2015 ANNUAL REPORT
MISSION

The Principia shall seek to serve the Cause of Christian Science through appropriate channels open to it as an educational institution.

VISION

Principia is a Christian Science community of practice where all members are students, teachers, and healers. Through transformative opportunities, a challenging curriculum, and character education based on the teachings of Christian Science, we examine, test, and strengthen our faith while developing the skills and understanding requisite for excellence. As global, outward-looking, inspired learners, we serve and better the world.

CORE GOALS

Principia has identified five core goals as priorities in the current strategic plan. We expect to realize our vision for 2020 by focusing in concrete, measurable ways on these goals:

• Strengthen Educational Excellence
• Promote Christian Science-Based Character Education
• Nurture Success Beyond Principia
• Grow Enrollment
• Steward Resources Responsibly
Dear Friends,

I hope you enjoy this overview of the achievements and progress that took place across Principia during the 2014–2015 fiscal year.

From preschoolers through College seniors, students expanded their understanding of themselves and their world. For some, that meant speaking French with confidence while traveling in France (p. 16); for others, it involved diving deep into serving others (p. 18); for many it required balancing the competing priorities that come with being a student-athlete (p. 22). For all of us, it meant striving to better understand and live the year’s metaphysical theme, from the Gospel of Matthew: “. . . love thy neighbour as thyself” (22:39).

At all levels, our students are benefiting from remarkable opportunities for hands-on learning—inside the classroom, throughout our two expansive campuses, around the country, and across the globe. These extraordinary experiences are also preparing them for success beyond Principia. Our Upper School students are gaining acceptances from an impressive list of four-year colleges (p. 5), and our College students are enrolling in top-level graduate programs nationwide. Our faculty had a very productive year as well, publishing papers, presenting at conferences, and, at the College, supporting several students’ conference presentations (p. 5).

This Annual Report also shares information and statistics on enrollment, academics, faculty, athletics, student satisfaction, alumni engagement, and finances. As you read the statistics and stories included here, I hope you are inspired to come visit and experience the Principia difference in person.

Alumni, donors, and friends are crucial partners in our success. Thank you for your ongoing support of Principia founder Mary Kimball Morgan’s inspired idea.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jonathan W. Palmer (C’78)
PRINCIPIA SCHOOL

421

PRINCIPIA COLLEGE

495

NUMBER OF STUDENTS

2015 COLLEGE GRADS WHO . . .

- Strongly agree that the faculty believe in their potential to succeed
  - 69% PRINCIPIA
  - 46% NONSECTARIAN FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES

- Were very satisfied with the amount of contact they had with faculty
  - 71% PRINCIPIA
  - 56% NONSECTARIAN FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES

- Were very satisfied with their ability to find a faculty or staff mentor
  - 60% PRINCIPIA
  - 40% NONSECTARIAN FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES

- Were very satisfied with the overall sense of community among students
  - 67% PRINCIPIA
  - 35% NONSECTARIAN FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES

- Would definitely choose to enroll at their college again
  - 67% PRINCIPIA
  - 41% NONSECTARIAN FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES

(Stats are based on the Higher Education Research Institute’s surveys of graduating seniors.)
NUMBER OF FULL-TIME FACULTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRINCIPIA SCHOOL</th>
<th>PRINCIPIA COLLEGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRINCIPIA SCHOOL</th>
<th>PRINCIPIA COLLEGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:1</td>
<td>8:1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

44% OF UPPER SCHOOL FACULTY HOLD ADVANCED DEGREES

49% OF PRINCIPIA UPPER SCHOOL DAY STUDENTS

51% OF PRINCIPIA UPPER SCHOOL BOARDERS

2015 COLLEGE GRADS WHO SAY PRINCIPIA PREPARED THEM WELL OR VERY WELL

- To articulate personal moral standards: 82%
- To navigate ethical issues at work: 78%
- To navigate personal moral issues: 89%
- To make difficult choices due to conflicting values: 76%

(Stats are based on the College Senior Survey.)
In recognition of students’ achievements, Principia awarded scholarships totaling $5,655,783 to 39 Upper School and 302 College students during the 2014–2015 academic year.
Thinking Critically about Current Issues

Along with reading, discussing, and presenting news articles in Upper School’s popular Current Issues class, students consider cartoons from all shades of the political spectrum. The latter is particularly helpful in developing “a willingness to recognize that there are multiple sides to every issue,” explains teacher Rich Eisenauer (C’83).

