

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

vol. 1 issue 6

March 2013



Promote Liberal Arts Excellence

Last fall seniors were invited by Class President Chelsea O'Donnell to write about the value of their major field of study and how their liberal arts education at Wheaton has influenced their faith and life calling. Five faculty/staff judges read essays submitted by 64 seniors and selected 11 winners based on established criteria for "WheatonReflects: 2013." In addition to lunch with Dr. Ryken, the essayists received a small cash prize, and their essays are now posted at www.wheaton.edu/Academics/Liberal-Arts/Reflections. Chelsea and other leaders in Student Government share hopes that "Wheaton Reflects" might become an annual project.

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

Nurture Vibrant Christian Community

Extend Affordability

Strengthen Graduate Education

Globalize a Wheaton Education

HoneyRock recently partnered with an international camping ministry and a local Wheaton-area church in a four-day symposium on developing Christian leaders worldwide through experiential education in camping and higher education. The event was attended by 20 leaders from 25 nations. Rob Ribbe, director of HoneyRock, says, "Our goal is to strengthen training and sending qualified leaders globally by building partnerships between Christian camps and colleges."

The Office of Global and Experiential Learning has just announced a new grant program for the globalization of the curriculum. Grants will be provided to faculty to revise or create new courses, or to develop library resources that will bring a substantial global or cross-cultural perspective to the curriculum, or contribute substantially to the developing of inter-cultural competency. The due date for the first round of applications is April 30, 2013. The GEL office has more information.

Deepen Ethnic Diversity

The Class of 2013 will help fund a scholarship for an African-American or Latino undergraduate student from the Chicago area that completes the BRIDGE

summer college preparatory program at Wheaton. A committee of ten seniors considered five different Senior Class gift ideas and voted unanimously to support this homegrown project conceived and begun by admissions office staff member Veronica Ponce-Navarrette '08, in her sophomore year. Based on her own life experience, Veronica, along with other colleagues, has developed BRIDGE as an intensive four-week residential academic enrichment and leadership program.

Extend Affordability

The College recently received \$4.9 million from an estate with the request that these funds endow scholarships providing financial aid to needy students. We are very grateful for this provision of resources to assist Wheaton students to afford college study.

Strengthen Graduate Education

In February the Board of Trustees approved the proposal to restructure Graduate School governance. "For the first time in its history the graduate faculty have been given the autonomy to initiate, develop, and refine programs with all the disciplinary rigor, thoughtfulness, and agility we need to thrive in the highly competitive graduate education environment," says Dr. Nick Perrin, acting dean of the Graduate School.

