

*The* PRINCIPIA



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# FIELD SPEAKERS CATALOG



# INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

Hosting a Principia Club speaker program allows you to provide club members, guests, and other friends with interesting, inspiring, and timely information on a topic of your club's choosing. It also highlights the quality of Principia's faculty and alumni as well as the value of a Principia education. All speakers are a part of the Principia Lifelong Learning Faculty.

## WHEN AND HOW TO REQUEST A SPEAKER

All speaker requests should be made through the Alumni & Field Relations Office.

- Begin planning for your event at least four to six months in advance. Please review this catalog to see the available speakers and topics. Many speakers offer multiple presentations.
- Discuss speaker choices and possible dates with your Club Board to get input and build interest and involvement.
- Contact the Alumni & Field Relations Office by phone at 800.218.7746 or via e-mail at [field@principia.edu](mailto:field@principia.edu) with your choice of speaker(s), topic(s), and date(s). Make sure you have checked your local calendar to avoid school vacations, community or sporting events, local church activities, holidays, DiscoveryBound events, etc.

## LOCATION OF YOUR EVENT

When choosing your location, please keep your speaker's presentation needs in mind. Each speaker has included a prop list and/or special arrangements required for his or her talk(s) that could impact your choice of location.

## COSTS

Your club's speaker program should be self-supporting, with estimated expenses covered by an admission charge. Speaker programs are not meant to be fund raisers or profit-making events for your club. The aim is always to inform and inspire audiences at a reasonable cost while showcasing the excellent education Principia offers.

## PRINCIPIA CLUBS PAY FOR THESE COSTS:

- Hall rental or other expenses charged by the venue
- 50 percent of the postage cost for mailing invitations
- Refreshments
- Speaker's airfare, travel, and housing expenses (The club will be billed on its Principia account.)

## PRINCIPIA PAYS FOR THESE COSTS:

- Speaker's honorarium
- 100 percent of the cost of printing invitations
- 50 percent of the postage cost for mailing invitations

# SPEAKERS

## HOWARD BAY

Beatles vs. Beach Boys: The Ultimate Battle of the Bands  
Far-Fetched in the Wild West  
Mrs. Eddy's Place in America's Timeline

## LINDA CONRADI

A Book Club Gathering \*NEW TALK  
The Lure of Reading \*NEW TALK  
How to Live a Renaissance Life \*NEW TALK

## DOROTHY HALVERSON\*

Spiritually Based Parenting  
Teaching the Bible to Young Children  
Acorn Playdate

## DR. BARRY HUFF\*

Parables of Jesus and the Empire of God \*NEW TALK  
"The Earth is the Lord's" (PS24:1): Biblical Inspiration for Sustainability \*NEW TALK  
Old Testament Highlights  
From Lament to Praise: The Book of Psalms  
A Conversation with the Apostle Paul  
Prophetic Responses to Exile: Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Second Isaiah, & Genesis 1  
The Book of Job: A Journey of Transformation

## DR. BRIAN ROBERTS\*

### NEW SPEAKER

Brexit: Where Are We, and How Did We Get Here?  
Presidents, Partisanship, and the Permanent Campaign

## GRETCHEN STARR-LeBEAU\*

### NEW SPEAKER

Making Sense of Islam in a Time of Terrorism

## JOHN WILLIAMS\*

China: The Incomplete Superpower  
Putin's Russia: Return of the Czar?  
Transactional or Transformative: Vladimir Putin of Russia and Xi Jinping of China \*NEW TALK

## SUBJECT AREAS AND SPEAKERS

Bible, Religion, Christian Science.....	Bay, Halverson, Huff
History, Geography, Travel.....	Bay, Williams
Early Childhood, Acorn.....	Halverson
Leadership.....	Halverson
Literature, Writing, Philosophy.....	Conradi
Music.....	Bay
Political Science, Economics, Ethics.....	Bay, Roberts, Starr-LeBeau, Williams

