

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

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On October 13 the faculty and staff of the Conservatory and Community School of the Arts processed from McAlister Hall amid banners with student musicians and dancers to the mid-campus Quad singing the 18th century hymn, “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing.” They joined Wheaton College leaders, students, and members of the Board of Trustees, Board of Visitors, and Alumni Board to [celebrate](#) the renovation of the Armerding Center for Music and the Arts, expected to open by 2018.

Strategic Priorities

Globalize a Wheaton Education

Deepen Ethnic Diversity
Promote Liberal Arts Excellence

Enhance Music and the Performing Arts

Complementary Priorities

Expand Center for Vocation and Career (new)

Nurture Vibrant Christian Community

Extend Affordability
Strengthen Graduate Education

Globalize A Wheaton Education

Next summer Spanish Professor Sharenda Barlar will lead students on a historic pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. In the Spring semester students will study art, history, and travel as spiritual transformation, then walk the millennium-old “Way of St. James,” meeting fellow pilgrims from all over the world. Professor Barlar developed the program through participation in the 2015 CIEE International Faculty Development Seminar, supported by funding from the Center for Global and Experiential Learning.

Promote Liberal Arts Excellence

Students study their vocation in the new Christ at the Core curriculum. Last month [Opus: The Art of Work](#) collaborated with the [Center for Vocation and Career](#) and other departments to host *Vocation Week*, featuring co-curricular events on themes of faith and vocation. Alumni business professionals shared from their rich life experience. Mike Bontrager ’82, founder and CEO of Chatham Financial Group, challenged students in Chapel to be faithful to God in a broad range of vocational paths. Mike, along with Leslie Dunlap ’91, founder and CEO of Dunlap Consulting, and Provost Margaret Diddams ’83, later offered students practical advice to prepare for their vocations.

Strengthen Graduate Education

[Dr. Ed Stetzer](#), appointed last May as

Executive Director of the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism, is helping to raise the visibility of Wheaton’s graduate programs. Dr. Stetzer was featured on the front cover of the October *Outreach Magazine* for [refocusing](#) the church on evangelism. He believes that the expertise of our teacher-scholars, key partnerships, and current undergraduate students will help build the Graduate School.

Expand Center For Vocation And Career [Canvas: Framing Your Vocation and Career](#)

helps sophomores understand their work and vocation in a biblical framework, develop self-awareness, and explore possibilities for the future. In October, 105 sophomores enjoyed an evening of training, dining, and competition as they prepared for work after college. Students were introduced to Wheaton’s online training program (Lynda.com), received their own personal business cards, and had their photos taken for networking through LinkedIn. The Canvas program will culminate with a Declaration Dinner where a guest speaker will share the value of a liberal arts education for success in vocation.

Extend Affordability

Through the generosity of friends in Korea, the Kim Endowed Scholarship for students from Korea continues to grow. This fall the scholarship was awarded to its first recipient, Hyeon Kim, a Korean citizen from Mountain View International Christian School in Indonesia.

