PRINCIPIA

# PURPOSE

SUMMER 2025

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PRINCIPIA
# *PURPOSE*

**SUMMER 2025 |** ISSUE 391

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

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FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

# Principia: Still a Revolutionary Idea

BY **BARBARA BLACKWELL (HON'22)**
*Chief Executive*

In 1898, Principia Founder Mary Kimball Morgan had a revolutionary idea! School, she determined, need not be limited to intellectual pursuits. Instead, she wanted her boys, Billie and Freddie, to be educated intellectually, socially and morally, physically, and spiritually. With this conviction—unique at the time—Mrs. Morgan centered her School around the whole person, with Christian Science and character education at the center.

Today, this concept is no longer wholly unique; the educational world took note of Mrs. Morgan's innovative model and adopted it broadly. Principia, however, continues to implement the Whole-Person approach to education with a rigor, vigor, and creativity that is unprecedented and unparalleled.

We have recently completed a three-year strategic plan: The Journey Reimagined. This plan is specifically structured around a Whole-Person education for every student. All that we do—from building new facilities to programmatic initiatives to out-of-classroom experiences and athletic programs—is designed to integrate character education, to nurture and influence the entirety of our students' individuality—not just one aspect. This approach applies from our youngest pre-schoolers through our College students and on to our Lifelong Learners.

As we see each of our students as unlimited in their God-created potential and take every opportunity to educate in this holistic manner, we produce graduates who are capable of bringing healing solutions to their communities and beyond. This is the "Principia Product" and we could not be more committed to its continued impact on our world.

**As we see each of our students as unlimited in their God-created potential and take every opportunity to educate in this holistic manner, we produce graduates who are capable of bringing healing solutions to their communities and beyond.**

In this issue of *Principia Purpose*, you will see the many varied ways in which Principia educates and nurtures the whole person—every day on both of our campuses and in the experiential classroom of the world. Enjoy!

PRINCIPIA FORWARD

# NEW LEADERSHIP ON CAMPUS

*In May, Principia announced a transition in leadership at the College.* **Dr. Daniel Norton**, *College President since 2023, is moving forward with our gratitude for his significant contributions to Principia. His bold initiatives and wide-ranging accomplishments have resulted in transformational progress and positioned the College for a vibrant future.*

## Interim College President Dr. Meggan Madden

As of July 1, **Dr. Meggan Madden** (C'93) is the Interim President of Principia College. A distinguished academic leader who has spent six years as Principia's Dean of Academics, Dr. Madden played a central role in developing the College's new academic vision and supporting strategic curricular development to prepare students for an ever-changing world.

Dr. Madden previously held faculty and administrative roles at George Washington University (GWU), the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, and Arizona State University. At GWU, she served as a Co-chair of the UNESCO Chair in International Education for Development and executive editor of the *Journal of Comparative and International Higher Education*. With an MA and PhD from the University of Toronto, her scholarship explores the intersection of global higher education policy and student experience.

Madden and husband **Lee Eubank** (C'97), the College's head of Facilities, are fixtures on campus whose visionary partnership is building a more sustainable future for Principia College. "We aim to educate students to seek and find healing solutions to the world's greatest challenges," says Madden. "It is an honor to be leading this important work. The world needs Principia College now more than ever!"

## Head of School Terry Grigsby

As of July 1, **Terry Grigsby** (US'97, C'01) is the Head of School for Principia School. **Dr. Merry (Pease) Sorrells** (C'79), who previously shared her plans to retire as Head of School in June 2026, generously offered to serve as Interim Middle School Principal and Associate Head of School for the 2025–2026 academic year, due to an unexpected need at the Middle School level.

Serving as Assistant Head of School for Enrollment Management and Residential Life, Grigsby has worked in close partnership with Dr. Sorrells and the School leadership team to help steer the School through a period of growth and increased community engagement. He was instrumental in the launch of some of the School's most forward-thinking initiatives, including a revitalized boarding program and an innovative, integrated curriculum.

Bringing two decades of service as an officer in the United States Navy, Grigsby's calm and sure leadership style is marked by a deep sense of duty, resilience, and a commitment to finding consensus among a diverse group of voices. Grigsby holds a BA from Principia College and Master's degrees from Webster University and the US Naval War College.

Grigsby, wife **Sarah (Jarvis) Grigsby** (C'07) who helms the Lower School's PE program, and their two daughters are beloved members of the Principia community.

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ON CAMPUS

# SCHOOL

QUICK LOOK

**GOLD, BLUE, AND . . . EMERALD GREEN?**

This year, Upper Schoolers marched down the yellow brick road and flew through the air for their production of the beloved classic, *The Wizard of Oz*. To bring the story to life, the show included 14 flying effects, students from both the Lower and Middle schools, and even a real dog!

MAKING HISTORY

# Boys' Basketball Wins State, Girls' Team Notches 2nd Place Finish

For the first time in Principia history, both the boys' and girls' basketball teams competed at the state championships in the same season. When the dust settled, the girls were ranked second in the state and the boys came out on top as State Champions—another first for Principia Basketball. "We're so proud of our basketball teams," says Athletic Director **Shawn Brown** (US'00, C'04). "It's like we keep finding something new to achieve each year." The boys' team finished their record-breaking season almost undefeated at 30-1, while the girls finished at 26-6. "I've been around a long time, and a lot of kids play for their individual selves, and these guys aren't like that. They share the ball, they get everybody involved, and it's really special," said Coach **Jay Blossom**.

"The Principia athletic creed shows up from start to finish with our athletes," says Brown. "These kids are training year-round; they put in the work. And this year has felt like a fulfillment. It proves we can go out and do things the right way—we can be respectful; we can be gritty. And we can also go out and win."

IN BRIEF

### STUDENTS HONORED AT ARTIST SHOWCASE

Five Upper School art pieces were selected to be a part of the highly competitive St. Louis Young Artists Showcase. Art created by Anita, Volodymyr, Mark, Zana, and Angel was chosen from among 400 student submissions. Anita's sculpture titled "Under the Surface" earned special recognition and was awarded the Louetta Beuchler Scholarship. "Coming to Principia and taking art classes taught me how to think like an artist," said Anita. "This has been a great opportunity for me to share my artwork with the community."

### A WORLD-CLASS SENDOFF

Laughter filled Ridgway auditorium as Upper School graduation speaker **Travis Thomas** (C'95), an author, mindset coach, and improv comedy veteran spoke to the importance of courage in overcoming self-doubt. Recounting his journey to discern and live his purpose—a journey that included coaching the US Men's National Soccer Team in the 2022 World Cup and writing two books—Thomas said, "There will be so many moments when you ask yourself: Why am I here? God, help me. That's when you need to listen. And be courageous." The World Cup coach looked out over the graduating class of 2025 and proclaimed, "You guys are up for the challenge."

IN BRIEF

### PRINCIPIANS ON THE PODIUM

A number of student-athletes stood out from the pack this year and made their way to the State Championships in their sports. After a stellar freshman season, Upper School swimmer Sarah placed 12th in State in the 100 Breaststroke (1:10.52), breaking a long-standing Principia record (1:10.80). On the wrestling mat, five athletes competed in the State Championships, including junior Julian, who took second in her weight class for Girls' Wrestling. Join us in congratulating our student-athletes on their incredible seasons!

### SIMUNYE SERVICE TRIP: PACKING WITH PURPOSE, TRAVELING FOR CHANGE

With duffle bags stuffed to the brim with clothes for South African youngsters, Principia students embarked on their annual Simunye service trip. Partnering with local organizations to help create a sustainable future for local communities, students handled everything from distributing clothes, digging sustainable mandala gardens, painting schools, installing playgrounds, repairing wells and plumbing pipes, and installing toilets. Upper School Principal **Samantha Dry** remarked, "It's one thing to read about sustainability in class, and it's another to actually get your hands dirty and help create something that will continue to change lives long-term."

WE GOT THE BEAT

# MIDDLE SCHOOLERS MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC WITH TWO-TIME GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING ARTIST

This past February, two-time Grammy Award-winning musician, Principia parent, and master drummer **Emanuel Harrold** taught a day-long jazz clinic for middle schoolers. Hosted by Principia, the clinic attracted burgeoning musicians from across the greater St. Louis area to the Ridgway stage. Throughout the day, students worked with Harrold and his cohorts in like-instrument sectionals, a big band setting, and one-on-one. "During the clinic, students got to jam and improvise with professional musicians, which is a rare and fantastic opportunity to solo and perform with musicians of this caliber," said Assistant Band Director **Katie Pyles**.

At day's end, the students joined the professionals in putting on a concert for the community—one that had the audience tapping their feet. As the Irving Mills lyrics attest, "It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing." Luckily, Principia has it in spades.

HITTING THE STREETS

# Transforming a Tunnel into a Canvas

Principia's ninth-graders have left their mark on a grand scale. Beginning with project planning and ideation, students presented plans to the Town and Country Board of Aldermen to paint a mural on Blacksmith's Tunnel that leads under Clayton Road and out to the Straub's shopping area.

From designing and planning to mapping and painting, students contributed their ideas, creativity, and old-fashioned hard work, bringing the tunnel alive with meaningful images of the community that will endure for years to come.

"The most exciting thing for me is seeing how this will stay with the students," says Visual Arts and Design teacher **Grace (Bonwich) Hinthorne** (US'08, C'12). "They'll walk through that tunnel and spend the rest of their Upper School experience—even the rest of their lives—saying, 'I painted that tree!' or 'That building was my idea!' It's their legacy."

Thanks to the vision and effort of the ninth-graders, what was once a shadowy tunnel is now a canvas for memories, a place where students' ideas have come to life, and a reminder that, with creativity and hard work, they haven't just transformed a space—they've transformed themselves.

MISSION MONARCH

## Second-graders Plant for Pollinators

Second-graders noticed something missing in the native plant gardens on the playgrounds—Monarch butterflies. This set them on a quest to find out why and what they could do to help.

Over the next eight weeks, students studied Monarch butterflies—their life cycle, migration patterns, and, most importantly, the milkweed they need to survive. The solution was clear: plant more milkweed! So, the students got to work creating "seed spheres"—a ball of mud and seeds they could throw into their gardens to help the milkweed grow.

With research in hand, they shared their findings—and seed spheres—with the Upper School sustainability class and Fall Festival attendees, and presented their research to nearly 500 local experts and participants in this year's Impact Challenge, a local event supporting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

The second-graders made an even bigger impact by publishing their research in *The Healthy Planet, St. Louis' Green and Healthy Living Magazine*, reaching over 35,000 readers. Their work proved that a little research—and a lot of curiosity—can inspire others to join the mission to protect Monarch butterflies and help sustain the environment.

# Real-world Learning Makes a Real Impact

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

*Principia CoLab students speak to the Maryland Heights Planning Commissioner.*

It's the age-old question: can any of us really affect change? This year, ninth graders in the Biology CoLab class learned they can, as long as they're willing to try. The ripple effect began, as they all do, with a single drop. Upper School Science and Biology CoLab teacher **Joel Allen** was out birding at an abandoned airport field over the summer. The land, which had been unofficially folded into a local farm and tilled, experienced a shift in its biodiversity when pools of water began to collect in the empty crop rows. They attracted rare birds during migration season, making it a hot spot for bird enthusiasts like Allen. "One day I was standing next to another birder who said, 'It's such a shame they're going to build over this habitat,'" said Allen. "And I thought 'This is what I've been looking for!'"

He presented the challenge to his Biology CoLab: how to save a burgeoning habitat and still make room for new enterprises. The class began reviewing data and sightings gathered by Allen and others tracking the migratory patterns of the birds.

To accurately determine the right balance for a biodiverse habitat, students ran equations that measured the effects different plants might bring to an environment. "It's so modular," says Allen. "They had to consider 'What's my ethos? What do I think is important, and what's the evidence that supports that?'"

The results? Students learned that the right plant combinations in the right places could maintain the same biodiversity in a fifth of the space. A few weeks later, they presented their incredible findings to a panel of legislators at Maryland Heights City Hall, including the local Planning Commissioner and, unbeknownst to them at the time, the project manager of the construction project threatening the habitat.

Moved by their words and their research, the project manager took the CoLab's findings back to his team, hoping to rethink the project's landscaping. But he wasn't the only one affected. The students' research also

inspired the city's Planning Commissioner to rethink laws around land stewardship, ultimately encouraging him to make Maryland Heights a "Bee City"—a city that creates safe habitats for pollinators. "It was a great reminder that we, as humans, have the opportunity to be phenomenal stewards and caretakers of this planet," says Allen. "That we can make a difference if we care enough to take that first step. The learning doesn't stop at the classroom door. We take it into the world, and we teach our students to leave the world a little bit better than they found it."