## TALKS BY SUBJECT AREA

### BIBLE, RELIGION, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Mrs. Eddy's Place in America's Timeline [Bay]  
Spiritually Based Parenting [Halverson]  
Teaching The Bible to Young Children [Halverson]  
The Parables of Jesus and the Empire of God [Huff]  
The Earth is the Lord's" (Ps 24"1): Biblical Inspiration for Sustainability [Huff]  
Old Testament Highlights [Huff]  
From Lament to Praise: The Book of Psalms [Huff]  
A Conversation with the Apostle Paul [Huff]  
Prophetic Responses to Exile: Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Second Isaiah, & Genesis 1 [Huff]  
The Book of Job: A Journey of Transformation [Huff]

### HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, TRAVEL

Far-Fetched in the Wild West [Bay]  
Mrs. Eddy's Place in America's Timeline [Bay]  
Tibet: On the Roof of the World [Williams]

### EARLY CHILDHOOD, ACORN

Teaching The Bible to Young Children [Halverson]  
Acorn Playdate [Halverson]

### LEADERSHIP

Spiritually Based Parenting [Halverson]

## LITERATURE, WRITING, PHILOSOPHY

A Book Club Gathering [Conradi]  
The Lure of Reading [Conradi]  
How to Live a Renaissance Life [Conradi]

## MUSIC

Beatles vs. Beach Boys: The Ultimate Battle of the Bands [Bay]

## POLITICAL SCIENCE, ECONOMICS, ETHICS

Brexit: Where Are We, And How Did We Get Here? [Roberts]  
Presidents, Partisanship, and the Permanent Campaign [Roberts]  
Making Sense of Islam in a Time of Terrorism [Starr-LeBeau]  
China: The Incomplete Superpower [Williams]  
Putin's Russia: Return of the Czar? [Williams]



# HOWARD BAY

Howard Bay grew up in St. Louis, attending Principia Lower, Middle, and Upper School. He graduated with honors from Principia College in 1973 and was awarded the Floyd A. McNeil History Award, going on to earn his master's degree in history from the University of Missouri–St. Louis. Bay joined the Upper School staff in 1978 as a house parent and coach. He later served as the Social Activities Director, the Director of Admissions and Enrollment, and the chair of the Social Studies Department, teaching American history and economics to juniors and seniors. Howie retired last year after 38 years of service but still continues to teach courses at Summer Session as a member of Principia's Lifelong Learning faculty.

## BEATLES VS. BEACH BOYS: THE ULTIMATE BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Has it really been 50 years since the Beatles and the Beach Boys produced arguably the greatest rock and roll albums of all time? By their own admission, Lennon and McCartney's Rubber Soul actually inspired Brian Wilson to write Pet Sounds which in turn prompted the Fab Four to come out with Revolver and Sgt. Pepper. The Beach Boys topped off the year with their biggest hit ever, Good Vibrations. Let's listen to the songs and delve into the stories behind this friendly rivalry that Rolling Stone Magazine called the ultimate battle of the bands.

## FAR-FETCHED IN THE WILD WEST

Some of the most significant moments in American history occurred when someone goofed. Learn about famous and not-so-famous blunders as we explore the ten most noteworthy mistakes, miscalculations, and mix-ups west of the Mississippi. We'll make use of counterfactual, or "what if," reasoning to question our assumptions. If history is a record of what we think happened, the counterfactual can lead us to see what might have been and further define the lessons of history. (90–120 minutes)

## MRS. EDDY'S PLACE IN AMERICA'S TIMELINE

Mary Baker Eddy kept a keen eye on the national and world scenes. To gain a broader perspective on our Leader, we'll examine key moments in her life in the context of the political and cultural events of the day. This juxtaposition of timelines will stimulate our thinking about the world Mrs. Eddy lived in and her response to it.

