to declare a major in International Politics and Economics and a minor in Spanish. I had a great time during my pre-orientation last year and an amazing first year, and I can't wait to share my experiences with you. Feel free to reach out and ask me ANY questions. I am so excited to meet all of you!



Yifan Yin '26
(She/her)





Jennifer Li '25
(She/her)



Hey everyone :) My name is Jen Li (she/her) and I'll be a junior this coming fall. I live/grew up in El Salvador but my parents are from Guangzhou, China, which is where I'm currently spending my summer! I just declared my major this past spring in History and Arabic, so if you're feeling nervous about coming in undecided it's totally okay. Super excited to get to know you and to help out in whatever way we can! I made some amazing friends and memories from international orientation and we're excited to make that happen for you as well. See you soon!!



Hi wonderful people, my name is Nicolas (he/him), I am from Reunion Island (French Island next to Madagascar) and I am a rising sophomore majoring in International Politics & Economics and minoring in Environmental Studies. I also enjoy languages, and I am currently having lots of fun at the Middlebury Chinese Summer Program. Pre-orientation was definitely one of my favourite moments last year, so I am sure we will have lots of fun together and get you ready to make the best out of your time at Middlebury. Lots of love and see you soon.



Nicolas Woreth '26
(He/him)





Ha Doan '26
(She/her)



Hi everyoneee

My name is Ha (yes make fun of my name i'm cool with it :))) I am a rising sophomore majoring in Economics and potentially Computer Science. I am from Vietnam. My transition to college wouldn't be that easy and full of excitement if it were not to be thanks to Middlebury pre- orientation program. I have made such amazing friends from there and gotten to experience a handful of things with people, which is why I want you to experience the same thing or even better. I hope to see you all so soon on campus and we are gonna have so much fun together.



Heyyy!!!!!!

My name is Sodaba Faizi (she/her pronouns) and I am an international student from Afghanistan. I am currently in my second year majoring in Environmental architecture and minoring in Global health. I can't wait to see you all. You are going to have an amazing experience here in Midd.

See you all soon :)



Sodaba Faizi '25
(She/her)





Kseniia Lebid '26
(She/her)



Hiii! My name is Kseniia. I'm from Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine. I'm a rising sophomore and I'm planning on double-majoring in Film and Media Culture and Computer Science. I decided to become a PAL because last year I had so much fun during the international orientation and it was an important start point of my college life. Please don't be scared to reach out during the orientation, you'll be happy to find out that there is an amazing supportive community of international students on campus :) Looking forward to seeing you in September!



Hi, my name is Stefan Stromback and I'm in the class of 2026. I'm half Greek and half Swedish but I live in Geneva, Switzerland. I decided to become a PAL because I really look forward to meeting more international students and helping as much as I can in the adjustment process. As a foreigner myself, I really recognize how difficult it can all be and I'm sure that I can be a great source of help for that. Welcome to campus and I hope you look forward to pre-orientation as much as I do.



Stefan Stromback '26
(He/him)

