

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

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Hundreds gathered on the Quad on November 3 to dedicate the new Armerding Center for Music and the Arts, including family members of Wheaton's fifth President Hudson T. Armerding and his wife, Miriam. The Kawai America Corporation donated a Shigeru SK7 piano for the new Recital Hall. The handcrafted SK7 is one of the finest pianos in the world, with optimum sound and delivery. This marvelous instrument reminds us that giving true praise to God means giving him our very best.

Strategic Priorities

Globalize a Wheaton Education

Deepen Ethnic Diversity

Promote Liberal Arts Excellence

Enhance Music and the Performing Arts

Complementary Priorities

Strengthen Graduate Education

Expand Center for Vocation and Career

Christ-Centered Community

Extend Affordability

Globalize a Wheaton Education

In October, the Department of State Bureau of Cultural Affairs featured Wheaton student Nadia Dervish '18 as one of 29 American students who received their Critical Language Scholarship last summer. The CLS program is part of a government effort to increase the number of Americans mastering foreign languages essential for America's engagement with the world. For eight weeks, Nadia participated with her American counterparts in intensive Turkish courses at Azerbaijan University of Languages in Baku near the Caspian Sea. She lived with a Turkish host family, engaging in many cultural activities that enhanced her summer experience.

Promote Liberal Arts Excellence

The Core Book program gives the Wheaton College community a shared learning experience by exploring themes in the Christ at the Core curriculum. Marilynne Robinson's award-winning novel *Gilead* is this year's core book. *Gilead* causes the reader to reflect on the question "What is the good life?" and to consider how living well prepares us to end our lives well. Robinson will visit campus next semester for a campus conversation with President Ryken on April 4, 2018. [Explore a variety of resources online](#), including a reading guide, discussion questions, links to interviews with Marilynne Robinson, and details about *Gilead* events next semester.

Enhance Music and the Performing Arts

For many decades, Wheaton's Christmas Festival has been a local tradition as more than 200 students in Conservatory ensembles celebrate the birth of Christ through a program of sacred music. This year, the Christmas Festival will reach an even broader audience as the 2016 concert, "Love Divine," airs on public television stations across the United States. [Check our online listing](#) to determine if the broadcast will air on your local public television station.

Strengthen Graduate Education

One of three new Graduate School initiatives to begin in 2018, [the Humanitarian Disaster Leadership MA Program](#) is the first of its kind anywhere in the world to train leaders for disaster relief from a uniquely Christian perspective. "The HDL program will help train practitioners to lead with faith and humility while utilizing evidence-based practice to serve the most vulnerable and the Church globally," Dr. Aten says. The interdisciplinary MA is an accelerated program allowing undergraduates to apply and begin taking courses during their senior year. The program is also suitable for professionals in the field who will benefit from the resources and global contacts of the Humanitarian Disaster Institute.

