

PRINCIPIA PURPOSE

Summer '10



The Future Times

LOOKING AHEAD TO
2020

Also in this issue:

Where Is Principia Headed?
Meet a Few of This Year's Grads

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PRINCIPIA
COLLEGE

ATHLETIC
HALL OF FAME

**Celebrate this
year's inductees
into the Gold &
Blue Athletic Hall
of Fame***

Gold Award Inductee

Corde Helms Hanzlik, C'70

Blue Award Inductees

Phil Edwards, C'41

Mike Bushong, C'74

Sue Godfrey Huffman, C'88

Kathleen Kavana O'Shea, US'83, C'87

Coach Steve Morgenthaler, US'68, C'72

1954 Football Team

HONORING PRINCIPIA ATHLETES

Homecoming Weekend
at Principia College

October 8–10, 2010

**The weekend includes the Hall of Fame
induction ceremony, along with these
highlights:**

- Gold & Blue Golf Classic
- Rick Lipsey, writer-reporter for *Sports Illustrated*
- Cross Country Cowbell Classic
- Volleyball, soccer, and rugby games
- Alumni athletic events
- Michelle Armstrong and her band in concert

**Learn about the Gold & Blue Athletic Hall
of Fame at www.principia.edu/halloffame.*

For more information about homecoming weekend,
e-mail alum@principia.edu or call 314.514.3105.

The mission of the *Principia Purpose* is to build community among alumni and friends by sharing news, updates, accomplishments, and insights related to Principia, its alumni, and former faculty and staff. The *Principia Purpose* is published twice a year.

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The ideas and opinions expressed in the articles do not necessarily reflect those held by The Principia or by the writers and editors of the *Purpose*.

From the Chief Executive



Dear Readers,

One of the pleasant surprises in my work is the way time flows. Each day is an invigorating blend of past, present, and future. I base my decisions on Principia's founding principles; my daily interactions reveal the good going on now; and the launch of our strategic plan focuses my thought on the progress to come.

Every decision requires balancing and care in order to stay true to Principia's roots while at the same time nurturing its growth.

Central to that balance is—and always has been—prayer. In 1936, as the United States coped with the Great Depression and the world inched closer to war, Principia founder Mary Kimball Morgan spoke to the Board of Trustees about the spiritual underpinnings of Principia's progress: "As I look into the future of this work I can catch glimpses of the unfoldment that is to come and see a little of how much depends on us, on this body of trustees, alumni, friends, who love Christian Science and who love Principia. The rapidity with which progress is made will depend upon how wide we can open our souls to receive what God is ready to show us" (*Education at The Principia*, p. 134).

The title of our new strategic plan, "Rising Higher, Reaching Further," echoes that urging to "receive what God is ready to show us." And today, just as much as in Mrs. Morgan's day, Principia's progress depends on all of us. Throughout the strategic plan's decade-long scope, we will be evaluating our progress, making adjustments as needed, and even incorporating new initiatives when appropriate. Please join me in supporting the plan with your prayers—and suggestions! You can share your thoughts at strategicplan@principia.edu.

Our cover story this issue offers intriguing glimpses into the future of astrophysics, ethics, and journalism. In addition, you'll find a fun, fictional portrayal of Principia in 2020—after completion of the strategic plan! Also in this issue are brief profiles of six 2010 graduates, readers' recollections of their favorite coaches, and inspiring accounts of the many ways our students and alums are giving back around the globe. Sit back, relax, and enjoy getting to know what's new—and old—at Principia.


Jonathan W. Palmer
Chief Executive

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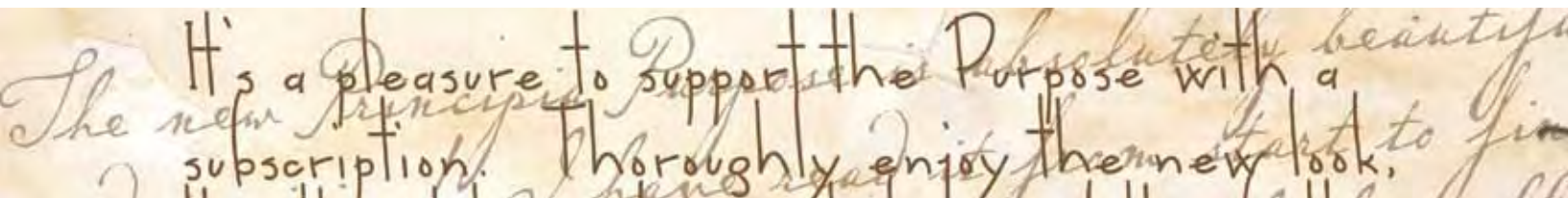


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"Wonderful issue of the *Purpose*. Jonathan [Palmer] asked for comments regarding the lighter paper, no plastic wrap, *Connections* inside the *Purpose*, and the 10% recycled paper. All good from my point of view. My copy arrived in perfect condition. I like having no plastic, and the paper quality is great. Thank you for the great work."

Ruth Kasl (C'81)

"As a Christian Science nurse, I enjoyed Tiffany Green's article very much and appreciate that the focus is on healing—the core of what we do. Also, I think the graphic layout of the magazine is 100% improved and readable.

"In the future, you'd be wise to not use the word *nurse* by itself to describe a Christian Science nurse. It can be misleading or confusing to secular readers and even church members not so familiar with *Principia* and Christian Science nursing. Should any RNs read it, they could take offence. Certain nursing associations in the US and Europe are lobbying against us for using the word *nurse* even with Christian Science in front of it. To them it is an issue of protecting the public at large. I appreciate your sensitivity to this important issue. Thanks."

Dean Wolfe
a reader from Canada

"I just finished a quick read of the Winter '09 *Purpose*. As I was finishing, I was caught by Tiffany Green's article, "Taking a Stand for Healing." It reminded me of my time at Cox Cottage. That was an important place for me during, I believe, my senior year at Prin. I think I ended up spending several weeks. The loving care and comforting support I received was integral to the healing that finally came. The effective care of those responsible at Cox Cottage at that time, along with the treatment I was receiving from my practitioner, enabled me to leave completely healed. The responsibility of those in charge at Cox, given my desire to meet what appeared to be a fairly serious illness, I respect even more in hindsight. For a young man trying to be a Christian Scientist, Cox Cottage and those providing care there was a blessing for me. To those taking on the responsibility today, keep up the good work!"

Joe Grimes (C'56)

Correction: In the last issue, we neglected to give credit for the photos used in "The College's First Solar Car Team: Where Are They Now?" The following individuals should have been credited: Steve Shedd, Melanie Shedd, and Joe Ritter.

Keep in touch!

Stay up-to-date with *Principia* in between issues of the *Purpose* by following our e-newsletter, *Principia Wire*, and tuning in to *Principia Internet Radio (PIR)*.

Principia Wire

Read recent news anytime on *Principia Wire* at www.principia.edu/wire.

You can also receive *Principia Wire* articles via RSS feed as soon as they're posted online. To subscribe, go to www.principia.edu, choose the School, College, or Community site and click the orange RSS logo in the "Recent News" column.

Principia Internet Radio (PIR)

Listen to PIR broadcasts at www.principia.edu/radio. To hear current programming, use the "Listen now" button at the top of the page. You'll also find a schedule of upcoming live broadcasts.

The Principia Purpose welcomes signed letters to the editor. Letters will be published as space allows and may be edited for clarity and brevity.

Please write to: Principia Purpose, 13201 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63131. You can also e-mail us: letters@principia.edu.

New Upper School Theatre Award Established

The Merrily Howlett Kimbrough Drama Award was given for the first time this year at the June 4th Upper School Awards Ceremony. Emily Butson (US'10) won the award, which honors "a senior student whose discipline and skill in learning, unselfishness in performance, and love of Christian Science have inspired and uplifted the Upper School community."

The award was established by the Kimbrough family in recognition of Merrily's 34 years of service as the Upper School drama and speech teacher. During that time, Merrily (US'63, C'67) directed over 30 spring musicals, served as chair of the Visual and Performing Arts Department, and led numerous wintertime trips to New York City so that theatre students could attend Broadway plays and musicals and meet alumni pursuing acting careers in the Big Apple.

Donations to this award fund may be made out to Principia and mailed to the Development Office, 13201 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO, 63131, along with a letter or a note in the check memo designating the Merrily Howlett Kimbrough Drama Award.

Upper School Senior Wins Iron Man Award

Nathan Dail (US'10) was voted Army Iron Man of the Year for Missouri. The award, which honors the best two-way high school football player in the state, is selected by football fans through online voting. Nathan received 4,714 votes.

During the award presentation, members of the U.S. Army Kansas City Recruiting Battalion acknowledged Nathan's record for the season, including 839 all-purpose yards with eight touchdowns and one two-point conversion. On defense, Nathan made 73 total tackles with three sacks, five tackles for a loss, one interception,

and one fumble recovery. He also tied the School's kick-off return record of 99 yards. Upon receiving the award, Nathan thanked his coaches and credited his teammates, saying he "accepted the award on behalf of the entire varsity team."

Nathan will be attending High Point University in the fall, where he plans to play lacrosse.



Middle School Students Move Class Off Campus

For one week in March, Principia's middle schoolers (grades six through eight) took part in one-of-a-kind learning adventures across the country. Sixth graders explored Hoover Dam, floated along the Colorado River, visited the Grand Canyon, and hiked Zion National Park. At the same time, seventh and eighth grade students were in the Washington DC area, visiting monuments and museums, walking the paths of the Capital, and touring historic Williamsburg.

Each trip offered opportunities for hands-on learning and self-discovery, providing exposure to new environments and activities, and allowing students to connect with their education in new ways. A sixth grader, reflecting on her experience, commented, "The float trip was interesting because we were able to observe the different ecosystems we had talked about in class, and I saw why plants and animals needed to adapt to different habitats. I also discovered that deserts can be cold, very cold." The trip also provided occasions for character education and teamwork.



All in all, students gave Trip Week an A+, with one eighth grader offering this advice to future travelers: "Get ready for nonstop learning. If you're expecting just a fun time away from school, you better change your expectation. It will be fun, but very educational, too."



Winter and Spring Athletic Highlights

The following College records were broken during the last two seasons:

Swimming & Diving: Men's 200 Free Relay

Colin Clark
Tyler Loechner
Andy Furbush
Will Crowley

Indoor Track & Field: 1000 meter / 3000 meter / Indoor mile

Drew Clark

Indoor Track & Field: Distance Medley Relay

Justin Sinichko
Dana Gaubatz
Jake Meier
Drew Clark

Baseball: Most wins in a season (9)

Samuel Thomas (pitcher)

In addition, basketball player **Lindsay Sydness** (C'12, pictured above) ranked second in the nation for blocked shots in NCAA Division III play. And the **women's swimming and diving team** earned Academic All-American status.

Sustainability Exchanges On and Off Campus

Principia's Center for Sustainability hosted its second series of lunchtime talks this spring. Presentations began with Cindy Safronoff educating attendees about Earthship projects—homes and community centers built entirely from recycled materials. Safronoff was followed by Danna Kenny, a Principia alum living in Chicago, who spoke about Chicago's Climate Action Plan and meeting the Kyoto targets. Mark Minben, from Enviro-solutions, talked about earth-friendly cleaning products, Daniel Hellmuth spoke about Green architecture, and Dr. Timothy P. Keane, director of Saint Louis University's Emerson Ethics Center, discussed sustainability in higher education.



Another networking effort involved a meeting between sustainability leaders from the College and their counterparts from Lewis and Clark Community College to explore ways of collaborating on campus greening efforts. The Principia delegation set the stage by driving to the meeting in "French Fry 1," the Biology and Natural Resources Department's truck that runs on waste vegetable oil.

New Initiatives Focus on Leadership and the Middle East

College President Jonathan Palmer recently announced the launch of two new initiatives: the Principia College Leadership Institute and the Principia College Euphrates Center for Middle East Understanding.

The Leadership Institute, intended to enhance the College's character-training and character-building programs, will help identify and develop student leaders by offering specialized training and experiential learning designed to help them lead both on campus and throughout their lives. Eventually, the

Institute is expected to serve a broader audience, encompassing adult learners, high school students, camp counselors, and outside organizations.

Through a partnership between Principia and the Euphrates Institute, the second initiative establishes the Euphrates Center for Middle East Understanding to further the College's ongoing commitment to understanding and engaging the global community.

In his announcement, Dr. Palmer noted that "these initiatives will allow us to deepen our efforts in the area of character unfoldment and offer an interdisciplinary model for leadership training and global awareness."

Looking ahead to 2020

by Trudy Palmer



The Science News

SEARCHING FOR EARTHS

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Ask experts from wide-ranging fields what the future looks like, and you get more agreement than you might expect. Technology is a game-changer. Life moves at a dizzying pace. And the world is a village—okay, a *big* village—with all the pros and cons that come with living in close quarters.

People everywhere have a lot in common, and we can know almost immediately what's happening just about anywhere. That doesn't mean, of course, that we all get along perfectly, but the capacity to come together has never been greater—or more necessary. Tomorrow depends on the connections we make today.

To help us understand how extensive our connections need to be, what tools we can use to make them, and where those connections can lead us, we asked a Principia alum, a former faculty member, and a former Trustee to look into the future with us.

Dr. Laurance Doyle

Principal investigator at SETI Institute

Lecturer in astrophysics at the University of California, Santa Cruz

Former physics professor at Principia College

President of PlanetQuest, a nonprofit organization that encourages global participation in the discovery of planets



has a one-year period.' When the star's brightness dips the third time, you say, 'Okay, it's an Earth, everyone. We've found another Earth!'"

Since the Kepler spacecraft just launched in March 2009, it will take a few more years before scientists can be triply sure about other Earths, but Doyle isn't the least bit impatient. "It's a great time to be in this field," he exclaims.

"This will be the classic historic time when we'll be able to find Earths or say they're extremely rare. Either way, it's kind of profound. If we don't find any Earths after looking at 170,000 stars, then we can say, 'Wow, Earth is really rare. We need to take care of it.'"

And if Kepler does find another Earth? The next step would be to search for biology or technology. In the first scenario, scientists would point very large orbiting telescopes at the "new" Earth in an effort to detect oxygen. "When you see free oxygen in the atmosphere," Doyle explains, "that means it's actively being produced,

Earth to . . . Earth?

"By 2020 or even a little before that, we'll know if there are other Earths out there," Dr. Laurance Doyle says decisively.

