

# PRINCIPIA PURPOSE

WINTER '18



**OFF TO A ROARING START**  
YOUNG ALUMNI MAKE THEIR MARK

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**The New Voney Art Center  
Is Open!**

# Know Someone Who Should Visit Principia?

The best way for prospective students and their parents to get a feel for Principia is to visit—explore campus, sit in on classes, meet students, and make themselves at home. In many cases, we'll even cover most of the airfare!



## Middle and Upper School Visiting Weekends

### Spring Semester 2018

- January 20–22
- February 17–19
- March 3–5
- April 7–9
- April 21–23

Independent visits are also offered at all School levels.



## College Visiting Weekends

### Spring Semester 2018

- February 22–25
- March 8–11
- March 29–April 1
- April 26–29

Parent visit days are offered during each Visiting Weekend. Independent visits are available as well.

Give us a call—we'd love to chat!

**School: 314.514.3142 | College: 618.374.5187**

Or contact us online to let us know of any family or friends we should invite to visit.

**[principia.edu/referastudent](http://principia.edu/referastudent)**

The mission of the *Principia Purpose* is to build community among alumni and friends by sharing news, 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 Chief Executive

Dear Reader,

Few things matter more at Principia—or are more rewarding—than to see young alumni thriving in the world. In this issue, we're introducing you to a set of graduates from the last 20 years who are establishing themselves and accomplishing great things in fields from the arts to engineering, local government to international business. You'll want to meet these young Principians.



Still another generation is right behind them. We walk you through two of the ways current College students use their summers to prepare for life after graduation (p. 38). You'll learn about research conducted on campus and internships around the world. These students are getting the kind of firsthand experience that will set them up to thrive and make an impact.

We prepare students for the world in a variety of ways. We'll show you the innovative ways our Middle School teachers are fostering community—a community that encourages intellectual risk taking and accountability (p. 42). And we'll provide a glimpse of the fully renovated Voney Art Center at the College—a bright, state-of-the-art space that inspires art students before they even pick up a pen, paintbrush, or stylus (p. 46).

There are many ways to make a difference in the world, and our students are finding them.

Marshall Ingwerson (C'79)  
Chief Executive

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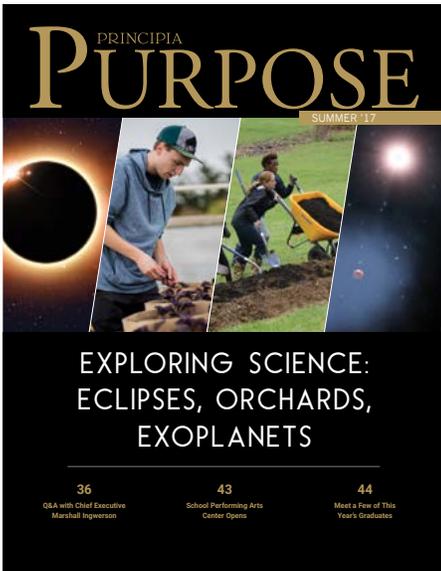


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The [piece] by Brad Newsham really touched my heart. I came to Principia in fall of 1969. I spent many late hours in this Reading Room. If I close my eyes, I can still feel its air-conditioned climate, remember the smell of this little room, and see its beautiful armchairs in the light of the table lamps. It was then and there that . . . I started to take conscious control of my life or, to be more precise, rendered this to the power Brad so beautifully described. When I visited Principia a few years ago, I was very sad to find out that this place doesn't exist any longer.

—Dr. Christoph Hanisch

So, I'm flipping through the *Purpose* . . . and what to my wandering eyes appears!? Brad Newsham's shining face staring back from his cab! . . . Brad, Bird, Buz, and so many others come to mind from the '60s—an enchanting and traumatic time . . . . As someone else recently mentioned, the new *Purpose* is doing a great job with its content and appeal to all

streaks of Principians. Thanks for the article by Newsh, a truly talented writer.

—David Neal (C'69)

. . . That [article by Brad Newsham] is the most radical thing I have ever read in a Principia publication.

—Joel Selmeier (US'70, C'74)

I just wanted to let you know that the article [by Brad Newsham] may be the best, most uplifting article I've ever read in the *Purpose*. I am sure that there have been many who have had similar experiences and may identify with it on some level, but in the Reading Room at Prin? How perfect! I am sure both Mrs. Eddy and Mrs. Morgan would approve.

—Jack Mathis (C'69)

Principia's Summer 2017 *Purpose*, containing an article about Ms. Abigail Swartz, contributes mightily to the sad and destructive polarization going on in these United States. Her version of Rosie the Riveter does a disservice to an icon. There are, indeed, many of us who don't accept nor approve of left-leaning politics. Could not *Principia Purpose* remain in the center of the political spectrum, especially in troubled times such as these?

—Valerie Jordan Sweeney

To submit your letters to the *Purpose*, email [purpose@principia.edu](mailto:purpose@principia.edu), or write to *Principia Purpose*, 13201 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63131.



### Summer '17 Photo Caption Contest Winner

"Multitasking in the '80s!"

—Judi Lindsey



For the next contest, submit your caption to [purpose@principia.edu](mailto:purpose@principia.edu) by May 1, 2018. The winner will be announced in the Summer '18 issue.

# School News

## Reunion 2017

From far-flung Kyoto, Japan, to nearby Kansas City, Missouri, more than 350 Upper School alumni and guests returned “home” for Reunion in September. Many enjoyed touring the School’s new learning spaces—including the IDEA Center, Performing Arts Center, House Hall, and the Founder’s Room—as well as the “A-Wing” classrooms they remembered so well. At the request of those in the Classes of 1967 and 1968, a Field Day reprise of their Lower School years was added to the program. Competing in sack races, an egg toss, and other relays on the new turf field made for lots of laughter and many fond memories.



Other popular activities included talks by Head of School Travis Brantingham (US’94, C’98) and Chief Executive Marshall Ingwerson (C’79), as well as a Friday-morning chapel featuring former dean, housepop, and coach Bill Simon (US’54) and current Dean of Boys Clark Shutt (US’72).

Abbott Jones (US’52, C’56), former President and COO of Foote, Cone & Belding Communications, received the David K. Andrews Distinguished Alumni award (right). And the first-ever Hubbell Cup—named for Winnifred Hubbell, first President of Principia’s Alumni Association—went to the Class of 1967 for having the highest percentage of members at Reunion. Class reps Joyce “Dennie” Lattin and Jo Ellen (Good) Watford accepted the award on behalf of the class.



## League and District Sports Highlights

The following students won honors during the fall sports season:

Senior **Gabby Kitchingman** placed 4th overall in girls’ tennis singles at the District level—no small feat considering that the District includes the top two State players.

In softball, junior **Alyssa Savoye** was named to 1st Team All-District, while teammates **Cameron Bania** (US’18), **Gracie Paul** (US’19), and **Heather Savoye** (US’19) were chosen for 2nd Team All-District.

In volleyball, senior **Viviane de Castro** was named to 1st Team All-District and junior **Hannah White** to the 2nd Team.

## Student Playwrights, Actors, and Directors

For the third year running, our Advanced Theatre Arts class wowed audiences with a staging of an original play—written, directed, costumed, and performed by students!

The students were “commissioned” by teacher Liesl Ehmke (C’89) to write 10-minute independent but interconnected vignettes. They also had their work critiqued by a professional dramaturg before rewrites and final production. This year’s *Christmas Eve in Bethlehem, NH*, and last year’s Thanksgiving Day-themed collection will be published in conjunction with Plays To Order, an online resource for student plays.

## Students Step Up with Hurricane Help

Individually and collectively, students took the initiative to provide relief for those affected by the August and September hurricanes in Texas and Puerto Rico. Senior Olivia Denson (right) organized a collection of most-needed items that a family friend transported to Houston. Her classmates Jeremy Fox and Jack Adler held a Sunday afternoon car wash that resulted in more than \$1,100 in donations for First Church, San Juan, Puerto Rico. In addition, Middle School boarders sold T-shirts to raise funds for hurricane victims.



## Outstanding Renovations

This fall, several completely renovated spaces have been humming with high-energy learning! The areas around Ridgway Auditorium—including the auditorium lobby and what was previously known as the museum or Panther Room—have been transformed into student-centered, community-building areas. The new spaces include House Hall (below), which can host the entire Upper School student body for House or community meetings; the Founder’s Room, which is used by both staff and students; a new School store; the SALT Room (for the Student Action Leadership Team); and a large, welcoming Admissions Office. To take an armchair tour, watch the video at [principiaschool.org/newspaces](http://principiaschool.org/newspaces).



## A Guided Eclipse Viewing

More than 2,000 people watched the August 21, 2017, solar eclipse from the Principia School campus. Speaking from the football field, astrophysicist Dr. Laurance Doyle guided viewers in identifying shadow bands, Bailey’s Beads, the Diamond Ring Effect, and, of course, totality.

With glasses off for approximately two minutes of totality, everyone present was able to view the Sun’s corona flaming out past the Moon’s orb. Collective gasps and cheers went up from the crowd! (To see fun photos of viewers in their Principia eclipse glasses, visit [facebook.com/PrincipiaAlumni](https://facebook.com/PrincipiaAlumni).)



### Students Learn On-Site in Switzerland

Host to the highest number of international organizations in the world, Geneva, Switzerland, proved an ideal setting for students on the Principia College Leadership Institute's Leaders across Borders trip. During two weeks in early summer, students had extraordinary access to a wide range of high-level leaders—senior executives and officials from the World Trade Organization, World Wildlife Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Caterpillar Corporation, Nestlé, and the International Federation of the Red Cross, among others. “Speakers were quite candid, taking students through not just what things look like on paper, but also how things really work, and how challenging it can be to manage world-wide organizations,” explained David Wold (US’79, C’84), Director of the Institute.



### Renovation of Morey Field House Begins

With the extensive renovation of Voney Art Center complete (see p. 46), the College has embarked on the transformation of Morey Field House into a flexible, state-of-the-art performance center. Demolition began in December, construction will commence in March, and completion is expected by fall 2019.

The renovated space will include a modified proscenium/thrust stage with an orchestra pit and automated pit lift system. New dressing rooms and a green room, a shared dance studio/lobby, LED theatrical lighting, and the initial components of an orchestral shell are part of the renovation as well.

### Outdoor Education Conference Presentations

In October, Education Professor Lauren Hinchman (US’94, C’98) and senior Maddi Demaree (C’18) presented research at the International Conference on Outdoor Leadership, sponsored by the Wilderness Education Association and held in Jackson, Wyoming.

Maddi presented “‘Sisu’: The Role of Grit and Outdoor Learning in Finnish Education,” based on research she began on the Finland Abroad her sophomore year. “Traditional learning activities in Finland teach students how to have *sisu* [roughly translated as grit] and connect students with the land, the people, and themselves,” Maddi explained to conference attendees.

In a different presentation, Hinchman shared how developing field-ready and portable teaching tool kits enhances the understanding and practice of learning theory in the outdoors.

### Christian Science Organization Revitalizes the Mistake House

The iconic Mistake House on the Chapel Green has been transformed into the “CSO Corner” bookstore. Students, faculty, and staff (including those pictured below) pitched in to spruce up the space.

“We think it’s a delightful place to stop and peruse the stock of Bibles, writings of Mary Baker Eddy, and other Christian Science literature,” says senior Brie Burns, who often takes a shift staffing the store.



## Annenberg Scholars on Campus

The College hosted two Annenberg scholars during fall semester. Dr. Daniel Sekepe Matjila, from the Department of Languages at the University of South Africa, presented “A South African Cosmology and Symbolology: Nature in Folklore.” A professor, Africologist, poet, and storyteller, Dr. Matjila is an active author and scholar in both the United States and South Africa. He also visited sociology and global studies classes and was a featured speaker at the College’s 2017 International Perspectives Conference, “Breaking Stereotypes around the World.”

Fall semester’s second Annenberg scholar was Dr. David Lubin, a professor at Wake Forest University. Lubin presented “A Monument to Racial Equality: Boston’s Shaw Memorial and the Battle over Civil War Memory,” an exploration of sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens’s celebrated work depicting Colonel Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, the first Union regiment made up solely of African Americans. The unit gained fame for its attack on Fort Wagner outside of Charleston in 1863.

## Men’s Soccer Player Sweeps Awards

Freshman Kaleb Keller earned a spot on the men’s soccer 2nd Team All-Region after finishing the season with 18 goals and two assists (for a total of 38 points) and leading the conference in both goals and total points. Kaleb also earned the conference Offensive Player and Newcomer of the Year awards.



