

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

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During his recent trip to Korea, President Ryken met with the leaders of several Christian universities to affirm our mutual interests, signing “Letters of Intent” with the presidents of Baekseok University (far left, President Gab-jong Choi), and Handong University (far right, President Young-Gil Kim). Dean Laura Montgomery will continue to develop possibilities for student exchange programs with both universities, and work with Wheaton faculty and the GEL Advisory Council to explore other potential points of partnership.

## 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

Associate Professor of Music Shawn Okpebholo visited the Rafiki Foundation school at its Kenyan training village in early January. “Rafiki” means “friend” in Swahili, and reflects the Foundation’s mission to help people in some of the most impoverished parts of Africa know God through caring for and educating orphans and providing widows with economic opportunities. Dr. Okpebholo is hopeful that Wheaton can further strengthen our connections with the Rafiki Foundation in order to provide rich opportunities to teach, mentor, and serve in African nations.

### Deepen Ethnic Diversity

More than 60 African-American, Latino, and Asian-American alumni met with President Ryken at the Museum Park Penthouse overlooking Soldier Field in Chicago on February 6 to share painful and positive memories relating to racial diversity in their Wheaton College experience. Recent graduate Mimi Guiracocha ’13 and current student Iskar Smith ’16 shared the experiences of students of color today and opportunities for growth. Alumni expressed the desire to serve as a resource to students. Board of Visitors member Mickey Francis Munroe ’98 and her husband Tony Munroe, President of Malcom X College in Chicago, hosted the event.

### Enhance Music and the Performing Arts

Spring Break is a time of intense ministry for students who travel to share their gift of music. The Symphonic Band heads south March 8-12 to perform at school chapels and assemblies in Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, and Kentucky, encouraging interest in Wheaton College. The [Women’s Chorale](#) travels east to sing at churches and schools in Washington, DC, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New York City. Conservatory Operations Manager Phil Stutz says, “There will be many opportunities for the extended Wheaton and alumni family to enjoy the Women’s Chorale over Spring break.”

### Nurture Vibrant Christian Community

The Human Resources staff hosts Administrative Sessions that bring campus leaders together twice a year to discuss topics related to the ongoing mission of the College. Human Resources Associate Director Heidi Mitchell Daniels observes, “The pressures of daily administrative work can narrow a director’s viewpoint relating to the big picture of the College. This session helps all of us keep that view broad in healthy ways.” This January, Provost Jones introduced the new “Christ at the Core” general education curriculum to administrators not serving in the academic division. HoneyRock Director Rob Ribbe also shared details of the new [Vanguard Gap Year](#), which launches at our Northwoods campus in September 2015.

