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Announcing Principia's New Chief Executive

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New Series: Alumni Serving the Cause

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New School Centers Spotlight Student-Centered Learning

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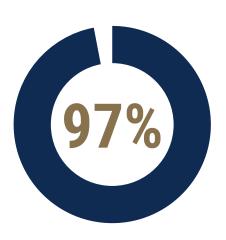


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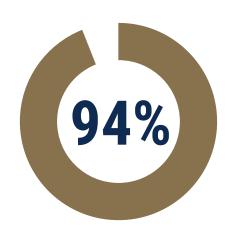


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WINTER 2017, Issue No. 375

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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#### From the Interim Chief Executive

Dear Reader,

Having Principians engaged in a wide variety of professions has many advantages, two of which come immediately to mind.

First and foremost, the world is enriched as alumni share the benefits of their Principia education in a broad range of fields.



Second, you and I benefit from an insider's view of professions we might otherwise learn about only through media sound bites. We're pleased to share in our cover story an inside view of policing in the United States—at a time when understanding that profession's challenges and opportunities is especially important. We hope the experiences and insights of the six alumni officers featured offer a helpful perspective on this timely topic.

With this issue, we're launching a new, occasional series about alumni serving the Cause of Christian Science (p. 12). The series kicks off with Jennifer (Quirk, US'93, C'97) McLaughlin, the Publisher's Agent for Mary Baker Eddy's Writings.

The issue also offers a look at the value (and fun!) of freshman housing at the College (p. 36) and at the innovative opportunities that two renovated academic spaces at the School are providing (p. 42). You'll meet Dr. Julie Blase of the College's Political Science Department in this issue's faculty spotlight (p. 22) and get a peek at last spring's Finland Abroad in the photo essay on page 40.

Enjoy diving into this issue, brimming with information and insights!

Douglas Gibbs

Interim Chief Executive

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#### **Letters to the Editor**



Thank you for your excellent work that it took to make this issue so interesting and informative. The students and staff at "Prin" are representing the school very well. Best wishes for continued success.

Charles Vausbinder

I was excited to see the articles on entrepreneurship in the last issue of the *Principia Purpose*.

Principia's focus on entrepreneurship couldn't be more timely. There is a sea change taking place in the business world—with established businesses turning more and more to contract workers, and a new generation of workers demanding the flexibility to design their own working terms. In this context, entrepreneurship is taking on new and vital importance. Whether people want to run their own business or innovate within the "virtual" walls of an existing business, an entrepreneurial spirit is what will determine their competitiveness and sustainability for the long term.

That is the motivation behind Principia Upper School's Entrepreneurship class for freshmen and related units in the Middle School Integrated Studies program. The sooner young people learn to tap their entrepreneurial talents, the better prepared they'll be for this new world of business. The applied nature of entrepreneurship education at Principia builds on all the other core academic skills the School teacheswritten and verbal communication, math, debate, and presentation. Entrepreneurship makes all the subjects we teach relevant to this emerging generation of professionals.

Let's see how far we can take it!

Brian Webster Boys' Dorm houseparent and Upper School teacher

To submit your letters to the *Purpose*, e-mail purpose@principia.edu or write to Principia Purpose, 13201 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63131.



#### Summer '16 Photo Caption Contest Winner

Actually, I do mind crouching under the cake for another photo.

— Tom Haak (C'89)



For the next contest, submit your caption for the photo above to **purpose@principia.edu** by May 1, 2017. The winner will be announced in the Summer '17 issue.

#### **School News**



#### Upper School Fall Trips Bolster House and Crew Spirit

The second year of Upper School's fall character trips was deemed a success by both students and chaperones. The September expeditions featured canoeing in the Boundary Waters in Minnesota (freshmen); rafting the Salmon River in Idaho (sophomores); and sailing or canoeing in Maine (juniors). On Senior Retreat at the Leelanau Outdoor Center in Michigan, the Class of 2017 combined outdoor challenges with in-depth discussions and workshops on leadership and service. Key factors in achieving the trips' community and character goals were the preparatory sessions on campus and grouping students according to Crews (smaller, single-grade groups within the multi-grade House system).

#### Former Army Chaplain Spends Week on Campus

Students—and the larger Principia community—enjoyed interacting with former U.S. Army Chaplain (Col.) (Ret). Janet Horton in October. Kicking off her visit by delivering chapel, Colonel Horton went on to meet with Upper and Middle School classes throughout the week. Among the many inspiring accounts she shared, Horton told about being at the Pentagon on 9/11—and about how her prayers before the attack readied her to minister to the injured. Horton also spoke one evening to the larger community; that talk was titled "A Bible Story for Any Occasion."

#### **Dance Show**

In early November, the Upper School dance program brought to life the much-loved tale of Peter Pan through music and dance. In this creatively choreographed performance, the Lost Boys tap-danced, Captain Hook's pirates went for hip-hop, fairies performed ballet, mermaids showcased modern—and almost the entire troupe performed a dance from Kenya, accompanied by the Upper School band's percussion section. The show, titled *Second Star to the Right*, sparkled with talent and joy.







#### Blind Adventurer Addresses Both Campuses

Eric Weihenmayer's example and message of "embracing the learning process . . . and adversity" inspired students at both the School and College during his visit in early October. The adventurer, author, and motivational speaker—who is the first blind person to have scaled the "seven summits"—shared numerous examples of individuals who have not let physical or emotional impediments stop them from living what he calls a "no barriers life." After writing a couple of books, including *The Adversity Advantage*, Weihenmayer established the No Barriers Foundation, which works with children, youth, and adults to help them redefine their purpose and view of life.

#### Teton Science School Faculty Training

A group of approximately 15 Principia School educators is participating in a yearlong professional development partnership with the acclaimed Teton Science Schools (TSS) of Jackson, Wyoming. A two-day fall workshop kicked off the effort to help teachers across disciplines intentionally and effectively integrate place-based education into the curriculum.

The participating faculty have been sharing their discoveries more broadly with other teachers during in-house sessions. A follow-up workshop will be held in February, in addition to mid-semester video sessions with the TSS instructors. Data from implementation of the units and student engagement surveys will be collated and shared in order to inform ongoing teaching innovation and optimal use of our own campus resources as well as Principia's location in the Greater St. Louis area.

#### Turtle Monitoring Project with Saint Louis Zoo Takes Off

An evolving partnership with the Saint Louis Zoo's Box Turtle Project is expanding opportunities for Principia students to observe, participate in, and contribute to real-time, real-world scientific research. With the number of wild, native box turtles declining in Missouri, the project aims to educate and inform both scientists and citizens about these creatures. Starting last spring, Upper School students helped identify and tag two turtles (Mack and Dory). Over the summer, the program hosted researchers and visiting educators. In the fall, Lower and Middle School students joined the tracking activities, in connection with their robotics classes and a robotics competition with the theme "Animal Allies." After the turtles come out of hibernation in the spring, the plan is to tag a third turtle so that more students can help collect and record data.



#### **College News**





#### **New Center Opens on Campus**

The Principia College Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation seeks to promote and inspire entrepreneurial spirit and encourage collaboration and creativity. The Center is supported by Don (US'64, C'68) and Christina (C'66) Koch and by the 50th Reunion College Classes of 1966 and 1967. The heart of the Center is a large room open 24/7 with walls covered in IdeaPaint and technology that puts virtual conversations and collaborations at students' fingertips.

Along with sponsoring workshops this fall, the Center hosted a *Shark Tank*-style Innovation Challenge. Thirteen teams gave two-minute pitches to a panel of judges, who assessed each business idea on its innovative solution to a problem or need, feasibility, and entrepreneurial spirit. The next day, Dale Matheny, who directs the center, and the Koches presented prizes to the top three teams, whose projects ranged from an online shopping aid to an urban agriculture business model.

#### An Extended Visit from Ambassador Rick Barton

Rick Barton, a United States diplomat who served as Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO) from 2011 to 2014, is one of this year's Annenberg Scholars. While at the College this past fall, he gave the keynote address at the student-led International Perspectives Conference and taught for two weeks in the World Focus Seminar.

Along with establishing the CSO, which works around the world to increase the effectiveness and coherence of U.S. government responses in conflict and crisis situations, Barton served in more than 40 war-torn countries over two decades, bringing together policy and practice to advance peacebuilding in pragmatic ways.

"My life is dedicated to advancing peaceful democratic change," Barton told students. "In business, politics, and government service, I pursue this challenge by building organizations and partnerships that are driven by mission and principles; committed to learning and mutual respect; and measured by impact."



#### Greetings from Robert Duvall

While in the Washington, DC, area this fall, College President Jonathan Palmer (C'78, below on the right) and Advancement colleague Ned McCarty enjoyed a wonderful visit with Academy Award-winner and alumnus Robert Duvall (US'49, C'53), who last visited the College campus in 2007 as the George A. Andrews Distinguished Speaker. While on campus, he shared how pivotal the shift in his academic focus from government to theatre proved to be. "My most valuable experience at Principia was being introduced to drama," he said. "The whole idea of my going into this field started right here."

Over lunch this past fall, the men fondly recalled classmates and mutual friends and discussed Principia's Theatre and Dance Department today. During their visit, Duvall extended a hearty and warm greeting to his fellow alumni and Principia friends.



#### Fall Sports Highlights

Teams and individual athletes had a strong fall semester. Here are a few highlights:

- The rugby team won the Gateway Conference Championship.
- The men's cross country team won the St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SLIAC) Team Sportsmanship Award.
- Junior Zach Matthiesen was named SLIAC Men's Cross Country Runner of the Year.





#### Students Enjoy Christian Science Board of Directors' Visit

At the invitation of Student Government at the College, the Christian Science Board of Directors spent time on both campuses in early November. At the College, the Board held discussions and answered questions in several student-only sessions, and at the Upper School, the Directors participated in a moderated panel discussion and took questions from the audience.

On both campuses, students sought to better understand the role of the Board and to delve into the relevance of Christian Science today. In its responses, the Board stressed compassion for ourselves and our fellow man and the privilege of working to share the liberating message of Christian Science—God's universal love for all—with the world.

In a follow-up letter to the Upper School, the Board noted "how encouraged we were by your thoughtfulness, openness, and interest in Christian Science. We loved our time with you and just wish we could have had more."

#### 2016 SLEEC Retreat Held at the College

For the second time in the group's six-year history, the St. Louis Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation (SLEEC) Retreat was held at Principia College in September. Principia science faculty and about a dozen students welcomed over 170 research scientists from area institutions, including Washington University in St. Louis, Saint Louis University, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, University of Missouri, Maryville University, National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, the Missouri Botanical Garden, and the Saint Louis Zoo.

Dr. Ruth Shaw, from the University of Minnesota, delivered the keynote address, an overview of her research into the adaptive process in wild plant populations, particularly purple cornflower and partridge pea. Among other presenters, two Principia professors, Dr. Scott Eckert (C'79) and Dr. Greg Bruland (C'97), shared the recent evolution of undergraduate research at Principia, including all four biology faculty members' engagement of student researchers.

#### School



#### Marshall Fielding Named Outstanding Student Leader

Senior Marshall Fielding received a St. Louis County 2016 Outstanding Student Leader award in the fall. Through his involvement in a variety of co-curricular activities—including the Upper School robotics program and the concert and jazz bands (on trombone)—Marshall has demonstrated what it means to lead both from the front and behind the scenes.