## New York Times Correspondent Speaks on ISIS and Al Qaeda

This year’s Ernie and Lucha Vogel Moral Courage Speaker was *New York Times* foreign correspondent Rukmini Callimachi, a three-time Pulitzer Prize finalist. During her talk, Callimachi emphasized that one of the tenets of the Islamic State is to eliminate “gray zones”—areas where moderate Muslims are able to live alongside Christians, Jews, and those of other faiths. “They want to create a clash of religions and cultures,” she said, as she encouraged students to do what they can to foster a spirit of tolerance and respect. She acknowledged the dedicated effort by authorities to detect terrorist activity and thwart attacks, but she also provided a live illustration of the relative ease with which jihadists operate on social media platforms and the difficulty of preventing them from doing so.

## The Merchant of Venice—A Timeless Tale

Students returning from the England Abroad presented William Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice* in November, first as a free show for local high school students and then for full audiences in the Black Box Theatre. A lobby display shared the in-depth research students had conducted at the British Library and Shakespeare’s birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon, among other locations, and each performance included a post-show discussion of the play’s timeless themes. “Shakespeare’s story holds up a mirror to his society—as well as to ours,” noted Theatre Professor Chrissy Steele, the production’s Director.



# Awards and Achievements

## SCHOOL

### An Outstanding Student Leader

In early October, senior **Cameron Bania** was among the 56 students in St. Louis County honored as a 2017 Outstanding Student Leader at a day-long workshop and ceremony hosted by Washington University in St. Louis.

Cameron was chosen for this honor by Upper School administrators on the basis of her achievements in academics, student leadership, athletics, and community service. She is on the honor roll, regularly takes AP classes, and overloads her schedule with one or more art classes each semester. She has played varsity basketball and softball all four years, including serving as captain of both teams; traveled to South Africa and the Dominican Republic on service trips; and is a House captain.



Student leader Cameron Bania (US'18)

### Cross Country Competes at State

Both our girls' and boys' cross country teams put in strong performances at Districts, with several runners achieving personal bests. The boys' team qualified to compete at State, and four

girls were chosen to compete individually. The boys' team placed 14th at the meet in Jefferson City, Missouri.

### Advanced Placement Honors

Of the 69 Upper School students who took the 2017 Advanced Placement (AP) exams, 16 were recognized as AP Scholars at various levels:

- Two current seniors—**Grace St. George** and **Woody Walters**—along with these nine members of the Class of 2017 were named AP Scholars (scores of 3 or higher on three or more exams)—**Anna Collins, Wyatt Dale, Marshall Fielding, Greta Johnson, Luke McCutcheon, Graden Ndayishimiye, Barrett Pierce, Lydia Pierce,** and **Zoe Wade.**

- Three other members of the Class of 2017 achieved AP Scholar with Honor (score of 3 or higher on four or more exams)—**Caitlyn Demaree, Denny Veidelis,** and **Cameron Wood.**

- **Maddy Peticolas** (US'17) achieved the highest rating of AP Scholar with Distinction, reserved for students with scores of 3 or higher on five or more AP exams.

### Girls and Boys State

Over the summer, Principia selected three seniors—**Jeremy Fox, Caleb Grow,** and **Kiki Holmes**—to attend the weeklong Missouri Boys and Girls State sessions, which involve hundreds of high school leaders from across Missouri in realistic, hands-on civics and government simulations. At both State events, students run for multiple elected positions. Kiki was elected to

serve as a city councilwoman and a county judge at Girls State, while Caleb was chosen for the staff of the Senate chamber at Boys State and Jeremy for the House of Representatives.



Student leaders, from left: seniors Caleb Grow, Kiki Holmes, and Jeremy Fox

## COLLEGE

### Robby Butler Named Lincoln Academy Student Laureate

Each year, Principia College nominates one senior for the prestigious Abraham Lincoln Civic Engagement Award, based on leadership and service in the pursuit of the betterment of humanity and overall excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities. **Robby Butler** (US'14), a business administration and theatre double major, is this year's Principia College Lincoln Academy Student Laureate.

Robby has served as Student Body Vice President, Christian Science Organization President and Reader, Senior Class Representative, and Resident Assistant. He has played rugby all four years, serving as team captain for two, and earned level 200 USA Rugby Coaching Certification. In spring 2017, Robby received an Irene Ryan Acting Scholar-

## Awards and Achievements

ship nomination for his role in *Godspell* and will compete at a regional Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival in 2018.

### Student Earns Green Building Credential

Business major and sustainability minor **Jeff Lewis** (C'18) earned the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED "Green Associate" credential, denoting proficiency in sustainable design, construction, and operations standards. During his junior year, Jeff created a roof garden on campus, and last summer he interned with two organizations in this growing field.

### Mediation Team Wins Honors

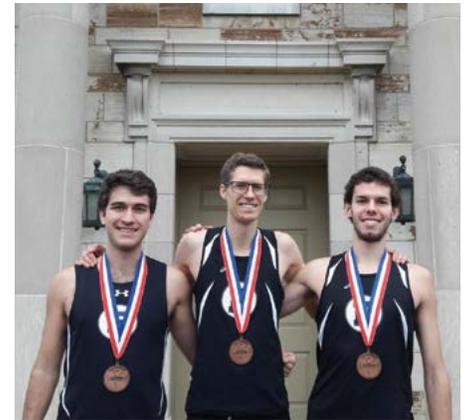
Principia's mediation team took first place in Team Advocacy at the 2017

International Intercollegiate Mediation Championship Tournament at Brenau University in Gainesville, Georgia, earning an invitation to the 2018 International Law School Mediation Championship Tournament in Chicago in March. Best of all, however, as Dr. Jeffrey Steele, a multidisciplinary professor and the team's head coach, notes, "The team earned the H.C. Ellis Spirit of Mediation Award, given annually to the school that serves as the best example of the spirit and principles of mediation practice."

### Runners Earn All-Region Status and Compete at Nationals

Seniors **Shane Witters Hicks**, **Zach Matthiesen**, and **Nate Richards** earned All-Region titles and qualified for the NCAA Division III Cross Country National Championships, hosted this year

by Principia College. In all, 560 runners raced on Principia's scenic North Farm course. During the weekend, Shane, a physics major, received one of two DIII cross country Elite 90 awards, which honor the male and female participating at Nationals who have the highest cumulative GPAs.



Nationals runners, from left: seniors Nate Richards, Shane Witters Hicks, and Zach Matthiesen

## ALUMNI AND FACULTY

### David Dreier (US'71)

Former California Congressman David Dreier received the highest honor Mexico can bestow on a foreign national—the Order of the Aztec Eagle. Only the President of Mexico, with approval, can grant this distinction. Following 32 years in Congress, Dreier is now a director of tronc, Inc., the media company that owns the *Los Angeles Times*, and a board advisor to Tang Media Partners, the parent company of Open Road Films, which won the Oscar for Best Picture in 2016 for *Spotlight* and released *Marshall* last fall.

### Emily Ellet (C'08)

Actor and singer Emily Ellet won the highly competitive 2017 MetroStar Talent Challenge, a seven-week contest

held at the Metropolitan Room in New York City. It is open to solo singers and vocal duos, and performers are encouraged to present well-rounded stage performances that prize creativity, innovation, and authenticity over vocal pyrotechnics. The initial pool for the 2017 challenge, deemed one of the most competitive in years, included 51 performers. Ellet's prize package includes a major engagement at the Metropolitan Room in 2018 with a multitrack recording of the live show.

### Jim Emerich (C'91)

Jim Emerich was appointed Chief Financial Officer at Science Exchange, a global, secure platform for outsourced research and development. Emerich provides metrics-driven financial

leadership to help accelerate growth for the company, leads the budgeting and planning processes, and monitors and communicates the progress of key business and financial objectives.

### Brian Webster

Upper School social studies teacher Brian Webster wrote the song "Because of You," featured in the award-winning documentary *Hidden Admiration*, which explores the appreciation many French people still hold for their Allied liberators during World War II. The song went on to become a separate music video starring the country music singer Morgan Myles. (You can watch the video at [vimeo.com/225029166](https://vimeo.com/225029166).)

## Announcement

# Dr. Jolanda Westerhof Named Next College President



Principia is pleased to announce Dr. Jolanda Westerhof (US'77, C'82) as the next President of Principia College. Dr. Westerhof, known as “Jo” (pronounced “Yo”), is currently Associate Vice President for the Academic Leadership and Change Division at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities in Washington, DC.

“I am highly enthusiastic about the leadership qualities Jo Westerhof is bringing to Principia College,” Chief Executive Marshall Ingwerson (C'79) says. “She speaks with a clear and honest

with Principia in many roles and a wide academic and professional experience in higher education. She has the background to build on the impressive progress made at the College under the leadership of President Jonathan Palmer (C'78) over the past decade. Most of all, I appreciate her deep idealism about Principia’s purpose and potential.”

Following her graduation from Principia with a BA in history and education, Westerhof earned a master’s degree in international affairs from Washington University in St. Louis in 1992 and a PhD in curriculum and instruction

**“The top-notch undergraduate education I received at the College has been on my gratitude list for decades.”** —Dr. Jolanda Westerhof

voice, works in a highly collaborative way, and has a deeply inclusive sensibility. Jo brings a long connection

from Indiana University in 2002. Her dissertation was titled “Evolving Forms of Democratic Practice in Education.”

After teaching at Principia College for five years, Westerhof taught at Grand Valley State University in Michigan for over a decade, earning tenure in 2004. In 2005, she received a Fulbright lecture/research scholarship at the Centre for Research and Training in Human Rights and Democratic Citizenship at the University of Zagreb, Croatia.

“The top-notch undergraduate education I received at the College has been on my gratitude list for decades,” Westerhof notes. “I am honored to lead the College, and I look forward to working with students, staff, faculty, and administration as we explore Principia’s vision and purpose for educating the next generation of world citizens—with Christian Science as a foundation.”

Ninety individuals, including 27 nominations from the Principia community, were identified for personal outreach by Witt/Kieffer, an executive search firm with deep experience in higher education that helped manage the search process. Fifteen applications were received, and two finalists were invited for two-day visits, which included open forums. These were followed by opportunities for community members to provide feedback on each finalist.

“Although Dr. Westerhof continues to serve in her current position,” Ingwerson notes, “we hope to involve her as much as practical over coming months in campus planning and discussions to aid the transition.” She will assume the post full time on July 1, 2018. 

# Acorn Groups Take Root around the Country

by Merrilee McFarland

Over the past two years Principia's Acorn Director, Dorothy Halverson (C'85), and the Alumni & Field Relations Office have hosted 14 Acorn gatherings around the country, sometimes visiting a location more than once.

From play dates to parenting seminars to Bible workshops, these gatherings—geared toward families with newborns through five-year-olds—are filling an important role for Principia alumni and friends with young children.

“It's been a meaningful community of support,” says Laura (Hill, C'04) Lochen, co-leader of the Denver Acorn group. “I've appreciated the honest discussions about raising Christian Scientists in this day and age.” The Denver group gets together every other month for activities ranging from family hikes to play dates, outings to parenting discussions. A group in Charlotte, North Carolina, meets regularly as well.

In Texas, the Acorn group in Dallas enjoyed a fun springtime gathering where children made decorations for the guests at the local Christian Science nursing facility as part of Principia's Global Days of Service.

“I love the opportunity to meet and support young families,” Dorothy Halverson says, “providing them with practical parenting ideas and strategies and seeing the pure joy expressed by the children as they engage in hands-on



Members of the Denver Acorn group join in a parachute game led by Dorothy Halverson.

activities with each other and their families. I'm looking forward to connecting with more families around the country.”

“The resources from Dorothy—the songs, books, ideas about teaching the Bible to children, crafts, group activity ideas, and insights about parenting—have all been great!” comments Katie (Wallingford, C'06) Price, another member of the Denver Acorn group. She also appreciates the camaraderie. “Sweet friendships have grown for our children and for us as parents,” she says.

To find out more about hosting an Acorn gathering in your area, email the Alumni & Field Relations Office at [field@principia.edu](mailto:field@principia.edu). You can also join the Acorn online community and get access to free articles, lesson plans, parenting resources, and much more at [principiaschool.org/acornonline](http://principiaschool.org/acornonline). 

