



PRINCIPIA

PURPOSE

FALL 2023

Forging a Bright Path

Building on our 125-year
foundation, education
at Principia is poised
for another century of
progress

PRINCIPIA'S TRUE NORTH

How a Principia education
can enlighten the world
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"LOVE'S DIVINE ADVENTURE"

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PRINCIPIA *PURPOSE*

FALL 2023 | ISSUE 388

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 current and former faculty and staff. The *Principia Purpose* is published twice a year.

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Principia's Enlightened Education

From Acorn to alumni,
Principians are
engaged in tomorrow's
education today.

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ON THE COVER

SOWING THE SEEDS OF SUCCESS

Principia's progressive
approach to education
makes waves, from Early
Childhood to College.



Are you in?

STAY CONNECTED with on-campus developments and faculty achievements, rekindle cherished friendships, and forge valuable career connections with fellow alumni by joining our vibrant LinkedIn community!

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on the official *The Principia*
LinkedIn page.



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Discover exciting open positions at principia.edu/jobs.

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FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

“The light of the world”— illuminating thought and bettering humanity

BY BARBARA BLACKWELL (HON’22)
Chief Executive




“You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14, *NKJV*). This celebratory affirmation is our Principia-wide inspirational theme for the new academic year. It encapsulates the way students across Principia are letting their light shine. And it’s not just students. Learn

Emilia-inspired Early Childhood program for preschoolers (p. 32) to the College’s forward-thinking Educational Studies Department that is preparing students to serve as globally minded educators (p. 36).

As I enter my second year as Chief Executive, I’m delighted

in July to serve as our 12th College President. Meet Dr. Norton and learn more about the deep higher education experience and expertise he brings to this position (p. 28).

Principia’s Board of Trustees has begun the thoughtful and prayerful process of revising and updating the 23 foundational Policies that have guided and governed the institution since their original approval in 1944. While a process for revising these Policies was provided by Principia founder Mary Kimball Morgan, only minor modifications have been made previously (in 1962 and 1983). Read more about the current review process and see the revised Policies that have already been approved by the Board of Trustees (next page).

Principia is indeed a beacon of light—“the Christ-idea in education,” illuminating thought, refining character, and bettering humanity. 

“Principia is indeed a beacon of light— ‘the Christ-idea in education . . .’”

how several of our administrators are utilizing this theme to inspire and support their expansive work with students, faculty, and staff (p. 20).

This issue of the *Purpose* shares how Principia is supporting education for students of all ages—from our innovative Reggio


to report significant progress on both campuses. The School has experienced multiple years of increased enrollment, leading to hiring additional teachers for an expanding Middle School and to accommodate overall growth. At the College, Dr. Daniel Norton arrived

Principia's Forward Progress

Updating Policies at Principia

At Principia, you often hear the phrase “future-ready.” Preparing students to be tomorrow’s leaders demands constant reflection and modernization throughout the institution. With that in mind, an Ad Hoc Policy Review Committee, comprised of Trustees and administrators from the School and College, has been meeting since 2022 to review and update Principia’s Policies.

This summer, the Board approved new wording for Policies 4, 15, 16, and 17. These revisions support Principia’s future direction and move beyond operational details. Many of the details in the original Policies are now captured in other documents such as the Employee Handbook, the Board bylaws, and the College Code of Conduct. The committee continues to take a prayerful and iterative approach, and additional updates are expected.

While adapting to the needs of today, Principia remains committed to being a Christian Science community. Christian Science principles infuse the academic program, character education, and culture. Principians are bold and unapologetic about our unwavering Christian Science foundation, and these Policy revisions reflect that commitment. 

Read the updated Policies in their entirety at principia.edu/policies.

BELONGING AND MATTERING AT PRINCIPIA

This June, the Board of Trustees approved a new institution-wide Belonging and Mattering statement. This statement came out of the diversity, belonging, and mattering work happening on both campuses and was drafted by a dual-campus committee.

Love in Action

With Christian Science as our foundation, we view every member of the Principia community as the unlimited image and likeness of God (Gen. 1:26). We seek to elevate humanity by fostering, nurturing, and inspiring individual and collective spiritual growth.

Diversity in perspectives, experiences, and how people uniquely express themselves strengthens our community. Principia strives to provide its community members with equitable access to all opportunities and resources. We support and respect individual healthcare choices without judgment.

We commit to respectful engagement with one another and will work to remove prejudice and misunderstanding. We are a community based on prayer, integrity, respect, trust, and love. Together, we foster and sustain inclusive learning, living, and working environments where everyone feels they belong and are valued.

ON CAMPUS SCHOOL



QUICK LOOK

STUDENTS REFLECT ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Principia and St. Louis Catholic Academy teamed up to create a Middle School Civil Rights Museum. Students studied and reported on stories ranging from Rosa Parks to redlining. Integrated Studies teacher **Lindsay Bryan** (US'01) commented, "Students connected with history on a personal and emotional level, while also developing critical thinking, research, communication, and collaboration skills. The museum served as a testament to the enduring importance of the civil rights movement and the ongoing work needed to create a more just and equitable society."

The Beginnings

Malcolm X was born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1925. He became involved in the Nation of Islam while in prison in the 1940s and rose to prominence as a spokesperson for the organization. Malcolm X was known for his fiery speeches and advocacy of black nationalism. He believed that African Americans needed to take control of their own destiny and establish a separate, self-sufficient society. Malcolm X's ideas were controversial, and he was often criticized for promoting violence.

Purpose of The Black Panther Party

The Black Panther Party was founded by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale in Oakland, California, in 1966. The organization was originally established to monitor police behavior and prevent police brutality against African Americans. The Panthers were known for their militant tactics, including carrying guns openly in public. They also promoted a ten-point program that called for an end to police brutality, full employment, and access to housing and education.

Were They a Threat?

Malcolm X and the Black Panther Party were both seen as threats by the U.S. government, and both were subject to surveillance and harassment by law enforcement agencies. Malcolm X was assassinated in 1965 by members of the Nation of Islam, and the Black Panther Party was dismantled by the government in the 1970s. Despite their short-lived existence, both Malcolm X and the Black Panther Party continue to inspire activists and advocates for social justice to this day.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Malcolm X and the Black Panther Party were important figures in the Civil Rights Movement who advocated for the empowerment and protection of African Americans. Although both faced criticism

ON THE PODIUM

Boys' Basketball Reaches State Championship

It's a new day for Upper School boys' basketball, with a new coach, new facility, and a young, tight-knit core of players.

In hall of fame coach Jay Blossom's first year leading the Panthers, he flipped the program on its head. After winning a total of eight games over the last two seasons, last year's Panthers won their first nine straight, on their way to the team's first winning record in 13 years and reaching the Missouri State Championship game.

Led by 6'9" senior, Stephen, and a quartet of freshmen, the young Panther team demonstrated preternatural poise. "This has been a special year," coach Blossom reflected. "They did something extraordinary, and they should be proud of it."

Senior Ivan, a Principia student from Ukraine, concurred: "This season has been something incredible ... I didn't know what to expect, but when I met Coach Blossom and Coach Stallcup, it was the biggest gift I could ever get from life."



IN BRIEF

MIDDLE SCHOOL WORLD RELIGIONS SUMMIT

To kick off the spring semester, eighth graders embarked on an expansive journey, learning about the five major world religions—Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism. This Integrated Studies unit combined art, social studies, and language arts in an interactive, real-world educational experience. Students visited a synagogue and a mosque, created art based on religious symbols, wrote journalistic articles about their experiences, and convened a World Religions Summit hosting 10 experts in their respective religious traditions.

RINGING IN THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT

Upper School students celebrated the Lunar New Year in a private karaoke room in New York City's Chinatown, belting out tunes in Mandarin Chinese. The students of Chinese 3 and 4 classes traveled to New York for a whirlwind trip, immersing themselves in cultural activities, visiting museums, and, of course, breaking out their Chinese language skills. Their teacher, **Joy Chang**, notes that experiential language trips help make language learning more "alive and vivid" for students. This year, Principia's Mandarin class will be heading to Taiwan to practice their language skills.



GLOBAL CLASSROOM

A Transformative Trip to Israel

While torrential rain battered the lost city of Petra, one of the seven wonders of the world, Principia's 44-person delegation was undeterred, hiking through ankle-deep rushing water to take in the site, said to have been visited by the apostle Paul.

Led by Bible teacher **Evan MacDonald** (US'94, C'06), the Upper School group was accompanied by a dynamic duo—a Jewish tour guide and Palestinian driver who are longtime friends. Stops included historical and religious sites such as Petra, Mount Nepo, Galilee by boat, Mount Humon, Jerusalem's Old City, and Bethlehem.

"It was magical," recalls Head of School **Dr. Merry Sorrells** (C'79), who also attended the trip.

MUSIC TO OUR EARS

We're with the Band(s)

The beat goes on in the Principia School music program, as the Upper School and Middle School bands added to their trove of accolades this spring, racking up both ensemble and individual awards.

In March, both bands participated in juried music festivals. The Middle School band—comprised largely of sixth-grade students still new to their instruments—received the highest rating, Exemplary, at the Union Music Festival. Meanwhile, the Upper School band performed three pieces at a statewide large ensemble festival, earning a rating of Outstanding.

"Both bands have done a fantastic job this year, and they've really grown a lot," raved Assistant Band Director **Katie Pyles**. The School looks forward to continued success this year and beyond, with the addition of new Band Director **Dr. Mark Connor**.

IN BRIEF

UPPER SCHOOL GRADS ARE "MORE THAN ENOUGH"

On May 21, the class of 2023 walked the stage and crossed a threshold, becoming Upper School graduates. Trustee **Ian Forber-Pratt** (US'98, C'08) delivered the graduation address, urging the audience to embrace interconnectedness and authenticity. He emphasized the importance of staying true to oneself and relying on a higher power. The ceremony concluded with a performance of the song "You Say" by the Upper School choir.

FROM SKETCHES TO SCULPTURES: EARLY CHILDHOOD'S ARTFUL OUTDOOR MUSEUM

This May, the Early Learning Center was transformed into an open-air art gallery, with the return of Preschool 3's Outdoor Museum!

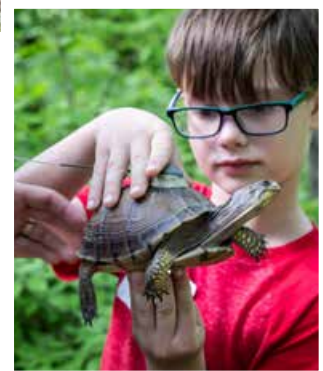
Now in year three, the theme was inspired by creepy, crawly (and sometimes cute) insects. Students picked their favorite pieces from throughout the school year and proudly displayed them alongside sculptures and clay creations.

The students' imagination was sparked by a field trip to Laumeier Sculpture Park to engage in sketching and observation. Upon completion of their tour, special treats awaited the young artists to celebrate their hard work and creativity.

BIOBLITZ EXPLORES A WORLD OF WONDER

True to its title, Principia's fourth annual BioBlitz was abuzz with activity. Students and community members tracked turtles, observed planets, catalogued animal and plant species, and spoke to experts from the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Saint Louis Zoo. "Principia cares about curiosity, and BioBlitz facilitates the opportunity to have a relationship with nature," said Upper School science teacher **Lynne (Elrick) Scott** (C'01), one of the many faculty members who made the weekend possible. "[BioBlitz] is building that interest, wonderment, and curiosity for the outdoors."

Technology played a role in the weekend as well, as STEM teacher **Nadim Sarhan** led a session on the interplay between nature and technology. "We're learning a lot from nature and bringing it back to technology," said Sarhan. Students learned about technology that mimics how bees pollinate flowers, how drones are used to monitor the spread of wildfires, and the wider role technology might play in nature.





