



# Princeton Academy Times

Volume 7, Issue 2

Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart

Winter 2009

## BARCELONA BOUND: Un Intercambio

**F**ive Princeton Academy students will travel to Barcelona for two weeks as part of our second annual International Sacred Heart Exchange Program with the Sagrado Corazón de Sarria school. Our students will have the opportunity to attend school, visit Barcelona's many historical sites, speak Spanish, and to share in the lives of other Sacred Heart students at home and at school.

Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart inaugurated this exchange program last year in order to promote our commitment to the sharing of intellectual and spiritual values as well as to further our community's global awareness. As a member of the international Sacred Heart community, Princeton Academy offers this exchange program to our students by facilitating the strong bonds uniting us through our common goals and values.

In January, five eighth grade students from the Sagrado Corazón de Sarria school traveled to Princeton and spent two weeks with us. Five Princeton Academy students were selected to host the Barcelona students in their homes. As surrogate families, they opened their homes and hearts to our visitors and provided them with a dazzling mix of cultural experiences in New York, Philadelphia, and more. Both hosts and visitors alike quickly realized just how much they all had in common as integral members of our international Sacred Heart family, and began forming lifelong friendships. The entire Princeton



Academy community had the opportunity to share in the discovery of our many similarities, as well as to develop a stronger understanding of and appreciation for some of our cultural and historical differences. Our Barcelona students visited many of our lower school classes and thoughtfully answered a plethora of questions throughout their visit. The middle school students had the opportunity to build community on a daily basis as they reached out and welcomed our new friends, at the same time gaining a deep respect for our shared Sacred Heart traditions, the value of learning a second language, and the invaluable awareness of the importance of our global character and responsibilities.

For two weeks this spring, these same five host students will travel as ambassadors of Princeton Academy to Barcelona where they will attend the Sagrado Corazón de Sarria school and live in the homes of the five students with whom they were paired as hosts. Luis and Gustavo Berrizbeitia, Nick Fenton, Alex Snyder, and Arsh Tandon will continue to broaden their Sacred Heart experience socially, culturally, and academically by sharing the life of

Sacred Heart students both at home and at school. They will build new friendships, extend their deep respect for intellectual values, and vastly broaden their personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom. In addition, the Barcelona host families are already preparing an agenda rich with cultural experiences for their weekend forays in Barcelona.

Princeton Academy would like to thank our own host families for their generosity and unwavering commitment to building community as a Christian value. We would also like to acknowledge our appreciation for the Sagrado Corazón de Sarria school for sharing their ambassadors with us, and for welcoming our own students into their community.



# FROM THE Headmaster



Anyone driving behind the gym and up to the courtyard between the manor house and the school building has probably noticed Princeton Academy's newest construction project. The Blue & Green House is a greenhouse with a geodesic dome design that will soon be home to plant science projects of both the lower and middle schools.

More than just a home for plants and seedlings, the Blue & Green House is an integrated science project in and of itself. It is designed to operate year round without the need for any carbon producing heat input. Its design includes a water tank that serves as a heat sink, collecting heat from the sun off of reflective panels above it on the north side of the dome. On a recent day with temperatures in the low 20s outside, the temperature in the B&G House rose to the high 70s by noon. The heat collected during the day is slowly released from the water during the night to keep the temperature in the greenhouse from dipping below freezing. During hot summer days the B&G House is equipped with vents that use solar and beeswax power to open, and allow heat to escape from, the building.

During the construction process students have been brought in to observe the space and its design. Most recently the eighth grade brought in dirt for the plant beds and was able to see how ducts buried in the beds will carry warm air from the water tank into the beds during colder winter nights.

Princeton Academy's colors, blue and green, were chosen to reflect the colors of a healthy planet Earth, as seen from space. From our earliest years we have always looked for ways to

steward the environment. Since we bought the property we have reduced the amount of asphalt covering our grounds. We have maintained a certain amount of natural habitat by mowing our meadows only twice a year. We have successfully petitioned to have less lighting on our driveway in order to maintain a dark-sky environment on our campus. Our low level lighting around the front circle is also representative of dark-sky thinking. Our Athletic and Convocation Center was built into the ground, reducing heating and air conditioning requirements. The ACC also has large north facing windows and two systems of lighting, fluorescent and halide, which save on energy expenditures. As we renovate our building we have made sure to use energy efficient windows and lighting. We have begun placing motion sensors in classrooms that automatically shut off lights that have been left on. Our environment club has initiated a paper-recycling program and will begin a worm-composting project soon. Most importantly, we continue to urge all in our community to focus on reduction of use and re-use of resources.

This issue of the Princeton Academy Times is posted on our website in an effort to reduce the use of resources. A paper copy will also be mailed to all on our mailing list, but we hope to move to a paperless format beginning with the September 2009 issue, when the newsletter will be posted on our website for easy viewing. Of course, paper copies will still be available to those preferring the printed word. Just let the development office know of your preference by emailing [jallen@princetonacademy.org](mailto:jallen@princetonacademy.org).