With the help of the NASA Kepler spacecraft, Doyle and his fellow Science Team members carefully monitor 170,000 of the brightest stars in our region

of the Milky Way, looking, he explains, "for Earths that orbit in front of their sun-like stars and cause a tiny drop in the brightness." (A small drop in brightness indicates an Earth-sized planet, while a bigger drop would indicate that a much larger planet, like Jupiter in size, is present.) To "constitute a detection," that small drop in brightness needs to happen three times. Doyle describes that prospect with mounting excitement: "An Earth will take a year to go around, so you see a little enough dip, and you say, 'Well, that's interesting; that might be an Earth.' Then the next year, you see the dip again, and you go, 'Ah, it

Why SPACE?

Asked why space exploration matters, Doyle spoke of the value of “learning about ourselves by putting ourselves in perspective.” Then he offered this comment, made by French mathematician, physicist, and philosopher Jules Henri Poincaré in 1903:

“Astronomy is useful, because it raises us above ourselves It shows us how small is man’s body, how great his mind. His intelligence can embrace the whole of this dazzling immensity in which his body is only an obscure point and enjoy its silent harmony. . . . Thus we can attain self-insight, something which cannot cost us too dear, since this insight makes us great.”



and the only thing we know that produces oxygen on a long-term basis is photosynthesizing plants.” In other words, if there’s an Earth with oxygen in its atmosphere, there are probably forests, i.e. biology. Unfortunately, funding isn’t yet available to search for biology on other Earths, but resources do exist to search for technology, i.e. radio signals.

From the skies above to the oceans below

As much as there is to learn from space, it’s not the only instructive vastness around. “It occurred to me,” Doyle says, “that trying to detect intelligence in the oceans is good practice for trying to detect extraterrestrial intelligence. There are intelligent, tool-using, socially complex, non-human beings that had a global communication system millions of years before we did, and they are whales.” Thus began Doyle’s work with the Alaska Whale Foundation.

With the help of mathematical formulae originally used to calculate channel capacity in telephone wires, Doyle was able to show, with colleagues, how humpback whales react to boat

traffic noise in Glacier Bay, Alaska. “I ‘pretended’ that Glacier Bay is a telephone line and that boat noise is like static on that line,” Doyle explains. “Then I calculated how much the boat traffic reduces the communication channel of Glacier Bay.” Using that calculation and his measurements of whale signal volume, pitch, and pace, Doyle was able not only to demonstrate that humpback whales react to boat noise but to put a number on it. This led to limits being placed on boat noise in order to avoid interference with the whales’ fishing behavior. “The research had a spinoff,” Doyle says happily. “I was doing it for SETI, but it also helped protect the humpbacks.”

Doyle and his colleagues have also looked closely at dolphin communication systems and discovered some striking similarities to human languages. Virtually all human languages have the same relationship between the frequency and rank of words. When graphed, this relationship (called Zipf’s law) produces a 45-degree minus 1 slope—in English, Chinese, Arabic, and . . . dolphin? That’s right. Doyle and his colleagues discovered that adult dolphin vocalizations follow Zipf’s law, which

had previously only been considered applicable to human languages.

After this discovery, Doyle and his colleagues Brenda McCowan and Sean Hanser, a professor and then-graduate student, respectively, at the University of California at Davis, compared human babies’ babbling and dolphin babies’ sound signals. Both produce a more flat slope, which means their noises are more random and occur with closer to equal frequency. That happens because “babies don’t put linguistic information into their signals,” Doyle explains. But that changes as they grow. “Just like for baby humans,” he says, “the slope goes up as baby dolphins learn their whistles. So we could mathematically show that dolphins learn their whistle

To Learn More . . .

SETI and the Kepler Space Mission

www.seti.org

www.kepler.nasa.gov

How to discover planets

www.planetquest.org

Whale research and conservation

www.alaskawhalefoundation.org

communication system in a way not dissimilar to the way humans learn their languages." Through further research, Doyle, McCowan, and Hanser found the same to be true for humpback whales and demonstrated that dolphin and humpback communication systems also have "rules" similar to human language syntax and grammar—that is, dolphin and humpback signals' occurrences depend on context, each signal affecting the other's occurrence.

Of course, none of this gets us closer to understanding the meaning of humpback vocalizations. "There aren't common symbols [between humpback and human languages], so it would be really hard to translate," Doyle says. "But information theory makes it possible to answer the question, Will Shakespeare ever be translatable into humpback? In other words, Does the humpback communication system have the carrying capacity to communicate something as syntactically complex as Shakespeare?"

Peacetime pursuits

Looking back up at the stars, Doyle sees two key parallels between the study of whales and the search for extraterrestrial life. On the one hand, SETI scientists can use whale vocalization theories and formulae to measure the complexity of radio signals from other planets. On the other, uncovering layers of complexity in animal communication systems puts SETI's work in a new perspective. In particular, it makes Doyle realize that humans—even those whose job it is to search for extraterrestrial life—haven't been thinking of aliens as truly alien. "We're not calibrated yet," he says. "We're not even talking to humpbacks, much less aliens,

and we should expect both to be really quite different than humans."

Trying to grasp that difference requires openness, humility, and genuine curiosity, all of which thrive best in peacetime. "There seems to be a mutual exclusion between exploring and fighting among ourselves," Doyle notes. "To explore space, you have to get together. You have to get along. When we're fighting wars and squabbling, we're not looking outward or exploring the universe."

Few of us will ever detect another Earth, but we'd do well to adopt the space explorer's perspective, curious about mankind's place in the universe and committed to occupying that place responsibly.



Abraham McLaughlin (US'90, C'94)

Product manager for *The Christian Science Monitor*, including e-mail newsletters, the *Daily News Briefing*, e-reader products, *The Monitor Breakfast*, and the *Monitor Photo Store*

Former national and international correspondent for the *Monitor*

Who's in charge of the news?

Ask Abraham McLaughlin, a veteran journalist, why the news industry is undergoing a sea change, and all you get is a two-word response: "the Internet." But ask about the impact of the Internet on >>



journalism, and the floodgates open. In essence, he explains, the Internet democratized the news media, giving just about anyone the ability to publish—and to call what they publish news. “Any blogger with a good writing style and hutzpah can go up against *The New York Times*,” McLaughlin notes. “That was unimaginable 10 years ago.”

Of course, simply calling something news doesn’t make it so. Bloggers need to “report something interesting and establish credibility,” McLaughlin

points out, but fulfilling those two requirements isn’t as hard as one might think. Sometimes, ordinary citizens provide both at once by lending their eyes and ears (and technology) to report on issues—tweeting eyewitness accounts of protests in Iran or videotaping police brutality with their cell phones. When initiated by a news outlet (most likely a blogger), this type of citizen input, or research, is called “distributive reporting” and can be quite extensive in scope and impact. Distributive reporting helped bring to light the Bush administration’s firing of prosecutors, for example, McLaughlin notes.



Cover of the Monitor's first weekly edition

Though it's unwieldy at best, McLaughlin believes "the democratization of the news and the proliferation of news outlets" is a good thing overall. "The ability to reach across the globe from your desktop and dive deep into what's going on—on a local level—is astounding," he remarks. Yet he's the first to admit the downside to that ability as well: "With all this information we have and the ever-faster pace of modern life, the sorting, or distilling, function—which involves discernment and expertise and experience—becomes that much more important."

Finding common ground

These days, we get our news whenever and wherever we want—and usually in isolation. What's more, we choose our news from options so wide-ranging that neither the right-leaning Fox News nor the left-leaning *Huffington Post* qualifies as extreme. "It's harder and harder to find common ground," McLaughlin notes, "because people often follow narratives that validate their own perspective." And those perspectives can be *really* far apart. "It's amazing the difference between the liberal and conservative narratives in the

Praise for The Christian Science Monitor

In a recent *MediaPost* article, Erik Sass hails the success of the *Monitor's* shift from a daily to a weekly, noting that it "retain[ed] most of the established readership . . . [and] recruited a large number of new subscribers." In concrete terms, subscriptions to the roughly one-year-old weekly have increased from 40,000 to 77,000, Sass reports. The *Monitor's* website has a healthy readership as well. "In March, the Web site attracted 5 million unique visitors, generating 14 million page views," Sass notes. (Erik Sass, "Christian Science Monitor Thrives as a Weekly," *MediaPost*, April 15, 2010)

Connect with THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

To survive the Internet age, newspapers have had to diversify, providing readers access to a variety of information in an array of formats.

Here's how the *Monitor* has diversified:

- **Weekly Edition:** Forty-eight pages of global context and color delivered to your door. (Subscribe at www.CSMonitor.com/about/subscriptions.)
- **CSMonitor.com:** The latest news and perspectives from reporters and editors around the world online 24/7.
- **Daily News Briefing:** A three-page news summary, including an exclusive Editor's column, delivered digitally each morning. (Subscribe at www.CSMonitor.com/about/subscriptions.)
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U.S.," McLaughlin says. "It's not even that they're seeing one subject from different angles. Sometimes, they're not even seeing the same subject!"

With more and more news sources pinning their brand to a political perspective, the *Monitor* has staked out fruitful middle ground. As McLaughlin notes, "If the *Monitor* can sort out the fringe and say, 'Here's the common narrative, and here's how you could come together,' there's value in that."

The *Monitor* also has its own interpretation of readers' demands. "News consumers are saying, 'Make

me smart fast,'" McLaughlin says. "We think *Monitor* readers might be adding to that, 'Make me smart fast about the world, so I can help.'" That approach comes naturally to the solution-oriented *Monitor*, but McLaughlin sees other media organizations moving in that direction as well. "Advertisers are looking for readers who are engaged," he explains. "And one way to engage people is to help them help others."

Print's place in the future

Though most people get the majority of their news electronically, McLaughlin doubts that print will disappear entirely. "In the vast world of electronic every-

thing, print represents the moment to slow down, breathe, and actually marinate in a subject," he notes. "I think people will continue to want that."

But McLaughlin hopes readers won't merely soak up news. He points out that, as it gets easier and easier to know what's going on in the world, "our ability to address it in prayer is growing as well. It's as though technology is finally catching up with Mary Baker Eddy's vision of prayer reaching 'the globe's remotest bound.' The question becomes, Will we take advantage of it?"

>>



Rushworth Kidder

President and co-founder of the Institute for Global Ethics

Former international correspondent, feature editor, and senior columnist for *The Christian Science Monitor*

Former Trustee of The Principia and visiting faculty member at Principia College

Author of 11 books, including *Moral Courage* (2005) and *Good Kids, Tough Choices: How to Help Your Children Do the Right Thing* (forthcoming October 2010)

“It’s a small world after all”

Twenty years ago, Rushworth Kidder co-founded the Institute for Global Ethics (IGE) to explore this question: “Is there a core of shared moral values?” So far, the answer is a resounding Yes!

“If you actually get out there and ask people what their values are,” Kidder explains, “you will hear five things: honesty, responsibility, respect, fairness, and compassion.” He’s quick to add that this is still a working hypothesis because his team hasn’t surveyed the entire globe, but their extensive research in at least thirty countries reveals the same results across gender and class lines, education levels, and so on.

“We simply can’t demonstrate that there is any demographic slicing and dicing of the data that will produce different answers,” Kidder says. “It appears that males have the same values as females, that people who

say ‘I am deeply religious’ have the same values as people who say ‘I’m not religious at all,’ that people in different language groups hold the same values, and so forth.”

There’s a limit, of course, to this unanimity. If you ask for people’s top ten values, responses vary considerably, but limit them to five, and their answers are the same over and over again. “If you take this research to its logical conclusion,” Kidder notes, “it lays to rest the fashionable arguments of the ‘70s and ‘80s about moral relativism

“If you actually get out there and ask people what their values are, you will hear five things: honesty, responsibility, respect, fairness, and compassion.”

and the glib assertion that everybody has a different set of values.” Best of all, from Kidder’s perspective, identifying universal values allows schools, corporations, and organiza-

tions of all types to teach and promote these five values without fearing that diversity is being stifled or freedom of choice trampled. After all, one group can’t be blamed for imposing its values on another if all groups share the same core values.



Right versus right

Of course, teaching people to behave ethically doesn't guarantee that they'll do so. It can be hard to act on what you know is right—and harder still to act when you're not sure what's right. Kidder and the IGE focus on the latter, on right-versus-right dilemmas—choosing between honesty and compassion, for example, or between responsibility and respect. (To read real-life right versus right dilemmas, visit the Dilemmas page of the IGE website.)

Kidder says our toughest decisions fall into the right-versus-right category rather than the right-versus-wrong bucket. What's more, as he points out, "If we keep approaching right-versus-right questions with a right-versus-wrong methodology, we'll never come to a resolution." To illustrate, he points to the "intensive polarization" in U.S. politics. "Every question that comes before Congress for debate is a right-versus-right issue, with powerful moral arguments on both sides," Kidder comments. "Otherwise, why would there be a debate? Yet in an age of divisiveness, we typically address such questions through a right-versus-wrong methodology. We say, 'Look, I'm right, and if I'm right, what could you be but dead wrong?!'" The more productive (and accurate) approach, Kidder argues, would be to say, "Look, we've got a right-versus-right question here. How are we going to determine the higher right in this case?"

Moral futurism

While considering all sides of an issue can help resolve current controversies, Kidder believes something more is needed to deal with dilemmas on the horizon. For those, he advocates "moral futurism, or predicting the ethical issues that are going to arise," and he holds up the human genome project as an excellent example of this type of forward thinking. "When that project was first funded," Kidder explains, "Congress required that five percent of the funding, a tiny fraction, be put aside for the so-called 'ELSI' questions—the 'ethical, legal, and social implications' of the technology. As a result, by the time the genome discoveries really hit hard, ethicists had already begun to think through questions of designer babies and human cloning."

Environmentalism provides another good model for moral futurism. "We've long been accustomed to doing an environmental impact statement before we let somebody build near a wetland," Kidder notes. "We need to develop a similar methodology for an *ethics* impact statement, asking for the five or six ethical questions likely to arise because of the technology being developed."

Kidder's point isn't that innovation should be halted or even slowed, just that the ethical impact of that innovation should be explored *while* the technology is being developed, not after the invention is in people's hands being used in ways that were never intended—or even considered. "We could have foreseen sexting," he says, referring to teenagers' use of cell-phone cameras to send nude pictures of themselves to friends. "Instead, we've got state legislatures scrambling to write laws to address a problem that blindsided us."

Needed: twenty-first-century ethics

In the end, of course, it's the people—not the technology—we've got to contend with, especially since technology

>>



now places capacities for destruction unimaginable a century ago into ordinary citizens' hands. Kidder doesn't mince words on this point: "If we're interested in the survival of the planet, we can either call a halt to the development of technology, or we can make sure that, as it develops, the ethics of the individuals operating that technology develops in a commensurate way."