Principia remains dedicated to our founding principles, with Christian Science at the heart.

# See what's new

## in Principia's Boarding Program!

**Support us by referring boarding or day students who would benefit from a Principia education.**

- Upgraded facilities for boys and girls in the heart of campus
- Communal living spaces with a comfortable, home-like atmosphere
- Safe and supportive, centered around connection and community
- Spiritual life woven through social, emotional, athletic, and academic experiences
- Loving environment that nurtures growth and lifelong friendships

Check out the video for an inside look at the vibrant and modern residential life experience at Principia School!

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ON CAMPUS

# COLLEGE

QUICK LOOK

## FRESHMAN UDOEKONG TAKES TRACK AND FIELD BY STORM

Track and Field sensation, freshman Sana Udoekong (US'24, C'28) blazed a trail this year, shattering the 200-meter all-time College record set in 1992 by a full second, and earning both the SLIAC Conference Indoor Track Athlete and Indoor Track Freshman of the Year awards. She said, "Breaking a sprint record at Prin was definitely one of my goals for this season, but I didn't expect it to happen this soon."

IN BRIEF

### RUNNING ON SUNSHINE

This summer, the College will complete construction on its highly anticipated solar farm. Trustees and other community members attended the groundbreaking on the six-acre lot last April, and the site has been abuzz with activity since. Generating 2.8 million kWh of electricity—about 28 percent of the campus' energy consumption—the project is on track to be completed and functional by August. And the buzz we mentioned before? It's not just from excitement. The land will double as a pollinator habitat, attracting bees and other important pollinators to the area. Now that's what we call sustainable!

### SCHOLAR-ATHLETE DAMIR CONCI EARNS ALL-AMERICAN RUGBY HONORS—TWICE!

Student Body President and Academic All-Conference scholar-athlete **Damir Conci** (C'25) was voted National Collegiate Rugby's D1 All-American for the second time in his career at Principia College. Under the leadership of coaches **Ward Patterson** (C'82), and **Philip Kellerman**, Conci's incredible work ethic helped accomplish the move to Division I, while grabbing the 2022 Division II National Championship along the way. The senior flyhalf for the Thunder Chickens said, "I came to Principia to make a difference, not just for myself, but for the future of the team—and we did it."

### LEONARDO DREW BREATHES LIFE INTO SCULPTURE AT PRINCIPIA COLLEGE

World-renowned sculptor **Leonardo Drew** presented a free lecture as part of the Schmidt Family Lecture Series on Contemporary Art, an invaluable gift to the Principia community offering thought-provoking insights into the world of art. Drew's presentation invited viewers to participate in the work, divining meaning from his amalgams of handmade wood and mixed-media creations. Scholar **Ishmael Ochieng** (C'25) said, "His large-scale installations feel almost alive, as if they're telling stories about memory, history, and the human experience . . . I was awestruck in wonder!"

DIG IT

# Principia College Meets the Ice Age: The Mastodon that Brought History to Life

Digging up a mastodon wasn't originally on the syllabus, but at Principia College, history comes to life in extraordinary ways. This past December, students and professors from our campus, along with those from nearby colleges, had a rare opportunity to witness and take part in the excavation of the skull of a 27,500-year-old mastodon found on the Principia College campus in 2022.

The final live excavation—one of only four university-led digs of its kind in the last 25 years—served as an amazing open-air classroom, providing students with a unique opportunity to apply their interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary skills. From archaeology and computer science, to chemistry, biology, and art, students integrated their knowledge in every aspect of the dig.

News of the event quickly spread beyond the dig site, capturing the attention of over 40 local and national news outlets and bringing this incredible discovery to the forefront of public attention. This wasn't just any dig—it was a front-row seat to history in the making, an unforgettable moment that offered a hands-on experience with the past that few will ever get to witness.

Watch the local news report

HONORING THE MEDIATION MASTER

# PRINCIPIA COLLEGE PLACES IN INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION TOURNAMENT AND CELEBRATES AWARD HONORING TEAM FOUNDER

The Mediation team had another great showing at the Fourth Annual International Academy of Dispute Resolution (INADR) Conciliator Tournament in Orlando, FL. Held at the University of Central Florida, this two-day three-round tournament was open to undergraduate mediation teams worldwide, including Boston University, University of Texas, and National University of Singapore. Juniors Shaun Chore and Sebastian Kyllonen, and senior Avery Smith, placed second in Team Advocate/Client, and fourth and fifth in Attorney/Client Pairs. Additionally, Junior Medara Udoekong took fourth place in individual mediation.

During the competition, the INADR made its official announcement of an award honoring founding coach **Dr. Jeff Steele's** memory. "He always said, 'Trust the Jefe,'" recalled junior Shaun Chore—a play on Steele's name and the Spanish word for "boss." "Competing at this level can feel overwhelming, but 'Jefe' always told us to focus on having fun. So, while some teams seemed to stress about the competition, we remembered to 'trust the Jefe' and had a great time, which settled our nerves. Having the competition culminate by honoring his legacy is something we will always remember."

THINKING AS A COMMUNITY

## College Students *Map the System*

For the first time since 2019, Principia students participated in Oxford University's international competition, *Map the System*. Despite being labeled as such, the event is not actually meant to be a competition, but rather an opportunity to create a community of systems thinkers. To participate, students develop papers, systems maps, and presentations on a topic of their choice, using the lens of systems thinking. This year, students researched a variety of topics, spanning from how colonial farming practices continue to affect Hawaii's land and people to why Argentina's best and brightest are choosing to study abroad. The students—both individually and in teams—presented their findings to a panel of judges in Wanamaker Hall in early May.

This year's winners, Medara Udoekong (C'25), Ruth Hummell (C'25), Ronja Bakowsky (C'26), and Rafa Ascencio Garcia (C'25), presented on housing segregation in St. Louis. What's next for these system thinkers and their findings? Thanks to the generosity of a donor, the students plan to attend the next round of presentations in Oxford, England, in early July, where they'll share their discoveries with other universities across the globe.

IN BRIEF

### NEW IDEAS TAKE ROOT IN THE FLORENCE APTAKER IDEA LAB

The Florence Aptaker Idea Lab has opened in Marshall Brooks Library! The lab, which began as a passion project between business professor **Lucia de Paz** (US'96, C'00) and library staff, has evolved into a place of innovation and community engagement, thanks to the generosity of the family of **Florence Aptaker**. "The mission of the Florence Aptaker Idea Lab is to inspire and empower student creativity while supporting an expansive and innovative mindset for our future innovators and entrepreneurs," said College President **Dr. Daniel Norton** at the grand opening.

### A COURAGEOUS COMMENCEMENT

Courage was the word of the day as faculty, family, and friends gathered in Cox Auditorium to celebrate the College Class of 2025. "It is a time of massive upheaval and incredible change," said Commencement speaker **Janessa Gans Wilder** (C'98), a former CIA officer and the founder and CEO Emerita of the Euphrates Institute." There is a tremendous amount of courage required to take your first step, and you're already embodying it."

"Courage would have us open when we want to withdraw," she continued. "Courage surrenders the self for the whole. Courage includes the other. Courage moves us from me to we."

BELLES OF THE BALL

# Women's Basketball Wins SLIAC Conference Championship

The SLIAC conference championship women's basketball trophy has a new home in the trophy case at Principia College. The Principia women earned this historic title after overcoming significant challenges on and off the court, showcasing their resilience to claim the first basketball conference championship in school history. This accomplishment represents more than just a title; it embodies the grit, perseverance, and determination of the players, coaching staff, and Principia's unwavering support of their athletic teams.

Head Coach and Assistant Athletic Director **Ramiro Dominguez** said the team's journey was both historic and intentional: "We focus on overcoming the barriers in front of us. Our goal is to get one percent better every single day, and our student-athletes work hard at that, which shows up in the win column and in our students' individual growth."

Congratulations to these extraordinary women for paving the way to continued success in our conference and across our campus.

*Panelists Tom Denison (C'83), Caroline Aptaker, and Stuart Jenkins (US'78, C'83) share their entrepreneurial expertise.*

# Learning by Doing: Students Produce Entrepreneurship Panel

**STORY BY JAN CHURCH (US'81, C'90)**

At Principia College, the study of entrepreneurship is a hands-on, career-building journey that changes how students think about their skillsets and futures. The recent Entrepreneurship Panel, built by students for students and hosted at the Hive (formerly the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation), was a powerful springboard for student organization, creativity, career readiness, and real-world experience.

Panelists **Stuart Jenkins** (US'78, C'83), **Caroline Aptaker**, and **Tom Denison** (C'83) were handpicked, home-grown Principia alumni and friends. For students, it was especially meaningful to see that these experts—who have walked the same halls and lived in the same dorms—are now powerful innovators behind the ideation, creation, and funding of impactful businesses.

The event was a launchpad for career readiness—helping pave the way for successful ventures beyond graduation. As senior Christian Tresoldi said, "We're giving students experience they can actually put on their resumes. This is about transferable skills—it's about jumpstarting what's next for us."

From inception to the final showcase, the panel was envisioned, designed, and run entirely by students. They created the event, chose the panelists, conducted the research, and selected the theme based on the book *From Zero to One*, by Peter Thiel, which outlines strategies for not only imagining, but building successful startup ventures.

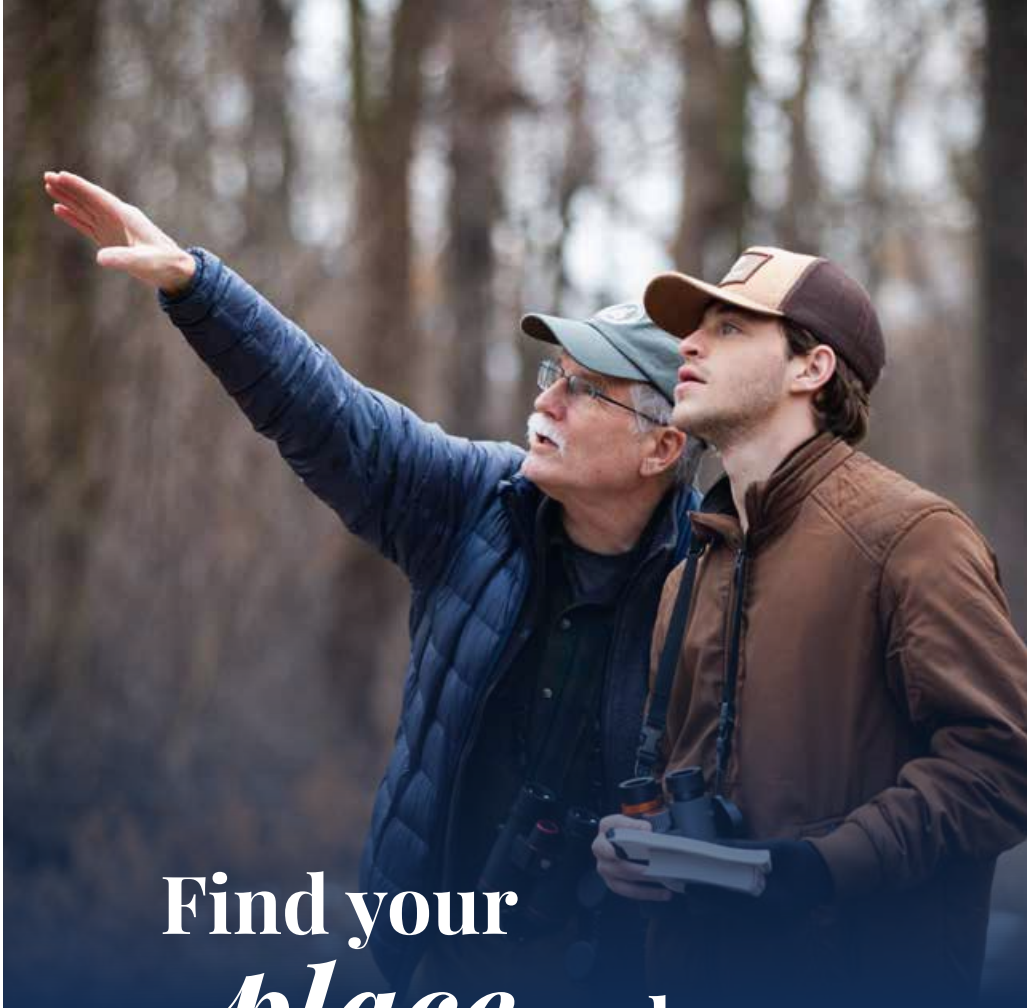
"The students didn't just help—they led," said **Lucia de Paz** (US'96, C'00), Associate Professor of Business Administration and Director of the College's Center for Business and Computer Science. "The students strategized, built the brand from scratch, planned the campaign, and brought their vision to life. This is exactly what we want to give them—real transferable experience."

