

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

vol. 4 issue 6

May 2016



In early May, Assistant Professor of Bible and Theology Dr. Greg Lee led faculty colleagues through St. Augustine's *Confessions*, one of four core texts to be used in the new *First Year Seminar: Enduring Questions*. Other core texts faculty will use to introduce students to the Christian liberal arts while grounded in biblical and theological truths are Shusaku Endo's *Silence*, N.T. Wright's *Simply Christian*, and *The Cape Town Commitment*.

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

International undergraduates are becoming involved in student leadership roles, participating in Wheaton's off-campus academic programs, and landing significant internships over the summer. Director of International Student Programs Debby Cheruiyot Bii notes that students from Tanzania, South Korea, Indonesia, Estonia, Honduras, Colombia and Singapore will fill leadership roles next year in Student Ministry Partnerships, World Christian Fellowship, Gospel Choir, Student Government, College Union, Unidad, and Honduras Project. Others will serve on student organization cabinets, and three international students will serve as Residence Hall Assistants.

Deepen Ethnic Diversity

Crystal Cartwright '08, Office of Admissions alumni liaison, is engaging African American alumni with new and focused energy. Through personal relationships and connecting alumni with current students, Crystal encourages them to share the value of a Wheaton education with their families, churches and communities. Last Fall at Homecoming 50 African American alumni and students met to get acquainted. In the Spring semester, Crystal helped launch "Sisterhood," in which African American alumnae will meet and mentor their student counterparts, encourage them to develop their identity in Christ, and validate both their

struggles and their culture. "I have found the best way to engage alumni is to share with them the achievements and struggles of our students," Crystal notes.

Promote Liberal Arts Excellence

Outgoing Provost Dr. Stan Jones and Director of Core Curriculum Studies Dr. Sarah Miglio hosted a faculty training session this May to equip faculty to teach the new First Year Seminar in the Christ at the Core Curriculum beginning this Fall semester. This course will introduce freshmen to the Christian liberal arts (see above). Faculty considered many topics including theology, vocation, information literacy, effective methods for teaching writing, and the emotional and physical well-being of freshman students. Dr. Miglio says, "The dedication of Wheaton faculty to their students in the pursuit of Christian liberal arts permeated three days of vigorous discussion, planning, and training."

Enhance Music and the Performing Arts

At the May 21 Board Meeting, College Trustees approved construction of Armerding Hall to house the Conservatory of Music, beginning this summer. The Trustees also approved creating construction drawings for the New Concert Hall and decided to demolish Breyer Hall, which housed the Chemistry and Geology departments from 1956-2010, and will serve as the future location for a new music performance venue.