As the first western journalist to visit and write about Chernobyl following the explosion and meltdown of reactor No. 4 in 1989, Kidder has seen firsthand the way technology can leverage unethical decisions with devastating effect. "There is nothing you could have put those control-room operators in front of in the nineteenth century that could have produced that kind of damage," he comments. "Yet these were not by any means the most devious men on earth. They were ordinary, average moral relativists doing their thing and making unethical decisions—and suddenly that meant global catastrophe."

Chernobyl isn't the only example. "It was the same scenario with the 'Love Bug' computer virus in 2000," Kidder says. "It was launched by a kid in the Philippines, who was just pushing the technological

envelope and ended up producing \$5.5 billion of global damage. Kids didn't do that in the nineteenth century. They *couldn't*. These days, ethics is no longer optional or secondary or fringe. The very real question is, 'Will we survive the twenty-first century with the ethics of the twentieth century?'"

Tending to ethics

Kidder believes we will survive, thanks to a resurgent interest in ethics born, in part, of the recession. "The public conversation around the financial collapse is no longer about money and markets and wealth," Kidder states. "It's about dishonesty, irresponsibility, and lack of integrity. And it has highlighted for many people the importance of ethics."

Mankind's five shared moral values—honesty, responsibility, respect, fairness, and compassion—furnish fertile ground for coaxing this renewed interest in ethics into full bloom. Kidder and his institute have done the spadework, so to speak, identifying our shared values and creating tools to foster them. But the hard work of ethical decision-making—the day-to-day tilling and tending of our thoughts and actions—is up to each of us. 

To Learn More . . .

Institute for Global Ethics

www.globalethics.org

Selected Books by Rushworth Kidder

- *Good Kids, Tough Choices: How to Help Your Children Do the Right Thing* (In bookstores October 2010)
- *The Ethics Recession: Reflections on the Moral Underpinnings of the Current Economic Crisis* (2009)
- *Moral Courage: Taking Action When Your Values Are Put to the Test* (2005)
- *How Good People Make Tough Choices: Resolving the Dilemmas of Ethical Living* (1995, revised 2009)
- *Shared Values for a Troubled World: Conversations with Men and Women of Conscience* (1994)
- *Heartland Ethics: Voices from the American Midwest* (editor, 1992)
- *In the Backyards of Our Lives* (1992)
- *Reinventing the Future: Global Goals for the 21st Century* (1989)
- *An Agenda for the 21st Century* (1987)

Legal ≠ Ethical

"A right-versus-wrong mentality leads you to imagine you can address ethics through compliance. You just set up a bunch of rules and make everybody follow them. But that can lead to the dangerous mantra, 'If it ain't illegal, it must be ethical.' Nothing could be farther from the truth!

"Ethics operates in a realm quite apart from law. One of the best definitions of *ethics* is 'obedience to the unenforceable.' Once you turn it into 'the enforceable,' all you've got is law. You end up with a lot of compliance programs and a huge number of rules—and an indifferent sense of ethics with

people still behaving unethically. Then we wonder why that didn't work. It's not that you *shouldn't* legislate ethics. It's that, by definition, you *can't*."

~ Rushworth Kidder



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Where Is Principia Headed?

by Gretchen Newby



For the past two years, Principia has been developing a strategic plan to guide its progress over the next decade. Aptly titled “Rising Higher, Reaching Further,” the plan, approved by the Board of Trustees in November 2009, focuses on three areas:

- Academic Excellence
- Spiritually Based Character Education
- Expansive Global Learning

What does this mean for Principia? What will it look like 10 years from now? We can't know exactly what the future holds, but the strategic plan does include specific initiatives such as providing online education, offering master's degrees, expanding to international locations, and remodeling key facilities at the School and College.

You might think of the plan as a map and these initiatives as destinations. The next step is to research each initiative to determine its viability and then (for those that are viable) to chart the most desirable route. As with all steps at Principia, the final decision will be determined by careful study and prayer.

Still, we can sneak a peek at a possible future for Principia. The fictional e-mail exchange below between two Principia professors—one who retired in 2010 and one teaching “now” in 2020—sheds light on what Principia might look like 10 years from today.

From: "Joni Atherton" <joniatherton@facemail.com>
Sent: Thu Oct 8, 2020 3:26 PM
To: "Barb Lefferdink" <barbara.lefferdink@principia.edu>
Subject: How are you? How's Principia School?

From: "Barb Lefferdink" <barbara.lefferdink@principia.edu>
Sent: Fri Oct 9, 2020 5:55 PM
To: "Joni Atherton" <joniatherton@facemail.com>
Subject: RE: How are you? How's Principia School?

Hi, Barb,

I hope you remember your former education professor from Principia. I've been living in Florida for the past 10 years, and I ran into John Dewey at church last night. He told me you're working at Principia. Are you teaching at the School? How's it going, and what's new since your days as a student teacher there?

Sincerely,

Professor Atherton

Dear Professor Atherton,

Of course, I remember you! I can't believe it's been 10 years since I saw you last. We were both wrapping up our time at Prin—I was graduating and you were retiring.

You're right that I'm back at Principia, but not at the School. I'm a professor at the College in the Education Department. Do you remember that I double-majored at Principia? I loved all my education classes (especially my ones with you!), but the poli sci courses were excellent as well. It

seemed like a strange combination at the time, but it's worked out perfectly.

After graduation, I spent a year teaching English in Japan and traveling in Asia. I visited China, the Philippines, and Indonesia and was fascinated by the people and cultures. When I returned to the US, I started graduate school at the University of California, Berkeley, and received a master's and doctorate in Asian studies.

As I was finishing my dissertation and praying about what to do next, I read in the online *Purpose* about the international community at Principia. It sounded like it might be a good fit, so I contacted the Dean of Academics, and from there, everything just unfolded.

It's amazing how much Principia has changed in the last 10 years! I had a wonderful experience here as a student, but it's even better now. The community is larger and more vibrant academically. At the core, though, it's the same Principia—you'd feel right at home. I'm sure you remember Principia's mission statement from *Education at The Principia*: "to serve the cause of Christian Science through appropriate channels open to it as an educational institution." That still drives every decision, large and small. In some other ways, though, you might not recognize the place. There are new and renovated buildings on both campuses, and even more important, our sense of community has expanded. We're a much more global community now.

Have you seen pictures of the School? All the spaces have been renovated to support the revised curriculum and foster collaborative learning. Walls have been taken down, flexible workgroup spaces have been created, and there's a general feeling of

openness. Plus, they've brought the outside in. Almost everywhere you look, you see Principia's beautiful grounds, and many of the rooms open directly to the outdoors.

“Students actively experience education and internalize lessons in meaningful ways.”

I know you're a huge fan of Understanding by Design (UbD); I wish you could see it in action at the School. Students actively experience education and internalize lessons in meaningful ways. I'm on the St. Louis campus fairly often, either supervising student teaching or collaborating with the Chinese language teacher at the School. Each time

I visit, I'm impressed by how skillfully the teachers meet students where they are by individualizing the classroom experience and making learning bi-directional, engaging, and interactive for everyone.

I'm also excited by all the ways the School is reaching out. Students at all levels participate in community service projects as part of the School's character education curriculum. For example, they plant bulbs at a local park, collect hymnals and other literature for new Christian Science societies overseas, work with senior citizens on oral history compilations, and serve food at homeless shelters.

Sorry to go on so long, but I thought you'd be interested since you spent so many hours observing student teachers at the School. Thanks again for looking me up. And please tell me about Florida. I envy your weather. Autumn has been especially pretty here this year, but winter comes next—my least favorite season. : (

Take care,

Barb



From: "Joni Atherton" <joniatherton@facemail.com>
Sent: Wed Oct 21, 2020 7:19 AM
To: "Barb Lefferdink" <barbara.lefferdink@principia.edu>
Subject: How's the College?


Hi, Barb,

Thank you for the e-mail. It's wonderful to hear about your career, and I'm sure you're a blessing to Principia. I've heard the College has gone through significant changes as well. When you have time, I would love to hear your perspective.

Florida is wonderful. I never tire of the warm weather, and people here are very friendly. I've also become quite the sailor! By the way, please call me Joni—we're peers now.

Sincerely,

Joni



From: "Barb Lefferdink" <barbara.lefferdink@principia.edu>
Sent: Fri Oct 23, 2020 6:46 PM
To: "Joni Atherton" <joniatherton@facemail.com>
Subject: RE: How's the College?

Dear Joni, (That's going to take some getting used to!)

I'd love to tell you about the College—thanks for asking! There have been big changes here as well. The campus is as beautiful as ever, but we've added a few new buildings. A new Maybeck-style dorm was finished four years ago, the Theatre Department has brand new space, and the new library is spectacular! Despite their recent construction, all three buildings fit perfectly with the historic feel of the campus. The library uses sustainable technology throughout and was designed with input from our sustainability majors. Talk about experiential learning!

Principia continues to be a leader in character education. Before fall semester, incoming students participate in a character education camp, and believe me, character ed has never been more fun! The camp sets a great tone for the coming year with phenomenal speakers and creative ways of getting students to think more deeply about the values that lead to success in college and in life.

Character education takes place beyond campus borders as well. I used to be skeptical about online education. (I think we talked about this way back when.) I didn't see how character education and Principia's community of practice could be translated into the online

To Learn More . . .

For detailed information about the strategic plan, visit www.principia.edu/strategicplan

To participate in an online presentation about Principia's strategic plan, sign up for one of the following Web conferences by clicking on Updates at www.principia.edu/strategicplan:

Thursday, July 15, 2010, 8:00 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Central Time (US & Canada)

Sunday, August 15, 2010, 8:00 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Central Time (US & Canada)

arena, but now I'm a convert. This semester, I'm teaching an undergraduate course on campus that has online students as well. To ensure that I'm available to everyone, I keep separate office hours for each group. Last week, one of my online students in Kenya didn't think she'd be able to meet a key deadline for the class. (Some things in education never change!) She explained her situation to me, and from a human perspective, I have to admit she was in a tight spot.

But I shared some ideas from a recent *Sentinel* article about unfoldment, and as we IM'd, a new idea occurred to her. In the end, she was able to complete the assignment not only on time but quite successfully. I love being able to connect with students on this deeper level—whether they're on campus or halfway around the world.

Oops, I lost track of time—I've got to dash. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor kicks off this year's Speakers Series tonight, and I want to get a good seat. There's more to tell you about the College, though, so I'll write again soon.

Take care,
Barb

From: "Barb Lefferdink" <barbara.lefferdink@principia.edu>
Sent: Sat Oct 24, 2020 11:35 AM
To: "Joni Atherton" <joniatherton@facemail.com>
Subject: Continued from yesterday

Dear Joni,

Sotomayor was excellent! With a decade on the Supreme Court under her belt now, she has a wealth of experience to share. Cox Auditorium was packed, and the students asked great questions. As you can see, Principia still attracts top-notch speakers!

Okay, where was I? Oh yes, I wanted to tell you more about the College. The online courses and master's

degree programs have allowed Principia to attract a more diverse student body—in age, experience, and background. For example, the master's program in education includes both online and on-campus classes. I recently had a roundtable discussion with several undergraduate students and a couple of my master's students who have quite a bit of teaching experience under their belts. The juxtaposition of idealism and experience benefited everyone.

“Principia has also extended its international presence beyond the campus.”

One of the graduate courses I teach exclusively online is called Intercultural Communication. Of the six students in the course, three are from the United States; the others are from Peru, South Africa, and Germany. Not only do we learn a great deal from each other, but the students are creating strong bonds among themselves. Last week, they began a discussion about Christian Science Reading Rooms and technology that was so interesting I was

briefly tempted to abandon that night's lesson plan. Instead, they continued the discussion on Facebook after class.

I used to think online classes were diluted versions of the real thing, but now I know better. Our online students can't play Frisbee on the Chapel Green, but that doesn't stop them from building lasting connections with each other—and with me. I'm still in touch with students I taught online several years ago, and I've gotten to meet a few of them in person when I've taught overseas. In addition, last summer two students from my first online graduate class came to campus for their five-year reunion. I'm not sure what they enjoyed the most—the hymn sing in the Chapel or shakes at the Pub—but something tells me they'll be attending reunions for years to come.

Another long e-mail—sorry about that. It's just that so much has happened since you left. I'd love to hear more about you. I wouldn't have imagined you as a sailor, but it means we have one more thing in common—I love sailing! I was the sailing counselor at camp one summer.

Take care,
Barb



From: "Joni Atherton" <joniatherton@facemail.com>
Sent: Fri Nov 13, 2020 1:36 PM
To: "Barb Lefferdink" <barbara.lefferdink@principia.edu>
Subject: International Appeal?

Hi, Barb,

It's inspiring to hear where the College has gone. Thank you for taking the time to tell me about it. Principia will always have a special place in my heart. I taught a few courses at a university when I first arrived in Florida. It was rewarding but not the same as teaching at Principia, where connections with students go beyond coursework.

It's great that Principia is embracing more students through online education, but there are still international students on campus, right? It would be a shame if the only way to get international exposure was online.

Sincerely,

Joni

From: "Barb Lefferdink" <barbara.lefferdink@principia.edu>
Sent: Sun Nov 15, 2020 8:12 PM
To: "Joni Atherton" <joniatherton@facemail.com>
Subject: RE: International Appeal?

Dear Joni,

By all means, the campus still includes students from around the world. That's one of the beauties of teaching international topics here—students from six continents can meet face-to-face without ever leaving their dorm! But Principia has also extended its international presence beyond the campus. I had my doubts at first, but it has turned out to be a blessing for everyone involved.

Back in 2010, the Christian Science movement was growing rapidly in Africa and Latin America, and that growth has continued. Given Principia's mission, it made sense to expand its educational presence to

support some of the places where Christian Science was taking root. So faculty and staff used their contacts abroad, spoke to international students and alumni, and began researching how to better serve potential Principians around the world. By working collaboratively with established academic institutions in other countries, Principia now offers expanded abroad programs in London and Berlin. In addition, we have a presence in southern Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia. Next year, I'll be teaching at our sister institution in Southeast Asia—I can hardly wait!

Have you considered attending any of the Principia Adult Continuing Education (PACE) trips? This summer, I'm leading a trip through Eastern Asia that ends with a train ride from Shanghai to Tibet. Another trip I think you'd be interested in is called From Christianity to Science. Jointly led by the religion professor who teaches our Christian Science history course and a staff member from the Mary Baker Eddy Library, it begins in Israel and ends with a week in Boston. Of the two trips, however, I'd vote for the one in Asia so that I get to see you again!

As you can tell, a lot has changed in 10 years, but as I said a few e-mails ago, Principia still operates from the foundation Mary Kimball Morgan established over 120 years ago. It's wonderful that we're embracing more people, and I'm happy to be playing my part in Principia's continued progress. I'm also grateful you gave me such a fine example of how to be a dedicated Principia educator.