Another key objective of the class is “helping students be efficient consumers of news, able to compare what a headline says with the actual, deeper reality and vet sources of information for bias,” Eisenauer comments. In addition, of course, students expand their outlook. As one member of the class put it, “We are talking about issues that affect the whole world right now and thinking much bigger than just our school.”

College Students Present Their Work around the Country

Six students from the Political Science, History, Sociology and Anthropology, English, and Physics Departments presented their work at conferences in the spring. Two of them read creative pieces (a poem and short story, respectively) at the National Undergraduate Literature Conference in Ogden, Utah. They were also among the six authors (chosen out of roughly 200) to be published in the host university’s literary journal.

Four other students delivered their research on factions in the Chinese government, genocide, sex trafficking in Latin America, and computational fluid dynamics at conferences in Ohio, Washington, and Illinois. The presentation on fluid dynamics won first place at the spring 2015 Illinois Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers, which was held at Principia College.

88% 71%

COLLEGE FRESHMAN-TO-SOPHOMORE RETENTION RATE compared to a 70% national average at private colleges

COLLEGE FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATE compared to a 50% national average at private colleges

A SAMPLING OF COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES AMONG THE UPPER SCHOOL CLASS OF 2015

American University
Boston University
Butler University
Connecticut College
Cornell College
DePauw University
Drake University
Elon University
High Point University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Ithaca College
Lake Forest College
Lewis & Clark College
Michigan State University
New York University
Northeastern University
Occidental College
Ohio State University
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Scripps College
Syracuse University
University of California (multiple campuses)
University of Connecticut
University of Oregon
University of Puget Sound
University of South Carolina Honors College
University of Southern California
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin
Washington University in St. Louis
PRINCIPIA 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Expansion of Engineering Program Announced

The College announced a second way for students to study engineering at Principia. For over 50 years, the College has offered a 3+2 dual-degree engineering program. In this model, students spend three years at Principia, completing general education and introductory engineering classes before transferring to an approved university, such as the University of Minnesota, for two years of engineering course work. Now, they don’t have to leave Principia. Students can earn a professionally certified engineering degree on the College campus.

With this new option, students spend five years at Principia completing a combination of traditional, on-campus courses along with engineering classes offered via streaming video from the University of North Dakota (UND). Principia faculty members support all aspects of the distance learning experience, including attending the scheduled class viewing of the online courses and holding office hours. (Students also complete a couple of two-week summertime lab sessions at UND.) After successfully completing this new program, students earn two degrees: a BS in engineering science from Principia College and a professionally certified BS in civil, chemical, electrical, mechanical, or petroleum engineering from UND.

Chris O’Riordan-Adjah (C’99, pictured above left) began in May as director of the engineering program. He brings years of experience in both structural and quality engineering and as a professor, most recently at the University of Central Florida.
Preschoolers “Travel” Back in Time and Across the Border

Junior kindergarteners discovered not only how to pronounce *paleontology* but what it means. In their unit on dinosaurs, the class learned about fossils, where and why paleontologists dig up bones, and how to tell the difference between various dinosaurs. Students made clay models of these captivating creatures and excavated (pretend) dinosaur bones in their in-class sandpit. The class also enjoyed a visit to the Saint Louis Science Center, where a researcher showed them the real triceratops bones he was working on. And, of course, each of the opportunities during this multiday project provided occasions to practice writing, art, and communication skills.

In a longer, interdisciplinary unit, kindergarteners “explored” Panama. Their study of the country’s language, culture, and environment included a trip to the Climatron at the Missouri Botanical Garden, where they learned about rainforests, and visits from guest speakers. One pair of visitors shared slides of Panama and taught students how to cook fried plantains and play traditional Panamanian games. Another visitor, an artist, helped the class paint large animals for their “rainforest.”

