

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

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On March 18 Grad Faculty Council Chair Jennifer Powell McNutt and Graduate School Dean Nick Perrin unveiled newly rearticulated vision and mission statements for the school, expressing the spiritual and educational commitments of the faculty and administration. Students, faculty, and staff joined in Grad Chapel and a celebratory reception that followed. “These new statements, painted on the walls in our common area, express renewed energy and focus for all who teach, serve, and study at the Grad School,” says Graduate Dean Nick Perrin.

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

The post-communist nations of Central and Eastern Europe—a region that is less than 1% evangelical Christian—struggle deeply with issues of depression, PTSD and other mental and emotional afflictions. Christian leaders there regularly express the need for the thoughtful and biblically sound integration of psychology and the Christian faith. In early March, Wheaton Grad Psychology Professors Terri Watson and David Van Dyke met in Prague with Christians engaged in the fields of counseling and psychology to discuss ways in which Wheaton faculty and Europeans might collaborate to address these issues.

Deepen Ethnic Diversity

Interim Chaplain Dave McDowell traveled with 11 members of the football team to Selma, Alabama over Spring Break to participate in and learn from the 50th anniversary of “Bloody Sunday,” when unarmed civil rights marchers were attacked with billy clubs and tear gas. They worked alongside a multi-ethnic Christian community, helping to rehab a Teen Challenge discipleship center and prepare space for a new cookie business. After worshipping with fellow believers on Sunday they helped distribute water and pack lunches for volunteers. Chaplain Dave says, “We were loved and loved in return, and learned that while racism is still in human hearts, it can be overcome by the power of the Gospel.”

Promote Liberal Arts Excellence

Dr. Sarah Miglio has been appointed Director of Core Curriculum Studies to support the faculty as they develop the new liberal arts curriculum, “Christ at the Core.” Dr. Miglio says, “It is an honor to work with the faculty as we transition to a new curriculum that maintains our historic commitment to Christ-centered academic excellence while sharpening our curricular focus on faith and learning, and vocation. This is an exciting moment for Wheaton College, and it will be rewarding to see how students will benefit from greater flexibility and choice as they study the liberal arts.”

Nurture a Vibrant Christian Community

The Christ Centered Community Task Force has defined five core values for workplace relationships: Teamwork and Collegiality, Unity and Diversity, Listening and Communication, Expertise and Learning, and Stewardship and Accountability. “Expertise and Learning” is found in the professional development program available to all administrators, managers, and other staff, consisting of in-house training seminars and participation in professional associations and conferences. The College also has limited funding available for graduate studies at other institutions when a course of study will enhance an employee’s contribution to Wheaton.

