# PRINCIPIA PURPOSE

SPRING 2024

# *Educational* Innovation

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#### **"THE PRINCIPIA DIFFERENCE"**

125 years on, the 'whole person' is still pushing the envelope p. 32

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## PRINCIPIA PURPOSE

SPRING 2024 | ISSUE 389

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

**EXECUTIVE EDITOR** Marla Sammuli

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR Eric Morse (US'90)

STAFF WRITERS Georgia Mae (Hurley) Harrison (C'16) Kristin Manker (US'13, C'17)

SENIOR CREATIVE DIRECTOR Ben Schaberg (C'13)

SENIOR ART DIRECTOR Christina (Hunt) Locke (C'08)

DIRECTOR OF MULTIMEDIA Eric Lines (US'04, C'08)

**OPERATIONS/PROJECT MANAGER** Samantha (Nichols) Schaberg (C'14)

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Kathy (Tobiasen) Coyne (US'83, C'87) Dr. Ronald Plotka, DDS (C'65) Dr. Clint Staley (C'80) Laurel Shaper Walters (US'84)

**STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER** Sarah Geis (C'21)

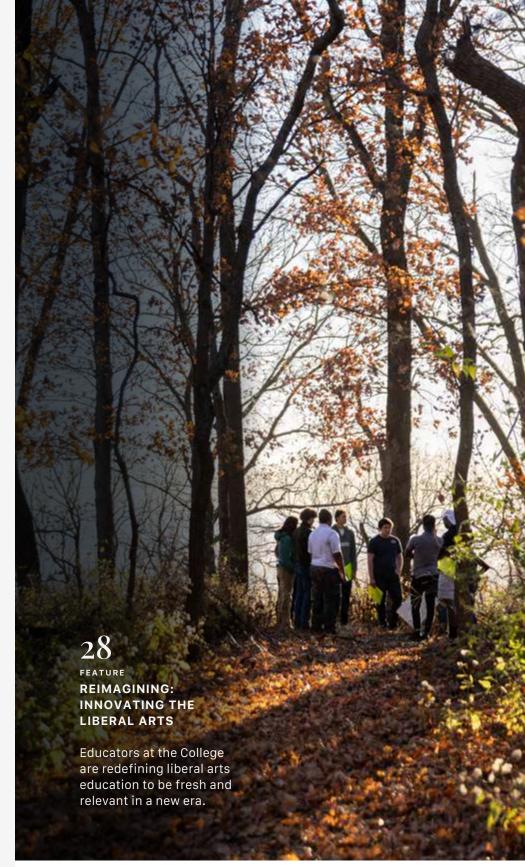
#### CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Chris Ajuoga (C'24) Carly Hendrickson (C'10) Bishoppe Kamusinga (US'11, C'16) Edwin Kodero (C'25) Carolina Vilcapoma (C'22) Duncan Wilder (US'08, C'12)

#### CONTACT US

Central Marketing 13201 Clayton Road St. Louis, MO 63131 purpose@principia.edu principiapurpose.org

Principia Purpose



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## Springing Forward in the Next Century

BY BARBARA BLACKWELL (HON'22) Chief Executive

Happy spring! The days are growing longer and the trees are beginning to bud. Principia, too, is experiencing renewal, and the pages that follow will help catch you up on progress and developments from Early Childhood through College—and our Lifelong Learning program.

What lies ahead for Principia? An institution that continues to demonstrate its Christian Science foundation by seeing the members of its community as unlimited children of God—wholly good, capable, and intelligent.

A School and College fully demonstrating their collective ability to educate students of all ages through innovative, rigorous, and relevant curricula.

Two beautiful campuses with continuously upgraded facilities to meet the needs of today while remaining steeped in our rich history.

And a diverse tapestry of community members who value our unique approach and have felt the power of the Christ-idea in education, responding to it with their own desire to use a Principia education for the betterment of humanity. We invite you to share in this vision as we build Principia's future—on a boundless basis!

On the facing page and p. 36, you can read about the early results of master planning last year. The data, reports, and design principles coming out of this work provide a framework for decisions about the future of both campuses for the next 10–20 years. The master planning efforts yielded multiple exciting



hosting Principia Forward webinars so alumni and friends can hear directly from those leading these transformational plans.

Our alumni continue to inspire with their creative ability to innovate in this rapidly evolving world of technology. Meet a sampling of them on p. 22 and more online at **principiapurpose.org**.

So, dive in! This issue is a bigpicture window into all that is happening across Principia, and it's

"What lies ahead for Principia? An institution that continues to demonstrate its Christian Science foundation by seeing the members of its community as unlimited children of God."

concepts and options for the decades to come, and we will be launching the first phase of projects over the next two years.

At the same time, the School and College academic teams are working hard to refresh the curriculum at all levels. Later this spring, we will be a great way for you to stay current. Principia is picking up the pace to meet the needs of today's students academically, spiritually, physically, socially, and morally. Here's to the next century!

# A FRAMEWORK FOR THE FUTURE

"I find that progress is essential mentally before there can be any externalization of real progress. If I excavate and lay the foundation for a bungalow, I cannot use that foundation for a skyscraper. I must think 'skyscraper' and adjust my thought to its size and demands."

(Education at The Principia, p. 92)

When Principia founder Mary Kimball Morgan shared these insights with faculty and staff in 1923, she knew that Principia's future success required enlarged vision, inspired foresight, and prayerful planning. This remains just as true today.

A dual-campus master planning initiative throughout the 2022–23 academic year provided ample opportunity for mental excavating and exalted thinking. Faculty, staff, administrators, and students on both campuses worked with planning and design firm Christner Architects to envision the future, giving shape to next-generation possibilities for each campus.

The master planning process included facility condition assessments of all buildings, space utilization studies, and an inclusive process to develop concepts and options for the future. Town halls and design charrettes allowed students, staff, and faculty to share insights and ideas and then to respond to developing ideas.

With the two-fold objective of increasing enrollment and improving learning opportunities, the master planning efforts helped each campus begin determining priorities within the context of a holistic vision for the future. The resulting plan does not include building designs or detailed architectural drawings. Instead, it outlines design strategies for each campus and a vision for future possibilities. The plan documents take a high-level view, remaining flexible while providing a wealth of guidance, data, and recommendations.

The planning and design principles that grew out of this work provide long-range parameters and conceptual blueprints for the next 15–20 years. The plan is suggestive rather than prescriptive. Instead of a binding roadmap, it provides a conceptual framework from which to imagine what's possible and to build in a strategic way, knowing how each individual project fits with others.

The master plan options were previewed for the Board of Trustees in June 2023. As specific plans progress and

fundraising is successful, the Board will need to approve projects as they come to fruition.

Pausing to consider big ideas for each campus was invigorating and exciting for all involved. At the same time, capital projects based on previous master planning initiatives continued moving forward on each campus. And the master planning work from the past year is already influencing the projects being prioritized for the near term. (See School and College timelines, pp. 38 and 40.)

In line with sustainability initiatives across Principia, both campuses intend to emphasize renewable energy going forward. Important takeaways incorporated into all the planning work include increases in native plantings, water management through bioswales and rain gardens, and goals for carbon reduction and climate neutrality.

Each of the future projects will be dependent on donor support and will need to be a demonstrated unfoldment in the same way countless other projects at Principia have come to fruition throughout our 125-year history.

With the planning and design principles that emerged from this process, Principia is prepared to prayerfully move forward step by step, finding new and inspired ways to serve the students of today and tomorrow. As Mrs. Morgan wrote in the original 1900 Prospectus for the School: "Education is not an accumulation of facts but an unfoldment of ideas. Gain the principle underlying any work, and you find it to be a reflection of infinite Principle, which is the foundation of all true Being" (Education at The Principia, p. 62). 💋

Read about the design principles and view timelines showing completed, current, and upcoming capital projects on each campus, starting on p. 36.

Principia founder Mary Kimball Morgan's handwritten notes for a talk given to faculty and staff in May 1923.

# on campus

QUICK LOOK

#### PETER AND THE STARCATCHER PLAY

This fall, Upper School students made Peter and the Starcatcher shine on stage. The small production was a celebration of imagination, as Advanced Theatre Art class members helped block out scenes and create props out of found objects.
 "It was really a unique and powerful experience," says Theatre Arts teacher Gabe McManus (C'95). More than 300 people attended the production over its three-night run.

#### **PURSUING A DREAM**

## **Students Embark On A Journey of Civil Rights**

In October, 19 middle schoolers and 18 upper schoolers embarked on eye-opening journeys to Memphis, Tennessee, traveling back in time to the Lorraine Motel on April 4, 1968.

In addition to being the site of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Lorraine Motel is home to the National Civil Rights Museum, an immersive multimedia journey through the nation's complicated and fraught history of race relations.

The upper schoolers also visited nearby Ida B. Wells Plaza to commemorate the journalist and Civil Rights hero the square is named for. "This was the best class trip I've ever gone on," said Aria, an Upper School senior. "It meant so much to me since I got to learn more about my culture's history and go to the historical sites!"



#### IN BRIEF

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EQUESTRIANS EXPLORE ROLLINS RANCH

Pony riding at Principia is a cherished tradition dating back to the 1960s. Today, Honey the Pony proudly continues this legacy, offering an enriching educational experience for Principia's youngest learners. Directed by Stephanie Alioto (US'99), the program introduces preschoolers to essential equestrian skills and horse care. Preschool 3 students recently had the opportunity to expand their newfound skills by exploring Rollins Ranch with alum Jane (Herrmann) Harrison (US'78, C'82). During this off-campus adventure, students delved into ranch life, experienced western riding, learned about cleaning horses, and discovered the sustainable use of manure for fertilizing the land.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL TAKES ADVENTURE ON THE ROAD

In the fall, Principia Adventure (PA) launched Middle School students out of their comfort zones and into growth opportunities. Sixth graders climbed the rock faces of Pere Marquette Park; seventh graders bicycled 30 miles along the Katy Trail; eighth graders canoed the Meramec River and spelunked in the Onondaga Cave.

"PA has five core values: leadership, collaboration, selfless service, self-awareness, and seek-the-challenge," says coordinator Doug Hoff. "These trips enable students to exercise those skills. Some of them found the trip hard, and that's a good thing; if it's not a little challenging, we aren't doing our job."

#### HISTORICAL CONTEXT, FUTURE IMPACT

This fall, fifth graders took a deep dive into the Civil War and Reconstruction eras. "We aim to apply historical knowledge to future contexts," explains teacher **Jason Hinthorne** (US'05). "We learned how pivotal moments in history have contributed to the vibrancy of our nation."

Students conducted interviews, prepared research reports, presented at the Impact Challenge, and assembled a time capsule for their 18-year-old future selves. Hinthorne summarizes, "The students are integrating these lessons into their personal development as they continue to grow throughout the year."

#### **COLLABORATIVE COMPETITION**

## UPPER SCHOOLERS ACE School mediation Tournament

After hosting the nation's first high school mediation tournament in 2021, this November, the School held its first in-person tournament, where 12 teams faced real-world mediation cases.

Senior Quinna took Top Mediator honors, and Nne Ezi and Zawadi earned the distinction of Top Advocate: Client Pairs. Zawadi, Nne, and newcomer Amerie finished as Runner Up in Overall Top Mediation Team.