"I'm more of the coach and enabler," she said. "The students are the drivers." And drive they did, perfecting every detail of the event. From developing the panel to planning the menu, designing the branding and managing social media marketing, students handled every aspect of the production.

The impact was enormous: the panel drew over 150 attendees, including scholars, burgeoning entrepreneurs from Principia Upper School—and even students sneaking in because the event was so popular. The panel quickly became the go-to hub of innovation, inspiration, organic networking, and good, old-fashioned know-how.

Beyond knowledge, the panel planted (and watered) the seeds of a growing entrepreneurial generation who are hungry for outside-the-box thinking and strategies to engineer and incorporate measurable steps to launching a meaningful venture.

As Tresoldi put it, "We weren't just creating an event. We were building our resumes, our confidence, and our future careers."

Find your *place* and your *center*.

Our five new academic Centers are designed to help you think critically, creatively, and collaboratively in an environment grounded in Christian Science and the principle that God is Love. Here, we see you as infinitely capable and divinely whole. It's a point of difference that matters when it comes to choosing a college. It's because of this unique perspective that our graduates become leaders in their chosen fields and agents for change.

Come for a visit and see for yourself.

PRINCIPIA COLLEGE

# OF NOTE

QUICK LOOK

## DOING *GOOD* BUSINESS

Entrepreneur and non-profit owner **Zekita Armstrong** (C'19) knows something about innovation, determination, and self-confidence. When Armstrong came to Principia College in 2017, the mother of three was already taking on more than her peers. On top of a full load of classes and parenting, Armstrong formulated an idea and created a business plan for a new educational non-profit organization, Gateway Global American Youth and Business Alliance Academies, bouncing ideas off her then-professor, **Dr. Billy Miller** (C'72). Founded in 2018 (a year before she graduated) and recently recognized on the St. Louis Business 500 list, Armstrong's non-profit offers tuition-free courses for local high schoolers in future-facing technologies like geospatial intelligence (GEOINT), cybersecurity, robotics, and more. It's the only organization of its kind in the U.S. Next on the list for Armstrong: renovating the 18,200 square-foot facility to provide even more educational opportunities in GEOINT for students in grades 6–12. Phase 3 of the project will include constructing a 36,000 square-foot geospatial simulation theater and data center in downtown St. Louis, scheduled to break ground later in 2027. Whatever the project, Armstrong's guiding principle remains constant: "I want to do business while also doing good."

DESTINATION SUMMER

# How to Use Your PTO

Whoever said "it's a small world" has never tackled the challenge of planning a vacation before. Seven continents,195 countries, and a whole host of once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Where do you even begin? Are you the type of person to catch a cheap flight going anywhere, happy to make it up as you go along? Or are you endlessly bookmarking travel influencer videos on TikTok, steadily constructing the perfect itinerary? Whichever sort of traveler you are, there's no denying that planning a vacation can be overwhelming. That's why we did it for you. We asked our jet-setting alumni to give us their favorite travel destinations, tips, tricks, and insider know-how. Let us help you jumpstart your next trip so you can stop planning and start vacationing!

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## Cool Summer

"I'd say the **49th state [Alaska]** should be on everyone's list because of its beauty and vastness. But if you need the lowdown on Cleveland, I'm your guy!"

—ANDREW SCHIERHOLZ (US'90, C'94)

"Going to **Switzerland** is a once-in-a-lifetime trip, and I would highly recommend it! Lake Lugano ended up being one of our favorite cities—it is small enough to be walkable and big enough that there's still a lot to do. We went at the end of April and rented a boat on the lake and the weather was perfect!"

—AMANDA BRENEMAN (C'18)

"**Erin [Williams]** (US'96) and I love **Isla Holbox in Mexico**. It's a small island off the tip of the Yucatán. No cars for the most part. It's an easy place to mix in with the local population and still have a beautiful beach vibe as well. The hotels are all boutique, not big resorts. We loved our stay at Las Tortugas, Mawimbe, and Nomade. Each has its pluses. Being a little remote, the travel day to and from is long, but worth it."

—DANIEL FISHER (US'96, C'01)

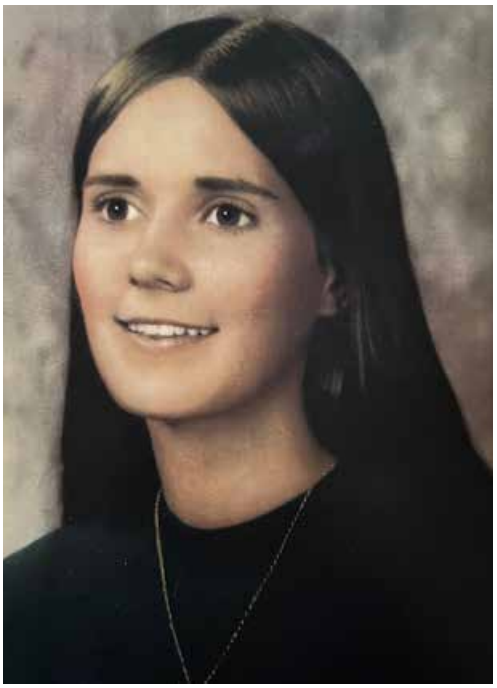
"**Iceland** is incredible for so many types of adventure—you've got waterfalls around every corner, amazing hikes, snorkeling between tectonic plates, geothermal spas, ice climbing, and landscapes that feel like another planet. There's something awe-inspiring in every direction."

—SHELBY (BARNER) MEHRING (C'17)

Where will you go this Summer?

TRIPLE THREAT

# Standing Among Greats, Sylvia Spicer Competes Only Against Herself



In April, College alumna **Sylvia Spicer** (C'77) was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, sharing the honor with all-time greats. The basketball standout from Greencastle, Indiana led her high school team in points, rebounds, steals, and assists, going undefeated for three straight seasons. Spicer then starred on the Principia College women's team, before going on to graduate school and competing among professional ranks. "Perspective is everything," she says. "I didn't compete against other people; I was always competing against my own possibilities. Always trying to be the best possible me."

The multi-sport standout with a passion for the old English masters grew into a trailblazing multi-hyphenate. Spicer became a teacher, coach, author, filmmaker, and philanthropist, who not only played basketball at the professional level but also competed on the U.S. Women's National Field Hockey Team, narrowly missing the Olympics because of the 1980 boycott. Today, Spicer has turned her attention to philanthropy with her Aftersmile Fund. "Always multi-tasking," adds Spicer, with a wry laugh.

IN BRIEF

### FLYING HIGH

This May, at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, **Dr. Richard "Rick" Mange** (US'82) became a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). "Fellows are persons of distinction in aeronautics or astronautics who have made notable and valuable contributions to the arts, sciences, or technology thereof," states the AIAA. Dr. Mange's position as Vice President and Chief Engineer at Lockheed Martin, overseeing the 4,000 engineers building the F-35 aircraft, has produced more than 865 airplanes and flown over 590,000 flight hours, expanding to 14 countries and services operating the jet.

### LIMITLESS: NATALIE OCHIENG'S PATH TO SUCCESS

Guided by her personal creed—"We should never allow anything to limit us; we are made to do great things and overcome limitations"—*cum laude* graduate **Natalie Ochieng** (US'25) is poised to share her talents with the world. Despite language barriers, cultural differences, and personal trials, the Kenya native emerged with a powerful sense of accomplishment. She was honored with the 2025 GLOW Award (Girls Leading the World) and earned a prestigious full-ride QuestBridge National College Match scholarship to Washington and Lee University—an institution with a 5 percent acceptance rate.

### DASIA SCOTT EARNS NUMBER ONE OVERALL PICK IN OVERTIME SELECT LEAGUE

It's another first for Upper School sophomore basketball phenom **Dasia Scott** (US'27)—first place, that is. Scott was selected as the number one overall pick in the newly launched Overtime Select league, an elite national program spotlighting the top 15–18-year-old players from across the country. This August, she'll head to Atlanta to compete in the elite OTE League, gaining national exposure and training alongside the nation's best. With over 58k likes and 473k views on the announcement post alone, Scott is building her brand and becoming a rising star to watch.

CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

# READY FOR LAUNCH: COLLEGE ACADEMIC CENTER DIRECTORS NAMED

Principia College's new academic Centers will launch with the start of next academic year, replacing the current organizational structure that focuses on shared disciplines. Organized around five cross-disciplinary centers of excellence, the Centers enable the College to better operationalize its academic vision, creating a collaborative and inclusive academic community. See below for the names and leaders of the five new Centers:

### CENTER FOR THE ARTS

**Leah Gallant-McFall**
(US'89, C'93)
Professor of Theatre

### CENTER FOR NARRATIVE, MEANING AND MEDIA

**Heidi (Denniston) Snow**
(C'79)
Professor of English and Edith and Lewis White Distinguished Professor

### CENTER FOR BUSINESS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

**Lucia de Paz**
(US'96, C'00)
Associate Professor of Business Administration

### CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY, ECOLOGY, AND CHEMISTRY

**Greg Bruland**
(C'97)
Professor of Biology and Natural Resources

### CENTER FOR CIVIC AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

**Sally Steindorf**
(US'93, C'97)
Professor of Global Studies

**Congratulations (and gratitude) goes out to our new Center directors!**

SPIRITUAL LENS

# WHOLE-PERSON PARENTING: A CONVERSATION WITH DR. INGE SCHMIDT, CS, PhD

Conventional wisdom may view education as the act of instilling knowledge, or perhaps building and molding talents, but according to Yale PhD, Christian Science practitioner, and Principia mom of three **Dr. Inge Schmidt, CS,** Principia's Whole-Person concept flips that view on its head. "To me, this concept of whole-person education is really about magnifying the innate spirituality in each of our kids," says Schimdt.

"By starting from the whole person, we're starting with our children's innate spiritual identity. We're not just tapping into their talents as people; we're tapping into their individual expression of God."

The conviction that each of us is a full expression of God's infinite nature may run counter to some educational models, but it's a concept that dates back to the Old Testament prophet Job: "There is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding" (Job 32:8).

"That individual expression of God is robust—it's big and it's all-encompassing," adds Schmidt, "and it includes the entire spectrum [of qualities and attributes] of God."

In the textbook of Christian Science, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy expands on this idea. "Mind [God] is not necessarily dependent upon educational processes. It possesses of itself all beauty and poetry, and the power of expressing them" (p. 89:18-20).

Schmidt also stipulates that if each of us possesses God-given talents, then our truest purpose is the glorification of God. "The idea of God-given gifts, that's fairly universal," she says. Indeed, it's a belief embedded in Christianity, from the words of the apostle Paul: "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit . . . But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal" (I Cor., 12: 4,7).

"I think Principians are united in this concept that we're here to serve God, to glorify God. I don't think you come to Principia if you're all about the glory of man. Yes, you want your kid to succeed, but God needs to be central in that picture—regardless of what you call God and how you pray to God. I believe that's a shared value."

Dr. Schmidt goes on to point out that adopting a God-centric view of our children and of our roles as parents has compound benefits. To see our children as more than material beings—as the infinite expressions of God's character—is to both empower them and relieve the pressure many of us feel as parents.