Working on the competitive robotics teams, he has often taken the lead in problem solving and presentations about the program, as well as spent time mentoring and helping build the skills of newer members of the team.

As part of this county-wide recognition, Marshall participated in a daylong leadership workshop at Washington University in St. Louis, along with the 53 other high school recipients nominated by their schools this year.

#### **Students Earn AP Accolades**

Seventeen Upper School students earned special recognition in the Advanced Placement (AP) examination results released in fall 2016. Of these, four 2016 graduates earned "AP Scholar with Distinction"—with an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. They were Katie Barthelmess, Dylan Hanser, Aya Maruyama, and Brendan O'Hagan.

In addition, five 2016 graduates were named "AP Scholars with Honor" (scores of 3 or higher on four or more exams): Brittany Duke, Chrissy Fredrikson, Joshua Greene, Olivia Halverson, and Sean Hannan. Two current seniors—Caitlyn Demaree and Madison Peticolas—were recognized as "AP Scholars" (scores of 3 or higher on three or more exams). Five 2016 graduates received AP Scholar recognition as well: Emily Faulkner, Mesa Goebel, Dylan Sheets, Eli Shillinger, Sarah Switzer, and Anna Webster.

#### **Interfaith Arts Recognition**

Izzie Iarussi (US'16) won an award from Arts and Faith St. Louis for a video she produced on youth interfaith dialogue as part of her Senior Project. The video was shown at the annual 2016 Interfaith Concert. Izzie also convened and moderated an interfaith panel discussion in Ridgway. The teen panelists—representing Islam, Judaism, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints, and the Baha'i tradition—discussed the importance of religious freedom and ways to support it.

#### College



#### Annika Erickson Is Lincoln Academy Student Laureate

Each year, colleges in Illinois nominate one senior for the prestigious Lincoln Academy Student Laureate Award, based on overall excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities. Annika Erickson, a computer science major and business administration minor, is this year's Principia College Lincoln Academy Student Laureate.

As a junior, Annika led a coding team at the MasterCard Masters of Code event in St. Louis. Competing against 20 teams, Principia's team won first place, advancing to the World Finale in Silicon Valley. Annika also organized the College's first web-building hackathon, bringing experts to campus to help students build professional websites for 24 hours.

Annika has interned for two summers. First, she worked at Cyan Optics (now Ciena Corporation), developing a web client for simulation software solutions. Next, she interned at Resultrek, helping to rebrand the company.

Annika is in her third year as a diver, serves as house president, and is co-directing the Public Affairs Conference.



#### Solar Car Team Places Second and Fifth

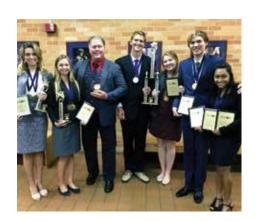
Last summer, Principia's solar car team finished second in the 2016 Formula Sun Grand Prix in Pennsylvania, the track event used to qualify cars for the American Solar Challenge (ASC). The team went on to place fifth in the 1,975-mile ASC road race, traveling through seven states from Brecksville, Ohio, to Hot Springs, South Dakota.

On the final day of the race, Principia was one of only five teams still operating exclusively on solar power, but heavy cloud cover and rain caused four of the five, including Principia, to trailer their cars to the finish.

In the end, Principia finished ahead of the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Minnesota, among others. The team is now building a new car to race in Australia this fall.

#### Mediation Team Competes Successfully

Principia's mediation team took second place in Team Mediation at the 2016 International Intercollegiate Mediation Championship Tournament in Arlington, Texas, in early November, earning an invitation to the 2017 International Law School Mediation Championship Tournament in Glasgow, Scotland, in April. This is the third year in a row that Principia has placed in the top two in this competition, and it will be the team's third appearance in three years at the Law School Championships.



#### **Alumni**

#### Duncan Martin (C'76)

An exhibition of selected artworks that artist Duncan Martin painted over the course of five years as part of his "58 in 58" series debuted at the Schoodic Institute in Maine last summer. For the "58 in 58" project, Martin, Chair of the College's Art and Art History Department, painted in all 59 national parks (one was added) over the course of as many months, finishing in time for the 2016 centennial of the National Park Service, which the Schoodic celebrated.

#### Carol Carter (US'73 C'77)

October 2016's Watercolor Artist, the professional magazine highlighting premier watercolor artists worldwide, featured an interview with Carol Carter and several full-color paintings by her.

#### Ngozi Mwanamwambwa Asinga (US'89, C'93)

Two-time Olympic athlete Ngozi Asinga was recently featured on CNN's African Voices, a series of videos about some of the continent's changemakers. While at the College, Asinga was a seven-time NCAA Division III All-American in track and the 1992 Champion in the 200-meter race.

#### Amanda Blaikie (US'02, C'06)

This past summer, Amanda Blaikie won the Second Flute position with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

#### Brett Banning (C'11)

In October, Brett Banning and teammates won the GlobalHack VI \$150,000 Grand Prize and \$125,000 1st Place Pro Division prize in a 48-hour competition to develop software solutions to alleviate homelessness.

## Endowed Fund Honors the Love of Learning through Travel

by Armin Sethna



From left: Nancy, Gloria, Velma, and William Siebens. Photo courtesy of Bill Siebens.

From summer vacations in Michigan to a family trip to Europe, from river floats to ocean cruises and more—Velma Wolf Siebens Schierholz (US'25) loved to travel. The newly established Velma Elizabeth Wolf Siebens Schierholz Love of Learning Endowed Travel Fund honors this beloved Upper School housemom's spirit of inquiry and adventure.

"One of the most meaningful things to me, as my mother and I traveled together," says Velma's daughter Nancy Siebens Binz (US'51), "is how she always educated herself about where we were going. She taught me to value both the similarities and differences" of other places and cultures—a value Nancy practiced while living and traveling in other countries.

That's why Velma's children have just made a generous gift to Principia to endow the Love of Learning Travel Fund to support travel opportunities for Principia School students. Both Nancy and her brother, William "Bill" Siebens (also US'51), say that their travel experiences as young children were not only fun but formative.

And they agree that their sister, the late Gloria Siebens Freund (US'45), would enthusiastically support this remembrance of the indelible impact their mother had on her own children and on scores of other Principia students.

The intent of this gift is for Principians to experience the many benefits of travel that Nancy and her mother enjoyed on their adventures. Here are some of their most meaningful takeaways, as shared by Nancy:

- "Travel makes you a better and wiser person, more tolerant and open to differing viewpoints and perspectives."
- Any young person considering a career in politics or public life "should know the world—and should know all versions of it."
- Travel also sharpens some useful life skills—such as "learning how to budget both time and money, pack light, and get by with less."

Knowing the world is certainly a motto by which Velma lived—and one that will help our students be effective global citizens.

#### Velma Siebens Schierholz

Having grown up in nearby Belleville, Illinois, Velma attended the Upper School in the early 1920s.

While her two youngest were still at Principia, she joined the Upper School staff as a receptionist in 1948. In 1951, she was a housemother in the Girls' Dorm on the Page and Belt campus, before serving as social hostess and "mother" in Noble Lodge, the Boys' Dorm.

For the energetic Velma, working with equally energetic boys "was her greatest joy," Nancy recalls.

And to this day, Principia alumni from the 1950s remark to the Siebens children, "Boy, your mom was the best housemother we ever had!"

Remarrying in 1957, Velma left Principia and spent seven happy years with her second husband, Bill Schierholz, expanding her embrace of family to include Bill's five children—Bill, Betty, Mary, Jim, and Jack.

No matter where her travels took her, Velma always made sure to learn more—and stay in touch with her extended family and friends from Principia.

#### New Chief Executive Announcement: Marshall Ingwerson



Photo courtesy of The Christian Science Monitor

The Principia Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Marshall Ingwerson (C'79), current Editor of *The Christian Science Monitor*, as Principia's new Chief Executive.

The Board's appointment of Ingwerson as Chief Executive comes with deep gratitude for his willingness to serve in this position and great enthusiasm for the experience he brings to the post.

"Marshall offers an inspired outlook and a winning combination of proven skills in strategic thinking, effective collaboration, and successful implementation," says Principia's Board Chair Meridee Olsen (C'79). "He has a deep appreciation of Principia's mission to serve the Cause of Christian Science and will bring an inclusive approach to leadership that respects our talented staff and will help build on our current successes."

In sharing his enthusiasm for joining the Principia team, Ingwerson said, "Principia has made incredible progress in recent years in becoming a worldclass academic institution, and I see a determination to keep building on that progress. This is important work, and I am eager to be a part of it."

After graduating from Principia College, where he served as Editor of the *Pilot* and majored in English, Ingwerson joined the staff of *The Christian Science Monitor*. He spent 16 years as a staff correspondent in Moscow, Washington, DC, Miami, and Los Angeles before returning to Boston and making the transition to management. In 2006, while Managing Editor, Ingwerson launched a crisis management team that saw the release of a reporter kidnapped in Iraq. He has served as the *Monitor's* Editor since January 2014.

Ingwerson's long and distinguished career with the *Monitor* has uniquely prepared him for this position. He has been managing a global organization of journalists—researchers, writers, and lifelong learners—that has a similar purpose to that of Principia. In addition, Ingwerson has extensive experience working with boards, as well as leading change through consultation and consensus building in the context of a Christian Science-based organization of professionals.

As Chief Executive, Ingwerson will have overall responsibility for strategically leading and managing Principia, establishing the institutional vision in partnership with the Trustees, and ensuring the effective operation of the two campuses and shared services units as a single institution. He will oversee all operations at Principia, including

the School and College. Primary responsibility for the educational programs will continue to rest with the Head of School and College President.

This appointment concludes a fivemonth search process conducted by the Chief Executive Search Committee, composed of current and former Trustees. Educational search firm Educators' Collaborative assisted with overall search-process management to ensure compliance with best practices.

The search committee received many nominations and contacted more than 60 prospective candidates from 21 states and four countries. From the 22 complete applications received, the search committee interviewed 14 candidates in person. Six finalists participated in two-day campus visits this fall. The campus visits included meeting with more than 100 people individually or in groups, including faculty, staff, students, parents, administrators, campus heads, Trustees, and an Advisory Committee. In addition, each finalist held open meetings on both campuses.

The Board is grateful for the strong leadership Vice President of Finance and Operations Doug Gibbs (HON'16) has provided as Interim Chief Executive since mid-July 2016. His able oversight of Principia will continue through the transition. Ingwerson's start date is dependent on the timing of his replacement at *The Christian Science Monitor*, but the transition is expected in April and no later than the end of May 2017.

#### Making Mrs. Eddy's Words Readily Accessible

by Trudy Palmer

For well over a century, Principia's purpose—"to serve the Cause of Christian Science"—has guided the institution, and alumni have fulfilled that purpose in various ways. This series introduces readers to alumni serving the Cause.

#### Jennifer (Quirk, US'93, C'97) McLaughlin Publisher's Agent for Mary Baker Eddy's Writings



Jen McLaughlin describes her career path as "a little roundabout"—but one common thread has bound it all together: the desire to serve God.

