

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Guided by our mission *to educate faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world*, **Candler School of Theology** continues to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by developing leaders called by God to serve in Christian ministry. Our distinctive commitment to both *inspiring minds* and *empowering ministry* enables us to develop uniquely well-rounded leaders who are challenged academically, encouraged spiritually, and immersed in Christian service from the first day they arrive on campus.

As one of the 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition of evangelical piety, ecumenical openness, and social concern. As one of nine graduate professional schools of Emory University, Candler provides a rich context for learning and formation supported by the extensive resources of a top-tier research university. As a school located in the major metropolitan area of Atlanta, Georgia, Candler offers students a learning laboratory that reflects the highly diverse communities of our 21st century world. There is no better place for preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

To ensure that our students are prepared for leadership in an increasingly global context, Candler has placed a new emphasis on internationalizing the curriculum. In 2009, we established the Office of International Initiatives, led by Dr. David Jenkins, and received several grants related to international engagement. Through one of these, Candler partnered with International Relief and Development, Inc. to send seven student interns to Mozambique, Indonesia, and the Republic of Georgia in the summer of 2009. Other grants are assisting Candler in initiating a national conversation on best practices for internationalizing theological education. In spring semester of 2010, Dr. Wesley de Souza, Arthur J. Moore associate professor in the practice of evangelism, team-taught a distance education class in real time with a professor and students at a seminary in Sao Paulo, Brazil, the first collaboration of its kind at Candler. The March 2010 visit of Roman Catholic Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, ushered in a yearlong special emphasis on internationalization at Candler.

A hallmark of the Candler MDiv experience, the Contextual Education program continues to shape our students' pastoral identities by interweaving service at ministry sites and churches with academic reflection in the classroom. In any given week, Candler deploys more than 250 ConEd students throughout the region to minister to people in congregations, hospitals, and social service agencies. Last year, Candler's ConEd students provided 1/3 of the service hours responsible for Emory University winning the U.S. government's Presidential Award for General Community Service, the highest federal award a college or university can receive for its commitment to community engagement.

Candler's Teaching Parish Program, directed by Dr. Alice Rogers, continues to expand into more conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction, providing United Methodist students with the opportunity to serve churches throughout their seminary education, earn academic credit for pastoral experience, and complete their MDiv degree in three years. Through the Course of Study regional school at Candler and our five extension schools in the Southeast, we oversaw the educational process of 918 people this past year.

Candler has faced the recent economic challenges with bold initiatives to advance our mission. Although our operating budget essentially will remain flat next year, we are increasing our investment in financial aid each year. Candler's total financial aid commitment in 2009-10 was \$4.7 million. Eighty-six percent of eligible students received Candler-based financial aid, with the average award covering 76 percent of tuition. More than \$2.6 million was provided to 191 United Methodist students. We also established Candler Advantage, a program designed to pay rising third-year MDiv students for summer internships in congregations so they can concentrate fully on honing their pastoral skills. In March, we hosted our second annual Leadership Candler event, an all-expenses-paid discernment experience that draws together top prospective MDiv students to explore the richness of life and study at Candler. Last year, 75 percent of the participants in Leadership Candler joined us as students in the fall. Finally, Candler has raised more than half of our \$60 million capital campaign goal.

During 2009-10, Candler celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Sherman Scholarship Fund. Established by Frank and Helen Sherman of Jacksonville, Florida, the Sherman program has provided financial assistance to 868 students preparing for pastoral ministry in United Methodist churches.

Candler's student body continues to attract younger and more diverse people. Our enrollment stands at 499, with 391 seeking the Master of Divinity, 62 the Master of Theological Studies, 25 the Master of Theology, 14 the Doctor of Theology, and 7 enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. The total student population is 23% US ethnic minority, 11% international, and 50% women. More than 50 denominations are represented, with 52% of MDiv students being United Methodist. The median age of our entering class of MDiv students is 26, with 57% of total enrollment under thirty.

Our faculty members continually demonstrate their dedication to the church through preaching and teaching engagements, scholarship, and service in local parishes as leaders in their congregations. This year we welcome two new faculty: Dr. Greg Ellison, assistant professor of pastoral care and counseling, who joined us in fall 2009, and a fellow United Methodist, the Rev. Dr. Arun Jones, who joins us in fall 2010 as the Hankey Chair in World Evangelism. Candler also has produced *A Thrill of Hope*, a church resource DVD for Advent that offers a fresh

take on the Christmas story, uniting art, scripture, and commentary by members of Candler's faculty. Watch a preview on our website, www.candler.emory.edu.

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its vital relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of *educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world* depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you undergird this essential ministry in the life of our denomination.

*Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics
Candler School of Theology*