A Monumental Trip for Fifth Graders

STORY BY KRISTIN MANKER (US'13, C'17)

Notice to parents: History class will be held elsewhere today—Washington, DC.

Principia fifth graders took their learning on the road this past spring with a trip to the country's capital. And like all Principia trips, this one focused on character as well as curriculum. The classroom might have changed with each impressive monument visited, but the life lessons learned only grew in number.

The plucky group of fifth graders might have seemed like mere tourists, taking underground tours of the Capitol, waving at senators they passed on the street, exploring historic Williamsburg, and examin-

ing archeological digs at Jamestown, but they were on a different type of journey as well: being prepared for challenges they'll face in middle school and beyond.

"The trip offers two types of growth," said fifth grade teacher and trip leader **Jason Hinthorne** (US'05). "The growth in learning about American history, and the growth within each of their own hearts and minds. The trip pulls on prior knowledge that [the students] have learned and puts them in a position to experience that knowledge firsthand. They get to witness the past and understand how far our country has come. While they

are experiencing all this, we are focusing on their growth as young people. What makes them leaders? What inspires people to be a part of change? These deep questions inspire character growth within these young men and women."

It's only fitting that what started with a monument ended with one too—this one made by the students themselves. After returning to their classroom, the students were asked to analyze their work from the school year and identify a quality about themselves that they observed in their work. They then created a monument about that quality and displayed it at their fifth-grade



Fifth-grade students were all smiles while visiting Williamsburg and the Capitol.

celebration, which marked their transition into Middle School.

“I get to watch them grow up in front of my eyes,” said Hinthorne. “If you don’t allow kids the space to grow, they don’t. At this age, they’re becoming independent, they’re just becoming middle schoolers. The trip is the first step on a fantastic journey that they will all go on as they move through the rest of their schooling at Principia.”



Meet Rafa

Recent grad • Emerging leader • Gumptious goalie

“I loved being in the dorm and making new friends.

There are so many diverse cultures at Principia and I really enjoyed learning more about them and expanding my circle of friends. During my time at Principia, I was pretty involved with service. There are so many ways to give back at Principia, especially in the dorm, and I had a great time taking on service opportunities with friends.”

#1

**Best Christian
High School**

#1

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for the Arts**

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discover the
Principia difference

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**PRINCIPIA
SCHOOL**

*Inspiring creatives,
cultivating changemakers,
building boundless leaders*

A woman with long, dark and light-colored braids is smiling and speaking at a wooden podium. She is wearing a yellow and blue patterned top. Behind her are several flags, including the Kenyan flag (black, white, green, and red) and the Nigerian flag (green and white). The podium has a microphone and a circular seal on the right side that reads "PRINCIPIA".

ON CAMPUS

COLLEGE

QUICK LOOK

INTERNATIONAL SPEECHES

Five senior international students, Camille Abadie from France, Lessly Amwikato from Kenya, Delwys Glokpor from Togo, Ure Okike from Nigeria, and Carolina Vilcapoma Batistini from Peru, recently delivered their senior speeches reflecting on their transformative experiences at Principia College.

Their speeches beautifully echoed the core principles of the international student program, acknowledging the richness of their individuality and the courage it takes to pursue education abroad. Lessly Amwikato shared, "I would like to express my gratitude to Principia as an institution. Thank you for providing me with a world-class education, for the opportunity to grow and learn, and for the network of alumni that will support me for the rest of my life."

IN BRIEF

**DR. MAE JEMISON
INSPIRES CAMPUS**

Dr. Mae Jemison, the first African American woman in space and founder of the *100 Year Starship* project, communicated a message of interconnection during her speech at Cox Auditorium this past March. “The challenge of human interstellar travel mirrors the challenges that we face in the world today,” she said. “Diversity of knowledge, resiliency, and a willingness to try things differently will get us where we’re trying to go.”

PANTHERS MAKE HISTORY

It was a historic winter for Principia College basketball. The men broke their single-season record with 18 wins, while the women finished the regular season with a winning record for the first time since 2006–07. Along with winning records, this is the first time in Principia history that both teams qualified for the SLIAC Tournament in the same season. Congratulations to both teams on all their success. We can’t wait to see what new heights the teams climb to in the future.

DISTINGUISHED DIPLOMATS

Principia College’s international team of junior Chris Ajuoga and sophomore Adesuwa Dawodu demonstrated diplomatic excellence at the Midwest Model United Nations in February. Representing China, the team of two won an overall Distinguished Delegation award. Ajuoga also won Outstanding Delegation for his individual performance representing China in the Security Council and a Crisis Award for his response to a hypothetical crisis scenario.

BUZZWORTHY

**Crema Coffee Wins
Innovation Challenge**

It’s common for people to bond over a cup of coffee, but how often do they end up turning a profit? That’s what happened when College seniors Hannah Switzer and Robbie Robison connected during Entrepreneurship class. The resulting enterprise, Crema Coffee, created quite a (here it comes) buzz—winning Principia College’s Innovation Challenge and going on to compete in the St. Louis Regional Entrepreneur Educators (STLREE) pitching competition. Switzer and Robison teamed up with classmates to create a pitch video and present to 12 judges in a *Shark Tank*-style competition. Out of 10 area universities, the Principia duo walked away with third place and \$500 seed money!

Switzer and Robison graduated in May 2023 and have embarked on their careers—Robison as a project manager for large-scale construction projects and Switzer as an assistant teacher at Principia Lower School—but Crema Coffee lives on. “We are going to continue to market and work events in the greater St. Louis area in the evenings and on weekends,” says Switzer. “We want to work on marketing ourselves on social media more to grow our social media presence.”





WORDS + IMAGES

Poetry and Art Intermingle in "A Thing I Cannot Name"

Black and white oil pastels hung hauntingly alongside constructions of branches, pinecones, and leaves dressed in plaster, while voices recited poetry to a hushed audience.

This was the setting for "... a thing I cannot name," a joint art exhibition and poetry reading, displaying the craft of **Paul Ryan's** (C'77) Drawing II class, **Dinah (Jung) Ryan's** (C'78) Poetry Writing II class, and **Sky O'Brien's** (C'18) Fiction Writing II class.

The exhibition shone a spotlight on the students' achievements over the semester. Paul Ryan remarked, "It's not until we actually have fully installed the exhibition that the students really see the project as a whole, and I have to say, it's really wonderful to see the students are proud of what they've done."

From pantoums to sonnets and villanelles to ghazals, the Poetry Writing and Fiction Writing students engaged the audience with their work.

"What's thrilling," said Dinah Ryan, "is that they can hear and feel how powerful their words are and how beautifully they're received by the audience. They can feel the way the audience is moved or delighted or enlightened or surprised by the things that they have shared."

IN BRIEF

2023 COMMENCEMENT

During College Commencement weekend, former Air Force Chaplain **Terese A. Erickson** (FS'80) highlighted the faculty's admiration for the graduates, describing them as refined gold. "Like gold, you were precious metal when you came here," she proclaimed, and then explained the refining process: ridding the metal of impurities and rendering it corrosion-proof, shining, and reflective.

As she discussed her theme of "Purpose, Joy, and Dominion," she sent the graduates forward into the world with Mary Kimball Morgan's statement that "your vocation never changes, for it is learning to live—to 'grow up into Him in all things'" (*Education at The Principia*, p. 70).

PLAN FOR AMERICA CONFERENCE EXPLORES NATIONAL DEBT SOLUTIONS

On April 28, Plan for America—a public-private partnership focused on solving the national debt crisis while bolstering American retirement and healthcare systems—hosted a symposium on the Principia College campus. Principia College alum **Terry Nager** (C'72), president of the investment advisory Southern Capital Services, founded Plan for America as a comprehensive solution to the national debt crisis. The conference, moderated in part by College senior Luke Nutwell, explored the economic strategy of Plan for America in detail.

Scan to learn more
and watch videos
of the sessions:



NO DRAMA

The Show Must Go On

It was closing night. Principia College's production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* had already been a big success, but lead actor Matthew Rice was unable to perform. That's when Nathan Babcock, a theater minor who had attended previous performances, stepped in, seamlessly assuming the lead role of Jack Worthing.

The young cast remained focused and the audience's support was evident, resulting in a rousing performance. The production was dedicated to the memory of **Richard Morse** (US'45, C'50), a beloved professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance. Despite the challenges, the show demonstrated the power of theater and the commitment of those involved.

FREEDOM

Students Examine Free Speech at PAC

Principia College's 2023 Public Affairs Conference addressed one of the year's defining questions head-on. "Can I Say That? An Exploration of Free Speech" brought together experts on students' rights, civil liberties, defamation, and satire.

For senior Camille Abadie, an aspiring journalist and the director of this year's conference, it was an opportunity to apply classroom-learning to real-world issues. "People got a better understanding of the First Amendment from a law perspective," says Abadie, "but also from a student perspective—what you can do, what your rights are, and how all of that fits into the world."



ABOVE THE LAW (SCHOOLS)

MEDIATION WINS BIG IN ITALY

The Principia College Mediation team capped off an incredible season with a first-place win for Team Mediation at the International Law School Mediation Tournament in Bologna, Italy.

As one of only two undergraduate teams facing 40 graduate and law school programs from across the globe, the traveling team—senior Luke Nutwell, senior Grace Pécheck, and sophomore Avery Smith—not only held their own, but ended up holding five trophies! The team was supported by Head Coach Jeff Steele, as well as President **John Williams** (C'76).

"Competing against law students from all around the world was a great way to learn more about peace-making and negotiation," says co-captain Nutwell. He was awarded fourth place as Individual Mediator and fifth place as an Individual Advocate/Client Pair with co-captain Smith.

Earlier in the spring, the Mediation team took first place in Team Advocacy at the University of Central Florida's Conciliator Mediation Tournament. The team also returned from Florida with a slew of individual awards, including junior Chris Ajuoga's first-place award for Individual Mediator, Nutwell's second-place award for Individual Mediator, and sophomores Smith and Neha Bandrapalli's second-place award for Individual Advocate/Client Pair. These Principia College mediators came to win!

Lessons in World Citizenship from the Malawi Abroad

STORY BY KRISTIN MANKER (US'13, C'17)

This June, Principia College students voyaged to the continent of Africa for the first time in 23 years. The Malawi abroad, led by Political Science professor **Dr. Sarah Andrews** (US'03, C'07), took a group of five students to the geographically small but politically complex southern African country. Over the course of a month, the students traveled to three different cities in southern and central Malawi, as well as surrounding rural areas, researching the differences between urban and rural living with regard to

culture, values, economics, education, and more.

The students spoke to local citizens, tribal leaders, and members of Parliament to expand their understanding of these complex issues and how they're being addressed locally. While in the city of Blantyre, they teamed up with students from the Catholic University of Malawi to conduct field research in urban and rural settings. After analyzing the data, they presented their findings on urban-rural linkages and urbanization.

Augmenting the scheduled learning was an unexpected lesson in world citizenship: how can we support our neighbors without taking away their autonomy? After Cyclone Freddy devastated parts of the country in February, the Principia delegation took guidance from their local contacts on the best ways to responsibly help those affected by the storm. Tapping into the Principia community, the abroad raised enough money to buy 90 bags of maize flour (40kg/bag) for those in need. The maize, which was purchased



locally to help bolster the economy, was delivered to communities in the Blantyre area of Malawi.

“I’m hoping that students come away with a deeper sense of nuanced thinking about a country like Malawi,” said trip leader Dr. Andrews. “There’s so much more to appreciate about these countries. Study abroad programs are such a great opportunity to further develop intercultural skills, and the ability to navigate intercultural relationships.”

