Our Class Gift:

Enhanced Resources to Prepare Students for Professional and Personal Success

We are all aware of the acute challenges facing graduates entering the workforce today, not to mention the equilibrium and spiritual grounding needed to cope with a highly polarized society.

As it is imperative that we prepare students for success in these times, Principia has adopted a new, leading-edge model for the Liberal Arts that emphasizes experiential learning. Fields of study are housed in five Academic Centers that become the hub of students' academic and social life. Here, taking a whole-person approach, they learn to think critically, creatively, and collaboratively, preparing to be a leader in their chosen field and an agent of positive change in the world.

The Principia College Reunion Classes of 1976 and 1977 have a unique opportunity to help launch these much-needed leaders and are establishing an Academic Centers Fund. Our Reunion gift will provide enhanced resources for the Centers to elevate the students' practical, hands-on, real-world experience. Examples of how the fund will be used include traveling to or hosting conferences; creating community service projects; building the next-gen solar car; conducting research; underwriting the mediation team; preparing a TED Talk; getting certifications, training, or internships; development of a Career Hub Network to connect upperclassmen to regional job opportunities and alumni; faculty development; and acquisition of materials or new technology to support student learning.

We believe the new Academic Centers will create a competitive advantage for both students and the College itself, and have set a goal of raising $500,000. The creation of a fund, as opposed to an endowment, will maximize the *immediate* operational impact of these resources. The funds will be distributed at the discretion of the College President and Academic Dean so they can address the varying needs of each Center.

From a spiritual perspective, a center isn't just a place, dedicated to a certain pursuit. It also provides an emotional and spiritual equilibrium – a gravitational mean that keeps you grounded, steady, and true to yourself. For Principia College, a center is the core from which a student's infinite capability radiates.

THE FIVE ACADEMIC CENTERS

Center for Narrative, Meaning, & Media

- ***Majors:*** Creative Writing, Digital Media and Journalism, History, Religious Studies
- ***Vision:*** Students learn the power of narratives to help understand themselves, where they come from, and where they are going. As graduates, students are equipped with the skills and strategies to make sense of the world through a knowledge of societies' pasts, religious worldviews, and creative and thoughtful communication.
- ***Center Director:*** Dr. Heidi J. Snow (C'79), Professor of English and Edith and Lewis White Distinguished Professor:

Center for Business & Computer Science

- ***Majors:*** Business Administration, Computer Science, Mathematics
- ***Vision:*** Our graduates are intrapreneurs, entrepreneurs, founders, analysts, and innovators ready to take on exciting careers in new areas of human enterprise at some of the most in-demand companies in the world-or invent their own.
- ***Center Director:*** Dr. Lucia de Paz (US'96, C'00), Associate Professor of Business Administration

Center for Civic & Global Engagement

- ***Majors:*** Economics, Educational Studies, Global Studies, Philosophy, Political Science
- ***Vision:*** Engaging at the local and global levels, our learning community investigates the confluence of ideas, philosophies, and issues that impact or influence people through the ebbing and flowing changes of today's world.
- ***Center Director:*** Dr. Sally Steindorf (US'93, C'97), Professor of Global Studies

Center for Ecology, Sustainability, & Chemistry

- ***Majors:*** Chemistry, Ecology, Ecosystem Management, Sustainability
- ***Vision:*** Driven by the urgent need to address environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, climate change, and social inequity, our Center integrates the disciplines of Sustainability, Ecology, Ecosystem Management, and Chemistry to investigate the complex interconnections between natural systems and human societies to foster a more resilient and sustainable future.
- ***Center Director:*** Dr. Greg Bruland (C'97), Professor of Biology and Natural Resources

Center for the Arts

- ***Majors:*** Music, Music Studies, Performing Arts, Visual Art
- ***Vision:*** Exploring the creative landscape – be it on canvas, a stage, through a melody, or within one's own artistic spirit – our students develop, practice, perform, and share their talent and creative spark with the world.
- ***Center Director:*** Leah Gallant-McFall (US'89, C'93), Professor of Theatre