That's why this environmental science major (with a biology minor) is now a *Journal*-listed Christian Science practitioner and loves her role as Publisher's Agent for Mary Baker Eddy's Writings.

Asked what exactly the Publisher's Agent does, McLaughlin clarifies that she is not the publisher. "The Christian Science Board of Directors is the publisher of Mary Baker Eddy's writings," she explains. "They make all the decisions. An agent provides information

and recommendations, but the Board makes the decisions." In order to implement the Board's publishing decisions, however, countless issues have to be explored and choices made. The agent is responsible for those.

Overseeing a staff of seven (six of whom are Principia grads!), McLaughlin heads the Office of the Publisher's Agent, which has three primary areas of focus:

Printed products—The King
 James Bible and Mary Baker Eddy's
 published writings: Science and
 Health with Key to the Scriptures,
 Prose Works, Christ and Christmas,
 Poems, and the Church Manual

- **Digital works**—E-book versions of Mrs. Eddy's writings and Concord (the electronic concordance to the Bible, Mrs. Eddy's writings, and the *Christian Science Hymnal* and *Hymnal Supplement*)
- Translations—New and revised translations of Mrs. Eddy's writings, especially *Science and Health*, which is available in 16 languages and braille

Keeping Mrs. Eddy's writings available and accessible is McLaughlin's overarching goal, whether the reader picking up—or downloading—*Science and Health*, for example, is a fourth-generation Christian Scientist or someone just discovering the book. "So much prayer goes into listening for how to make this book available," McLaughlin says. And by "available" she means more than just getting it into people's hands. "A closed book doesn't do anyone any good," she notes. "The whole office and the Board of Directors are praying a lot about supporting the book being *opened*."

In the area of translations, the German and Portuguese editions of the *Church Manual* have recently been revised. "The translators put the English next to the old translation for comparison, but then wrote their new translation right next to the original English, to make sure they were capturing it correctly," McLaughlin explains. "Over time, the language grows, and the people who

speak that language—their spiritual understanding grows, which enables them to work with the text differently. So, each iteration of a translation renders the original English more faithfully."

#### From Conservation to Book Publishing

After graduating from Principia College, McLaughlin worked in the conservation field for a while, at two nonprofits and briefly in environmental education. During that time, she took Primary class instruction, which, she says, "lit a fire under me in terms of wanting to serve the Cause. When I came out of class, I knew I wanted to be a Christian Science practitioner."

But first, she lived in South Africa, where her husband, Abraham McLaughlin (US'90, C'94), was the Africa Bureau Chief for The Christian Science Monitor. While there, Jen earned her MBA at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. When they moved back to the United States, Abraham enrolled in business school near Boston to get his MBA, and Jen began working at the Christian Science Publishing Society, in the department that publishes the materials (other than Mrs. Eddy's writings and the periodicals) sold in Reading Rooms. She eventually managed that department (and briefly the Bible Lesson Department) before taking on her current position as Publisher's Agent, which she has held for six years.

McLaughlin may not be publishing books about the environment, but she puts her biology training to work constantly. "Without even realizing it, I

# "When you love something, you do right by it, and you do right by it impersonally."

-Jen McLaughlin (US'93, C'97)

look for ecosystems," she says. "I know nothing happens in a vacuum, so if X happens over here, I'm looking for Y over there. I anticipate ripple effects—how the ecosystem will respond. Book publishing is very responsive, it's very flexible, so appreciating that broader picture is important."

#### Love—Central to Serving the Cause

Amid the array of books, platforms, and languages that fall under McLaughlin's purview, one idea—love—undergirds her work as Publisher's Agent. "The most important way we serve the Cause is by loving God, loving Christ Jesus," she says. "We love these books, we love their author. When you love something, you do right by it, and you do right by it impersonally."

"One of my guiding lights," McLaughlin continues, "is a quote from Mrs. Eddy in *First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, where she says, speaking of the textbook, '. . . the demand for this book constantly increases'" (p. 305).

"I love that!" McLaughlin exclaims.

"She's not saying increasing during my lifetime or increasing for the next century. She's saying the demand is constantly increasing. A great deal of my work is to see and expect that and to do what I can to support that."

Another indispensable guide in McLaughlin's work is the *Church Manual*—of which Mrs. Eddy said that "each Rule and By-law . . . will increase the spirituality of him who obeys it, invigorate his capacity to heal the sick, to comfort such as mourn, and to awaken the sinner" (*Miscellany*, p. 230).

"It's this perfect, complete little book—Mrs. Eddy thought of everything!" McLaughlin says, enumerating the Manual's provisions for lectures, correcting of impositions, publishing periodicals, and conducting church services. "It's all in there, and it's enough," McLaughlin notes. "I've seen that again and again—what Mrs. Eddy has given in the Manual is enough. So, whenever I find myself thinking, 'What else could be done?' I go to the Manual and ask, 'What more can I do to support what's already been given to us here?' I reread and study it, expecting to have more revealed to me each time and trusting that the answer I seek is there."

#### **Lifelong Learning**

#### Scotland's Incomparable West Highland Way

by Dr. Sue Collester (C'60)



at Glasgow's Prestwick International Airport on a cool gray morning in July. We joined our group of 22 silent, wide-eyed Americans, Principians, gripping suitcases and backpacks. We milled around the huge terminal, changed dollars into the pound sterling, and introduced ourselves to our trip leaders, Kelly Peticolas (C'90) and Chuck Wilcoxen (C'81).

Suddenly, someone in our midst pointed to a gleaming white motor coach just pulling up. A bold placard on the front window read, "The Principia." We broke into grins—even a few cheers—and began grabbing our luggage and heading out the doors. Our great Scottish adventure had begun!

The bus's loudspeaker crackled: Chuck introduced a portly gentleman seated up front as Mitch, our city-castle guide. He would be with us for the day. Tomorrow, our Scottish trail guide, Martin, would take over for our first trail hike. Mitch, a graduate of the famed Gordonstoun school, primed us with all kinds of Scottish data. Also, he noted we would be stopping soon for lunch at a small roadside restaurant. "Ah, Mitch," quizzed a voice from the rear of the bus. "Do you like haggis?" Titters, then outright laughter. Haggis was not on the restaurant's menu. But it was on the dinner menu at the Crianlarich Hotel, where we would spend our first three nights. There were also "neeps and tatties" (turnips and potatoes) as well as Cullen Skink, a creamy fish chowder that turned out to be delicious!

The West Highland Way was established to bring hikers into the beautiful, rugged interior of Scotland. The 95-mile path commences in the Village of Mulngavie near Glasgow and concludes in the town of Fort William at the foot of Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the British Isles. Scotland's western coast has some of the most stunning scenery in all of Great Britain, and one of the very best ways to see it is to hike it.

On our first day of hiking, we spread out along the old, rocky, rutted road, everyone at his own pace. We took photos, whistled, sang, nibbled trail snacks—and stared in disbelief at the silent beauty of the mountain fastness.

Martin, in the lead, stopped at brief intervals to explain the local flora and

fauna, as well as points of interest in the terrain. It quickly became apparent that Martin was not only a naturalist but a veritable fund of information. And what a character, with his longish tousled graying hair in ringlets! Witty and given to laughter and joking, he often did little impromptu jigs, his spindly six-foot-six-inch frame whirling about devilishly. He reminded us of the infamous Ichabod Crane.

Our pace along the rock-strewn, old coach road was slow but steady. Two hours or so into the hike, Martin signaled a lunch break. We sprawled out along the sides of the old road and rifled through our backpacks for water bottles, pedometers, and lunch sacks. Was that a drop of rain? Yes, raindrops! We rifled through our packs again for our rain gear, suited up, and continued our slow progression forward in the gentle rain.

According to our various pedometers, we had hiked about 4.8 miles from our original trailhead at the town of Tyndrum. Suddenly, down below us on a rutted, old road, we saw the familiar white blur of our bus! Our grinning driver, Tim, was waving at us through the open bus door. We hightailed it across a weedy area and climbed aboard, showering Tim with our gratitude for his perfectly timed appearance. More than half of our group continued the hike in the rain with Martin, Kelly, and Chuck, while Tim drove us "quitters" several miles through the rainy mist to the Bridge of Orchy Hotel. We scrambled inside to the small, warm dining room, and



two smiling waitresses greeted us with menus in hand. We ordered hot tea and real Scottish scones.

It did not rain the day we hiked Rannoch Moor. Noted European travel
authority Rick Steves refers to Rannoch
Moor as "vast, awe-inspiring, rugged."
Another guide calls it a place of otherwordly beauty and awe. A grinning
Tim brought our bus early just after
breakfast to convey us to our "jumping-off" point. We were rarin' to go!
Some seven hours and eight or so miles
later, Tim returned to ferry us back to
our hotel. It was not our tiredness that
surprised him, he said, but that we
were strangely quiet in our contented
reflection.

In the days following our crossing of the infamous Rannoch Moor, we began to understand a little more of the uniqueness of Scotland's history. The great moor reveals the land's story: it is exceedingly difficult to earn a living by farming thin, rocky soil. As a result, some Scotsmen emigrated, including to the United States.

Unbeknownst to most Americans, Scots became some of the greatest cattle ranchers of the Western United States; they also pioneered Canada's northwest frontier. And the Scots were shareholders for numerous cattle companies in the American West. Yes, the modern Western World has continued to shrug off Scotland as a tiny, insignificant land of potato-growing crofters who wear kilts and play bagpipes. Undaunted, the ever-resourceful Scots have continued to expand into such areas as engineering, the sciences, medicine, education, the arts.

As we rode back to Glasgow's airport on our big, white bus to return home to the U.S., we saw Scotland through different eyes. We did not catch a glimpse of "Nessie," the Monster of Loch Ness; we did see the eight ingenious locks of the Caledonian Canal. And we did witness, briefly, the lovely summit of Ben Nevis slide from behind the clouds into the sunlight!

O beautiful little Caledonia, we shall return!

#### A Life of Adventure: First Stop, Principia

by Jan (Van Asch, C'72) Hanley

ou just never know what is in store for you when you embark on this adventure called LIFE. My Principia story tells how simple yet special encounters while at that magical place turned my life into one of adventure and joy.

As a teenager, living on a tiny farm in a tiny town in New Zealand, I was encouraged by my mother to go to a university (college) in the USA. She obviously had a strong vision because, before I knew it, I had applied and taken the SAT exams. (I was notoriously bad at taking tests and did not expect to do very well.)

Some months later, I received a letter that was to change my life. I had been accepted to Principia on a scholarship and was to begin classes in September 1968. That's how I began the journey that would shape the me I know today.

Leaving home at 17 and flying some 21 hours to a strange place 8,000 miles away was a huge step. However, my family and I needn't have worried, because I was soon enveloped by my new family in Anderson West, welcomed by my mentor, Miss Iolani Ingalls (US'28, C'37), and smoothly established as a Principian.

Over the next months, I changed in many ways—academically, in behavior, and in outlook. One of the most extraordinary changes was in my attitude toward tests. Miss Ingalls discussed

this with me, explaining, "Taking an exam is your opportunity to thank your lecturers and tutors for spending their time teaching and training you." That simple statement showed me how to love better and show gratitude—and improved my performance.