Says Quinna, "As an advocate, you have to balance looking out for your client's best interests and being cooperative with the opposing side. Mediation is a great experience and option for real-world conflicts."

"Mediation lines up perfectly with what the School is trying to do," explains mediation coach and advisor **Patti Fox**. "The students learn collaboration, communication, and community; it's a great vehicle for developing those skills."







#### **BUSY BEES**

## Third Grade Abuzz with Learning

This year, third-grade teacher **Sierra (Hussey) Farson** (US'14, C'18) and her team challenged themselves to bring economics and science to life. The team's brainstorming led them to an unexpected collaboration with Principia's smallest residents. "We landed on the idea of selling honey," said Farson, pulling inspiration from Principia's very own bee hives. But the idea expanded far beyond a simple honey booth.

Soon, the third-grade classroom itself was abuzz with activity, with different committees—sales, budget, sustainable bee research, outreach, and market research—allowing students to take an active role in their learning. From harvesting the honey to marketing and selling it at the Lower School's annual Fall Festival, the students took the reins. The project was a microcosm of the entrepreneurship classes taught in Middle and Upper School. "They did so much of the project independently because they were so curious and involved," said Farson. "I was pretty hands-off."

The class donated their earnings—over \$400—to the purchase and upkeep of a third School beehive.

#### IN BRIEF

#### SCHOOL MAKES LEARNING IMPACTFUL

Principia School hosted its fourth annual Impact Challenge, inviting local experts to observe and give feedback during the student presentations. A schoolwide initiative, the Impact Challenge supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through student projects, classwork, and community service initiatives at all levels. Projects focused on one or more UN goals, and the School came together to present results at the annual Impact Challenge Showcase, December 1, 2023.

#### **DASIA SCOTT SOARS**

In January, freshman Dasia Scott was featured on KMOV TV's Spectrum Athlete Spotlight. The 6'2" forward's 24 points and 13 rebounds per game were the highest in the state this season, garnering her attention and scholarship offers from multiple Division-I colleges and leading the Panthers to the School's first ever state championship.

Scan to check out Dasia's TV Spotlight!



#### **HOOP DREAMS**

## Girls' Basketball Makes History

The girls' varsity basketball team made history this month, reaching the Missouri state championship game for the first time in School history. Led by freshman forward Dasia Scott and junior Jayla Hawkins, the Panthers showed grit, resilience, and unselfishness all season. Their 24-7 regular season record launched them into the Missouri State Championship tournament.

Speaking to reporters after the championship game, Scott reflected on the special season. "We really made a name for ourselves this year. We made history and people are going to remember everyone on this team for what they did this year."

Added Hawkins, "I think people know about us now. They see what Principia is capable of doing."





## TRANSFORMATIONAL TRAVEL

#### Character-Defining Expeditions

Character Trips create impactful experiences and profound lessons that reinforce Principia's character education program. This year found freshmen canoeing in Minnesota, sophomores exploring Boston, juniors sailing along Hurricane Island in Maine, and seniors climbing dunes in Northern Michigan. "The joy, accomplishment, and confidence students feel after pushing past boundaries show them they are capable of more than they think they are," says Trips Coordinator Lisa (Chamberlin) Johnson (C'90), "which helps them in the classroom and beyond."



#### Λ

From left to right: chemistry teacher Melanie Shedd (C'98), Sydney, Rhys (third team-member, Reid, not pictured), and STEM teacher Nadim Sarhan pose with their recognized design.

## **Upper School STEM Project Recognized**

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

A Principia education is nothing if not impactful—not just for its students, but for the world. From its inception 125 years ago, the School's objective has been the betterment of humanity. Given this approach, Principia's commitment to innovation has always been inseparable from its impact. That ethos might help explain how a group of sophomores was recognized in the 2023 International Technology and Engineering Educators Association's (ITEEA) REACH challenge earlier this year.

The REACH challenge, spanning

middle school to college, encourages students to use design thinking to enhance Assistive and Adaptive Technology designs. By putting their heads together, Rhys, Sydney, and Reid proved there's no age restriction to making a meaningful difference.

Their winning design was simple, but the need it met was great. Their charge was to help someone with an implanted medical device find comfort while sleeping, and the students threw themselves into the task. "We started with empathy," says STEM teacher **Nadim Sarhan**. "We interviewed [our user], asked questions, and followed up with them. Our design was specific to that person."

With specific needs in mind, the students designed, prototyped, and tested multiple iterations of their invention, working diligently until they felt the product met the needs of the user. "They started with sketches but immediately knew they needed to use a design tool or software. The first [prototype] wasn't the best. It was just a plastic box," says Sarhan. "They realized, 'We need to make it lighter.' And they came up with a truss design. They said, 'It's



Sophomore Rhys demonstrates the project's functionality.

still sharp, we need to pad it.' And they sewed padding and fabric around the edges."

And while this recognition for their hard work is certainly exciting, Sarhan says it wasn't the goal. "I say I teach for the ah-ha moments. To me, that's what we want before we're recognized by anyone else."

Principia accepted the award at the beginning of March in Memphis.



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."

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QUICK LOOK

#### **COLLEGE STUDENTS BRIDGE THE DIVIDE**

Principia's 23rd annual *Monitor Night Live* addressed the topic: **Bridging the Divide in a Divided World**. "A lot of hate jumps to the front of the line," said **Amelia Newcomb**, managing editor of *The Christian Science Monitor*. "Part of our job is making sure everybody can hear that people are advocating for peace."

#### IN BRIEF

## GREENING THE GALLERY WITH DAN KISTLER

Last fall, the James K. Schmidt Gallery presented **Dan Kistler's** (C'79) new show, *Seeing Green*. In it, Kistler examined the lifecycle and impact of trees. Using a broad range of media, including photography, digital imaging, sculpture, and installations, Kistler produced a moving, and at times provocative, look at what trees give to us and what we take from them.

#### SMALL FORWARD, BIG IMPACT: ADAMS MAKES HISTORY

The accolades are pouring in for College senior Jaquan Adams. This season alone, the 6'3" small forward has tallied six double-doubles, three SLIAC Player of the Week commendations, one school-record performance, and a national D-III Player of the Week designation. "[It's] been great to be nationally recognized for something I pray for every day," Adams said.

#### EXPLORING CREATIVITY AND THE ARTS IN PRAGUE

Principia College completed its fifth Prague Abroad this past fall, offering an immersive exploration of the moral vitality of creativity and the arts. Students delved into 20th-century Czech literature and cultural studies and produced original creative writing and visual art. Special highlights included interactions with Czech poets, printmaking experiences, and insightful meetings with renowned scholars.





#### **ON THEIR GRIND**

## Startup Success is Brewing in Innovation Challenge

For the second straight year, Principia College's Innovation Challenge was awash in the warm aroma of espresso. Winning first prize in 2023's Innovation Challenge was *Evspresso*, the brainchild and start-up of Pablo Alas, Ryan D'Amico, and Japhet Hoff.

Their win earned them a trip to participate in the St. Louis Regional Entrepreneurship Education Contest this spring, where they'll compete against students from prestigious institutions such as Washington University, St. Louis University, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, and more.

The challenge saw nine business ideas presented by 15 students. Notable concepts included second-place finisher *MyFlora* by Leslie Barrera; *Shred* by Michael Brokensha, Johannes Keller, Tyler Hardy, and Izzy Marvin in third place; and a People's Choice Award for *Eco Scape* by Everett Poznick, Walter Lazo, and Paige Fowler.

This year's judges included **Steve Brodbeck** (US'82, C'86), co-founder of Callisto Communications; **Stu Neale** (C'76), President of Wellspring software; and **Hans Fredrikson** (US'84, C'88), Chief Investment Officer of The Principia Corporation. The Innovation Challenge not only fosters creativity but also opens doors for students to showcase their entrepreneurial prowess beyond campus.

#### LUSTER INSPIRES

## From Alton Youth to Army Vet to Entrepreneur

In October, the Black Student Union presented **Dr. Eric Luster** as a featured speaker. A decorated Army veteran who specialized in nuclear biological chemistry and tactical satellite communications, Dr. Luster went on to earn a PhD and invent groundbreaking wearable technology.

Dr. Luster grew up in Alton, Illinois, spending many afternoons and weekends on the Principia College campus with his mentor, Black Student Union advisor **Becky (Poole) Coles** (C'91).

He spoke of his experiences in the military and how he became an entrepreneurial leader, even attending the Idea Bounce, where entrepreneurship students pitched business ideas to professors and entrepreneurial leaders. Luster's wife, **LaCheris Luster**, EMSL, also gave a presentation entitled Financial Literacy 101: Empowering Financial Futures: Building Your Financial Foundation.



#### IN BRIEF

#### STUDYING COMPLEX SOLUTIONS: LINCOLN LAUREATE GLORIA ISHIMWE

Gloria Ishimwe, chemistry/sociology double major, has been named this year's Lincoln Academy Student Laureate at Principia College. As a student manager, teaching assistant, and conference organizer, Ishimwe exemplifies leadership and community engagement. In addition to this distinction, she was also the recipient of last year's Outstanding Junior Chemist Award. Congratulations to Gloria on this well-deserved honor!

#### THUNDER CHICKENS UP THEIR GAME

The Thunder Chickens embraced a new challenge this season as they made the switch from Division 2 to Division 1 15s Rugby. The young team made it to the quarterfinals in their first D1 season, beating higher-ranked teams such as Marian University, and losing to Indiana University in the semifinal on a last-second score. They look forward to a promising second season.

#### STUDENTS 'BRIDGE THE GAP' AT INAUGURAL SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT

A group of 12 students attended a spiritual life retreat at CedarS Camps during fall break. Co-led by Spiritual Life Director and College Chaplain **Roger Gordon** and Religious Studies Professor **Dr. Heather Martin**, the retreat encouraged both Christian Science students and those from diverse faith backgrounds to articulate their beliefs, practice active listening, share personal stories, and navigate challenging conversations constructively.

#### HOME ON STAGE

# *Stories from Home* Devises a New Process

Returning to Principia from a sabbatical, Theatre professor **John O'Hagan** sought ways to engage the College's international population as well as the community at large.

"The best way to do that," he recounts, "was to create a piece of devised theater, where whoever was in the room would be the ones creating the piece." In short, O'Hagan flipped the traditional process of writing and producing a dramatic work on its head.

Co-written and narrated by visiting professor **Jessica (Wingert) Hudson** (US'11, C'15), the play attracted a wide range of participants. Students, employees, and community members contributed to the collection of oral histories and traditions.

Co-director **Rebecca Bailey** (C'20) loved the collaborative nature of the production: "People brought childhood stories they really loved. Everyone had a sense of ownership in the process."

"Students learned they don't have to wait to be creative and artistic. It gives them the tools to go out and do the work on their own," says O'Hagan. "As long as I'm at Principia, I hope to have this in the rotation, so every cohort of students can engage in a process like this."



IN BRIEF

#### BENEATH THE SURFACE OF MAMMOTH DISCOVERY

In October, Art History Professor **Dr. Andrew Martin**, who holds a PhD in archaeology, spoke with the RiverBender podcast about the recent discovery of a mammoth tusk on campus. "This project is so multidisciplinary. Students are applying skills they've learned from other disciplines and they're bringing it to this project."