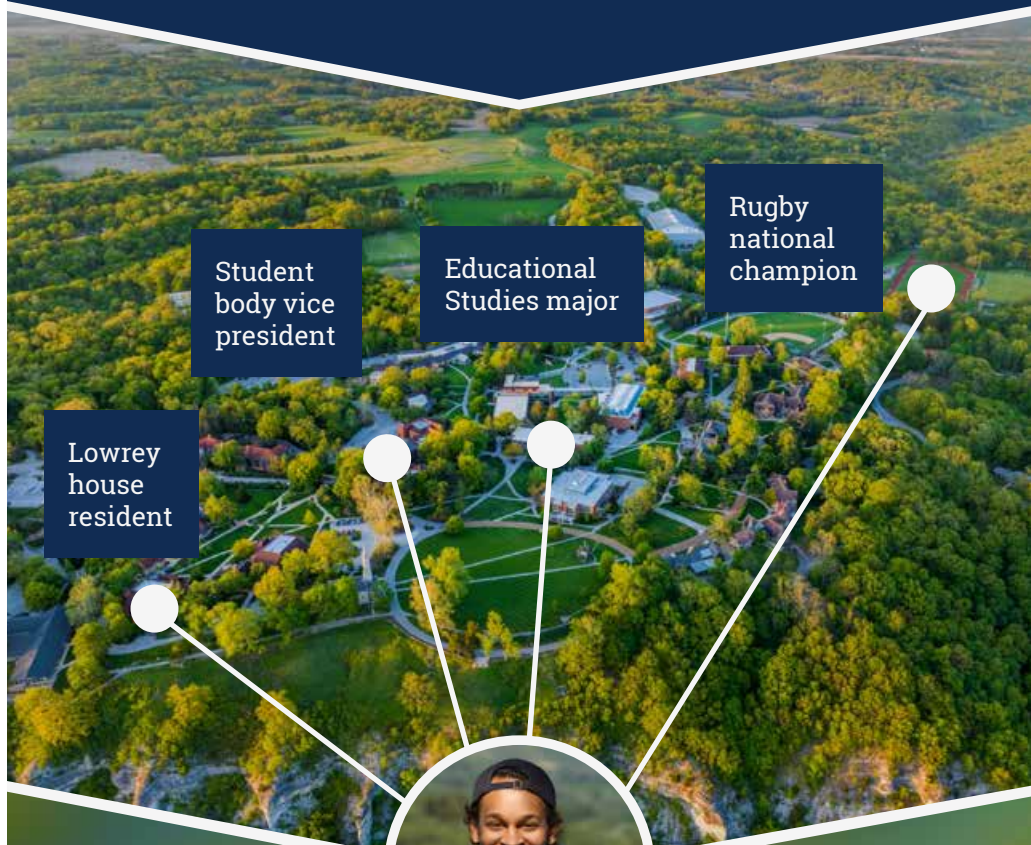
Abroad members pose with community based organization, One Voice



PRINCIPIA COLLEGE

Kendall found friendship, leadership, and championship.

Find yourself here.



“I’m so grateful for my time at Principia. The person, learner, educator, and leader I am today can be attributed to my Principia experience.”

—KENDALL SHOEMAKE (C’15)
ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL, BERKELEY HALL
DOCTORAL CANDIDATE, UCLA

**Scan to experience
the virtual campus tour**



OF NOTE


QUICK LOOK

John Williams: A Steady Leader in Momentous Times

John Williams (C'76) completed his three-year contract as Principia College President in June. Following a delayed sabbatical this academic year, Williams will return to the classroom fall semester 2024. Williams has served the College for nearly four decades as a professor, advisor, study abroad program director, and president of the Faculty Senate. He has been the president of the Illinois Political Science Association and was awarded the College's first Horace Edwin Harper Jr. and Evelyn Wright Harper Award for Teaching Excellence in 2013. Prior to his Principia career, Williams was a civil rights attorney, serving in the United States Justice Department.

Williams's commitment to Principia and his thoughtful, inclusive approach to leadership were a comfort during the global pandemic and this transformative period in Principia's history.

"We are indebted to John for his stalwart leadership throughout the pandemic," said Principia Chief Executive Barbara Blackwell. "And we're also immensely grateful to John's wife, Missy, for her steady and loving support for the community throughout this time."

A portrait of John Williams, an older man with white hair and a beard, wearing glasses, a light blue shirt, a patterned tie, and a dark suit jacket. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a warm, out-of-focus orange and yellow.

"I gained a lot from this role. I grew tremendously metaphysically, professionally, and intellectually—and I was honored to serve as College President."

—John Williams

WHAT TO WEAR

Natalie Gill's Fashion-Forward Forecast

Natalie Gill (C'17) has wasted no time in seamlessly weaving her double majors—Mass Communication and Studio Art—into an exciting career. With a love for all things creative, Natalie found her niche in the world of fashion as a Brand Designer with Dolce Vita. To Gill, fashion is a means to connect with people, and she plays a crucial role in designing and creating the brand's visual elements. Natalie thrives in the company of a supportive team of like-minded women who share a deep commitment to their craft. From shoeboxes to digital assets, Natalie's creative touch can be found in every aspect of Dolce Vita's comfort-focused footwear worn by women around the globe. Here's Natalie's take on the styles of the season.



The Goth Punk Skater in Denim and Studs

The chance to look hardcore in studs and biker attire is back, thanks to Wednesday Addams. The Netflix series rekindled our love of black, platforms, and gothic accessories. Expect to see grunge and denim everything with lots of metallics and cool hardware. Inspired by Blink 182's Travis Barker and Kourtney Kardashian's Italian Gothic wedding, get out your skateboard and drumsticks.



Let's Go Barbie - Playtime!

The new *Barbie* movie has fueled a cross-generational nostalgic fire, reminding us of our favorite childhood cartoons, board games, and toys. We did enough solo puzzles during COVID and we're ready to get back out and play together. The new pickleball phenomenon reminds us of our classic sneaker obsessions, vibrant workout sets, and graphic tees featuring our favorite characters.



Atelier Earth Angel Expression

Thankfully, we should see more calming pastels and historically 'feminine' details such as pearls in menswear. Soft aesthetics, handcrafted knits, embroidery, and beading are helping to break down gender boundaries. Earthy neutral palettes, comfy yoga materials, and funky bohemian knits will keep us grounded and connected. This could be the 'quiet luxury' you may have heard about.



Sustainable Fairytalecore

Thanks to the live-action remake of *The Little Mermaid*, we're adorning everything with seashells and siren shimmer, while the beauty industry is incorporating oceanic 'superfoods' like sea moss and algae into its products. Whimsical fabrics and renaissance-inspired outfits seem straight out of a Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale . . . thankfully, new sustainable fashion practices will help us feel better about wearing them.



SHOWSTOPPING SOLAR CAR

Solar Chariots Chronicles Principia's Solar Car Underdog Story

Principia's Solar Car team stepped into the spotlight recently in a six-episode web docuseries titled *Solar Chariots*. Produced by Million Stories, a program of the Singleton Foundation, co-founded by **Cary (Stewart) Singleton** (C'76), *Solar Chariots* chronicles the 2022 American Solar Challenge, billed as "the ultimate test of endurance and collaboration."

While traversing over 1,400 miles following the Oregon Trail from Independence, Missouri to Twin Falls, Idaho, Principia College's RA XI overcame setbacks—including a crash that necessitated an overnight replacement of the entire solar array—and stunned the field, besting much larger universities, including the University of California, Berkeley; the University of Kentucky, and University of Illinois, to take a very close second place to repeat winner M.I.T.

Along the way, Principia became the unexpected darling of the series, demonstrating its signature combination of grit, collaboration, ingenuity, and buoyancy. "I feel excitement around us, I feel giddy," exclaims **Chris Strong** (C'22), one of RA XI's drivers, at the start of the race. "We're a small team, but we got first place at [the qualifying race], and we know we can do it."

The team took the podium again this summer, placing second at the 2023 Formula Sun Grand Prix

Visit millionstories.com to watch the full series.

SUSTAINABILITY STAR

KAREN ECKERT SHORTLISTED FOR INDIANAPOLIS PRIZE

Dr. Karen (Thornburn) Eckert (C'80), founder and executive director of WIDECAST, Principia College professor of sustainability, and director of the Principia Center for Sustainability, was named one of six finalists for the Indianapolis Prize. The Indianapolis Prize is the world's leading conservation award—widely known as the "Nobel Prize of Animal Conservation."

This prestigious award is recognition of Dr. Eckert's lifetime of innovation and service in the conservation of migratory sea turtles and their critical habitats. Thirty-five years ago, Dr. Eckert created WIDECAST, a Regional Activity Network of the UN Environment Programme in the Wider Caribbean Region. WIDECAST provides a structure for dialogue and collaboration across 45 countries and territories to train biologists, policymakers, educators, and advocates, and to harmonize national approaches to reducing the many threats that sea turtles face in the region.

Over the decades, she has formed dozens of community-based organizations, written legislation and policy, developed micro-enterprises to help support communities that once relied on killing the highly endangered turtles, and empowered national and regional representatives to write sea turtle recovery plans. It is because of Karen's leadership of the WIDECAST network that we still have ancient lineages of sea turtles in the Caribbean Sea.

This year's six finalists were selected from 100 nominees from around the world.



EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Andrea Box Named National High School Teacher of Excellence

When **Andrea Box** (US'89, C'93) says she never expected to win the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)'s 2023 High School Teacher of Excellence Award, believe her. "I had to re-read the [announcement] three times," she recalls. "I thought it was sent to the wrong person!"

"I had zero intention of being a teacher," says Box, who initially pursued her dream of being a journalist. While working as a reporter for the *Arizona Republic*, she was invited to speak to an eighth-grade class about journalism. She was hooked: "I had more fun in that hour than I did in my regular job!"

The former reporter hasn't stopped chasing a good story. "The most important part of teaching is building rapport and trust—getting the kids to understand that they matter, they have a story, and to trust their voice," Box says. "They tell me their stories, and we connect."

"[Upper School English teacher] Valerie Briscoe was one of my role models. She was so passionate about what she taught. We read *Night* by Elie Wiesel and I realized that everyone is struggling with something. It made me ask, 'What is their story?'"

Andrea Box accepts the High School Teacher of Excellence Award at the NCTE's convention in November.

HISTORICAL MYTH-BUSTING

Investigating the Inquisition

In July, Principia College's Jeanne and George Todd Professor of Religious Studies **Gretchen D. Starr-LeBeau** published *Seven Myths About the Spanish Inquisition*. Her second work about this historical era, the book is already being used in undergraduate history classes.

Dr. Starr-LeBeau's first book, *In the Shadow of the Virgin: Inquisitors, Friars, and Conversos in Guadalupe, Spain*, was the culmination of years of scholarly research and earned her accolades among the academic community. So when Hackett Publishing, publishers of the Seven Myths series of historical texts for general audiences, looked to tackle the Spanish Inquisition, Dr. Starr-LeBeau was the clear choice.

"This book is designed to not sound like a textbook. It's intended to be an accessible introduction," she explains.

Dr. Starr-LeBeau seized the opportunity to shine a light on forgotten stories of humanity from an otherwise dark period of history. "Part of what I found meaningful about writing a book that pulls apart myths and undoes stereotypes and misperceptions is that it brings more light and clarity to issues that need to be addressed."

SUPPORT PANTHERS

GOING FOR THE GOLD

The new school year is underway and Principia athletes are ready to give their all!

WILL YOU GIVE TOO?

Make a gift to the Gold & Blue Fund to support today's Principia athletes.





YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

MATTHEW 5:14, NKJV

Principia's True North: 'The Divine Light of Truth'

Three Principia leaders reflect on the year's inspirational theme:

"You are the light of the world" (Matt. 5:14 NKJV)



Roger Gordon

Principia College
Spiritual Life Director/Chaplain

Principia *is* a light on the hill—literally. There seems to be a claim of mental darkness imposed on the younger generation, but at Principia we don't subscribe to that. Darkness isn't a thing, it's just the absence of light. We can turn on the light of Truth. And if you can see even a little bit of divine Truth shining through, the darkness disappears.