## Upcoming Acorn Gatherings

Atlanta, Georgia  
Austin, Texas  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Dallas, Texas  
Jacksonville, Florida  
Northern California  
Southern California  
Seattle, Washington  
Washington, DC



# MEET JOHN O'HAGAN

## Theatre Professor and Rock Star Wannabe

**B**efore joining the faculty at Principia College in 2013, John O'Hagan taught at the University of Wyoming, where he received an Extraordinary Merit in Teaching Award. He has also worked in commercials, voice over, and small films and has acted and directed for numerous companies, ranging from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival to the Idaho Theatre for Youth. At Principia, he teaches acting, directing, and stage combat and regularly directs productions. He received the Principia College Teacher of the Year Award (by student vote) in 2017.

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

**A.** In connection with the 2017 and 2019 Ireland Abroad programs, I'm focusing a lot on devised theatre, which involves an ensemble of artists creating new work as a creative collective.

I'm also in a rich vein of creative work right now. I had three acting



Photo by Kim (Whitmore, C'92) Howland

*Kelsey Whitney (US'12, C'16) as Eurydice and John O'Hagan as Father in Eurydice by Sarah Ruhl at Bankside Repertory Theatre*

opportunities come up fall semester. And in November, I went to London for an acting workshop with the prominent international director and writer Declan Donnellan. I was thrilled to be one of the 20 people selected to participate! Mr. Donnellan's book *The Actor and the Target* is the foundational text I use in Acting 201, so my work with him will also enhance my teaching.

Finally, I'm engaged in research and preparation for *Treasure Island*, which I will direct spring semester.

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

**A.** I was working as a professional freelance actor and as Education Director for the Idaho Shakespeare Festival when a friend asked me to guest direct a production of *Fiddler on the Roof* at the College of Idaho. During this

experience, I discovered that I love the process of teaching and working with preprofessional artists as much as I love acting. After a few weeks of rehearsal, I remember coming home and saying to my wife, Nikki, "I think this is what I'm supposed to be doing."

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

**A.** I love helping early-career actors see that they can be strong, dynamic performers—engaging with challenging material and artistic ideas—and strong Christian Scientists at the same time. One absolutely strengthens the other.

And I love the fact that the vast majority of the students here are willing to try anything. In our department, the default approach to a new idea is "Yes, how can we do this?" I didn't always experience that teaching at other places.



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

**A.** Time. I always want more of it in the classroom and rehearsal process.

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

**A.** Theatre asks us to look at issues that are difficult, dark, but the point is to move beyond the darkness. In her book *And Then, You Act*, Anne Bogart describes theatre as shining a light in dark places to, in essence, heal the world. To me, that means unmasking error so that the audience can see it for what it is and rise above it. I often talk with students about this bigger purpose behind our work.

For example, in the fall, after a pretty low-energy run-through of *7 Ways to Say*

*I Love You*, Director Trish Schmit (C'91) and I talked with the cast about the importance of the play's message today, when politics are divisive and youth are being told that their world is going to end through climate change or nuclear disaster—that even going to a concert could be deadly. Saying “I love you” is so important right now, we explained, so the play needs and deserves your best.

The actors took our comments to heart. Students here understand the bigger role theatre can play in the world. They want to unmask error and uplift the audience.

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

**A.** I'm a huge fan of heavy metal and punk music—especially bad '80s “hair bands.” There's just something about really repetitive guitar riffs that I love!

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

**A.** If I weren't a professor—and if I had a shred of musical talent—I'd run off and join a rock band.

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

**A.** I'd head into St. Louis with my wife and spend the day at a museum or the zoo, have dinner at a nice restaurant, and see a great play in the evening. That would be a really nice day.

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

**A.** Hard work and humility are the keys to success in this game. Do your best to make every moment be about someone else—and see what that opens up for you. 📖

# Principia Gave Me a Second Chance

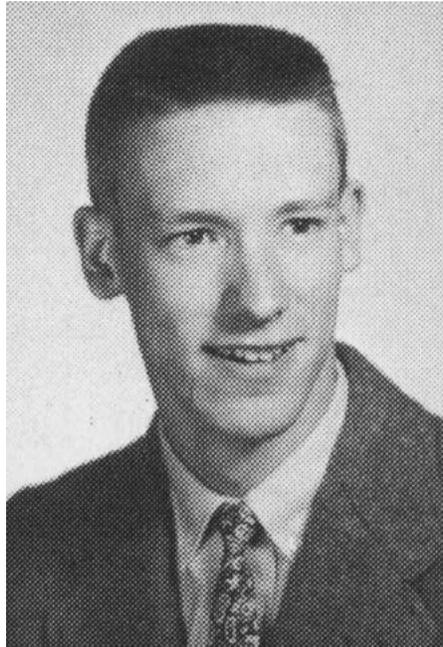
by Peter B. Cooper (C'69)

In September 1961, I entered Principia College as a freshman. I had visited the College for three days in January of that year, courtesy of a carpool with Lee Sharp (C'62), Judy (Ross, C'62) Erikson, and Dave Brady (US'58, C'62) from the New York City area. Prin College was my mother's first choice for me, and after visiting, talking with some instructors, and experiencing the campus firsthand, I found I liked the small college and rural setting.

One very worthwhile experience as a new freshman occurred during fall quarter, when Ron Barton (C'63), Freshman Head in Rackham West, required freshmen to spend at least five to 10 minutes interviewing each house member. This really helped me get to know my housemates better. I experienced geographic diversity for the first time, hobbies, leisure activities, study tips, and a real sense of brotherhood!

I enjoyed dormitory life, some of my courses, class field trips off campus, and the activities of the Natural Science Club. The classes that interested me most were in the biology department. But some of the general education courses required of freshmen didn't seem relevant to me.

Being away from home for an extended time and for the first time, I was impatient to get out and do something to help the world. My Men's Organization Certificate of 1962 had this quote from Mary Kimball Morgan which has



*Peter Cooper, his freshman year*

stayed with me to this day: "Train yourselves for service. Have an unselfed purpose. The world needs you."

Having grown up on Cape Cod, I had followed the election of President Kennedy very closely during my senior year in high school. He spent time on the Cape, and I had become very enthusiastic about his newly formed Peace Corps initiative.

In February 1962, I obtained a ride into St. Louis and took the Peace Corps entrance exam. The idea of living and working in a less-developed country really appealed to me. The skill areas I had to offer—vegetable gardening and beekeeping—were from my four years in 4-H Club activities.

As June of 1962 approached, Assistant Dean of Men Tom Black (C'54) called me into his office. He patiently explained to me that I had several options to consider for the next unfolding of my experience:

1. I could enroll in an accredited two- or four-year college and complete my education there.
2. I could enter military service and complete my obligation to Uncle Sam. (The draft lasted until 1972.)
3. After compiling a sound college-level academic record elsewhere for a year or two, I could reapply to Principia College.

I realize now that the prayerful preparation that went into this meeting, which some may casually refer to as an "exit interview," afforded me long-term blessings.

Since I had heard nothing from the newly formed Peace Corps and had no way to contact them, I enlisted for three years in the U.S. Army in October 1962. In December 1962, a large packet came to my home saying that I had been selected for a Peace Corps project in Mysore, India. Clearly, this was not God's plan for me since I had the rest of my three-year enlistment to complete.

After five months of stateside training, my permanent assignment was at Rhein Kaserne in Wiesbaden-Biebrich,

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**“After being away for five years, I really appreciated being back . . .”**

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Germany. My unit was the last active parachute artillery battalion in Germany after World War II.

One of the many blessings from my military service was that there were Christian Science services just a 15-minute bus ride from Rhein Kaserne. Another was that I became friendly with the family of Manfred von Malapert-Neufville, who attended Principia College, and they welcomed me into their home quite often when I was off duty. After my honorable discharge, I returned home, enrolled at Cape Cod Community College, and compiled a sound academic record during my three semesters there.

As I prayed about my next step, I realized that I had some credits from my freshman year at Principia that would qualify for graduation. So I reapplied in early 1967, and with the encouragement of “Doc” Wanamaker (C’39), who was a great and important mentor



*Peter Cooper (squatting), President of the Natural Science Club in 1968–1969, with club members*

and advisor to me during my three years at the College. I visited again and talked with the Dean of Men, the Admissions Office, and the Financial Aid Office. The Registrar informed me that the credits earned from Cape Cod Community College would be honored by Principia. Soon thereafter I learned that I had been accepted to the College for fall quarter of 1967.

After being away for five years, I really appreciated being back at Prin and valued my two full years at the College! After taking six semester hours at Boston University’s summer session in 1969, I earned my BA from Principia in December 1969.

Although my motives seemed well-intentioned concerning the Peace

Corps, I think this passage by Mary Baker Eddy describes my thinking then: “Will—blind, stubborn, and headlong—cooperates with appetite and passion” (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 490). Truly, God had a better plan for me! ■

### What’s *your* Principia story?

To submit a story (up to 800 words) about your Principia experience, email us at [purpose@principia.edu](mailto:purpose@principia.edu). Selected submissions will be edited with the author’s permission.





# OFF TO A ROARING START

## Young Alumni Make Their Mark

**T**HANK YOU, Principia alumni, for nominating a second round of fascinating young alums for the *Purpose* to distinguish as “off to a roaring start.” Four years ago, the *Purpose* published a collection of profiles of young alums making their mark in the world, and the issue received great feedback from the field. So, it’s time to do it again!

One of the Principia Alumni Association Board’s responsibilities is to help with alumni recognition, so we studied your nominations of peers and connections who graduated from Principia within the last 20 years. The quality and variety of the impact young Principians are having on business, education, science, the arts, and government is substantial, to say the least. Many have earned advanced degrees, including doctorates, in their fields of study; many are succeeding in the performing arts and entertainment world; many are contributing in worldwide organizations focused on engineering, sustainability, and graphic design.

While Principia alumni are achieving in a wide variety of relevant industries, a common thread for all of them is their foundation at Principia. The Alumni Board hopes you will be as captivated by these young alums as we were when we learned of their accomplishments and contributions to the world. Enjoy getting to know them! Then head to [principiaalumni.org/awards](http://principiaalumni.org/awards) to nominate other young alums who are making their mark.

—Jill (Weldon, US’85, C’90) Butler  
Alumni Association Board Member, 2015–2018

**Facing page:** Top row second from right, photo by Jens Odegaard. Second row: third from left, photo by Brooke Images, Ashley and Greg Granstad; fourth from left, photo courtesy of Emily Moeller-Prom. Third row: center, photo by Vanessa Venter. Fourth row: third from left, photo by JLBoone Photography.  
**This page:** left, photo by Geoffrey Wade Photography; second from left, photo by Daniel Welch; third from left, photo by Katie Stanley (C’05).



Photo by NCIS Makeup Department

Lindsay LaVanchy on the set of NCIS: Los Angeles for the October 2016 episode "Sirens," in which she played Natalie/Amber, alongside LL Cool J, Chris O'Donnell, and Linda Hunt

“I get so excited as an actor discovering these characters and seeing them as real spiritual ideas . . .”

## LINDSAY LAVANCHY

(US'07)

### *Performing and producing material that matters*

Not many people can say they fulfilled their childhood dream of becoming an actor, but Lindsay LaVanchy can.

LaVanchy attended Principia from preschool through the Upper School and was involved in all aspects of the arts, including dance and Spring Production, both under the direction of Sheila Alioto, one of her main mentors through school. “My years at Principia inspired me as a thinker and really helped me build a strong spiritual foundation and work ethic,” she says.

Knowing she wanted to pursue her passion for theatre and film in college, LaVanchy applied to the UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television. “Why wouldn’t I just move to LA and do what inspires me?” LaVanchy says. “I straight up thought I had no boundaries.”

LaVanchy graduated from UCLA in 2011 with both a BA and a role in her first professional play. Since then, she has landed roles on major TV shows, including *Criminal Minds*, *Castle*, *NCIS: Los Angeles*, and *Scream*. In 2016, she played the lead in the West Coast premiere of Tennessee Williams’s *Baby Doll* at The Fountain Theatre in Los Angeles, and in fall/winter 2017, she is one of the leads in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* with Antaeus Theatre Company in Glendale, California, where she is also a member.

Recently, LaVanchy took her love for writing to a new level as well, co-writing a horror feature film called *Dembanger*, based on a short film she did a few years ago. Filming is taking place this winter (2017–2018), with LaVanchy in the lead role.

“I follow projects—whether as a writer, actor, or admirer—that speak to my soul and my inner compass,” LaVanchy comments. “I’m always looking for stories that stimulate me intellectually and emotionally.”

“I get so excited as an actor discovering these characters and seeing them as real spiritual ideas, as real an idea as I am as the child of God,” LaVanchy continues. “And I’ve discovered that I love writing, because I get to fall in love with *all* of the characters while figuring out their spiritual and human makeup.”