It's great to be in touch via e-mail, but in person would be even better. Shanghai is beautiful in the summertime, hint hint. :)

With great fondness,

Barb

“... with all thy getting
get understanding”

~ Proverbs



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For thousands of years, people have prayed for, sought after, and cherished the faculty of understanding. The book of Proverbs affirms that when we obtain it, we are blessed with happiness, honor, riches, an excellent spirit, and even long life. Mary Baker Eddy explains *understanding* as “the line of demarcation between the real and unreal” (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 505). No wonder it’s so important to possess understanding!

More than mere memorization of facts or the acquisition of discrete knowledge and skills, understanding denotes intelligence, wisdom, and discernment. It’s only logical, then, that schools should emphasize understanding. And teachers do value it, but all too often, written curricula, student assessments, and even day-to-day classroom practices don’t support true understanding. Instead, thoughtfulness, meaning, and opportunities to transfer knowledge to new situations get lost, or perpetually postponed, so that curriculum content can be covered and then tested on an easily scored assessment. Consequently, the genuine

applications of learning and the habits and attitudes related to them—critical and creative thinking, civic responsibility, and lifelong learning, among others—are all too frequently forfeited.

In 1998 Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe developed Understanding by Design

(UbD), which they published in a book by the same title. They define UbD as “a framework for designing curriculum units, performance assessments, and instruction that leads students to deep understanding.” Their work has also been called Backward Design and Teaching for Understanding. Over 150 university education classes now use

“ . . . understanding denotes intelligence, wisdom, and discernment.”



Creating Spaces that Support Understanding

the UbD handbook as a text, and hundreds of school districts across the country have mandated its use by teachers at all levels. The UbD premise, which is simple and highly focused, asks teachers to take these three steps *in the following order*:

1. Identify the desired results: What do I want my students to understand, know, and be able to do as a result of this lesson?
2. Determine the acceptable evidence: How will I know that they understand?
3. Plan learning experiences and instruction.

Following this model helps teachers avoid the twin evils of aimless activities (which students sometimes love but which don't really flow from mission-related learning principles) and content coverage (marching through textbooks without considering whether students can successfully transfer their knowledge and skills to unfamiliar situations).

At Principia School, we are committed to developing curricula and teaching classes according to UbD objectives and methods. Many teachers have attended UbD professional development workshops and are working both independently and with others in their department to more fully incorporate this approach in their curricular planning and classroom work. We are also developing a schoolwide character education curriculum using these three stages as guides. We look forward to sharing our completed work with you! 📖

Marilyn Wallace is head of Principia School.

If you wanted to provide students the best possible opportunity to develop and demonstrate their understanding and then apply that understanding to new situations, you'd put the people they need to collaborate with and the resources (including nature) they need to work with at their fingertips. Yet the layout of most schools does exactly the opposite. Few classrooms are flexible enough to accommodate one-on-one coaching and small-group discussion simultaneously. In addition, the linear layout of hallways makes cross-disciplinary collaboration challenging, and rooms with direct access to the outdoors are rare. But that's about to change at Principia.

Over the next several years, as teachers at the School align their curricula and pedagogy more closely with Understanding by Design (UbD), the spaces where they teach will be redesigned to better support their instruction. Outwardly, things might not look much different since the building will remain in its current footprint, but the interior spaces will become much more flexible.

The renovations, slated to begin this summer, include a relocation and redesign of the library and art room located in the Lower School. Middle School classrooms will be grouped to foster collaboration across disciplines, and some rooms will open onto outdoor learning areas. Within classrooms, moveable walls and whiteboards will make it easy to group students according to their needs during each day's lesson. Next, similar improvements (along with infrastructure updates) will take place in the Pre-School, Lower School, and then the Upper School.

Providing teachers and students flexible learning spaces is an important next step in propelling Principia School to a new level of excellence focused not on acquiring knowledge but on attaining understanding.

An Irresistible Desire ... to Dance!

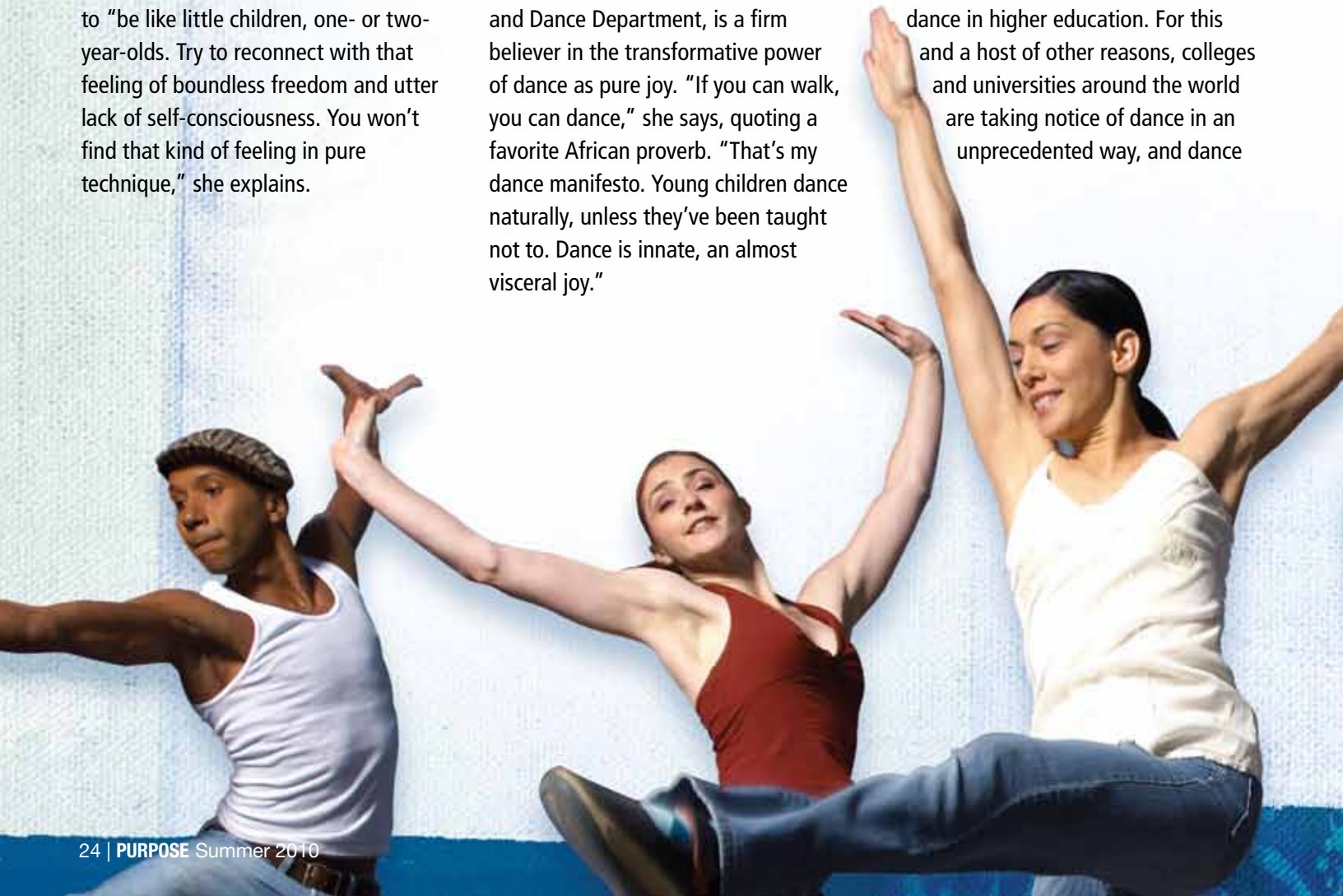
by Marla Sammulu

Clasping hands, whirling and twirling about the room, students lunged and leaped, sprang and stalked, skipped and raced and often tumbled to the floor with laughter. Preschoolers enjoying an unbridled moment of sheer joy? Not exactly.

This is one of Hilary Harper-Wilcoxon's dance technique classes at Principia College. Through this lesson in movement theory, she urges students to "be like little children, one- or two-year-olds. Try to reconnect with that feeling of boundless freedom and utter lack of self-consciousness. You won't find that kind of feeling in pure technique," she explains.

A classically trained dancer with no shortage of experience providing structured, rigorous dance education, Harper, chair of the College's Theatre and Dance Department, is a firm believer in the transformative power of dance as pure joy. "If you can walk, you can dance," she says, quoting a favorite African proverb. "That's my dance manifesto. Young children dance naturally, unless they've been taught not to. Dance is innate, an almost visceral joy."

An essential part of every cultural landscape, dance is indeed an unrivaled conduit for joy and personal expression, yet it also reflects the spirit of a people as a whole and their place in history. Dance and all the performing arts "help us understand events, the world, and each other better," College Dean of Academics Scott Schneberger explained at a recent colloquium during which Harper spoke on the role of dance in higher education. For this and a host of other reasons, colleges and universities around the world are taking notice of dance in an unprecedented way, and dance



scholarship is on the rise. "Although some [college] dance departments have suffered cutbacks, many have grown, and new ones have been created," says Samuel Hope, executive director of the National Office for Arts Accreditation (Sara Lipka, "Stepping Out," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Jan. 21, 2005). The College's program belongs in the middle group that's growing—by leaps and bounds (and turns and pirouettes).

Gaining the Underlying Principle

For Harper, dance is a fusion of the qualities of principle and love. Principle is most obvious initially, but love is really the activating force. "There are all these movement rules and techniques and discipline," Harper explains, "but then there's love—love for yourself, for one another, for your audience, for God, and for dance itself."

Clearly, love impels Harper's work with students. She quotes director Anne Bogart, "You cannot educate people about anything, but you can point articulately at what excites you" (Anne Bogart, *And Then, You Act: Making Art in an Unpredictable World*, [New York: Routledge, 2007], p. 87). Harper has been spreading her excitement for eight years now at the College, teaching dance, theatre movement, and dance history; choreographing and producing shows; and bringing in visiting artists and choreographers.

Theory into Practice

Harper's philosophies of dance and dance education have evolved over the years. "I admit it," she shares, "I was a ballet snob. I came from a very structured, formal training background—the classical

ballet world." But Harper also did considerable modern dance work in New York City before coming to Principia. That combination has helped her bring both structure and creative expression—principle and love—to her work at the College. "I've loved opening up this program to include modern dance again," she says, noting that modern was a large part of the program earlier under Christine Dunbar. "Modern is much more accessible to most students and the mainstay of most college programs," Harper adds. (To gain further expertise in this area, Harper earned an MFA in dance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.)

Thanks to Harper and support from the administration and others, the College was able to create a dance minor with virtually unanimous support from the faculty. And a new focus on modern technique has allowed many more students to participate in dance, whether they choose it as a minor or not. As a result, interest is

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exploding. "The program has grown exponentially," Harper says. "There were 51 students in this year's production!" To meet this growing and wide-ranging interest, Harper hopes to bring in more specialist teachers for tap, jazz, and hip-hop. Until then, she works with students from a variety of backgrounds—gymnasts, swimmers, and martial artists. "We've got them all!" she exclaims. "But when they walk in the door, I tell them, 'To me, you're a dancer. And this is what dancers do—they're disciplined, brave, generous, gracious, and respectful. They don't give up, and they figure things out if they can't do it the first time.'"

Perhaps it's this level of challenge and respect that attracts students. "These are really bright college students,"

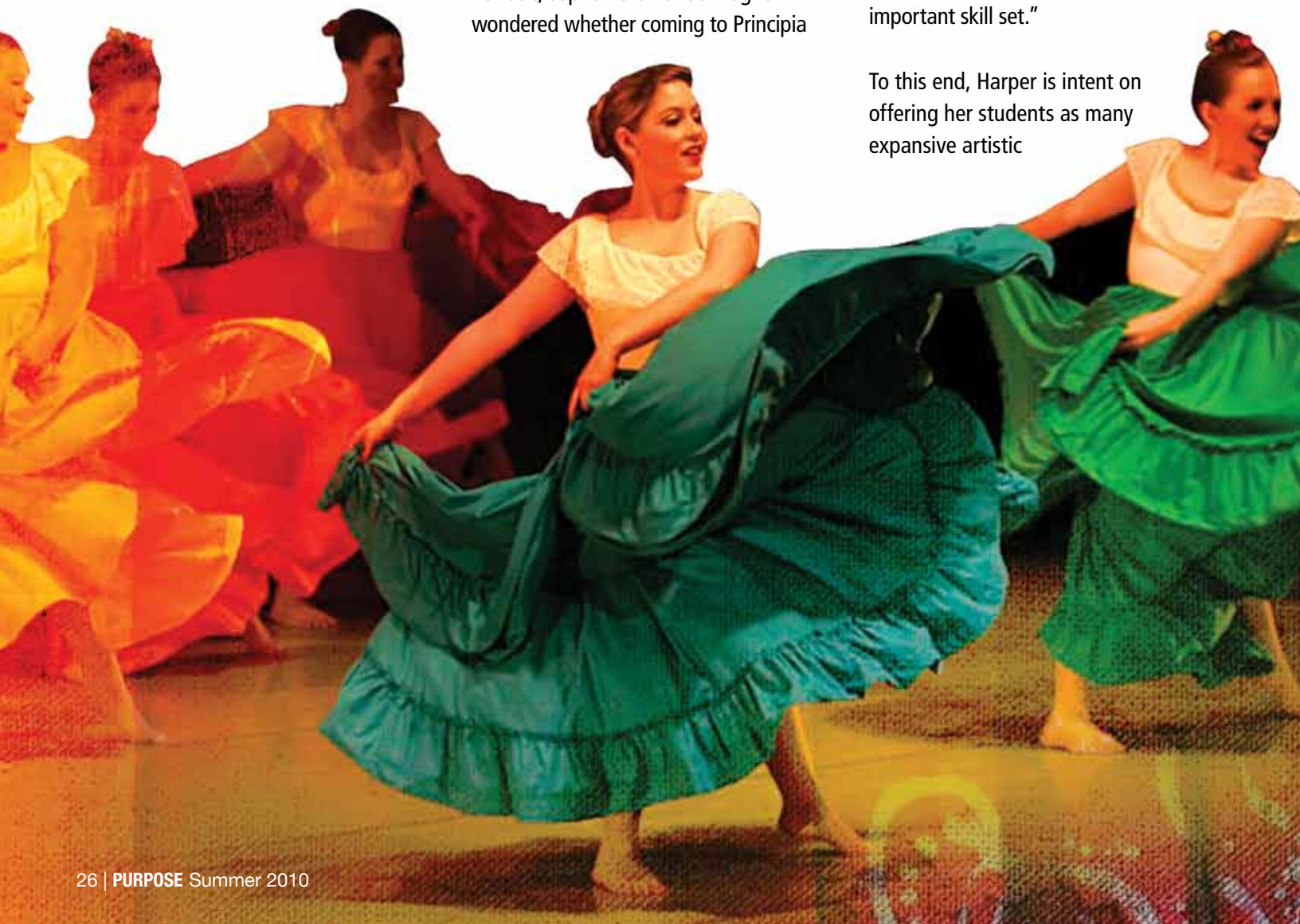
Harper says. "They like to ask questions (which is not the norm in traditional dance classes); they think analytically, accurately, and with discrimination. Whatever I throw at them, they get it. They're also interested in the underlying principle of things, which is something Mary Kimball Morgan encouraged. In her 1900 Prospectus for Principia, Morgan wrote, 'Gain the principle underlying any work, and you find it to be a reflection of infinite Principle, which is the foundation of all true Being' (*Education at The Principia*, p. 62). We think about that a lot."