### Prop list

- Projector\*
- Screen
- Microphone
- Speakers
- Podium
- VCR or DVD player

\* Can be borrowed from Principia





# LINDA CONRADI

Linda Conradi is a current Principia Lifelong Learning faculty member and teaches courses during Principia's Summer Session. Her most recent classes have included journal writing and facilitating book discussions. She led book discussions on a cruise for Principia in the fall of 2018. Linda is a graduate of the college with a B.A. In English and Education. She holds a master of liberal arts degree from Washington University in St. Louis. This life-enriching graduate program enhanced her love of the language and has continued to inspire her writing, both prose and poetry, and her on-going pursuit of reading in both fiction and nonfiction. Linda lives near the shore of Lake Superior in northern Minnesota where she loves to photograph nature in all of its varied moods.

## A BOOK CLUB GATHERING

### \*NEW TALK

Read ahead *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. Then gather together for a book discussion facilitated by Linda Conradi. In addition to sharing your insights and observations about this story, we will talk about character development, themes, and beauty of the language that you have noted as you read. Linda will also provide background information about the author and what she says about writing this book. (90 minutes)

## THE LURE OF READING

### \*NEW TALK

Books can carry us away on journeys of the mind, imagination, and heart. They can make us laugh, cry, and long for stories where we can find our best selves. In this talk, we will look at various categories of books, make notes about books we'd like to read, and share a title that has made a difference at some time in our lives, briefly describing the impact this particular book has had on us. (60-90 minutes) Book category handout included.

## HOW TO LIVE A RENAISSANCE LIFE

### \*NEW TALK

Leonardo da Vinci might be considered the ultimate Renaissance man. Why? He lived a life of discovery, curiosity, invention, creativity, by trial and error, leaving many projects and inventions unfinished, but also blazing a path for future generations. Let's examine some ways in which we can learn from him as we think about our own lives. Do we take risks? Set goals? Cherish each day? We will also look at examples from other notable figures in history, and conclude with our own storytelling about an experience that propelled us forward or deeply enriched and broadened our lives.

#### Prop list

- Lavalier mic and table or podium
- DVD player
- Screen
- Book Club style setting



# DOROTHY HALVERSON

Dorothy Halverson graduated from Principia College in 1985 with a double major in Elementary Education and Music. She also holds a master's in educational leadership with an emphasis in early childhood education from Maryville University. Before joining the faculty at Principia, she taught three- through six-year-olds in a multi-age classroom as well as music classes for preschool through grade 6 at Childgrove School in the St. Louis area. In 1990, Dorothy began teaching junior kindergarten at Principia, becoming the Early Childhood Director in 2007. From 2013–2015, she served as the Early Childhood and Lower School Assistant Principal before assuming her current post as Director of Acorn Programs. Along with helping in the Acorn classroom and conducting weekly seminars for parents of infants and toddlers, Dorothy developed and launched Acorn Online during her first year as Director. Dorothy is also a member of the Principia Lifelong Learning faculty.

who are desiring to support young children's Bible education. The activities are geared toward two- to six-year-olds and their families. (1.5 hours)

## ACORN PLAYDATE

Meet up and play with other Principia alumni & friends and their young families. Principia Acorn Director Dorothy Halverson will lead the group in singing, play, and story time. The activities are geared towards newborn – 5 years old and their families (older children are welcome). (2 hours)

### Prop list

- 6ft. rectangular table for presenting
- 2-3 additional tables for crafts

## SPIRITUALLY BASED PARENTING

The abundance of parenting information available on the Internet and in bookstores can be overwhelming and confusing for parents and grandparents. Much of this information seems to be based on psychology and child development. In this course, we will explore how to support our children's growth on the basis of spiritual unfoldment. We will discuss topics such as teaching moral and spiritual values, providing balanced discipline, placing proper demands, establishing routines, and developing leaders.