During the holidays, I spent time with family in Seattle (my mother's second cousins). Years later, I learned that they were almost ready to ask me to leave at

# Leaving home at 17 and flying . . . to a strange place 8,000 miles away was a huge step.

first, as they found me selfish, ungrateful, and very unlikable. But surrounded by all those students of Christian Science at Principia who simply loved me, I changed for the better.

Last but not least, one of the most wonderful ways my life changed resulted from hearing a guest speaker at Principia. He was an adventurer who had traveled all over the world and done amazing things. One of the things he told us to do was to make a list of all the things we wanted to do with our lives, put it away safely, and refer to it every few years. I did as he suggested and wrote out a list with many goals,

both human and spiritual, and tucked it away in my jewelry case. Since then, I've checked my list every four or five years and am astounded at the things I have done without even realizing they were on my list. I now encourage people to write their own lists and not be amazed when they see some of their goals come to fruition.

I like to think that that talk, that lifechanging thought, awakened a deep sense within me for making discoveries and learning about others.

For instance, in 2012 I had a book published (a goal on my list)! We Bought a Cow is the story of a trip my husband and I took from Vladivostok, Russia, to London, England, in our Toyota Land Cruiser. Loving this adventure so much, we later drove through Scandinavia, back through Russia, Mongolia, and out through China, finally shipping the car home.

In 2014, in this same vehicle, we spent over seven months driving from the bottom of Argentina (Ushuaia) to the top of Alaska (Prudhoe Bay), traveling through all the countries in between. Later, we left our car in Connecticut with fellow Principians, before shipping it to Europe for more exploring.

On these travels, and others across North America and Australia's Simpson Desert (six times!), we've had extraordinary experiences and challenges—and we've always been protected, shielded,

#### **My Principia Story**









and loved. I was able to write an article about an awesome, healing experience we had in Russia that was published in the *Christian Science Sentinel* (my list included contributing to The Mother Church's publications).

We have been back to Principia several times (also on that list), and I have loved sitting by the Chapel and looking out over the Mississippi, watching the spectacular sunsets. The last time we

visited, a group of students noticed my All Blacks jersey and called out, "Go, the All Blacks" (New Zealand's national rugby team). I was unaware that Principia had a rugby team and was so delighted with the acknowledgement. Was this just a little bit of New Zealand lodged permanently at Prin?

Principia is such a wonderful place to learn how to live this life most wonderful. My gratitude abounds!

#### What's *your* Principia story?

To submit a story (up to 800 words) about your Principia experience, e-mail us at **purpose@principia.edu**. Selected submissions will be edited with the author's permission.



# OFF TO A ROARING START With Silicon Valley Backing, Social Entrepreneur Benefits Tanzanian Farmers

by Armin Sethna

#### Focus on Young Alumni

hile teaching physics and math to students in a remote village in Tanzania, learning to speak Swahili, and fending off the occasional cobra, Peace Corps volunteer Jack Langworthy (US'03) still found time to wonder why local farmers remained trapped in poverty, despite their hard work and productivity.

So he and a Tanzanian friend decided to dig a little deeper and identified a variety of market asymmetries and inefficiencies in information, resources, communications, transportation, and supply and demand that prevented farmers from getting good prices for their products. Following his 27-month Peace Corps term, Langworthy worked for a local social enterprise focused on helping farmers capture a greater share of the value chain. And while he saw that microloans and other support helped, he realized that more was needed.

#### From IKEA to NINAYO

Next stops: Denmark, for an MBA (he already had a BA in philosophy from St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico); and Sweden, for a job with IKEA. All the while, Langworthy "continued to obsess about how to improve food security and trade in Tanzania," as he puts it. Teaming with an IKEA colleague and his brother—and inspired by the simplicity of producer-buyer relations on such sites as Etsy—Langworthy designed NINAYO, a simple website to enable farmers and buyers to communicate directly. He got the word out about NINAYO (which is Swahili for "I've got crops!") through a network of friends and Peace Corps volunteers: farmers signed up, the maize harvest took place, and trades between farmers and buyers poured in, providing higher prices to farmers.

On a subsequent research trip to Tanzania, Langworthy found that NINAYO was "disrupting a massively inefficient industry; attracting and supporting people who had never been online before; and dramatically improving lives"—all by offering a simple site designed specifically for the needs of micro or subsistence farmers. However, reliance on volunteer time and basic technology was limiting the outreach.

#### Silicon Valley and Social Entrepreneurship

Deciding that expansion and financial viability were essential to having a meaningful, long-term impact, Langworthy flew to California, seeking venture capital in Silicon Beach and Silicon Valley. Almost as an afterthought, he completed an online application to Expa Labs. A few months later, having

#### "The Expa team appreciates the fact that NINAYO is a social enterprise—but one with a strong business case."

-Jack Langworthy (US'03)

returned somewhat dejectedly to Sweden, he found an urgent message from his mother in New Mexico: someone from Expa Labs had called and wanted to interview him right away. Things moved very quickly after that—and ended up with Langworthy being handpicked as one of a group of only six emerging entrepreneurs for Expa's six-month business development program.

Expa Labs is the brainchild of Uber co-founder Garrett Camp and is supported by a handful of other über-successful (pun intended!) entrepreneurs—Hooman Radfar (AddThis), Naveen Selvadurai (Foursquare), Milun Tesovic (Metrolyrics), and Roberto Sanabria (Google, LinkedIn). The Expa program provides work space; seed funding of \$500,000 for a 20 percent stake in the company; and time and input from Expa founders as well as a team of "experts in residence."

According to Langworthy, "The Expa team appreciates the fact that NINAYO is a social enterprise—but one with a strong business case. They get that I want to build a sustainable African business." And he is thrilled with the quality and amount of coaching and input he received. "These are people who've built world-changing companies more than once, so I got really good insights," he says.

#### NINAYO's Growth

"I love how being at Expa made me raise the level of my own game," Langworthy observes, noting how much NINAYO >>



Langworthy (right) and colleague Beck Nygard, NINAYO's full-stack engineer, during a break at the Expa facilities

grew as he figured out staffing, chatbots, scaling up, and more with Expa's help:

- He was able to hire a web applications specialist in San Francisco as well as five staff in-country.
- Expa supported a successful fundraising trip to New York City to meet with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). "UNCDF is particularly interested in how digital finance solutions can grow local economies," Langworthy says, and "being partnered with the UN opens lots of doors and is a great resource." (It also gives him a welcome breather from fundraising!)
- NINAYO's website was recently approved by the Facebook initiative Internet.org, which allows users to access the site without using data—sometimes a prohibitive cost for cell phone users in poorer countries.

#### **Lessons Learned**

Langworthy also learned key lessons about pacing and leadership while at Expa. He has moved away, for example, from his original plan for an all-out national campaign in favor of a strategically phased rollout. "I quickly learned it's a real struggle to ensure that there are enough buyers and sellers on a platform," Langworthy says. "Uber, for instance, didn't launch across America—otherwise there would have been an unbalanced number of drivers and riders most places, and no one would have a good experience. They had to roll out

city by city to keep the user experience satisfactory." Another Uber idea he's planning to incorporate is founder Camp's advice about ratings. Just as drivers and users rate each other on Uber, buyers and farmers on NINAYO will be able to use ratings to build up a business reputation.

A third and very important lesson Langworthy says he's learned is that a CEO only has two jobs: capitalize the company and hire the right people. "This discovery has done wonders for my work life," he adds. "I've begun to shift my focus toward developing the team, rather than solving specific pressing problems each day."

#### Friends and Family

While on the West Coast with Expa, Langworthy enjoyed the added benefit of being able to reconnect easily with friends from his days at Principia Upper School, where, he says, "I made the best friends of my life!" Langworthy's time at the Upper School got off to a rough start; he was expelled as a freshman. "But what I love about Principia," he says, "is that they gave me a second chance—and I ended up having an amazing high school experience." In fact, he became Senior Class President, gaining leadership experience that has served him well ever since.

But even more than old friends and the movers and shakers of the tech world, there is another team of supporters that Langworthy relies on extensively—mom and dad!

"They are definitely the most effective CEO coaches around," he says, referring to his mother, Mary, and his dad, Tim, who taught physics at the Upper School from 2000 to 2012. When, like many first-time CEOs on the brink of success, Langworthy is afflicted with self-doubt about his ability to lead NINAYO and fullfil funders' expectations, he turns to his parents. "I've been re-reading a lot of the ideas they've sent me," he says, "including that all of us are, in reality, Mind's ideas, whole and beloved, lacking nothing."

Early in 2017, Langworthy makes the return trip from Silicon Valley back to East Africa's Rift Valley. There, in the town of Iringa, chosen for its size, location, and access to somewhat reliable transportation and Internet services, he and the NINAYO team will work on turning their dream into reality.

# PRINCIPIA GL@BALDAYS SERVICE



### ONE MONTH . . . UNLIMITED GOOD APRIL 2017

Principia's Global Days of Service will bring together alumni, students, friends, parents, and staff to support others and show the world the impact Principians can make in just one month. Volunteers and service project leaders are needed, and everyone is welcome to participate!

**LEARN MORE** 

www.principia.edu/globaldaysofservice

#prinserviceday

## MEET DR. JULIE BLASE Political Science Professor and Dance Lover



r. Julie Blase joined Principia College's Political Science Department in 2003. Her primary scholarly focus is international relations, with special interest in globalization and security; Latin American and Middle Eastern politics; and U.S. federalism and foreign affairs. She presents her research in both English and Spanish at conferences and workshops.

Blase was the faculty adviser for the student-led Public Affairs Conference from 2004 to 2007 and, along with Dr. Brian Roberts, advises the College's Midwest Model United Nations team. She has also served in a variety of administrative capacities over the years. In October, Blase led the first Principia Lifelong Learning (PLL) trip to Cuba.

#### Q. What research are you working on right now?

**A.** I'm writing a conference paper examining the shift from national security to human security in the

Americas—specifically, the move from fearing conquest by a powerful country to fearing attacks by individuals. I'm so intrigued by how people and governments cope with fear. It really matters, and it's so hard.

#### Q. What led you to teaching?

**A.** While in grad school at the University of Texas at Austin, every time I heard one of my colleagues lament the condition of the job market, I would acknowledge that I had a contribution to make, that I wasn't going to complete grad school and have nothing much to do afterwards. Then, when I was about a year away from finishing my degree, my department colleague Brian Roberts called and asked me to apply.

When I started teaching at the College, I had these moments when it felt like this had been the plan all along—I was just the last to know about it.

#### Q. What do you love about teaching?

A. I love those moments when a student realizes that what we are studying is relevant to his or her life, and that ideas learned in one area matter across the board. Such a moment came in my Latin American Politics course awhile ago. I had just said, "Most Latin American countries had won their independence by 1826," when a student from Cameroon suddenly snapped to attention. "What?" he gasped. "If Latin America became independent that long ago . . . and it's taken them this long to develop, . . . then what does that mean for Africa?" I knew then he'd be taking something out of the class.

#### Q. What do you find most challenging about teaching?

**A.** The paperwork. I have to be my own office manager and administrative staff. All of that takes my focus off teaching.

#### Q. Can you share a character education moment you've had at Principia that particularly stands out to you?

**A.** For a while, I seemed to have a knack for sensing when students were not being honest. I've had many uncomfortable conversations with students in my office and in front of the Scholastic Committee. Those situations are so hard, but I figure those are the ones I'm really getting paid for.