Leap, and the Net Will Appear

With years of formal ballet training under her belt, sophomore Kanoe Wagner wondered whether coming to Principia

would inhibit her progress as a dancer. Yet she's the first to admit, "There have been so many surprises! I never anticipated what I would experience in this program! It has pushed me as a dance technician, an artist, and just a person in general." Kanoe isn't alone. Harper says more experienced dancers, like Wagner, are showing up at the studio as they see that the program is strong and can provide both quality classes and opportunities to choreograph. These types of experiences interest dancers who've had a lot of technique but very little creativity in their dance lives. Harper elaborates, "It's one thing to perfect that triple pirouette and another to ask 'Where's my voice? What story do I want to tell?' It's fun to watch them become dance artists, not just dancers working on that all-important skill set."

To this end, Harper is intent on offering her students as many expansive artistic



experiences as possible. She works with colleagues in her department to bring in visiting dance, movement, theatre, and voice specialists to enrich the curriculum. "It's absolutely fabulous for us, and they all want to come back because they love our students," she says. This past April, for instance, the director of L'Academie Americaine de Dance de Paris, where Harper is frequently a guest teacher and artist, was invited to the College to teach a class and audition students for a summer intensive program in France.

In addition, last year the Antony Tudor Ballet Trust gave Principia College permission to stage Tudor's *Little Improvisations*, which was performed in both the 2009 and 2010 dance productions. One of the greatest twentieth century ballet choreographers, Tudor is famous for bringing psychological gesture to ballet through his poignant tales of real life, rather than swan princesses

and sleeping beauties. Amanda McKerrow, premier ballerina and repetiteur for the Tudor Trust, traveled to Principia both years to help students bring this masterpiece to the stage. "It's a huge privilege to be allowed to do a Tudor ballet," Harper says. The collaboration also blossomed into an invitation for Harper to join a national committee (along with professors from Stanford and Washington University) charged with developing a Tudor syllabus for colleges and universities across the country. "It's such a nice recognition of what Principia is contributing to the world of dance," Harper comments.

Although seeking out these extra opportunities takes a lot of time and energy, Harper is enthusiastic about the results. "Whenever things like these come up, I find they open multiple doors for students. A line attributed to naturalist John Burroughs says, 'Leap, and the net will appear.' I take that to mean, 'Let go. If you do the right thing and trust that good is in operation, things will unfold in ways you never imagined.'"

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College Dancers Share Live in the Moment

College sophomore Lena Konetchy is an accomplished ballerina who danced with the Illinois Ballet in Peoria and the Charleston Ballet Theatre before coming to the College. She credits Principia's dance program with helping her grow in two important ways: "Prin has helped me learn to really accept myself as a dancer," Konetchy says. "I've learned to live in the moment and not hold on to certain expectations for myself and others." Secondly, she shares, "In the past, I always kept dance and Christian Science separate in my life. But here, I've learned that dance has to be expressed spiritually. They're not separate. I can express God in the best possible way—through dance."

Be a Windowpane

For senior Kalo Semiti—actor, sociology major, and inspiring hip-hop dancer—dancing at Principia has offered a real creative challenge. "I never danced before coming here," Kalo shares. "When I started, it was challenging just keeping up, trying to learn the choreography. I had to find extra time to practice outside of class."

Undaunted, Kalo auditioned and performed in the dance production all four years, but not without some sacrifice. "I had to learn to let go, to get my ego out of the way," he says. "I realized that when you dance, you are God's canvas and you're expressing God, not just yourself. I've become more selfless, and as a result, my relationships have improved. I've learned to be a windowpane—a glass that others can look through and see God being expressed."

Students performing in this year's Winter Dance Production

A Soul-full Experience

Almost every year, Harper adds a few students to her program whose experience in and enthusiasm for dance has been cultivated across the river with Principia School's dance teacher, choreographer, production coordinator, costumer, painter, hair and make-up stylist, and all-around artist Sheila Alioto. There's no question what Alioto is trying to accomplish: "I want my dance students to learn to better express the beauty and grace of Soul, or God, and experience how Christian Science works hand-in-hand with any art form." Starting with fourth grade all the way through Upper School, Alioto exposes her students to as many forms of dance as possible—improving the technique of those who've already studied dance and instilling a newfound enthusiasm for dance in the novices.

"We learn technique and, at the older levels, principles of choreography," Alioto explains. "We do a lot of experimenting with tempos, levels, space—all the different principles of dance. Learning about music is also important. It's so exciting when students gain an understanding of how to work with music and start putting it into practice."

Along with dance-specific objectives, Alioto loves the character education that dance classes provide. There's so much to be learned and practiced: persistence, patience, focus; learning what teamwork looks like on a dance floor; and realizing that everything you do (or don't do) affects the other dancers immediately.

Then, of course, there's self-discipline. "You can have good technique, but you can't be a good dancer, without self-discipline," Alioto states. "Those who are disciplined, succeed."

Many Lower and Middle School students take dance as part of their P.E. program. Upper School students can enroll in Dance Basics or Concert Dance for either P.E. or arts credit. Dance shows in November and May, along with the annual spring musical production, provide challenging opportunities for students to learn intricate dances, perform for wide audiences, and maybe even try their hand at choreography. "The coolest part," senior Emily Butson shares, "is that you can start dancing here at any level. There's a lot of diversity among the dancers, and it's great to be able to try different styles."

In the future, Alioto would like to see dancers at the College practice dance education by teaching at the School. She'd also like to expand the Lower School dance program and "have a studio near the stage in Ridgway," she says. If her current list of achievements is any indication, it won't be long before Alioto finds a way to accomplish these goals, all the while inspiring students to "get out there and dance." 📺

School Dancers Share Becoming a Triple Threat

Upper School senior Stephanie Allen came to be known around campus as "Babe," due to her recent portrayal of a vivacious blonde who introduces Tait College to the "Varsity Drag" in *Good News*, this year's spring musical. What most people wouldn't guess is that Stephanie just started dancing last year. "I've taken four different types of dance plus Pilates since I started," Stephanie comments. "We're given a lot of opportunities and not limited in any way. I love that!" Best of all, now she can add dance to her already formidable talent as a singer and actress. "I'm a triple threat!" she declares.

Tapping into Talents Unknown

"I used to be shy. Really." That's what junior Jessica Wingert claims, but given her recent performance as a 1920s sorority girl in *Good News*, she isn't very convincing. It all started her freshman year when she took tap—and she hasn't stopped dancing since. "Tap is still my favorite," she shares, "but I'm learning to appreciate other forms of dance as well." And that's not all she's learning. Participating in dance, she says, has opened up a whole new world and a side of herself she didn't know was there. "Now, I can express myself not just in dance but in every way," she explains. "I've really grown as a person."

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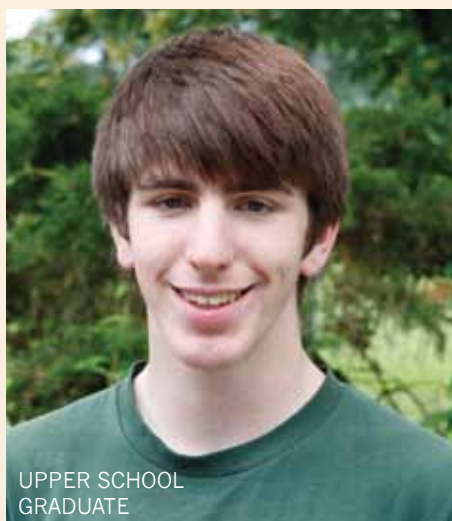
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Meet a few of this year's GRADUATES

by Phebe Telschow and Heather Shotwell



UPPER SCHOOL
GRADUATE

Kenneth Stack

Earning success one challenge at a time

Kenneth Stack's success is indisputable: he's a top-notch student who placed fifth at the 2010 Missouri State Wrestling Championships. But his path to success has been a bit unconventional, including a term he spent at home in Maine as a consequence of mischievous misconduct his sophomore year. A wiser young man upon his return to the Upper School, Kenneth re-dedicated himself to upholding Principia's standards to the fullest. Since then, he has worked hard and filled a leadership role with humility and honor in the dorm and on the wrestling team.

Upfront in his self-assessment, Kenneth speaks candidly about his time at the Upper School: "The most valuable part of my Prin experience has always been doing something hard outside my comfort zone. Christian Science has enabled me to think, ask questions, and get answers—especially when things are challenging. I definitely haven't always succeeded, and I'm not the most academically or athletically talented student at Principia, but I can say that I've worked hard."

That kind of honesty and effort earned Kenneth considerable attention this year as the winner of a Horatio Alger National Scholarship (which he'll take with him to Principia College). Recipients must demonstrate individual initiative and a commitment to excellence. The selection committee also looks for candidates who have achieved outstanding accomplishments through honesty, hard work, self-reliance, and perseverance through adversity. Last year, 50,000 students applied for the scholarship; only 104 were selected. Kenneth Stack was one of them.



UPPER SCHOOL
GRADUATE

Ashley Alarcón

Making good use of gifts

Even before she arrived at Principia, Ashley Alarcón got a taste of the spiritual growth awaiting her. On the four-day road trip from her home in Mexico City, she overcame a difficulty with riding in cars. Then upon her arrival, she was healed of a chronic physical problem. Since then, Ashley has flourished academically, socially, athletically, and spiritually. Her sincerity shines through when she says, "I love reading the Bible Lesson! It's helped my growth in Christian Science tremendously. I've really learned how to listen to God—that's one of the main things I'm most grateful for at Prin."

Ashley was awarded a Founder's Scholarship at Principia College, where she'll continue to nurture her love of music in the fall. While at the Upper School, she found band teachers who championed her talents as a flutist, but she was also given the opportunity to take lessons with Dr. Marie Jureit-Beamish at Principia College. Ashley says of those lessons, "We don't talk about Christian Science; we live it by breaking barriers and progressing. I love that you can feel the foundation of metaphysics in the principles of what Dr. Jureit-Beamish is teaching. She really stretches me to improve in the best way possible, and I'm very appreciative of her understanding of music because it's a great inspiration to people like me who wish to pursue music."

Wrapping up high school just as she began it—with a spiritual focus—Ashley notes the growth she's experienced: "I've overcome a lot of challenges at Prin, and I give Christian Science and the faculty and staff full credit for their support. Principia gives you a lot of tools, but it's up to you to put those tools to good use. When you use them, you can't help but succeed."



UPPER SCHOOL
GRADUATE

Kevin Dickey

Love improves everything

If you saw Kevin Dickey play Tom Marlowe in this year's spring musical, *Good News*, the words *confidence*, *joy*, and *unselfconsciousness* likely come to mind. Kevin would probably agree with that description—much to his own surprise! Speaking humbly of the progress he made during rehearsals and performances—including the freedom and ease he expressed on stage—he credits others with his success. "I'm still looking for adequate words to describe the love, support, and dedication of the directors and my fellow cast mates," he says.

This fall, Kevin heads for Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), where he'll study imaging science, a relatively new field that uses physics, math, electrical engineering, and computer science in the generation, collection, and analysis of images. Kevin has been fascinated by mechanical things as long as he can remember, but that's not the extent of his interests. As he puts it, "I was always sort of a math and science kid who took apart everything from coffee makers to computers to find out how they work. But I've been surprised at the number of different ways Principia has challenged me and helped me grow, especially in music and photography."

Asked about his favorite lessons learned at Principia, Kevin lists several: "I've learned not to take life so seriously. I've learned that the school's motto, 'As the sowing, the reaping' is really true. I've learned not to limit myself. Most of all, I've learned that it takes love in order to really improve at whatever you're doing."

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Anna Procter

Voicing others' stories

A theatre major, Anna Procter has enjoyed taking the stage in a wide variety of roles at the College—as Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Grusha in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, and Maid Marian in *Robin Hood*. She's also received wide-ranging training in the Theatre Department. "Each professor offers a unique vantage point for developing specific aspects of craft, such as voice, movement, and character," she explains.

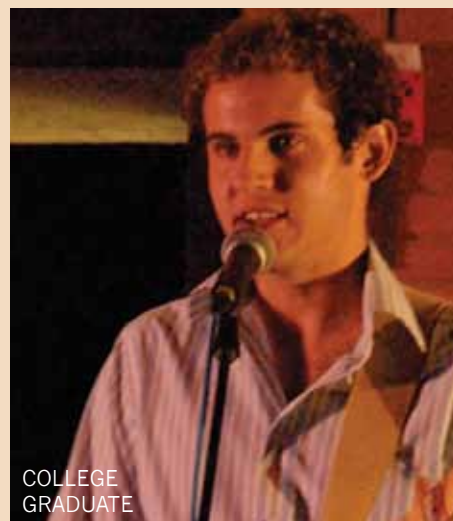
Coming to Principia from Australia, Anna went on to study abroad on two different continents, including a trip to England as a junior. "We studied intensive voice, movement, dance, stage combat, and

scene study with top theatre instructors at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and attended performances by the Royal Shakespeare Company," she says.

"Engaging with some of the best current performers inspired us immensely and showed us how a mastery of craft can enable work as dense as Shakespeare to resonate deeply with the plethora of poignant universal issues pervading our lives today."

Then last fall, on the India abroad, Anna found her senior capstone taking shape as she learned about the Dalits—also known as "untouchables" or "voiceless people"—who are of such low social standing that they're outside the caste system. "That idea of voicelessness just grabbed me," Anna says. After gathering the Dalits' stories, Anna worked with singer/songwriter Tabea Mangelsdorf (a 2010 grad from Germany who also went to India) to turn them into a performance piece, which they were invited to perform at the Edinburgh International Festival this summer. Instead of going overseas again, they've decided to look for opportunities to share their work in the U.S.

"Everyone has a story to tell," Anna declares. "I love it that theatre can recognize common points of humanity and empower people."