At Principia we can be that light; that's unique to Principia and a gift we bring to our students.

Starting this year, every student—whether they are a Christian Scientist or not—received the Bible and *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy, so they can

“Darkness isn't a thing, it's just the absence of light.”

engage with what we as Christian Scientists hold true. We want them to be in dialogue with it to deepen their own faith.

At orientation last year, we had a student who was a fundamentalist Christian. She came to Principia because she felt like engaging with Christian Science would help her understand her own faith better. I would love to have more students like that, and to nurture that kind of culture.



Samantha Dry

Principia Middle School and
Upper School Principal

When I became a Christian Scientist, one thing that stood out to me was the idea of being a reflection of God. I didn't lack for anything, I didn't have to do anything, I just had to live as a reflection of God. As a reflection of God, you are light already.

I was reading this article from the *Christian Science Sentinel* about how we are God's manifestation and reflection. The author writes, "God, our source of being, is always shining brightly, and as His manifestation, we can't help but be the reflection of that light." ("Let Your Light So Shine": Be A Transparency for Truth," May 2017)

"We can lead the way and let our light shine as an organization."

We are truly reflecting God just by being steadfast in our faith and keeping our reflection clean and true. Because God is Love, God is good, God is all-powerful. And we too can shine just as brightly. We can't help it, we have to reflect it! At the School, we have made a pretty bold statement: Love is our core value! We can lead the way and let our light shine as an organization ... and we're going to live by that!



Terry Grigsby

(US'97, C'01)

Assistant Head of
Principia School

It is our true nature to be the light of the world. And we are already equipped with the tools needed to be successful. I love that about Principia. It permeates academia and athletics, it's going in with an expectation that this is your true nature, you're designed to express that joy, that gift of God, and you can't be limited. Don't be tricked to think anything different!

Our mission to serve the Cause of Christian Science manifests in so many ways, but part of that is to be quiet, to listen, to pray, and to understand what we're being called to do. And then you go forth and you do it. In *Miscellaneous Writings*, we're told that "God is the fountain of light, and He illumines one's way when one is obedient" (Mis. 117:27-29). So our job is to be obedient.

"... we are already equipped with the tools needed to be successful."

Those are things that Mary Baker Eddy lays out for Christian Scientists, and it translates into what we expect of students when they graduate. We're not losing sight of the true north; we're holding firm to who we are in our true nature. If they can accomplish those things and follow the two great commandments—love God and love your neighbor—that is a powerful toolkit. And that's letting that light shine. 🌟



Inspired with a Desire to Serve

STORY BY ERIC MORSE (US'90) AND
KRISTIN MANKER (US'13, C'17)

Some fight fires. Some mend wounds. Some welcome the displaced and destitute. They are unique, but not alone; for across the country and in all corners of the earth, Principia alumni are real-world examples of individuals who are “inspire[d] with a desire to serve.” (*Education at The Principia*, p. 57)

They came to Principia at different times, from different places, for different reasons. They made diverse friends, were inspired by distinct educators, and pursued divergent interests. The alumni profiled here demonstrate a common drive to help—to light the way for others. This pursuit is

private yet passionate; quiet but unquenchable. They represent thousands of Principians past and present who are sacrificing self, dedicating their lives, and, as written in Principia Policy 10, “leveraging their technical skills and intellectual attainments for the betterment of humanity.”

The Magic of Community

MARJIE (WOHLFARTH) LONGSHORE (US'89, C'93)

Founder, Executive Director,
Family Leadership Center

Any chat with Marjie (Wohlfarth) Longshore is likely to include the word “community.” It’s the defining thread in a career that has brought her to three continents, the upper echelons of academia, and the founding of her own nonprofit.

Community brought her to France, the U.K., then Germany. A master’s from Harvard led to a job developing systems thinking for large organizations. “It was all about community work and how you build community. That’s my passion.”

While rethinking large organizations, Longshore noticed an important informal organization—the family unit—was largely overlooked. “There wasn’t a collective conversation happening about parenting, so I started a small group.”

When life took her to Washington, DC and then Ecuador, she continued the work—leading overflowing parenting classes. Upon returning to the States, Longshore founded the Family Leadership Center, a parenting resource centered around—you guessed it—community. “We start the groups and people pick them up and start their own community,” she says, describing the decentralized approach that enables her work to spread nationwide.

“People want to thrive and they want their kids to thrive, but they don’t know where to start. The magic is that it starts in a community built around dignity and respect for all.”



“**People want to thrive and they want their kids to thrive . . . It starts in a community built around dignity and respect for all.**”



“**I want to be useful. We created ASIKE so we could change the things we were complaining about.**”

We're All a Part of This Global Village

CHIOMA (DINOBI) BISHOP (C'04)

President and Founding Member/Sister, ASIKE

For non-profit president and co-founder Chioma (Dinobi) Bishop, community isn't something restricted to her neighborhood. And for African Sisters for Information Knowledge and Empowerment (ASIKE), a helping hand can extend across the globe. The nonprofit aims to be a leading resource for women of African descent in the metro-Atlanta area, and partners with grassroots African organizations to support children's education—particularly the education of young girls. “I want to be useful,” says Bishop. “We created ASIKE so we could change the things we were complaining about.”

ASIKE's reach is wide, meeting needs through education on a variety of topics. Real estate investment, ballot comprehension, hair, religion, social media management, and mental health have all been topics of discussion in recent years. And when others have already started the conversation, ASIKE is quick to support.

“We've been very intentional about partnering with other organizations so that we're not replicating what other people are doing. Nigerian organizations, Liberian organizations, if they're doing something we'll support them. We're all a part of this global village.”



Responding to a Call Within the Movement

ALAINA CARLSON (C'16)

**Co-Director, Christian Science Nursing Department,
Tenacre**

“I feel called to do this,” says Alaina Carlson, as she recounts her path into Christian Science nursing. There was the dramatic physical healing her senior year at Principia College, when the phrase “Christian Science nurse” suddenly resounded in her thought. Then there was the Wednesday evening testimony meeting when the first reader announced “tonight’s readings are on the ministry of Christian Science nursing.” Carlson followed obediently, even enthusiastically—creating her own independent study course on the history of Christian Science nursing.

Three days after graduation, Carlson embarked on Christian Science nursing training. Over the course of six years at the Chestnut Hill Benevolent Association, she graciously answered the call—whether the need was for an on-site Christian Science nurse, a visiting Christian Science nurse, or a supervisor.

The next call came from New Jersey. Now the Co-Director of the Christian Science nursing department at Tenacre, Carlson oversees 50–60 Christian Science nurses—the largest such staff anywhere in the world. “It was hard to leave the Benevolent Association, but it didn’t feel like a choice,” she says. “I feel I’m responding to a call within the Movement. We all want to see our guests have spiritual healings and understand their relationship to God better.”



Every Interaction Makes an Impact

ISAHN SHOEMAKE (C'88)

Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist

In a high-turnover industry, Isahn Shoemake disrupts the pattern. After three decades as a Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist (MHRS), a role some consider thankless, Shoemake feels he is being blessed by blessing others.

As an MHRS, he provides therapeutic behavioral interventions and skill-building strategies to emotionally troubled children and their families. In simpler terms, he helps children increase their level of functioning, while also enabling their parents to regain control of their households.

“In working with families with a variety of challenges, I always find something positive to grasp onto,” Shoemake says.

Shoemake has helped over 1,000 children and their families during the course of his career. And now he’s teaching other specialists how to lead with love. “It’s all about building and establishing relationships. I feel like every interaction makes an impact. I try to make most of them as positive as I can.”



Providing “Hope, Encouragement, and Confidence”

LANY (VAN L. MAAS) CLOUGH (US’75, C’79)

Immigration Specialist (Ret.),
International Institute of St. Louis

“We all have something to give,” begins Lany (van L. Maas) Clough, before chronicling her three decades of all-consuming, but “so rewarding” work. The job title was Immigration Specialist for the International Institute of St. Louis—which could mean translator, career counselor, immigration expert, non-profit administrator, midnight chauffeur, or life coach.

For thousands of refugees fleeing violence and upheaval, Clough’s was among the first faces they saw on American soil. “These are people who have lost everything and have to start over,” she says. After their legal admittance to an overwhelming land, Clough and co-workers would welcome the refugees at the airport, drive them to their new home, and then help them create new, productive lives. Today she is still greeted on the street by people—some of whom were just children when they arrived—who express their thanks.

The secret to her longevity and success? “They just needed encouragement and hope and confidence in their abilities.” Clough continues, “It was hard work, but so rewarding, and the need was so apparent. This is a way to live the Golden Rule. We all have something to give to others.”



“Helping Others and Problem-Solving” As a Team

MINDY (FRANTZEN) FELDHEIM (US’96)

Firefighter, City of Columbus, Ohio

Mindy (Frantzen) Feldheim loves being part of a team. The camaraderie, collaboration, and mutual commitment drove her to success on Upper School softball and field hockey teams, as a varsity rower at Ohio State, and as a coach at the University of Cincinnati.

So it’s not surprising that, after a former teammate invited her on a fire department ride-along, Feldheim was hooked. “To see the teamwork, the brotherhood and sisterhood—I was drawn to it,” Feldheim recalls. “I wanted to be a part of helping others and problem-solving; your goal is to make whatever situation you’re walking into better.”

Today, Feldheim is a 15-year veteran on a team of four, rotating roles as the driver/pump operator, and is trained in EMS. Her background in Christian Science and degree in Religious Studies keep her grounded and optimistic. “God is already there, using my hands to be the instrument. I’m not the one in control, I’m just there to help. That peace and calm is what gets me through and what gets our crew through.”

Feldheim continues, “Being a firefighter—making a direct impact on Columbus itself and being an asset to people on the street—it’s very personal, very direct.”


A Very Clear Mission in the World

TAMARA (SHEESLEY) BALIS (US'89, C'93)

Head of School, Greenspring Montessori School

When Tamara (Sheesley) Balis set out in her teaching career, she wanted to honor the spirit of each child and support their highest and best selves. Her research led her to the Montessori model, and now, 25 years later, she believes in the Montessori mission more than ever.

Her desire to treat every child with respect and help them feel valued is creating a ripple effect in the community. “I can see the difference we are making, not only in our children’s lives but in the lives of our families,” she says. “I love being able to have a meaningful impact on a community.”

Along with her executive work at Greenspring Montessori School, she and her team have also started the Greenspring Center for Lifelong Learning, an organization designed to elevate and support Montessori educators and schools. You can also hear her on the Voices of Montessori podcast, where she interviews fellow Montessori educators in hopes of elevating and supporting others. “I feel so lucky that I get to have a very clear mission in the world,” she says. 



BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE...



Read about more Principia alumni who have dedicated their lives to serving and improving their communities.

Building Bridges Across Cultures: Meet College President Dr. Daniel Norton

STORY BY LAUREL SHAPER WALTERS (US'84)

PHOTOS BY ERIC LINES (US'04, C'08)

Throughout his three-decade career, Dr. Daniel Norton estimates he has taught, recruited, or advised students from at least 130 countries. His deep experience in higher education has taken him—and the students he has served—around the world.

Dr. Norton earned his BA in history and master's degree in applied linguistics from the University of South Florida. He received a PhD in English/composition and applied linguistics from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



I have served as a senior administrator at two private liberal arts colleges and two large public universities over the last two decades,” Dr. Norton says, “so I’ve been able to learn and apply a wide range of strategies to strengthen, differentiate, and diversify institutions. I have also gained insights by working closely with partner universities around the globe and examined how these institutions utilized different strategies, often informed by their distinct cultural and historical contexts.”