The children concluded their study with an extensive sharing. First was a performance of a Panamanian folktale, which showcased their speaking, acting, dancing, and Spanish skills. Then, students took their parents and visitors on a tour of all things Panamanian—a rainforest, complete with animals; the inside of a typical dwelling; a musical center with instruments; and displays of flags, coins, and cultural memorabilia.
LIVING THE LEARNING

Principia students at all levels learn by doing—from building and racing a solar car to learning how to use a compass, from directing a one-act play to planning a conference. By putting learning to the test both on and off campus, students find out what they know and what they can’t wait to explore further. Here, upper schoolers conduct research on the Tetons Trip, which combines science study with art and creative writing.
Upper School Robotics Alliance Wins First Place

In only its second year of participating in interscholastic robotics competitions, team “Optimus Prin”—along with their robot, “Bolts”—qualified for the Missouri State competition, thanks to a solid performance at the FIRST Robotics Competition regional rounds in St. Louis, where the team placed fourth out of 43 teams.

At the State competition in Sedalia, Missouri, Optimus Prin formed an “alliance” with two other high school teams for the semifinal and final rounds, and the alliance ended up winning first place!

Two key events helped Optimus Prin qualify for the State competition—and learn a great deal about engineering in the process. First, Siemens, a sponsor of the Principia College solar car team, generously donated enough computer-aided design (CAD) software to outfit 20 Upper School workstations.

Second, Kenneth Stack and Garret Fielding (both US’10, C’14), alumni members of the College’s solar car team, met with Optimus Prin team members weekly for six weeks, teaching them how to use the software. With that help, the team created CAD designs of the electrical and pneumatic systems they went on to build and of Bolts himself. The rest is, as they say, history.

SCHOOL TRIPS IN THE UNITED STATES

As has become tradition, second graders spent an overnight in Illinois, learning a variety of Native American skills. And fourth graders took a two-night trip to the Dana Brown Center southwest of St. Louis to experience pioneer life.

Fifth through eleventh graders traveled farther afield for longer stretches to explore first-hand what they had studied in class. Below are the locations of this year’s longer School trips within the U.S. (See p. 14 for trips outside the country.)

**Fifth Grade**
Colonial Williamsburg, VA
History and language arts

**Sixth Grade**
Boston, Fort Ticonderoga, and Philadelphia
American history

**Seventh Grade**
New York City
Language arts and drama

**Ninth Grade**
New Mexico
History, art, and culture

**Eleventh Grade**
Concord, NH, and Boston, MA
Life of Mary Baker Eddy
Summer Research Ramps Up

In 2015, the College expanded a program, piloted the previous year, with the express purpose of nurturing students’ post-graduate success—a core goal in Principia’s strategic plan. Specifically, 13 current students and recent graduates stayed on campus during the summer to work alongside professors (from three different departments) on research projects ranging from trends in presidential politics to the home range of timber rattlesnakes.

Along with developing their research skills, they interacted with experts from other institutions—an invaluable opportunity to develop professional contacts. For example, those researching the breeding systems of grass species (part of a National Science Foundation grant) met with scientists at the Danforth Plant Science Center at Washington University in St. Louis. (Watch a video about the biology summer research projects at news.principia.edu/biology.)

57% OF THE COLLEGE CLASS OF 2015 COMPLETED AT LEAST ONE INTERNSHIP

18% OF THOSE WHO INTERNED RECEIVED A JOB OFFER FROM THEIR INTERNSHIP COMPANY
Third Graders Take a Virtual Trek West—and Back Again

In the fall semester, third-grade students learned about pioneer history and the geography of the United States through an extended simulation of the Oregon Trail. Over the course of the term, they gained an understanding of the environmental, economic, and social factors that affected the pioneer experience and discovered some of the specific skills and knowledge the emigrants needed to survive the roughly five-month, 2,000-mile expedition from Missouri to Oregon.

Then, in spring semester, class members worked in teams to plan a modern-day road trip from the West Coast to the East Coast. In the process, they practiced their math skills, calculating the mileage traveled each day and costs for gas, food, and so on. They developed their research and presentation skills as they created informational posters on points of interest along their route. They honed their writing skills by keeping journals documenting their 15-day “journey.” And since they had to accomplish all of this in teams, they also got plenty of practice negotiating, listening, and working together harmoniously.

Mediation Team’s Success Leads to Next Level

Competing against over 40 teams from roughly 20 colleges and universities in the fall, Principia’s mediation team claimed first place in Team Advocacy and second place in Team Mediation, along with several individual honors, at the International Intercollegiate Mediation Championship in Gainesville, Georgia. Their success earned them a berth in a graduate-level competition—the International Law School Mediation Championships at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. The team’s strong showing in this advanced arena resulted in four Top Ten finishes.