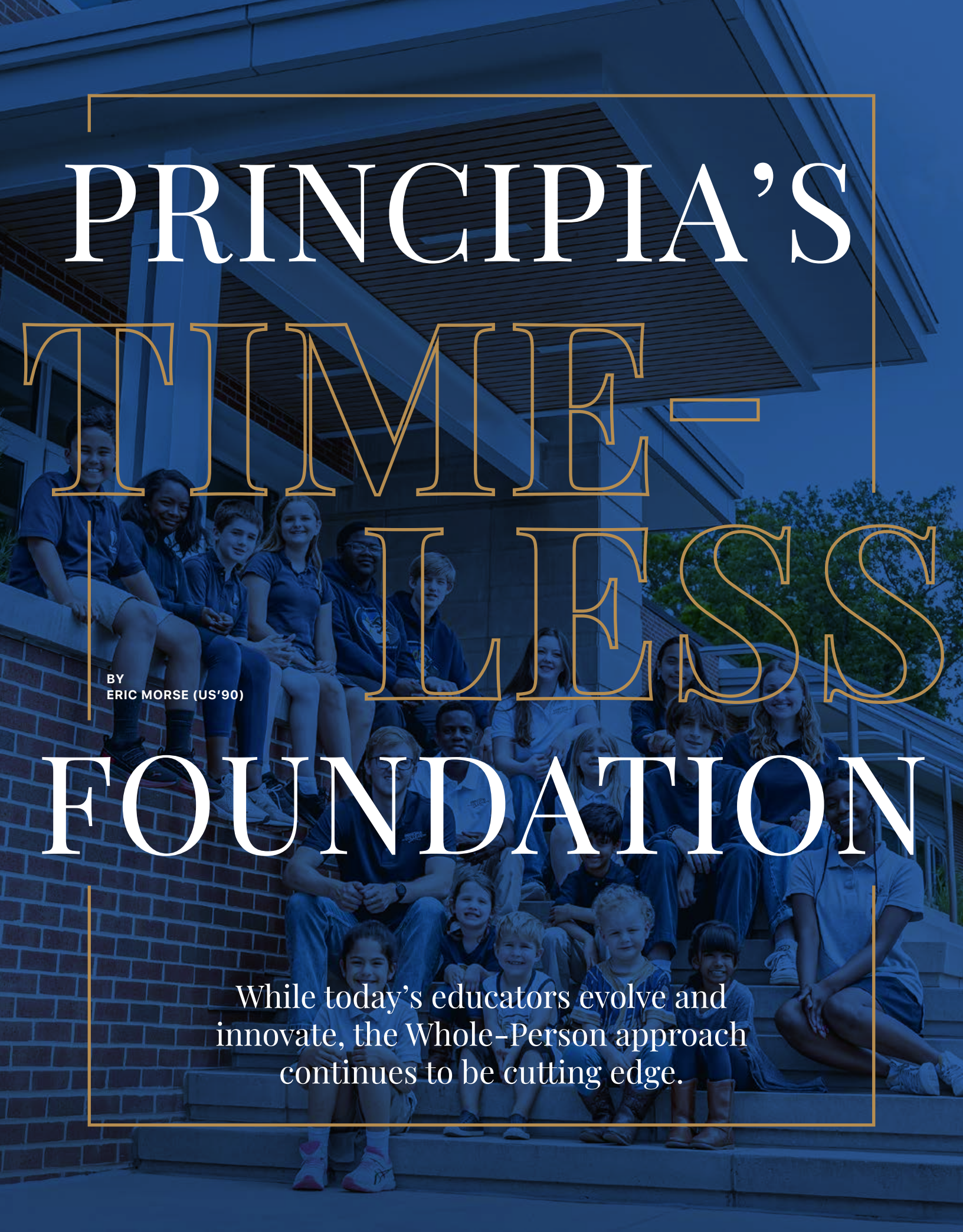
"As a parent, I believe that the things they love and the things they're good at, those are in their heart as part of their God-given individuality," says Schmidt. "That's part of their spiritual indentity—their unqiue expression of their relationship with God."

As a parent of three children ranging in age from Acorn to Middle School, Schmidt has enjoyed a front-row seat to the fruition of this approach. "As they get older, they discover their own sense of identity," she says. "So, they have to figure out their relationship with God for themselves, whatever that may look like. My job as a parent is to be a witness. I can trust that their relationship to God—to good—is unchanging, and I can trust that their constant, active, dynamic relationship with God will carry them through."

Schmidt continues, "That's where the challenge is. I have to trust God as their divine Parent, and trust the strength of that relationship . . . I'm not the intermediary. Their wholeness doesn't come through me. It all comes through that relationship to God."

# PRINCIPIA'S TIME-LESS FOUNDATION

BY
ERIC MORSE (US'90)



While today's educators evolve and innovate, the Whole-Person approach continues to be cutting edge.

**"The whole-person concept is both timeless and foundational at Principia. The shift in our programming to incorporate a more future-ready, skills-based learning model opens the door to new opportunities across the whole-person landscape. We lead with our commitment to the individual spiritual growth of students and round out our whole-person experience by teaching and demonstrating the practical application of moral, intellectual, physical, and social skills."**

*—Dr. Merry Sorrells*
*Associate Head of School and Middle School Principal*

Much has changed over Principia's first 127 years: the way we commute and communicate, the way we learn, the way we live.

But even as the winds of change blow across both campuses—bringing fresh ideas and new student populations—educators, administrators, and leaders are finding Principia's whole-person educational approach more relevant and resonant than ever before.

The *Purpose* editorial team met with two dozen educators across all levels and a wide range of disciplines to learn how Principia's holistic model continues to produce individuals of character and commendation, and how our founder's wisdom is employed today to help develop tomorrow's skills.

**"Deep learning happens best when students can make connections within their entire educational experience. The spiritual, moral, intellectual, athletic, and social lives of our students matter in the classroom, on the field, in the houses."**

*—Dr. Meggan Madden*
*Interim College President*

We found a broad alignment across levels, disciplines, and generations behind that founding educational vision. While tools and technology have evolved, Morgan's model still animates the classrooms, locker rooms, dorm rooms, and personal lives of today's Principians. *Education at The Principia* sits dog-eared on the desk of fifth-grade teacher **Jason Hinthorne** (US'05); a powerful passage hangs on **Beth Juell-Pomeroy's** (C'99) Upper School classroom wall; College educators discuss it in a book club meeting; quotes casually roll off the tongue of College coach **Ramiro Dominguez** during basketball practice.

In fact, if the longevity of whole-person education teaches us anything, it may be that timeless truth endures the winds of change:

*"Education is that which means the unfolding of individual capabilities along all right lines, physical, mental, moral, and spiritual."* (*Education at The Principia*, p. 6)

# Cultivating Mind & Character

*“Resilience, initiative and innovation, social and cultural awareness, career management skills—research shows those qualities make successful adults. So, we’re intentional about bringing them into the curriculum.”*

—Samantha Dry, Upper School Principal

Leaders at all Principia levels have adopted a focus on cross-disciplinary learning and applied skills development as the approach to whole-person education. This approach breaks down barriers to prepare students for a rapidly changing world.

Interim College President, formerly Dean of Academics, **Dr. Meggan Madden** (C'93) and Upper School Principal **Samantha Dry** share a voracious appetite for new concepts and uncompromising commitment to elevating the education of their students. A conversation with either of them is an exercise in keeping up with the breakneck pace of their ideas and insights.

Madden, Dry, and their teams of educators are engaged in the ongoing work of, as Mary Kimball Morgan put it, "preparing [Principians] for real life—a life of useful service and strong purpose." They are inventors, explorers, mad scientists . . . applying Morgan's whole-person concept to meet the needs and opportunities of a paradigm-shifting generation of learners.

Both campuses boast groundbreaking learning models that prioritize the development of real-world skills. Communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creative problem-solving—crucial skills for success in any endeavor, at any stage of life—are emphasized and reinforced from Early Childhood through College.

In the arena of higher education, the College's new cross-disciplinary learning centers, which open this coming academic year, wrap the traditional liberal arts curriculum in career-ready, practical skill development. "Principia is dedicated to the Whole-Person educational model that is central to the liberal arts," says Interim Dean of Academics **Dr. Peter van Lidth de Jeude** (C'04). "It's a cultivation of the mind and character that nobody can afford to be without in the modern world."

"We are leaning into our operational mission of developing creative problem solvers who use their skills to benefit their communities and the world," explains Madden. "So that means a rigorous, globally focused curriculum and character-based approach, with co-curricular and experiential learning happening inside and outside the classroom."

This approach takes shape in the College's new academic structure. All degree programs will be housed in one of five co-curricular Centers, which bring together disciplines in an integrated, "real-world" style of learning:

- Center for the Arts
- Center for Business and Computer Science
- Center for Civic and Global Engagement
- Center for Narrative, Meaning, and Media
- Center for Sustainability, Ecology, and Chemistry

"The Center for Civic and Global Engagement has at its heart selfless service to our local and global communities," says the Center's director, **Dr. Sally Steindorf** (US'93, C'97). "I think this connects well with Mary Kimball Morgan's vision for a Principia education."

In designing their curricula, Steindorf and her Civic and Global Engagement colleagues were inspired by Morgan's statement, "This generation falls heir to troubled world conditions. The solving of these complicated problems will depend largely upon the wisdom and courage of the youth of today. Are we helping them to gain the stamina, perseverance, and courage necessary to cope successfully with such conditions?" (*Education at The Principia*, p. 57)

"In order to serve our communities, we need to have qualities like humility, empathy, and understanding of others' experiences," says Steindorf. "We need skills like interpersonal and intercultural communication along with deep listening. We need to develop as leaders and problem solvers. All of this involves character growth—this is not just an intellectual activity but is a kind of social and spiritual education as well."

Integrated character-focused education is paramount at the Upper School as well, where multi-disciplinary CoLAB classes and student-directed "quests" rely on scenario-based learning. Students combine scientific inquiry with history, literature, and writing to understand the cultural movements and technological developments of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

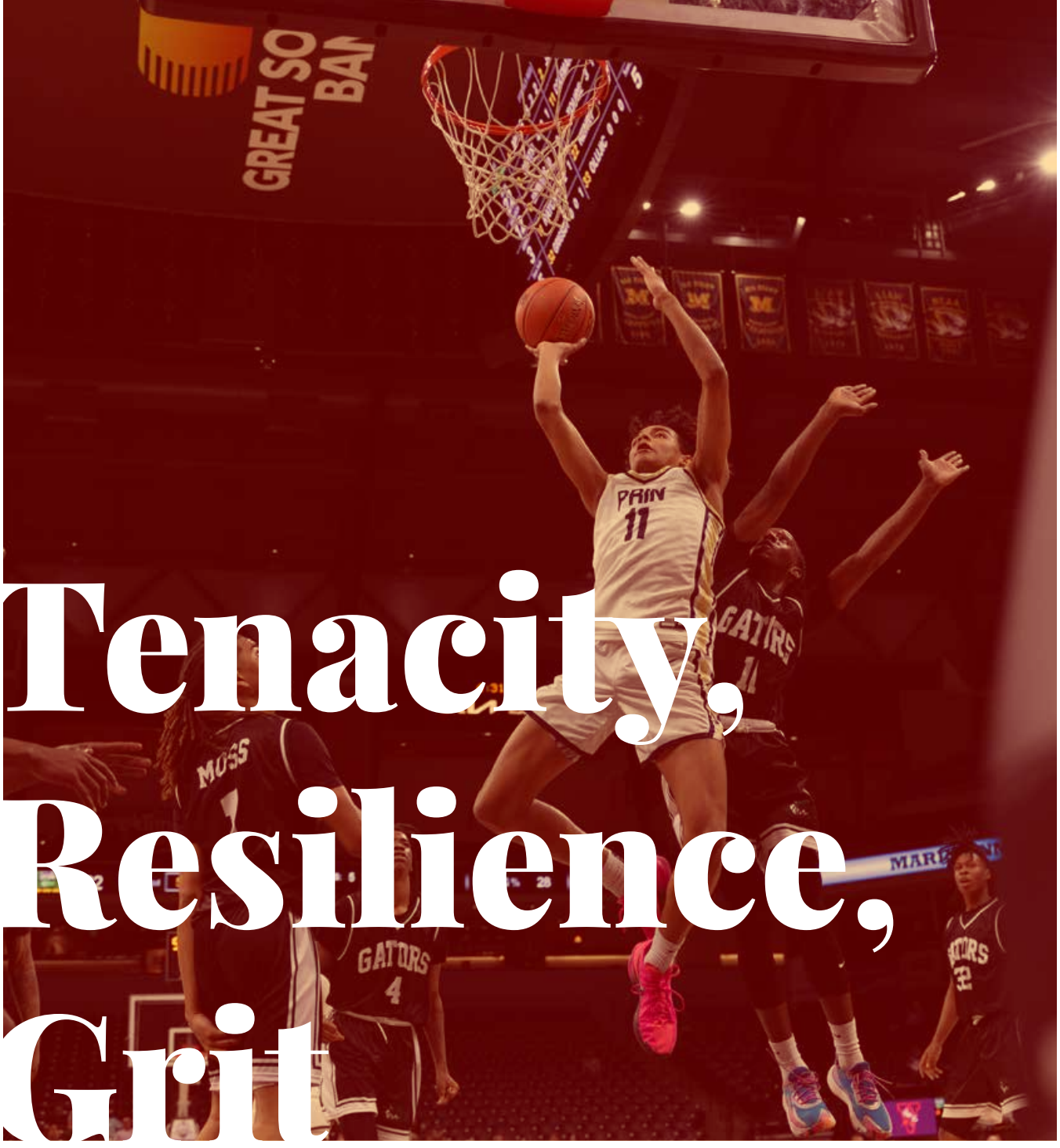
Principal Dry takes direct inspiration from Mary Kimball Morgan's statement that the academic subject is "a means to an end" and of secondary consideration to the preparation of students for a meaningful life. "Skills are starting to weigh heavier than content," she says.