Over the next few years, LaVanchy wants to continue writing and producing material that matters. As she puts it, “I want to produce content that can be healing, that starts conversations—maybe even ruffles people’s feathers—and that hopefully inspires people.”

—Annika Fredrikson

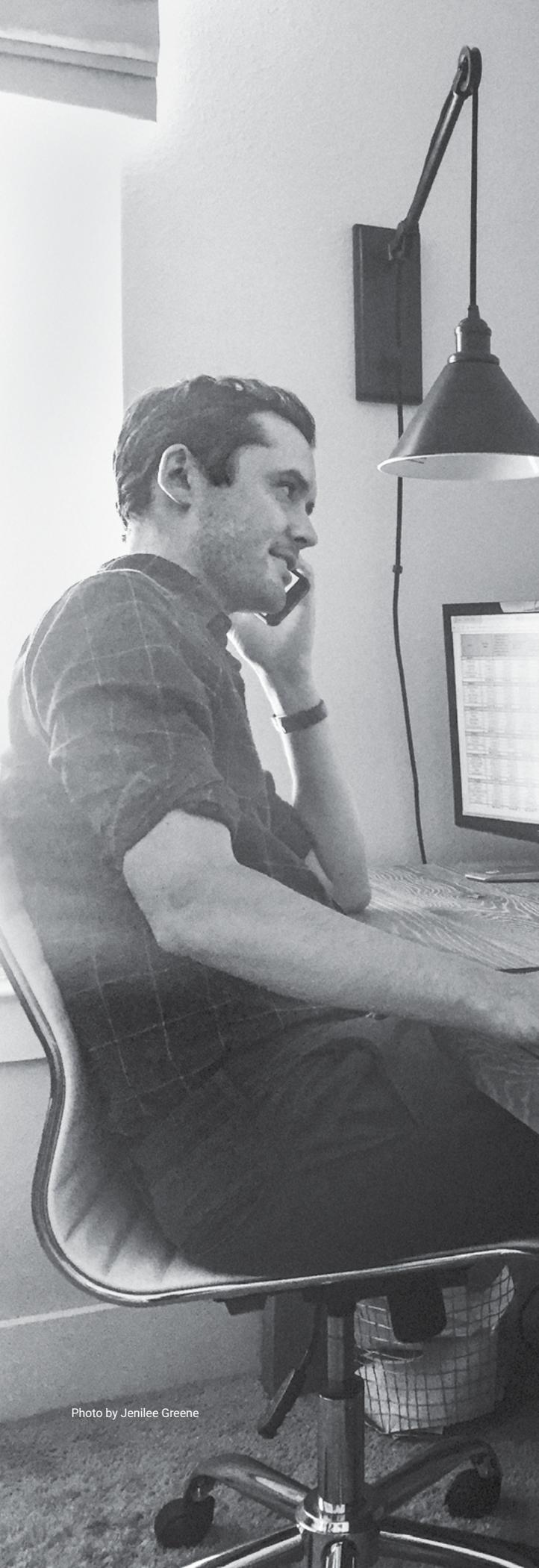


Photo by Jenilee Greene

## NATHAN GREENE

(C'05)

### *College lessons lead to career success*

Coming from classes with 300 students at Arizona State University, Nathan Greene had no idea of the crucible Dr. Julie Blase's political science class at Principia College would be.

"One day, almost no one had done the reading, and she was going around asking who had done the reading . . . and I hadn't, and I was terrified," he recalls with a laugh, noting that "you couldn't hide" in a class of 10 students.

But that was the great thing about Principia, Greene adds: "After that day, I read every single word of every assignment." Principia offered realistic lessons, he says, "that left me ready to move forward in a field that can be very competitive."

After graduating with a political science major, Greene built a legislative career on Capitol Hill, climbing the career ladder in the Idaho congressional delegation. He started as a legislative assistant for former U.S. Representative and now-governor of Idaho Butch Otter. Greene then moved on to work as Special Legislative Assistant for Senator Larry Craig and topped off his Washington career as Legislative Director for Representative Mike Simpson. Greene now lives in Jacksonville, Florida, where he serves as the Northeast Regional Government Affairs Director for Florida Realtors, a professional association.

Greene is grateful for other lessons learned at the College that prepared him to deal "head on" with the work world. In particular, Principia's heavy focus on writing helped him craft press releases and newspaper op-eds with ease, and his "whole man" convictions gave him the courage to tell a job interviewer he would not lie or fudge the truth even if asked to.

Another "eye-opening" experience Greene offers as evidence of Principia's reach in his life was being selected by Political Science Professor John Williams (C'76) to present a paper at a conference of Asian affairs experts. "To me," Greene says, "it meant that the work you are doing is not just a paper for class, but meaningful outside of Principia."

—Clara Germani

# ALICE STANLEY

(C'10)

## *Creativity—with a focus on comedy*

Alice Stanley's passion for theatre, and especially improv comedy, began her freshman year at the College, when she acted in mainstage productions and joined *Lazy Zipper*, Principia's improv group. Today, after earning an MFA in dramatic writing from Arizona State University, she moves seamlessly between professional roles as a performer, writer, and educator.

Stanley's work has been produced all across the country—from Alaska (Last Frontier Theatre Festival) to Maine (ImprovAcadia). A cast member for the two premier comedy theatres in Chicago, iO and Second City Theatricals, she has also toured with the improvised musical *Baby Wants Candy*. As a playwright, Stanley won the Chicago Dramatists' New Play Bake-Off at the Goodman Theatre and the Mary Scruggs Works by Women Festival at Second City. Stanley also teaches theatre and English at Chicago City Colleges and at arts organizations for underserved youth.

"Principia uniquely prepared me for a creative career," Stanley says. "I honed my basic performance chops in *Lazy Zipper* and under the tutelage of the incredibly supportive Theatre and Dance Department. And in grad school, my professors were always impressed by the depth of critical theory knowledge I brought to play analysis, which I owe entirely to my rigorous English classes with Dr. Lynn Horth (US'74, C'78) and Dr. Heidi Snow (C'79)."

When English Professor Dinah Ryan (C'78) recognized Stanley's willingness to take initiative and her keen interest in theatre, she encouraged her to write a play for her senior capstone project. Stanley wrote a full-length play and produced it on campus. "At Principia, I learned not to wait for opportunities," Stanley says, "and I've been making my own way ever since—from reaching out to casting directors to creating a one-woman show."

Stanley also notes the value of developing a foundation in creative work that doesn't rely on alcohol or other drugs. "My *Lazy Zipper* friends were the funniest people I knew, and we didn't need to drink to celebrate a show or get high to write a good scene," Stanley comments. "It's a relief that I don't ever feel distracted by the partying element of the industry. I'm grateful to Principia for setting a focused and joyful tone for my artistic journey."

—Heather Shotwell



Photo by Katie Stanley (C'05)

“My *Lazy Zipper* friends were the funniest people I knew, and we didn't need to drink to celebrate a show or get high to write a good scene.”



Photo by Lauren (Furbush, US'10, C'14) Eichar

“... I learned to trust God with my desires and to follow Her lead.”

## TESSA (BRAY) FROST

(C'02)

### *From art history to government relations*

Amid the chaotic daily scene of Washington, DC, politics, uplifted thought is crucial to Tessa Frost's work as the Director of Federal Government Affairs for the Christian Science Committee on Publication, U.S. Federal Office.

Near the end of high school, Christian Science became increasingly important to Frost. Then a visit to Principia made the college decision easy, despite her previous Ivy League plans. For Frost, Principia was an “invaluable place to learn to be a healer in the world.”

During college, Frost went on an eye-opening abroad to Peru, which led to work there in ecotourism after graduation—and singing in cafés on the side. That singing has now blossomed into soloing at branch churches and The Mother Church, as well as composing and producing inspirational solos with her husband, pianist Jay Holcomb Frost, including those on their CD

*Soulshine* and two tracks featured on the *Celebration* CD recently produced by The Mother Church.

After returning to the United States from Peru, Frost cultivated a sense of servant-leadership while working on two successive presidential campaigns and earning recognition as a top national field organizer in 2008. She continues to deepen that experience as a teaching fellow for Harvard Professor Marshall Ganz in courses on leadership, organizing, and public narrative. Her work in community organizing and advocacy also led her to the Committee on Publication Office and, eventually, to her current role as U.S. Federal Office Director.

Advocating for Christian Scientists' freedoms and legislative concerns necessitates identifying and engaging strategic connections between Congress and her fellow Church members. In

praying about this, Frost has realized that “we are actually all strategically related to one another by God—for the achievement of good.”

The DC scene sometimes feels like a “thought jumble,” Frost says, but she credits Principia—and specifically her oral exams with Professor Emerita of Art History Collette Collester—with developing the crucial skills of “identifying and communicating meaning” while also seeking mutual understanding.

Frost also credits Principia with a significant transformation and deepening of her character. “Because of Principia,” she says, “I learned to trust God with my desires and to follow Her lead. Each day the opportunities to grow and give are more exciting and fulfilling.”

—Amy Henn

# JONATHAN BORJA

(C'02)

*Excellence in performing and teaching*

When it comes to music, Dr. Jonathan Borja considers himself a late bloomer. As a young teen, he studied music at the National Conservatory in his native Mexico City, hoping to become a conductor. That's also where, at age 15, he started playing the flute, which quickly became his focus.

After graduating with honors from Principia College, he went to the Conservatory of Music and Dance at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he earned two master's degrees—in flute performance and in musicology—and a doctor of musical arts in flute performance.

Now in his third year as an Assistant Professor of music at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Borja sees teaching and performing as necessarily linked. "I need to be sure that what I'm doing on stage and in the classroom are the same thing—that there's the same level of excellence," he explains. "It's all about credibility."

Reflecting on his training, Borja says, "Dr. Marie Jureit-Beamish (HON'14) was key in bringing me to Principia. As a student, she kept me performing, and I learned a lot of repertoire." In particular, Borja notes the value of the College's frequent Music at Davis events. "Nothing prepares you for playing in front of an audience like playing in front of an audience," he says.

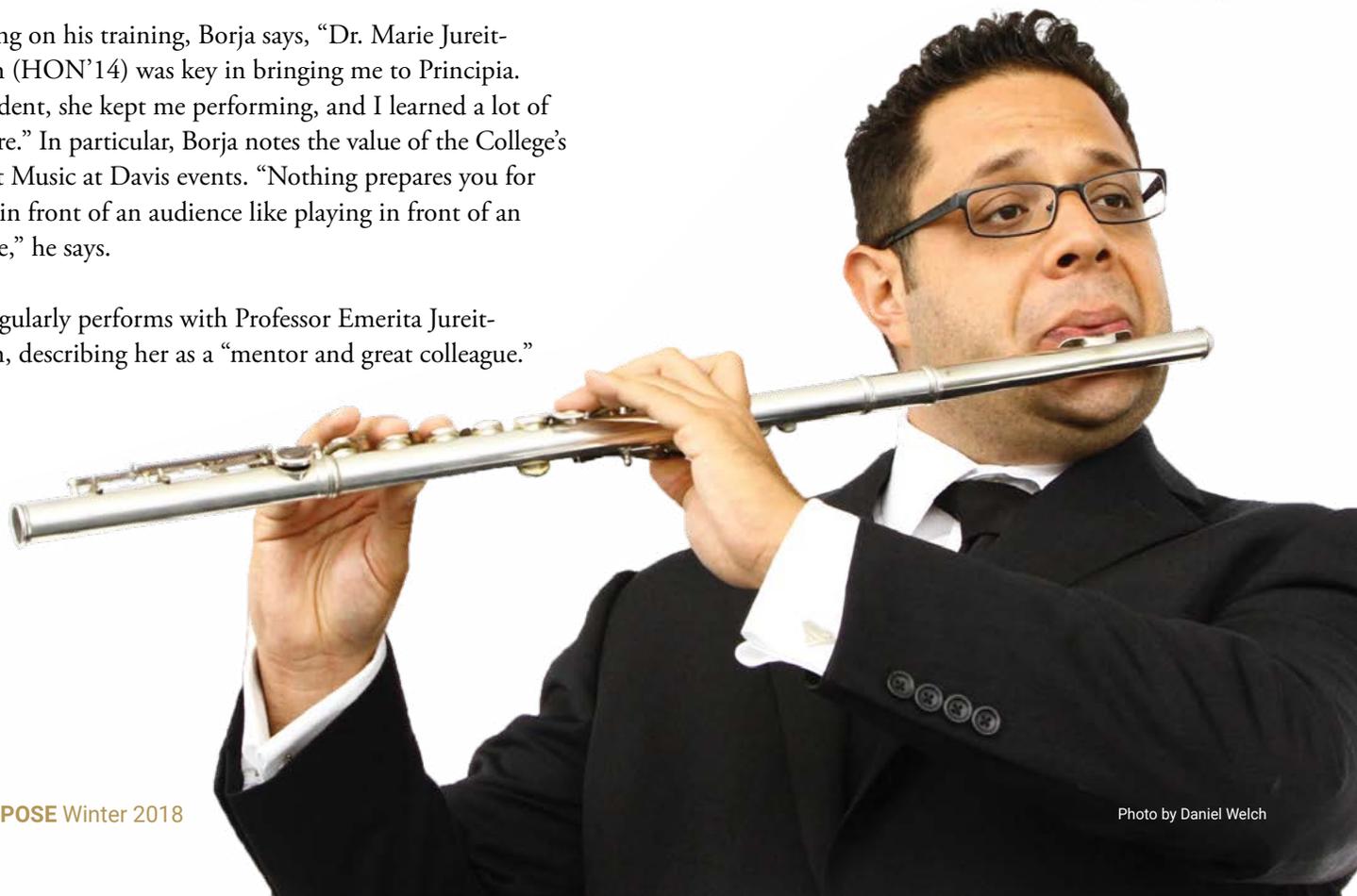
Borja regularly performs with Professor Emerita Jureit-Beamish, describing her as a "mentor and great colleague."