Visit **principiapurpose.org** to read more and stream the episode.

#### DIVERSE INTERNSHIPS AND COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

Ed. Block, a defining element of the College's Educational Studies program and an opportunity for students to get hands-on experience in classrooms and educational institutions, broadened its internship possibilities this year.

Students showcased a wide range of interests, expanding beyond traditional teaching into coaching, counseling, literacy development, art education, and administration.

Reflecting on the program's impact, Education Professor **Dr. Nikki (Nicolet) Gamrath** (US'93, C'97) likened it to an immersive abroad experience. Focused on teamwork, communication, full immersion, inclusion, and real-world authentic learning, Ed. Block remains a beacon for those seeking holistic personal and professional development. The program offers valuable lessons for anyone aspiring to become a more well-rounded global citizen.



## Secrets to Success of the Principia Mediation Program

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

In 2023, the Principia College mediation team earned a first-place finish in every tournament it entered, including competition against prestigious law schools, culminating in an unprecedented third straight international championship. One competitor recognized Principia as "the mouse that roared."

This dominant—even dynastic performance prompted many to ask, what's happening on those bluffs that makes Principia mediation so special? The *Purpose* sat down with mediation coach **Dr. Jeff Steele** to look into a typical mediation tournament to discover the secret to Principia's success.

## **Real-World Relevancy**

The tournament format spans multiple days of two-hour rounds, which simulate real-life mediation sessions while accommodating academic constraints. Confidentiality and impartiality are paramount, ensuring a professional and ethical environment. The students participate in teams of three, each assuming different roles in mediation rounds. Judges evaluate competitors based on their mediation skills, handling diverse cases with changing facts in each round.

Notably, the tournament organizers draw inspiration from real events to create fictional cases, incorporating court records for added detail and complexity. In some cases, student mediators have helped parties settle long-standing corporate disputes in a matter of weeks. The mediation Members of the mediation team pose at the International Intercollegiate Mediation Championship Tournament held in Gainesville, Georgia. The team won 1st place in Team Mediation, which awarded them an invitation to the International Law School Tournament in Chicago.

> From left to right: Captain Chris Ajuoga (senior), Captain Avery Smith (senior), Coach Jeff Steele (known affectionately as "The Jefe" to his students), Shawn Chore (sophomore), Sebastion Kyllonen (sophomore).

process is evaluated for accuracy and realism, with judges awarding points for each round to determine the overall winner.

## Secrets to Principia's Success

Steele attributes the team's success to the students' strong commitment, active listening skills, and adherence to Christian Science principles. The College's emphasis on hands-on learning and innovative solutions also make a measurable impact. Dr. Steele emphasizes the value of simulating real-life scenarios in practice, conducting 360-degree analyses of cases, and encouraging students to take risks and learn from experiences. Dr. Steele remarks, "I appreciate the tournaments' significance in developing students both on and off the stage, highlighting the value of these experiences in shaping future peacemakers and effective communicators."

# **P**RINCIPIA COLLEGE

**Chris** found civic engagement, creative outlets, and career readiness.

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<complex-block>

-SENIOR CHRIS AJUOGA

Scan to experience the campus virtual tour



# **OF NOTE**

#### QUICK LOOK

#### THE LADY IS A CHAMP

Principia College director of tennis, head women's tennis coach, and associate professor of physical education **Shannon Carney** won the 2023 USTA National Senior Women's 65 Singles and Doubles Championships in October.

"You need to be ready mentally, physically, and spiritually," Carney says. "It's an opportunity and an arena to demonstrate and practice our unlimited, God-given abilities."

#### **ON THE COURT**

### **Coach Plotka's Tips for Ruling the Pickleball Court**

*Dr. Ronald Plotka, DDS* (C'65) has a motto: "Never say no, never give up," something he demonstrated in winning the 2023 US Open Pickleball singles competition for his age group in Florida. The fact that he had only been playing singles for five months or the fact that he was seeded 10th and playing against the sport's established champions didn't dissuade him. Nor did the eight hours of competition in 95-degree heat. Dr. Plotka pushed to the top of the pack, winning all of his 21 matches to get the gold medal.

When he isn't standing on podiums, the retired dentist is a PPR-certified pickleball instructor in the Boston, MA, and Fort Myers, FL areas. Check out his top five tips and tricks for new and advanced players!



#### **DIGGING THE ACCOLADES**

#### Tess Rountree's Volleyball Legacy: Inducted into the 2024 SLIAC Hall of Fame

Principia College volleyball legend **Tess Rountree** (C'15) has been selected for the 2024 SLIAC Hall of Fame class. From 2011–2014, Tess left an indelible mark on SLIAC volleyball history. A four-time First Team All-Conference selection, she stood out in her junior and senior years, earning SLIAC Player of the Year and AVCA D-III All-Region Team honors. Tess's offensive prowess ranked her among the top in the nation, finishing as 2014's D-III statistical champion for points per set and #2 in kills per set. Her SLIAC records include points in one match and top performances, while defensively, she ranks seventh in SLIAC history for career digs. Tess, a three-year captain and academic achiever, played professional volleyball globally and was inducted into Principia's Gold & Blue Athletic Hall of Fame in 2022. Well done, Tess!



#### FOR YOUR TBR LIST

## Joanne Leedom-Ackerman's *The Far Side of the Desert* Hits Bookshelves

This March, 2019 DKA Award winner **Joanne Leedom-Ackerman** (C'68) will publish her fifth book, *The Far Side of the Desert*. The political thriller about a family vacation gone wrong has already been touted by NPR as "a moving novel about the far side of humanity."

Like anything worthwhile, Leedom-Ackerman's newest book has been a long time in the making, spanning multiple rewrites and iterations. "I'm looking at some large themes," she said. "What endures? Who are you when all the props are taken away? Where does identity lie and how do you build your life around that?"

"What I found interesting [about writing this novel] was finding the ordinary in the extraordinary. Take away all these big events and they're fueled by individual people who have these individual lives. Seeing [something] that personal can help the reader relate to events that are sometimes completely out of their control."

"The book is sort of a living thing," she continued. "When it goes into the hands of readers, it takes on its own life, because it will relate to readers according to their life experiences and what they're seeing."

Stay tuned for a virtual book talk with Joanne.

#### ON THE WORLD STAGE

## PARTH PATEL: BATTING AND Bowling with the best in the world

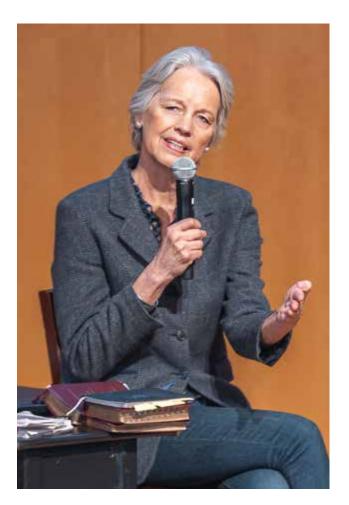
We like to talk about Principians having a global impact. For Upper School senior Parth Patel, that means bowling and batting with the best in the world. In January, Patel proudly represented the United States as a member of the USA U19 National Cricket Team in the 2024 ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup.

Recognizing Parth's remarkable talent and unwavering dedication, the City of Chesterfield designated November 6 as Parth Patel Day. Despite the USA's loss in their match on January 19, Parth exhibited a stellar performance. As the second-highest runs scorer, his batting prowess shone, complemented by a strategic and conservative bowling approach that limited the opposing team's runs. Parth continues to leave his mark on Principia—and the international cricket stage with his skill and sportsmanship.



#### **CLARION CALL**

## Martha Moffett Shares an Inspiring Invitation



Students were treated to an inspiring encounter in February when **Martha Moffett, CSB** (HON'97), the clerk of The First Church of Christ, Scientist and former Principia College first lady visited both campuses.

Moffett, who has worked in human rights at home and abroad, with the Department of Justice as a US prosecutor, and as a practitioner and teacher of Christian Science, was on campus to extend a personal invitation to students to the Annual Meeting of The Mother Church.

At the School and the College, she spoke of the healing impact of Psalms 23, sharing testimonies of healings by Mary Baker Eddy, as well as her own experience of finding her purpose and passion—which led her to pursue law and eventually achieve a role at the DOJ.

Moffett's presence had an immediate impact. "Martha and I had never met," recalls Head of School **Dr. Merry Sorrells** (C'79), "but we became instant friends. Her warmth, openness, and love for Principia shines through brightly."

While Moffett's life story is instructive and inspiring, her commitment to the healing practice of Christian Science took center stage. "I invite you to join with us in this healing mission," she proclaimed. "It's living life in a higher way, living unselfishly for others, bringing your thoughts and talents to bear through the channels of The Mother Church to bless and heal the whole world."

Visit christianscience.com/annual-meeting to learn more.

**Correction:** In the Of Note section from the Fall 2023 issue, longtime Upper School English teacher Rozanne Briscoe, whom Andrea Box credited as a teacher and role model (p. 19), was incorrectly listed as Valerie Briscoe (US'79, C'83). We apologize for the mistake.

Join Principia beginning April 8 for the celestial event that heralds the beginning of our Spring Day of Giving!

Unite with Principians near and far to fuel the future and help us reach our goal of 1,000 gifts!





#### SPIRITUAL LENS

## SPIRITUAL INTELLIGENCE IN AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WORLD

BY DR. CLINT STALEY (C'80) Professor of Computer Science

With the remarkable advances in artificial intelligence (AI), many questions and concerns are arising: How powerful will AI become? What effects will AI have on employment and on education? Can a machine really think? Will it surpass human intelligence or make it obsolete? How can we ensure it will be constructive and not destructive?

Much human attention is focused on these issues, and more will be in the future. But even the best-intended human efforts cannot ensure a perfect outcome, nor answer deep questions on the nature of mind. That requires a higher spiritual perspective.

All the issues surrounding AI seem to center on three essential questions: First, **what is the source of intelligence?** Must it be biological, or can it be digital? Second, **what is the nature of intelligence?** Might it be destructive? What limits are there on its increase? And third, **how does man fit into the picture?** Can a manmade machine surpass us or make us obsolete?

Per usual, Christian Science offers clarity to apparently complex questions like these. Mary Baker Eddy answers the question "What is intelligence?" in *Science and Health with*  *Key to the Scriptures* (p. 469: 10-13): "Intelligence is omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence. It is the primal and eternal quality of infinite Mind, of the triune Principle, – Life, Truth, and Love, – named God."

So, what is the source of intelligence? Can a machine think? No, no more than can a brain. Intelligence is neither biological nor digital. It is primally and eternally "a quality of infinite Mind."

And, what is the nature of intelligence? As a quality of God, it can only be constructive, manifesting Life, Truth, and Love, and there is no limit on its capacity.

The third question—whether humans might be surpassed by AI—assumes that our intelligence is limited and could become inferior or obsolete. But another quote from page 475 clarifies that man "... possesses no life, intelligence, nor creative power of his own, but reflects spiritually all that belongs to his Maker." Nothing can surpass infinite reflected intelligence, and such a reflection is never obsolete.