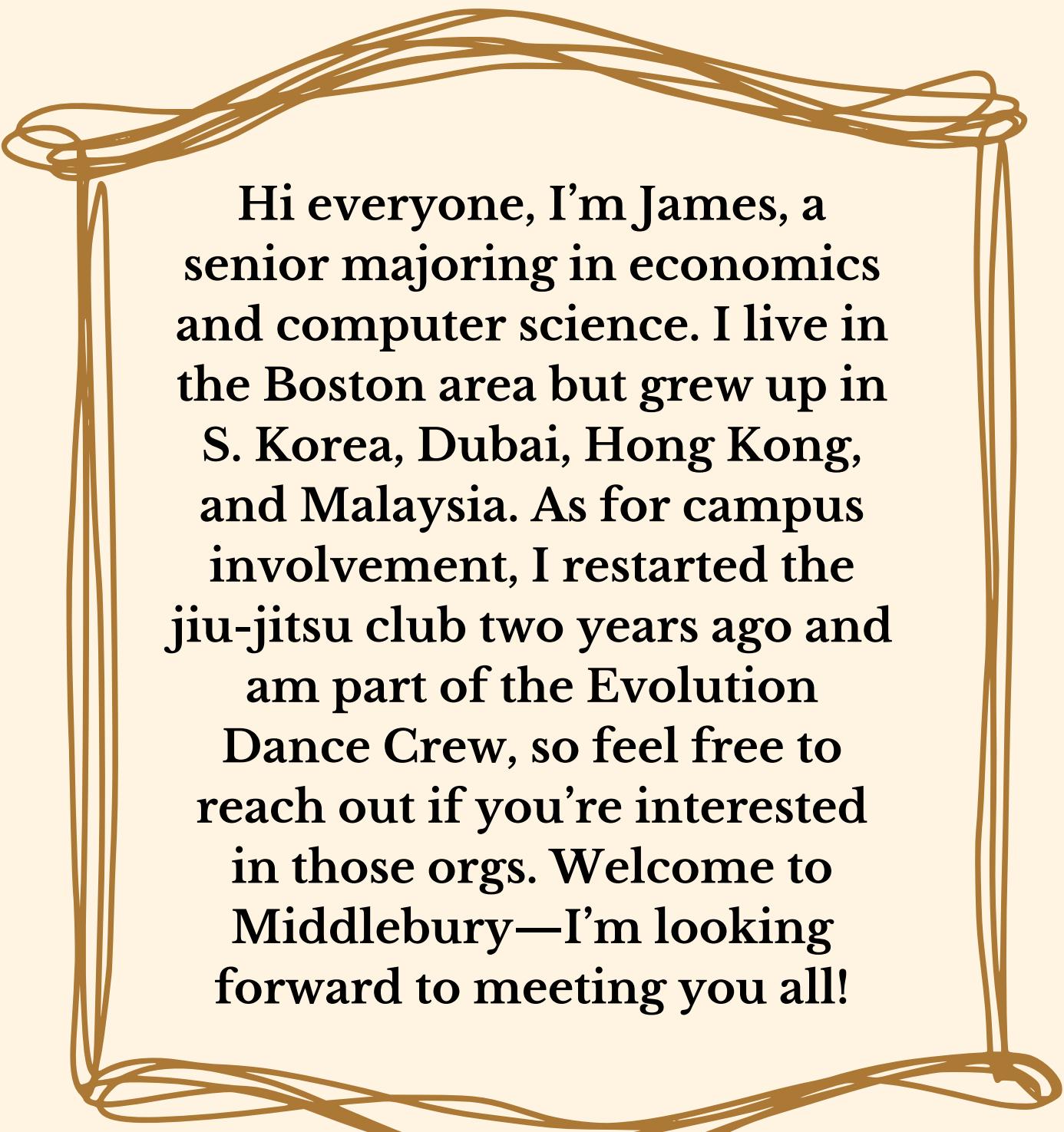




Meissa Atmani '26
(She/her)

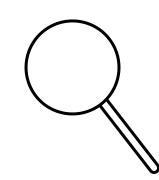


Hi people! My name is Meissa (she/her), I am from Morocco, but I have been living between Colombia and Costa Rica the past five years. I am a rising sophomore and haven't declared yet, but I am a potential Environmental Policy major and Geography minor. Last year, I had such a blast during Pre-Orientation, while smoothly settling on campus I had the chance to meet wholesome people and live great experiences. I am so so excited to be your PAL and showing you how beautiful our campus is. See you soon :)



Hi everyone, I'm James, a senior majoring in economics and computer science. I live in the Boston area but grew up in S. Korea, Dubai, Hong Kong, and Malaysia. As for campus involvement, I restarted the jiu-jitsu club two years ago and am part of the Evolution Dance Crew, so feel free to reach out if you're interested in those orgs. Welcome to Middlebury—I'm looking forward to meeting you all!