He has also invited her to teach master classes at UW-La Crosse. "Even though we have different teaching styles, we get to the same points," he comments.

Borja fondly recalls other professors from the College as well and particularly appreciates the strong writing instruction he received. "Dr. John Glen and Professor Ted Blake (C'90) were both very methodical writers," he says. "They emphasized how to get a reader's attention and have a very clear thesis."

Along with teaching, Borja performs throughout the United States and around the world, including in Mexico and Singapore in 2017. "Because of Principia," he says, "I know that I have family members almost anywhere I go. Even at concerts in random places, someone affiliated with Principia will always come up and say hello."

—Phebe Telschow



“I love to draw, and it always reminds me of the many hours I spent in Voney . . .”

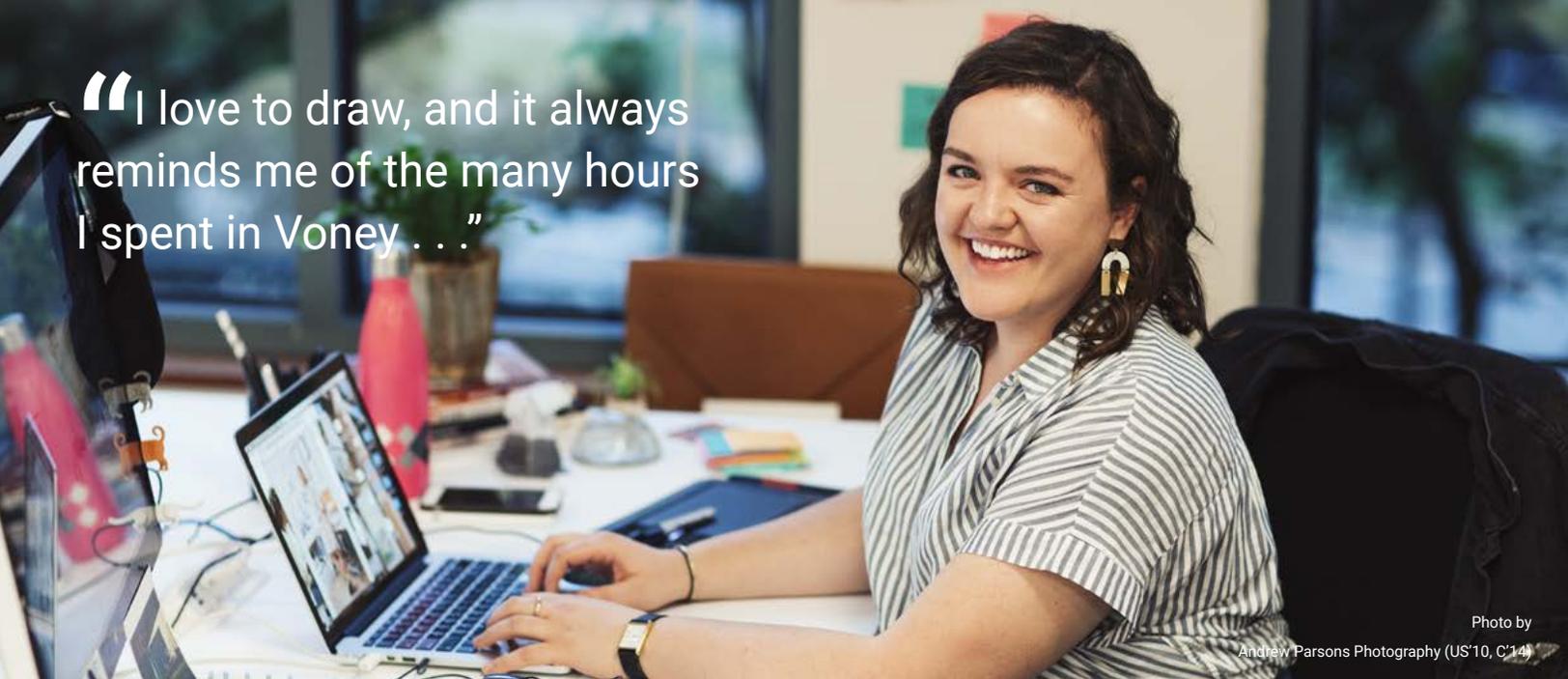


Photo by

Andrew Parsons Photography (US'10, C'14)

## CAROLINE KORTHALS (US'08, C'12)

### *Blending creativity and innovation*

After discovering her love of art at the Upper School, Caroline Korthals continued her passion for painting, drawing, and design as an art major at the College. Now working for IBM iX as a UX designer in Cambridge, Massachusetts, she blends creativity and innovation to serve clients.

Korthals's pathway to UX, also known as user-experience design, began in the Boston area at Longyear Museum, where she started as a curatorial assistant and was then promoted to Visitor Services Coordinator. In that role, she managed the museum's on-site and online stores. Finding ways to improve the customer experience online piqued her interest in combining design and technology.

Next, Korthals enrolled in a 10-week boot camp, where she learned all aspects of user experience—user research, design thinking, information architecture, wireframing, building prototypes, and more. After participating at a “reverse job fair”—where UX candidates present their portfolios to companies seeking new talent—and progressing through a multistage interview process, Korthals was hired as a UX designer in IBM's Interactive Experience studio. “Every day is a new challenge, and I love that about UX,” she says. “With the team, I conduct thorough user research with clients, and we tailor and build solutions from our findings.”

Though much of her work is done on a computer, Korthals frequently uses pencil and paper, even sticky notes, to quickly sketch design concepts. “I love to draw, and it always reminds me of the many hours I spent in Voney and also on my abroad to Greece and Turkey,” she comments. “While traveling, we painted and sketched our way through towns and villages, and I learned so much about the power of observation. I especially loved interacting with the local people and encountering cultures different than mine. It was truly a learning experience of a lifetime.”

Korthals enjoys living in Boston and takes advantage of opportunities to attend exhibits at the Museum of Fine Arts and at local galleries whenever possible. She's grateful to Principia for its unique and inspired learning atmosphere. “I feel my life is God-directed and am enormously grateful for the strong foundation I received,” she says.

—Heather Shotwell



Photo by Tim Bommel

“The ‘whole man’ education I received at Principia helped prepare me in so many ways.”

## ***DEREK GRIER***

***(US'99, C'03)***

### ***Focusing on solutions as a State Representative***

After graduating with a business major, Derek Grier spent the early years of his career working in business-to-business sales before finding his passion in real estate. But he didn't stop there. Grier had a strong desire to take a more active role serving his community, so a few years ago, he ran for Chesterfield City Council. He won that race and has never looked back.

“I wasn't in the military, but I believe in serving my country and my community,” Grier says. He now splits his time between two distinct roles: owner of Grier Realty Group and State Representative for the 100th District of Missouri.

Representing 38,000 Missourians, Grier makes legislative policy decisions and manages a multibillion-dollar budget. In addition, he serves on the Economic Development Committee and is Vice Chair of the Technology and Innovation Committee.

Grier notes that his liberal arts education enables him to process information and get to the bottom of complex issues quickly, a skill he uses daily as a statesman. In addition, Grier says, “I often draw on my experiences on the [Upper School] football team under Brian Morse (C'61). The discipline that he instilled—along with a positive, can-do attitude—has served me well over the years. Coach Morse's compassionate

but strong leadership style has influenced my own management style.”

Above all else, though, Grier points to the moral and spiritual aptitude he strengthened at Principia School and College as paramount to his success. “The ‘whole man’ education I received at Principia helped prepare me in so many ways,” he comments. “In a sometimes-toxic political environment, I'm able to bring a unique, caring perspective.” Focusing on and celebrating the good and collaborating on finding solutions, instead of getting stuck on the problems, have helped Grier take his work to a higher level.

When asked about his political aspirations, Grier says, “One of the things I learned at Principia is never to limit yourself regarding the impact you can have. I am simply an ambassador for God. My real job is to express Him and be what He wants me to be.”

—Annika Fredrikson



Photo courtesy of Emily Moeller-Prom

## **EMILY MOELLER-PROM** (C'08)

### *Charting a path—and breaking down barriers*

Emily Moeller-Prom already loved chemistry when she arrived at Principia College. Then Dr. Joseph Ritter introduced her to the problem-solving nature of chemical engineering, which proved to be an even better fit. Now Moeller-Prom puts her problem-solving skills to work for one of the world's largest oil and gas corporations, ExxonMobil.

Participating in Principia's 3+2 dual-degree engineering program, Moeller-Prom earned a BS in engineering science (with minors in math and chemistry) from Principia in 2008 and a BS in chemical engineering from the University of Minnesota in 2009. "The small class sizes in Principia's chemistry and math courses gave me a better foundation than other students in the University of Minnesota program," Moeller-Prom says. "And being in school an additional year gave me extra time for internships and extracurricular activities that made me more well-rounded."

Perhaps the most valuable of those activities was working on the solar car. Moeller-Prom was part of the array and body teams, despite having no electrical or car-building experience. She also served as one of the drivers in the 2,500-mile race from Austin, Texas, to Calgary, Canada, in 2005 and traveled to Taiwan with the team in 2006.

Moeller-Prom was hired by ExxonMobil immediately after graduation in 2009 (forgoing offers from General Mills and Dow Chemical Company) and has

since established a successful career in a profession where women are very much in the minority.

"I feel like I'm part of a group breaking down barriers," Moeller-Prom remarks, while noting that she's grateful for the support of both male and female mentors at ExxonMobil. In her current position as Execution Planning Advisor with ExxonMobil's Pipeline Company in Spring, Texas, Moeller-Prom oversees pipeline regulatory compliance with state and federal agencies, pipeline integrity stewardship, and the creation and management of a \$100M+ workload. Often, she's one of two women—or the only woman—in meetings with 10–20 managers.

Prior to working in Texas, Moeller-Prom was a Lead Field Engineer for ExxonMobil in Cerritos, California. While managing millions of dollars of civil, mechanical, and electrical construction projects, she oversaw all-male construction crews—learning from their wealth of experience while also proving her capability to them. Ultimately, she says, "It was a good learning experience—and I think I helped open a few minds."

Moeller-Prom lives in the Houston, Texas, area with her husband, William, and their children, Hadley and Henry.

—Armin Sethna

“[The] additional year gave me extra time for internships and extracurricular activities that made me more well-rounded.”

“... the faculty made me want to be a lifelong learner.”

