

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

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Wheaton's new Welcome Center opened in November and was dedicated on December 7. It will serve as a campus front door for prospective students and other visitors, and house the Undergraduate Admissions Office. Enhancing the Center's Great Hall is a 3.5'x5' scale model of Wheaton's campus, [constructed](#) entirely of 15,164 LEGO® pieces. Shown next to this unique campus map is its designer and builder, Communication major Paul Vermeesch '18.

PHOTO CREDIT: JARED SMITH '20

## 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

### Deepen Ethnic Diversity

The search committee for Wheaton's first Chief Intercultural Engagement Officer has reviewed an extensive group of applications and interviewed the semi-finalists. Finalists will come to campus for additional interviews in February. Dr. Ryken anticipates the College will fill the position this Spring.

### Promote Liberal Arts Excellence

This semester eight Advanced Integrative Seminars are participating in the Writing Fellows Program, where students gain writing skills as they relate their Christian faith to a complex liberal arts topic. Program director and Associate Professor of English Jim Beitler says, "Learning to write effectively is central to Wheaton's liberal arts mission. We provide students with individualized instruction, specific to their discipline and to fulfill a curricular Christ at the Core requirement, at various stages of the writing process." Writing Fellow Rachel Mudra '18 notes, "I am learning to think critically about composition pedagogy as I work alongside faculty members in the program, developing professional expertise while deepening my engagement with my discipline."

### Enhance Music and the Performing Arts

The student group "Zoe's Feet" aims to use dance to express the discovery of God's presence. Under the leadership

of Spanish/Biology major Christine Schlais '18 and her cabinet, the organization's 25 members presented their recital "Parables" last November, with choreography based on impressions from the study of the parables of Jesus. On February 23–24, Zoe's Feet will host their annual recital, "Confessions," which includes any student wishing to participate. The program will feature dance interpretations of Ecclesiastes 3:1–11. Christine says, "'Confessions' will include over 100 students who will express and celebrate through dance how God has been working through the seasons of our lives."

### Strengthen Graduate Education

Graduate Professor of Psychology Richard Butman presented seminars on mental health at the Christian Camp and Center Association's conference in December. The 53-year old CCCA is the world's largest Christian camping association on six continents, with nearly 900 member camps and centers serving over 5.5 million people each year. Dr. Butman recently wrote for the CCCA monthly journal on responding more effectively to mental health challenges. "The network of Wheaton faculty and alumni contributing to the work of the CCCA conference was striking and deeply satisfying," Dr. Butman said. "It was an example of Wheaton College at its best."

