

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

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Shalom House students dedicated one of their residences in honor of Dr. John Perkins in November. Included on the plaque in his honor are words he loves from Amos 5:24, “Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” Residents of the “Perkins House” will have many opportunities to learn about Dr. Perkins’ example of love in action through his leadership since the 1960’s in civil rights, community development, and gospel proclamation. Later that morning President Ryken interviewed Dr. Perkins in Chapel.

## 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

Global and Experiential Learning Dean Laura Montgomery notes the increase in students studying abroad. Seventeen students representing eleven majors are now participating in the Wheaton in Mexico Program in Querétaro, México with Dr. Tim Klingler. Additionally, forty-one students are studying in twenty countries on five continents around the world this semester.

### Promote Liberal Arts Excellence

With the launch of the “Christ at the Core” curriculum in the fall semester of 2016, each freshman will be introduced to Christian liberal arts in a First Year Seminar conveying foundational biblical and theological truths. Freshmen will read and discuss shared material, including the novel *Silence* by 20th century Japanese author Shusaku Endo. The ideas in *Silence* will allow freshmen to engage in an intellectually and culturally informed dialogue about the church in a global context. Wheaton alumni Brian ‘73 and Sally ‘74 Oxley have generously loaned the College their valuable manuscripts and historic artifacts from Endo. An Endo collection exhibit is being created to engage questions about vocation, the translatability of the gospel, and the mercy of God.

### Deepen Ethnic Diversity

Campus administrators were invited to discover their level of intercultural competence in December using the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). Taylor University Psychology Professor Vance Maloney is administering the IDI and will share the group profile with campus administrators on January 28, and will be available for individual debriefings throughout the semester.

### Enhance Music and the Performing Arts

“Project Dignity” will celebrate through music and personal stories the international staff at Wheaton and Bon Appétit who engage with students every day—mainly immigrants from the countries of Bosnia, Serbia, Mexico, Columbia, Peru, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mauritania, Russia, Philippines, and Paraguay. On January 26 Bon Appetit worker Mrs. Dao Dinh will share stories of her life in Vietnam, followed by internationally acclaimed artist [Van-Anh Vanessa Vo](#) performing on a monochord (“dan bao”). Students will be able to interact with the artist and Dao, learning Vietnamese greetings. “We hope students will discover new habits of expression to enrich their relationship with our international staff,” says Conservatory Professor Johann Buis, who collaborates with Dean for Student Engagement Steve Ivester on this project.

