

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

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In partnership with Tel Aviv University, Professor Daniel Master began a major archaeological dig this summer on the site of the ancient Israeli city of Tel Shimron, occupied for at least four thousand years, but never excavated. By studying pottery found near the surface and using magnetometry to look far below it, the Wheaton team identified human habitation from around 5000 BC to the 15th century AD. Abigail VanderHart '17 holds a Tel Shimron discovery: a Bronze Age scarab, a personal seal in the shape of a beetle. Visit the Tel Shimron Excavation website [here](#).

Strategic Priorities

Globalize a Wheaton Education

Deepen Ethnic Diversity

Promote Liberal Arts Excellence

Enhance Music and the Performing Arts

Complementary Priorities

Refresh Wheaton's Mission Statement
Completed August '13

Nurture Vibrant Christian Community

Extend Affordability
Strengthen Graduate Education

Globalize a Wheaton Education

Forty-two students will participate in the 2016 fall semester abroad, compared with 26 participants last fall, reflecting growing access to global study. Last year the offices of Global and Experiential Learning (GEL) and Financial Aid collaborated to create major-specific brochures with information about Wheaton's generous financial policies for study abroad. GEL and Student Health Services collaborated to streamline paperwork processes, and Director of Study Abroad Deb Kim met with high school students to share the benefits of global study. Deb says, "We want students to know that study abroad is possible and accessible, to help them find a program with the best fit, and to continue to make both their participation and transition back to campus as smooth and as meaningful as possible."

Deepen Ethnic Diversity

Eighty-five students representing 50 nations will join the Wheaton community this fall, more than double the number of global students in the year 2006, comprising 14% of the Freshman class of 2020. Of those 85 students, 22 are citizens from China, South Korea, Indonesia, Singapore, Burundi, Kenya, Ukraine, and the Philippines. Sixty-six students are from families who serve in missions or other vocations abroad.

Promote Liberal Arts Excellence

The Class of 2020 will be the first to study the new core curriculum; events outside the classroom have been planned to celebrate its inauguration. [Christ at the Core](#) Fall Series will explore themes related to the Shared Core. Opportunities to celebrate Wheaton's commitment to pursue God's truth across the disciplines will include a meditative exhibit examining Shusaku Endo's novel *Silence*, a week-long Chapel series on vocation and the Christian faith, and a student photography exhibit exploring the question, "What is the good life around the world?"

Nurture Vibrant Christian Community

At their Development Day on August 19 the faculty began a discussion with Chaplain Tim Blackmon about practices that foster sustainable Christian communities. Tim observes, "Whenever a community thrives we always notice a commitment to the flourishing of other people through the dispositions of hospitality, promise-keeping, truth-telling, and gratitude." Drawing insights from Tim's research with Christine Pohl in her 2012 book, *Living into Community: Cultivating Practices that Sustain Us*, the Student Development team also made this the theme of the student leadership week at HoneyRock in early August, and campus leaders are planning to make these insights available to Wheaton staff.