**Beth Juell-Pomeroy** (C'99) adds, "In CoLAB, we're making great efforts to not only educate in the academic sense but also build skills they can use in a workplace that might look totally different than it does now. We're focused on how we help students collaborate more and present more, while still developing those research skills and writing skills."

For Lower School students, developing these skills starts early and builds throughout the Principia experience. Lower School Principal **Heather Tibbetts** provides a grade-school version, with the ARTIful (authentic, relevant, transferrable, and impactful) learning model. "We challenge students to engage deeply with academic content while practicing critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills," she explains. "By exploring real-world problems and applying their knowledge across disciplines, students develop curiosity and the ability to adapt to new ideas—which are essential qualities of a lifelong learner."

"We don't just teach them the answers, we teach them how to ask the questions so they can access the explanation," adds fifth-grade's **Jason Hinthorne** (US'05). "That builds intrinsic motivation; it's way more valuable than the teacher speaking at the student. They're learning, what's the next question I need to ask myself? What's the pattern?'"

Meanwhile, Upper School students walking into Juell-Pomeroy's CoLAB classroom are greeted by Principia's Policy Six: *Principia is dedicated to educating its students to think — and to think critically, clearly, rigorously, fearlessly, independently, compassionately, and unselfishly.* "I point to that all the time," she says. "It's a reminder to me that I'm not just teaching a subject, I'm preparing them for the future."




# Tenacity, Resilience, Grit

> *This is a great opportunity for them to understand the importance of the emotional, the moral, the intellectual, the physical, and the spiritual in combination together. If one of those things is missing, it's hard to get better."*
>
> —Ramiro "Coach Ro" Dominguez, Principia College Women's Basketball Coach

Take a survey of readers of *Education at The Principia* and you're likely to find one description repeated over and over again: "ahead of its time." Morgan's integration of the physical element into her educational model was particularly innovative. Today, athletic competition is an indispensable aspect of the educational experience across the country. Even terms traditionally associated with athletic competition—such as grit, resilience, leadership, and teamwork—are commonplace in academic circles. A century ago, not so much.

**"[Principia] students express an uninhibited sense of self that feeds their individual fulfillment, along with creating a feeling of belonging and collaboration."**

"The Whole-Person concept is ahead of its time; and now I see other schools trying to adopt similar language," notes School Athletics Director **Shawn Brown** (US'00, C'04). "The physical component of the Whole-Person is so important, and it goes beyond the scoreboard. It's about being tenacious and gritty; you have to be resilient and go through adversity. As a coach and a parent, I am grateful that we value the whole person at Principia."

College women's basketball coach **Ramiro "Coach Ro" Dominguez** concurs. "This is a great opportunity for them to understand the importance of the emotional, the moral, the intellectual, the physical, and the spiritual in combination together. If one of those things is missing, it's hard to get better."

But to be truly holistic, all elements need to work symbiotically. So, does the physical feed intellectual and character growth as much as other aspects fuel athletic success? College dance professor **Erin Lane** gives an unequivocal yes.

"Dance is about embodying an idea and turning it into movement," Lane points out. "So, freedom, dominion, and self-knowledge are unique aspects of a physical approach to education. My students express an uninhibited sense of self that feeds their individual fulfillment, along with creating a feeling of belonging and collaboration. It helps them see themselves and others as infinitely capable and divinely whole, which is part of the College's academic vision."

Coach Ro credits this resilience and grit as instrumental in helping his 2025 women's basketball team make Principia's first trip to the NCAA Tournament. "We focus on two things," he says. "The first is, the one-percent rule: Every day, we want to be one percent better than the day before. It's a self-evaluation tactic, and it instills in them the importance of constant improvement."

Ro continues, "The other one is the mindset of, 'what's next?' We don't dwell on a missed shot or a turnover, we get back on defense. That applies beyond the court—what's next in the classroom, what's next in your career? Things aren't always going to go your way. You're going to have triumphs and failures. It's what you do next that determines your ultimate success."

# Individual, Citizen, Community

*“If you can teach citizenship through the lens of empathy, compassion, perseverance, and proactiveness—those things are going to lead in the direction Mary Kimball Morgan wanted.”*

—Jason Hinthorne, Fifth Grade Teacher

**Jason Hinthorne** can barely contain his passion for education. His desk—a neatly arranged but overflowing landscape of papers, folders, and textbooks—is an apt reflection of the collaborative cacophony of his classroom in action, where rules and expectations are created and enforced by the students in a way that emphasizes personal accountability to the larger community.

A self-described learner, the teacher, coach, father of three (including a newborn) and PhD candidate readily quotes Mrs. Morgan alongside renowned contemporary educational innovators like Michael Fullan.

"If you can teach citizenship through the lens of empathy, compassion, perseverance, and proactiveness—those things are going to lead in the direction Mary Kimball Morgan wanted," he notes. "We need to have core, foundational morals and ethics that we all agree upon as a community, that we want to follow and be true to. We can all be unique, but what unifies us is that love is reflected in love."

The statement that "Love is reflected in love" (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 17:7) is a fundamental one in Christian Science, and it neatly ties together two important aspects of Principia's whole-person education: social and moral development.

"The social is how we engage in community. The moral is the individual that we bring to that community," explains **Dr. Jennifer Stollman**, Director of Belonging and Community at Principia School and College. "The community is made up of individuals coming together, so there is no collective moral voice without the individual moral voice."

One way this social-moral interplay is made practical is through a peer-accountability structure that spans the Principia experience. The baby steps of self-governance are pioneered in Lower School and take flight in Upper School, where students gain real-world experience in maintaining and bolstering community mores.

"Peers can communicate with one another, saying 'that wasn't cool, that made me feel uncomfortable, that put a crack in our relationship,' and then build that back," says Principal Dry. "I want our kids to be contributing citizens. I think every parent wants their child to be a contributing citizen. So, we explore, what are those skills? What does the authentic practice of that skill look like? And how can we create that here?"

This includes leadership opportunities through organizations like the Student Leadership Council, student-led social groups and activities, experiential learning, and intentional community. "You can't just say 'let's build that skill of being resilient, or a good citizen' and have it happen. They need a space, a playground, to build those skills and experience that social and cultural awareness," says Dry.

At Principia College, the exploration, community-building, and self-governance increase. "Research shows that self-efficacy and strong career decision-making are greater in students who engage in student activities, like clubs, house leadership, and athletics," Madden points out. "So, Principia College is this beautiful cultivating ground. Students are engaging in activities that build their confidence to make future life decisions."

Classes like The Metaphysics of Economics, a new offering by College economics professor **Dr. Matthew Cocks**, "will look at economics from the standpoint of the philosophy of mind," he explains. "In other words, how does the way we think about the mind and the nature of human beings affect economic models and behavior? How do different religions and cultures view economics? And how does understanding this impact us?" In this way, all aspects of the student experience are infused with character and civic engagement development opportunities.

# A Chance to Flourish

*“We see everyone as an unlimited, perfect idea of God. And if our students and graduates can go into the world with that point of view, that’s going to bring healing.”*

—Roger Gordon, College Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Life

Ask 10 people about Gen Z and you're likely to hear about 10 different challenges. "Epidemic of loneliness" is a common phrase used to describe the landscape young people must navigate today. So, too, are concerns about attention, relationships, and resilience.

Principia School and College take a different approach. "'Flourishing' is a term we use a lot at Principia," says Associate Dean of Students **Erin (Mottram) Rainwater** (US'95, C'99). "We don't look at students with a deficit mindset, but rather, [we ask] what qualities and skills do they bring to the table that are going to help them thrive? What mindsets are going to boost their ability to move through this world?"

"Flourishing has spiritual and moral elements as well—it's at the intersection of moral, spiritual, and social-emotional well-being. That's a wonderful place for Principia to have a foothold, because our spiritually focused lens naturally fosters the development of students' moral commitments and sense of purpose. It leads students to discover and employ their character strengths, including those essential for success in college."

Supporting students' growth and sense of well-being takes different forms as a student grows and transitions. From peer support and accountability structures at the School to counseling, coaching, and spiritual life resources at the College, Principia is providing a supportive foundation that is relevant to today's students while being true to its founding vision. "Students have access to a full-time licensed counselor who is also a class-taught Christian Scientist," says Dean of Students **Mark Hagenlocher** (US'84). "Where else can you find that?"

As with all aspects of Principia's whole-person approach, "flourishing"—or what Morgan refers to as "the unfolding of true manhood and womanhood" (*Education at The Principia*, p. 92)—is not siloed-off as a feel-good add-on in the Student Life Department. It is fundamental to classroom work, athletic endeavors, and all parts of the Principia experience, and the educators take pride in making it their own.

**"Mrs. Morgan's whole-person concept is so critical . . . it's a such a natural fit, because we're removing barriers. We're removing the barriers that are obstacles for a child to unfold."**

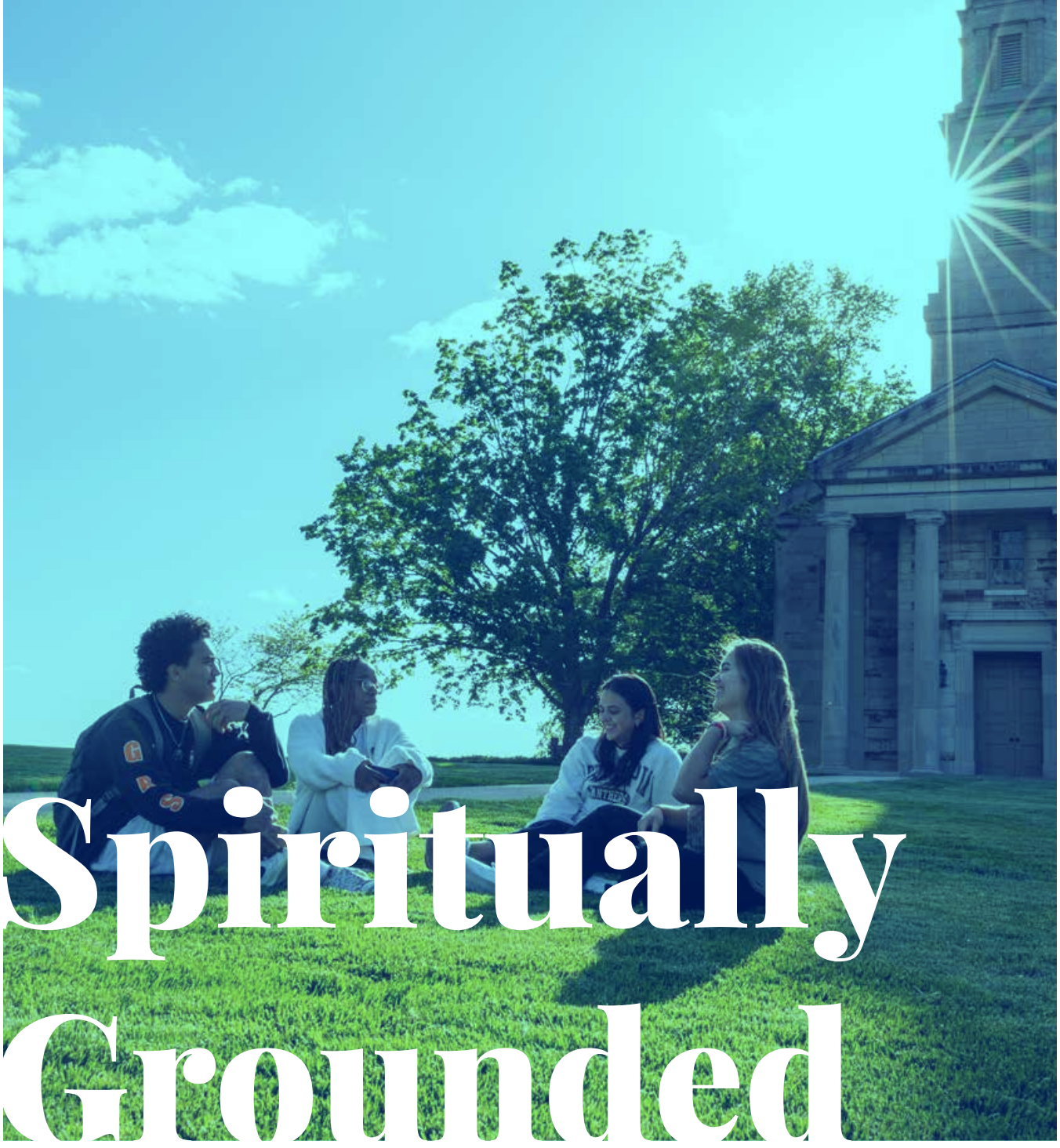
"We don't compartmentalize these elements," says Upper School Principal Dry. "We put the whole child at the center, and rather than ask them to go from component to component—from class, to practice, etcetera—we bring the components to the child at the same time."