**ESTEBAN XIFRÉ-VILLAR**  
(US'07, C'11)  
*Researching international businesses*

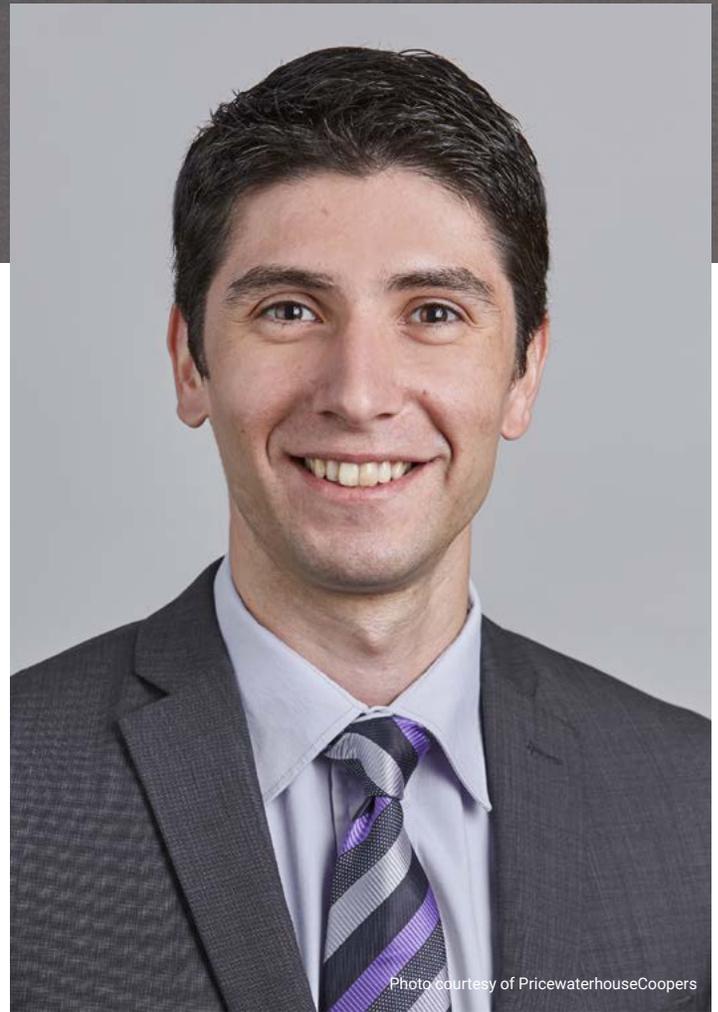
While majoring in business and economics at Principia College, Esteban Xifré-Villar interned in California at JumpSport Inc.—which opened a door on the world. “At that time, JumpSport wasn’t doing a lot of business overseas,” Xifré explains, “so it was a wonderful opportunity to expand into more international markets.”

Following graduation, Xifré did just that, helping JumpSport get its Fitness Trampoline into Spanish-speaking markets in Peru, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, Spain, and the Dominican Republic. That experience piqued his interest in international business and led to graduate school at The George Washington University, where he earned a master’s degree in international trade and investment policy, while working part time for JumpSport.

After graduate school, Xifré accepted a position at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in Arlington, Virginia. A native Spanish speaker from Uruguay who is also fluent in Portuguese, he is a Senior Associate, specializing in Latin America within PwC’s Global Intelligence Operations Center. Xifré and his team use syndicated databases, risk and compliance databases, and publicly available information to conduct intelligence gathering on corporations and their affiliates in order to identify risks to PwC clients, including corruption, regulatory violations, government affiliations, conflicts of interest, and so on.

In addition to providing corporate confidence, Xifré’s work supports the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which requires anyone in business with connections to the United States to comply with U.S. laws regarding corruption and bribery of public officials.

Looking back on his education, Xifré admits, “When I was at Prin, I didn’t really value the writing program, but now I see



the importance of learning to write well—because that’s the main thing I do now. I write reports, and I need to communicate clearly and efficiently. Executive summaries are sometimes all that people read.”

He also recalls one of the College professors in his major who had a big impact on him—Jim Bilsborrow (C’65), who taught Finance. “It was the hardest class I’d ever taken,” Xifré says, “but it was a great introduction to how to break down a complex problem into its component parts, to see how the pieces make up the whole.” In addition, he says two abroad experiences deepened his view of the world.

Summing up his School and College experiences, Xifré notes, “Principia prepared me to lead, and the faculty made me want to be a lifelong learner.”

—Phebe Telschow

“I developed confidence as an artist and as an individual at Prin.”



Photo by Taylor Beeghly

## IAN FREDERICK (C'10)

### *An ever-developing love of art*

As an eight-year-old, Ian Frederick was enthralled by the colorful illustrations in his comic books and often picked up pencil and paper to sketch his own ideas. “I’ve been passionately drawing and making art ever since,” he says. At Principia College, he discovered graphic design and found ways to use his artwork to solve design problems and tell stories.

“I received a strong foundation in art and design at Principia,” Frederick notes. “In particular, Dan Kistler (C’79) inspired me and was always available. And I still remember what I learned working in Voney studios.”

Today, Frederick is a Motion Designer at Amazon in Seattle, Washington, working on a range of projects from rendering 3D objects for commercials to animating video title sequences. Starting as an entry-level freelance designer, which he acknowledges was “a good beginning but was mostly executing the ideas of others,” he gained speed and valuable skills. After working on a variety of projects, including the branding of Amazon-owned fashion labels—from logos and packaging to typography and photography—Frederick was hired as a full-time graphic designer.

Interested in using technology to make objects move, Frederick taught himself animation design using Cinema 4D, a modeling, animation, motion graphic, and rendering application. Amazon managers took note of the results—and of his initiative—and promoted him to Motion Designer.

Though Frederick stays very active at Amazon, he seeks freelance projects after hours to vary his work and expand his portfolio. Recently, he developed art work for a favorite musician, Excision. “I made shirt designs and sent them to his creative director,” he says. “And Excision developed merchandise sold at concerts using my designs.” Frederick also creates vector art (a form of digital art), and his work was selected for volume one of *Bézier: The Best Vector Artists Worldwide*, published recently by Crooks Press. “I was honored to be featured among some of today’s top vector artists,” he comments.

Reflecting on his experience at the College, Frederick notes, “I developed confidence as an artist and as an individual at Prin. And I’m very grateful for the lasting friendships.”

—Heather Shotwell



Natalia Borrego in a filming cage at the Kevin Richardson Wildlife Sanctuary in South Africa during the filming of *Killer IQ*

## NATALIA BORREGO

(US'00)

*Studying big cats—a dream come true*

Photo by Vanessa Venter

Dr. Natalia Borrego has made it her mission to bridge the gap between animal behavior and ecology and conservation, a passion that began at the Upper School.

“I took two ecology classes with Preston Larimer (C’75),” Borrego says, “so it’s thanks to him I went down this path. He was, and still is, a huge mentor to me.”

After graduating from the Upper School, Borrego went on to study wildlife ecology and conservation at the University of Florida, followed by a master’s degree in environmental science from Florida Gulf Coast University. She completed her PhD in biology in 2016 at the University of Miami.

For her doctoral thesis, Borrego focused on the evolutionary link between social and cognitive complexity. In particular, she studied various species of big cats and the way their social interactions affect problem solving.

In her post-doctoral research, Borrego studies male lions and how they cooperate and contribute to populations. She is a research associate at the University of Minnesota’s Lion

Research Center as well as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Kwazulu-Natal in South Africa.

Borrego’s research has been featured in *Scientific American* and *Science* magazine, and her work has been published in *Journal of Mammalogy*, *Journal of Animal Cognition*, and *Animal Behaviour*. She has also served as a presenter and scientific consultant for the Smithsonian Channel’s *Killer IQ Predator Challenge*, BBC’s *Wild Cats*, and two Offspring Films productions.

Borrego will continue her work with lions this year when she heads to Botswana to work with the San (Bushmen) validating local lion tracking skills. Next, she hopes to get established at a university, heading up an independent research program with her own master’s and PhD students.

Recalling her introduction to ecology at the Upper School, Borrego says, “Because of Principia, I was given the support, foundation, and motivation to pursue my current career—my dream career.”

—Annika Fredrikson



Photo by Emily Skala (C'17)

“Principia College educators are a special group of people. My professors and advisors helped tailor my experience to what I wanted to learn.”

## REBECCA SKALA (C'15)

### *Tackling the roots of social injustice*

Delving deep into a variety of interests and angles while always keeping in mind big-picture issues—that’s how Rebecca Skala has approached both her studies and her work with nonprofits.

Growing up in the Denver area, she attended Colorado State University for a year before transferring to Principia. “Principia College educators are a special group of people,” Skala says. “My professors and advisors helped tailor my experience to what I wanted to learn.” And that covered a lot!

“I had the opportunity to double major in sociology and anthropology and global perspectives and double minor in political science and French,” Skala notes. “I also studied in India and Nepal, examined the influence of culture on leadership in Geneva, did two internships, and participated in campus community and leadership activities.”

The unifying thread in her various explorations, Skala says, is “the way in which social issues are often impacted by macro-level social, political, and economic forces.” She credits this deep and expansive worldview to the Global Perspectives Program’s “focus on systems thinking around complex problems” and the Sociology and Anthropology Department’s elucidation of “the macro-level issues influencing the spectrum of human experience.”

After graduation, Skala interned at Children’s Future International before landing a position working in operations, communication, and outreach at the Denver satellite office of S.O.U.L. Foundation, a Uganda-based nonprofit. She served first as External Relations and Operations Manager and then as Director of U.S. Operations. “I got to wear a lot of hats, but I found a connecting purpose in working with my team to continually optimize institutional processes and systems to grow the organization,” she says.

Then, in March 2017, Skala moved to San Francisco to work as Development Coordinator for Muso, which operates primarily in Mali. Working with government partners to design and deploy proactive health systems, Muso uses rigorous academic research and policy advocacy to test and share solutions to community health issues rooted in poverty.

Skala finds the focus on systemic solutions to preventable issues especially important. “My role in helping my team build a community of supporters who can move this work forward gets me out of bed in the morning,” she says.

—Armin Sethna

# JAMIE (FURBUSH) SCHROEDER C'09

## *Thriving on a variety of responsibilities*

From semiprofessional soccer to consulting to corporate strategy, Jamie Schroeder has done it all. Since graduating from the College, she's lived, worked, and studied in Washington, DC, Paris, Seattle, and now London, where she is an MBA candidate at the London Business School.

Schroeder's educational experience at Principia had a wide reach, with majors in French and global perspectives and minors in Asian studies and economics. She also played on the soccer and tennis teams, where, she says, she developed as a leader, honing her communication skills and sense of responsibility—both of which have had a significant impact on her life.

"I had the opportunity to do so many things at the College," Schroeder says. "After graduating, I continued to find job environments and roles that gave me insight into a broad range of things. I am highly motivated by a variety of project work and skills."

Soon after she graduated, that mindset landed Schroeder a job consulting with Deloitte, where she put her French to good use on a project in Paris. She then went on to a position as Senior Analyst on the Corporate Strategy team at Nordstrom. Now, while studying in London, she's interning at Charlotte Tilbury, a luxury British beauty brand, where she leads special projects for the COO.

"I didn't think there was a pattern, because in college I was doing so much exploring, but looking back I'm now conscious of how much was already in order," Schroeder says. "My experience at Principia really taught me to dig deeper, to know that I'm not capped at the human level and not limited only to what I can do humanly."

Juggling the demands of classes, exams, and work, Schroeder relies on the spiritual foundation she strengthened at the College. "Every day you decide what spirituality you want to bring into your day," she says. "At every stage when things are challenging and hard, you can quickly remember how much support you have access to."

Reflecting on her time at Principia, Schroeder comments, "I met some of the best, most important people in my life at the College, including my husband, and that was truly such a gift."

—Annika Fredrikson



Photo by Julie Schoening

“My experience at Principia really taught me to dig deeper, to know that I’m not capped at the human level and limited only to what I can do humanly.”

“ . . . I knew that practicing alone doesn’t get one the job. I had to go above and beyond to a higher source . . . ”

## AMANDA BLAIKIE

(US’02, C’06)

### *Making music at the highest level*

From Music at Davis performances at the College to concerts with the acclaimed Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO), skill, persistence, and spiritual poise have all played a role in Amanda Blaikie’s career as an accomplished flutist.

Take, for example, the highly competitive selection process Blaikie underwent before securing the Second Flute position in the DSO. From about 100 musicians invited to the flute audition, fewer than 15 made it to the semifinals. A final round with three performers was followed by a “super final” of just two, and then a one-week trial for both musicians. After all that, Blaikie was selected and began what she describes as a “dream job” in the fall of 2016.

“I never doubted I could get here, but I knew that practicing alone doesn’t get one the job,” Blaikie says. “I had to go above and beyond to a higher source, release any attachment to the outcome, and ‘lean on the sustaining infinite’” (see *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. vii).

Based in Detroit since 2011, Blaikie has performed in various capacities—playing seasonally as Principal Flute with the Michigan and Sarasota Opera orchestras and as a substitute with the

New York Philharmonic, Orlando Philharmonic, and the DSO. She also teaches private flute lessons and ensemble and studio classes at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan.

