

## **Assessment Report 2014-15: History Department**

### **Quincy University Mission Statement**

Quincy University stands as a Catholic, independent, liberal arts institution of higher learning in the Franciscan tradition. Inspired by the spirit of Francis and Clare of Assisi, we respect each person as a sister or brother with dignity, value, and worth. We work for justice, peace and the integrity of creation. We prepare men and women for leadership and for the transformation of the world by educating them to seek knowledge that leads to wisdom. We welcome and invite all to share our spirit and our life.

### **Mission of the History Program**

The Mission of the History Department of Quincy University is to provide our students (majors/minors and those who take General Education history courses) with essential historical knowledge along with the necessary skills, attitudes and values of a professional historian. To achieve these goals, the History Department structures its curriculum to examine changes occurring over time in the Americas, Europe and the globe from ancient times to the present. The History faculty developmentally structures courses to enable students to develop and excel in reading, writing, critical thinking, organizational and oral presentation skills. The History major also teaches students to understand historiographical analysis, use of historical methodology and research technology in order to present original research. The goal of the History Department is to produce men and women who will assume leadership roles in secondary and higher education, law, public history, government service, business and the historical profession. In this way, we help Quincy University fulfill its mission to train individuals who will transform the world.

## **The 2014-2015 Assessment Report**

The History Department continues to implement its assessment program as constructed and as we interpret the assessment process. The department has had a number of meetings over the academic year to assess the history major and our students. We constantly look at what is working and what needs to be altered and improved.

To better assess our major, the History Department has decided to move to portfolios. We now keep records of all our majors and how they are performing. In the portfolios are intended to be papers from required history classes: His 298 Historical Methods, His 398 Historiography and His 498 Senior Seminar (primary research paper), to evaluate and assess the 7 key skills/abilities in the major. We will maintain a file for each major with papers from each of the above classes and the History faculty will jointly evaluate the progress of our majors.

We have devised a pre test and a post test to assess the content knowledge of our majors. The pretest is given to majors in the His 298 course and the post test is given to seniors in the History 498 course. History 298 is now a required class for all History majors. We have made that change to the catalogue.

In our annual review, the History Department analyzes the strengths of our major (high expectations, the amount of reading and the level of critical thinking and analysis) and the weaknesses of our major (the need to deal with increasingly unprepared freshmen and the need to raise the number of majors). The department focuses on dealing with the changing dynamics of students who are often academically and emotionally less able to deal with college work and college life than in the past.

The History Department has added classes, which enables students of all majors to take more History courses. We also have expanded the number of “G” and “W” courses. Enrollment in History courses is strong.

We graduated 4 majors in the 2014-15 academic year. Our graduating majors made significant progress in their time at Quincy University, especially in their senior year. One of our History majors is now enrolled at the University of Missouri Kansas City and is pursuing her PhD in History. Three of our former History majors were hired this year as high school teachers, evidence of how well History majors are trained at Quincy University.

The History Department continues to make itself available for prospective students when they come for visits. We have a letter that admissions sends out to all prospective history students. Due to the energy and perseverance of one of our faculty members, Megan Boccardi, history majors have room on the second floor with computers and reference books which enable them to do their research more efficiently and effectively.

Our faculty remain committed to the mission of providing the best educational experience for all our students. Dr. Megan Boccardi was awarded a Fulbright for the spring 2016 semester. Dr. Wendell Mauter was named “Teacher of the year” for 2014-15. Dr. Justin P. Coffey is also a member of the History Department.