

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

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Twenty students from all four classes and 12 majors traveled to Ethiopia in May to explore concepts of leadership through the lens of another culture. They experienced the contrasts of traditional rural and modern city life, met some of the poorest as well as the most privileged, and spent time with Ethiopian Orthodox and Protestant/Pentecostal Christian believers. Here the students are at Beta Giogris in Lalibela, a twelfth century church hewn from solid volcanic rock and still used as a center of Ethiopian Orthodox worship.

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

A fledgling upper-level course, "Authority, Action, Ethics: Ethiopia" (CE 330), introduced students to the nation of Ethiopia and its people and history in the spring 2014 semester. For 16 weeks students explored differences between cultural systems, gaining skills and attitudes to approach intercultural ministry. They then traveled to Ethiopia with their mentors for a 16-day immersion (CE 340). The course was designed by Christian Formation and Ministry Professor Dan Haase with Wheaton alumni Andrew DeCort '05, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Chicago with experience in Ethiopia; Roger Sandberg, Jr. '00, executive director of Medair; and Steve Ivester '93, dean of student engagement. Dr. Ivester comments, "We believe we have come up with a paradigm for Christ-centered global study, travel, and engagement that can enrich students with a firsthand understanding of a different culture."

Associate Professor of Psychology Ezer Kang traveled to Chiang Mai University in Thailand this summer to follow up on his research examining neuropsychological functioning and quality-of-life outcomes among adolescents living with perinatal HIV. His summer travel also took him to Delhi, India, to visit a student working on a pediatric HIV needs assessment project with Human Needs and Global Resources.

Related to Dr. Kang's ongoing HIV/AIDS research and interest, the Wheaton alumnus who first discovered the HIV virus in a child, Dr. Arthur J. Ammann '58, will be on campus at Homecoming (October 2-4) to sign copies of his most recent book, (in) *Visible: From Obscure to Valuable*.

Deepen Ethnic Diversity

Shawn Leftwich, director of admissions, reports that Wheaton welcomed 670 new undergraduate students, including 608 freshmen and 62 transfers. These students hail from 45 states and Washington, D.C. Further, she reports that we have 72 students from overseas representing 46 countries, including 24 international students and 48 MKs/TCKs. She also reports that the Wheaton student body is now 22% American multicultural (Asian, Latino, and African-American).

Promote Liberal Arts Excellence

A start-up company employed 18 current students or recent graduates this summer to help launch the [Project World Impact](#) website that markets non-profits, attracting attention, funds, and volunteers. The idea to connect the company with Wheaton students came from Bill Lesner, a member of Wheaton's Leadership Council. Students involved with the project attest to the benefits of a liberal arts education in preparing them for such entrepreneurial work.