This Christianly Scientific understanding of our unlimited intelligence is fundamental to education at Principia. Policy Three states that each of us "reflects the intelligence



and strength of our Maker" and "... refuses to accept as final any belief of limitation." Those truths have guided us for over a century in dealing with the belief of limited human capacity in our teaching, and they are just as applicable now to addressing new challenges posed by artificial intelligence.

As this important new technology advances, we will have the human opportunity to use it positively, both as individuals and as a society. But the Christian Science perspective enables all of us to bear witness to the true source and nature of intelligence, and to our own boundless expression of it. We can know that this source and nature informs and guides the positive and constructive unfoldment of intelligence in our experience.

Dr. Clint Staley is a professor of computer science at Principia College. He has 35 years of combined experience in academia and industry. He has taught computer science at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and Principia. Staley has built software and managed software development for large and small organizations, and he cofounded several software companies. He holds six U.S. patents.

# *Educational* Innovation.

**INNOVATION:** a term overused, yet rarely understood. Beyond simply adapting to change, innovation is about driving change. In the field of education, innovation transcends *what* students learn and instead asks the more profound questions of *how* and *why*.

Inspired by the revolutionary credo of Principia's founder, Mary Kimball Morgan—which emphasizes integrated learning, community-mindedness, and global impact, all built upon a firm spiritual foundation—educators at the School and College are pondering what it means to prepare tomorrow's thinkers, makers, and leaders.

In this issue, we explore Principia's groundbreaking, innovative approach to learning at all levels—an approach that includes sustainability, media literacy, co-curricular collaboration, and global citizenship.



We live in a world of wonder, perpetually connected—to other people, to endless data streams, to the collected knowledge of centuries. At work, on the go, in our homes, in our hands—a hum underlying everything: technology.

he word contains multitudes: while *tech* is treated as a catch-phrase, a product, or an industry, it is more than the sum of its parts. Tech is a paradigm, a milieu—it is the environment in which professionals of all occupations live and act. Tech is more mindset than skill set, and success in Tech is predicated on much more than coding skills.

Viewed this way, it's little surprise that a small liberal arts school like

Principia College is producing a disproportionate number of technology leaders, innovators, visionaries, and more.

This time last year, several of those Principia alumni were featured as 125th anniversary "Innovators:" **Audrey (Whitfield) Mackenzie** (C'82), an AI founder and current Chief Information Officer at The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, MA; **Jonathan Gibbs** (US'90, C'94), an Academy Award-winning animator with DreamWorks and Apple; and **Dr. Yumio Saneyoshi** (US'89), product owner at Google and Yahoo! and founder of the Penguin Coding School; as well as **Kevin Pratt** (US'00, C'04), Principal Avionics Engineer at Blue Origin, who was featured in a recent issue.

Here, we further explore the many ways Principia alumni are building careers and busting stereotypes in this wide world we call *Tech*.



# "I WAS READY .... [TO] HAVE AN ADVENTURE."

### Steve Nye <sup>(C'95)</sup> SR. DIRECTOR, CUSTOMER SUCCESS, EMEA - INSTRUCTURE

"Il I knew was, I was good at solving problems," Steve Nye says with a wry chuckle.

When Nye joined the Tech world, it looked different than it does now. "I applied through the newspaper," he recalls, for a customer support role with a small industrial technology company.

While Nye hoped to transition into software development, it was the problem-solving that got him noticed. Soon, he was overseeing all customer-facing functions and managing 250 professionals distributed across the globe as the VP of Customer Support.

After two decades of career-defining growth, Nye recalls, "I was ready for a break—to go somewhere and have an adventure." So Nye and his husband, Ryan, an executive at Apple, traded Bay Area fog for the London variety.

That break proved short-lived. In late 2019, he signed on to lead customer success for an ed-tech company called Instructure. Within months, schools across the globe switched to remote learning in response to the COVID pandemic. Instructure's main product, the classroom facilitation tool Canvas, became a go-to for schools at every level. "We went from one million concurrent users to over six million in a week," Nye marvels. "We were one of the top five sites on the internet!"

If the bumpy ride of the early internet was an adventure, this was another thing entirely. Training thousands of customers across the globe how to get the most out of Canvas in the shortest period of time may sound like a headache, but Nye is grateful for the experience. "The amount of goodwill we received from our customers—as many of our competitors were falling apart—was incredible," he says. And millions of students can be grateful that Steve Nye is good at solving problems.



**Dennis Adjei-Baah** <sup>(US'09, C'13)</sup> SR. SOFTWARE ENGINEER • MASTERCARD "PRINCIPIA HAD AN INTENSIVE PROGRAM, WHICH GAVE ME THE FOUNDATION TO BE COMFORTABLE IN MY CAREER."

ennis Adjei-Baah's career as a software engineer almost didn't happen. "I originally studied physics," he recalls. "But once I saw how much math was involved, I switched to computer science!"

From there, the Ghanaian programmer never looked back: "Principia had an intensive program, which gave me the foundation to be comfortable in my career." Before graduation, Adjei-Baah landed a job as a front-end engineer, developing applications for Worldwide Technology. After earning a masters in computer science, he underwent the software engineer's rite of passage: Silicon Valley startup life.

"We were moving fast, working on something very technical, requiring deep knowledge in Internet protocols," Adjei-Baah explains. "I was learning a lot, trying new things, failing, and trying other things. It was high pressure."

But Adjei-Baah was thinking of another fast-paced startup role:

parenting. So after four years in the crucible, he and his wife returned to the Midwest to start their family. Today, Adjei-Baah creates cyber intelligence applications for MasterCard—compiling and acting on complex transaction data. "The work is challenging, but I also have the breathing room to make mistakes or step away if my family needs it," he says. Not sure anyone could engineer it better.



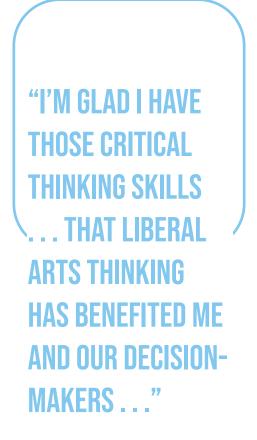
Jami (Wissman) Heckel <sup>(C'17)</sup> Software Engineer III - Motiva AI

or Jami (Wissman) Heckel, the challenge is the thing. As a software engineer at the small but mighty software company Motiva AI, Heckel is on the cutting edge of messaging and engagement, and has been called into service for everything from database architecture to generative AI. After landing the job fresh out of Principia, she quickly grew from a front-end developer to full-stack engineer. "Now I do a little bit of everything," explains the computer

science major and business-dance double-minor.

The small team at Motiva has been a perfect fit for Heckel's curiosity and broad skill set. "I hear from our CEO on the business strategy, and from our customer success team about what customers want-I get exposed to all of that," she says. "That's been one of my favorite parts of the job." Heckel continues, "I don't just get lost in the weeds of code, I like to know that I'm bringing value to our customers."

"I DON'T JUST GET LOST IN THE WEEDS OF CODE, I LIKE TO KNOW THAT I'M BRINGING VALUE TO OUR CUSTOMERS."





Jackson Walker <sup>(C'17)</sup> Signal Intelligence officer - United States Navy

f you thought teaching your boss to convert a PDF was difficult, try explaining emerging cybersecurity technologies to an admiral at the Department of Defense.

Jackson Walker's title is Signal Intelligence, but success in his post relies greatly on the *human* kind. While the nouns sound coldly technical—National Security Agency (NSA) Cybersecurity Team Lead, Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) Technical Manager, Signal Intelligence on a Navy Destroyer—the verbs illustrate the relevance of Walker's liberal arts education: *communicating, collaborating, translating, managing*.

Tasked with writing high-level technical documentation to be digested and acted-on by the very top level of the Department of Defense (DOD), Walker relied on his Principia foundation. "Coming into the DOD and NSA, I was the bridge between the technology and the decision-makers," he explains. "Being able to write for different audiences, and explain concepts clearly... a lot of people saw what I put out, so hopefully it helps someone."

Currently stationed as a Signal Intelligence Officer on a warship in the Middle East, Walker is consuming, analyzing, translating, and communicating data feeds in real time, with lives hanging in the balance. "It's been challenging," says the 2017 graduate. "But I'm glad I have those critical thinking skills. A lot of that liberal arts thinking has benefited me and our relevant decision-makers."

### Brett Banning (C'11) LEAD PRODUCT DESIGNER • CARESOURCE

s an undergrad at Principia College, Brett Banning's studies in studio art and geology may have seemed like odd bedfellows; but viewed in retrospect, they make perfect sense. "I've always had a passion for science-applying the scientific method to unpack problems," Banning explains. "It's not too dissimilar from what we call today 'design thinking,' or 'human-centered design.""

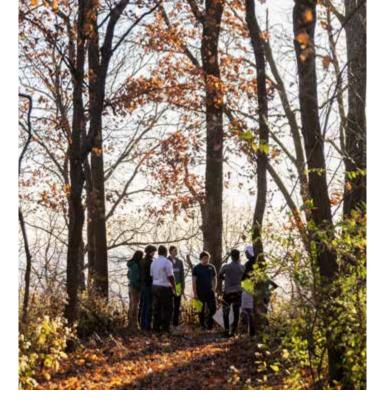
Beginning his career in marketing as a graphic designer, Banning quickly expanded beyond graphics, into the complex space of user experience design. His desire for continuous growth and learning is a consistent driving force in his career. "I was looking for something substantial," recalls Banning. That pursuit pushed him to leave the world of e-commerce for geospatial mapping applications at Monsanto.

That led to the life-changing email he almost didn't answer. "Uber reached out to recruit me, and I thought it was fake," Banning laughs. But the offer was real and the stakes were high. "At Uber, I designed the core offer experience on the driver application," Banning recalls. "We had to provide all this information about the ride offer to drivers, who had approximately 20 seconds to act on it ... while driving!" He continues, "It was a really complex problem to solve, and today the framework I created is used by every driver all over the world."

Having worked as a product designer at Atlassian and now at Care Source, Banning explains, "I specialize in zero to one: we start with an ambiguous problem, provide definition, clarity, and design a fully functioning product." This requires him to be involved in every step of the development. "I think in hindsight," Banning reflects, "one of the things I value about Principia is the fact that I was pushed to learn a lot of different things. What's essential now is the fact that I am used to always learning."



"AT PRINCIPIA I WAS PUSHED TO LEARN A LOT OF DIFFERENT THINGS . . . I AM USED TO ALWAYS LEARNING."









# **REIMAGINING** PRINCIPIA COLLEGE'S INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO THE LIBERAL ARTS

**STORY BY ERIC MORSE (US'90)** 

"Our schools are too often responsible for the colorless, unthinking mass of 'educated' humanity about which we hear so much complaint in the business and professional world today. How can mechanical cramming produce intelligent business men and women, inventors, statesmen, orators, or reformers?"

(Education at The Principia, pp.43-44)

Principia founder Mary Kimball Morgan's words, now over a century old, reverberate ever louder today when technological advancements have foregrounded certain skills as "future-ready" and suppressed interest in wide-ranging, multidisciplinary learning. As interest in job skills grows, graduates are gravitating away from the liberal arts.

