

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

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PHOTO BY DR. MICHAEL WILDER

Wheaton student musical groups took their music over Spring Break to several states in the Midwest, and California. The Women's Chorale performed at churches, schools, an abbey, the Mayo Clinic, and the Cathedral of St. Paul. The Symphonic Band visited the Ventura Youth Correctional Facility in California and received handwritten notes from inmates expressing appreciation. One note read, "I was absolutely moved by the music. The Holy Spirit was felt throughout that place...with prayer, the gospel, music, and faith, I was overwhelmed by Him."

## 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

Last fall, [John Stott Visiting International Scholar](#) Dr. Elmer Lavastida and his wife Rev. Gisela Pérez Muñiz took a sabbatical from their ministries to help us understand the work of the church in Cuba. Dr. Lavastida directs a Christian service and training center in Santiago that equips churches with programs to help improve food and nutrition, provide alternative energy sources, overcome domestic violence and gender inequality, and show compassion for people with cancer or HIV-AIDS. While on campus he discovered the name of his relative Elsie Lines Lavastida listed on the Alumni in Missions wall at Blanchard Hall; she graduated from Wheaton in 1918.

### Promote Liberal Arts Excellence

Wheaton welcomed Pulitzer-prize winning novelist Marilynne Robinson for a campus discussion of "Many Ways to Live a Good Life" on April 4, the finale of a year-long [Core Book](#) experience celebrating our common intellectual and spiritual experience around one key text. This year the campus has been exploring Dr. Robinson's novel, *Gilead*, engaging its themes through film, art, lectures, and discussions. Many enjoyed [an informal conversation](#) between President Philip Ryken and Dr. Robinson on themes from her novel, such as the liberal arts, vocation, God's grace, reconciliation, and the good life.

### Enhance Music and the Performing Arts

President Ryken and the Development team have finished a rigorous two-year national travel schedule to share the vision for funding the College strategic priorities. Seven "Wheaton Together" dinners were held in 2017 to celebrate the \$175M From the Heart, For the Kingdom campaign. This Spring's Presidential dinners featured Dean Michael Wilder and music students sharing how the new Armerding Center has transformed daily instruction, and how the Concert Hall will enhance the college experience of every student. Director of Development Kevin Engel says, "We have campaign gifts and pledges exceeding \$170M and are working hard and trusting God to complete funding for the Concert Hall, the Center for Vocation and Career, and the Wheaton Fund."

### Strengthen Graduate Education

In mid-March Wheaton received approval from the Hong Kong Education Bureau to launch the [Intercultural Studies MA program at Lumina College](#). In mid-April the Higher Learning Commission gave Wheaton permission to recruit students for the program in Hong Kong. Students from Asia are now registering, and Graduate School Dean Dr. Scott Moreau plans to teach the first course for the expanded MA program in Hong Kong beginning in mid-September.

