

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

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The Wheaton College Campus has begun its pursuit of four strategic priorities, the culmination of collaboration that began over a year ago with the President's Green Paper. These monthly updates from the President's Office, generated by many of your colleagues, are also online for easy reference <http://www.wheaton.edu/about-wheaton/leadership/strategic-priorities-for-wheatons-future>. As you consider how your own work relates to these priorities, I hope you are encouraged, as I am, in our progress.

In Christ's service,  
Philip G. Ryken, *President*

## Globalize a Wheaton Education

- The GEL Council recently met to lay the foundation for a 3- to 5-year action plan to globalize study at Wheaton. Priorities include:
  - Increase semester-long study abroad options
  - Additional orientation, on-site mentoring and reentry support for study abroad
  - Remove financial and schedule barriers that discourage off-campus study
  - Strengthen non-HNGR international internships
  - Faculty incentives for new program development or course development
- In A-quad, GEL will offer a four session reentry program for students who have studied abroad. And in B-quad, all students studying abroad in spring 2013 will participate in an extended orientation.

## Deepen Ethnic Diversity

- Dr. John Piper '67 recently addressed students in Chapel on interracial harmony. From his new book, *Bloodlines: Race, Cross, and the Christian*, John traced his racially prejudicial attitudes, and challenged the church to examine biblical teaching about race—a blood issue that we must see through the redemptive work of the Cross. John shared that:
  - All people are created in God's image.
  - The Bible does not prohibit marriage between people of two races.
  - In Christ, our oneness transforms social barriers into blessings.
  - God showed his anger not to Moses in marrying a Cushite woman, but to his family in criticizing the interracial marriage.
- The Latino student fellowship, Unidad Christiana, teamed up with OCO's World Christian Fellowship to worship Latin-style during Latino Heritage Month. Wheaton Junior Mimi Guiracocha, a biology/nursing major and Unidad cabinet member, prepared prayer guides covering 17 South American

nations, plus Spain. Students prayed for all these people. They also sang hymns translated into Spanish, and Latino hymns with no translation. Unidad's president, senior Danny Cortez shared about growing up in Quito, Ecuador, and his difficult experiences of U.S. culture

## Promote Liberal Arts Excellence

- The work of the faculty toward General Education reform, including the efforts of the General Education Revision Committee (GERC), was affirmed by expert consultant Dr. Paul Gaston in September. He emphasized that Wheaton's many strengths include the high-quality work to date of the GERC, our institution's "coherent and broadly shared perspective on characteristics that Wheaton seeks to assure in its graduates," and our demonstration of "civil and collegial discussion of legitimate differences on perspective." He also praised the administration's support for the curricular prerogative of the faculty. Dr. Gaston shared several procedural suggestions for establishing a new General Education core, emphasizing a timeline that is realistic and flexible, but conveys a sense of urgency.

## Enhance Music and the Performing Arts

- Psalm 150 provides the vision for music and the arts at Wheaton, "Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!" Making music is an integral part of every Christian's life. However, our current facilities cannot support every student or group seeking to produce music, or to take lessons.
- Dr. Michael Wilder, dean of music, arts and communication, and his team are considering three architectural firms to design a new music facility that will achieve two primary objectives:
  - Facilitate training of approximately 200 musicians for professional music degrees
  - Facilitate music training and performance for every Wheaton student

Architects will be interviewed on October 11 and 12.