

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

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Representatives of the faculty, staff, and administration met on August 26 to launch campus-wide planning for Wheaton's next strategic plan (2019 and beyond). Organized by committees in eleven focus areas, the strategic planning process encourages broad involvement. All members of the College community were encouraged to submit proposed initiatives through the Wheaton Portal. An all-campus meeting in January 2018 will feature presentations of committee initiatives leading to selection by the Board of Trustees May 2018.

Strategic Priorities

Globalize a Wheaton Education

Deepen Ethnic Diversity

Promote Liberal Arts Excellence

Enhance Music and the Performing Arts

Complementary Priorities

Expand Center for Vocation and Career

Nurture Vibrant Christian Community

Extend Affordability

Strengthen Graduate Education

Globalize a Wheaton Education

Last year 12% of Wheaton students studied abroad, compared to a U.S. national average of 10% for international studies. One of among 16 program choices, "[Printing, Protestantism and Progress](#)," led by Professors Read Schuchardt (Communication) and Mark Jonas (Education), took 12 students this summer to Germany, Switzerland, France, and Italy. They visited Reformation and other historic sites for five weeks, studying the impact that the invention of the printing press in 1440 had on technology and Western civilization.

Promote Liberal Arts Excellence

Events planned this fall for freshmen in their First Year Seminar of Christ at the Core focus on the enduring question, "How does my understanding of humanity and identity shape my vision of the good life?" In September, professors of theology (Dr. Vince Bacote), communication (Dr. Theon Hill), history (Dr. Karen Johnson), and music (Dr. Shawn Okpebholo) explored with students and faculty the cultural implications of race in America represented in the Blanchard Hall Lobby exhibit, [Wrestle On, Jacob](#). This unique exhibit, on display until January 2018, depicts the worship and faith of African-American Christians in the 19th and 20th centuries. A limited number of exhibit catalogs are available through the Provost's Office.

Enhance Music and the Performing Arts

Music classes and rehearsals in the renovated Armerding Center for Music and the Arts will begin on Thursday, October 19. Among the prized features of the building are dedicated spaces for music-related classes like Music History, Music Appreciation, and a Music Education Lab. The outdated lecture hall has been transformed into an acoustically sophisticated recital hall. All of campus will be invited to the building dedication on Friday, November 3 at 3 p.m., featuring celebrated baritone Will Liverman '10, and followed by tours of the building with refreshments and live music.

Expand Center for Vocation and Career

[Handshake](#) is Wheaton's robust new technological tool that customizes each student's career dashboard as they engage with the Center for Vocation and Career (CVC). Students can use [Handshake](#) to make appointments, search for a job or internship, and get help with a resume. Handshake is used by over 400 colleges and universities, and by 98% of Fortune 500 companies to recruit top talent. Dee Pierce, director of the CVC says, "We are using the powerful recruiting tool Handshake to help CVC career coaches connect strategically with every undergraduate student as they craft a plan for life after graduation."