Solar Car Wins Awards at First-Ever Abu Dhabi Race

Principia placed sixth at the inaugural Abu Dhabi Solar Challenge in January. Fifteen teams, some with professional engineers, competed in the three-day, 1,200-kilometer race across urban and desert landscapes. Principia was the only liberal arts college participating.

Along with its strong finish, Principia’s team received outstanding recognition, sharing the Shell Innovation Award with the Petroleum Institute’s team. This award recognizes “outstanding technical ingenuity along with optimal use of new materials, components, and inventions.” In addition, Principia was the unanimous choice for the International Solarcar Federation’s Quiet Achiever Award, named for the first solar car ever built. This special award honors the team that best represents the mission of the International Solarcar Federation and the spirit of the competition.
Middle School Artists
Curate a “Living Museum”

In April, fifth graders presented a “living museum” as the culmination of their annual Art Alive! project. Impersonating a famous artist of their choice, each student shared a deep understanding of the life and times of his or her artist. In addition, students displayed impressive skill and technique in reproducing one of their artist’s iconic works.

Visitors touring the museum journeyed from ancient Egypt through the Renaissance, Impressionism, Modernism, Surrealism, and pop art—with detours into American and Japanese styles. The students’ obvious pleasure in sharing all they had learned rivaled the considerable research, communication, and creative abilities on display.
Upper School Artwork
Selected for Juried Exhibit

Artwork by 12 Upper School students was selected for the 2015 Young Artists’ Showcase, sponsored by the venerable St. Louis Artists’ Guild. What’s more, at the exhibition opening, juniors Libby Lewis and Christina Safronoff received special recognition. Libby’s photograph (right) won the Richard Silverman Memorial Prize in Photography, and Christina’s watercolor (facing page) earned an ArtMart Honor Award.

Special Concerts at the College

The College choir and orchestra kicked off the year with a concert celebrating the sesquicentennial of the signing of the Civil War Peace Accord. Thanks to a unique collaboration between the musicians and the Theatre and Dance Department, the concert incorporated compelling visual media with music to expand the storytelling nature of the performances and included living portraits depicting circumstances related to the war. The evening culminated in a stirring portrayal of President Abraham Lincoln by former theatre professor Patrick McCreary (C’73), accompanied by the orchestra, and followed by the “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” sung with the audience.

Several weeks later, Principia College hosted a talk by two Apollo 13 astronauts, James A. Lovell and Fred W. Haise, and former NASA Mission Flight Control Director Gene Kranz as part of the George A. Andrews Distinguished Speaker Series. Seizing the opportunity to present a special tribute to these American heroes, the Music Department collaborated with the government documents librarian and Media Services to assemble a slideshow of photographs and video footage from the Apollo 13 mission. The night of the talk, the College orchestra performed music from the film Apollo 13 to accompany the projected photos and video clips. The speakers’ appreciation for this performance led them to request a reprise in May, when they addressed the University of Arkansas, so the orchestra recorded the music for the audience of over 2,500 in Fayetteville, Arkansas.
2014–2015 INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL TRIPS

**Eighth Grade**
Costa Rica (Science and Spanish)

**Tenth Grade**
Dominican Republic (Service learning)

**Advanced French Language Classes**
France (Language and history)

**Optional Upper School Trips**
Israel (Bible history)
South Africa (Service learning)

2014–2015 COLLEGE STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

India and Nepal
Argentina
Dominica
England
Students from 29 of the United States and the following 12 countries attended Principia Upper School in the 2014–2015 school year:

- Angola
- Bangladesh
- Canada
- Colombia
- Germany
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Kenya
- Philippines
- Rwanda
- Switzerland
- Uganda

Students from 37 of the United States and the following 26 countries attended Principia College in the 2014–2015 school year:

- Angola
- Brazil
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- England
- Ghana
- Grenada
- Indonesia
- Kenya
- Latvia
- Nigeria
- Peru
- Philippines
- Republic of Congo
- Rwanda
- South Africa
- Switzerland
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Trinidad-Tobago
- Uganda
- Vietnam