One of those students was expelled. I was so disappointed with what he'd done that, initially, I never wanted to see him again. But he came back, graduated, and proved himself so wonderfully that I wrote grad school recommendations for him! He has finished his master's and is in a PhD program. We are still in touch, and I love hearing from him.

#### Q. What work would you pursue if you weren't a professor?

Dance and choreography. I'm co-teaching a Ballroom Dancing class with Paul Paradis (C'89). He instructs the steps, and I talk about technique, etiquette, and history. I love it!



Dr. Blase with her husband, Dr. Lee Ellis, at artist José Fuster's studio, Fusterlandia, in Havana, on the recent PLL trip she led to Cuba

#### Q. What would people be surprised to learn about you?

Other than dancing, LOL? Well, I just designed and built an insulated doghouse for our family dog, Gabby.

#### Q. If you had a day off and weren't allowed to use it to catch up on work, what would you do?

In the morning: yoga with my husband, Lee; then we'd play basketball and go for a swim with our youngest son, Jacob, preferably at a warm beach. Then Lee and I would dance! We would also share a lot of yummy food with people we love.

#### Q. If you could give students only one piece of advice, what would it be?

#### **A.** I can't do only one, sorry!

- While you are in school, take every opportunity to improve your writing.
- Never confuse Christian Scientists with Christian Science.
- Get on top of your thought first thing in the morning to handle fear—figure out what ideas work for you. For me, it's usually pushing myself to better understand God as Principle, as the basis of empathy and calm action.



# POLICING WITH PRINCIPLE

#### Alumni Police Officers Discuss the Challenges and Opportunities

by Armin Sethna and Trudy Palmer

Atlanta, Baltimore, and Baton Rouge. Charleston, Charlotte, and Chicago. Dallas, Des Moines, Ferguson, New York City, St. Louis, St. Paul, Tulsa... From this virtual ABC of cities across the United States, tension and distrust between police and the public have become part of the daily national news cycle.

Since the summer of 2014, following several fatal police encounters with African Americans, protests, counterprotests, and violence (including the killing of police officers in apparent reprisal attacks) have escalated.

On the streets, at town hall gatherings, and in the media, the American system of law enforcement and policing is under intense scrutiny—whether for explicit racism, implicit bias, excessive use of force, or all of the above. On social media, citizens express their opinions on these police actions, often drawing from eyewitness videos or accounts of the incidents. The verdicts in this court of public opinion are often at odds with those reached by internal police department investigations, grand juries, and trial juries, and this dichotomy has further polarized opposing camps.

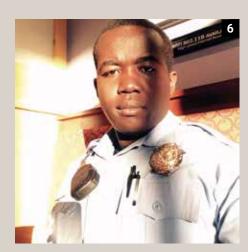












#### 1 Mike Bond (US'83, C'87)

After graduating from Principia College, Mike spent nearly 15 years as an information technology and software specialist in the corporate world—where, he says, "there's a lot more stress than in police work." Seeking greater professional fulfilment and autonomy, he made the switch to law enforcement in 2005. While Mike finds it difficult to relate the "sheltered Principia environment to what [police] have to deal with in society," he says the strong writing skills—coupled with critical and analytical thinking—he developed at the College are a great help with all the paperwork and records involved in law enforcement. Mike has served as a Sergeant in the sheriff's office of a midsize suburban county in the Southeast for the last 12 years and has also been on the local SWAT team for more than a decade.

#### 2 Abi Carper (US'10, C'14)

"Since I was a little boy in Africa, I always looked up to police officers," says Abi, who moved from his home country of Ethiopia to the U.S. in 2004. By the time he got to Principia College, he

knew he wanted to head in the direction of law enforcement, and his study of sociology reinforced that resolve. A few months after graduating with a BA in sociology and anthropology, Abi enrolled in a police academy. In September 2016, he completed his first year on the beat in a suburban county in the Midwest.

#### 3 John Cooper (C'86)

Now a Deputy Sheriff, John has been in law enforcement for almost 29 years, including stints on street patrol and in the jail. Since 1999, he has served in the Harbor Patrol of a major metropolitan county on the West Coast. The job, John explains, involves "not just law enforcement but marine firefighting, search and rescue, and maintaining the water quality. Anything that occurs on the water is our responsibility and area of enforcement." For John, Principia "included the opportunity to grow in Christian Science and helped strengthen the foundation of my life." He relies on that spiritual foundation in policing, noting many times when "I couldn't believe I said what I did—and attribute it just to God giving me the right thing to say that came rolling off my tongue."

#### 4 Taylor Harper (C'83)

In some ways, 18 years of teaching at the high school and community college levels prepared Taylor (at left in photo) for policing. Both involve "disciplining people, telling people what to do, trying to help them steer a better course for themselves, and, especially, communicating well," he explains. Principia's whole man concept prepared him, too, he says, and "my whole Christian Science background—viewing humans empathetically and not seeing them as sinners or evil—helps me treat people with respect. And they respond to that." Taylor enrolled in the police academy in a large metropolitan area in California in 2013. In his three years as a Patrol Officer, he has worked at a jail and patrolled in both an upscale neighborhood and a low-income, high-crime area—the same area where he's now a Collision Investigator.

#### 5 Eli Morris (C'10)

Eli enrolled in the police academy about two years after graduating from Principia and spent his first year on the job as a campus police officer at a large public university in the Pacific Northwest. He then transferred to a police department in a nearby, mid-size, very diverse city (there are 135 languages in the school system). After starting there as a Patrol Officer, he was recently promoted to Field Training Officer. One of Eli's key takeaways from the College is an ethic instilled by his baseball coach: "Take pride in what you do"—no matter what the activity may be. "This quote," Eli says, "has stayed with me through my life and career. [Our coach] was teaching us more than just baseball—he was teaching us character."

#### 6 Omba Ngoma (US'07)

By the time he was in middle school, Omba knew he wanted to be either in the military or law enforcement. He managed to combine the two by serving as a military police officer, including a year (2009–2010) deployed in Iraq, where he provided executive protection. Once back in the U.S., he began his career in civilian law enforcement, serving first in a small, impoverished, Midwestern community, where he often dealt with felony offenses. In 2013, Omba moved to a large, metropolitan force, and in 2016 he became a Tactical Response Officer for the Department of Defense. He also continues to serve in the military in a reserve capacity. Pointing out community service, athletics, and the whole man concept, in particular, Omba says, "Principia played a huge role in my life . . . and in how I deal with people . . . understanding and accepting [them] not as they are, but from a higher sense."

Photos courtesy of the officers

The *Purpose* reached out to several alumni working in law enforcement to better understand what policing entails and how the current media spotlight impacts their work. The six officers who agreed to be interviewed have experience ranging from more than 25 years on the force to less than two years, and they serve in precincts on both coasts as well as in the Midwest. Since none of the officers was speaking as a representative of his department, we have not named the cities or counties where they work.

All the officers we spoke with said they knew early on in their lives that they wanted to work in law enforcement. One joined the military soon after Upper School, while three of the College graduates quickly went into police academy training. The remaining two spent time in other careers first—one working in information technology management for 15 years and the other teaching at the high school and community college levels for 18 years.

Without exception, the officers spoke of their desire to "serve and protect." They also agreed that, even in today's fraught police-public climate, they find both personal and professional satisfaction in their work. Here are some of the main themes and thoughts that emerged from our wide-ranging discussions.

#### WARRIORS VS. GUARDIANS: CHANGING ROLES AND EXPECTATIONS

One striking change that both seasoned and newer officers note is the increasing expectation that law enforcement officers can or should be all things >>



to all

people. "You're a counselor, teacher, authority, social worker, problem solver, mentor," notes Abi Carper, the newest recruit. The others agree. "In today's society, a police officer's role is to solve everyone's problems," says Eli Morris. "Whatever the call needs us to be or do, we do."

Such wide-ranging expectations magnify the role of law enforcement training and culture in day-to-day interactions with the public. In particular, debate swirls around the proper balance between preparing police as "warriors" versus "guardians." When John Cooper went through academy training in 1988, the program lasted only 18 weeks, and, as he explains, "Classes . . . on how to be aware and respectful of other cultures were unheard of then."

In contrast, when the newer officers went through their lengthier police academy training (lasting up to six months), they were taught to mediate, de-escalate, and communicate across cultures and languages. Taylor Harper describes his training as "progressive," with an emphasis on "being a more

munication skills and social skills more than their fists."

But some of the officers we interviewed feel too much emphasis on the guardian approach, during training or on the beat, may compromise or detract from the essential skills and quick responses needed to maintain law and order and protect oneself. In Morris's view, "It's good to have the guardian side, but when you're so focused on that, you're not training people who know how to fight when they need to fight. When I got out onto the street, I quickly learned that not being able to flip a switch to the warrior mentality could get you or someone else hurt."

Mike Bond agrees. "I'm all about the warrior," he says, "because, at the end of the day, a good day is when you come home. You're put in the worst circumstances dealing with the 'worst' people in society and having to make decisions. You're taking away people's freedom, and you're having to do it with authority. So, sure, we're all guardians—that's what we signed up to do—but with a warrior mentality."

#### A TANGLE OF INFLUENCES AT WORK IN SOCIETY

Among the societal factors impacting police work, several came up repeatedly:

- Socioeconomic issues, including poverty, homelessness, and mental health
- A weakening of the family structure and of religious faith
- An increase in crimes committed by youth and a sense of entitlement among the younger generation
- Lack of basic communication and problem-solving skills

Within this list, one thing is clear: none of these factors operates in isolation. The economic and financial pressures that require many parents to work long hours for low wages impact family cohesion, nurturing, and accountability—which, in turn, can increase the allure of gangs and related drug and criminal activity for children left to their own devices. Poverty also links to homelessness, which spawns misdemeanors that can turn into repeated and violent criminal activity.

Having worked in a small, povertystricken Midwestern town as well as a large, urban area, Omba Ngoma sees the wide-ranging and interconnected impact of poverty—especially on young people. "In low-income communities, whether they are white, Hispanic, or African American," he says, "socioeconomic factors, education levels, parents' incarceration rates, how kids are being brought up at home" affect crime and delinquency trends.

#### THE DIMINISHED STATE OF FAMILIES AND FAITH

Another contributor to the increase in criminal behavior among young people, note several officers, is the fracturing of families across all levels of society, not just the poor. And some feel a reduced focus on faith exacerbates the problem. "Many kids don't have the leadership, authority, or discipline at home," Ngoma says. "If you can disrespect your parents, it's easier to disrespect a stranger, and that carries on into the street when they encounter law enforcement or the general public."

"I see a great number of people,"
Cooper says, "[whose] faith foundation is not there, it's not strong, so they turn to other means to find peace. It could be alcohol, drugs, video games—anything to try to turn off society.
Without a strong sense of family . . . with leadership based on God, I don't see how they can come up with real problem-solving solutions."

"When you take religion out of a society—a higher sense of self or purpose out of any family nucleus or society—what do people rely on?" Ngoma asks. "They start relying on self," he answers. "They lose that sense of unity, of treating their fellowman according to the Golden Rule. If you hold yourself to that standard [the Golden Rule], how likely are you to assault someone or steal from someone?"