Before moving into senior administration positions, Dr. Norton served as a faculty member at the American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, teaching courses in composition and public speaking. He then directed international programs at Muskingum University and at Stephen F. Austin State University, implemented and directed Goucher College’s universal study abroad requirement, and oversaw the comprehensive Center for International Education at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Championing International Education

Everywhere he’s been, Dr. Norton has promoted international education—supporting the progress of international students and strengthening infrastructure for faculty and students to experience successful, transformative study abroad programs. “Building and strengthening bridges across cultures is critical to establishing a global institution,” he says.

The difference at Principia College, he notes, is that he now gets the benefit of building on the firm foundation of Christian Science. “Christian Science is a

global religion, and it’s inspiring that our enrollment at Principia College reflects this fact. We have the highest percentage of international students at any college or university in the country today.”

Christian Science Perspective

As a class-taught Christian Scientist who came into Christian Science in his early 20s after a great deal of exploration and searching, Dr. Norton knows what it means to be a spiritual seeker. “Christian Science is for me a way of perceiving the world that is often distinct from or in direct conflict with what the

material senses present. Several of my healings have come from such a change in perspective. In a similar way, higher education is all about changing your perspective through learning new ideas and new ways of looking at things.”

He is excited to lead an institution of higher education that is rooted and grounded in the teachings of Christian Science. “We have an incredible resource in Christian Science,” he says. “That foundation is what will carry Principia College through any challenge. Serving the Cause of Christian Science is the purpose and heart of Principia, and that remains unchanged.”

As Principia explores innovative, relevant, and contemporary

ways to serve the Cause of Christian Science, Dr. Norton brings global expertise, a deep spiritual perspective, and experience growing enrollments on multiple campuses through recruiting students from around the world.

Envisioning the Future

With experience comes clarity. This is an especially challenging time to be leading a small, rural, faith-based liberal arts college. Colleges and universities across the U.S. are facing daunting headwinds on many fronts. The number of domestic students enrolling in colleges and universities is shrinking. At the same time, tuition revenues are eroding, especially for private colleges. “We must do a better job of communicating the incredible value of the whole-person education provided by small, residential liberal arts colleges like Principia,” he notes.

Dr. Norton is familiar with this difficult landscape, yet it is Principia’s uniqueness that makes him optimistic about the College’s bright future. “As I began thinking about my vision for Principia College as a global institution, I started with the idea of envisioning Principia College in alignment with the attributes of universal love and moral character, which is essentially universal love in action” he says. The idea of building a global college clearly aligns with universal love.”

A Principia Parent First

“I’m impressed with what Principia does and am very optimistic about its future as an influential global institution. As the parent of a Principia School and College graduate, I have firsthand knowledge of the transformative power of a Principia education.” His daughter, Caitlin (Norton) Howe (US’06, C’10), and son-in-law, Colby Howe (C’10), are both Principia graduates.

Dr. Norton’s wife, Carolyn McIntyre Norton, a lifelong Christian Scientist, is a professional artist who has taught a wide array of visual arts courses at several universities over the past 20 years. She holds an MFA in studio art from Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas and a BFA in communication arts from Virginia Commonwealth University. Her photography, printmaking, and handmade artist’s books have been

River’s confluences with the Missouri and Illinois Rivers in the Prairie State is just perfect. I’m excited to meet everyone—don’t be surprised if you see me with art supplies in hand discovering all that this beautiful campus has to offer.”

Dr. Norton has a deep and abiding love of music and has played guitar for many years, rotating between his classical, acoustic, and electric guitars. His son, Brian, is executive director of the Grammy-award winning Houston Chamber Choir and his daughter-in-law, Melanie, is an acclaimed singer and soloist with several choral groups. His son, Grant, is also a musician and is currently playing in a band in the Baltimore area.

Early Priorities

Dr. Norton is just settling into his role but has a few early priorities. Revising the College’s approach to academic scholarships is foremost on that list. These scholarships are

being enhanced to attract more high-achieving, right-fit students who can most benefit from and contribute to Principia College.

The College’s admissions counselors are scheduling visits to high schools in St. Louis, Kansas City,

and Chicago. “Principia College has a great deal to offer students,” Dr. Norton says. “We will be getting the word out. Our world needs more of what Principia—and Principians—have to offer.”

Developing more January and summer-term study abroad pro-

“OUR WORLD NEEDS MORE OF WHAT PRINCIPIA—AND PRINCIPIANS—HAVE TO OFFER.”

shown in group and solo shows, both nationally and internationally.

Carolyn is looking forward to exploring the natural areas on the College’s 2,600-acre campus and says, “My artwork focuses on examining grasslands and waterscapes, so being able to work near the Mississippi



▲ Daniel and Carolyn Norton outside their new home, Hutchinson House

grams as well as building domestic study-away programs within the U.S. are also potential future initiatives. “Having such a high percentage of international students on campus comes with the responsibility to better support and nurture our global student population,” Dr. Norton says, “and finding a healthier balance of on-campus work requirements and academic study for international students is another

priority of mine.”

While his robust vision for the College includes exploring innovative ideas and promising future possibilities, Dr. Norton is humbled and grateful to be building on 125 years of progress. The small but powerful college on the bluffs has exceptionally deep reserves of excellence: an internationally competitive mediation team, a top-ranked solar car team, a national champion rugby

club, and the nation’s oldest student-run public affairs conference.

“In my first message to the community,” he recalls, “I shared this quote from Mary Baker Eddy: ‘We live in an age of Love’s divine adventure to be All-in-all’ (*The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, p. 158). Leading Principia College is an adventure led by divine Love, and I’m excited to be on this divine adventure with all of you!”



REGGIO EMILIA



Early Childhood's Natural Approach to Learning

STORY BY GEORGIA MAE (HURLEY) HARRISON (C'16)

A QUEST FOR GROWTH: LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

In 2008, Early Childhood Principal **Dorothy (Harrison) Halverson** (C'85) was searching for ways to attract more families. Halverson recognized the pivotal role that Early Childhood played in shaping the future of Principia School. Parents were becoming increasingly discerning when selecting early learning and preschool programs for their children. These formative years lay the foundation for a lifetime of educational success, making the Early Childhood program a vital component in preparing students for their journey through the upper levels of the School.

As it turns out, Reggio Emilia emerged as a remarkable opportunity for Early Childhood.



REGGIO EMILIA COMES INTO PLAY

The Reggio Emilia program is a child-centered and collaborative approach to early childhood education. Originating in Reggio Emilia, Italy, it emphasizes the child's innate potential and curiosity. The natural environment is seen as a “third teacher,” designed to inspire exploration and creativity. Teachers act as co-learners, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving. The program values diverse “languages” of expression, including art, music, and movement, to encourage communication and understanding.

Collaboration among children, educators, parents, and the community is essential. The Reggio Emilia approach promotes a strong sense of community, self-expression, and lifelong love for learning, nurturing children's social and emotional development through play and creativity.





PRINCIPIA TERRAIN: A PLAYGROUND FOR CURIOSITY AND LEARNING

Children in Principia's Early Learning Center (ELC) and Preschool spend 80 percent of their time outdoors—rain or shine. Students as young as 18 months can be seen exploring Principia's 360-acre campus. What may look like a simple walk in the woods is actually an impactful educational opportunity.

Acorn teacher **Heather (Jenkins) Buchanan** (C'81) noted that, "It isn't just about playing outside. How do we extend that learning? We are a mediator in their learning. We are constantly prompting them to think deeper about what they are seeing, 'What would happen if . . . ?' 'Why do you think that is . . . ?'"

Louise and Ashley Cadwell, a pair of consultants specializing in the Reggio Emilia approach, worked with Principia for eight years, and noted what stands out about the faculty working in the program: "There are plenty of schools with access to beautiful woods. But the kids never go in. The teachers at Principia think nothing of putting on raincoats and boots and going for a walk in the woods. They'll stumble through the streams with the kids. It's fantastic."

"We can't teach our kids to sustain and care about our earth if they don't know about it," remarks Halverson.



A SHINING PROGRAM

Nine years into its Reggio Emilia implementation, the Early Childhood's classrooms and waitlists are full—a testament to the impact of the Reggio approach and Principia's stellar staff. Prospective families are drawn to the nature-inspired learning, collaboration, and sense of community among students, educators, and parents. Kara Moe, a parent with two children attending the ELC, noted that she was drawn to Principia by the big open spaces and natural light pouring into the classrooms, "I think that was the biggest difference from the other preschools that we toured. The kids had all of their nature masterpieces hanging in the hallways. I just loved that."

During Principia's time working with Cadwell Collaborative, Louise and Ashley Cadwell worked in partnership with the teachers to strategically arrange items to ignite students' curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. The transition involved a deliberate shift away from plastic toys and bins, favoring the use of natural materials to foster open-ended exploration.

In **Patti Matthys-Pearce's** (C'94) classroom, where she engages with infants and toddlers, the principles of Reggio Emilia are enthusiastically embraced. Matthys-Pearce watches as 12–24 month-olds take initiative in their learning, asking to take clay off a shelf and playing with it for long periods of time, totally enveloped in the play—a testament to the profound impact of these Reggio-inspired changes.





PRINCIPIA LEADING THE WAY

There is a remarkable connection of shared values between Mary Kimball Morgan, Mary Baker Eddy, and the founders of the Reggio Emilia approach. Each recognized the inherent potential and capabilities of children, embracing the conviction that they are capable learners from the very beginning—vessels already full and complete.

The Early Childhood program embodies the adage “imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.” Having garnered a reputation as an exceptional Reggio Emilia-inspired school, Principia is inspiring other schools around the world. When Cadwell Collaborative featured Principia in their blog, it caught the attention of an esteemed school in Brazil. Upon seeing the captivating photos and insights shared about Principia’s practices, they showcased it in their own outreach efforts.

Principia’s program has also made waves locally. The School’s innovative approach has piqued the interest of nearby universities and schools, prompting them to embark on tours and classroom observations. This resonance within the educational community stands as a testament to Principia’s remarkable impact and its role as a source of inspiration for educators worldwide.



LOVE AT THE CENTER

At the core of Principia's program is a deep sense of respect and love for each child. Halverson states that their mission is for every student to leave feeling loved. Kate Booher, an ELC parent, can attest to this. Booher herself is an educator and teaches in another local Reggio Emilia-inspired school in St. Louis. At Principia, she says, "The way they talk about my child, even on a hard day for him—they describe his interactions with so much love and empathy, and reassure me that whatever he is experiencing is a beautiful part of life. They really focus on his wonder and awe of nature. It is so evident in the videos and photos we see of him at school and the way he is exploring at home."

Louise Cadwell's profound words from her book, *Bringing Reggio Emilia Home: An Innovative Approach to Early Childhood Education*, strike a chord with the core philosophy at Principia's Early Learning program and Preschool. "Education begins the moment we see children as innately wise and capable beings. Only then can we play along in their world." The educators at Principia have wholeheartedly translated this principle into practice. Their mastery in creating an environment that recognizes and nurtures children's potential is evident in every aspect of the school. By engaging in the children's world, they have crafted a transformative learning experience that empowers young learners to thrive—and, above all, to feel deeply loved and valued. What more can you ask for these future leaders of our world? ■

DIVING INTO REGGIO'S ITALIAN ROOTS

Early Learning Center and Pre-school Principal Dorothy Halverson and Preschool/Lower School Art teacher/Atelierista **Louise Elmgren** (C'84), participated in "The Reggio Emilia Approach to Education" conference in Italy in April 2023. Over 400 educators from 27 different countries joined the 50-hour International Study Group—a deeper investigation of the concepts, values, and content learning of the Reggio Emilia Approach.

"We had the opportunity to connect with pedagogisti, atelieristi, administrators, and teachers who work in Reggio Emilia's infant-toddler centers and preschools," Dorothy remarked. What an extraordinary opportunity for Principia's educators to deepen their understanding and practice of the Reggio curriculum!