These forces are part of a nationwide dynamic causing precipitous drops in enrollment at four-year liberal arts colleges, even forcing many institutions to shutter their doors. It is also an opportunity for Principia to further distinguish itself.

Where some see a threatening landscape, Principia educators are embracing an opportunity to think more broadly about what's possible—what's needed—from a liberal arts education. It's an endeavor known on campus as "reimagining" the curriculum—a seed planted in Principia's 2020 Strategic Plan that is today bearing fruit, igniting the imagination and tapping the talents of the entire faculty.

## The Innovation Opportunity

"Innovation is the ability to see change as an opportunity, not a threat."

> – Steve Jobs Apple founder and former CEO

After a quarter-century teaching at Principia College, Political Science Professor and Interim Dean of Academics **Dr. Brian Roberts** (C'88) has seen his share of change. But navigating today's unique shifts has called for redefining liberal arts at Principia College and beyond.

"Every day I open up a publication and see the same narrative," Roberts laments. "Lower enrollment is forcing adjustments that are topdown—just eliminating programs wholesale."

But Principia College sees a different way forward. Under the direction of College President **Dr. Daniel Norton**, Roberts and the team in the Academic Dean's Office have engaged and empowered the entire faculty to holistically rethink their academic programs. Unlike other institutions, this group saw opportunity: "It's a great time, given the rapid developments in society, to be thinking about the composition of our academic offerings," Roberts says.

He notes, "Reimagining the curriculum is a much more challenging enterprise—to come together as a faculty to rethink the nature of our offerings, to believe in the collaborative process that emphasizes the training and ingenuity of our faculty. We're making our programs even more forward-looking, multidisciplinary, drawing on the strengths that we have."

The undertaking is both ambitious and based on a grounded optimism that Principia's unique strengths will inform a redesigned curriculum to best serve the needs of current and future students.

Shifting to be more relevant to the realities and demands of emerging occupations, new majors and areas of study will be more multidisciplinary, and thus more applicable to a wide field of future professions.

## Training a Generation of Innovators

"Since we live in an age of innovation, a practical education must prepare a man for work that does not yet exist and cannot yet be clearly defined."

– Peter Drucker Management consultant and author

"Principia has long been dedicated to the 'whole-person' model, which is central to the liberal arts," explains history professor and Interim Assistant Dean of Academic Services **Dr. Peter van Lidth de Jeude** (C'04). "What skills are needed to live and function in society? What does a citizen of the world need to succeed? It's much broader than just technical or vocational education; it is not only supposed to enhance your ability in the job market, it's also supposed to enhance your life make you a better, more well-rounded person."

Like bubble gum chewed free of its flavor, the term "future-readiness" may have been drained of meaning by overuse. In many institutions, a "future-ready" education entails the development of technical skills as applied to high-tech materials and equipment. At others, a thorough understanding of coding languages produces "future-ready" graduates. Principia's educators are less interested in defining the term than they are in preparing students to define the future themselves.

Legendary Principia computer science professor **Dr. Tom Fuller** (FS'92) preferred metaphor to define how education can best prepare students for life. "Tom used to say, 'Life is like an athletic competition [Education] is not only supposed to enhance your ability in the job market, it's also supposed to enhance your life make you a better, more well-rounded person."

Dr. Peter van
Lidth de Jeude



you're preparing for, but you don't know exactly what event you'll be competing in,'" recalls van Lidth de Jeude. "It might be a race, might be the discus, might be the high jump. If you're not sure exactly what to prepare for, you want to build a core of athleticism that will allow you to succeed in all of these areas.""

Dr. van Lidth de Jeude continues, "The liberal arts are in many ways like that—core strengths you can develop that will allow you to learn new skills and be future-proof."

Principia College seeks to prepare students to participate fully and meaningfully in life after college, whether that be in graduate school, a career, or through other paths of service.

Digital Media and Journalism professor **Joan Toohey Wesman** makes clear that a liberal arts curriculum and career readiness are not at odds. "When you read what employers are looking for in the world today, it's not a certain skill set. They're looking for students who know how to collaborate, how to communicate clearly orally and in writing, and how to think critically. And as the world continues to change and evolve, they will need to be able to adapt along with it."

## Redefining 'Hard Skills'

"Education is not preparation for life. Education is life itself." – John Dewey Educational reformer

Underlying this enlightened vision of the liberal arts is a unique approach to education itself. Says Roberts, "I've always conveyed to my students that my role as a Principia educator is not to teach them what to think but rather how to think and to think more effectively. I see that across the faculty: challenging students to think more deeply, compassionately, with a sense of civility."

Or, as van Lidth de Jeude likes to say, "to learn how to learn." The history professor holds up a smart phone. "All of us have this thing in our pocket. If I need to know when the Battle of Waterloo was, it knows. But I need to know, what's a good source and what's not a good source? What are the terms I need? So in my classes, I've moved away from a focus on memorizing facts to interpretation, how to make sense of sources, and how to synthesize your own perspective into original material."

Facing a world where artificial intelligence is upending education—obscuring the authenticity of sources, providing tools for plagiarism, and homogenizing content these critical thinking skills are all the more vital.

Professor Wesman is particularly passionate about these needs: "We want students to be able to learn on their own, be adaptable, and think critically. And the biggest piece for me in the [Digital Media and Journalism] department is, how to think critically about who's creating the media, who's behind it, and what are their motives?"

## Principia's Unique Lens on Education for Innovation

"Education is not an accumulation of facts but an unfoldment of ideas.... The pupils of The Principia are taught to think, to reason, to perceive, to act. Whatever study... will be conducive to this end, must be made a matter of constant looking to divine guidance on the part of the faculty." – Mary Kimball Morgan

Principia founder

Conversations with faculty and administrators about this reimagining process reveal a wellspring of enthusiasm and discovery and a deep commitment to retaining and furthering Principia's guiding mission.

In Wesman's words, "As we go

through these transitions, we're asking, 'What is the role of Christian Science in all this?' And, 'What can the values or the worldview of Christian Science bring to this conversation?' I believe the values that we bring from Christian Science intersect with 21st-century needs for students."

Dr. Roberts's baritone voice can barely hide his enthusiasm for what's to come:

"This institution has come together to design a forward-looking curricular program with a sense of freshness and vitality that improves student experience and meets students' needs in the future.

"What a wonderful place for Principia to be! It's rare. I'm grateful to be undertaking this kind of process. It's incredibly challenging—there's no road map for this process, but I've been so grateful for the adaptability, creativity, and the willingness of the faculty and staff to undertake this enterprise.

"It's wonderful to know that everyone is operating from the same basis, to see this through a metaphysical lens. That has been a huge benefit as we all listen for direction; the sense of humility and openness of thought is essential. That's the core of what's helping us address the challenges and great promise for the future."

# **Innovation and the Whole Person**

## **"THE PRINCIPIA DIFFERENCE"**

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

In the fall of 1932, Principia founder Mary Kimball Morgan told her staff, "Principia education should mean the education of the whole man—physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually, as well as intellectually."

(Education at The Principia, p. 69)

While familiar now, the "whole-person" concept, as it's come to be known, was innovative for its time. This holistic approach, where students are seen as limitless and excellence is the standard, pulled back the curtain on educational models to come. Over 90 years later, this same spirit of innovation shines daily at the School in new and exciting ways. It's seen in the curriculum, the way teachers guide their students, and the way students interact with each other and the world.

One hundred twenty-five years after its inception, Principia continues to challenge itself to reevaluate, grow, and lead the way in educational excellence, all from the foundation of Mrs. Morgan's whole-person approach.

## It's All in the Foundation

It may seem contradictory to call a century-old idea innovative, but the whole-person concept is the soil from which Principia's current innovative practices grow. "Innovation in education is about making it more relevant—more 'real-world,' if you will—and I think that fits well with a whole-person education," says entrepreneurship teacher **Don Sterrett** (US'95). "We're not just teaching for the sake of teaching."

Not teaching for the sake of teaching sits at the very heart of the whole-person model. Referring to Principia's students, Mrs. Morgan asked, "our future citizens, our lawmakers, our practitioners, readers, lecturers. What kind of a foundation are we helping them to

establish?" (Education at The Principia, p. 30) Principia educators take this question seriously. A student developed under the whole-person philosophy is prepared to engage with the world. Head of School Dr. Merry Sorrells (C'79) says, "As educators, we need to intentionally identify and develop in our students the skills and qualities necessary to navigate an ever-changing future. Presenting our curriculum to our students in authentic, relevant, and transferable ways has them ready to meet the future head-on. Doing that with the underpinnings of a spiritual foundation gives them a launching pad that will serve them for a lifetime."

To prepare students for a world with new and unforeseen challenges and opportunities, Principia needs to be creative, visionary, and bold. It needs to be innovative.

## Not Your Average Teacher

Gone are the days of teachers standing in front of classrooms, touting their infallible knowledge—what Dr. Sorrells calls "sage on the stage" teaching. To prepare students to adapt to an ever-evolving world, educators must lead by example.

"At Principia, we have a broader understanding of what innovation means," says Director of Sustainability and sustainability teacher **Lynne** (Elrick) Scott (C'01). "Innovative teaching is responsive, being able to take a holistic look and [asking], "What does our world need? And how can we best prepare students to be leaders or change agents?""

"It's the idea of constantly looking to improve and seeing education as a process rather than something final,"

## "AT PRINCIPIA, WE HAVE A BROADER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT INNOVATION MEANS."

-Lynne Scott, director of sustainability

adds Sterrett. "[Reevaluation] is the expectation because the world is changing so quickly."

Principia educators also recognize the power and importance of learning through example.

Considering themselves co-learners with the students, teachers model their own expectations. Curiosity, critical thinking skills, confidence, and an ability to "fail forward" are the real lessons subtly being taught in the classroom.

"There's no way I can know everything. I need to do what I can to make sure I'm modeling lifelong learning myself," says chemistry teacher **Melanie Shedd** (C'98). "That takes risks on the part of the teacher—saying to the students, 'We're going to try this new thing. Let's jump in together.'"

## A Different Way of Doing Things

You'd be hard-pressed to find a classroom at Principia that isn't engaged in something dynamic or creative. To the Principia educator, classrooms and learning environments are melting pots for ideas, communities and professionals are teaching resources, and cutting-edge technology and software aren't hurdles, but tools.

As the world debates the merits of artificial intelligence (AI), Shedd is bringing it into her classroom. Using an AI image generator, Shedd asked her students to generate photos for a project. The seemingly simple task challenged them to evaluate the product AI provided them. "Is it what they asked for? Could they ask better questions to get a different output? The process builds critical thinking skills."

Critical thinking, in fact, is a core competency at Principia. Freshman English teacher Alicia Sorensen teaches it through her popular Hunger Games unit. After reading The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes, a prequel to the Hunger Games trilogy, students simulate their own Hunger Games, looking at things like government structure, leadership and the responsibility of citizens within society, statistics, caste systems, philosophy, how social media can manipulate perception, and more. "The unit really is rooted in understanding and unpacking how ideas are formed, and how some ideas shape you for your whole life—and how sometimes you'll find those ideas challenged. What do you do when you hit that moment?" Sorensen asks.