Education professor **Dr. Galen Benson** (C'89) is just one of the educators bringing this approach into the classroom. "Research has identified the age range of 18 to 22 as the prime time to develop self-knowledge and self-identification," he says. "We can foster that type of inner growth by allowing students to think through and reflect, process, and then answer. It helps with their self-knowledge, self-confidence, and ability to cope. It's all connected."

One way the College is fostering that growth is through the Foundations of Character and Community Seminars, a collection of modules that run through the entirety of students' Principia College experience. "It's another way we connect the concept of wholeness to the academic program," says Rainwater.

For Dr. Stollman, the ideas expounded in *Education at The Principia* struck an immediate chord. "Mrs. Morgan's whole-person concept is so critical, and for me it's such a natural fit, because we're removing the barriers that are obstacles for a child to unfold."

Hagenlocher adds, "We're continually strengthening one of Mrs. Morgan's revolutionary ideas. It's part of our strategic plan, it's foundational to who we are, and it's a concept that has always set us apart."



# Spiritually Grounded

*“The most important thing a person needs to be future-ready is a spiritual foundation. That gives them the grit, the resilience, and the comfort to face all challenges. That applies to athletics, that applies to their social life, and that applies to their academics.”*

—Brad Warrick, Principia School Director of Spiritual Life

"At the end of the day, no matter how future-ready you are, skills-wise or knowledge-wise, you still need to find harmony, peace, and happiness in your life," says School Director of Spiritual Life **Brad Warrick** (US '90, C'94). "And we know that lasting harmony and happiness come from being spiritually grounded and living a purpose-filled life."

It's not a rebuttal of Dry and Madden's skills-focused approach to curricula, but more like finishing their thought. He continues, "Mary Kimball Morgan was way ahead of her time, and she was imperative that what makes Principia different from other schools is that we're trying to spiritualize thought—to help our students grow spiritually."

When the Director of Spiritual Life has also led the Home Department and spent 15 years as head football coach, it's clear that a focus on spiritual growth pervades all aspects of Principia School life.

Both Warrick and College Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Life **Roger Gordon** take expansive and inclusive approaches to their roles—expanding spirituality beyond the confines of Sunday School or a reading of the weekly Bible Lesson. Spiritual growth and exploration undergird every aspect of the Principia experience, and they are putting it front and center.

**"... we know that lasting harmony and happiness come from being spiritually grounded and living a purpose-filled life."**

Working from a curricular framework developed by Interfaith America, Gordon introduced a new student orientation program called Bridging the Gap. "It's about being in dialogue with Christian Science and their own faith, including being in dialogue across faiths," explains Gordon. "Everybody is engaged in spiritual growth, and they all have a sense of belonging."

On a recent cold Sunday morning, the impact of this approach was on display. A Christian Science Organization (CSO) service attracted a variety of students, with about a third of attendees coming from non-Christian Science backgrounds.

"We see everyone as an unlimited, perfect idea of God," adds Gordon. "And if our students and graduates can go into the world with that point of view, that's going to bring healing."

At the School, new student life program opportunities begin with a one-on-one spiritual interview, and the student experience includes Bible class and weekly Chapels, with themes that are supported and highlighted through a community newsletter and faculty-staff discussions. "By creating that culture and celebrating those a-ha moments, more people will buy into it and feel comfortable being a part of it," Warrick says.

The end goal is for Principia students to gain a love for spiritual exploration. Warrick reflects on a lesson learned from legendary educator **Bill Simon** (US'54), "Coach Simon used to say it's our job to plant the seed. It may germinate immediately, or it may take years, but the seed has been planted."

He continues, "our spiritual approach—our goal for graduates as we move into the future—is for Principia to be a community where they feel loved and seen the way God sees them. That is how we can best serve the Cause of Christian Science."

# Approaches to Life

Key to understanding Principia's Whole-Person educational approach is comprehending the concept of integration. The elements expounded by Mrs. Morgan aren't so much discrete disciplines of study as they are types of character development that are employed in varying combinations to feed and nurture the whole—more akin to food groups than a pie chart.

Tempting though it may be to consider the components as subjects to master or muscles to build, they would be better considered as lenses through which any and all subjects (and muscles) are developed at Principia.

"The students are applying what they're learning in their courses, on the athletic field, and in the dining hall or houses. It's all part of the experience," explains Dr. Madden. "These aren't silos. They're all connected."

Warrick adds, "We know that character is all about how we respond to challenges. And spiritual insight gives us that character, that resilience to face those challenges, overcome them and become successful in any challenge that comes our way."

While the whole-person concept may look like just another educational approach, for Principia's faculty and staff, it's a mission. "At Principia, this is our essence," continues Madden. "We looked at high-impact practices in higher-education—what are good practices that we know support student success? And it turns out that we've been doing this for decades, if not over 100 years. So, Principia has been cutting edge for a long time. And right now, we're saying, what's next? How are we being led to do this work?"

"These aren't just approaches to learning," summarizes Hinthorne, "they're approaches to life."

# Whole Person, Whole Life

*How Principia's educational model prepares alumni for success in their chosen field*

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

## WHETHER IT'S OPENING A RESTAURANT OR WALKING THE RED CARPET, IF YOU CAN NAME IT, PRINCIPIA ALUMNI HAVE DONE IT.

Their diverse and distinctive career paths demonstrate the very concrete ways that Principia's whole-person approach prepares students and graduates for success, versatility, self-reliance, and positive impact.

In the following pages, you'll meet five Principia alumni taking very different paths but sharing one uniting factor: their Principia experiences provided the necessary skills and outlook to pursue their authentic routes to success.

Discover even more alumni stories online at principiapurpose.org, and you're invited to join the conversation by adding your own story!

**principiapurpose.org/wholepersonstory**

ENTREPRENEUR

# AYESHA DAVIS

## C'99

**Whole-person education. Global perspective. Entrepreneurial spirit.**

While these terms may read like overused buzzwords to many of us, when it comes to **Ayesha Irani Davis** (C'99), they are anything but cliché. The Mathematics/Sociology-Anthropology double major of Iranian descent was born in India, grew up in the United States, and eventually landed in Central America. Along the way, she has exercised the full range of her broad skillset: first in a role at NASDAQ, then a stint in the Peace Corps, followed by a master's degree in environmental engineering; the last led to a distinguished career solving vital water and wastewater problems in Central America and, ultimately, to the founding of ISTMO Retreat and Adventure Center.

"Principia College allowed me to explore different parts of myself—my mathematical and logical side, along with my desire to make society better," Davis says. "It opened my eyes to a range of possibilities."

Ironically, it was a Principia connection at a very conventional position who set Davis upon an unconventional course. "Principia's career office helped me get a job at NASDAQ, working for Principia parent **Dean Furbush**, who was the Chief Economist at the time," recalls Davis. "He used to tell me to follow my interests and go with the flow. 'One day, you wake up and you are the Chief Economist!' he would say."

Davis did exactly that, eventually resigning her position with the market and following her desire to join the Peace Corps. "I chose not to go the traditional route," laughs Davis.

Three years in the Peace Corps sparked two new passions for Davis: environmental engineering and Latin cultures. She pursued the first by getting a master's at Virginia Tech, and she pursued the second by applying her knowledge to wastewater systems throughout Latin America.

The rest is the stuff of Hollywood rom coms: the cute neighbor who was director of the international school, the romantic courtship, the marriage, then two children, and finally the new adventure. "We had this dream of building a retreat center," says Davis. Today, ISTMO Retreat and Adventure Center offers educational and adventure travel opportunities to individuals, families, and groups. Packages range from peaceful yoga retreats to vigorous adventure trips.

> "Principia College was an amazing experience for me. It opened my eyes to different ways of living and allowed me to explore different parts of myself."

While starting a business just before a global pandemic has not been easy, the preparation gained at Principia, and some good advice picked up along the way, has been tremendously valuable. "Developing different aspects of myself at Principia was fundamental," says Davis. "The confidence I have to pivot in life, to go with the flow, comes from a foundation of being exposed to a wide variety of experiences."

AEROSPACE ENGINEER

# RICHARD MANGE

## US'82

**In life, there are those who take the scenic route and ones who lock in a destination and chart their course.**

**Dr. Richard Mange** (US'82) is the latter—laser-focused on his goal of being an aerospace engineer since his teenage years at Principia Upper School. "I always wanted to be an aerospace engineer," says Mange. "I never changed majors, never dropped a class. I just plowed straight through."

That commitment to engineering started in Upper School, where faculty members **Howard Marston** and **Bob Neil** (C'47) "instilled a love of math and science," that led him to the University of Illinois. After graduation, Mange went right to work at McDonnell Douglas in St. Louis.

Target acquired? Affirmative. Autopilot? Not a chance. "I got bored quickly," he says, so he set his sights on a master's and then a PhD, all while working full time. After the Boeing-McDonnell Douglas merger in 1997, Mange was ready to pivot. That's when he hit Mach 1.6 with Lockheed Martin's F-35 team.

There, he steadily increased in altitude from Staff Engineer to Principal Engineer to F-35 Chief Engineer and continued climbing. In October 2024, Mange became Vice President, F-35 Engineering. He is responsible for the execution of all F-35 contracts, overseeing 4,000 engineers. "We're building 150 airplanes a year," he says, "and we have a fleet of over 1,000 out there at a time. We're modernizing the airplane, doing development work, always upgrading computers, and sensors—so we know it's relevant and can do what it needs to do."

> "Coming out of Principia Upper School, I didn't need to know everything, because I knew how to learn . . . That set me up for everything I've been able to achieve."

Dr. Mange brings more than technical know-how to the job. A role that draws attention and scrutiny from the highest levels of government is bound to hit some turbulence. "It does get pretty charged at times—I'm a vice president on the largest defense contract in history," he says. "I have admirals, generals, congresspeople, and the Pentagon looking over my shoulder. But people tell me they are struck by how calm I'm able to remain in those circumstances."

To Mange, all that scrutiny (forgive what I'm about to say) is wind beneath his wings. "I don't feel that pressure. I feel a sense of purpose. I feel energized by it. We're doing important things, and that makes coming to work every day worth it."

SINGER

# SUZANNE WATERS

## US'96, C'00

**Even if you haven't heard the name Suzanne Waters (US'96, C'00), chances are, you've heard the voice.**

The singer's voice graces dozens of massive pop culture franchises, from *Frozen* to *Star Wars* to *League of Legends*. From mournful and haunting to soaring and operatic, the range and purity of her vocal expression was tapped by legendary composer Hans Zimmer when he created a new musical instrument to score Dune Part One and Two. While Hollywood icons like Zimmer may feel she was made for this, Waters graduated from Principia College with a skillset that one might call multitimbral.

"I chose Principia College instead of a music school because I loved my experience at the Upper School," says Waters, "and I knew that I would get a broad education and learn skills that would prepare me for life in general."

At the College, she reveled in the creative, intellectual, and social opportunities on offer. "I majored in mass communication because the faculty had real life experience in the field. They were award-winning reporters and journalists, and I was eager to learn from their expertise. I also explored my creativity in visual arts, and I landed my first graphic design job thanks to an internship through Principia!"

Ten years into a promising graphic design career, the recession hit, and she was laid off. "At first, I was devastated," recalls Waters. But a great improviser always lands on the right note. "Then I remembered the reason I moved to Los Angeles in the first place—to sing for film and TV. I realized that this was a golden opportunity to pursue what I really wanted to be doing."