Pakistani Educator and Activist Visits Campus

Ziauddin Yousafzai, the College’s 2015 Ernie and Lucha Vogel Moral Courage Speaker, inspired listeners in Cox Auditorium in late February. An educator and activist who peacefully resisted the Taliban’s efforts to shut down schools in Pakistan’s Swat Valley, Mr. Yousafzai began formally educating his daughter, Malala, when she was quite young. After she, too, became active in the fight for schooling for girls, a gunman shot her at point blank range in 2012. Instead of silencing her, however, the gunman magnified her voice. Malala regained her health and strength, and in 2014 she became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mr. Yousafzai is board chairman of the Malala Fund, which he and his daughter co-founded to empower girls worldwide through education. He also acts as the United Nations special advisor on global education and the educational attaché to the Pakistani Consulate in Birmingham, England. Along with explaining how events in Pakistan propelled his fight for girls’ education, he spoke about progress that has been made, such as the ratification of Pakistan’s first bill granting all children the right to education.

Yousafzai also visited several classes, where he provided historical and geopolitical context for issues in the Middle East and discussed with students the difference between education and indoctrination.

61% OF THE COLLEGE CLASS OF 2015 WENT ON AN ABROAD
French Language Students Explore and Study in France

In a moment more wishful than realistic (or so she thought), last year’s French language teacher reached out to her colleagues who teach U.S. history, art, and art history, asking, “What if . . . what if the sky were the limit and we could combine the study of each of our subject areas on site, in France?”

Thrilled by the idea, the teachers gathered immediately to begin sketching out an integrated curriculum that would connect all activities and sites on the trip to the historical relationship between France and the United States and to the countries’ interwoven political, artistic, and architectural development.

For several weeks prior to the trip, students immersed themselves in the history of pre- and post-Revolutionary France, the Napoleonic era, and the two World Wars (in addition to French conjugation, bien sûr!). And while being introduced to a variety of styles in art and architecture, from Baroque and Rococo to Impressionism, the students also developed their own artistic skills and learned to work with watercolors in the studio.

Upon arrival in Paris, the upper schoolers were called upon to practice their French everywhere they went. In the course of riding the Métro, ordering croissants, and attending church services (where they all said the Lord’s Prayer in French and a few even gave testimonials), they honed their language skills as well as their confidence and awareness as world citizens. Painting in Monet’s garden, visiting World War II memorials, and exploring the Louvre were among the many highlights of their jam-packed days.

“As a student, this trip has broadened how I see language, art, and history, and how these and other subjects all interconnect,” said one participant. “As a Christian Scientist, the trip emphasized the sheer universality of Christian Science and its presence and effects throughout the world,” she added.
Retooled Student Conference Launches

For 14 years, Principia held a student-run Pan-African Conference, focusing, as its name suggests, on the African diaspora. With the rapid growth of globalization, however, a broader focus seemed appropriate, so a shift was made to the renamed International Perspectives Conference (IPC), which debuted in October 2014.

“We felt that by covering topics and hearing perspectives from all regions of the world, we could offer an enriching experience to the community,” said junior Annika Fredrikson, director of this first IPC, titled “At a Crossroads: Globalization and Culture.” Senior Shirley Moihloe, conference co-director, concurred, adding, “We also wanted to engage the interest and participation of international students from all regions of the world.”

This year’s broad focus on globalization—with speakers sharing perspectives on Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe—provided a perfect platform for understanding regional similarities and differences. As Fredrikson pointed out, “For some regions globalization has proven to be oppressive, and for others it has brought positive change and opportunity.”

FROM INDONESIA TO ELSAH

Martin Soemarsono relinquished several opportunities in his home country of Indonesia when he chose, instead, to attend Principia College. He’d recently been offered a position teaching music at his high school and could have enrolled at an excellent university in Jakarta.

“I love the atmosphere here . . .”

Instead, Soemarsono traveled almost 10,000 miles to come to Principia. “I love the liberal arts concept of education,” he explained, “but mainly I came here to grow in my understanding of Christian Science. Also, I can’t hide here at Prin! Class sizes are much bigger in Indonesia, and I may have gotten a little lost.”

Far from feeling lost, Soemarsono jumped right into campus life, planning a double major in computer science and music. An accomplished pianist, he takes lessons and has performed in Music at Davis concerts, along with singing in the choir. “I’m excited about the music opportunities here and also fascinated by computers,” he said. “I love the logic of programming, so the double major is a perfect fit for me.”