Will Buchanan

Harvesting opportunities everywhere

Principia's motto, "As the sowing, the reaping," isn't a cliché for Will Buchanan. When fellow students talk about what they got out of Principia, he asks what they gave. And Will gave plenty! He pursued every opportunity to serve and to develop his abilities—and the opportunities came his way.

As student body president his senior year, Will reorganized student government, began an effort (now completed) to start a convenience store on campus, and worked with administrators on the semester transition process. His junior year,

he co-directed Principia's 60th Public Affairs Conference, entitled "China Rising," and won his third and fourth Outstanding Delegate awards, while also serving as Head Delegate for Principia's Model UN team. Even so, most sunny fall and spring afternoons, Will found time to play ultimate Frisbee on the Chapel Green.

Will also greatly enjoyed serving as a reader for the Christian Science Organization and performing across the greater St. Louis area as a guitarist with the blues band Briars Road. Over breaks, he hiked with the Metanoia backpacking group in Puerto Rico, Michigan, Florida, and Colorado, studied abroad in Vietnam and Cambodia, and interned with the House Appropriations Committee in Washington DC and *The Christian Science Monitor* in Boston.

With several law school acceptances in hand (including Georgetown, Michigan, Cornell, Washington University, and Boston University), Will is deciding where he'll enroll in the fall. "Prin challenged and prepared me for this next step," he remarks. "I encourage prospective students to take a close look at the liberal arts education Principia offers. Do you have a lot to sow? You'll reap so much at Prin."



Katie Farquhar


Abundant interests, unlimited opportunity

Katie Farquhar arrived her freshman year eager to join the solar car team. Even so, she was a bit taken aback at the first meeting when upperclassmen asked her for ideas about the design of Ra 7, the car they were preparing to build. She still recalls their generous invitation: "Just throw out your ideas!" That was all it took—she was hooked by this inclusive, limitless attitude.

Over the next four years, Katie participated in two races—the North American Solar Challenge from Texas to Calgary and the World Solar Challenge across the Australian outback. "My

experience with solar car has taught me that nothing is impossible," she states. "The first thing to do is turn to God with steadfast trust. You can solve enormous problems by breaking them down and taking it one step at a time."

A computer science major with many interests, Katie appreciates the wide array of opportunities her liberal arts education has offered. Her favorite classes include Artificial Intelligence, Software Engineering, Art of the Italian Renaissance, and Middle East Politics. In addition, Katie served on the Executive Board of the Public Affairs Conference, participated in student government, and wrote news articles for *The Principia Pilot*. Her junior year, Katie studied in Australia, where she interned with a software company and practiced feature writing on the weekends.

Through Principia alumni connections, Katie interned with a software company in the Seattle area last summer and fell in love with the Northwest. She plans to work in the area for a few years after graduation and then pursue an MBA or a graduate degree in computer science. 



Gifted Coaches



Upper School Baseball Coach, Art Schulz

"One of my most lasting Principia memories occurred on the baseball field with Mr. Art Schulz. Each day before a game, we practiced in shorts and t-shirts, running through our drills in a 'light workout' environment. I played third base, and on this particular day, I was more concerned about my bare legs than getting in front of the ball and making plays. I made error after error, and Mr. Schulz hit the ball harder and harder until I made the play, thus overcoming the fear of the hard-hit ground ball. I continued to play baseball through two years of college, took a long hiatus, then resumed play in a senior softball league, again playing third base, and I was always reminded of that day on the diamond with Coach Schulz."

College Track Coach, Jon Gray

"Jon Gray made a difference in my life. He coached the cross-country team my senior year. After our season ended, I told him I wouldn't be running track in the spring. He surprised me with the disappointing observation that I hadn't been running to my full potential and was holding back in favor of strong finishes. He was correct. My fear of pushing myself beyond a certain point was limiting my progress. Coach Gray encouraged me to run in the spring to gain dominion over this claim. Instead, I raced in a marathon over winter break.

"During that race, I remember thinking my watch must be broken, as the split times I was reading were so far off my normal pace, but I realized I'd just plain been running faster. The challenge then was to maintain that effort and not slack off out of fear that I'd run out of gas later in the race. My splits lengthened as the race went on, and there were even a couple of moments when I thought I might not finish, but my finishing time shattered my previous 'best.' Jon Gray helped me recognize a self-imposed limitation and encouraged me to push past it and claim dominion."

Upper School Cross Country and Track & Field Coach, Bill Simon

"Mr. Simon was far more than a genius who taught the mechanics of running. He truly cared about each of us as individuals. He saw us as reflections of God with the freedom and ability to overcome limitations. He motivated us to dig deeper and ultimately to become better people. His gentle demeanor and calming presence brought out the best in all of us. Time and time again, new records were set and obstacles were overcome. And no matter how we performed in our events, he was there at the end with a smile and a hug. The lessons I learned on the Principia cross-country course and the track have carried with me in my athletic endeavors as well as in all aspects of my life. I am forever grateful."



Readers' Reflections

When we invited *Purpose* readers to share their memories of Principia coaches, the stories we received highlighted the far-reaching influence these men and women had on the lives of their student-athletes. Decades later in many cases, the passion and strength they instilled remain close at heart.

When coaches are educators in the full sense of the word, even one season can make a lasting impression, as this comment from a Junior College

alum demonstrates: "I was only privileged to play one season of football at Principia. But fortunately that year was under Coach Howard "Mugs" Mitchell. In that relatively short amount of time, he taught me more about true manhood than I imagine I'd have gotten in four years elsewhere."

To read additional reflections and share a memory of your own, go to www.principia.edu/reflections.

~ Kathy Coyne

College Soccer Coach, Seth Johnson

"One experience sums up what it meant to play for Seth. During a practice, I was not performing up to my ability and he noticed it. We spoke and I told him about the relationship troubles I was having that were distracting me from playing effectively. What Coach said after that blew me away. He quoted from memory two passages from *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*: "God has endowed man with inalienable rights, among which are self-government, reason, and conscience" and "The enslavement of man is not legitimate" (pages 106 and 228). He explained that I had an inalienable right—which could not be changed or weakened—to self-government. That was a law of God. We talked about government in terms of balance, coordination, justice, and equity. He stressed that distraction was enslavement and dominion was freedom, and he made it clear that there was no room for distraction in a God-guided government, so I couldn't be enslaved.

"What he said made perfect sense to me, broke the mesmerism of the problem, and quite literally left me speechless. It was just what I needed. The problem on the pitch was over, and the relationship problem vanished, too. You don't get coaching like that anywhere else but at Principia."



College Football Coach, Jim Crafton

"My favorite Principia football photo is one of the many sideline meetings I had with Coach. As the quarterback, these meetings often began with Coach asking, 'Aah, what are you thinking about running?' He knew that he had prepared me through films, his playbooks, and plans focused on this particular opponent's defense. His question was a confidence builder and a commitment builder.

"Fear of failure was not part of our team's anticipation! Coach had led us to know how to overcome our opponents' aggressive efforts through preparation—physically and mentally. He never preached to us or bullied us; we were inspired by his respect and love for the game. He was, and is still, our example of courage, commitment and preparation, and respect for the game."

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Gifted Coaches

Upper School Coach, Earl “Whitey” Schubert

“When Coach Schubert came to the Upper School in 1946 to coach football, basketball, and baseball, the school soon became a serious competitor in several sports. His 1951 baseball team made it to the state semifinals, playing much larger schools and giving our students some long overdue pride in Principia.

“He brought a winner’s spirit to his teams and a sense of determination, along with a great sense of humor. Not a large man in physical stature, his prowess came from within. He was given to proverbial instructions, and while not all were original, they were memorable. I can still recall his booming voice: ‘The point is, lads, that winners don’t quit, and quitters don’t win. That’s it, now, and don’t ever forget it.’

“For 55 years, whenever I’m tempted to quit at something, his words still ring in my ears. I may not win, but whatever I do, it’s my personal best. And that’s all Coach wanted from us. If you played for Whitey, you gave it everything you had, every day, every way, and when it was all over and you embarked on life’s adventures, you carried Whitey’s determination with you.”

In our next issue . . .
stories of friendship from
your Principia days.

Friendships like no other, friends for life . . . however you describe them, Principia friendships are one-of-a-kind. Share your story of friendship with the *Purpose* by e-mailing reflections@principia.edu or by writing to *Principia Purpose*, Attn: Reflections, 13201 Clayton Rd., St. Louis, MO 63131.




College Tennis Coach, Lyn Gerber

“I’ll never forget the first time I met Coach Gerber. After thirty minutes of tennis practice, she told me to either change my attitude or leave. I quickly learned she meant business. From the start, Coach Gerber was more than a coach to me. She became a dear friend, a mentor, and an ad-hoc mother. When I think of her, nothing but gratitude pours from my heart.

“Lyn’s coaching philosophy was simple: ‘In order to win, you must prepare to win.’ In other words, the key to success is preparation, both mentally and physically. More important than mechanics and physical strength, she stressed mental toughness, the foundation of which stemmed from Christian Science. Without knowing who we are, it’s quite difficult to know all that we can express on and off the court.

“During the conference championship my senior year, I seemed to have lost my backhand. My game was slowly disintegrating. During a changeover, Lyn came onto the court. Always perceptive, she knew I needed to dispel the fear of losing this match. After sharing with her that same fear, she responded with an affirmation and told me to get back to basics—which in tennis means putting every ball in play, even if you have to lob it. As I went back onto the court, Lyn said, ‘You’ve got this!’ Sure enough, I did.

“Lyn taught me two key lessons that I continue to hold dear to my heart: In life, when encompassed with doubt, fear, or a sense of limitation, stand firm in Principle and persevere. In tennis, put more balls in play than your opponent.” 



What a difference a hug makes

by Trudy Palmer

Early in 2007, with her fiftieth birthday on the horizon, Wendy (Robertson, C'79) Clark asked a simple question, "Have I done enough to help enough people in this first fifty years?" It's the type of question she could easily have asked herself, but instead she asked God.

At first, there was no answer. "So I just kept it out there with God," she explains. "After a few days, I still hadn't heard anything, so I thought, 'If I've done enough, He'll give me a sense of peace about it. If not, He'll show me what I need to do.'"

Three weeks later, someone she'd met only once forwarded an e-mail written by a major in the Army. It described a bombing in a crowded marketplace in Mosul, Iraq. "He wrote about the children who had been brought into their hospital," Clark recalls. "Each one had a parent, family member, neighbor,

or friend to hold their hand, except for one little toddler about four or five years old who didn't have anybody. Nobody knew what had happened to his family."

Realizing how terrifying that situation would be for her as an adult, Clark couldn't imagine what it must have felt like to that child. But she *could* imagine a way to help: "I thought, 'Oh, my gosh, if that little boy just had a cuddly stuffed animal he could hug close and hold onto, that would at least give him some comfort.'"

Clark says the idea "felt very strong inside [her] heart," so she got in touch with the person who'd sent her the e-mail. He loved the idea and gave her the e-mail address of the major who'd written the original message. The major consulted his unit, and from there, as Clark describes, "It was like being shot out of a cannon!"

Loving Hugs, Inc., the eventual name of Clark's non-profit, immediately began sending stuffed animals—or "hugs"—to children all over the world. In the three years since then, over 50,000 hugs have gone to children in war zones, internally

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displaced person (IDP) camps, refugee camps, orphanages, hospitals, and medical facilities in 29 countries. Even more remarkable, Clark has done this largely alone. "I don't have a crew or a staff," she says. "It's myself and my husband, though we've just started to garner a few volunteers to help us with the snipping of tags and sorting on Saturdays." Instead of sounding overwhelmed, she says simply, "It's amazing what God can accomplish."



thought for a moment, "I don't deal with shoes." But her next thought was, "Well, this is the right thing to do." And before long, she and her "network" had gotten a load of Crocs™ shoes to Haiti. She was also able to help another organization get clothes to Chile following the recent earthquake there.

The biggest hug of all

In what may be her most ambitious expansion yet, Clark has helped start a vocational program in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). After discovering that the cost to ship hugs to Africa was prohibitive, Clark says she "panicked for a second. But then [she] thought, 'Wait, wait, wait, Wendy, this is God's. He's either got that worked out or He's working on it.'"

Next, Clark found Les Écoles du Cœur, a school in Kinshasa where young women receive training in literacy and sewing. It occurred to Clark that she could pay the women to make stuffed animals. Then, through a remarkably swift and smooth unfolding of events, Clark was put in touch with the director of Les Écoles du Cœur, Mayal Tshiabuila (C'92), the day before he left the U.S. to return to

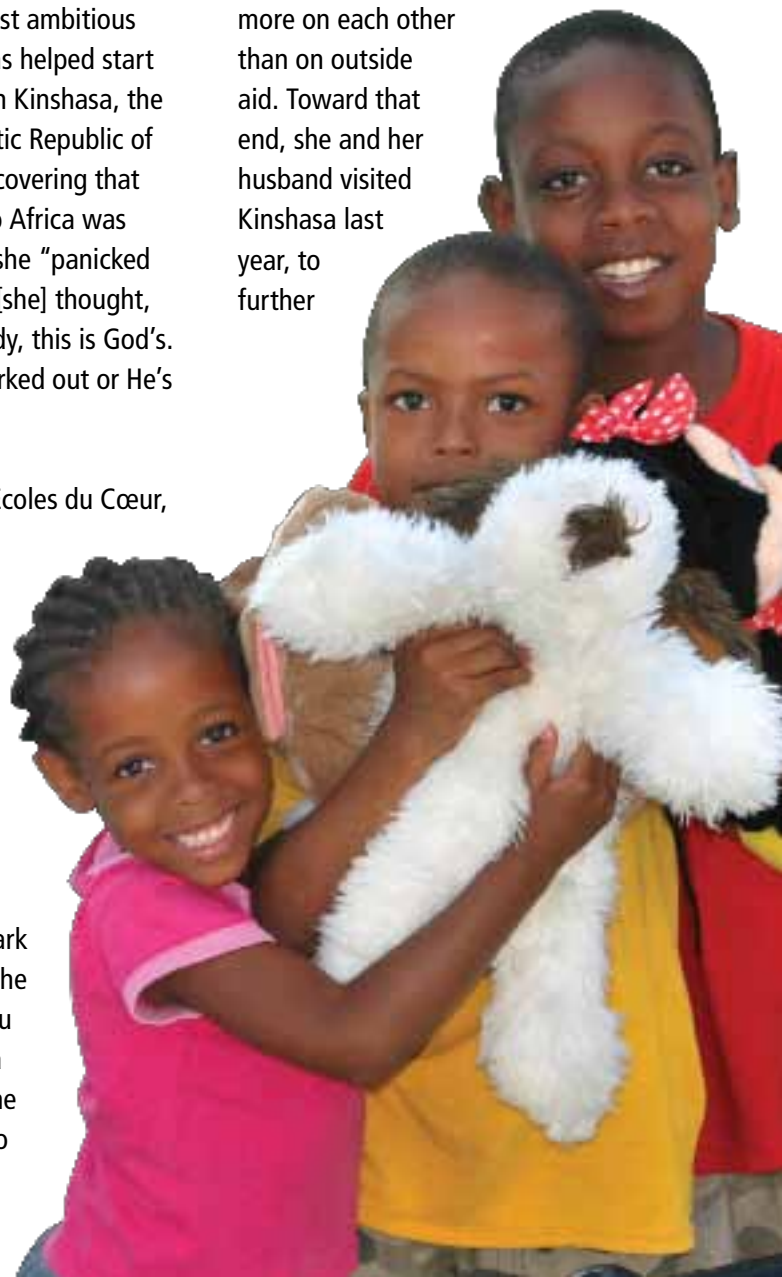
Kinshasa. Clark shared her idea with Tshiabuila, he was ecstatic, and a few months later Les Écoles du Cœur had a new vocational program in place. "The young women, many of whom are single mothers, earn a living by making stuffed animals for us and delivering them to orphanages, hospitals, and street shelters for children," Clark explains. "We also pay them to deliver food with the hugs so the children get a full hug for their belly and for their hearts."