WHAT IS AN ATELIERISTA?

As an 'Atelierista', Louise Elmgren collaborates closely with classroom teachers, devising and facilitating learning experiences that complement classroom curricular learning. Elmgren works with the children in the atelier (art space) focusing on producing art through different mediums, embracing the idea that children have many languages of expression and ideas. At the Early Childhood level, Elmgren spends time with levels from infants through Preschool, observing how they interact with the materials and using their interests as inspiration for the next project.



Principia College Educational Studies

An Incubator for Future Leaders

STORY BY ERIC MORSE (US'90)

Something is afoot in Principia's Educational Studies department. While it offers just one of the College's majors, it has accounted for one of every six graduates since 2017—four times the national average. And beyond being merely popular, the program is proving to be an incubator for future leaders.

From School Corridors to Halls of Government

One such leader is **Marshall McCurties** (US'11, C'15), Head of Upper School at the Overlake School in Redmond, Washington. McCurties began his career under the mentorship of another Principia College graduate, **Scott Small** (US'93, C'97), the current Head of Upper School at Mary Institute-Country Day School (MICDS) in St. Louis. There, McCurties co-created the popular History of St. Louis class, which was recently awarded the American Historical Association's Beveridge Family Teaching Prize.

Small and McCurties are anything but outliers. The list of impactful pre-K-to-grade-12 educators produced by Principia's program is long, and includes McCurties's classmate **Kendall Shoemake** (C'15), Assistant Head of School at Berkeley Hall School; **Amy Holt Cline** (US'93, C'97), who leads the Innovation Lab at Annapolis, Maryland's Key School; **Tamara (Sheesley) Balis** (US'89, C'93) (profiled in "Inspired With A Desire To Serve", p. 27), co-founder and director of Greenspring Montessori in Maryland; and **Dr. Amy Patzlaff** (C'93) and **Janet Taylor** (C'83), the Head of School and Assistant Head of School at Clairbourn School in Los Angeles.

Today, Ed. Studies graduates in such diverse fields as **Alice Stanley** (C'10), a writer for movies, television, and podcasts; and **Caroline Morales** (C'17), an administrator

at the Smithsonian Institute; trace their beginnings back to their Principia College Education degrees. "The Education department pushed me further than I thought I could go," chimes in labor leader **Sara Nelson** (C'95).

Expanding the Notion

If the program has borne fruit, Principia's motto, "As the sowing the reaping," may be a key to its success. It takes outstanding educators to produce stand-out graduates, and the faculty brings a diverse range of backgrounds to sow the seeds of success in their students.

Designed by restless innovators and multifaceted educators, the program provides transferable skills and real world training.

It wasn't always so, however. The curriculum underwent a substantial shift just over a decade ago, transitioning from a focus on teacher training and credentialing to a broad-based pedagogical approach. Today, the program is based on a two-track model—pedagogy and practice—that sits atop a Gen. Ed. core. Partnering with multiple other departments, the Ed. Studies program emphasizes experiential learning and interdisciplinary study, imparting important transferable skills—such as collaboration, communication, facilitation, and leadership—to students in other majors throughout the College.

As summarized by McCurties, "They are expanding the notion of what it means to be an educator."

Experiential Education: "A Special Way of Learning"

It fell to two ambitious and unorthodox faculty members to redesign the curriculum from the ground up. They espoused outside-the-box ideas and outside-the-classroom methods.

Dr. Nikki (Nicolet) Gamrath (US'93, C'97) and **Dr. Lauren Stewart** (US'94, C'98) both came to teaching via unusual routes. The pair of educators exude a down-to-earth manner that eschews ivory-tower intellectualism, and their commitment to experiential education produces uniquely prepared graduates.

In conversation, Gamrath has the laid-back lilt of a person who spent three years sailing the Western Hemisphere. Get her going on the topic of education, however, and her tone shifts, her focus tightens, and out comes the passionate change agent who hasn't wasted a moment of her time spent on dry land.

She has been a teacher on a Native American reservation, Vice President of Education for Teton Science Schools, Head of School at Berkeley Hall in California, and somehow found time to earn her doctorate in education. But for the Suquamish, Washington native, returning to Principia feels like a homecoming.

"I can honestly say that, given all the experiences I've had, I'm back at Principia because that's where I've had the most impact," Gamrath says.



Dr. Lauren Stewart



Stephanie Lovseth



Dr. Nikki Gamrath


**Principia College
Educational Studies
Department**



Dr. Carol Burbee



Dr. Galen Benson



“I arrived on campus and I could just feel the love. I said, ‘Wow, this is a special place.’” —Dr. Galen Benson

Stewart shares Gamrath’s experiential ethos. A biology major at Principia College, she points to beloved Upper School biology teacher **Ted Munnecke** (C’57) as “the most influential person in [her] educational trajectory.” After struggling in conventional classroom settings, an Upper School marine biology trip sparked Stewart’s lifelong love of learning—and laid the groundwork for her highly effective brand of teaching.

“On that trip, my sense of myself as a learner completely changed,” Stewart recalls. “It had to do with the experiential nature of that trip—it flipped from ‘I’m struggling with learning’ to ‘I have a special way of learning.’”

That special way of learning has become a passionate career. With four advanced degrees spanning biology and education, Dr. Stewart is a fierce advocate for experiential learning and producing experiential educators: “What I cherish in both fields is the experiential nature of education—meeting the needs of multiple different types of learners.”

When Dr. Gamrath and Dr. Stewart undertook the challenge of reimagining Principia’s Educational Studies program, “emphasizing the experiential aspect was key.” Stewart elaborates, “Whoever is doing the most work is doing the most learning. For me that means giving students the opportunity to investigate a topic, work collaboratively, and explore things they find authentic and meaningful.”

Outside Perspectives—from Inside the Big House

While Gamrath and Stewart were taking the classroom outside, **Dr. Galen Benson** (C’89) was teaching on the Inside.

Nine years teaching in the confinement of one of Colorado’s most dangerous prisons is not the kind of captive audience most educators hope for, but Benson describes it as rewarding and resoundingly successful. The State prison GED program became the second highest-pro-

ducing program in Colorado, with a graduation rate just behind the state’s community colleges.

Benson’s work as an educator and communicator got noticed. He was recruited into an FBI crisis and hostage negotiation training program, alongside SWAT, DEA, and FBI agents. “I was incredibly honored,” Benson says. “It was the most fun training I’ve ever had.”

After teaching in prisons, Principia came as a revelation: “I arrived on campus and I could just feel the love. I said ‘Wow, this is a special place.’”

Benson reflects on his unique preparation: “What I learned from teaching in the prisons and on the crisis negotiation team set me up to be able to teach this program at Principia,” he says. “I’m bringing in outside perspectives; I’ve learned how to build rapport, trust, teamwork, collaboration, and ease tension, and I’m able to teach those ideas to the students—skills that are needed after college in their careers.”

“I have the utmost respect and praise for the Educational Studies department at Principia . . .



“Liberating Education” with Global Perspectives

If Principia’s program produces graduates with wide, global perspectives, department Chair **Stephanie (Rader) Lovseth** (C’05) and **Dr. Carol Burbee** deserve much of the credit.

Wearing multiple hats, Lovseth epitomizes the “T-shaped” professionals—broadly knowledgeable and deeply capable—that the department is known for: In addition to being the Chair of the Educational Studies Department, she is also Director of Principia’s Study Abroad program, approaching both assignments with an energy that is as focused as it is infectious.

A former director of the 100 Elk Outdoor Education program with a masters in comparative and international education, and currently pursuing a PhD in sustainability education, Lovseth embodies the interdisciplinary liberal arts ideal that her department espouses.

“The program is based on the liberal arts model,” she explains. “It’s interdisciplin-

ary—more than half of our Ed. Studies majors have an additional major or minor. That helps them be effortless in graduate school.”

Alongside world traveler Nikki Gamrath and international educator Stephanie Lovseth, Dr. Carol Burbee is a bit of both.

“I worked in education for a long time, but never fit well. I tended to focus on the whole child and struggled with the restraining aspects of traditional school culture,” Burbee explains.

Enter Principia College. After years teaching at the British Columbia preschool which she founded and ran, Burbee had a “mid-career shift in thought” that altered her path and led her to Principia.

That path was anything but straight, however. After returning to graduate school to earn her advanced degrees, Burbee left to travel the world with her husband. They’d made it as far as Spain when the phone rang. “I was in an apartment in southern Spain when I did my job interview. I got the offer in Mallorca,” Burbee recalls. “I said to my husband, ‘I guess we’re not returning to Canada like we expected!’”

... it has prepared me for my career and benefited me so much.”

—Kendall Shoemake

The educator who chafed within rigid school structures found a home at Principia College. “Principia has been exciting. It’s a total paradigm shift. The students are so bright—really good thinkers.”

Burbee is a passionate practitioner of “liberating education.” “If the ‘whole man’ is in front of me, I can expect excellent work. If you’re valuing the learning and the understanding and letting go of the developmental markers that say you’re behind or ahead, we can all just enjoy learning. That to me is the right source of education.”

The “Multiplier Effect”

Interdisciplinary, globally-minded, future-ready—the program is many things, but one thing it’s not: a cakewalk. Alumni like Kendall Shoemake, also pursuing a doctorate, concur: “I was so well prepared for graduate school, it barely seemed challenging. I was so far ahead!”

Leading a prestigious school while pursuing a doctorate may sound like a lot to handle, but for the multitasked, preeminently prepared products of Principia’s Ed. Studies program, it’s par for the course.

“Principia gave me the skills to

navigate my own narrative. Leadership strategies, gathering feedback, intentional reflection of how you show up as a team member and leader—being able to leverage those has been hugely helpful in my career. I have the utmost respect and praise for the Educational Studies department at Principia. It has prepared me for my career and benefited me so much.”

Summarizing the faculty’s approach to educating educators, Nikki Gamrath says, “I call it the multiplier effect—when I feel I’ve impacted an educator to go out and be a healer and transform the world, they are touching more lives in impactful ways.”

SHARING LIGHT IN THE *LAND OF THE RISING SUN*

STORY BY KRISTIN MANKER (US'13, C'17)

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PLL TRAVELERS



In the bustling districts of Tokyo, one word can be heard emanating from restaurants, shops, and videogame parlors: *Irasshaimase!*—Welcome!

Japan welcomed 55 Principia Lifelong Learning (PLL) travelers this past April on a 10-night cruise that began and ended in Tokyo. The island country brought out her best for the Principians and their friends. Cherry blossoms framed the scene, and even Mount Fuji emerged from cloud cover to give the travelers a clear view of her summit. The passengers explored the country, docking at well-known cities and forging their way forward. There


was plenty to do!

In Kyoto, the original capital, travelers drank in Japan's history, visiting gardens, castles, and temples. Kochi offered a Japanese paper-making experience in a village tucked away in the mountains, and our explorers left with washi paper souvenirs. Hiroshima and Nagasaki allowed the group a moment of reflection at the Peace Memorial parks and the Genbaku Dome—the only building left standing after the devastating atomic blast of 1945. And when excursions into town brought more questions than answers, trip scholar **Dr. Marie Jureit-Beamish** (HON'14) helped fill in the gaps.

To prepare the scholars to take advantage of such an incredible trip, Dr. Jureit-Beamish gave several lectures detailing Japan's history and culture, transforming these travelers from passive observers to active adventurers.

"The PLL trip provides on-site, tangible learning that cannot be accomplished just by reading a book or going to a movie. The benefit of having somebody helping guide that learning turns it into more than just a tourist trip," says Dr. Jureit-Beamish. "I feel the benefit of having people together with a shared interest in learning more, rather than just going on a trip, is very important."