## TEACHING THE BIBLE TO YOUNG CHILDREN

Join Dorothy Halverson, Acorn Program director, for singing, making crafts, and sharing ideas about how to help young children learn about the Bible. The workshop will also give specific strategies and methods on how to teach the Bible to children at home. The talk is designed for parents, grandparents, and Sunday School teachers





# DR. BARRY HUFF

Dr. Barry R. Huff is an Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Principia College, where the student body chose him as Teacher of the Year in 2013 and 2019. His master's degrees, Ph.D., courses, and publications focus on biblical studies, especially the book of Job. He spent a term researching his dissertation at Oxford University, and he graduated with distinction from Union Presbyterian Seminary with a PhD in Biblical Studies. Dr. Huff is also a faculty member for Principia Lifelong Learning, teaching at Summer Session and leading trips to Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Greece, and Turkey.

## THE PARABLES OF JESUS AND THE EMPIRE OF GOD

**\*NEW TALK**

Explore Jesus's transformative parables and what they reveal about the empire of God. (60 minutes, no projector or screen needed)

## "THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S" (PS 24:1): BIBLICAL INSPIRATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

**\*NEW TALK**

From Genesis to Revelation, explore biblical texts that can inspire our prayers for and care of the environment. (60 minutes)

## OLD TESTAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

In costume as an Old Testament character, Dr. Barry Huff will guide you through the history, literature, and healing messages of the Hebrew Bible, featuring highlights from the thirty Old Testament courses he has taught at Principia College. Trace the development of authors' concepts of God—from national warrior to universal mother—as you journey from the exodus to the exile. This ninety-minute overview of the Old Testament could be given on its own or paired with one-hour Old Testament workshops that focus in greater depth on any or all of the following ten topics: Genesis 1-3 and the Formation of the Torah; Exodus-Deuteronomy; Origins of Ancient Israel; Kings and Preexilic Prophets; Jeremiah;

Ezekiel; Second Isaiah; Job; Psalms; and Grace in the Bible. The resulting program could be anywhere from 1.5-10.5 hours in length based on the interests of your Principia Club. (60-90 minutes)

## FROM LAMENT TO PRAISE: THE BOOK OF PSALMS

From the depths of lament to the heights of praise, the psalmists pray and sing to God. This talk explores the spiritual lessons we can learn from the diverse genres, brilliant editing, inspiring imagery, and heartfelt prayers of the Book of Psalms, the Bible's hymnal. After taking graduate courses on Psalms from two of the world's leading Psalms scholars, Dr. Huff regularly teaches Psalms courses at Principia College. This talk features groundbreaking and inspiring scholarship on Psalms that reveals how the Psalter's structure emphasizes the reign of God and moves us through lament to praise. (60-90 minutes)

## A CONVERSATION WITH THE APOSTLE PAUL

Since reading Paul's letters is like hearing only one side of a conversation (Roetzel), this dramatic performance sheds light on Paul's letters by recreating both sides of the conversation. Dr. Huff plays the role of Paul in a radio talk show in which callers from Corinth, Thessalonica, Galatia, and Philippi voice the issues to which Paul was likely responding in his letters. This one-hour dramatic performance can be given on its own or coupled with a one-hour workshop that covers Old Testament foundations for understanding Paul, Dr. Huff's published chapter on Mary Baker Eddy's liberating interpretation of Paul, and a discussion of the relevance of Paul's letters from the first century to the twenty-first century. (1-2 hours)



# DR. BARRY

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## HUFF (cont.)

### THE BOOK OF JOB: A JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION

Explore the Bible's literary masterpiece. Wrestle with vital questions and theological breakthroughs in Job, the subject of Barry's dissertation and master's thesis. Witness the book of Job's transformation of the concepts of God, grace, and working through challenges. Learn from Job's model of perseverance, authenticity, turning to God, and defending his integrity. Stand in awe of God's revelation of divine delight in, care for, and gracious governing of all creation.