During this time, the “Comeback City” has grown on Blaikie. “The last few years in Detroit have been really fascinating,” she says. “I’m witnessing the rebirth and regeneration of a city coming back to life.” Along with sampling the city’s social and cultural (and culinary!) diversity, Blaikie enjoys pursuing her love of hiking, biking, and running. She has even completed a number of half marathons, harking back to her experiences in cross country and track while at Principia School and College.

Travel is another of Blaikie’s great joys, and being part of the DSO supports that interest. In July 2017, Musical Director Leonard Slatkin led the DSO on a triumphal tour of Asia, where Blaikie and her fellow musicians performed before packed audiences in Japan and China.

—Armin Sethna



Photo by JLBoone Photography



Photo courtesy of National University of Singapore

“Prin really helped me develop a view of myself as a global citizen . . .”

## LAUREN DICKEY (US'06)

### *Developing a deep understanding of China*

With tensions at an all-time high on the Korean Peninsula, the way the United States views—or woos—China is currently at the forefront of the news. But China and its regional relations have been at the forefront of Lauren Dickey’s life for over a decade, ever since she graduated from the Upper School.

Since then, she has developed professional fluency in Mandarin (to the point of being able to simultaneously translate and interpret); earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees with a focus on East Asia and China; undertaken research for foreign policy think tanks; and presented and published prolifically on the issue of China’s regional role and relationships, particularly with Taiwan.

Dickey spent the fall of 2017 in Taiwan, completing the final work on her doctorate, which she is earning

through the War Studies Department at King’s College in London.

Regarding her studies, Dickey notes, “Perhaps the best skill that I continue to use is the ability to write . . . and to write well. Building on a strong foundation of writing skills—one that was strengthened during my years at Principia—has made a world of difference.”

Dickey’s research fits into her overarching interest in the security dynamics of Greater China and East Asia. “It is important to try and understand how all countries within the region are thinking about their strategic environment,” she comments. For instance, she observes, “China’s recalcitrance in enforcing sanctions on North Korea is less a result of China not wanting to join a sanctions regime . . . than a deep belief that no matter how much pressure Beijing applies toward North Korea, it will still have

a very limited effect”—a perspective that she acknowledges may seem counterintuitive.

Dickey’s deep interest in Chinese culture and politics was solidified by a one-year Rotary Youth Exchange opportunity in Taiwan, where she lived for a year after high school. But even before that, she says, “Prin really helped me develop a view of myself as a global citizen, both through the diverse student body (and friendships) and the classes and faculty at the Upper School.”

—Armin Sethna



Photo courtesy of Ethan Ruzzano

“I pray daily to be led to the activities that will make the best use of my talents . . .”

## ***ETHAN RUZZANO*** **(C'06)**

### ***From music to marketing***

Following high school, Ethan Ruzzano toured the United States with the band Gruvis Malt (Lakeshore Records), opening for such well-known groups as Incubus and The Roots. After he left the band and enrolled at Principia College, he kept producing music, including two full-length albums and an EP, while majoring in art.

Along with gaining strong graphic design skills and a mentor in Art Professor Glenn Felch (C'68), Ruzzano took away from his Principia experience a deep commitment to service. “Success is not about how much money you make or the title you have,” he comments. “It’s listening to God and doing what you’re led to do in service of God and your fellow man.”

After graduating, Ruzzano stayed on at the College as Technology Manager for Media Services before moving to Colorado with his wife, Casie Witte (US'00, C'04)—whom he married while still a student at the College. Initially, Ruzzano worked in web development and taught web design. Then he spent seven years in the Communications and Marketing Department at the Community College of Aurora (CCA), first as Assistant Director of Digital Marketing and then as Marketing Director. He also earned a master’s degree in marketing from the University of Colorado, Denver.

About a year ago, Ruzzano left CCA to found Kind Brand Development, a full-service, strategic marketing company. One project example is the full brand development—including coming up with the name—of QuickThrive, a financial services company. He also has clients in the education and architecture fields. Then, a few months after launching Kind, Ruzzano founded Video Client Magnet, which helps video production companies acquire new clients.

Along with these businesses, Ruzzano actively supports The Dad Dynamic, which he started about three years ago to address the dearth of parenting resources for dads—a dearth he discovered when he was about to become a dad himself. A purely philanthropic effort, The Dad Dynamic features a blog as well as private, dads-only Facebook groups for sharing photos, questions and answers, and parenting experiences. Now a worldwide community of over 100,000 followers, The Dad Dynamic is clearly meeting a need.

Despite his varied endeavors, Ruzzano has a singular focus—in his words, “to do the most good possible and fulfill my divine mission. I pray daily to be led to the activities that will make the best use of my talents and bless the world.”

—Trudy Palmer



Photo by Jessica Boldt

“Because of Principia, I have more of an outward look on the world rather than an internal look on myself and what I’m achieving and what’s next on the career ladder.”

## ELIZABETH (SHELTON) CROW (C’05)

### *Public service lights the way*

Liz Crow has spent her career in public service—on Capitol Hill and in the nonprofit trenches—and she considers herself a spokesperson for the often-unsung good at the heart of American government.

“There are people in politics and government who do care about doing the best for people and want to make good policies,” Crow says.

As one of those people, she serves as Director of Government Relations for the Minnesota, South Dakota, and North Dakota Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

Crow traces her public service ethic straight back to Principia College: “Because of Principia, I have more of an outward look on the world rather than an internal look on myself and what I’m achieving and what’s next on the career ladder.”

Along with her work at The Nature Conservancy, Crow’s “outward look” includes serving on the boards of two community organizations and mentoring a “little sister” through Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. She is also a new mom.

That far-reaching perspective was shaped at Principia, Crow explains, by having *The Christian Science Monitor*

to read daily, through small classes that demanded active engagement, and by an abroad experience in the Himalayas of northern India.

Crow also believes Principia nurtured a trust in the unfoldment of good, which guided her stress-free career path. After graduation, her first job as Assistant Women’s Basketball Coach at the College flowed naturally into an internship on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, and later a job with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. From there she earned a law degree at the University of Tulsa and then moved on to jobs in the U.S. House of Representatives as a Legislative Director and a Senior Policy Advisor.

When Crow started college as a math-loving engineering major, a career in public service wasn’t a thought, but she credits her advisor, Dr. Joseph Ritter, for sticking with her as she explored her interests and for “never forcing one direction.”

Describing public service as her North Star, Crow expects it to guide her future: “I might want to run for public office someday.”

—Clara Germani



## SETH CADELL

(C'07)

*From construction worker to nuclear engineer*

After a childhood working alongside his dad building custom farm machinery in Oregon, Seth Cadell had all the skills he needed to earn good paychecks in the building trades. So he skipped college and worked in construction—until, he says, he “got bored” after five years and decided to follow his younger sister to Principia College.

“I was ready to find opportunities and push myself to grow,” he notes. And Principia, with its abundant ways to get involved, opened unexpected doors.

Now, as Assistant Professor and Senior Researcher at Oregon State University (OSU), Cadell manages a quarter-scale model of an advanced nuclear reactor and a team of student researchers. He oversees testing and analysis that the

federal government uses in licensing nuclear facilities.

Cadell went straight from graduation at the College to Oregon State University, where he earned an MS and PhD in nuclear engineering in five years, and then on to private firms before returning to lead research at OSU in 2016.

He credits that rapid career trajectory to the rich mix of extracurricular opportunities at Principia. Football, rugby, student government, and intense involvement in the solar car program, Cadell notes, “helped shape me and helped form what I wanted in my life.”

Principia solar car work—including an MIT vehicle design summit—was the

genesis of his interest in energy efficiency. And mentoring by Dr. Joseph Ritter, who “worked with the best traits of people and got them motivated,” says Cadell, guides how he manages his own research team now.

Having come from what he calls the “hard power” world of construction, Cadell says the “soft power” of diplomacy at Principia was a revelation. In addition, he comments that “how to be a man” was the subtext of many ethical discussions with his Buck House Resident Counselor, Garry Sprague (US'82, C'86), and continues to influence how he carries himself today.

—Clara Germani



Hellman on a visit to a GE customer that manufactures LNG ships in Shanghai, China

## MATTHEW HELLMAN

(US'08)

*Global communications and problem solving*

Photo courtesy of GE

Looking back on his experience as a boarder at the Upper School, Matt Hellman sees big gains. “Principia grounded me and developed my interest in global affairs,” he says. “The ‘whole man’ education gave me an appreciation for the arts, how the world works, and a foundation in Christian Science. These are the things that shaped me as a person. Being away from home also helped me grow up and mature faster.”

After a year at Beloit College, Hellman transferred to The George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs. While there, he interned in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, transitioning after two months into a full-time role. While on the Australia desk at State, he briefed, wrote numerous briefing documents for, and ultimately wrote multiple speeches for U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Two years later, Hellman completed his undergraduate degree with majors in

international affairs and Asian studies. At that point, his role at the U.S. Department of State shifted, and he became an Economic, Commerce, and Trade Officer in the China and Mongolia Affairs Office. His responsibilities there included co-coordinating three U.S.–China Strategic and Economic Dialogues (S&EDs), including drafting speeches, talking points, and briefing memos for the Secretary of State.

In that time, Hellman received three Meritorious Honor Awards for his work on the S&EDs and was recognized bureau-wide as an exceptional foreign policy drafter. He gives Principia partial credit for that. “Nancy Heimerl was my English teacher senior year,” Hellman recalls. “There is no question that she taught me how to write in a way that set me up for success at the State Department.”

Next, while back at The George Washington University to earn an MBA, Hellman led multiple short-term consulting projects, including work with the Rwandan Development Board

in Rwanda and Leo Burnett advertising agency in the Middle East and North Africa.

Today he works for General Electric, leading commercial strategy and operations for the company’s new software business GE Digital, covering the Americas, Asia Pacific, and China. In this role, he has been tasked with building out and supporting operations of the regional organizations, designing and implementing the regional go-to-market strategies, leading regional key account programs, and driving process optimizations throughout the organization.

Despite all that Hellman has accomplished since graduating from the Upper School, he says, “The things I loved and cared about then are still the things I love and care about today: building strong relationships with people and studying Christian Science.” ■

—Phebe Telschow

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# What's Next?

## Internships and Summer Research Help Provide Answers

by Heather Shotwell

Principia College students from all academic disciplines put theory into practice and gain work experience during summer internships in businesses, nonprofits, government agencies, and more.

While “trying on” a career, interns receive feedback on performance, develop valuable professional references, and sometimes even get a job offer. Internships can be paid or unpaid, full- or part-time, and many students are awarded grants from the College to help cover transportation and/or room and board. Over 60 students interned during summer 2017—some in their hometown, others on another continent.

Senior Cha Cha Fisher has an impressive résumé as a scholar-athlete—including membership in Phi Alpha

Eta (the College’s honor society) and serving in student government—but she knew the practical experience she’d get while interning would set her apart in the job market. So, for the last two summers, she has interned—first on Capitol Hill and then overseas.

While working on Capitol Hill for Congressman Rodney Davis (IL-13), Cha Cha attended Congressional hearings, wrote briefings, researched issues, helped with constituent correspondence, and led tours of the Capitol Building. This experience piqued Cha Cha’s interest in an international internship, which she found by networking within the “hidden job market”—the many internships and jobs that are not posted on the internet or otherwise advertised. With the help of the College’s Academic & Career Advising Office, Cha Cha pursued a



Senior Cha Cha Fisher with Congressman Rodney Davis during her internship on Capitol Hill

series of connections that eventually led to an internship at EuroDev Business Development Group in the Netherlands this past summer.

“I dove into the nitty-gritty of marketing, planned and executed mailings to potential clients, conducted correspondence for a sales vice president, and helped increase the company’s social media presence, especially on Instagram,” Cha Cha says. “I loved the company culture, and working alongside interns and employees from across Europe was a learning experience by itself!”

### Summer Research Assistantship Program

Another excellent way for students to figure out their next steps is to spend time conducting research on campus.

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# 69%

of the College Class  
of 2017 completed at  
least one internship

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Every year, College students seize a variety of opportunities to work with Principia professors as summer research assistants. Topics range from studying plant genetics to developing plays. Principia's program, modeled after the National Science Foundation's Research Experience for Undergraduates, provides each assistant a stipend as well as room and board. Along with developing research skills, students make presentations and interact with experts from other institutions, expanding their professional networks.