“I love the atmosphere here and appreciate that everyone is so friendly and helpful,” Soemarsono commented. “I’m very grateful I made the decision to come to Principia.”
For two weeks in South Africa, a team of nine Upper School seniors strengthened and applied the collaboration, leadership, and global citizenship skills that a Principia School education aims to develop.

In the process of giving time, labor, friendship, and funds they had raised, the students made cross-cultural connections and deepened their understanding of the uniqueness and universality of different cultures. They also grew spiritually as they overcame fatigue, heat, and feeling overwhelmed by the evidence of poverty.

“I went to South Africa to give,” said student Makena Patterson, “but I received so much more—countless memories, life lessons, amazing friendships, and one enormous life-changing experience. The meaning of Mary Baker Eddy's quote, ‘Giving does not impoverish us . . . , neither does withholding enrich us,’ was truly solidified for me” (Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, p. 79).

Along with approximately 30 students and their teachers from Huntingtower (a Christian Science-based school near Melbourne, Australia), Principians helped repair and paint the kindergarten at a community service organization on the outskirts of Johannesburg and donated vast quantities of clothing, shoes, and food packs, as well as providing a year's supply of nutritious food supplements. They also fed, rocked, and played with infants and toddlers in an adoption home.

After the initial week in and around Johannesburg, the group traveled to rural areas bordering the world-renowned Kruger National Park. They taught lessons at a primary school and worked at a daycare center, installing fencing, preparing garden plots, and interacting with the children. They also spent a few days in the park, viewing and learning about African wildlife.
Fall Athletes Give Back

During preseason training in the fall, Principia College’s cross-country teams, along with the volleyball and men’s and women’s soccer teams, stepped away from the fields and courts and turned their attention to helping others. They visited Peace Haven, a St. Louis-area Christian Science care facility, to help with landscaping, paint residents’ fingernails, and lead a hymn sing. And they even engaged some residents in a game of balloon volleyball.

Another day, the women’s soccer team played with children at the Boys and Girls Club of Alton. Players organized a clinic and conducted ball-handling drills, ending with scrimmages, where the children demonstrated their new skills.

Later in the week, the volleyball and cross-country teams conducted sports clinics on campus for residents of Beverly Farm, a residential community for adults with developmental disabilities. After working up an appetite, everyone enjoyed a picnic lunch together on the Pub patio.

“Principia athletic teams have incorporated the ‘week of giving’ into our preseason training for three years now,” noted Mary Ann Sprague (C’84), head volleyball coach. “The week gives us the chance to exercise the qualities of a perfect teammate—willingness, awareness of others, selflessness, and humility.”

Upper Schoolers Pitch In

The Upper School Philanthropy/Community Service class organized a Principia Giving Day in the spring. Students contacted local organizations, identified appropriate tasks, and organized student teams and logistics. Service projects ranged from helping to cook a meal at a shelter to outdoor cleanup. Here are just a few of the organizations that received a helping hand:

- Crisis Nursery
- Endangered Wolf Center
- Faust Park
- Food Outreach
- Sunshine Ministries
- TASK (Take a Stand for Kids)
Excellence at Home and Abroad

Throughout this past year, Principia students won awards and set records—from Superior ratings for Upper School musicians in State competition to national ranking in College pole vaulting, from solar car team awards in Abu Dhabi (pictured here) to a robotics team win in Sedalia, Missouri.

Behind all of these achievements (and many more!) were dedicated faculty, staff, and coaches instructing, encouraging, and inspiring students in the pursuit of excellence.
Dr. Elise McCurties

The 2014 winner of the Horace Edwin Harper Jr. and Evelyn Wright Harper Award for Teaching Excellence is Dr. Elise McCurties, a history professor. In its third year, the award was established not only to recognize but also to “help publicize” excellent teaching at the College.

This is not the first teaching award Dr. McCurties has won. Just two years after she joined the faculty in 2009, she was named Teacher of the Year by student vote. She also won teaching excellence and student achievement awards at Michigan State University, where she was a graduate student.

McCurties’ areas of scholarly study include student activism in America, civil rights movements, the labor movement, American women’s history, African American history, American Jewish history, and the McCarthy Era.

Gustavo Batista (C’15)

Each year, Principia College nominates one senior for the prestigious Lincoln Academy Award based on overall excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities. Gustavo Batista, a political science and philosophy double major, was the 2014 Principia College Lincoln Academy Student Laureate.