The unit encourages students to engage in candid conversations, which Sorensen feels are breeding grounds for critical thinking skills. "[Critical thinking] is a natural byproduct of innovation and integration. There's a lot of critical thinking that develops because we're giving the kids the tools to have conversations that lead to that critical thinking."

Other teachers, such as Scott and Sterrett, regularly bring professionals into their classrooms. These specialists are an excellent opportunity for students to learn and benefit from the expertise of others. "Whether it's getting students to present to professionals or run their ideas by professionals, this is something that goes on routinely," says Sterrett.

Sometimes, however, it's the experts who benefit from the students. When speaking to a city

"THERE'S A LOT **OF CRITICAL** THINKING THAT **DEVELOPS** BECAUSE WE'RE GIVING THE KIDS THE **TOOLS TO HAVE** CONVERSATIONS THAT LEAD TO THAT CRITICAL **THINKING.**"

the Cr.



councilwoman, Upper and Middle School Principal Samantha Dry suggested something surprising: "I said, we're gonna put our students in front of you to find out what you're working on so they can problem solve and pitch ideas to you." The councilwoman's reaction was about what you'd expect. "She basically said, 'they're just children.'" But for Dry, the goal was "not about whether [she] used their ideas. It's the fact that the students can solve a problem that she was working on." Dry continues, "Our students are capable of solving problems. I just want to tap into that and put them in front of people and say, what are you working on? Let the students solve that problem."

## It Takes a Village

To truly innovate in the classroom and cultivate the whole person in graduates, teachers must be integrative. But integration goes far beyond a teacher team-up. It's a holistic effort between students, community members, professionals, and, yes, teachers, to create a melting pot of ideas, perspectives, and skill sets. Students debate and build confidence, teachers join forces, and community members and professionals bring invaluable expertise. "I don't think that you can teach now without bringing in other teachers and other perspectives. It's a disservice to the kids," says Middle School teacher Lindsay Bryan (US'01).

"We don't live in silos. Our role as teachers is to bring people together, to bolster and help build scaffolds for our students. They have the capacity to do so much. You want them to have the best in every field, and no one person is ever going to provide that," says Scott.

"I work with my students as a collaborative team," continues Bryan. "It's not 'I'm the teacher, you're the student. Let me give you everything I know,' because there's plenty of stuff I don't know. . . . It allows them to step into that space of learning and take ownership as well. I think that might be the Principia difference."

# A FRAMEWORK for the Future

#### STORY BY LAUREL SHAPER WALTERS (US'84)

Throughout the 2022–23 academic year, faculty, staff, administrators, and students on both campuses worked with planning and design firm Christner Architects to envision Principia's future, giving shape to next-generation possibilities for each campus.

The master planning process included facility condition assessments of all buildings, space utilization studies, and an inclusive process to develop concepts and options for the future. Town halls and design charrettes allowed students, staff, and faculty to share insights and ideas, and then to respond to developing ideas.

The planning and design principles that grew out of this work provide long-range parameters and conceptual blueprints for the next 15–20 years. The master plan options were previewed by the Board of Trustees in June 2023. As specific plans progress and fundraising is successful, the Board will need to approve projects as they come to fruition.

The master planning work from the past year is already influencing the projects being prioritized for the near term, and multiple projects already in progress have been completed in recent years based on previous master planning. (See timelines, pp. 38–41.)

Future projects will be dependent on donor support and will need to be a demonstrated unfoldment in the same way countless other projects at Principia have come to fruition throughout our 125-year history.



Rendering of one possible option for the School campus of the future.



Rendering showing the recommended use of more native landscaping on the College campus.

# CAPITAL PROJECT Timelines

Informed by the master planning process, and developed with communitywide input, this iterative year-long study produced a set of planning and design principles for each campus. These frameworks will guide the evaluation and exploration of options for designing the future of Principia's campuses. Within each of the three overarching principles for each campus, several design strategies are outlined on the following pages.

# SCHOOL Projects

#### IMPROVE THE SEPARATION BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ZONES ON CAMPUS

- Clarify campus zones with strategically placed parking. Create distinct event parking areas that are convenient for visitors and separated from boarding and academic activities.
- Create thresholds between campus zones. Use design to shape how people move through and use the campus. Place new buildings and landscaping in ways that create soft edges to public and private spaces on campus.
- Provide buffers for boarding spaces with berms, trees, landscape walls, and shrubs to augment residential separation while retaining connection to academic campus.

#### BUILD ON THE STRENGTHS OF THE CAMPUS

- Create a memorable arrival sequence. Leverage the undulating green space along Clayton Road as a transitional space that welcomes and orients visitors. Design an intuitive and welcoming arrival experience that simplifies wayfinding, improves safety, and inherently separates academic and visitor/event circulation.
- Reinforce the original architects' vision of a modern village with lowslung, modern buildings embedded in the landscape. Strengthen and preserve the physical continuity of the buildings and reimagine boarding facilities in the same spirit.



2017



2018



2021

IDEA Center Media and Communications Center Performing Arts Center Preschool Renovation House Hall Founder's Room Student Commons Dining Room Bible Classroom

D-Wing Renovation





#### Λ

One of the prioritized projects growing out of the master plan for the School is shifting the main entrance to improve traffic flows and create a more impactful arrival on campus.

#### LEVERAGE THE SITE AS AN EXTRAORDINARY DIFFERENTIATOR

- Interweave campus buildings with the campus landscape and enhance the sense of interconnectedness. Create spaces that have strong connections to the outside. Shape buildings and landscapes to create outdoor "rooms" well suited for community and academic activities.
- Use the site to demonstrate ecological stewardship through projects that celebrate environmental sustainability. Use native and naturalized landscapes to manage stormwater, support biodiversity, and reduce mowing and pesticide use. Highlight alternative energy sources, including solar panels.
- Consider the whole campus as an expanded classroom, taking advantage of the variety of landscapes and ecologies that exist on the site.



2022

Athletic Fields



2023/2024



**UPCOMING PRIORITIES** 

Bill Simon Field House

Pool Improvements

Aron House Dorm Updates Clayton Road Entrance Prairie Landscaping Upper School Innovation & Design Lab Addition

# **COLLEGE** *Projects*







2017

Voney Art Center Renovation 2019

McVay Center for the Performing Arts at Morey Sylvester House Roof Replacement

2020



Rendering of recommendations for the College campus, creating "outdoor rooms" and naturalized landscaping on the Chapel Green.

#### **BUILD ON THE STRENGTHS OF THE CAMPUS**

- Create an arrival experience that is intuitive and graceful, clarifying the campus organization and wayfinding.
- Establish thresholds that offer meaningful transitions between the outer and inner domain of the campus, between indoor and outdoor space, and between types of outdoor spaces along public paths.
- Reinforce the Chapel Green as the center of campus. Preserve the Chapel Green as the space that guarantees the Chapel prominence and distinguishes it from other campus buildings. Reconsider the foreground landscape through the lens of environmental stewardship and consider a more naturalized foreground to the Chapel.
- Simplify and limit decision making in vehicular and pedestrian circulation. Establish clear distinctions between the residential, academic and administrative, and athletic programmatic areas of the campus.
- Further the tradition started by architect Bernard Maybeck of creating extraordinary architectural experiences on campus through buildings that are genuine to the ethos of Principia and provide meaningful spaces to serve the community.

#### A FRAMEWORK FOR THE FUTURE | FEATURE

Check out the Principia Forward master planning webinar.







# 2024/2025



#### **UPCOMING PRIORITIES**

School of Government Renovation

2021

Sylvester House Renovation Observation/Bluff Overlook Project

> Solar Farm Anderson House Roof Replacement

Planning and Fundraising for Renovation of Howard House (Exploratory Fundraising Committee)

#### MAXIMIZE HUMAN INTERACTION AND BUILD COMMUNITY

- Incentivize social connectivity by creating primary circulation paths and indoor and outdoor common spaces that leverage views and create nodes of activity.
- Create social spaces that connect people and that range in scale and location.
   Design new landscapes and paths that focus human activity.
- Celebrate and reinforce the strength of the student/faculty connection by creating spaces that make faculty accessible to students and encourage engagement.

#### INTERWEAVE NATURAL AND BUILT WORLDS

- Continue Maybeck's integration of building and outdoor spaces. Blur the boundaries between the campus and the natural world, reinforcing that engaging in the natural world is a crucial part of growth and education.
- Leverage the natural beauty of the campus and consider the whole campus as a classroom. Find opportunities to enable academic activity throughout the campus in outdoor rooms and collaborative environments.
- Improve and demonstrate environmental stewardship.
   Diminish presence of cars and emphasize a pedestrianfriendly campus.

# Kenya Safari Spurs Conservation Innovation



S o much can happen on a Principia Lifelong Learning (PLL) trip. You can meet new people, discover new places, explore new cultures . . . create new technologies?

On a recent PLL safari in Kenya, that's exactly what happened. As Trip Scholar and Palm Beach Zoo Chief Animal Conservation Officer Renee Bumpus introduced travelers to the sub-Saharan wildlife, she shared a simple message: All of us can help contribute to global conservation efforts.

Peter Marsh, a Cal Poly computer science major traveling with his family, got the message loud and clear. To Marsh, this wasn't just a suggestion; it was a calling. "I reached out to Renee and asked how someone interested in technology and wildlife conservation could help," Marsh says.

Bumpus connected Marsh with renowned conservationist Dr. Abdullahi Ali, who was looking to alter local attitudes about wildlife by deterring wild animals from entering farmlands. "It's hard to live around these species," Bumpus says. "Giraffes trample vegetables or eat everything off of your trees. Lions can take livestock, and hippos destroy things. So, the locals can be really negative towards [the animals]."

Using technology to keep animals and farmers safe—and separate—is not a new concept, but it is certainly a tricky one. Ali was looking to create a deterrent for a specific species when Marsh offered his support. For the next few months, they met weekly via Zoom and discussed creating a device that would use light and sound combinations to keep wild animals away from people and their property. It also needed to be a low-cost, battery-powered, and solar-powered solution; physical barriers such as fencing are too costly.

After extensive research, Marsh proved the concept and created a prototype exoskeleton of the device—readying it for the next phase of production. "This trip changed Peter's trajectory," says Bumpus. "He now wants to be involved with conservation." "It's our responsibility to be stewards," says Marsh. "I gained so much from seeing these beautiful animals and want to do more than be a tourist."



#### Meet PLL Faculty Member Peter van Lidth de Jeude

#### Why do you teach at PLL?

I love teaching, and PLL trips and Summer Session are great opportunities to share information about history to a different audience in different ways. I want participants to leave more knowledgeable and enriched in their understanding of a topic. But more than that, I want to fan the flame for a love of lifelong learning.

#### You're leading a PLL trip from Prague to Budapest this summer. What excites you about that?

Having led a Principia College study abroad program, I know the tremendous value from the intersection of ideas and locations; it adds a richness that can't be duplicated. The beauty of PLL trips is having a faculty scholar alongside the travelers. Together, we are sharing in the joy of learning. I'm as enriched by the experiences as they are.

# What about the Principia difference?

Our foundation in Christian Science permeates everything we do, including with PLL programs. We are always centered on the expectation of students being unlimited; that makes for a joyful learning community.