(90 minutes)

### PROPHETIC RESPONSES TO EXILE: JEREMIAH, EZEKIEL, SECOND ISAIAH, & GENESIS 1

This inspiring talk explores how the major prophetic voices of the Old Testament as well as the author of Genesis 1 responded to the greatest crisis in the Old Testament, the Babylonian exile, with spiritual breakthroughs and vision that uplifted and transformed their audiences from antiquity to today. While Jeremiah and Ezekiel challenged injustice and idolatry before the exile, after the destruction of Jerusalem they confronted hopelessness with a message of hope, a promise of a new covenant, and a vision of new Jerusalem. Second Isaiah (Isaiah 40-55) proclaimed to the Babylonian exiles a message of comfort, monotheism, and God's motherly love. The author of Genesis 1 declared to dominated prisoners of war that they were created with dominion and as God's image, a term often applied to royalty in the ancient Near Eastern world. This program can be designed to be anywhere from 1.5-3 hours in length depending on how much detail and interactive discussion your Principia Club would like. (1.5-3 hours)

#### Prop list

- Projector\*
- Screen
- Lavalier and hand held microphone for a large group

\* Can be borrowed from Principia



# BRIAN ROBERTS

A member of the Political Science department since 1997, Dr. Brian Roberts (C'88) has presented numerous papers at political science conferences on topics pertaining to presidential leadership, as well as experiential learning strategies he has used in his classroom. He has also taught numerous undergraduate and Summer Session courses on European politics. In January 2020, he will once again lead a field study program for Principia College students to Iowa and New Hampshire, where they will analyze the presidential nominating process, and attend campaign events. Dr. Roberts is the 2017 recipient of the Horace Edwin Harper Jr. and Evelyn Wright Harper Award for Teaching Excellence.

## BREXIT: WHERE ARE WE, AND HOW DID WE GET HERE?

\*NEW TALK

Brexit was supposed to have been finalized by March 2019, but after the British Parliament rejected the agreement negotiated by Prime Minister Theresa May's government and the EU, and then failed to support any alternative arrangement, the deadline was extended to October 2019. Wherever we happen to be in this process, this talk will analyze the political complexities of Brexit and associated implications for the future of the EU and United Kingdom.

## PRESIDENTS, PARTISANSHIP, AND THE PERMANENT CAMPAIGN

\*NEW TALK

Utilizing quantitative data on U.S. presidential activity spanning more than six decades and archival research he has conducted at numerous presidential libraries, Dr. Roberts will explain why the U.S. is entrenched in a form of presidential leadership where governing resembles campaigning. He will also discuss the implications of this practice for representative democracy in the U.S.

### Prop list

- Podium
- Projector\*
- Screen

\* Can be borrowed from Principia



# DR. GRETCHEN STARR-LEBEAU

Dr. Gretchen Starr-LeBeau earned her BA as an Interdisciplinary major at the University of Virginia and her PhD in History at the University of Michigan. Before coming to Principia College in 2015 to teach comparative religion and the history of religion, she taught for several years at the University of Kentucky, where she earned the Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Teaching. Her research focuses on Jewish-Christian relations and the Inquisition, and her most recent book was published by Cambridge University Press in 2017. She enjoys teaching the World Religions survey and the Introduction to Islam course, among others, and is a member of Principia Lifelong Learning.

## MAKING SENSE OF ISLAM IN A TIME OF TERRORISM

In the wake of 9/11, and the ongoing terrorism associated with ISIS, al-Qaeda, and others, understanding Islam is more important than ever. This talk provides an explanation of key Muslim beliefs and practices, with a focus on questions such as: what does the concept of jihad mean to Muslims? why has there been an upswing in Islamic terrorism? by contrast, what role do love, mercy, and grace have in Islamic theology? How does Islamic law, or sharia, work? and, how does Islam understand the relationship between women and men? (60 minutes)