*John Allen*



# FOCUS ON alumni

As we celebrate Princeton Academy's tenth year, we are pleased to learn that our alumni are both doing well and doing good in their new school communities. We are proud that in their numbers are represented musicians and writers, academic and character scholarship winners, state and conference athletic champions, competitive college athletes, nominees and appointees to service academies, aspiring scientists, actors, and engineers, champions of service to others, entrepreneurs, and linguists who have moved beyond Spanish to study Mandarin, Latin, Polish, and Russian. To celebrate the breadth and diversity of our alumni experiences and achievements we are introducing a new section to the Princeton Academy Times: Focus on Alumni. This edition focuses on John Tarchis '05 and Wade Copeland '05, who are both high school seniors preparing to graduate.

All alumni are invited to contact Joanne Allen, (jallen@princetonacademy.org) to share information for inclusion in future editions of Focus on Alumni.

## **John Tarchis, PA '05 and The Pennington School '09**

### ***What similarities do you see between Princeton Academy and Pennington?***

When I was in eighth grade, Pennington was among the smaller schools that I applied to and I saw it as a good place for me to go. Overall, it was bigger than Princeton Academy, but the class sizes were similar, which was helpful to me in terms of individualized attention from faculty and getting to know members of my class.

### ***What prepared you for the overall transition to high school?***

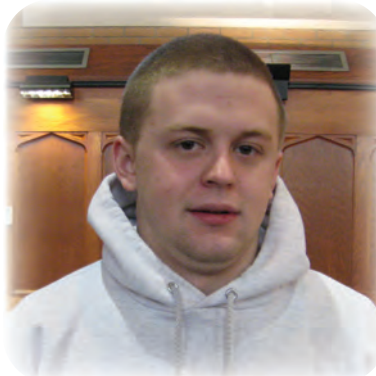
At Princeton Academy, I definitely learned to manage my time and plan my work. Study periods were very helpful to me because I learned to get my work done, which left time open to do other things after school, particularly swimming and water polo, which I love. Princeton Academy provided me with the tools to succeed at the next level, both in the classroom and in the community. But knowing how to use those tools has been the key to my success in high school.

### ***How prepared were you for the rigors of high school academics?***

The faculty at Pennington was very supportive of freshman and worked hard to make the transition to Upper School seamless. That isn't to say it was easy, it's just that faculty were available to meet with me if needed, and I was able to do well because of the tools I learned at Princeton Academy. I was placed into Spanish III as a freshman and found myself in class with juniors and seniors. I felt very prepared to be in class with them and actually was able to travel to Venezuela on a class trip that is typically open only to upperclassmen. This was possible because I was fluent in Spanish, perhaps more fluent than some of the juniors and seniors in my class. I attribute this to my Spanish classes at Princeton Academy.

### ***What leadership skills did you develop and use while at Pennington?***

There were 13 guys in my Princeton Academy graduating class. If you wanted to do something, you pretty much had to work



together to get it done. In that context, at the end of my freshman year at Pennington I really wanted to start a water polo team. I approached my swim coach with a proposal and worked with him to make it a reality. It took my entire sophomore year to obtain the necessary approvals and sponsorships, but I was determined to make it work. In my junior year, we were able to begin water polo as a club sport and we had 9 members come out for the team. This year we have 22 members and we compete against area junior varsity teams. The school's plan is to include water polo as a varsity sport in the 2011 school year.

### ***Now that you are a high school senior, what is next for you?***

I've applied to several colleges and universities, and I have won an Army ROTC scholarship and a Navy ROTC scholarship. I've been appointed by Congressman Holt to the United States Naval Academy and am waiting to hear whether or not they will have a spot for me. I love history and government & politics and hope to major in those subjects wherever I enroll. Before I graduate, I plan to return to Princeton Academy to complete my senior internship. I am looking forward to coming back and working with many of the teachers and administrators that I knew as a student.

### ***When you return to visit Princeton Academy, what changes do you see?***

I was a third grade founding student at Princeton Academy when the school opened in 1999. At that time there were 34 boys enrolled and we were in one wing downstairs in what is now the lower school. When I graduated, the school had grown to 212 boys and we used the entire building. Now, each time I return I see something new: the gym, the library chapel, the athletic fields, expanded space for the middle school, as well as new faculty and students. It means a lot to me that the school continues to grow and improve, because I believe that each generation deserves more than the last, and that those who have benefited from the school have a responsibility to assure that for the future.



