BY JAN GLEASON

Three new PhD programs in nursing, business and the arts will bolster Emory’s offerings at the highest academic level.

“Ease of cooperation among schools and departments and the tradition of serious interdisciplinary study at Emory has made it possible for us to start these new PhD programs in three professional schools and to attract a large pool of interested applicants,” said interim Provost Woody Hunter.

Nursing

The PhD in nursing began in 1999 as a major within the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences at Emory’s Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. Each year, three to five students are admitted. The program integrates the traditional science of nursing with emerging knowledge from associated fields of health policy, ethics and health outcomes research to build new knowledge for health care delivery.

“The tremendous challenges facing nursing and health care today are multifaceted and require novel approaches,” said Sandra Dunbar, Candor Professor of Nursing and coordinator of the PhD program. “These challenges require multidisciplinary solutions: to end the nursing shortage, a PhD nursing program is designed for nurses who want to revolutionize health care and improve health outcomes through a career devoted to research and leadership.”

The strengths of the program include an outstanding faculty devoted to excellence in research and research mentoring; collaborative faculty from the schools of public health and medicine, the philosophy department, Emory Center for Cooperative Research, Center for Aging, and the Center for Bioethics; and opportunities for research residency and teaching experiences.

The first class of nursing PhDs is currently at work on their dissertations. The program’s four-year curriculum consists of required courses in the science of nursing and health care delivery, research and electives. Additional research and teaching experiences are integrated into the final two years.

Business

The Goizueta Business School enrolled its inaugural PhD class this fall. There were 120 applications for the 31 openings; students in the program will study accounting, information systems and marketing. Subsequent years will bring studies in organization and management and finance and financial management.

“A vibrant PhD program is critical for developing cutting-edge knowledge and strong leadership skills,” said Steve Robertson, associate dean at Goizueta. “We’re gratified to be listed among primary care-oriented business schools and to attract a large pool of interested applicants.”

The program is designed for professionals already into their 20s or 30s, Robertson said. Over and above the numbers, Emory’s professional schools distinguish themselves through unique programming. For instance, the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing last year helped create the Lillian Carter Center for International Nursing, which works to enhance the impact of nursing globally through targeted international academic exchanges.

Domestically, the nursing school sponsors a migrant clinic in Moultrie, Ga., in which Emory students will practice in four years, with a possible extension to five. Students receive a stipend in exchange for research and teaching responsibilities. Of the 31 inaugural students, six are from abroad and four are women.

Theology

The Candler School of Theology recently received a $10 million grant from the Lilly Endowment to enhance programming in practical theology and religious practices. For five years beginning in 2004, the doctoral program in the Graduate Division of Religion (GDR) will enroll eight students each year who intend to teach subjects such as preaching, pastoral care, worship, religious education and related fields.

“The new PhDs will be in high demand because ‘the current supply of well-trained scholars in the ministerial or practical fields—persons equipped to teach and play leadership roles within theological schools—is inadequate,’” said Candler Dean Russell Richey. “These fields of study desperately need the renewal and strengthening this project envisions.”

BY ERIC RANGUS

Professional schools offer wide variety of education

It goes along with their national rankings, each of Emory’s professional schools boasts a range of innovative and unique programs that contribute to students’ wide-ranging postgraduate education.

The School of Medicine is ranked 20th in the nation among research-oriented schools and 25th among primary care-oriented schools, according to U.S. News and World Report. These rankings reflect an upward trend.

“We have long believed that to make the most of this tremendous investment in our students, we must go along with our nation’s dream of preparing all students in the world to learn through research to build new knowledge—virtually all the schools distinguish themselves in the nation’s leading business schools have strong doctoral programs, and we are very pleased that we now have one,” said Assistant Dean Ajay Kohli, Hopkins Professor of Marketing and director of doctoral studies. “This will energize the intellectual currents in the business schools.”

The doctoral program gives Goizueta the tools to educate the next generation of business academics—leaders whose research and teaching will influence future scholarship at the best business schools in the world. The program will draw heavily on resources from the Emory community, since the curriculum combines doctoral coursework in the social sciences and quantitative methods, seminars on specific research topics, summer research experiences, and a doctoral dissertation.

The program can be completed in four years, with a possible extension to five. Students receive a stipend in exchange for research and teaching responsibilities. Of the 31 inaugural students, six are from abroad and four are women.

The study of religious practice is a theme not only of religious scholarship at Emory, but of interdisciplinary inquiry, as well. A faculty survey two years ago found that some 300 faculty on campus have a stated scholarly interest in the study of religion—and only a third of them are religion or theology faculty. Indeed, faculty and administrators credit their success in religious practice and practical theology to the strong ties among the GDR doctoral program, the Department of Religion and Candler. “Faith communities also stand to benefit from the new program,” said Steve Tipton, GDR director and professor of sociology of religion. “This is the right moment, and Emory is the ideal place, to form scholars who can not only practice what they preach, but better understand how such practice both embodies tradition and transforms it. We’re prepared to make the most of this opportunity.”

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— Ajay Kohli, Goizueta Business School assistant dean

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Director, Goizueta Business School