# Principia Lifelong Learners really know how to explore!



# Make it a year to remember 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 AND 2 September 20–28, 2024 or September 27–October 5, 2024
- CROATIA & CRUISING THE DALMATION COAST June 24–July 5, 2025

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

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



Find your next adventure at principia.edu/pll.



#### Wonderful Principia Family!

Principians coming together is one of my favorite activities, and the end of 2023 brought together some epic gatherings from Seattle to Denver, Elsah to Toronto. The camaraderie, rekindled friendships, and new connections that filled each gathering with laughter, love, and joy are the very essence of what makes the Principia community exceptional. A few gatherings we're looking forward to in the coming months include:

Global Days of Service Throughout April, alumni and friends are invited to unite in service and volunteerism as part of Principia's ninth annual Global Days of Service. Learn how to participate and share your story of service at principia.edu/globaldays.

#### **College Reunion**

We are counting down the days until June 27, when alumni gather in Elsah for Reunion 2024! We've already received a record number of registrations and can't wait to celebrate Principians whose grad years end in 4, 5, 9, and 0, along with Howard House and international alumni from all years! (All alumni are invited to attend.)

Additionally, if you find yourself yearning to reconnect with a long-lost classmate, our online directory serves as a treasure trove of connections waiting to be rediscovered. Simply log on to **principiaalumni.org/directory** and embark on a journey down memory lane. Who knows, you may just stumble upon the contact information you've been searching for, reigniting friendships that transcend time and distance.

We hope you will gather with us this year! Whether on a Principia Lifelong Learning trip or at Summer Session, College Reunion, or at our upcoming solar eclipse celebrations, we are looking forward to more adventures and memories with you!

Lovelovelove!

Merrilee McFarland (US'99, C'03) Senior Director, Alumni & Field Relations merrilee.mcfarland@principia.edu 314.514.3146

#### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS



**Jessica (Williams) Dees (US'93, C'97)** Mid-Atlantic Region President



Dave Pfleeger (C'93) Northwest Region Vice President



Jean (Gilliland) Martin (US'80, C'85) Southwest Region Secretary



**John Butler** (C'87) Southwest Region



Molly Glascock (US'11, C'15) Northeast Region



Whitnie (Wood) Gonzales (US'98, C'02) Central Region



Matt Grennie (C'93) Great Lakes Region



**Joy (Denninger) Long (US'96, C'00)** Northern California Region



**Sel Nutor (C'98)** International Representative



Eliza (Allen) Stewart (US'99, C'03) St. Louis Region



Wendy (Williams) Swarts (C'88) Southeast Region



Donbosco Ngeso (C'25) Student Representative

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# Remembering the 'Forgotten Girls': Heather Dune Macadam Gives Voice to the Young Women of Auschwitz

**Heather Dune Macadam** (US'78) (pictured center) recently won the Human Rights Award for her documentary 999: The Forgotten Girls. Chronicling the first Jewish transport to Auschwitz consisting of 999 young women and girls, the film is currently featured in various film festivals and won Best Documentary at the Miami Jewish Film Festival. Macadam spoke with the Purpose about this groundbreaking work.

I found the story through Rena Kornreich, the subject of my very first book, *Rena's Promise*, about two sisters in Auschwitz. I went to Slovakia in 2012, after Rena passed, for the 70th anniversary of the first transport, with 999 women and girls.

I decided to make the journey myself, from Poprad, Slovakia to Auschwitz, and while I was in Slovakia, I met another survivor, Edith Grossman. Edith had a very different story than Rena. Edith went to Auschwitz with all of her classmates and friends—200 young women from her hometown. Her testimony is the impetus for the film and the book.

For this book and film, I interviewed survivors all over the world—in Australia, New York, Israel, Slovakia, Canada. ... It touches just about every country. This is a universal story about women and girls. It has a wide-reaching audience and message; our film and the book make a strong anti-war statement. As Edith says to us, war serves no one. Everybody loses in a war.

[At a recent screening] there were three young Ukrainian refugee girls. They wanted to thank me for making a film about young women surviving war; they wanted to hug me and we were all in tears. That meant the world to me!

This excerpt has been edited for brevity. Read the full interview online.



# **Class Notes**

# **US'62**

Karen (Van Vleck) Jeffery (US'62) has recently qualified for a new position as an Arbitrator with FINRA, tasked with settling claims and overseeing regulatory matters within the financial services sector, particularly focusing on cases in Portland and across the West Coast.

# C'65

Ronald T. Plotka, DDS (C'65) won the Senior Men's US Open Singles Pickleball Championship in April 2023 in Naples, FL (Read Ronald's pickleball tips on p. 17.)

## C'68

George Crown (C'68) recently published a collection of watercolors entitled Visions of Harsen's Island. George writes, "I studied art under James Green and Jim Schmidt. . . . I was fortunate to go on a Prin Abroad in 1967 with Jim Green, Glen Felch (C'68), and Judy (McCreary) Felch (C'67), which enabled me to get my first teaching job out of college. Thanks to my education at Principia, I have been able to devote my life to my love of watercolor painting. I cherish and will be forever grateful for my experience at Principia College."

# US'67

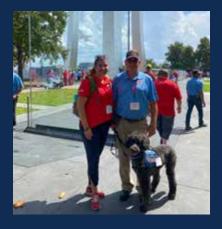
Upper School '67 classmates break bread annually at Glenn Johnson's estate in Hampton Falls, New Hampshire. From October 12–16, 2023, they sat around the fire pit outside, around the wood stove inside, around tables in restaurants, around the big dining room table and the little kitchen table. A good time was had by all. Pictured below, left to right: **Tom Neale** (US'67, C'71), **Jo Ellen (Good) Watford** (US'67), **Katie (Salyer) Neely** (US'67), **Glenn Johnson** (US'67, C'71), and (seated) **Andy Hunter** (US'67).



# **US'72**

After working on cruise ships since 2011, Nancy (Robinson) Soule (US'72) launched her book. Work at Sea. See the World: An Insider's Secrets to the Working Life on a Cruise Ship. It reveals the secret life onboard of living in an atmosphere of international cooperation, diversity, and tolerance while honing their unique skills. To further specialize the focus and reflect her jazz experience, she is now also hosting an online, interactive course called "Notes That Float" specifically for bands and solo musicians interested in this unique seafaring experience. She continues to sail for Royal Caribbean as a theatrical wardrobe contractor, ship-hopping around the globe.

## **A Special Salute**



More than 275,000 US veterans have been honored as part of the Honor Flight Network, and **William "Chip" Ostenberg** (US'64, C'73) was one of those veterans to travel to Washington, D.C. in September and visit the memorials built to commemorate their service and sacrifice.

Principians made Chip's trip even more special. Ahead of his flight, notes of love and gratitude were collected from faculty and staff on both campuses and members of the Upper School football team. The Alumni Office assembled a collection of yearbook photos from Chip's Principia student days, and even the youngest Principians from the Early Learning Center shared special messages. Chip was accompanied by his Service Dog, Justice, and his daughter, Leah (Ostenberg) Stender (C'01), who presented him with the items during his flight.

Chip served three tours in Vietnam, earning a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star and after the Army, joined the National Guard and the Army Reserve. He was called back to active duty, earning the Legion of Merit and Meritorious Service Medal, and retiring two years later.



1 Alumni Basketball Game Reunion: College men and women basketball alumni hailing from seven decades—1967 to 2023—returned to Elsah on February 10. Not only did they cheer on the Panthers take on Blackburn but celebrated with both teams over dinner before concluding the evening with alumni scrimmages.

Alumni and current players before the alumni scrimmage:

*First row (left to right):* Kingsley Cockburn (C'25), Jordan Williams (C'27), Jake Erickson (C'24), Isaac Salas (C'27), Shemarri Miles (C'24), Cole Harrison (C'26), Larry Patterson (US'10, C'16)

Second row: Peter Hill (C'95), Marco Powells (C'24), AJ Byrd (C'24), Ivan Vashchenko (US'23, C'27), Zach Matters (C'22), Evan Eisenauer (US'15, C'19), Spencer Rand (US'99, C'03), Coach Todd Zimmerman (C'11), Dorian Watkins (US'11, C'15)

Third row: Bobby Alford III (C'27), Kevin Wingert (US'18, C'23), Daniel Hoffman (C'22), Payton Sellers (US'17, C'22), Steven Dissette (C'83), Kenny Sydness (C'14), Jeff Ross (C'18), Justin Ball (US'13, C'17), Parker Davidson (C'18), Jaquan Adams (C'24), Clark Davidson (C'22), Isaiah Parker (C'25), Charlie Hoffman (US'21, C'25), Riley Speidel (C'25), Ed Wright Jr. (C'71)

**2** A few of the women's basketball alumni gathered for a photo with a couple current players:

Trinniti Matthews (C'26), Rachel (Charlston) Wann (US'01, C'05), Maddie Wann (C'20), Kyla (Crandell) Becker (US'97, C'01), future player Sami, Missy Wright (C'03), Alana Hinson (C'24)

3 In August 2023, a group of Principians gathered at the boundary between North and South Carolina in Calabash, North Carolina, including members from various family branches. Trish (Houston) Kroger (C'86) and Sandy Houston (C'79) attended a family gathering near Wilmington, North Carolina, while the rest convened for the annual Hedgepeth family beach week at Kay (Congleton) Hedgepeth's (JC'56) beach house on Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina. Notably, among the group were three pairs of Principia College roommates, showcasing the close bonds in the Principia family: Julie (Hedgepeth) Williams (C'81) and Wendy Gilmer (C'79), Jan (Hedgepeth) Wright (C'84) and Sarah (Bushong) Taylor (C'83), and Anne (Hedgepeth) Banaskavich (C'86) and Trish (Houston) Kroger (C'86). Kay, Jan, and Nathan Wright (C'15) represented three generations.

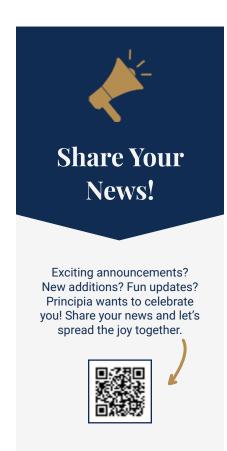
Sitting from left to right: Kay (Congleton) Hedgepeth (JC'56), Anne (Hedgepeth) Banaskavich (C'86), Becky (Bushong) Stevens (C'80), and Sarah (Bushong) Taylor (C'83)

**Standing, from left to right:** Jon Wright (C'85), Wendy Gilmer (C'79), Julie (Hedgepeth) Williams (C'81), Jan (Hedgepeth) Wright (C'84), Trish (Houston) Kroger (C'86), Sandy Houston (C'79), and Nathan Wright (C'15)









#### **US'74**

**Brian Tlougan** (US'74) has resided in a medieval university town in the Czech Republic for several decades, transitioning from his previous career as a mortgage broker in the Seattle area. Content with his life in Europe, he fondly recalls **Johnny Johnson's** (US'73) speech from his time running for student body vice president in the mid-70s and is eager to reconnect with old friends and acquaintances from that era.