Focus on Alumni (con't)

### Wade Copeland, PA '05 and The Hun School '09

#### **What was your experience at Princeton Academy and how did it prepare you for The Hun School?**

I learned a lot about community. Princeton Academy was small and we all knew each other well. The faculty was always available outside of class time to answer questions or to help you with a project. Having access to faculty taught me a lot about being an advocate for myself so that when I moved to high school I was comfortable interacting with faculty, which is an important skill to develop.



My class work at Princeton Academy definitely prepared me for the more demanding academics of high school. I learned how to organize and manage my time while I was in middle school so the transition to high school was relatively easy for me. By the time I left Princeton Academy I was ready for the next step: a bigger school that was academically challenging and offered more co-curricular

activities. I placed in Spanish II as a freshman, and my Princeton Academy science classes prepared me for high school level courses. Hun was a good fit for me.

#### **While at Princeton Academy, which activities did you participate in, and how did they prepare you for Hun?**

I was president of Student Government and learned a lot about leadership, organization, and community. I played soccer and tennis while in the middle school and continued to play at Hun. This year I made varsity soccer and tennis. I must say that Princeton Academy provided me with a foundation that encouraged me to try new things. The water has always been an important part of my life so last summer I completed a 67 hour course in Florida and earned my boat captain's license, so I am now able to pilot charter fishing trips, which is a perfect fit for me. I love to fish! In addition, I am close to earning my airplane pilot's license; soon I will be able to drive to the airport, fly a plane to Florida, and take a fishing boat out in the ocean!

#### **What aspects of Sacred Heart education have you taken with you to Hun?**

Wise freedom. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade we were given opportunities to choose what to do with our free time. Our teachers helped us learn that with freedom comes responsibility. That was a lesson that I took with me to Hun. Community service is a big part of the Hun experience, and it was a big part of my foundation at Princeton Academy. I choose to fulfill my community service requirement as a counselor at Stuart Country Day School's Summer Stars camp, which provides a summer camp experience for children from Trenton. I like keeping in touch with the Sacred Heart roots I developed while at Princeton Academy.

#### **What's next for you?**

Four years ago I was ready to move on from Princeton Academy to Hun. I felt prepared for high school and now I believe I am ready to move from Hun to the next level. I will enroll at Duke University next fall, and plan to study marine biology. I am excited to go, mindful of all the preparation that has brought me to this point.

## ALUMNI news

**Jan Kalkus '03** reports that an article he co-authored while an intern at one of the neuroscience labs at Princeton University last summer will be published in the March issue of *Neurophysiology*. He is continuing his studies in Honors Neuroscience at the University of Pittsburgh and is proud to report that he is now a certified EMT in Pennsylvania.

**Andrew Mather '03** reports he is in his sophomore year at Carnegie Mellon, in the Science College, majoring in physics. He is pursuing a dual major and is also studying psychology. He likes it, but it is very challenging and requires lots of work. His mom commented, "Thank goodness he developed all those great study habits at an early age!"

**Evan Kalkus '04** has settled in at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. He is studying psychology, music, religion, and Russian. He plans on pursuing Spanish as soon as he can figure out how to get placed in the appropriate level. Last semester he switched to Russian after enduring two classes of "how to pronounce the letters in Spanish." He looks forward to seeing the sun again in late March.

**Matthew Carter '05** has been named a Semans Family Merit Scholar at the Lawrenceville School. Carter, a senior, was awarded a stipend which enabled him to travel to his native South Africa last summer, where he met with Jacob Lief, president and founder of the Ubuntu Education Fund, dedicated to developing healthy communities and quality education in South Africa. The Ubuntu Education Fund has been designated to benefit from the fundraising efforts of The Lawrenceville School's Aid for AIDS club, which Matthew founded two years ago. Matthew is a House Prefect at Lawrenceville, and a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He is currently trying to decide which university to attend in September as a student and as an athlete.

A recent issue of *The Peddie News* featured Princeton Academy alumnus **Sharif Labban '06** as Artist of the Month. The article focused on Sharif's considerable musical talent, noting his ability to play violin, viola, guitar, and piano and his passion for all genres of music, from classical to rock. He is composing his own music and is enjoying Advanced Placement Music Theory.

**Jack Orlowski-Scherer '08** is doing well in his first year at Peddie. He is swimming on the varsity swim team at Peddie and made high honors for the first trimester.

**Will Westcott '08** is a freshman at Princeton Day School and is enjoying it. He was on the honor roll for the first trimester, and during the winter term he is on the junior varsity fencing team.



# ENDOWMENT FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT makes in-service day possible

Professional development workshops are a critical component in ensuring that Princeton Academy's faculty is trained in the most up to date methods and philosophy in boys' education. Although each faculty member attends individual workshops in areas of curricular interest, several times a year the faculty as a whole attends in-service days, usually at the school, to learn new ideas and to share methods and activities that are working in their classrooms.