#### A LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Another trend many of the officers note is a growing sense of entitlement and lack of accountability among young adults. "A lot of my peers . . . have a tendency to not want to work hard," Morris comments. "They don't understand the value of hard work and that it's actually rewarding beyond the monetary value." Cooper sees a similar attitude. "The trend is to complain about your situation," he says, "rather than take responsibility for your actions or develop a sense of worth, so they're angry, and they take that anger out in various ways."

Ngoma notes this trend away from accountability in younger children as

call the police. For example, an issue as simple as a disagreement between neighbors over weeds encroaching from one yard to another often results in a 911 call these days.

Unfortunately, the officers say, the overburdened criminal justice system sometimes reinforces a lack of accountability by failing to prosecute cases, especially property crimes where no one was hurt. Burglars, for example, may be released from jail and be back on the streets within days of their arrest, Morris explains. While rec-

#### "Sure, we're all guardians—that's

#### what we signed up to do-but with

a warrior mentality." -Mike Bond (US'83, C'87)

well. "Every kid is praised, right or wrong, which takes away incentive," he says. "When I've been called to schools for fights between students and teachers, . . . they take the responsibility away from the child and the parents and place it on the [teacher]. If you take accountability away, it's just chaos."

In addition, most of the officers observe a growing inability or unwillingness among citizens—regardless of their socioeconomic status—to take responsibility for problems and to work out solutions. Instead of "finding common ground . . . or seeing that bond of love between neighbors," Cooper says, they

ognizing the limits of crowded jails and backlogged courts, the officers acknowledge their frustration with this, yet note the importance of remaining vigilant. "The main thing is that you can't get discouraged," Carper says. "You can't let whatever a judge or a prosecuting attorney decides stop you from what you should be doing."

#### THE USE OF FORCE—IN THE STREETS AND ON THE NEWS

Inevitably—and appropriately—our conversations wound around to today's spotlight on policing. Some feel video and audio recordings can be useful not



#### Responding to the Call to Serve

Eager to put her Principia education into practice helping others, Deanna Scheck (US'12, C'16) plans to apply to several law enforcement departments in the Midwest and hopes to enroll in a police academy in 2017.

"The two highest items on my values list are service to others and the community and upholding the standards of right and wrong," says Deanna, who majored in sociology and anthropology at the College. "As I started college, I thought about how I want to apply these values in my life. After I took the course Criminology and Criminal Law, I realized that my passion—and my dream job—is policing."

While studying at the College, Scheck completed two internships in Missouri, with the Town & Country Police Department and the St. Louis City Crime Lab. She also did a short externship in Wisconsin with the Madison Police Department.

Scheck hopes her career path will involve community policing and the opportunity to "create a positive, trust-based relationship between police and citizens." Her many years at Principia, she says, have helped promote "character growth, morality, community service, initiative," and taught her how to appreciate the good in a situation. But the most important skill she learned at Principia, Deanna says, "is to keep a high thought model and proceed with love, compassion, forgiveness, and humor."

While she believes that media coverage "feeds the public a very skewed perception of police officers," this negative perception has not discouraged her from pursuing this line of work. "Given the deteriorating climate around policing," Deanna says, "now—more than ever—is when people who hear the calling need to step forward and be strong. We need more good officers."

-Armin Sethna

only in documenting encounters but in influencing them—"in changing everybody's behavior, both the person we're arresting and ours," Harper explains. He also finds video cameras in stores and at intersections useful in investigations. "All that technology definitely helps make everything clearer and everybody more accountable," he notes.

Not all of the officers we spoke with have both body and dashboard cameras, but they're all familiar with citizens' ubiquitous cell phones—and with the constant replay of videos on the Internet and in the media that is shaping both the perception and reality of police actions. "You just have to assume you're being filmed," says Carper. "As long as you're doing what you should be doing, it doesn't matter if someone's filming you." The problem, he suggests, is not that people take videos but what they do with them—because sound bites and clips captured from one angle don't tell the whole story. "Don't believe everything you see on TV or what the media portrays," Carper cautions. "When friends and family ask me what I think about an officer-involved shooting, my response is always, 'I don't know because I don't know the full story."

Bond's critique of the coverage is more forceful. "The media basically incites riots," he says. "They don't portray the actual events that occur . . . . They don't get all the facts." Cooper agrees that "there's very little non-biased reporting going on." Instead, he sees a lot of "Monday-morning quarterbacking" based on fragments of evidence. In addition, very few *positive* police stories make the news.

Everyone acknowledged that some officers out there should not be cops—but that could be said of any line of work. "You're not going to find any industry where you don't have a few bad apples," as Harper puts it. "And it's not even that they're bad. It's just that they've been trained poorly or they react poorly or they're too scared. Or maybe they're prejudiced and that affects their reaction, but it's definitely not a reflection of the entire police department. [The problem is] that when it goes wrong with the police department, it goes really wrong."

To put it in perspective, he continues, "there are *millions* of police contacts every day, and they almost all go well." In fact, as a couple of the officers noted, police use their weapons far less often than they are legally allowed to. "We enforce the law, but we are governed by law, too," Morris says. "Officers use their knowledge of case laws and their state laws to determine who they can legally stop and the force that can or can't be used."

Most important, though, split-second decisions about how to respond depend on "the ability to read the situation, the social skills, the emotional intelligence to be able to assess what's going on," as Morris describes it. Making the wrong call—in either direction—can have serious consequences for everyone involved. "Inaction can be just as detrimental as overreaction," Ngoma notes. By the same token, Harper says, "Getting rough with people can quickly escalate the situation and cause a use of force that didn't need to be there in the beginning."

Harper says that, in his department, "it's drilled into us to use the *least* amount of force possible first. We go hands on, and if that doesn't work, then we go to the Taser. And if that doesn't work, then we go to the bean bag shotgun or the baton. The last-case resort is the gun." And while he acknowledges that force may sometimes be necessary, he hasn't yet used

"We're out in our community a lot,"
Bond says. We're assigned to zones, and
we like to keep our deputies in their
zones and let them get to know their
communities . . . because the better
you know the people inside the community, the easier it is to solve crimes."
Carper agrees, noting how important
it is to talk to the people on your beat
because "they know everything." That

#### "We have to find the good in everybody

we're working with. If you can treat a 'bad

guy' with respect, . . . everything's going

to go a lot easier." -Taylor Harper (C'83)

it in his three years of policing. "I've never had to put my hands on anybody," he says "let alone get in any kind of fight or use my Taser, though I've pulled my Taser out many times and threatened people, which has always worked for me."

#### BEING KNOWN-AND RESPECTED

Ultimately, the officers say, one of the biggest aids in law enforcement is knowing—and being known in—their community. It's the best way to overcome real and perceived trust gaps with the public, which, in turn, helps keep the community—and sometimes the officer—safe.

way, he explains, "if a crime happens, you'll know who to talk to because they'll know the right person."

Knowing the people can have personal benefits, too, as Ngoma discovered when a suspect's resistance to arrest led to a physical altercation. "Because the people there knew me," he explains, "they came in and helped—even though I had arrested some of them in the past." He attributes their help to his determination to be respectful. "I'm not going to be disrespectful to someone just because I've arrested them," Ngoma says.

Harper also emphasizes the importance of respect in policing, even noting its tactical value. It's important, he >>

says, not to buy into the "habit in law enforcement of seeing things in black and white—the good guys and the bad guys. We have to find the good in everybody we're working with. If you can treat a 'bad guy' with respect, . . . everything's going to go a lot easier."

#### THE SATISFACTION OF SERVING

Despite the unwieldy demands placed on them and the tensions inherent in policing, all of the officers spoke enthusiastically about their work. "It's great to be a police officer!" Cooper exclaims. "I'm surprised every day—in good ways. There's so much potential in the United States, so much good. That's one of the reasons I became a police officer. It's a great way to be a part of the community and to give. When it gets down to it, it's all about love. You try to reach the people with love."

Bond is equally enthusiastic. "It's the greatest job in the world!" he says. "You're working independently; you're asked to solve a myriad of problems. You're not bored. Every day is different. And the satisfaction of helping somebody and solving a problem really outweighs all the negativity that comes with it and all the bad calls you go to. It only takes one or two good calls to [realize], 'I did some good today."

"It's exciting," Carper adds. "You can have two domestic calls 10 minutes apart, and they're completely different, so your approach will be different. That uncertainty is exciting. It's also a rewarding job. Most of the time you're encountering people at their worst, and you have the opportunity to help them,

to make a difference. If it means you've got to lock them up, maybe that's the best thing you can do for them at the moment, and they'll realize later on, 'That was a wake-up call . . . I don't want to do that again.' So, you're helping them."

Several officers noted that sometimes the simplest of encounters can make all the difference. Morris offered the example of a young black woman in a large, restive crowd asking him, "How are you guys doing?" That expression of concern at 2 a.m., in a bar parking lot, in the wake of the Dallas police shootings, was, he says, "the last thing I was expecting—and one of the most heartening moments I've had in recent months."

For Carper, a routine patrol in the park wound up meaning a great deal to him. "I saw a kid waving to me, . . . so I got close to him and opened my door and showed him the computer and all the cool toys we have in the car. And without his mom even telling him to say so, he said, 'Thank you, Officer, for your service.' Wow—he was only about five years old! That was really touching."

Other times, the recompense is less clear-cut and more intense. Bond recalls that "the worst call" of his life also held some redemption. He was called to a horrific scene where a man had killed a two-year-old girl. Later, at the trial, the child's mother came up and embraced him, telling him how much his support had meant throughout the process. "In the midst of complete and utter tragedy," Bond says, "she said, 'Thank you."

#### THE NEED FOR UNITY

Asked what they'd like *Purpose* readers to take away from this article, many of the officers emphasized these two points: a better understanding of policing and more willingness to come together and talk to each other. "The country is becoming divided," Morris says. "Now, you are either pro-cop or anti-cop, or you're pro-national anthem or anti-national anthem . . . . What has happened to being unified and supporting each other as humans?"

"You can't solve anything by saying I'm on this team or I'm on that team," Carper adds. "You have to come together as one unit and work it out, talk about it. That's the only way we can move forward as a society." For Ngoma, that emphasis on moving forward as a society is essential. Law enforcement "is going through a change," he notes, "and what that looks like on the other side will be dictated by how society nurtures that change."

Part of the shift that's needed, Cooper says, is "to drop this polarization and drop this sense of racism. . . . We're all in this together. We're all here to help each other." Included in that "all," of course, are the police. "What we forget," Ngoma points out, "is that all the policemen and women out there are also members of society. They're not apart from society, they're a part of society."



#### Improv Comedian Assists with Police Training

Curious Comedy Theater (www.curiouscomedy.org) in Portland, Oregon, is no ordinary improv group. The group performs, of course, but its mission is "to improve the lives of kids, adults, and seniors through the art of comedy." The company has pursued that mission by starting a literacy program and working with senior citizens diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

A founding member of Curious, Nate Smith (US'99, C'03) has helped shape the company's mission—and fulfill it. Though balancing a day job and a busy, young family, Smith not only performs but also teaches and coaches students at Curious. And, recently, he was among the actors from Curious who began working with the Hillsboro Police Department (near Portland), using improv techniques to help train officers in de-escalating potentially violent situations and taking a peaceful "command presence."

