



Hello MIIS Staff,

Below you will find staff news - including two very exciting announcements: our new SAT members and our new Middlebury Staff Council representative! We will be having a Staff Happy Hour in September and professional development opportunities, provided by Melissa Sorenson, continue to be offered. And don't forget - If you have an idea of your own, please don't hesitate to email us!

Have a great weekend MIIS!

Sincerely,

The Staff Advisory Team

[sat@miis.edu](mailto:sat@miis.edu)

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**Welcome New SAT Members!**



## **Kris McGuffie**

Kris McGuffie is the Deputy Director of CTEC, does research on counter-extremism and counterterrorism, and promotes education about the threats posed by extremist actors. She graduated from the NPTS program at MIIS this May and from Middlebury College in 1997. Before studying and working at MIIS, she worked as a freelance editor, writer, and writing coach, mostly partnering with authors on book projects. She is originally from the coast of Maine, which is why she can teach you how to hypnotize a lobster.

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## **Scott Webb**

Scott has been working as a Career & Academic Advisor for the Center for Advising & Career Services since October of 2015. After completing his MPA at MIIS in Fall 2007, Scott worked for different international development and humanitarian NGO's based out of Washington DC, serving as a recruiter, program officer, and technical advisor, and working on programs in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. He's excited to serve the MIIS community in this new role!

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## **News & Announcements**



## **Grace O'Dell Appointed to Middlebury Staff Council**

Congratulations to Grace O'Dell for her appointment in July by the Middlebury Staff Council as the second District M representative to the Staff Council. Staff Council based the appointment on the election results in the May election, where Grace was the runner-up. As the District M "member-at-large," Grace will serve for a one-year term. The "member-at-large" position will become an elected two-year term position during the next Staff Council election cycle in May 2020.

Grace is an Institute alumna, (MPA '12, MAIEM '18), and has worked in the Center for Advising and Career Services for eight years. Grace began her career path as an academic advisor and operations manager for CACS and now focuses her time coaching, teaching, and supporting student career development as a Career and Academic Advisor. Grace is a Certified Professional Résumé Writer (CPRW) and is trained in appreciative advising, student development theory, and brain-based

coaching. Among other roles, she currently serves on the Institute's Conduct Judicial Board, the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and was instrumental as a member of the Staff Advisory Team in establishing the Institute's formal representative role on Middlebury Staff Council.

Thank you, Grace, for accepting this important role, we look forward to working with you to further our mission of making the Institute a great place to work.

Once again, a generous thank you to all of the nominees and staff who took part in the election process. We are proud of our community for being so engaged in establishing District M(IIS).

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**Welcome Dr. Richard Pilch to CNS!**

Dr. Richard Pilch is the new Director of the Chemical and Biological Weapons Nonproliferation Program at the Institute's James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS).

As Director, Dr. Pilch will lead the education, training, and research initiatives of the Center's chemical and biological weapons nonproliferation portfolio, including projects and programs requiring in-depth technical assessments, policy analysis, and public outreach.

**Learn More:** <https://www.middlebury.edu/institute/news/dr-richard-pilch-joins-cns-director-chemical-and-biological-weapons-nonproliferation-program>

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## **Welcome Betty Chau Nguyen to the Office of Advancement and CNS!**

Betty Chau Nguyen is the new Special Events Manager for the Office of Advancement and the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies. Hailing from Vancouver, BC, she began her career in banking.

More recently she worked at both Cornell University and Northwestern University. At Cornell, she worked in the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies' Southeast Asia Program, collaborating with faculty, visitors, staff and students across several colleges, units, and programs. She also was administrative liaison to the Southeast Asia Program's student committee, eight Southeast Asian student groups, and co-advised the university's Vietnamese Association. Prior to that, she worked in Alumni Affairs and Development for Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine. At Northwestern University, she managed the Philosophy Department undergraduate program.

Betty is passionate about Southeast Asian performing arts and has performed at many events in Canada and the United States since childhood. In 2009, she co-founded the nonprofit Southeast Asian Cultural Heritage Society.

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## Staff Gifts Still Available!

This year's staff gift is a beautiful card holder/wallet from [Peace by Piece International](#), an organization founded by MIIS alumna Lauri Jones Pastrone.

**If you still need to get your gift, please email SAT member Breanna Donofrio to  
arrange pick up: [breannad@miis.edu](mailto:breannad@miis.edu)**

Thank you and have a great weekend!

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## Upcoming Events

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**

Every hour is happy hour!

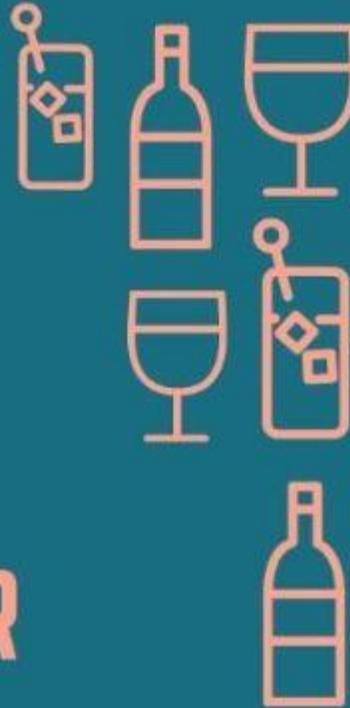
**HAPPY HOUR  
WITH MIIS!**

Don't just have a drink. Enjoy a  
couple with your MIIS community!

**Friday, September 6**

**4PM to 6PM**

**Off-Campus Location TBA**





## **Dare to Lead Program Fall 2019**

**Hosted by Melissa Sorenson**

Register at: [go.miis.edu/dare](https://go.miis.edu/dare)

We are launching the second Dare the Lead cohort. The Dare to Lead program is an opportunity for colleagues to explore the book "Dare to Lead" by the incredible Dr. Brené Brown, develop their leadership skills, and join a community of practice around brave leadership. The program cohort will meet several times throughout October and November as we work our way through the book and engage opportunities to put meaningful everyday leadership skills into action. You can learn more about the program in the program overview.

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# MIIS Leadership Group Updates

See what our leadership groups are working on!

***[sites.miis.edu/info](https://sites.miis.edu/info)***

## MIIS Leadership Group Updates

Updates are now available online from the Institute Leadership Group (ILG), and we hope to incorporate updates from the Faculty Senate, Staff Advisory Team, and Institute Council in the near future. Please check out the new website and contact Melissa Sorenson with any questions or feedback. Visit: [sites.miis.edu/info](https://sites.miis.edu/info)

*(Note: you will need to log in with your Middlebury credentials to view the site)*

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