11 October, 2014

Thank you for your interest in our graduate programs in History!

We offer M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in early modern and modern European History and in United States History, as well as M.A. degrees in Medieval and Global History. Our thematic strengths include urban history, gender, race, and labor across geographical and chronological boundaries. Students will enter a program that is academically demanding, professionally engaged, and attuned to the breadth of our profession. It is flexible enough to allow students to explore their own capabilities and then pursue their own path to success. In particular, we offer:

- **Broad training which equips students for careers in History.** Our graduates hold not only academic positions, but also work in schools, archives, museums, and similar agencies. Our M.A. students have gone on to top Ph.D. programs, professional programs such as library/information studies and law school, teaching, and other related fields, while PhD students have found success both in higher education and outside the academy.

- **Core courses which insure professional competence.** In addition to traditional colloquia and seminars, all incoming students enroll in a course designed to address History as a professional endeavor. They have opportunities throughout their graduate career to attend and participate in professional conferences and workshops. Some opt to become involved in our interdisciplinary program in Public History.

- **Opportunities to develop teaching and research skills.** Each semester we have 15 graduate students working as teaching assistants and leading discussions in survey classes ranging from US History and Western Civilization, to global surveys on Africa, East Asia, and Latin America. Experienced TAs sometimes work in popular upper division classes such as the History of Rock and Roll or the History of Crime and Punishment. RAs work directly with faculty members, aiding with research projects and professional endeavors such as conference or workshop planning.

- **Personal attention from professors who encourage student success.** We generally have around 40 students in the program working with twenty-one tenure-line faculty members. Thus every student has the opportunity to work closely with faculty members in their fields. This close working relationship has supported student success.

All applicants to both MA and PhD programs are considered for financial aid. Our packages range from teaching and research assistantships (offering tuition, a stipend, and a contribution to health insurance) to tuition scholarships. Some students also may be eligible for University-level fellowships designed to increase the diversity of our academic community. We are somewhat unusual in that we can offer funding to M.A. students in addition to Ph.D. ones. In fact, all full time MA students have some level of funding
(ranging from some who have full funding packages—currently about 2/3rds of our M.A. students, while others hold half fellowships, as well as scholarships).

Certainly, this is not an easy time to be encouraging anyone to embark on graduate work in the humanities given current hiring trends. As a department, we are sensitive to the challenges and opportunities facing today’s students. We actively support those planning for careers outside of the academy, while continuing to anchor our program in the intellectual rigors of historical inquiry. Career planning is featured in our orientation program and continues in discussions through our coursework and other programing, often in conjunction with Marquette’s Center for Teaching and Learning, the Preparing Future Faculty and Professionals program, and Career Services. We are very proud that our students are succeeding even in these difficult times.

Our achievement is exemplified by what our students do after they graduate. Around 40% of our MA students have entered doctoral programs (both at Marquette and other schools). Another 20% are applying their studies to work in Public History or Library and Information Science. Of the remaining 40%, there is a healthy mix of teachers, people who work in academic affairs in colleges and high schools, as well as those working in business. Our doctoral students similarly have found success with 6 recent graduates holding tenure track positions, while another 5 work steadily as lecturers and adjunct faculty. Our overall program is small by design (this data set includes 72 MAs and 19 PhDs who have graduated since 2005). We focus on our strengths so as to best support our students financially, as well as intellectually.

Please explore our other webpages dedicated to the graduate program. You can find more information about faculty and student research fields and projects. Our webpage also provides links to our Facebook page and the website of the History Graduate Student Organization.

Please contact me if you would like any additional information about our graduate programs.

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