Specifically, Smith and his colleagues at Curious staged intense training scenarios based on actual case files of police encounters with people in a mental health crisis. In one session, for example, Smith repeatedly hit a car with a sledgehammer and then

retreated inside a building, where he paced frantically as police practiced talking him into putting down the sledgehammer.

The training is specifically geared to help officers develop the same skills that improv performers use to read nonverbal cues of body language, posture, and expression—all of which can convey crucial information about the general tone, direction, and possible outcome of an exchange. Officers in Hillsboro have remarked that the training helps them be more efficient and accurate in their assessments of urgent situations. They find they can more effectively determine if a situation calls for forceful action or if there's room to take a more relaxed, verbal, and non-violent approach to being in command and bringing about a peaceful resolution.

"Improv pushes people to be more collaborative, more supportive, and better listeners," Smith explains. "Good improv builds a bridge between people." All the better when that bridge can help keep people in crisis—and the officers responding to them—safe.

-Phebe Telschow



#### Police Camp on the College Campus

For nearly a dozen years, Team Illinois Youth Police Camp has brought together teenagers and law enforcement officers for a weeklong program more akin to boot camp than summer camp. And since 2013, they've spent that week in July on the College campus.

Staffed primarily by Illinois State Police, along with officers from a few metropolitan districts, Team Illinois offers a physically challenging and highly disciplined program for about 60 cadets, many of whom have been referred by concerned family members or teachers. But about

25 percent of the cadets are there either because they attended before and wanted to come back or because peers recommended the program to them.

And why, exactly, would cadets recommend a week of doing early-morning pushups, making their beds with perfect—and I mean perfect—square corners, keeping their shirts tucked in at all times, and answering "Yes, sir" or "Yes, ma'am" without fail? Because of the rewards that come with meeting the officers' high expectations and the connections they make with the police in the process.

Along with leading the cadets in rigorous physical training, officers help them

What better spot to cultivate a can-do attitude than a place where the understanding of each individual's unlimited

ability is bedrock?

develop the skills and attitudes needed to succeed—goal setting, budgeting, using the Internet safely, dealing with adversity, not giving up, and so on. They also talk through strategies for dealing with bullying, peer pressure, and other issues that teens face. And sometimes the officers set aside their drill-sergeant personas to share candidly about personal challenges they have overcome. Indeed, by midweek, the cadets realize that behind the officers' tough demeanor is a deep well of care and concern. Some officers stay in touch with cadets after camp and have even made house calls if they learn from a parent that a cadet's attitude or behavior has slipped back into disrespect or disobedience.

Although the camp is not focused on careers, cadets are introduced to the policing, firefighting, and military professions. What they learn, coupled with the connections they forge with officers, encourages them to reconsider whatever fears of or stereotypes about the police they may have brought to camp with them. By the end of the week, cadets invariably take home an improved view of law enforcement. The most important takeaway, however, is the cadets' improved view of themselves as capable of setting and meeting high expectations.

Team Illinois Youth Police Camp is funded almost entirely by donors, including a major corporate sponsor; families pay only \$20 for the week. Principia College is in many ways an ideal setting for the camp with its spacious, natural beauty unlike most of the cadets' more densely populated, urban neighborhoods. And what better spot to cultivate a can-do attitude than a place where the understanding of each individual's unlimited ability is bedrock? As Karen Grimmer (C'78), Principia's Vice President of Administration, told cadets at a camp welcome meeting, "I truly believe that each of us—including every one of you—is important to the world. We all have unlimited potential—if we are willing to strive for our goals."

-Trudy Palmer

# Learn about Law Enforcement in Your Community

Several of the officers we spoke with expressed the hope that citizens would become better informed about all that policing entails. Here are some ways to learn more and get involved.



### **Community Meetings**

Many police departments hold community meetings where citizens can talk with officers and ask questions.



#### Citizen Academies

These are typically eight- or 10-week programs during which citizens meet with the police once a week to learn about their work, training, specialty units, use of force, and so on. Citizen Academy participants also go on a ride-along.



#### Internships

These are available for a variety of time periods, during the school year and in the summertime.



#### Ride-Alongs

As the name suggests, citizens ride with an officer for part of his or her shift. Many departments offer this option independent of the Citizen Academy program.



good living situation helps tremendously in getting freshmen off to a strong start in college. And as far as campus housing goes, Principia freshmen strike gold every year. Two of the buildings designed by renowned architect Bernard Maybeck—Anderson and Rackham—are reserved for freshmen.

But even the most exquisite house isn't automatically a home. That's where residential/community

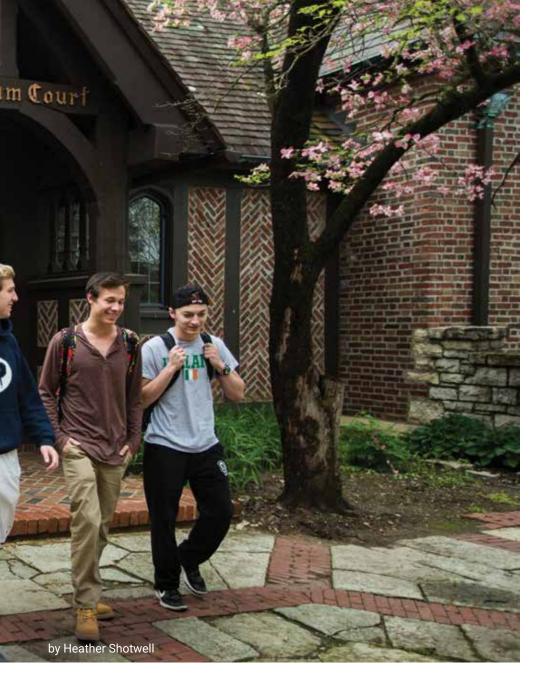
education staff come in. Two adult Residential/Community Educators and numerous upperclass student Resident Assistants help freshmen navigate the new experiences, activities, and demands of college life.

Because they're just a year or so ahead in their college experience, Resident Assistants are uniquely positioned to mentor freshmen. Part guide, part cheerleader, and part friend, they help freshmen discover the very best that Principia

has to offer. Most important, they model turning to prayer in all aspects of college life.

# Learning to lead

Resident Assistant (RA) slots are sought-after leadership positions, as the growing number of applicants demonstrates. "Each year we aim to build an RA team with a diverse representation of interests and majors to meet the needs of freshmen from different angles,"



says Ann Brown, the Residential/ Community Educator (RCE) in Anderson.

Once selected for the position, RAs undergo 70+ hours of character education and skills-based training. They read *Mary Baker Eddy: Christian Healer* and excerpts from *Education at The Principia* and *The Greatest Thing in the World*, along with other texts. "It's important to build an understanding of the demonstration Principia has made through the years," explains Joshua Sprague (US'87, C'91), Assistant Dean of Students. "We get back to its roots so they can see the humble beginnings and what it is now as a step-by-step unfoldment. RAs can then see that Principia is true to Mary Kimball Morgan's original vision."

RAs regularly praise the training program, echoing comments like this one from senior Anna-Zoë Herr, one of last year's RAs: "The

communication skills and the knowledge we gained about Mrs. Eddy and Christian Science as our foundation were crucial to becoming a successful RA." Senior Zacher Lewis, another of last year's RAs, notes how the program prepared him to meet students where they were. "The RA training was helpful in learning not only how to help guide freshmen through their first year but also how to successfully integrate my interactions with them," he explains. "For some students this included in-depth metaphysical talks, and for others it may have been a more hands-off approach. I feel like I grew almost as much as the freshmen!"

## **Building community**

In addition to connecting with students individually, RAs shape the overall "feel" of each house. Brown notes how creative the RAs are in unifying their halls and houses. "We encourage them to consider what sort of tone they want to establish on the hall," she says. "And they run with it in the most creative ways!" From NERF games and mini-golf to treasure hunts and games of sardines, fun is an essential ingredient of house life. As Geoff Hinchman (US'89), the RCE in Rackham, notes, "The RAs make meaningful connections with our freshmen while creating fun. It's clear that the freshmen know the RAs genuinely care about them."

Throughout the year, RAs also help facilitate weekly Bible Lesson discussions and special talks. And they meet together weekly to make sure



Being a part of our new students' enthusiasm for college was so invigorating. They're curious and hopeful, and they bring so much new life to the campus that it made me excited to see Principia through their eyes. I loved being an RA."

-Robby Butler (C'18), an RA during the 2015-2016 school year

they're on top of needs in their respective houses. This close attention to residents' well-being benefits both freshmen and RAs. As senior Samantha Bronkar, who has also served as an RA, noted, "It was such a blessing to directly support and witness the immeasurable growth freshmen experience in their first year as they face new challenges with friends, classes, and athletics."

# Fostering spiritual growth

Much of the growth freshmen experience comes from their own pluck and prayer, but the RAs also initiate activities intended to spark spiritual progress. Here's one such example that Anna-Zoë launched on her hall:

I decided to start a week-long project that we called "Establishing the kingdom of heaven." Because a few of the girls were feeling overwhelmed and under pressure, I thought it would be good if we could support each other instead of quietly suffering by ourselves.

I took the quote from *Science* and *Health* that says, "Let unselfishness, goodness, mercy, justice, health, holiness, love—

the kingdom of heaven—reign within us, and sin, disease, and death will diminish until they finally disappear" (p. 248). My grandmother once shared the idea to take each of the seven qualities for each day of one week in order to establish the kingdom of heaven. So, I sent the girls one quality each day, and each night we shared in our group text how we'd seen that quality in our day.

This illustrates perfectly Dean of Students Debra Jones's endorsement of freshman housing as "an intentional outgrowth of Mrs. Morgan's vision that, as much as possible, Principia and Principians should be a family designed to support and foster the very best in us individually and collectively."

Of course, that family-style support extends far beyond freshman housing. In fact, one of the benefits of a well-trained and experienced group of RAs is that they go on to fill other campus leadership roles in student government, clubs, and upperclassman houses, as well as on athletic teams. And many of the freshmen they've mentored grow into strong leaders as well.





# Get to know God in new ways this summer.

Join in the fun at a camp for Christian Scientists





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# FINLA

Photos by Cameron L. Martindell

The 2016 Finland Abroad, led by Education Professor Nikki Gamrath (US'93, C'97), explored the impact of educational and sustainable development on environmental harmony, cultural diversity, spiritual well-being, and economic stability. Professor Lauren Hinchman (US'94, C'98) and Dr. Karen Eckert (C'80) taught on the abroad as well.

Cameron Martindell (C'99), a freelance writer, photographer, and filmmaker, served as the abroad's Resident Counselor. He blogs at offyonder.com.