As pleased as Clark is to be involved in the DRC, her goal is to foster self-sustainability in the area, so that the Congolese come to rely more on each other than on outside aid. Toward that end, she and her husband visited Kinshasa last year, to further

Hugs to Haiti

Amazing is an understatement! Loving Hugs, Inc., now works with the U.S. Navy and other non-profits that serve children in extreme need. "Because of our partnership with the Navy," Clark says, "when the earthquake hit Haiti, we were able to get our hugs there immediately." In addition, a container of stuffed animals Loving Hugs, Inc., had previously sent to Haiti through a different partnership was released from customs the day before the earthquake hit. "So our hugs were right there ready to comfort hundreds of children," Clark says, "Amazing situations like that continue to teach me to lean back a little more, lean back a little more in God's arms, trusting Him."

Although sharing cuddly comfort was Clark's original inspiration, she's nothing if not flexible. When her naval contact on board the USNS *Comfort* (a floating hospital) told her of the Haitians' desperate need for shoes, she



the collaboration Clark had initiated between Les Écoles du Cœur and the Biamba Marie Mutombo Hospital there. Students in the vocational sewing program now manufacture baby blankets, diapers, sheets, and garments for the hospital for a fee, thereby moving the school closer to self-sustainability. Clearly, Clark's definition of the word *hug* has expanded considerably. "One of the best hugs we can give children is an education," she says.

College role models

In some ways, this expansion into education brings Clark full circle, back to her own education at Principia College, where she found both inspiration and a role model. The inspiration was a phrase she heard during a talk by former faculty member Bunny McBride. "The one thing that just grabbed me," Clark says, "was the comment, 'Expand your capacities.' That has made a world of difference."

Clark also stays connected to the College through her adoption of Mary Kimball Morgan, Principia's founder, as her "guiding light." In particular, Clark finds invaluable instruction in *Education at The Principia*, a collection of Morgan's writings and talks. "I feel like I have this selfless, generous mentor standing behind me, looking over my shoulder and giving me divine guidance," Clark says. "With all that she had to go through in establishing Principia—dealing with its rapid growth and then the challenges—she paved the way. The book hardly ever leaves my hand."

A history major at the College, Clark says she never had a "direct line" on what she wanted to do, but the various positions she's held over the years have prepared her perfectly for Loving Hugs, Inc. "It teaches me again to trust in God," she says. "If you're willing to do what He's guiding you to do, you can accomplish anything." >>

A Hug Delivered

Below is an e-mail Clark received from CDR Chaplain Dave Oravec, sent several months ago from the USNS *Comfort* in Haiti:

"I had another 'teddy bear moment' today. We had a boy—maybe 12, maybe 13—arrive at CASREC (Casualty Receiving). He seemed to be right on the edge of being too old for a stuffed animal, but I will always err on the side of grace. So, I fished out a little ram.

"Coming into CASREC he was withdrawn, hurting—seemed to have a sadness that many of our patients have. I handed him the ram—he gave me a shy smile. I looked in on him later as they were moving his broken leg (which is a painful thing)—the whole time he gently petted his new little furry friend. Beautiful!"

Community Service at Principia College

(This article was excerpted from the October 30, 2009, issue of *The Principia Pilot*. Originally titled "Community Service," it was written by Lily Jones (C'11), staff writer for the *Pilot*.)

Half-naked Buck gentlemen could be seen on the Pub patio on the academic reading day (Week 6) promoting the clothing drive that took place from Oct. 22 through 24 in the concourse. Senior

Chris Sheasley, the main coordinator of this event, said all of the clothing was going to be donated to Oasis, a women's shelter in Alton that provides emergency housing for women and children in need. "It's a win-win-win," said Sheasley, commenting on the sense of proportion and needs being met from all angles.

Sylvester had a similar idea of giving on their mind with Week 5's "Syl in the Stairs." The event was a service project to support activist and author Greg Mortenson's organization "Pennies for Peace." The main function of this group is to raise money for schools and teacher salaries in Pakistan and Afghanistan. [Senior Janet] Irvine, one of the main organizers of this event, said that this

project was twofold. It was meant to bring Sylvester together as a house in a mellow musical setting, and also raise money for a good cause. Although the cause called for pennies, Irvine said that many people emptied their wallets of all change and small bills.

Joe McNabb has an upcoming service project at the Phoenix women's shelter in St. Louis on Saturday of Week 9. Joe women will be wallpapering and doing a general cleanup of the shelter. "I'd like to make it a tradition to do one community service event per quarter," said the Joe president, senior Ginny Tonkin. "It's important to show Principia College cares," said Tonkin.



“Service is its own reward”

Bob Yeates is a bit like Superman. For years now, he’s taught study techniques—except for the one period when he leads Philanthropy class, transforming his room into the Upper School headquarters for community service. He doesn’t duck into a phone booth and emerge in tights and a cape, but he’s the superhero of service nonetheless.

Philanthropy hasn’t always been a class. For a long time, community service existed on the fringes of the school day, but as students’ desire to serve grew and opportunities increased, class time was allotted for a core group of students to brainstorm projects and get them up and running. Yeates helps them initiate contacts with agencies in the area and whittle grand schemes down to a doable scale. He also chauffeurs students (usually on weekends) wherever they happen to be

serving—a homeless shelter in the city, a retirement home in the suburbs, or a pre-Civil War cemetery in desperate need of groundskeeping.

You needn’t be enrolled in Philanthropy class to volunteer your time, however. All Upper School students are encouraged to participate, and a wide variety of options covers just about any interest, from improving the environment to building or remodeling houses to working with children, the

elderly, the poor, the incarcerated, the disabled, or even animals. The class also ships supplies around the country (and world) and raises money. For years, they’ve collected and wrapped Christmas gifts for the children at Taos Pueblo; last year, they sent school supplies and funding for a year’s worth of lunches to the Sunrise of Africa School in Kenya; and this year, they raised funds to provide clean water for the Kinamba Primary School, also in Kenya.

Yeates doesn't believe in mandating service or recording volunteer hours. "Service is its own reward," he states emphatically. And he regularly reminds students that their projects are actually "conduits for giving love." So, when they dish out food at a homeless shelter, they serve up smiles and compassion as well. And when they give manicures to nursing home residents, they ply plenty of conversation along with their nail polish. In the process, they discover that the benefits of serving boomerang. Melody Colliatie, a 2010 grad, tells of arriving at a nursing home one day feeling lousy but then "snapping out of herself" as she turned her thought toward others. In the end, she left feeling tip-top.

Time after time, the Philanthropy class achieves its goal—"to ease the paths of others"—not only through the work they do but through the spirit they bring to their work. 📺

To Learn More . . .

**Wendy Clark
and Loving Hugs, Inc.**

www.lovinghugs.org

**Community service at the
School and College**

www.principia.edu/wire

**Search for the following
article titles:**

"Prin Giving Day"

"A Toast to Clean Water"

"Balls, Bats, and the Value
of Giving"



School students packing athletic gear to ship to Iraq

Philanthropy at Home and Abroad

From weeding to working at a wolf sanctuary, the majority of projects coordinated by Bob Yeates' Philanthropy class are local. But sometimes the class tackles issues beyond the nation's borders.

A recent overseas project grew out of Yeates' ongoing contact with a former student, Omba Ngoma (US'07). Soon after graduation, Ngoma enlisted in the Army National Guard; a year and half later, he volunteered for deployment with the Army Military Police in Iraq. While skypping one day, Yeates and Ngoma came up with the idea of giving misprinted soccer uniforms (that would go to waste in the U.S.) to children in Iraq. The Philanthropy class immediately swung into gear, soliciting assistance from Athletic Director Travis Brantingham and Johnny Mac's Sporting Goods.

In the end, two shipments of nearly 200 uniforms (along with soccer balls donated by Mikasa, some candy, and a few baseball caps and softballs) were sent to Iraq and distributed, in part, by interpreters working with the military. When Ngoma visited Yeates in April, he thanked the class for supporting the military's effort to "win the hearts and minds" of the Iraqi people.

Asked during his visit to pick a favorite service project from his years at the Upper School, Ngoma struggled to narrow the field, sifting through memories of Pine Ridge Reservation, Sunrise of Africa School, and Harbor Lights (a local homeless shelter).

Yeates can't isolate a favorite either, but high on his list is a project close to home: the wheelchair ramp students built for the innocent victim of a drive-by shooting in St. Louis. "You know what that man was most looking forward to now that he could go outside?" Yeates asks, pausing briefly to manage his emotions. "Watching the sun rise."

Benefit Principia with Your Purchases

By Stacey Wallace Manker

Would you like to help Principia without altering your routine at all? It's easy! Whenever you charge a purchase, use the Principia affinity credit card, and a percentage of each purchase will help cover travel costs for prospective students to visit the campuses. Whether you're buying lunch or charging airline tickets, if you pay with the Principia affinity card, you'll be introducing young people to all that Principia has to offer!

Background and benefits

Following the recommendation of students in a College marketing class, Principia began its first affinity credit card program in 1987. Since then, programs with various bank sponsors have provided the School and College with more than \$900,000 in royalties!

Last fall, Principia launched a new affinity card program with UMB Bank. A win-win for Principia and cardholders alike, the program provides big benefits. Here are a few of the highlights:

Cardholders . . .

- Pay no annual fee and a low annual percentage rate (APR)
- Earn 1 bonus point per dollar on all purchases and balance transfers
- Earn up to 15 bonus points per dollar at select retailers
- Redeem bonus points for cash, travel vouchers, merchandise, and more—or donate points to Principia

Principia . . .

- Receives a \$50 donation from UMB if you use your card within 90 days of activation
- Receives .3% of every purchase made with the card
- May receive bonus point donations from cardholders


What a difference a visit makes

During visiting weekends, prospective students meet teachers and coaches, sit in on classes, and stay overnight in a dorm. For many, their visit is the deciding factor. That was true for this student: "I applied to nine other schools and was pretty sure I wasn't going to attend Prin. Then I came on a visiting weekend.

I got into most of the other schools, but when it was time to decide, I don't think I spent more than ten minutes thinking about it. I knew Principia was it."



If you'd like to help students discover firsthand what Principia School and College offer, put your purchases to work with the only credit card that benefits Principia every time you use it!

To learn more, go to www.principia.edu/affinitycard, or call 314.275.3582. If you're ready to apply, go to www.cardpartner.com/app/principia. 

Matching Gifts Give Your Gift a Boost

Question: How can you give Principia \$50 by contributing only \$25?

Answer: Your employer donates the rest!

Many companies encourage charitable giving by doubling or even tripling their employees' donations to non-profits like Principia. Some also match gifts made by employees' spouses and by retirees.


Jump-start the matching gift process by donating to Principia. Then contact your Human Resources Department to find out if your employer has a matching gift program. If it does, follow your employer's guidelines to sign up for a match. Donations you've already made in 2010 may even qualify for a match. Many companies match gifts retroactively.

To learn more, visit www.principia.edu/matchinggifts. If you have questions, call our matching gifts specialist, Christina Lampmann, at 800.218.7746, ext. 3307, or e-mail christina.lampmann@principia.edu.

Stacey Wallace Manker is Principia's special gifts coordinator.

Make a difference every month.

Become a Partner for Principia



Monthly giving makes you a regular partner in Principia's mission.

And it's easy—no checks, no stamps, no renewal reminders.

Monthly giving allows you to . . .

- Make a secure gift through your credit card or bank account
- Divide your annual gift into manageable increments
- Set up your contribution quickly, easily, and only once—the rest is automatic

Monthly gifts allow Principia to . . .

- Receive consistent, reliable income for accomplishing its mission
- Keep facilities, educational technology, and athletic equipment up to date
- Provide students a rigorous, inspired, and inspiring education

You're in charge! If you want to stop or adjust your monthly gift, let us know, and we'll process your request immediately. Plus, each year we'll send you an annual acknowledgment of your monthly giving.

To increase your impact even more, set up your monthly gifts with the Principia affinity credit card. That way, Principia receives a percentage of your gift as a bonus.

For more information or to sign up for monthly giving, go to www.principia.edu/monthlygiving, or call Janet Sherwood at 800.218.7746, ext. 3523.

Sign up once.

Give each month.

Make a difference
throughout the year.



Awards and Achievements

SCHOOL

The name **Larry Patterson (US'10)** is synonymous with athletic success at the Upper School. For four years, he has played each season—football, basketball, and track—extremely well. In football, he holds Principia's career scoring record of 46 touchdowns and 4 two-point conversions for a total of 284 career points (the old record was 28 touchdowns and 174 points). He also holds Principia's records for kick-off return average (33.1 yds per return) and total returns (averaging 30.6 yards per return). And this year, Larry was one of two ABC League Players of the Year in football.

On the basketball court, Larry is the first player in Upper School history to reach the 1,000-point milestone, with a career total of 1091 points. This achievement is particularly remarkable because Larry played point guard, a position not primarily responsible for scoring.

In track this season, Larry placed at the state level in three events, coming in 5th in the 200-meter dash, 3rd in the 400-meter dash, and 2nd in the 4x400-meter relay. In the 2009 season, he was an ABC League All-Star in both the 400-meter and the 4x400 meter relay. Additionally, he holds the School record in the 400-meter dash and the 4x400 relay.

