

2025-2026 SOLUTIONISTS



Interfaith Panel

- Father Brendon Schneider, S.T.L., J.C.L., serves as administrator of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St. Mary's) Parish in Middlebury, VT St. Bernadette Parish in Bridport, VT and St. Genevieve Parish in Shoreham, VT.
- Mark Orten is the Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life and Director of the Scott Center at Middlebury College.
- Zahra Moeini Meybodi is the Associate Muslim Chaplain and Interfaith Advisor at Middlebury College.
- Rabbi Danielle Stillman is the Associate Chaplain at Middlebury College.



Matt Sommerville '02

Matt is a conservation economist whose work focuses on the intersection of environmental protection, land rights, and sustainable development. After earning graduate degrees from the University of Oxford and Imperial College London, he conducted research and led conservation and education initiatives across Africa and Asia. Today, as a Senior Associate at Tetra Tech, he partners with governments and rural communities to strengthen land tenure systems that support climate resilience, food security, and economic opportunity.



Jo Opot '05

Jo began her career with the United Nations, later leading organizations including StartingBloc, TerraCycle, and Acumen, where she focused on social innovation, sustainable business development, and poverty alleviation across Africa and globally. She also co-founded Gather, an investment initiative that supports ventures building climate resilience while expanding economic opportunities and asset creation for women and girls across Africa. A recipient of the Sundance Eco-Warrior Award, she has been featured in The New York Times and Fast Company and holds degrees from Middlebury College and the University of Cambridge.



Sena Voncujovi '17

Sena specializes in Africa-China relations, currently leading Africa-China engagement and business development at GoGoLocal while supporting global youth leadership through AIESEC. His work spans diplomacy, international development, and policy, including collaboration with African governments, the African Union, the United Nations, and Chinese stakeholders during the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). Recognized as one of the 100 Most Influential People of African Descent Under 40, he also founded Revodution to preserve and promote West African spiritual and herbal medicine while drawing on his heritage as a third-generation traditional healer.