As a sophomore, Batista won an award for the best position paper at the Midwest Model United Nations. He also traveled on the Tibet Abroad, where he researched economic development. This past year, for his senior capstone, he compared democracy in Book VIII of Plato’s *The Republic* to democracy in the U.S. today. A soccer player, Batista played all four years, serving as team captain for the last three. He graduated as a member of Phi Alpha Eta, the College’s honor society, and won the Howard B. Ellenberger Political Science Award.

Austin Webster (US’15)

Principia School nominated senior Austin Webster for the St. Louis County 2014 Outstanding Student Leader Award. Webster represented Principia at a daylong leadership conference, along with the 56 other recipients from county schools. He enjoyed collaborating with fellow students as they tackled some of the most pressing issues in the St. Louis area, such as education, transportation, and employment.

A talented pianist, Webster won State-level honors in piano performance his freshman and sophomore years. He was active in student government and played soccer all four years and basketball for three years. He also participated in Spring Production his sophomore and junior years. For his senior project, Webster interned at Towle & Co., learning about value investing. He capped off his final year by winning the Robert L. Fisher Business-Economics Award. He is currently a freshman at Principia College.
Student-Athletes Honored for Academic Excellence

At the Upper School, 75 students received scholar-athlete recognition by earning a varsity letter and a GPA of 3.5 or higher in the semester in which they lettered. For this honor, students must also exemplify a high level of citizenship, sportsmanship, and leadership.

At the College, the national sport-specific governing bodies awarded academic honors to the following Principia teams: volleyball, men’s basketball, women’s soccer, men’s and women’s tennis, men’s and women’s cross country, and men’s and women’s swimming and diving. What’s more, the men’s swimming and diving team’s combined GPA placed them first in Division III and third across all divisions nationally!

Upper School Excellence in District Competition

**Girls’ sports:** The varsity volleyball team won the District Championship in the fall, and the girls’ varsity soccer team won Districts in the spring.

**Boys’ sports:** Honor Roll student and varsity baseball player Sean Hannan (US’16) pitched a perfect game, the School’s only one on record, in the first round of the District tournament, resulting in a 6–0 win for Principia.
College junior Conrad Bollinger (US’12) placed fourth in the nation in the pole vault at the 2015 NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field National Championships with a jump of 5.09 meters, which set a school record. Earlier in the year, he set a school record with his jump of 5.02 meters at the Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships, where he placed fifth.

“Principia has enabled me to understand how integral my mentality is to my success in sports,” Bollinger explains. “The obstacles I face are never as physical as they seem. . . . I’ve found metaphysics to be the most practical, effective, and efficient approach to solving any issue.”

Despite all the hard work and intense effort required to compete at the national level, Bollinger thinks of vaulting as fun. “Soaring over that bar rarely fails to put a smile on my face,” he says. “It’s incredibly fulfilling to strive for excellence and overcome obstacles and adversity.”

A business administration major, Bollinger also enjoys—and excels at—his studies. He is a two-time Academic All-Conference Team member and often appears on the College’s Honor Roll. He hopes to work in the field of investing and is interested in exploring sustainable or socially responsible investments. Wherever his career takes him, Bollinger believes his many opportunities “to regularly break limitations and overcome adversity in athletics . . . will be incredibly beneficial when translated to life outside of sports.”

Volleyball Player Earns Top National Ranking
Tess Rountree (C’15) ended her collegiate volleyball career ranked #1 in NCAA Division III for points per set (6.22) and #2 for kills per set (5.27).

College Racks Up Conference Awards
The St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SLIAC) named several Principia College athletes Player (or Runner) of the Year:

Cross Country
Sarah Litwiller (C’15)
Nate Richards (C’17)

Volleyball
Tess Rountree (C’15)

Tennis
Hanne Andersen (US’12, C’16)
Jason Wissman (C’15)

In addition, freshman Parker Davidson was named Newcomer of the Year in men’s basketball, and Casey Reynolds (C’80) won Coach of the Year for men’s tennis. To top off the honors, Principia College won the 2015 SLIAC Conference Sportsmanship Award!
LEARNING—A LIFETIME ENDEAVOR

With campus-based and travel options, Principia Lifelong Learning (PLL) makes it easy and enjoyable to explore new interests and deepen existing ones. All PLL faculty are experts in their field, and they’re all Christian Scientists. So adult learners gain not only knowledge but an inspired perspective on the topic at hand.
On-Campus Classes

Our most recent Summer Session took place June 13–27, with 167 adult learners. More than 40 first-time Summer Sessioners attended, and a total of 47 courses were offered. Here’s a sampling of class titles:

- A Literary Look at the Epistles of Paul
- Paris in the Twenties
- The Art and Craft of Acting
- History of American Cooking
- Introduction to Astronomy
- Sculpting with Clay
- Putin’s Russia

After classes each day, students enjoyed evening entertainment, including concerts, speakers, and dramatic performances.