In-service workshops provide speakers that allow faculty to learn from the best in the field, and at Princeton Academy that means experts in the area of the learning styles and needs of boys in the classroom. This past November the Academy welcomed Abigail Norfleet James, an educational consultant in the area of gender-based education, to present an in-service workshop to Princeton Academy faculty. Dr. James' presentation, "Gender Differences and the Brain: Classroom Applications for Boys' Schools" was based on her book, "Teaching the Male Brain" and focused on the many developmental differences between boys and girls at various ages, and the affect those differences have on the ability to learn. In identifying the ways in which boys hear, see, touch, learn, and express emotions, she also presented academic strategies for helping boys to learn within those parameters. She emphasized the importance of movement in the classroom and using boys' competitive nature as a positive tool in learning. Since the workshop, the faculty has continued to implement the tools and strategies in

their classrooms, thus providing the best learning environment for each boy.

This workshop was enthusiastically received by faculty and the topic continues to be discussed at division level faculty meetings. It was made possible, in part, by funding from the school's **Endowment for Faculty Development**, which was founded in 2006 by an anonymous Princeton Academy family to support faculty education and encourage excellence in teaching. The family established the Endowment in gratitude to Princeton Academy faculty, past, present, and future. The fund welcomes new gifts of any size.



## Princeton Academy Times

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Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart, an independent Catholic lower and middle school for boys, is committed to academic excellence within the context of a faith-based community.

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# Calendar

## April 2009

- 1 & 2 PAPA Book Fair
- 2 CommonGround Lecture: 7:00 p.m. at The Hun School
- 3 First Friday Gathering – 9 a.m.
- 7 Baseball vs. Pennington (away) 4:00 p.m.
- 9-13 School closed; Easter break.
- 14 Classes resume
- 14 \*Resurrection Prayer Service 10 a.m.
- 14 Lacrosse vs. Rutgers Prep (away) 3:45 p.m.
- 14 Tennis vs. Hun 4 p.m.**
- 16 Lacrosse vs. Hun 3:45 p.m.**
- 17 Baseball vs. Moorestown Friends (away) 4:00 p.m.
- 17 Tennis vs. PDS 4 p.m.**
- 20 Tennis vs. Grover 3:45 p.m.**
- 21 Baseball vs. Hun (away) 3:30 p.m.
- 22 Admission Open House – 9 a.m.
- 22 Earth Day Prayer Service 10 a.m.\*
- 23 Lacrosse vs. Newtown Friends (away) 3:45 p.m.
- 24 Baseball vs. Rutgers Prep (away) 3:45 p.m.
- 24 Tennis vs. Community 3:45 p.m.**
- 27 Lacrosse vs. Princeton Charter 3:45 p.m.**
- 28 Baseball vs. Rutgers Prep at Smoyer Park 3:45 p.m.**
- 30 Lacrosse vs. Hun (away) 3:45 p.m.
- 29 Admission Open House - 9 a.m.
- 30 Lacrosse vs. Hun (away) 3:45 p.m.
- 30 Tennis vs. Cranbury 4 p.m.**
- 30 LS spring concert 7 p.m.

## May 2009

- 1 First Friday Gathering in the Manor House - 9 a.m.
- 4 Lacrosse vs. Community (away) 3:45 p.m.
- 5 Tennis vs. Community (away) 3:45 p.m.
- 7 Tennis vs. Cranbury (away) 4 p.m.
- 7 Baseball vs. PDS at Smoyer Park 3:45 p.m.**
- 8 Grandparents' Day 8:15 a.m.\*
- 8 Lacrosse vs. Rutgers Prep 3:45 p.m.**
- 9 Princeton Academy Spring Gala & Auction – Manor House 6 p.m.
- 11 Lacrosse vs. Pennington (away) 4 p.m.
- 11 Tennis vs. Grover (away) @ Mercer County Park 3:30 p.m.
- 11 Baseball vs. Pennington at Smoyer Park 4 p.m.**
- 12 Tennis vs. Hun (away) 3:30 p.m.
- 12 Baseball vs. Hun at Smoyer Park 3:45 p.m.**
- 14 Lacrosse v. Newtown Friends 3:45 p.m.**
- 15 Tennis vs. PDS 3:30 p.m.**
- 18 Baseball vs. PDS (away) 3:30 p.m.
- 18 Lacrosse vs. PDS 3:30 p.m.**
- 21 Feast of Ascension & First Eucharist Liturgy 10 a.m.\*
- 25 Memorial Day - school closed

## June 2009

- 5 Field Day
- 8 Lower School Prize Day\*
- 9 Middle School Prize Day\*
- 9 Grade 8 Baccalaureate Liturgy and Graduation 6 p.m.

\*Dress uniform required

**Bold events are played at home. NOTE: All home tennis matches are played at Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart**  
Please check [www.princetonacademy.org](http://www.princetonacademy.org) for updated event information.



## Princeton Academy Times



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