# C'79

Linda (Yows) Leitz (C'79), an accomplished financial professional, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Center for Financial Planning (CFP) Board. With over 40 years of experience, Linda is renowned for her expertise in financial planning and has served in key leadership roles within the profession. Her appointment underscores the CFP Board's commitment to upholding standards and advancing the financial planning field for the public's benefit. The CFP Board is the primary organization for financial planners in the U.S., setting standards and administering the widely recognized Certified Financial Planner certification.

## C'81

Julie (Hedgepeth) Williams (C'81) and David Knopf (C'84) met at Titanic-Con23 in Las Vegas, Nevada, where they both spoke as presenters. Julie,

descended from a Titanic survivor, annually shares her great-uncle Albert Caldwell's story at TitanicCon, which influenced her to become a historian. Her book, A Rare Titanic Family, received the Ella Dickey Award for Books that Preserve History. Meanwhile, David, who participated in James Cameron's Titanic as an extra, provided a unique perspective on the tragedy. Their speeches, offering distinct insights into the Titanic, garnered considerable attention, and it was a surprise to learn that David was roommates with Julie's brother-in-law Jon Wright (C'85) at Principia.



# C'83

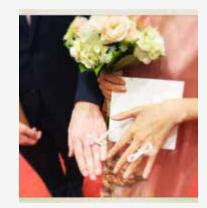
Marking 46 years of friendship, **Terry Owen** and **Ron Gray** (both US'79, C'83), reunited at Terry's residence

# Weddings



# C'01

Melinda Kernc (C'01) and Michael Allison (US'98) wed in Arlington, Virginia on April 29, 2023 with friends, family, and many alumni in attendance.



#### C'10

#### **Brian Twitchell**

(C'10) married Dr. Ai Fukunaga on August 4, 2023. They moved to Ireland in November and are looking forward to life together. in Westlake Village, California. Their celebration included catching up and exploring the local roads and mountains on their bicycles.



#### **C'86**



**Anne (Hindmarsh) Cooling** (C'86) recently published her Master's Thesis, *The Relevancy of Christian Healing*, available now on Amazon.

### **US'95**

**Chadwell Ruthsatz** (US'95) was honored with a Mid-America Emmy at the 47th Annual Mid-America Regional Emmy Awards for his documentary *Raising Spirits | The Big Muddy Dance Company*. Additionally, the film, directed by Chadwell and Ria Ruthsatz, garnered recognition at the St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase, winning Best Director in the Documentary category, and received a Telly Award at the 44th Annual Telly Awards.

#### **C'00**

Miranda Ash (C'00), awarded Celebrant of the Year for the South of England in 2023, later clinched the National Celebrant of the Year title across the UK at The Wedding Industry Awards, held at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. Initially approached by a friend from Principia to officiate her wedding, Miranda embraced her role as a Celebrant alongside her full-time work with WorldBlu, an organization founded by a fellow Principia alum. Inspired by mentors like Richard (US'45, C'50) and Bente (Pedersen, C'70) Morse, and Colorado-based officiant Heather Barron (C'98), Miranda has officiated hundreds of weddings, vow renewals, and other ceremonies across the UK

and Europe. Visit mirandathecelebrant. co.uk to learn more about Miranda's work.

## C'09

Rachel Hanson (C'09), who resides with her family in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, DC, recently celebrated the launch of Interfaith AIR. an employee resource group at the American Institutes of Research (AIR), where she works. As a leader in the planning committee, Rachel played a pivotal role in laying the foundation for the group's mission to support staff from diverse faith backgrounds, promote faith literacy within the AIR community, and provide guidance on faith-related matters. Despite the small initial planning group, the Interfaith AIR group has already garnered more than 30 members within its first week of operation.

## C'15

It was a big, fun Principia turnout for the wedding of Weston Williams (C'15) and Sapier Weinglass on May 21, 2023 in Chicago.

Front row from left: Lena Anderson (C'15), Leah Eckert, Sapier (Weinglass) Williams, Gretchen Kliewer (C'17), Austin Dauterman (C'15), Maddie (Kliewer) Dauterman (C'17), Camille Richardson (C'15), Shannon Naylor (C'15), Clint White (C'15)

Back row from left: Jan (Hedgepeth) Wright (C'84), Julie (Hedgepeth) Williams (C'81), Mike Banaskavich, Adam Eckert (US'12, C'16), Ethan Anderson (C'14), Anne (Hedgepeth) Banaskavich (C'86), Cameron Douglas (US'11, C'16), Austin Romo (C'15), Brannon Wittenberg (C'17), Weston Williams (C'15), Nathan Wright (C'15), Lyssa Winslow (C'15), Alden Williams (C'18), Ben Vaughan, Evan Dauterman (C'18), Dalton Long (C'13), Kelsey (Whitney) Wittenberg (US'12, C'16), Andy Crump (C'15), Roya Crump right in front of him. Prinos there who missed the picture: Kay (Congleton) Hedgepeth (JC'56) and Jon Wright (C'85)



# See Anyone You Recognize . . . Maybe Even Yourself?



**To celebrate Principia's 125 years**, we invited you to submit photos for our commemorative digital mosaic. From yearbook photos to present-day selfies and everything in between, sharing is what you did! 3,174 images later, you created a masterpiece for the history books.

Check it out!



# Celebrating Alumni Who Represent Principia in Outstanding and Significant Ways

#### Dr. Shirley (Thomas)

Paulson (US'66, C'70)

BIBLE SCHOLAR SEEKING TO Illuminate spiritual thought

Dr. Shirley Paulson is a Bible scholar, researcher, author, Christian Science practitioner, and principal

producer of *Early Christian Texts: The Bible and Beyond*, a website highlighting the work of other scholars of early Christianity.

Paulson became a practitioner in 1991 and has served as head of ecumenical affairs for The Mother Church, Committee on Publication for Illinois, the Christian Science Board of Lectureship, and the Board of the North American Academy of Ecumenists.

Her 2022 book, *Illuminating the Secret Revelation of John: Catching the Light*, explains why this classic ancient text is important for modern Bible readers and those seeking to understand Jesus' teachings in a new way. Roger Strelow (US'60, C'64) Founding Father of the EPA

Following his law school graduation from the University of California at Berkeley, Roger Strelow



became active in the environmental field. After working at the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, he aided government environmental efforts. Roger was instrumental in establishing and serving as the Assistant Administrator for Air and Waste Management of the Environmental Protection Agency—including drafting federal laws that create a safer, healthier population.

Roger's other professional accomplishments include founding partner of an environmental law firm, vice president for environmental programs at General Electric, executive vice president of Bechtel Environmental, and associate general counsel and director of environmental affairs for Federal Mogul's global operations.

Watch Shirley and Roger's honoree videos here: principiaalumni.org/DKA

# Help Us Recognize Deserving Alumni!



We need your nominations for the alumni awards below.

#### > 1906 ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

For exceptional contributions and achievements by Upper School and/or College alumni in any profession or within their community and with loyalty to the ideals of character and conduct.

#### DAVID K. ANDREWS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

For Upper School and/or College alumni who have rendered outstanding service to others through professional or civic contributions or through distinguished service to the Cause of Christian Science and/or to Principia. YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NEW For career achievements and outstanding civic, cultural, or professional contributions by Upper School and/or College alumni who have graduated within the past 15 years.

#### > GOLD & BLUE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME AWARD

For College coaches, teams, and alumni athletes who have made exceptional contributions to the history of Principia College athletics.



# This is your year to reconnect, remember, celebrate!

**Round up your classmates** and come back to relive the magic of your college years and make new memories at Reunion 2024!

Register today for discounted prices! Early-bird registration ends May 1.



Scan the code or visit principia.edu/reunion for all the details and to register.

# Who is celebrating:

10th: 2014, 2015 15th: 2009, 2010 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 from all years Howard House Alumni from all years

# Lovingly Remembered

Merl "Phil" P. Long Jr. (C'40) William "Bill" A. Seymour (US'44) Allen J. Applestone (US'46) Marjorie (Holmguist) Cooling (US'47) Barbara "Barbie" (Horn) Morrison (C'48) Mary (Mount) Nightingale (C'48) John "Jack" B. Williams (C'48) Joyce (Kinley) Knoble (US'45, C'49) Paul P. Siegert (C'49) Janet "Jan" (Skidmore) Skinner (US'49, JC'51) Frederick "Fred" W. Brodbeck (US'52) Marilyn (Riggs) Heath (C'52) Thomas "Tom" Klingensmith (US'52) Jane (Texter) Wiedenman (C'52) Dr. J. "Bert" L. Bear (US'49, C'53) Suzanne "Sue" (Fanta) Jones (C'53) Horace R. Chope (US'50, C'54) George King (US'54) Joan (Clark) Loechner (C'54) Marion (Wheeler) Mayer (US'50, C'54) Mary Elizabeth (Shuff) Skala (C'54) Isobel (Peacock) Anable (JC'58) Janet (Bancroft) Bancroft-Marchetti (US'54, C'58) Walden T. Crandell (JC'58) Peter L. McCandless (US'54, C'58) Richard "Rich" A. Hermann II (C'59)

Anna (Waller) Raphaelidis (C'59) Cal D. Boze (US'60) Meredith "Merry" (McBride) Coolidge (US'60) Barbara (Rose) Eich (US'57, C'61) Carol "Cee Jay" (Eakin) Heckenberg (US'57, C'61) Gunilla Tamm (C'61) Gary W. Crandell (C'62) Former Faculty/Staff Harvey E. Heiges (US'58, C'62) MarySue (Hormel) Harris (C'63) Philip "Flip" H. Steckler III (US'63) John M. Mouser (C'64) Helen K. Eddy (C'65) J. "Ellwood" E. Towle (US'61, C'65) Kathryn "Kathy" Blackwell (C'67) David E. Els (US'65, C'69) David P. Toppin (C'69) Gary R. Gentry (C'70) Former Faculty/Staff Robert "Bob" T. Snipes (C'70) Douglas "Doug" C. Rankin (C'71) I. "Barry" K. Wann (US'67, C'71) Gary E. Mitchell (C'72) William "Billy" O. Miller (C'72) Former Faculty/Staff Scott Spiller (C'73) David "Dave" F. Stevens, CSB (US'69, C'73) Former Faculty/Staff

Eliot D. Glaser (US'74)

Catherine "Cathy" (Leiterman) Spence (US'74)

Lutrelle "Lu" F. Palmer III (US'71, C'75)

Leslie E. Thompson (US'76) Former Faculty/Staff

Lawrence "Larry" E. Wolfe (C'76)

Douglas E. Whitmore (C'77) Former Faculty/Staff

Norman "Norm" E. Frank (C'78)

John A. Miller (C'78)

Nancy M. Moore (US'74, C'78) Former Faculty/Staff

Amy S. Grier (US'78, C'82)

David C. Vance Jr. (C'86)

Jason D. McCord (C'95)

Anndra (Wantland) Booth (C'99) Former Faculty/Staff

Joseph "J.W." W. Lown (C'99)

Carolyn (Hill) Burns (C'02) Former Faculty/Staff

#### Former Faculty/Staff

Mary Ann Alexander (FS'69)

Susanne "Sue" E. Sonke (FS'81)

David J. Anable (HON'09) Former Chief Executive Former Trustee

Bruce Bond (HON'19) Former Trustee

Cheryl L. Crandall-Whitney



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