This past summer, Dr. Clint Staley (C'80), who teaches computer science and engineering classes, engaged students in developing online STEM education tools. For one project, he worked with research assistant Jake Williams (C'19) on a software system that, when completed, will generate STEM design challenges akin to the model-bridge and rocket-design challenges common in high school physics classes. "Our design challenges are web-based and virtual," Staley explains. "This allows a wider variety of possible design challenges, since no physical materials are required. And it reduces >>

## Internship Takeaways



The biggest takeaway for Michael McClelland (US'14, C'18) from his sales internship at Enterprise Rent-A-Car was a full-time job offer as a sales management trainee! During his internship, Michael placed third in total sales among more than 30 interns, and his three-person group presentation—including an innovative proposal for customer service—earned first place, winning the members of the group seats at the invitation-only Top Performers Dinner. He comments, "I couldn't have asked for a better outcome or experience from Enterprise. I learned the basic skills of management, fact finding, and customer service, while finding success in a competitive sales environment."

Here are highlights from a few other interns' experiences:

"Interning at The Mother Church was one of the most rewarding opportunities I've ever had. Not only was I surrounded by people of high moral character and grace, but I learned a number of legal skills, including writing legal memos and researching international internet marketing compliance laws to ensure policies were up to date.

"Also, every Monday morning, all the interns had the opportunity to meet with different departments or individuals at the Church. These conversations really enlightened us, and we had candid dialogue about how we can give to the movement and how the Church can better reach youth."

—Emma Herman (C'18)

*Office of the General Counsel, The First Church of Christ, Scientist  
Boston, Massachusetts*

(continued)



*Dr. Clint Staley (center) with research assistants Jake Williams and Nicole Gerber*

the handcrafted element of such projects in favor of more precise mathematical analysis and prediction of design performance before testing.”

For another project, Dr. Staley and research assistant Nicole Gerber (US'14, C'18) worked on a software system that automatically creates problem sets for Circuits classes. They made such good progress that “the alpha version of this system was used in the College’s Circuits class fall semester in support of the electrical engineering major,” Staley explains.

In all, 21 research assistants worked on eight projects last summer with professors from five different departments. Some of the other projects included working in the Dendrochronology Lab, studying the shift of hill prairie communities to forests; researching the Apostle Paul, the Hebrew prophets, and biblical references to the environment; participating in an on-campus Native American archeological dig;

“I learned how to manage the station’s production system, researched statistics to complement stories, logged video to prep for edits, and wrote scripts for some of the sportscasts. The hours were a bit funky, with some going from 3 p.m. to 12 a.m., but those were some of the most entertaining days.”

*—Zeke Ouellette (C'18)  
Sports Department, WBAL-TV11  
Baltimore, Maryland*



“I had the opportunity to work with African black-footed penguins, macaws, parrots, parakeets, and Atlantic green turtles. My job included planning diets, feeding the animals, cleaning exhibits, and giving daily talks to the public about our conservation efforts. I have so much respect for facilities like Audubon and what they do to help save endangered species.”

*—Leigh Weathers (US'15, C'19)  
Audubon Aquarium of the Americas  
New Orleans, Louisiana*

and tracking the home range of timber rattlesnakes.

For many students, their internship or research assistantship has made the difference in their job search. For example, right after graduation, Sarah Clewell (C'17) was hired as a researcher at the Institute of Molecular Genetics in the Czech Republic in part because

she had learned the protocols for working with DNA samples as a summer research assistant at the College.

“Working with Biology Professor Dr. Chrissy McAllister (C'93) [on the breeding system of grass species] was an incredible learning opportunity,” Sarah says, “and talking about this experience set me apart during job interviews.”

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# CRAFTING A CULTURE OF COLLABORATION AND EXCELLENCE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

by Armin Sethna

## ORIENTEERING AND ORIENTATION. NORMS-SETTING AND NIGHT HIKES. TEAM CHALLENGES AND TREE ART . . .

Investing time and energy in a wide range of cocurricular activities during the first few weeks of a new school year pays big dividends—as Principia Middle School is proving.

“All of this foundation work—how you collaborate, how you work as a team, how you operate and cooperate outside the classroom environment—has an impact on how students learn,” says Middle School Assistant Principal Samantha Dry. The aim, she explains, is to establish an environment where all students “feel safe, valued, and heard.” Given the Middle School’s curricular emphasis on integrated, project-based learning and group work, opportunities for students to get to know each other and their teachers are especially important for creating an atmosphere where students are willing to take intellectual risks and make individual contributions.

Since fall 2016, the Middle School teaching team has designated the first week of the term “O-Week” (for orientation). During this time, all three grades (6–8) get to know each other, learn about and buy into academic and community expectations and standards, and set their own goals for growth, which they share with peers and teachers. (Faculty members also set goals that they share with the students!) The group accomplishes all of this through numerous indoor and outdoor activities—including brainteasers and challenges on

the ropes course, both with classmates and with those from other grades.

For the 2017 school year, a new element was added to the mix—a two-night, off-campus “retreat” at the bucolic Shaw Nature Reserve, about 30 miles southwest of the School. During the retreat, students worked in teams to create natural “sculptures” in the woods from found materials such as twigs, leaves, acorns, and even animal bones—in the manner of innovative British artist Andy Goldsworthy, about whom they had watched a video.

“ . . . HIGH PEER EXPECTATIONS AND PEER SUPPORT ARE THE NORM . . . ”

During an outdoor “gallery walkthrough,” each group explained the process of creating their artwork and what it represented. One sculpture of intertwined branches and sticks, titled “Balance,” showed how important—and difficult—it is to make sure all elements work together and, in this case, literally “support each other,” as one student explained. He then went on to illustrate the relevance of balance and mutual support to their group, sharing that, during night hikes, a few students who were fearful of the dark found comfort from their friends and faculty members.

Thanks to “the intentionality and common language” that permeate the various culture-building activities both on and off campus, “students support each other—and hold each



*Students enjoy problem-solving exercises—along with fun and games—during Middle School O-Week.*

other accountable,” Spanish-language teacher Mary Beth Cox (C’08) explains. And they contribute to a sense of ownership and individual and collective responsibility for learning and respecting each other, she adds. As a result, high peer expectations and peer support are the norm, so students feel free to speak up and explore new ideas.

Even as the students engage in problem-solving and communication tasks, they also have opportunities just to have fun playing together and competing in multi-grade teams. The teachers get into the spirit of the activities as well, which lets students see them in a new light.

In fact, on the fall retreat, the teachers in the girls’ lodge stayed up into the night talking and giggling—until a student, appointed by her peers, came down the stairs to remind them of the late hour. During a trip debrief meeting the next day, one of the teachers commended this student for being both courageous and courteous in making the request. And Dry pointed out to the students, “You can see that we teachers enjoy being with each other just as much as you guys do!”

This strong sense of unity and community, says Dr. Kimiko Ott, the Preschool–Grade 8 Principal, helps address issues before they arise and makes for a productive and fruitful year of student-centered learning. Based on the success to date at Middle School, Head of School Travis Brantingham (US’94, C’98) says that O-Week-type activities will soon be adopted—and adapted—at other levels of the School. ■



*Middle School students create a natural sculpture in the woods during their retreat.*

# PRINCIPIA

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by Trudy Palmer



# A RT STUDENTS AND FACULTY

were thrilled to kick off fall semester in the fully renovated Voney Art Center at the College. Commanding a spectacular view of the Mississippi River Valley, Voney has a contemporary aesthetic and fresh, industrial feel.

A desire for openness and transparency throughout the building guided the redesign, resulting in large windows and high ceilings as well as open, light-filled communal spaces that promote social and creative interaction and dialogue.

The painting and drawing studios feature expansive windows overlooking the Mississippi River, and classes can also meet on the outdoor deck with its even more commanding view of the river and landscape. The Claire M. White 3-Dimensional Wing houses the 3D-design, sculpture, and woodworking studios, and the Mary McVay Wing includes an art history classroom. The building also has a dedicated room for senior art majors to work on their capstone projects.

Another outstanding benefit of the renovation is the professionally appointed James K. Schmidt Gallery, named in honor of former art faculty member James Schmidt's more than three decades of dedicated service to Principia College. The secure, well-lit, temperature-controlled gallery will allow Principia to showcase not only student and faculty work but high-caliber traveling exhibits as well.

The opening exhibit in the Schmidt Gallery—*Tapping into the Flow: Teaching and Making Art above the Mississippi*—honored Principia's enduring commitment to teaching and creating art with works by 14 artist-teachers at the College, including Principia's first art teacher, Frederick Oakes Sylvester. The exhibit also included work by esteemed architect Bernard Maybeck, who designed many of the campus's buildings.

Expressing appreciation for the new space, Professor Duncan Martin (C'76), Chair of the Art and Art History Department, commented on the faculty's privilege and responsibility. "We are custodians of the next generation of art students," he said, "who will experience the glorious resources of the new Voney Art Center and the long-standing tradition of teaching and making art above the Mississippi." ■

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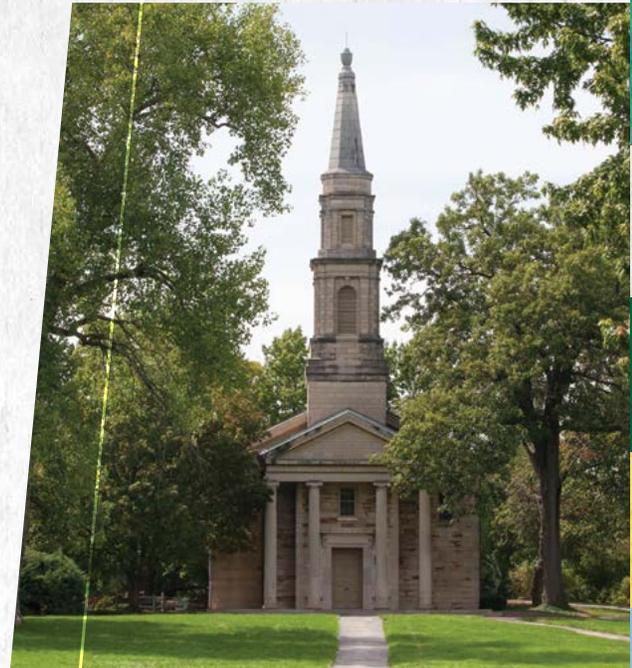
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# Coming Home

by Rachel Soney



When I was in high school and searching for my “right fit” college experience, I visited several colleges, but from the moment I stepped onto the Principia College campus, I could just feel that I had “come home.” The uplifted thought and the expression of divine Love were palpable.

I wasn’t surprised, then, some two-plus decades later, when my son had a similar reaction after he and I visited the Upper School while my daughter was at the College for a Visiting Weekend. My son had been languishing in our local public school, but after his visit to the Upper School, I practically had to scrape him off the ceiling of our rental car! In that moment, I knew that he “got it.” He felt what I had felt—the reason Principia has existed for over 100 years.

My kids and I returned home, and my husband and I talked and prayed about what our next step should be. We did not want to send our son away to school, but it soon became clear that if I was able to get a job at Principia, we would pull up stakes and move to Missouri. I’m so grateful that my non-Christian Scientist husband was willing

to completely trust and follow the leadings of divine Love. Within a year, I had been offered a teaching position at the Lower School, and our family migrated to Missouri.

## “Principia is touching lives, changing thought.”

Needless to say, we have been blessed in many ways since that move. Both of our kids have had amazing opportunities to learn and grow at the College and the Upper School. And our son is a completely different student than the one we brought to Principia.

In addition to all of that, I have experienced renewed joy and purpose in my teaching practice. I have always viewed my students through a “Principia” lens of unlimited potential, but in public schools, I had to carefully word why and how I was doing that. Now, I can share openly with colleagues and families how I am working metaphysically for my class and for the needs of individual students. And I can talk

openly with students about the qualities of God I see them expressing and guide them in showing more.

The world needs Principia to fulfill its important mission—and it is! All you have to do is step onto either of the campuses to feel it. Principia’s light is definitely on a candlestick, not under a bushel. Principia is touching lives, changing thought. I see it in my own children. I see it in my students.

Principia did so much to help me become a stronger Christian Scientist when I was a college student, and now I am proof of its motto—“As the sowing, the reaping”—as I encourage a new generation of Principians “to think clearly, vigorously, fearlessly, tolerantly, unselfishly” in every aspect of their lives (*Education at The Principia*, p. 229).

I am so grateful to have “come home”—to be giving back to Principia, which gave so much to me, and to be witnessing all the good that is going on right here, right now. I am truly blessed. ■

*Rachel (Gallup, C’90) Soney teaches in Principia’s preschool program.*

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