

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

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Junior Communications major Alandra Alonso '18 says she enjoyed “the normal parts of life” with her host mom during the Wheaton in Mexico study abroad program last semester—things like drinking Coca Cola and going to the market together. Alandra reflects, “The routine with my host mom Lupe Vielma Vásquez gave us good time to be together and talk. I’ve gained a much greater understanding of Mexican culture. It has been a blessing to learn more about the home country of so many Latinos in the United States.”

*Photo credit: Leslie Hawthorne Klingler, Wordkilm*

## 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

In its second year, the study abroad program in Querétaro, Mexico last semester included seventeen students mentored by Professor Tim Klingler and his wife Leslie. The students spoke Spanish continually as they lived with host families and took classes. Dr. Klingler says, “The goal of learning Spanish in Wheaton in Mexico or in any context isn’t so people say, ‘Wow, your Spanish is great!’ It’s so we can show and receive God’s love in new ways.”

Two Wheaton College student choirs will travel to South Korea in May 2017 to share their music at churches, schools, and public concerts. The Concert Choir will travel and perform as guests of Dr. Billy Kim and the Far East Broadcasting Company May 9-19. The Gospel Choir, celebrating its 30th anniversary as a student club this year, will overlap the Concert Choir tour with their travel May 15-30. Junior Steven Lee '18 from Seoul, Korea, current president of the Gospel Choir, has developed an itinerary for his fellow choir members with an insider’s understanding and connections.

### Promote Liberal Arts Excellence

The new *Core Book program* provides the Wheaton College community shared

conversation of significant works that highlight themes in the Christ at the Core curriculum. This year’s Core Book is the powerful novel *Silence* by Japanese author Shusaku Endo that deals with “the Voice of God speaking through suffering and silence.” All are invited to engage in the many opportunities provided by the new curriculum outside the classroom, such as the *Stepping into Silence* exhibit at the Billy Graham Center Museum and the *Listening to Silence* conference September 27-28.

### Extend Affordability

The Admissions and Financial Aid teams have repackaged Wheaton’s historic merit scholarships for qualified freshmen and transfer students. The highly selective and renewable *Presidential Leadership Awards* reward incoming students for their potential to lead the campus community in kingdom priorities. The Blanchard Leadership Award of \$20k per year for two students; the Edman Leadership Award of \$10k per year for 14 students; and the Armerding Leadership Award of \$5k per year for 41 students each require recipients to demonstrate ability to influence the campus in the areas of Global Engagement, Kingdom Impact, Christian Worldview, and American Multicultural Engagement.