### Prop list

- Projector\*
- Screen

\* Can be borrowed from Principia





# JOHN WILLIAMS

John Williams, JD, teaches in and chairs the Political Science Department and co-directs the Asian Studies Program. Earlier, he chaired the Mass Communication Department and recently completed two terms as president of the Illinois Political Science Association. Williams is the first recipient of the College's Harper Award for Teaching Excellence. Having grown up in India and Thailand as the son of a military officer and diplomat, Williams has returned annually to Asia for over two decades. He has spent summers in India with the comparative religion program of the University of California, Santa Barbara, traveled the length of Vietnam (10 trips) and the breadth of Mongolia (eight trips), and journeyed across China on more than 15 visits (including seven trips into Tibet and four trips into Xinjiang). Williams has also traveled and conducted research in various parts of the former Soviet Union, including Russia, Moldova, Estonia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. He has lectured at universities in India, China, and Kazakhstan, and he serves on the board of the American Center for Mongolian Studies based in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. John is also a member of the Principia Lifelong Learning faculty.

## CHINA: THE INCOMPLETE SUPERPOWER

China is the second largest economy, the third nation to have its own space program, the largest consumer of energy, and the greatest emitter of greenhouse gases. It produces America's goods and owns America's debt. The People's Liberation Army (including navy and air force) may be the fastest improving military. Some see China as a giant panda to be embraced. Others see China as a fiery dragon to be feared. Perhaps there is a middle way to manage the Middle Kingdom. Williams offers a two-part lecture, supported by pictures, maps, and anecdotes. The first part is a series of 20 Chinese lessons, brief yet illuminating points that will enable you to unveil the mystery of China. Among them are the importance of Confucian thought, the grip of historical thinking, and an insight into political factions struggling for control of China's future. The second part is a series of vignettes that highlight both the complexity of China and our ability to understand and manage America's relationship with it. Some of the stories Williams discusses include the

Beijing riots after the 1999 NATO bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade, the hypernationalistic preparations for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, and the rapid reaction to the 2008 Sichuan earthquake. (2 hours; each part lasts 50–60 minutes).

## PUTIN'S RUSSIA: RETURN OF THE CZAR?

Vladimir Putin is the face of modern Russia and, possibly, the return of the proud Russian empire. Rising from obscurity, the former KGB colonel has risen to indisputable power as President of the Russian Federation. He is a master of politics and public relations. Following the annexation of the Crimea, Putin is riding a wave of public opinion euphoria. Outsiders, though, paint a much more malevolent picture of a dictatorial strongman. The more fascinating question may be—is he a strategic thinker or an opportunistic actor? In essence, does Putin have a long-term plan, or is he taking advantage of circumstances? Is Putin a chess master or a judo-master? The answer to this question might be found in two histories—the personal history of Vladimir Putin and, more importantly, the powerful history of Russia—imperial Russia, the Soviet Union, and the resurging Russian Federation. By reminding us of Russian history and geography, and particularly Russians' deep ties to the Motherland, Williams reveals the Russian perspective—rightly or wrongly—of the twenty-first-century world. Russians have always appreciated a strong ruler—Czar, General Secretary, or President. Russians care about being Russian, no matter where they may live. And Russians have a long history of being invaded—the Mongols, Napoleon, Hitler, and Allied support for White Russians during the Russian civil war. Williams offers explanations why Putin's actions resonate with the Russian people. He will also engage the audience in discussion about how the West might respond and why our options appear so limited. Entertaining stories from recent history, politics, and current events will be interspersed throughout the presentation. (90 minutes—60 for the presentation and 30 for discussion)

\* Can be borrowed from Principia

# JOHN

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# WILLIAMS (cont.)

## TRANSACTIONAL OR TRANSFORMATIVE: VLADIMIR PUTIN OF RUSSIA AND XI JINPING OF CHINA

This may be the first time since World War II that the world is defined not by nations but by their leaders—not China, Russia, and the United States, but Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin, and Donald Trump. So, who are the Chinese and Russian leaders, and the nations behind them, that President Trump is facing? Where did they come from? What influenced their lives and behaviors? What are their objectives? How do they reflect the aspirations of their peoples? How can these two men—Xi and Putin—so embody China and Russia? This lecture places the presidents of China and Russia in historical and cultural context, reviews their life stories, and suggests what motivates these leaders.

### Prop list

- Projector\*
- Screen