Waters is accustomed to working with (and competing against) pedigreed talent from big-name music institutions, and she is consistently unfazed. "I've realized that my liberal arts degree made me more well-rounded," she says. "Prin enabled me to focus on music while also learning other things under my mass communication major, like graphic design, photojournalism, and news writing. All those ended up relating to each other in unexpected ways, and I still use them in my singing career."

In fact, Waters credits her Principia foundation with giving her the necessary skills to navigate the entertainment industry landscape. "Being part of Prin's small, close-knit community fostered collaboration and the development of essential interpersonal skills," she says. "In an industry where relationships are key, the ability to connect with others, understand diverse perspectives, and communicate effectively is imperative, and I think largely responsible for my extensive resume. These dynamics have helped me adapt and continue to thrive in a constantly evolving field." As she reflects on her journey, she concludes, "I am grateful for the lessons learned and the relationships forged at Principia, which have guided me through both the artistic challenges and political nuances of my career."

# AGYEMAN MANU-DAPAAH C'05

**Agyeman Manu-Dapaah (C'05) arrived at Principia College a dreamer; he left as a builder.**

The 2005 computer science major learned to build an app, as well as frame a physical wall, becoming a key part of the theater stage crew, building sets for productions and visiting speakers. In the ensuing years, that builder's impulse led him to a successful career as an entrepreneur and, most recently, a restaurateur.

"Through all the changes in my life, the experience I had at Principia has made it possible," says Manu-Dapaah. "At Principia I had everything at my fingertips. The dance theater, the music department, printing facility, computer labs. I even found myself building stages for Danny Glover and Coretta Scott King!"

Manu-Dapaah has glowing memories of being a student at Principia but getting there wasn't easy. "It's a funny story," begins Agyeman. "My ticket was just to New York from Ghana. Then I was going to take another flight to St. Louis, but I didn't have enough money for the flight!" So, his introduction to the United States came via Greyhound bus from New York City to Alton. "Mind you, this is my first time in the United States," he laughs. At that point, "If someone had offered me a ticket home, I would have taken it!"

Thanks to Principia's tight-knit international student population and the support of student life staff like **Sara Brown**, he immediately felt at home at the College. "I'm an African from Ghana. But thanks to Principia, [today] I have friends in Japan, Tunisia, Kenya, South Africa—all because of the connection. We were like family, and I was never homesick."

After graduation, computer science degree in hand, Manu-Dapaah launched an IT business. His first client: Principia College. Today, he traffics in a different sort of b(i)te, as the owner of Florissant, Missouri's beloved West African restaurant, House of Jollof.

Says Agyeman, "Principia teaches you about compassion and love, and from my experiences at Principia I developed four pillars for myself: empathy, critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and the Golden Rule." Now that is a foundation anything can be built upon.

"Principia made a promise. They promised they would prepare students through hands-on learning in five pillars: intellectual, physical, social, moral, and spiritual. When I saw that, I realized I needed to be at this place. That is what led me to it."

**ENTREPRENEUR**

# EMELIE FREDRIKSON US'14, C'18

**If you're looking for an example of the "whole-person" in action, look no further than Emelie Fredrikson (US'14, C'18)—a state finalist in soccer, newspaper writer and editor, Investment Club member, and Moot Court champion.**

"Principia's academics gave me exposure to different fields that not all students get," says Fredrikson. "My Upper School economics teacher made it about real-world experience—let's learn about saving, let's learn about investing, let's learn about stocks. He made it very approachable and interesting, and that led to my first job."

Fredrikson approached that first job the way she approaches everything: full-speed ahead. As an analyst in JP Morgan's private banking division, she found herself shoulder-to-shoulder with graduates from Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford. "It was cool to see that my Principia experience enabled me to hang with those people right away," she recalls.

In just five years, Fredrikson built up a quarter-billion-dollar portfolio across roughly 20 families. "I had some big clients and some big responsibility—a lot of good conversations and good activity, and tough conversations when markets weren't doing well."

While a Principia College internship opened the door to her JP Morgan experience, Fredrikson credits Principia's preparation with being a difference-maker in her career. "At Principia, the opportunity for us to write and speak publicly was so much more than most students get at other schools," she says. "If you're in a lecture hall with 300 other students, you're not going to be writing 30-page papers or giving multiple presentations. But having that experience has made a big difference for me. It's been huge for my career."

> "I think the concept of the whole person helped shape how I feel about myself and who I am today."

After six years as a private banker at JP Morgan, Fredrikson now manages business development for Broadview Group Holdings. It is a sharp career turn that demonstrates her mix of analytical and creative—quantitative and qualitative—skills. Responsible for finding, vetting, and investing in a range of companies, Fredrikson's ability to identify opportunity and dive under the hood to determine long-term viability is key to her work in spotting needles in the haystack.

"The concept of the whole person helped shape who I am today," reflects Fredrikson. "Because understanding that there are different components that create this complete person, complete expression, and focusing on each of those intentionally was really important."

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*with Drs. John and Stephanie Lovseth (C'05)*

**JULY 24–31, 2026**

**Holiday Markets Cruise: The Festive Rhine River**

*with Susie Ledbetter (C'70)*

**NOVEMBER 28–DECEMBER 6, 2026**

## Join a Principia journey.

PRINCIPIA.EDU/PLL

**What a wonderful first half of 2025 it has been!** From welcoming the Classes of 2025 into our alumni family, to joyful gatherings across Europe, and an unforgettable Principia Lifelong Learning adventure in Egypt—every event has been a true celebration of Principia and the incredible light our alumni and friends shine in the world.

Looking ahead, we hope to see you at upcoming events, including Upper School Reunion, College Gold & Blue Weekend, the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, and other in-person and virtual gatherings.

The Alumni Association Board is preparing for its annual elections, and this year we are electing representatives from the Southern California, Southeast, St. Louis, and Northeast regions. Board members serve three-year terms. Scan the QR code to learn more, submit a self-nomination, or nominate a fellow alum for terms beginning in February 2026.

We can't wait to welcome you home to Principia in the months ahead as we celebrate the joy of being together. Until then, I hope the stories in this issue inspire you and remind you of the dynamic community you're a part of.

Lovelovelove!

Merrilee

Merrilee McFarland (US'99, C'03)
Senior Director, Alumni & Field Relations
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314.514.3146

**Submit your nominations:**

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# Where I Learned to Think

**Jim Williams** (C'62), honored with the David K. Andrews Distinguished Alumni Award in 2024, is an accomplished engineer, entrepreneur, and lifelong learner whose journey reflects the profound impact of his whole-person Principia education. A lifelong Christian Scientist, Williams's path was set when his mother encouraged him to attend Principia College. A transformative visit to the College chapel his junior year of high school left him captivated; the communal spirit and the way Principia taught him to think made it feel like a second home, one that would shape his entire future.

Jim, his wife, **Barbara (Betscher) Williams** (C'62), two of their three children, and five of their grandchildren are proud Principia alumni, with a sixth grandchild scheduled to graduate in December. Although the College didn't offer a traditional engineering program, Jim loved the educational and Christian Science environment so much he chose to pursue a four-year degree in physics over the standard two-year engineering pathway that would lead him to another university. Principia highlights for Jim included the intimate class sizes and deep, probing discussions with professors who challenged him to think critically rather than simply accepting answers at face value. And, of course, meeting and falling in love with his future wife, Barbara. "First date we had, I knew she was the one," Jim shares.

After graduation, Jim's career took off as he navigated early challenges with roles at North American Aviation. His defining professional chapter began with a twenty-five-year tenure at Hughes Aircraft Company, where he applied his skills to develop crucial radar systems. It was during this period that a divine flash of insight led him to create a proposal for an interferometer—a breakthrough radar technology that is proving to be a game changer in reducing cost while improving the effectiveness of missile defense systems. In a memorable moment of leadership, Jim scheduled a prayer meeting during testing difficulties at White Sands Missile Range, an event that underscored his belief in the power of listening—"to others and to divine ideas from God."

Through his career and personal life, Jim continues to advocate for the unique and transformative education he received at Principia, urging current students to embrace every opportunity for the deep, reflective learning he experienced at the College. "Principia teaches you how to think, and that never becomes obsolete."

**Watch Jim's award acceptance video.**

# Class Notes

## US'57

After graduating from Principia Upper School, **Rusty Lugli** (US'57) attended Napa Junior College and San Jose State University. In 1962, he founded a drywell company, establishing national status by 1967. During that same year, he and a partner started a building company—Feature Homes, Inc. By the 1980s, the company had become the 50th largest home builder in the country. Throughout the decades, Rusty worked with several assistants, including another Principia Upper School graduate. In 1987, Feature Homes became a publicly traded company on the New York Stock Exchange. After many years of hard work, Rusty retired in 2023 and moved to Keller, Texas with his wife of 60 years, Susan. They're enjoying living close to their son's family—three daughters, one son, and five great-granddaughters. They also have another daughter and grandson not far away in Arkansas. After all these achievements, Rusty still says attending Principia was the greatest experience of his life. Congratulations on your retirement, Rusty and Susan!

## C'60

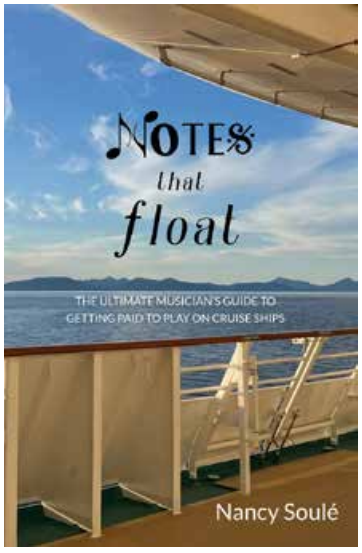
**Lynda (Jones) Beckstrom** (C'60) has been knitting and crocheting baby hats for newborns and preemies for six years. She loves giving back to her community and has been recognized with the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for volunteer service for donating more than 6,000 infant hats. The hats are distributed around the country through the Madhatter Knits Organization. (See photo above right.)

## US'70

In October, **Thomas Richards** (US'70, C'74) attended a concert at Carnegie Hall benefitting the children and youth of Ukraine. Actor Liv Schreiber hosted; the Ukrainian Ambassador and Robert F. Smith gave introductory remarks; and a video message from Olena Zelenska, first lady of Ukraine, aired, thanking supporters for their contributions. One of the violinists was a female soldier who had been wounded in the Ukraine war. The second half of the concert featured Beethoven's 9th symphony, a musical illustration of Beethoven's vision of universal human solidarity, freedom, and peace. Thomas's son, Charles, sang as a member of the Oratorio Society of New York. Although singing Beethoven's 9th is known to be incredibly difficult, Charles thoroughly enjoyed it, and the performance ended on a vigorous note.

## US'72

Author **Nancy (Robinson) Soulé** (US'72) has turned her life's adventure on cruise ships into three books so far. *Work at Sea, See the World: An Insider's Secrets to the Working Life on a Cruise Ship* was released in 2023. Now, the publication of *Notes that Float: The Ultimate Musician's Guide to Getting Paid to Play on Cruise Ships* supports her online program to help ambitious musicians travel the world, getting paid to do what they love. Her newest book, *For the Love of Transformation*, is a collaboration with Hollywood vocal coach to the stars, Roger Love. Just released, it includes 20 authors' insights on personal growth. Besides writing and supporting musicians, Nancy is still ship-hopping and sailing the seas as a theatrical wardrobe contractor for Royal Caribbean.




## C'98

**Brock Krueger Green** (C'98) received the 2023 Department of Defense "Outstanding Law Enforcement Award" for saving a life. He was selected from more than 180,000 federal police officers and accepted the award at the Pentagon in May during National Police Week. He is seen pictured with his wife, Kelly Green, on p. 48.

# Connections

***1*** In July 2024, **Betsy (Smith) Gaudette-Cross** (US'71) shared some special moments with Principia classmates at a stunning Lake of the Woods retreat, home of **Jim Clough** (US'71, C'78) and **Sue (Huff) Clough** (C'75) in Sioux Narrows, Northwestern Ontario. Joining Betsy, Jim, and Sue were **Jim Jeffrey** (US'71), **Mike Cheezem** (US'71), **Rod Faunt** (US'71), **Jack Diestelhorst** (US'71), **Dave Denyse** (US'71), and **Dale Frates** (US'71). The lifelong friends of 56 years gather every five years to reconnect and share hours laughing and reminiscing. This reunion also gave them time to swim in a beautiful lake, explore the bustling farmers' market in Kenora, fish, cook, and discuss world challenges while appreciating the strong bond they share and the joy of their enduring friendship, based on their Principia years.