Itoko-dori is a concept deeply entrenched in the cultural identity of Japan, which can be translated as "picking the best parts." It references the adoption of elements from foreign cultures into the Japanese lifestyle and psyche. This cultural exchange is a lesson not easily taught in the classroom, and something our adventurers embraced.

While forging relationships on the sea and in the cities, and experiencing everything the island-country has to offer, our PLL travelers reminded us that we are all strengthened by sharing our experiences. 



READY TO EXPLORE?

Adventure awaits with Principia Lifelong Learning

SUMMER SESSION IN ELSAH, IL

June 15–23, 2024

NORWEGIAN FJORDS & MIDNIGHT SUN

July 7–17, 2024

DANUBE DELIGHTS WITH PRAGUE

July 23–August 2, 2024

NORTHERN ITALY IMMERSION 1

September 20–28, 2024

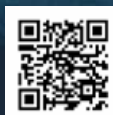
NORTHERN ITALY IMMERSION 2

September 27–October 5, 2024

Find your next adventure at principia.edu/pll.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can purchase travel insurance through Principia's partner, Travel Insurance Services, to protect your investment on any trip you take! You'll get peace of mind, and it 'gives back' to your alma mater. **Learn more:**





Incredible Principia Family!

This year has been filled with celebrations, adventures, and learning. What fun it was to welcome our 2023 graduates into the Principia alumni family this May, gather to celebrate Principia’s quasiquicentennial (125 years), learn together at Summer Session on the College campus, and travel from land to the sea and from the rails to

the rivers on five Principia Lifelong Learning (PLL) trips! And the festivities are far from over!

Our quasiquicentennial celebrations will carry on throughout the fall season, and we want you to be represented. Contribute your photo(s) to our commemorative mosaic at principia.edu/125progress. More than 2,000 photos have been added, and your images will be a testament to the enduring spirit of our community and rich history.

On the topic of celebrating, Principia’s Alumni Association Board (AAB) invites you to nominate and recognize outstanding Principians. Two new alumni awards have just been introduced—the Young Alumni Award and the 1906 Alumni Achievement Award! Join us in recognizing and nominating fellow alumni who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, and dedication to their fields. Please

submit your nominations for the new awards, in addition to the David K. Andrews Distinguished Alumni Award and the Gold & Blue Athletic Hall of Fame Award at principiaalumni.org/awards.

YOU are an integral part of what makes Principia special, and we can’t wait to see you at our upcoming events—whether at the College Gold & Blue Weekend (Homecoming and Family Celebration), on a PLL trip, at an upcoming virtual gathering, or at one of our future 125-year celebration events!

With gratitude!

Merrilee McFarland (US’99, C’03)
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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

When the Movie Star is a Painting: A Q&A with Painter Brian Colley (C'03)



Directors of Owen Wilson's new comedy *Paint*—about a Bob Ross-inspired painter locked in a generational battle with an edgy young star named Ambrosia—knew the paintings themselves would play a starring role. In search of a painter with a sense of imagination and whimsy—and versatile range—they called artist **Brian Colley (C'03)** to produce the centerpiece works. Colley sat down to talk with *the Purpose* about the experience.

Q: What was it like creating art pieces for a Hollywood movie? How much artistic freedom did you have?

A: It was definitely enjoyable, but it wasn't quite what I was expecting. Because it was an independent film, the timeframe was really tight. The director, Brit McAdams, had a really good vision for what he wanted. But the actual composition was pretty much up to me. The character I painted for has these wild ideas, which gave me some fun freedom. They sent me some pieces of the script, and I came up with a few thumbnail sketches for them to pick from. It was a really positive experience.

Q: How much of your painting style overlapped with Ambrosia's? Did it feel like a natural extension of what you already do?

A: In the movie, all of Ambrosia's work came from left field, and she was hired by the TV station to kind of

shake things up. It was perfect because I feel like I've always been making crazy art. I remember at Principia making flying ships that were flying off the bluffs into the floodplain below, or giant chickens in the farm-capes. She's painting things like UFOs and dinosaurs attacking Atlantis, and just remarkably, wonderfully crazy things that felt very natural to me. It felt natural to put my imagination there.

Q: How does it feel seeing your pieces in the movie — especially the UFO piece, which has a prominent role in the film?

A: It's just exhilarating and very surreal, to see it there and know millions of people are seeing the same thing. The moment where this UFO painting is basically full screen, they zoom in on it for a quick second. When we were showing it in the theater, we were yelling and screaming at that part. It was an amazing feeling.

SCHOOL

US'56

Larry Luttrell joyfully reunited with classmate **Nick Priest** last summer. Despite the absence of his iconic blue suede shoes and duck-tail haircut, Nick's captivating smile and vibrant personality remained undiminished. Larry eagerly looks forward to future meetings with his cherished friend.

Four college alums gathered at River Creek Club in Leesburg, Virginia for the first time since graduation: **Marilyn (Burnap) Hanzlik**, **Ray Hanzlik** (US'56, C'60), **Susan (Ehart) McCandless** (C'80), **Peter McCandless** (US'54, C'58).

US'66

Shirley (Thomas) Paulson (also C'70), **Jean Perkins** (also C'70), **Helen (Hindmarsh) Mathis** (C'70), **Linda (Hinshaw) Bargmann** (C'74), and **Hilary (Hamilton) Barner** (US'65, C'69) recently gathered at Shirley's home in Keystone, Colorado. Shirley hosted the event to thank her friends for their assistance with her two recently published books. *Illuminating the Secret Revelation of John: Catching the Light* is Shirley's book explaining one of the texts discovered in Nag Hammadi, Egypt in 1945, with Hilary contributing to the editing. Additionally, Shirley, Helen, and Linda collaborated on *An Annotated Bibliography of Academic and Other Literature on Christian Science*, a labor of love years in the making. With perfect weather as the backdrop, the true highlight was the cherished time spent together, engaging in meaningful conversations.

US'67

Cynthia Ziegler and **Linda (Adkinson) Callan**, best buds in high school, got together recently in Palm Springs, California. Cynthia also had dinner recently with **Carrie** and **Marty Nethery** (US '66) near Palm Springs.

US'74

Grant Newsham (also C'79) recently published *When China Attacks: A Warning to America*. It's his take on China after 40 years in the Asia-Pacific with the Marines, the Foreign Service, and the private sector. He is grateful to professors such as Dr. James Belote who encouraged his interest in history and foreign affairs way back when.

Janet (Edwards) Womack and **Laura (Groby) McCullough** and families got together at the beach for a day of fun.

COLLEGE

C'72

Philip Smith published a new book titled *Mother of the Company, Sgt. Percy M. Smith's World War II Reflections*. "In contrast with military training and masculine expectations, these memories of wartime contain strong instances of comfort and caring that sometimes turn the gender cliché of war and male camaraderie on its head. If we ask what constitutes a good soldier, a good survival, and a worthy life, Sgt. Smith's answer, as suggested in his letters and stories, might encompass the greater value and life-fostering instincts as a part of healing the damage left behind by the life-taking experience of war." *Mother of the Company* is available now on Amazon or from the publisher, Texas A&M University Press. Philip has retired from the Department of History at Texas A&M and moved to Alton, Illinois.

C'75

Becky (Radcliffe) Bosak wrote us about her friend and classmate, **Joan (Gould) Litzkow** (C'76). While Joan retired from teaching a few years ago, Becky is excited to share how Joan dedicates her time to serving underprivileged families as Director at the Rise Up Academy. Her remarkable

journey was recently written up in the Everett, Washington *Herald*. Joan may not boast about her accomplishments, but Becky will proudly celebrate her tremendous impact!

C'79

Jeff Bonvallat, **Dan Kistler**, **Mark Carley** (C'80), and **Tom Leever** (C'80) embarked on a trip to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks in June 2023. They spent three nights at Yellowstone and one night at the Grand Tetons, reveling in the stunning scenery, geological wonders, and abundant wildlife. Their encounters included grizzly and black bears, wolves, elk, moose, Sandhill cranes, nesting blue herons, coyotes, and countless bison crossings. This marked the seventh trek for this Ferguson crew since their first one in 1981.

Val (Viarengo) Davia recently returned from her third trip to Nepal. Her three-and-a-half month stay was part of her work with Sherpa Education, headquartered in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, where Val lives with her husband Warren Luce. The project funds schooling for girls in the Khumbu region that encompasses Mount Everest. Val and other board members visited the families in their village homes, stayed in a local monastery, and trekked towards Everest. The past couple of years, Val has also been leading the resettlement of an Afghan family into her hometown.

C'81

Sam Landes, his wife, **Dr. Cornelia Cho**, and **Leslie (Elliott) Richardson** (C'83), accompanied by her husband Kimo, reunited in Savannah, Georgia to meet **David Cheezem** (C'82) as he embarked on a bike trip from Florida to Bath, Maine. While Leslie resides in Blairsville, Georgia, and Sam calls Marietta, Georgia home, their shared connection brought them together for this memorable reunion.

C'82

In October, **Richard Crandell**, **Mike Rechlin** (FS'02), **Nancy Boyer-Rechlin** (US'66, C'70), and **Carol (Christenson) Eberlein** (US'73) embarked on an awe-inspiring trek on the challenging Jomolhari Loop Trail in the Himalayan Mountains. Alongside them for a cultural tour were **Mary (Cramer) Kenyon** (US'62), **Marcelle (Marsh) Pearson** (US'77, C'81), and **Timathea (Shays) Workman** (C'83). The journey encompassed visits to cultural sites in this remote Buddhist kingdom, immersing in warm hospitality, rich traditions, and thriving customs. A memorable highlight included a hike to the renowned Tiger's Nest Monastery (Taktsang Gompa), a UNESCO World Heritage site.

C'83

Mark McClintick and **Rachel McClintick** bought a house and land next to their current property, increasing the total to 12 acres on the Hilo side of the Big Island of Hawaii. They are growing all sorts of fruits, greens, veggies, as well as native plants and trees. Check out more at alohagardenofpeace.com.

C'87

William 'Wim' Brown embarked on a remarkable journey after becoming a police officer in Florida and later joining the DEA. He made history as the first DEA agent to portray himself in a National Geographic special, showcasing his partnership in the capture of the notorious Russian arms dealer, Viktor Bout. Notably, Viktor Bout was recently released from custody in exchange for Britney Griner, a female professional basketball player arrested in Russia. Wim's second act takes him to Africa, where he leads an anti-poaching enforcement agency alongside retired federal and international law enforcement agents.

C'96

Kathy (Jessen) and John (Biggar) Sierra (also US'92), residing near San Francisco, are both educators and maintain connections with fellow alumni. In January, Kathy, along with her Celtic-music trio, Golden Bough, participated in the cherished tradition of honoring the poetry and legacy of Robert Burns, known as "Scotland's Favorite Son." Additionally, their daughter Savannah (US'24) attends Principia Upper School.

C'07

Maggie Shaffer writes: I didn't graduate from Prin, but the things I learned truly set me up for success. My small family and I now live in Boston where I teach ballet, have a small online research and marketing company, and my son, Porter, is a Camp Leelanau attendee and a future Principia alum. My sister, **Theresa Shaffer** (C'10), attended Principia, and she too is thriving and has nothing but the utmost highest affections for what we gained. I love walking in this life knowing that I am always truly in my right place, surrounded by Love.

C'12

Diana (Nash) Boro (US'07, C'12) recently released her debut children's book, *Slothie*, which draws inspiration from her daughter's affection for a traveling stuffed sloth and her overall adoration for sloths. The story takes readers on an unforgettable journey to Costa Rica, where a little girl and her cuddly companion discover the enchanting magic that brings the sloth to life. Through their adventure, they learn that true happiness and a sense of belonging are the most precious treasures in life. *Slothie* is available online through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and the publisher, Author-House. A significant 10% of the book's proceeds will be donated to the Sloth Sanctuary in Costa Rica. For autographed copies, connect with Diana

on her Instagram: @sproutedwithlove. Diana currently resides in Seattle, Washington, with her husband, **David** (C'11), their daughter Nova, son Lovie King, and are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their third child this fall.