James Ohr '24
(He/him)

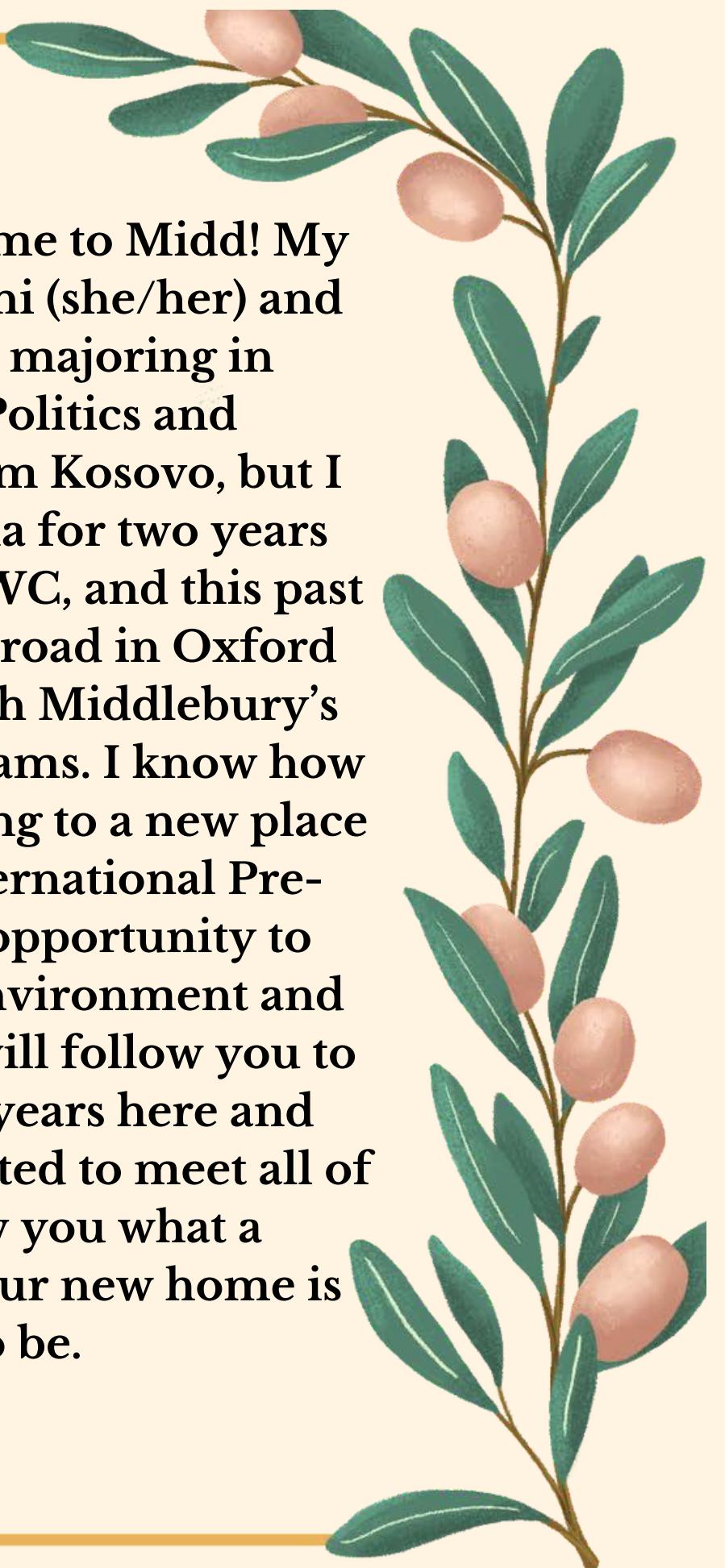




Vlera Hasani '24.5
(She/her)



Hi everyone, welcome to Midd! My name is Vlera Hasani (she/her) and I'm a Senior Feb majoring in International Politics and Economics. I'm from Kosovo, but I also lived in Canada for two years when I studied at UWC, and this past year I've studied abroad in Oxford and in Paris through Middlebury's Study Abroad Programs. I know how nerve-racking moving to a new place can be, but the International Pre-Orientation is an opportunity to adapt to this new environment and make friends who will follow you to the end of your 4 years here and longer! I'm very excited to meet all of you and to show you what a wonderful place your new home is going to be.



We can't wait
to meet you!!!