- **Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort:** Students riding and mushing a dogsled team
- 2 Metsäkartano: A student trying blacksmithing
- 3 Kakslauttanen: A glass igloo—with a 360° view
- 4 / 7 Kakslauttanen: Reindeer sleigh rides
  - 5 Metsäkartano: Team building, lumberjack style
  - 6 Metsäkartano: Ski touring
  - **Rovaniemi:** Fireside at the Lapin yliopisto (University of Lapland) experiential education training site
  - 9 **Helsinki:** The abroad group in Senate Square
  - **Turku**: Knitting during an interactive castle tour
  - **Rovaniemi:** Students enjoying their shelter, felted sitting pads, and candles—all of which they made
  - **Metsäkartano:** Watching the northern lights from a frozen lake

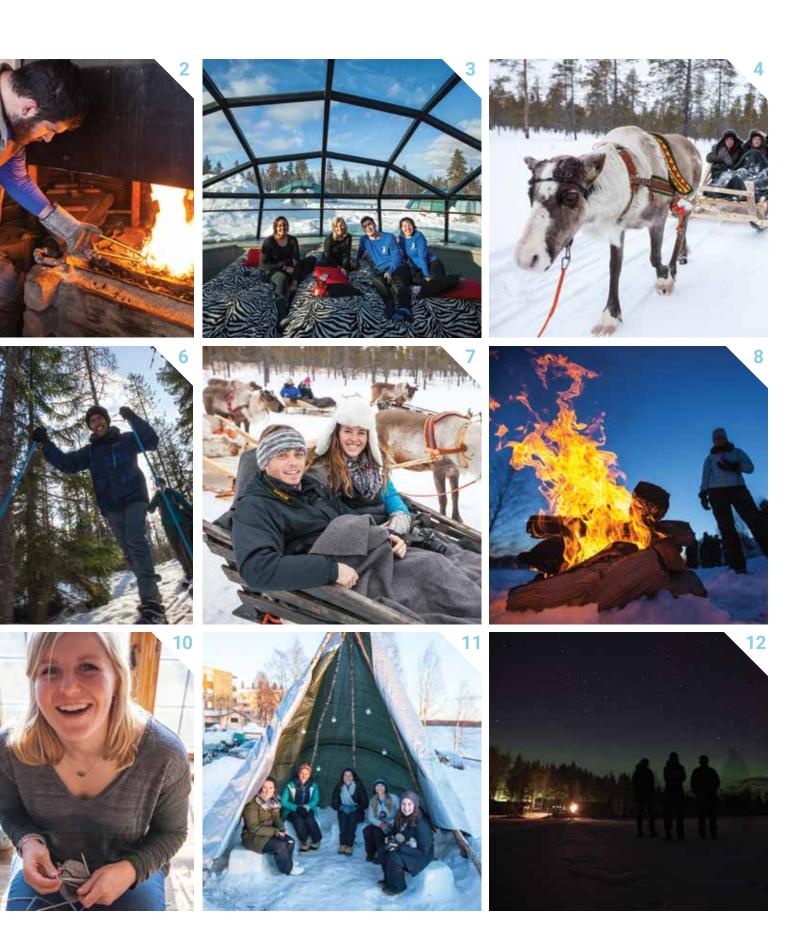












# New School Centers SPOTLIGHT Student-Centered LEARNIG





# **IDEA Center**





n the first day of school, there literally was not a spot that didn't have a student at it—every table, every pod, was occupied," says a delighted Sarah Leedberg (US'88), IDEA Center Coordinator. And that has continued throughout the semester.

With her background as a project manager in the petroleum industry, Leedberg was specifically hired to model, engage, and support students (and teachers) in scientific, analytical, and solution-oriented research and problem solving. As she puts it, "We want our students to approach everything as though it's a science problem: What do you see? What do you know? What are the unknowns? And how can

you figure out what the best solution is in each situation?"

As the IDEA Center's name implies, academic preparation today is not so much about figuring out one "right answer" as it is about applying principles of scientific reasoning and research to develop a range of appropriate solutions that can be adapted to different situations. Head of School Travis Brantingham (US'94, C'98) emphasizes this point in his enthusiasm for the Center: "I am very excited about the way the IDEA Center is invigorating students' learning by allowing them to generate new ideas together and collaborate more effectively. The space is also helping faculty integrate multiple disciplines into their classes."

While the Center retains elements of the former library—stacks of research, nonfiction, and fiction books; magazine racks; and worktables—it incorporates many new aspects that are geared to rapid sharing and real-time collaboration among students and teachers. On one side are six glass-partitioned nooks or "pods" with large-screen, networked monitors. Here, small groups of students can work together on project presentations and documentation, providing their input and editing each other's work on-screen.

The vast seating area in the middle of the Center organically divides into different sections for large-group sessions and smaller study areas, and it even boasts café-style, upholstered seating in



"I am very excited about the way the IDEA Center is invigorating students" learning by allowing them to generate new ideas together and collaborate more effectively."

—Travis Brantingham, Head of School

some sections. Additional rooms can be reserved for specific research or teaching sessions. "It's a big enough space to accommodate you no matter what your study style is," Leedberg observes.

And it's an appealing space. "The activity level has just blossomed," says Leedberg's colleague, Head Librarian Diane Hammond (C'82), who worked

for several years in the Upper School library when it was located in the basement level of the building. "I'm seeing students in here that I never saw downstairs! Now they see their peers working in here, and they all want to come in and do the same. I love all the little collaborations taking place." >>



# **IDEA Center**

# Idea

We value ideas that are principled, creative, and innovative.

# Design

We value design processes that are collaborative, iterative, and generative.

# **Excellence**

We value excellence in thought and product and exploration of new possibilities.

# **Action**

We value putting ideas into action for the betterment of humanity.

# Media and Communications Center





n array of Upper School classes is already reaping multiple benefits from our revitalized Media and Communications Center and program.

Over the summer, infrastructure changes involved skillfully combining and augmenting elements of the School's former "Mac Lab" and audiovisual recording and studio facilities into a light, bright, high-tech classroom and studio space—whose central location in the Academic Building mirrors the centrality of digital media and know-how in our 21st-century world.

But the changes run far deeper than updated facilities and a new look. The media courses and content have also been rejuvenated under the guidance of Media and Communications Center Coordinator and teacher Brooke Robbins, who brings years of experience as a television news anchor and video producer to her post, and Hollywood movie producer David Lovegren (US'73, C'77), who gave generously of his time at the start of the school year to help reconceptualize the courses and the setup of the facilities.

"It's critical that our students not only acquire media and information production skills but also learn how to be critical consumers of media content," Robbins says. "We're helping them raise the bar—on what they're taking in and on what they're putting out through the media."

The skills of communication and critical consumption or analysis of information apply across disciplines—evidenced by the way other teachers and classes are incorporating the Center's resources into their lesson plans. As Lovegren notes, "Media is the most collaborative of art forms. There isn't any subject area—music, speech, writing, history, foreign language—that couldn't become a collaborator with what's going on in this room."

Among the examples of student-led learning and engagement in the Media Center are the creation of a newscast, written, directed, and produced by students; and the design and production of concert programs, the yearbook, and other publications.



# **SUMMER SESSION: JUNE 10–24, 2017 The Perfect Vacation**

Connect with Christian Scientists from across the country and be refreshed—spiritually, academically, and socially. Join us for one week or two, and take away inspiration to last the whole year through.

This summer's program includes . . .

- The Future of the European Union: Life after the Brexit Vote taught by Principia College political science professor Dr. Brian Roberts
- A new Bible Focus program featuring Principia faculty Barry Huff, Kathy Merrill, Evan MacDonald, and others
- Morning metaphysical speakers and evening entertainment, including Libby Skala's captivating performance of A Time to Dance

## **Christian Science in Action**



# Trusting God to Be God

by Kimiko Ott

oy is irresistible! It's a natural part of who we are—and a vital part of my work as a school principal. Joy comes from an unwavering confidence in God's allness. The clarity and inspiration needed in every situation come naturally from trusting God to be God.

I love the way Mary Baker Eddy describes this as unfoldment. She writes, "Spirit, God, gathers unformed thoughts into their proper channels, and unfolds these thoughts, even as He opens the petals of a holy purpose in order that the purpose may appear" (Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, p. 506). It is such a comfort, a genuine relief, to know that I don't have to have "the plan" all figured out. This is the work of God, the divine architect, the communicator of right ideas. My best work each day comes from trusting Love, divine Mind, as the source of all wisdom and action.

I experienced this unfoldment in the resolution of a long-standing concern about student conduct. The situation began as a series of student complaints, faculty observations, and parental concerns over several months. As time passed, patterns of poor student behavior became evident, and unity within the student body suffered. Solid facts needed to advance progress, however, were elusive. I struggled to know how

best to resolve unsettling accusations, divisiveness, and overall disharmony.

In a quiet moment of study, this idea crystallized: I needed to stop entertaining endless complaints and human perspectives and, instead, vehemently trust the prayerful work that had been done. I needed to uphold my responsibility to help train students to "think clearly, vigorously, fearlessly, tolerantly, unselfishly" (Principia Policy 6). Many appropriate human footsteps had been taken; now it was time to simply trust God. I found great joy in knowing that "all things work together for good to them that love God" (Romans 8:28).

In addition, these two sentences from *Science and Health* were especially helpful: "The children of God have but one Mind" and "Let Truth uncover and destroy error in God's own way, and let human justice pattern the divine" (pp. 470 and 542). This was a powerful turning point for me—seeing and honoring the innocence and integrity of all parties involved and trusting the completeness of my prayers.

The outcome of the situation was beautiful and transformative. It brought the School community together to have conversations that were "direct, simple, natural, and honest" (Principia Policy 13) and demonstrated what happens

when we yield to God's purpose, goodness, omniscience, and unfoldment.

To me, this proved once again the effectiveness of daily prayer and the importance of trusting the inspiration that follows. Preparing our students to be constructive citizens in an increasingly global democracy requires courage, love, selflessness, boldness of thought, mental acuity, and an alert-

# The world needs our joy, . . . our bold, selfless service.

ness that comes from daily metaphysical work. Seemingly complex work distills joyfully and effortlessly through the clarity of divine Mind. Unwavering confidence in God's allness clarifies, transforms, inspires, and heals. Our sure release from the complexities of any given day comes from trusting God to be God.

The world needs our joy, our inspiration, our bold, selfless service. These are essential to Principia and its progressive vision in action.

Dr. Kimiko Ott is the Preschool–8 Principal at Principia School.

# LOOKING FOR REWARDING WORK? JOIN PRINCIPIA!



THE PRINCIPIA SHALL DEDICATE ITS SERVICE TO THE TASK OF TRAINING ITS STUDENTS TO THINK—AND TO THINK CLEARLY, VIGOROUSLY, FEARLESSLY, TOLERANTLY, UNSELFISHLY. 39 (PRINCIPIA POLICY 6)

### **FACULTY OPENINGS**

- · College: History
- · College: Economics
- College: Business Administration (Finance)
- · School: Openings will be posted in March

#### STAFF OPENINGS

- IT Network Engineer
- · Backend Web Developer/Programmer
- Advancement Technology Manager
- Academic Technology Coordinator

Principia offers competitive salaries and benefits, including free tuition at the School and College for all full-time employees' children. We are always interested in learning about qualified faculty—share your credentials with us!

## The PRINCIPIA

13201 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63131

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# 2015-2016 was a terrific year-read all about it!

This year's Annual Report offers a window into the many achievements and innovations that took place over the past fiscal year.

At the School, we launched experiential learning trips focused on character education, and we won our first soccer State Championship!

At the College, students won a regional computer coding contest, becoming one of only 12 teams worldwide to advance to the finals.

Download the 2016 Annual Report at **www.principia.edu/annualreport**.

To get a hard copy, please call 314.514.3138 or e-mail annualreport@principia.edu.