Nathan Gotch is nearing the impressive 10-year mark as the founder of Gotch SEO. His bootstrapped company has reached seven-figure annual revenue, providing SEO training and helping countless businesses achieve #1 rankings on Google. Nathan's expertise is showcased on MSN, Entrepreneur.com, and Huffington Post, while his engaging content on Gotch SEO, YouTube, and social media attracts over two million users annually.

Correction from last issue:

In the Alumni Scene section of the Winter 2023 Purpose, Christina Mahihu (US'03, C'07) was misrepresented as Muthoni Kimani.



What's Ahead?

**FIND OUT ABOUT
UPCOMING
PRINCIPIA EVENTS**





1 Nathan Wood (US'16, C'20) married Madison Ouellette (C'19) on July 23 at the Wood family farm in Door County, Wisconsin. Front row: Kyrie Vesely (C'19), Brittany Ouellette (C'20), Leigh Anne Weathers (US'15, C'19), Leah Schaefer (C'19), Madison Ouellette (C'19), Nathan Wood (US'16, C'20), Kayleigh Wood (US'13)
Second row: Robin Gamrath-Schauman (US'94, C'98), Jennifer (Wilson) Wood (C'92), Paige Ouellette (US'23), Annika (Fredrikson) Ouellette (US'12, C'16), Chloe Ouellette (US'20), Ashley Grindstaff (C'20), Rebecca Bailey (C'20), George Agai (US'16, C'21), Jordan Jones (US'15, C'19), Kent Bergeson (US'13, C'17), Cameron Wood (US'17, C'21), Will Adler (C'20), Stephen Strong (C'20), Ryan Eisenauer (US'16, C'20), Dylan Hanser (US'16), Aaron Marczi (C'20)
Third row: Chris Wood (C'95), Karyn (Wood) Stroschein (C'03), Christy (Wood) Woods (US'73), Tom Wood (C'91), Courtlyn Reekstin (US'15, C'19), Alexa Ouellette (US'19), Zeke Ouellette (C'18), Tyler Winterbottom (US'16, C'20), Dan Kistler (C'79), Andrew Kistler (C'18), Luke McCutcheon (US'17, C'21), Sean Hannan (US'16, C'20), Denny Veidelis (US'17, C'21), Colin Saad (US'16), Andrew Schueler (US'16)



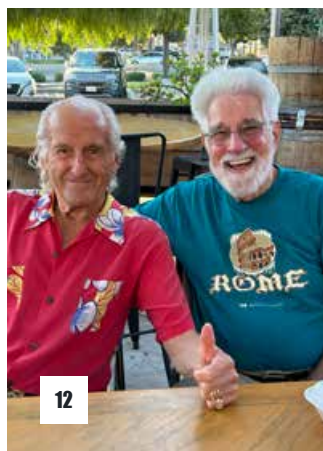
2 Mark Carley (C'80), Jeff Bonvallat (C'79), Tom Leever (C'80) and Dan Kistler (C'79)
3 Cynthia Ziegler (US'67) had dinner recently with Carrie and Marty (US'66) Nethery near Palm Springs, California
4 Kathy (Jessen, C'96) and John (Biggar) Sierra (US'92, C'96)
5 Diana (Nash) Boro (US'07, C'12) poses proudly with her recently released debut children's book.



6 Janet (Edwards) Womack (US'74) and Laura (Groby) McCullough (US'74) and families got together at the beach for a day of fun.
7 A memorable reunion. From left to right: Sam Landes (C'81), David Cheezem (C'82) on the bike, Leslie (Elliott) Richardson (C'83)



8 Cameron Wood (US'17, C'21) married Rachel Smith (C'17) on October 30 in Round Rock, Texas. Principians in attendance were: Nathan Wood (US'16, C'20), Madison (Ouellette) Wood (C'19), Kent Bergeson (US'13, C'17), Kayleigh Wood (US'13), Tom Wood (C'91), Jennifer (Wilson) Wood (C'92), Cameron Wood (US'17, C'21), Rachel Smith (C'17 one-year enrichment), Wendy Smith, Johannes Smith, Hannah Smith (C'22), Becky Smith



9 Marilyn (Burnap) Hanzlik (US'56), Ray Hanzlik (US'56, C'60), Susan (Ehart) McCandless (C'80), Peter McCandless (US'54, C'58)



10 Shirley (Thomas) Paulson (US'66, C'70), Jean Perkins (US'66, C'70), Helen (Hindmarsh) Mathis (C'70), Hilary (Hamilton) Barner (US'65, C'69), and Linda (Hinshaw) Bargmann (C'74)

11 Cynthia Ziegler (US'67) and Linda (Adkinson) Callan (US'67)

12 Nick Priest (US'56) and Larry Luttrell (US'56)



13 Kayleigh Wood (US'13) married Kent Bergeson (US'13, C'17) on September 18 at a beautiful barn in Columbia, IL. Principians in attendance were: Tiffany (Thomas) Randolph (US'82, C'86), Sharon (Bond) Cheatham (US'74, C'78), Paul Hulen (US'87), Missy (McGinnis) Hulen (US'87), Kathy (Dunn) Lovegren (C'76), Paul Lovegren (US'71, C'75), Mike Griswold (US'80), Maria (Stocking) Griswold (US'81), Sheila Alioto (FS'01), Robin Gamrath-Schauman (US'94, C'98), Reid Schauman, Derek Schauman, Karyn (Wood) Stroschein (C'03), Chris Wood (C'95), Jane (Hack) Chaplin (US'74, C'78), Bill Chaplin (C'79), Tom Wood (C'91), Jennifer (Wilson) Wood (C'92), Stephen Hanlin (US'13, C'17), Candice (Brinkley) Klierer (C'22), Nancy (Hack) Brinkley (US'79, C'83), Genevieve Bergeson (US'08, C'12), Jordan Jenkins, Kristin Manker (US'13, C'17), Claire Douglas (US'13), Hayden (Fulton) Tinsley (C'11), Anne (Hedgepeth) Banaskavich (C'86), Lici Steele (US'14), Rachel (Smith) Wood (C'17), Cameron Wood (US'17, C'21), Christy (Wood) Woods (US'73), Heather Wilson (C'88), Jackson Walker (C'17), Peter Tinsley, Devin Anglin (C'17), David Walters (C'83), Laurel (Shaper) Walters (C'84), Madison (Ouellette) Wood (C'19), Nathan Wood (US'16, C'20), Sammy Keyes (US'16, C'20)



14



15

14 Rainbow over Rachel McClintick (C'83) and Mark McClintick's (C'83) Aloha Garden of Peace

15 Grant Newsham (US'74, C'79)

16 Nathan Gotch (C'12)

17 Principians Richard Crandell (C'82), Carol Christenson Eberlein (US'73), Mike Rechlin (former faculty), Marcelle Marsh Pearson (US'77, C'81), and Timathea Shays Workman (C'83) at the Tiger's Nest Monastery in Bhutan

18 Val Davia (C'79) in Nepal



16



17

19 Wim Brown (C'87), right, taking Viktor Bout into U.S. custody in 2010

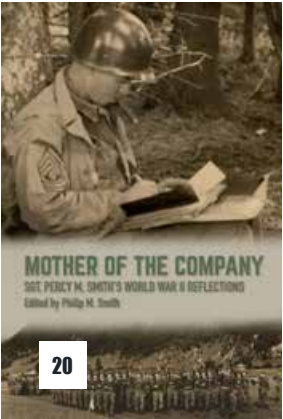
20 Mother of the Company, edited and published by Philip Smith (C'72)



18



19



20

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Reunion

WHO'S CELEBRATING?

10th: 2014, 2015

20th: 2004, 2005

25th: 1999, 2000

30th: 1994, 1995

35th: 1989, 1990

40th: 1984, 1985

45th: 1979, 1980

50th: 1974, 1975

55th: 1969, 1970

60th: 1964, 1965

65th: 1959, 1960, JC'57, JC'58

70th: 1954, 1955, JC'52, JC'53

Affinity Reunions:

- International Alumni
- Howard House Alumni

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principiaalumni.org/collegereunion



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We welcome your news and photographs. Items for the next issue are due **December 8, 2023**. Please follow these submission guidelines:

NEWS

Please provide first and last names for all Principia alumni mentioned in the news you share. Principia reserves the right to edit and abbreviate news submissions.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Please provide first and last names of all those pictured and indicate who attended Principia. Photographs that are low resolution, dark, out of focus, or grainy usually cannot be used. Even images that look fine on a computer screen may not work well in print.

Please submit all images as the original JPEG. We will take care of any photo touchup or resizing that is needed. Do not submit photos that have been dropped into Word documents, PDFs, PowerPoint presentations, etc.

Please make every effort to submit a digital image that meets these specifications:

- **DIGITAL PHOTOS**
Please ensure that your camera or smartphone is set to the highest possible image-quality setting.
- **SCANNED PRINTS**
Please scan all printed images at a minimum setting of 300 dpi. (Occasionally, smaller images are usable.)

Materials sent by mail will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The *Purpose* accepts no responsibility for unsolicited artwork or photographs.

Email submissions to alum@principia.edu or post your news at principiaalumni.org/classnotes. Send submissions via mail to *Principia Purpose* at this address:

The Principia
13201 Clayton Road
St. Louis, MO 63131

Lovingly Remembered

Ella "Jackie" (Jack) Clarke (US'29)

Helen (Rosenberg) Rubens (LS'32)

Bruce G. McCauley (C'43)

Dorothy "Dee" (Bierly) Clark (US'44)

Joyce (Baker) Samuel (US'45, JC'48)

Nancy (McKirnan) Springer (JC'49)

Holly (Walpole) Althaver (C'52)

Robert L. Duntley (C'55)

William "Bill" A. Groenekamp (C'55)

Cary (Ambler) Boggs (US'52, C'56)
Former Faculty/Staff

Penelope "Penny" (Schroeder) Hoopes (US'58)

Wilma (Stokes) Robbins (C'59)

Forrest O. Glas (US'60)

Walter "Bud" M. Bohn (C'61)

Marilyn (Snyder) Harlan (C'61)

Gay (Johler) von Lutzow (C'63)

Mary (Van Urk) Gottschalk (US'59, C'64)

Philip "Phil" A. Roe (C'64)

Brooks F. Benjamin (US'61, C'65)
Former Faculty/Staff

Robert K. Laub (US'65)

David G. Winsby (US'61, C'65)

Patricia (Goddard) Hicks (C'67)

Claire (Biesterfeldt) McCarty (US'69)

Douglas "Doug" D. Lyons (US'65, C'69)

Roberta (Goodman) Day (US'70)
Former Faculty/Staff

Susan "Susi" (DeWindt) Talkington (US'67, C'71)

Kent Fulton (US'68, C'72)

Janet "Jan" M. Lee (C'72)

L. "Channing" C. Walker (C'72)

Laurie (Thomas) Spry (C'74)

Bruce A. Foxworth (US'75)

David B. Andrews (US'72, C'76)

Peter B. Balch (US'79)

Christopher "Chris" C. Barrett (C'79)

Skip K. Franklin (C'79)

James "Daniel" Brantingham (C'88)
Former Faculty/Staff

Susan "Suzi" (Paulley) Shutt (C'90)
Former Faculty/Staff

James "Jim" D. Heath (C'94)

Kristen (Bernhard) Biggs (US'93, C'98)

Sherry (Benzamin) Hopkins (C'99)

Robert "Rob" L. Moyle (US'00, C'04)

Former Faculty/Staff

Jean C. McKean (FS'73)

Roger W. Batz (FS'74)

Suzanne "Suzie" (Keller) Goewert (FS'89)



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