View the Summer Session slideshow at news.principia.edu/summersession2015.

Learn and Travel

This year’s educational trips—both active adventures—headed west to explore exquisite regions of the United States. In July 2014, adult learners enjoyed extensive day hikes in the Central Rocky Mountains, investigating the area’s geology and wildlife. Highlights included climbing a volcano; visiting geysers, mud pots, and hot springs; hiking in the footprints of glaciers; and whitewater rafting.

Then, in May, a sold-out cruise, led by Dr. Laurance Doyle, traveled through Alaska’s Inside Passage. Participants explored the mountains, glaciers, and coastal rainforest of Glacier Bay National Park, seeing an array of wildlife along the way. Kayak and skiff excursions, hikes around glaciers, and in-town explorations provided a perfect blend of nature and culture. In fact, the trip sold out so quickly that two more have been scheduled. Find out about these and other upcoming trips in the U.S. and around the world at www.principia.edu/trips.
Alumni and friends support Principia on a daily basis by volunteering in a wide range of capacities. They organize local events, plan class reunion activities, meet with prospective students, and serve as class agents and career contacts. This year, 488 volunteers lent a hand to help Principia, and we’re so glad they did! Here’s a breakdown of some of the ways they served: 213 class agents, 200 Principia Club Board members, 66 reunion organizers, and nine Alumni Association Board members.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit www.principiaalumni.org/volunteer.
Principians span the globe, with 14,198 alumni around the world. College alumni alone live in 63 countries!

In the United States, in particular, Principia Clubs help keep alums connected. There are 55 Principia Clubs, including one apiece in Canada and England. This fiscal year, clubs hosted a total of 108 events attended by 7,076 people. Activities included Christmas Sings, picnics, student musical tours, speakers’ events, sports games, networking opportunities, and more.

Find the Principia Club nearest you at www.principiaalumni.org/clubs.

Progress Propelled by Donor Support

Countless learning opportunities and immeasurable spiritual growth took place at Principia over the last school year. Every gift to Principia—no matter the size—supported this progress.

During the past fiscal year (July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015), more than 3,903 generous benefactors contributed $7,700,032 to Principia (not including bequests). Donations earmarked for Annual Giving priorities accounted for $2,343,356 of that amount. These priorities include student aid, athletics, sustainability education, experiential learning, and educational trips. In addition, the College’s Institute for the Metaphysics of Physics and Leadership Institute rely on Annual Giving to equip the quantum physics lab, train student leaders, and much more.

Forty percent of the past fiscal year’s donors were members of Principia’s two leadership-level giving societies, the Clarence and Minnie Morey Howard Society and the 1898 Legacy Society. Howard Society members contribute at least $1,000 annually. Legacy Society members have designated Principia as a beneficiary in their long-term giving plans. This fiscal year, 776 donors belonged to the Howard Society and 885 were members of the Legacy Society.
Principia remains committed to providing an exceptional educational experience for qualified students. In 2014–2015, the School and College gave $18 million in financial aid through scholarships and grants.

With a 2014–2015 fiscal year budget of $65.4 million, payments from students and their families covered just 13 percent of expenses. The endowment funded 66 percent of the budget. Contributions and other income made up the remaining 21 percent.

The endowment’s value as of June 30, 2015, (fiscal year end) was approximately $621 million, and it had a net return of 1.88 percent. While Principia’s endowment draw is higher than that of most institutions, it reflects our commitment to providing an excellent, spiritually based education—regardless of a family’s economic circumstances. Balancing current needs with proper stewardship for the future undergirds all financial decisions at Principia.

*Tuition, Room, and Board
INVEST IN PRINCIPIA

Your gift bolsters the character education and spiritual growth of current and future Principia students. Thank you for your ongoing support!

www.principiagiving.org