A Place to Be Everything

Zachery Proctor (US'22, C'26) has never been one to follow a singular path. A champion long-distance runner with a tireless curiosity to match his physical stamina, Zachery has made his mark on campus.

Ranked in Principia's all-time Top 10 in both the 5K and 10K events, he's earned Academic All-Conference honors every season, all while pursuing a wide range of interests with the enthusiasm of a kid in a candy store.

Early to declare a major in computer science, Zachery was drawn to multimedia, moonlighting in sound and lighting design for Principia's theatrical productions. The auditorium sound board led to the studio control board, and soon he found himself producing for PCTV, the College's television station. **It didn't take long for the hobbies to turn into a real passion, and the side gig became a second major.**



A Principia Abroad to New Zealand deepened Zachery's passion for storytelling as he explored how language and culture shape identity, community, and place.

As he weighs post-graduation plans, including journalism, multimedia production, outdoor education, and computer science, it's clear that Zachery is prepared for whatever comes next.

"I'm not just one-dimensional; I love exploring different paths, showing up for different people in different ways," Zachery says. "Being at Principia, I got to do more than just one thing. That's important to me."

Carrying Discovery Forward

Well before members of the Upper School Classes of 1975 and 1976 returned to campus for Reunion last fall, they reflected on Principians who shaped their lives. Through that lens, it became clear that their **50th Reunion Gift should honor Ted Munnecke Jr. (C'57)**, a beloved biology teacher, coach, and mentor who served Principia for 37 years and helped students see the natural world with curiosity, care, and wonder.

Their gift, the Munnecke Nature Center, carries that spirit forward, creating a versatile outdoor classroom, gathering place, and launching pad for outdoor learning and discovery for all Principia School students.

During Reunion Weekend, members of the 50th Reunion classes gathered with Principia educators, leaders, and students for a groundbreaking celebration. Construction is now underway near the campus ponds and woodlands Ted once explored with his students.

Once complete, the center will give students a place to explore, observe, reflect, and connect ideas across disciplines. Field research, sustainability studies, poetry, nature journaling, leadership programs, and class gatherings can all find a home in this space.

For these Upper School alumni, this project is both a tribute and a forward-looking gift, honoring a teacher who impacted their Principia experience while supporting Principia's commitment to authentic, relevant, and impactful learning experiences for today's students.



The Impact of Your Giving

2025–2026 STUDENT STORIES



The PRINCIPIA



Advancing Today's Principians

From the beginning, Principia has been built on a bold idea: education should nurture the whole person. Founder Mary Kimball Morgan envisioned a school where students would grow intellectually, socially, morally, physically, and spiritually, with Christian Science and character education at the center.

That vision continues to guide Principia today. Your generosity carries this whole-person approach forward through transformative academics, spiritual growth, hands-on learning, mentorship, athletics, leadership, the arts, and on- and off-campus opportunities that help students feel known, supported, and seen as infinitely capable.







Back in the Game

After an injury sustained on the court in her freshman year at a community college, **Genesis Santiago** (C'27) was certain she wouldn't play basketball at the collegiate level again. That is, until a phone call from Principia's former women's basketball coach and current athletics director, Ramiro Dominguez, changed everything.

"He convinced me to consider transferring to Principia College. **I wasn't planning on playing because of my injury, but he told me to give everything up to God, and I did.**"

Relying on the Principia community and spiritual resources for support, Genesis saw meaningful progress. **"The environment at Principia and its emphasis on God helped me a lot.** Before long, I was back on the basketball court wearing a brace. Then one day, I decided to take the brace off."

A historic SLIAC Championship win in 2025 for the women's basketball team was proof in the pudding for Genesis. And far from her sports career being over, Genesis has since lent her talents to the Panthers on the softball field and the soccer pitch.

"Being at Principia has allowed me to develop not only academically but also personally and spiritually. I now approach life with curiosity, resilience, and purpose. And I'm appreciative every day for the people and experiences that have shaped my time here."

A Ministry of Connection

As someone who's made a career of inspiring others, Principia College Director of Spiritual Life and College Chaplain **Roger Gordon** says his inspiration comes from the students.

"They're my heroes. They're incredible people of faith—respectful, inclusive, and loving. They're amazing, and it's a privilege to get to work with them."

In any given week, Roger may be moderating weekly Faith in Action programs, hosting popular interfaith dinners, and working with students on one of the Spiritual Life Department's passion projects: the *Light of the World* podcast.

Through the podcast, Roger partners with students to share stories of spiritual growth, discovery, and healing—breaking down barriers and limitations one episode at a time.

"I love the podcast," Roger says. "The act of recording student stories is its own ministry, and it's transformative for the students. **To watch a student turn a situation around and regain a sense of purpose and connection to God is so meaningful.**"

Drawing on Principia's Policy Three assertion that no limitation is final, Roger continues to explore and build a deep sense of spiritual vitality, helping nurture a community grounded in growth, purpose, and possibility.

"Coming to Principia felt like coming home," Roger adds. "It's the best educational community you could ask for. There's so much love here."

Scan the QR code to listen to *Light of the World* podcast episodes on Spotify.

Real Work, Real Growth

For Principia eighth graders, Printernships offer more than a glimpse into the working world. They give students the opportunity to work alongside mentors in departments across campus, gain exposure to different types of work, and discover the deeper learning that comes from being inquisitive, engaged, friendly, and responsible.

"We want students to have experiences that are authentic," says Middle School faculty member Monnie (Pearson) Brodbeck (C'90). "The skills they learn working one-on-one with a professional help prepare them for the real world."

This year's program added Gallup Strengths training, giving students clearer insights into how they learn, collaborate, and contribute—valuable self-knowledge as they prepare to enter Upper School.

For **Minette Gordon**, who worked in Principia's Alumni Office, the experience meant helping transform archival yearbook images into a visual celebration for Reunion events.

But the bigger takeaway was about teamwork and attitude. **"I learned a lot about how your showing up affects how you work,"** Minette says. "If I was just three minutes late, I wouldn't be in the right mindset, and I wouldn't accomplish as much."

Printernships give students opportunities to explore their interests and contribute to the larger Principia campus, blending hands-on learning with purposeful service. As Monnie explains, "It really builds community in a way that's unique."

Growing into Leadership

"If you'd met me four years ago, you wouldn't recognize me," jokes **Konrad Römhild** (US'26). "I was very shy, but **the dorm brought me out of my shell and helped me take responsibility as a leader.**"

When he arrived at the Upper School from Hamburg, Germany, as a sophomore, Konrad only planned to attend Principia for a year. But, in his own words, **"I fell in love with Principia, the dorm, and the community."**

Inspired by student leaders in the dorm (and with encouragement from his house parents), Konrad applied to the Dorm Core Leadership Team at the end of his sophomore year. Following a process of peer evaluation, he was appointed to serve on the team during his junior year and again his senior year.

"A big part of the role is holding your peers accountable and being an example. **It taught me how to be a compassionate leader who helps his peers. And while it was sometimes challenging, it helped me grow.**"

As Konrad looks to the future, the graduating senior gives credit where it's due.

"Principia showed me what I could be at my best," he says. "If I hadn't gone to Principia, I wouldn't have discovered my strengths and potential. I don't know if I'd be planning to study mechanical engineering in college. **I really discovered my true potential here at Principia.**"