Without exception, Larry's coaches praise his humility and leadership, evidenced most notably perhaps by his selection as football team captain three years in a row. From his perspective as

athletic director, Travis Brantingham sees the big picture of all that Larry has contributed to Upper School athletics. "He embodies the best of a Principia athlete," Brantingham notes, "demonstrating grace, poise, courage, and unselfishness while striving to live a life full of joy and humility. As the star on both the football and basketball teams, Larry never took credit for his athletic success but instead attributed it to God and then to his teammates."



The day before graduation, Larry received the Arthur T. Morey Award in recognition of "outstanding athletic achievement" and "the highest standards of sportsmanship and citizenship." This fall, Larry will play football at Western Illinois University.

Speaking on this year's topic of cyber-communication, **Kevin Ward (MS'10, pictured)** took first place in the district-level competition of the annual Optimist International Oratorical Contest. (Before getting to this point, he competed successfully in School, club, and regional competitions.) Kevin's speech in favor of cyber-communication won him a \$2,500 college scholarship from the International Optimist Club. His success is especially noteworthy because this is the first year Principia has participated in the contest.



At this year's ABC League's Solo and Ensemble Music Festival (a daylong competition), School students at all levels (except Pre-School) earned high marks. In the Lower and Middle School competitions, pianist **Caitlyn Demaree** (fifth grade), oboist **Jennifer Ritter** (seventh grade), and flutist **Melissa Frank** (eighth grade) won Outstanding Soloist awards. At the Upper School level, Outstanding Soloist awards went to **Ashley Alarcón (US'10)** on flute, **Jamie Poley (US'10)** on French horn, **Sarah Bell (US'12)** on viola, and **Emily Butson (US'10)** for voice. In addition, Upper School ensembles, including a brass sextet, flute trio, percussion ensemble, clarinet trio, sax ensemble, and vocal sextet, garnered six of the seven trophies awarded.

Later, in district competition, ten Upper School students earned spots in the District Honor Choir, and four students placed into the District Honor Concert Band. In addition, **Jamie Poley** earned a seat in the St. Louis Youth Orchestra. Finally, in state-level competition, the Upper

School clarinet and percussion trios each received a Superior rating. The clarinet trio featured **Stephanie Allen (US'10)**, **Georgette Hoffmann (US'13)**, and **Sarah Stolfi (US'10)**; the percussion trio featured **Adam Eckert (US'12)**, **Cassy Gerber (US'10)**, and **David McClelland (US'12)**.

Additionally, four soloists were rated Superior: **Ashley Alarcón** on flute, **Emily Butson** for voice, **Georgette Hoffmann** on clarinet, and **Jamie Poley** on French horn.

Awards and Achievements

COLLEGE

Godfred Kwesi Delali Fianu, from Accra, Ghana, won this year's Outstanding Junior Chemistry Award from the St. Louis Section of the American Chemical Society.

Associate Professor George Cooke, chair of the Mass Communication Department, won a Bronze Reel in the Budget Productions category of the most recent Media Communications Association International Media Festival. Cooke

used a direct-cinema style approach in his 41-minute documentary about an outreach program in Cairo, Illinois, that serves homeless and at-risk children. The film is entitled *Street Outreach: "We're Just Trying to Make It Better."*

Stacey Bird (C'10), **Jonathan Delano (C'11)**, **Benjamin Kniola (C'10)**, and **Caitlin Norton (C'10, pictured)**, all of whom traveled on the College's abroad program to Vietnam and Cambodia last fall, presented papers this spring at the

Popular Culture Association's annual conference, held in St. Louis, Missouri. Their panel was entitled "Vietnam Looks Outward."



ALUMNI

Candy (Alt, US'66) Crowley

Earlier this year, veteran political correspondent Candy Crowley took over as anchor for *State of the Union* on CNN. Crowley has earned numerous broadcasting awards, including a prestigious Gracie Allen Award in 2009 for her coverage of Hillary Clinton's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Susan (McBride, C'70) Els

Landscape artist Susan Els of South Burlington, Vermont, recently won the Best Residential Landscape Design award from GreenWorks, an organization of industry professionals.

James Hegarty (C'76)

An associate professor in the Music Department at Principia College, Jim Hegarty recently released his third jazz CD, *Cut it/out*. A collection of solo piano pieces, it includes new perspectives on favorite standards as well as original compositions.

Eric Retzlaff (US'76, C'80)

Eric Retzlaff has joined Lightstone Securities as senior vice president for business development. He will focus initially on Lightstone's growing network of broker-dealers. Retzlaff holds a master's degree from Claremont Graduate University and is the founder and co-chair of the National Marketing Roundtable.

Julie (Hedgepeth, C'81) Williams

A journalism teacher at Samford University near Birmingham, Alabama, Julie Williams recently completed *Wings of Opportunity: The Wright Brothers in Montgomery, Alabama, 1910*. The book's publication marks the 100th anniversary of the brothers' relocation to Alabama to open the nation's first civilian flight school.

Mike Barthelmess (C'83)

Mike Barthelmess (C'83) has been named associate head coach and offensive coordinator of the Lawrence University football team.

Bradley Wells (C'84)

A conductor, singer, and music educator at Williams College, Brad Wells is also founder of the musical group Roomful of Teeth. Back by popular demand, Roomful of Teeth performed new material (including Inuit throat singing) at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art this summer.

Courtney Allen (C'87)

On November 13, 2010, Courtney Allen will be inducted into the ITA Women's Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame, located at the College of William and Mary. She is the first NCAA Division III player to be inducted. She is also a 2006 inductee into Principia's Hall of Fame.

Sara (Nelson, C'95) Borer

Fourteen-year United Airlines flight attendant and longtime union activist Sara Nelson Borer was elected recently to the post of International Vice President of the Association of Flight Attendants, the largest flight attendant union in the world.

Principia Club Activities Run the Gamut

By Kari Bradley

In over 70 cities across the United States (and a few overseas), groups of alumni have formed Principia Clubs—all-volunteer organizations with the dual purpose of staying connected with Principia and supporting its educational mission. A few events like picnics and Christmas sings are perennial favorites, but numerous one-of-a-kind activities occur as well. Here's what a few clubs across the country have been up to.

Adventure

In the Orlando area, Principia Club president David Hartman (C'86) was looking for an out-of-the-box idea to raise funds for the **Principia Club of Central Florida**. The idea of a cruise came to mind—and took off! This coming October, the club's inaugural "Cruise with Principia" will provide a mini-vacation for area alums and friends of Principia, who will sail for three days and three nights out of Port Canaveral. Both a fundraiser and a fund-raiser, the cruise will feature activities just for club members, and all profits will go to the club. A cruise wouldn't work for every

club, but as Hartman points out, "We're in Florida, so it's convenient to do here. We're always looking for ways to bring Principians together in a wonderful atmosphere, and of course the motive is love!" In that spirit of togetherness, the club invites all friends of Principia to join the cruise, whether they live in Central Florida or not. If you're interested, contact the Alumni & Field Relations Office at 314.514.3153.



A similar spirit of adventure prompted the Portland-area club to include letterboxing in its annual picnic.

Letterboxing is a form of treasure hunt that takes place in parks, forests, and cities around the world. Participants seek out hidden letterboxes by cracking codes and following clues. For this event, the **Principia Club of Portland** joined forces with the local DiscoveryBound chapter for an afternoon of trekking through the park on letterboxing quests followed by a potluck barbeque.

Community Building

For the past four years, the **Principia Club of Seattle to Cascades** has been hosting a March networking event called Community Connections. The organizer, Geoff Koepp (US'89, C'96), is passionate about community and

equally passionate about Principia. The idea behind the event was reinvigorated recently when Geoff heard Jonathan Palmer speak at a reunion. "He talked about how we should be a better community for each other," Koepp recalls. "As alumni, we can do a better job of being there for each other." But as Geoff points out, "It requires some work. It doesn't just magically happen."



Over the years, Community Connections has included guest speakers and activities to help people hone their networking skills. Koepp is clear, however, that networking doesn't just mean finding a job. "The term *networking* is deceptive," he explains. "It has a business connotation, but in this case it's more about connecting with each other and building relationships among alumni and people with a common background." For example, people have formed hiking groups and book clubs, learned about options for art classes, or shared tips about good places to hear live music.

Community Connections gets people to interact naturally by making it easy to branch out beyond one's circle of



friends, and that interaction carries over to other club activities as well. For Koepp, one of the best outcomes of Community Connections is that many non-alums attend, which increases interest in and good will towards Principia throughout the community.

Supporting Students

In addition to sponsoring local activities, some Principia Clubs reach out to current students. For example, near the beginning and end of each school year, members of the **Principia Club of Phoenix** give each student from their area a gift certificate to the bookstore on whichever campus they're enrolled. A Principia Club board member also contacts the students via e-mail. Rose Mary Mets, a longtime board member, explains, "It's important for the students to know where the gifts are coming from, so we e-mail each of them to let them know it's coming, along with this message: 'We're here to support you. Please let us know when the gift gets there!' That way, they have an easy way to send a response and let their gratitude show." Recently, the club also gave "their" students gift bags purchased from the Principia College women's volleyball

team. "This supports our local kids and the volleyball team, too!" says Mets. The club has also sent money to Middle School students prior to their annual Six Flags trip so that they have extra spending money for food or games.


Some clubs also support Principia's recruitment efforts. Last year, the **Principia Club of Dallas/Metroplex** mailed a letter to all prospective students in the area offering to cover travel costs for a visiting weekend. As a result, several students visited Principia who might not otherwise have done so. Club president, Cindi (Shires, C'87) Curley, notes, "With today's texting and e-mail lifestyle, it's nice to get something in the mail that's personalized and signed by hand."

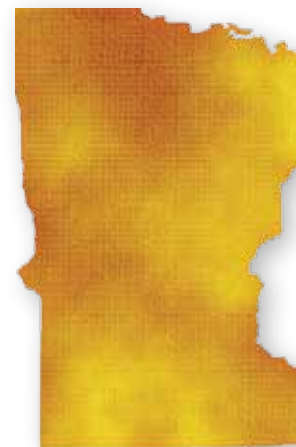
Bringing Campus Events Close to Home

Each year, Principia hosts a distinguished lineup of speakers, concerts, and special events on campus. Many of these events are broadcast live on Principia Internet Radio (PIR) or made into DVDs that are available to Principia Clubs.

The Principia Clubs of Central North Carolina and Minnesota

both held DVD presentations of Greg Mortenson's talk at Principia College last October, during which he shared his vision for world peace. In Central North Carolina, the presentation was held in a private home and included a potluck supper. Response to the Minnesota club's event, which was held at a local venue, was so good that the club had to request additional space to ensure no one would be turned away.

As you can see, Principia Club activities run the gamut from going on cruises to sending care packages! To learn more about events in your area, or to contribute to your local Principia Club, go to www.principia.edu/alumni, or contact the Alumni & Field Relations Office at 314.514.3105. 



Don't let go of GOD

by Jamie Poley



Setting goals for the season was one of the first things I did when I started the Upper School soccer program back in 2006. Coach introduced the concept of intrinsic and extrinsic goals, which set me on a path of progress and growth, even though I couldn't see it at the time. I had set goals before, but never before had I considered them from a spiritual standpoint. That is, all my goals had been extrinsic—related to soccer on a human, physical level. Setting intrinsic goals—goals that relate to the essential, spiritual nature of the game—led me to an entirely new way of thinking and a vital affirmation of my relationship with God.

At first, my intrinsic goals were generic, idealistic statements, like “Glorify God on the field and in the rest of my experience.” They sounded great on paper, but my main motivation for them was too often to please Coach and was only remotely related to what I needed for myself.

That got me through two years, but my junior year was tumultuous. I was taking the hardest classes of my life up to that point, and my athletic experiences that year were full of disappointments and injuries. Some days I felt that God was drifting away from me and that I was just a mortal

body attempting to survive its trials. I was definitely not achieving the rather clichéd goals I had set for myself my freshman and sophomore years.

“I set a goal for myself to keep [God’s] likeness in my thought every moment.”

At sports camp this year, I decided something had to change. I set a goal for myself not to let go of God—that is, to keep His likeness in my thought every moment. I’ve by no means achieved this goal completely, and I know it’s a rather tall order. But it has, without a doubt, brought me peace quite unlike any other time in my life. Increasingly, I’ve seen myself not as a struggling human but as an expression of something greater than myself. This mindset has dispelled fear and made me eager to face daily challenges, but most of all, it has lightened my human burden by letting infinite power take care of things.

I’ve made this switch in my thinking not through some mystical mind trick, but by clinging to some nugget of truth—some quiet affirmation of trust

in God, of giving myself completely to Him. Oddly enough, this has taken more discipline than even the hardest fitness sessions because the world tries to do all it can to label us as helpless humans.

Lately, this “clinging” to a divine sense of self has become more important than ever, what with college and then the rest of my life ahead of me. Truth be told, I get more than a little scared about the future sometimes, but the fear comes only on the heels of human sense. I’ve learned to handle it just as I handle fear on the field, by realizing this human sense to be no more real than the monsters and space marines in the video games that adults say corrupt our childhood.

There’s a story of a fly caught between two windowpanes. It flies back and forth, hitting the glass until it starves. It doesn’t know that, just above, there is a gap leading to freedom from the panes. All it has to do is look up.

The soccer program at Prin has definitely given me some soccer skills and improved my physical fitness, but more than these, it has taught me to “look up” and see the solution beyond the screaming mortal senses—to see true, spiritual reality. 📖

This fall, Jamie Poley (US’10) will be a freshman studying engineering at the University of Texas at Austin.



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* You may attend for the full two-week session or for only one of the two weeks.



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Muhammad Yunus

Nobel Peace Prize-winner Muhammad Yunus is the founder of Grameen Bank. Grameen was the first to lend small amounts of money to the poorest of the poor in Bangladesh. This revolutionary concept, now called micro-enterprise

lending, has been emulated all over the developing world and has empowered millions—especially women—to provide for themselves and their families with dignity using a free-market, for-profit model instead of charity. Yunus is the College's 2010 George A. Andrews Distinguished Speaker.

**Saturday, September 25, 2010
8 p.m. in Cox Auditorium**



Ambassador Joseph Wilson

Ambassador Joseph Wilson blew the whistle on what he felt was the Bush administration's manipulation of his intelligence report on a rumor of Niger providing uranium to Iraq. Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, Scooter Libby, was subsequently convicted for obstruction of justice and perjury resulting from a cover-up attempt after leaking the identity of Wilson's wife, CIA agent Valerie Plame. Some have interpreted Libby's actions as retribution for Wilson's exposé. Wilson is this year's Ernie and Lucha Vogel Moral Courage Speaker.

**Thursday, October 7, 2010
8 p.m. in Cox Auditorium**