Providing an education without borders

BY LAELIE MENDELSOHN

The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, the war in Afghanistan and the crisis in the world economy are all events of the past year that have brought into sharp relief the challenges of globalization.

Emory is a dedicated course to prepare its students for this global future by ensuring they have the skills and knowledge necessary to compete in an international work force and respond to worldwide challenges in peace, health and the environment.

One important aspect of Emory’s internationalization has been the effort to create a campus environment rich with cultural interaction. In the past decade, the number of international students at Emory has more than doubled, from 354 in 1990 to more than 800 last year.

On the outgoing side, nearly 40 percent of undergraduates now participate in a study abroad program during their Emory years. The International Center for International Programs Abroad has worked to expand these opportunities to regions beyond Europe (the traditional study abroad destination). One example is the Tibet studies program in the exile community of Dharamsala, India, which was developed as an outgrowth of the Dalai Lama’s visit to Emory in 1998.

Intercultural competence also is being achieved through curriculum enhancement. The Institute for Comparative and International Studies facilitates area studies in five regions of the world, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe.

Emory now requires its undergraduates to take courses in one of 16 foreign languages. This year, Portuguese, Farsi, Hindi and Sanskrit were the newest languages added to the curriculum, and discussions are under way to offer Swahili, Korean and Yiddish in the near future. Supporting all these efforts is the new Emory College Language Center, which houses state-of-the-art pedagogical tools.

But internationalization is not just for undergraduates. One-third of the School of Law faculty are specialists in international comparative law. At Goizueta Business School, 33 percent of the student body is international. And at the Candler School of Theology, internationalism means reaching out to the burgeoning international community in Atlanta through Faith and the City, a program that addresses the concerns of this city’s many refugee families.

Service transcends borders in the health sciences as well. Last year saw the opening of the Lillian Carter Center for International Nursing, which aims to develop and sustain a nursing workforce for the world’s population. Named for former President Jimmy Carter’s mother, the center will host international conferences and send faculty members to help establish training programs in such countries as Ethiopia, Kenya and Fiji.

The Rollins School of Public Health is one of 10 schools in the nation chosen to participate in the Humphrey Fellowship, an international graduate study program for public service professionals from developing countries. Each year, Rollins hosts eight to 10 such fellows.

Another major element of Emory’s internationalization has been its devotion to faculty development through the Halle Institute for Global Learning, created in 1997 to promote cross-cultural understanding. Halle Institute programs are grounded in the belief that broadening students’ horizons begins with their educators. This idea is exemplified by the Halle Faculty Study Trip, which takes Emory faculty on rigorous tours through the cultural, political and economic lives of countries outside their areas of expertise.

This year, the University’s International Affairs Council will begin evaluating the progress of internationalization and making plans for the future. With the support of President Bill Chace, who made internationalization a top priority at his 1995 inauguration, and the dedication of faculty and staff, Emory is well on its way to providing students an education without borders.

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standing among the nations and the peoples of the world.

After he left the White House in January 1981, Carter began working with Emory to develop the Carter Center, a not-for-profit, nongovernmental organization committed to working for human rights and the alleviation of human suffering around the world. In its 20 years, the Carter Center has been involved in efforts all around the globe to prevent and resolve conflict, enhance freedom and democracy and improve health.

“People everywhere share the same dream of a caring international community that prevents war and oppression,” Carter said in his Nobel statement.

In the past two decades, as Rosalynn and I traveled around the world for the Carter Center, my concept of human rights has grown to include not only the right to live in peace, but also to adequate health care, shelter, food and to economic opportunity.

“I hope this award reflects a universal acceptance and even embrace of this broad-based concept of human rights,” Carter said. “This honor serves as an inspiration not only to us but also to suffering people around the world, and I accept it on their behalf.”

Carter has been nominated several times for the award, to which carries with it a $1 million prize. The 2002 field included a record 156 candidates, including 117 individuals and 39 groups.

The Carter Center operates in partnership with Emory as a separately chartered affiliate of the University. The center is independently governed by a board that includes Chace and nine University trustees. Emory faculty serve as linkages to the Carter Center’s core programs, and most of the 120 undergraduate and graduate students who intern each year at the center come from Emory. Chace also has accompanied Carter Center election-inspection teams to Israel and Peru.

“When he goes forth from the Carter Center and from this campus to wage peace, President Carter does so because his experiences have taught him that war is not necessarily the best answer to conflict, but rational discussion and respect for others can be,” Chace said. “He served his country well as president, but he is now being recognized for all that he has so superbly done since that presidency.”

The full text of the Nobel committee’s citation to Carter is available on the Carter Center’s website at www.carter-center.org.

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advanced care for all Georgians with cancer.

• to save lives through research

• to train future cancer researchers and caregivers through new academic initiatives

• to realize economic benefits from eliminating cancer

Improving and advancing the standard of care means that Winship’s efforts in patient care and fundamental research require integrated growth in both clinical and laboratory programs. The center’s faculty are drawn from the schools of medicine, public health and nursing and are involved in basic clinical research at Grady Hospital, the Atlanta V.A. Hospital and Crawford Long and Emory hospitals.

Established in 1937 as the Winship Memorial Clinic with funds from Coca-Cola magnate and philanthropist Robert Woodruff, the clinic was one of the first in the nation devoted entirely to cancer patients. Named for Woodruff’s maternal grandfather Robert Winship, the clinic changed its name in 1985 to the Winship Cancer Center.

Just before the turn of the 21st century and during recruitment of a new cancer programs director, the University Board of Trustees changed the name to the Winship Cancer Institute of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center. The change is significant in recognition of the value of research and patient care to the center’s mission and its importance to the University.

Winship’s new building is scheduled to open in fall 2003. Half its square footage will be devoted to outpatient clinical investigation and advancing the standard of cancer care; the other half will be devoted to basic molecular cancer research for translation to the clinic.

“This new building reflects the Woodruff Health Sciences Center’s commitment of energy and resources to improving cancer diagnosis, prevention and treatment for everyone in Georgia, in our nation and in the world,” Simons said.

New faculty recruits and an increase in National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute grant award applications also illustrate Winship’s growth in research.

If we are advancing the standard of care through research,” Simons said, “we are thinking all the time about the care of our patients. This is our mission; we want the patients who seek that steel—but also everyone who finds their life touched by cancer—to know how much we value the stewardship they have placed in us, and that we are working to eradicate the cancer problem for all of us and our children.”