***Back row:*** *Mike Cheezem (US'71), Dave Denyse (US'71), Jim Clough (US'71, C'78), Dale Frates (US'71), Jim Jeffrey (US'71), Janie Frates*

***Front row:*** *Betsy Smith Gaudette-Cross (US'71), Katherine Cheezem, Sue Clough (C'75), Nancy Faunt, Rod Faunt (US'71), Jack Diestelhorst (US'71), Alice Diestelhorst*

***Back row:*** *Jim Jeffrey (US'71), Mike Cheezem (US'71), Rod Faunt (US'71), Jack Diestelhorst (US'71)*

***Front row:*** *Dave Denyse (US'71), Jim Clough (US'71, C'78), Betsy Smith Gaudette-Cross (US'71), Dale Frates (US'71)*

***2*** Five Principia shoemaker elves cobbled together time in November 2024 to reunite—55 years after they performed as first graders during a Lower School Christmas sharing program. Back in 1969, they sang an original song written by **Marjorie Hamlin** (US'38). Going forward, one of them became a Shoemaker in real life and all of them can still sing the elf song word for word.

***Left to right (both photos):*** *Anne Williams (US'80, C'84), Ron Charles (US'80, C'84), Bob Raymond (US'80), Merrilyn (Holzberlein) Shoemaker (US'80, C'87), and Karen (Goodspeed) Hertlein (US'80).*

## Share Your News!

Highlights from a summer trip? Family gatherings celebrating a 2025 graduate? Share your news and let's spread the joy together.

## C'99

Recent release *Getting the Most Out of Your College Experience: A User-Friendly Guide* by **Dr. Chris Apoder O'Riordan-Adjah MS, PE** (C'99) is an insightful exploration of how to use one's time in college to prepare for a successful future—from choosing a school to preparing for what comes after graduation. To learn more, visit **letustalked.com**. (See cover image p. 49.)

## C'01

**Moris Castillo** (C'01) is thrilled to share exciting news from Boston! This past spring, Moris completed his MBA at Babson College, graduating Summa Cum Laude. He was then promoted to the Cloud Engineering leadership team at Oracle and is excited about the new opportunities this milestone has opened up for him. Moris shares, "I am deeply grateful to my family and friends for their unwavering support." (See photo right center.)

Brock Krueger Green (C'98) and wife, Kelly Green.

**Left to right:** Al McCready (C'69), Mo Castillo (C'01), Haide Bolaños (US'92, C'96).

**Left to right:** Cecily Zdan (C'09), Corey Thornton (US'05, C'09), Christa Seid-Graham (C'09), Debbie (Anderson) Martinez (US'91), Jasmine Linck (C'09), Natalie Zdan (C'12)

## US'07

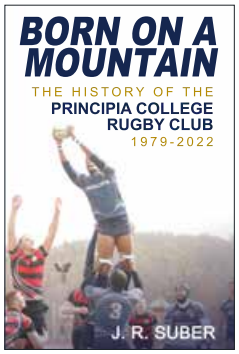
**Noëlle Brown, PhD** (US'07, C'11) and **Adeleen (Brown) Penagos** (US'05, C'09) are delighted to announce the release of their English translation of *The Woman Writer*, a 19th-century French novella. This English edition brings to light the work of Stéphanie-Félicité de Genlis, the influential tutor to the future King Louis Philippe of France. The novella highlights the struggles and complexities faced by women writers during the 18th and 19th centuries, offering valuable insight into the literary and social cultures of the time. The work displays the authors' skill in preserving and accurately presenting historical texts. The authenticity of the original French has been preserved while making the work accessible to a broader audience. (See cover image p. 49.)

## US'09

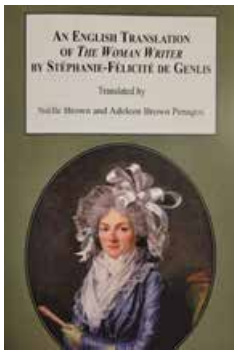
Former math major **Cecily Zdan** (C'09) has found a fun and tasty way to celebrate her love of mathematics and her local community of Omaha, NE. She invites friends and neighbors to celebrate national *Pi Day*, March 14, by bringing a delicious homemade pie to share. (The irrational number 3.14159—referred to as Pi—is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter.) This past Pi Day, more than 40 community members showed up—pie and washable plate and fork in hand—to eat and enjoy camaraderie. In addition to the locals, a handful of Principia College alums have started making the annual pilgrimage for food, fun, and fellowship (see photo of this year's Principia bakers on left). In addition to organizing the Pi Day event, Cecily and her sister, **Natalie Zdan** (C'12) also teach swing dancing in Omaha. Cecily is currently second reader at her local Christian Science church, and Natalie teaches Sunday School.

## C'11

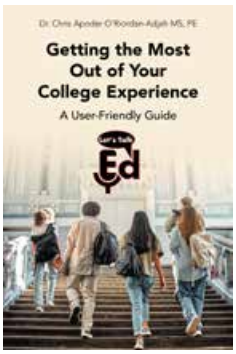
**James Suber** (C'11) has published his latest book *Born on a Mountain: The History of the Principia College Rugby Club, 1979–2022*. It tells the story of Principia's rugby team, the Thunder Chickens, from its origins as a ragtag student-run club through its rise to becoming a regional powerhouse and two-time national champion. James started working on this book when he was still a student at Principia, and many alumni have supported its development over the years. The book is available for purchase on Amazon. (See cover image on right.)




Book by James Suber (C'11).




Book by Noëlle Brown, PhD (US'07, C'11) and Adeleen (Brown) Penagos (US'05, C'09).




Book by Dr. Chris Apoder O'Riordan-Adjah MS, PE (C'99).


# Inspire Tomorrow, Today

Principia shapes lives—maybe your own or someone close to you. A planned gift through your will or retirement account is a simple but powerful way to extend that impact for future generations of Principians.

## Why Make an Impact with a Planned Gift?

- You can make a bigger impact than you might imagine.
- Tax benefits make giving a mutually-beneficial solution.
- You don't have to give anything now.
- You can leave a lasting legacy that profoundly impacts future students.

### Start the conversation today.

Contact **Tucker Fendon** at 314.514.3119 or tucker.fendon@principia.edu.

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# ALUMNI MOMENTS

## *Snapshots of Celebration: See and be seen!*

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5

1. In Orange County, California, Principia alumni and friends picked up paintbrushes and garden tools to brighten outdoor spaces as part of this year's Global Days of Service. Every April, Principians unite to show the impact a single month of service can make.
2. Principians celebrated the new year at the 136th Tournament of Roses Parade during a three-day Lifelong Learning trip to the region.
3. In Southern California, Principia Chief Executive Barbara Blackwell (HON'22) presented the 2024 David K. Andrews Distinguished Alumni Award to Jim Williams (C'62). Read more on p. 45.
4. Grandparents and grandfriends enjoyed a memorable morning with their favorite Principia Preschool and Lower School students. Shari Charlston (FS'98), second from right, has nine grandchildren currently attending Principia and is pictured with three of them along, with Aunt Maddie Wann (C'20) and Grandma Jan.
5. Members of Principia's Alumni Association Board visited both campuses in February—spending time with students and staff as part of their annual meeting.
6. College seniors from the Class of 2025 gathered for this year's Senior Celebration, hosted by the Alumni Office. The event included tacos, swag, and a photo booth!
7. Principia's Together Tour included stops in London, Paris, Hamburg and Berlin, Germany, and a special gathering of alumni, families, and friends in Geneva.
8. Fans of all ages cheered on the Upper School girls' and boys' basketball teams at the State championship games at Mizzou Arena in Columbia, Missouri.
9. Upper School freshmen in the entrepreneurial CoLAB course traveled to Elsah for the College's Innovation Panel, featuring Stuart Jenkins (US'78, C'83), Tom Denison (C'83), and Caroline Aptaker, spouse of Bob Aptaker (C'82).
10. Principia alumni returned to A-Wing for the Upper School's sixth annual career fair. John Butler (C'87) was one of several Alumni Association Board members who participated.

PRINCIPIA

# UPPER SCHOOL REUNION

## September 25—27, 2025

**50th Reunioners arrive September 24**

**Join classmates and friends for a weekend of celebration, connection, and fun!**

*Register today!*

principiaalumni.org/reunion

### Celebrating These Class Years

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10th: 2015, 2016 | 35th: 1990, 1991 | 60th: 1965, 1966 |
| 15th: 2010, 2011 | 40th: 1985, 1986 | 65th: 1960, 1961 |
| 20th: 2005, 2006 | 45th: 1980, 1981 | 70th: 1955, 1956 |
| 25th: 2000, 2001 | 50th: 1975, 1976 | 75th: 1950, 1951 |
| 30th: 1995, 1996 | 55th: 1970, 1971 | 80th: 1945, 1946 |

# Lovingly Remembered

Mary "Jean" (Fulton) Moffitt (C'44)

Shirley (Merz) Jeffery (US'48)

Shirley (Stanhope) Ahrens (US'49)

Hugh "Vince" V. Boemer (C'49)

Janice (Mills) Endzell (US'49)

Norma (Bartlett) Hawkins (US'46, C'50)

Franklyn "Frank" R. Forkert (C'51)

Marilyn (Heuslein) Harvey (C'51)

H "Bill" W. Lurton (C'51)

Margaret (Currie) Patterson (JC'53)

Barbara (Orphal) Smith (C'53)

Virginia "Ginny" (Couse) Leavitt (C'54)

George "Bud" O. Roberts (US'54)

Stephen "Steve" (Shapiro) Shaper (US'54)
*Trustee Emeritus*

Margot "Meg" (MacGibeny) Sturt (C'54)

James "Jim" H. Kurt, Sr. (US'55)

Lucille "Lue" (Anderson) Blankenship (C'56)

Jane (Elliott) Atencio (US'53, C'57)
*Former Faculty/Staff*

Jon V. Geffen (US'57)

Ann (Hanzlik) Hammond (US'58)

Carmen (Duffy) Haberman (US'59)

Donna (Bergstrom) Lanehart (C'59)

Duncan W. Smith (US'55, C'59)

Rayburn "Ray" Hanzlik (US'56, C'60)

Rosalind (Scheer) John (C'60)
*Former Faculty/Staff*

Patricia "Pat" M. Newman (US'61)

Karl F. Wagner (US'61)

Joseph "Jim" J. Judkins, Jr. (C'62)

Janet (Lawing) Sherwood (C'62)
*Former Faculty/Staff*

Stephen "Steve" W. Gaubatz (C'66)

Mary (Seeger) Laws (US'66)

Randal "Randy" C. Williams (US'66)

Steven "Steve" D. Greene (US'67)
*Former Faculty/Staff*

Dennison "Denny" B. Raymond (C'68)

Laurence "Larry" E. Lackey (US'65, C'69)
*Former Faculty/Staff*

Don W. Ledbetter (C'69)

John C. Record (US'66, C'70)
*Former Faculty/Staff*

John Steelesmith (US'67, C'71)

Timothy "Tim" R. Booth (US'68, C'72)
*Former Faculty/Staff*

Julie (Garvey) Sheppard (US'73)

Betty C. Farley (C'74)

Alanson "Hap" P. Holly (C'74)

Timothy "Tim" B. Meyerson (C'74)

Peter W. Ferber (US'72, C'76)

Kandice "Kandy" (Bollinger) Neale (C'76)

Richard "Rick" N. Tozzie (C'76)

Andrea (Clayton) Black (C'87)

David "Austin" A. Seitz (US'88)

Meghan (Buckley) Quirk (US'90, C'94)

Emily (Purdy) Cox (C'96)

Franklin "Frank" A. Dunn (US'97)

Akimie C. Ogilvie (US'14, C'20)

**Former Faculty/Staff**

Mimi (Smith) Bilsborrow (FS'89)

Marie C. Farson

Sarah "Sally" McGinnis (FS'81)

Diane (Carlsen) Speer (FS'03)

Jeffrey "Jeff" C. Steele (FS'01)

The PRINCIPIA
13201 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63131
www.principia.edu

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- Keep it simple: Your gift is automatic and can be adjusted at any time.
- Make an impact: Monthly gifts provide stability and long-term planning capability.

**Donate $84/month or more to join Principia's Howard Society.**

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For questions or to start your monthly gift today, visit **principia.edu/giving** or contact Caroline Hufstader, Director of Annual Giving, at 314.514.3116