Executive Summary

Mission Statement: The Medieval Studies minor seeks to foster an understanding of the cultural monuments of the European Middle Ages both as accomplishments worthy of study in their own right and as the source of countless institutions of, and questions about, modernity in the West. The faculty pursue a multidisciplinary approach to teaching and research that emphasizes the interrelatedness of the many fields of human knowledge.

The Medieval Studies Program performs two primary functions at Loyola University New Orleans: (1) it supports an interdisciplinary academic minor and contract major in Medieval Studies for interested students from all of the undergraduate colleges and (2) fosters general interest in the Middle Ages on campus and within the larger community through its programming.

The Medieval Studies minor is overseen by a Director. Since 2007, John Sebastian, Associate Professor of English, has served as the Director. During the Spring 2012 semester, Dr. Alice Clark, Professor in the College of Music and Fine Arts, served as Interim Director. At the end of the 2012-2013 academic year, Dr. Sebastian will conclude his second consecutive term as Director and will step down in order to assume the role of Director of the Common Curriculum. He will be succeeded as Director by Dr. Sara Butler, Associate Professor of History.

Because of the timing of Dr. John Sebastian’s sabbatical, Medieval Studies did not produce an Annual Report for 2011-2012. This report therefore covers 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

In its activities and aspirations Medieval Studies is clearly in line with the University’s mission and strategic goals. By means of its interdisciplinarity the program reflects St. Ignatius of Loyola’s emphasis on “finding God in all things” and “is grounded in the liberal arts and sciences” (University Mission Statement). Our participating faculty strive “to educate the whole student” through their “teaching, research, creative activities, and service,” as reflected in the quality and variety of our courses, our efforts in mentoring students both through active advising and through direction of undergraduate research (our faculty routinely direct undergraduate theses), our outstanding scholarly output, our participation in and leadership of some of the most significant programs and committees at the University, and our support of extracurricular activities intended to stimulate interest in the Middle Ages (University Mission Statement). Our participating faculty seek “to benefit the larger community” through their participation in a variety of local organizations, volunteer services, and community talks on aspects of our work (University Mission Statement). One of the three principal goals of the University’s Strategic Plan is the enhancement of the University’s reputation and stature, which includes an action plan for bolstering academic programs. The Strategic Plan outlines an initiative to

Enhance existing distinctive programs and those which demonstrate unique market advantages; develop new programs and strengthen existing programs that are distinctive in subject matter and that are cross-disciplinary, interdepartmental, and inter-college programs based on subject matter upon which no other University competes; and house interdisciplinary studies and other cross-college programs in a centralized location. (Loyola 2012)

Given its interdisciplinary nature and its emphasis on the Catholic intellectual tradition, Medieval Studies should be part of this ongoing initiative to shore up existing interdisciplinary programs that are both distinctive (if not entirely unique) and competitive.
Medieval Studies benefits from strong support from the Departments of English, History, Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Languages and Cultures as well as the College of Music and Fine Art. Because of that support, we are able to offer a significant number of courses for our students each semester:

- Fall 2011: 10 courses
- Spring 2012: 10 courses
- Fall 2012: 10 courses
- Spring 2013: 11 courses

2.0 Unit Profile Summary

Medieval Studies is governed by a Director and a Steering Committee.

For the 2012-2013 academic year, Dr. John Sebastian of English served as Director.

The members of the Steering Committee are:

- Sara Butler, Department of History
- Alice Clark, College of Music and Fine Arts
- Hillary Eklund, Department of English (2011-2012 only)
- Mark Gossiaux, Department of Philosophy
- John Sebastian, Department of English (Director/Chair)

3.0 Goals for Current Academic Year

Goals for Current Academic Year

The goals for Medieval Studies for 2011-2013 included:

- Increase number of declared minors
In August of 2011, there were 7 Medieval Studies minors and 1 major. By the end of the 2011-2012 academic year there were 13 minors and 1 major, while in 2012-2013 there were 16 minors and 2 majors.

Review program curriculum

Especially in light of the implementation of the revised Common Curriculum, the program has needed to reconsider the shape of its curriculum. Several courses previously offered as Advanced Common Curriculum Humanities/Arts or Social Science courses will either be reconfigured or eliminated under the new Common Curriculum. This process is on-going and will likely result in a revised Medieval Studies curriculum being proposed sometime in 2013-2014.

As early as 2010, Medieval Studies began exploring with Dr. Hillary Eklund the prospect of expanding the program to Medieval and Renaissance Studies. By the fall of 2011 it had become clear that the staffing was inadequate and the course offerings in Renaissance/Reformation too infrequent to support an expanded minor program.

More recently, Medieval Studies has been engaged in a conversation with members of the Classical Studies faculty in the Department of Languages and Cultures about a possible collaboration there.

Offer relevant programming

Medieval Studies continued its popular Film Festival and Greater New Orleans Medieval Scholar (GNOMeS) book club in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. In this same period the program also sponsored or co-sponsored a number of events relevant to students in the minor (see ‘Assessment Report/Program Outcomes’ for a list of these events).

Mentor students
Many of our students express an interest in attending graduate school in an area of Medieval Studies. Our faculty serve as mentors for these students and write significant numbers of reference letters each year for graduate school-bound students.

Support undergraduate research in Medieval Studies

A key part of our program involves our faculty directing undergraduate research through senior theses completed within various departments and programs (e.g., English, History, University Honors). The following students completed undergraduate thesis projects on medieval topics and/or under the sponsorship of Medieval Studies faculty (* indicates a non-Medieval Studies student):

Spring 2013: Chad Landrum, History and University Honors Program: “Convivencia in the Thirteenth Century: Redefining Living-Togetherness” (dir. Maurice Brungardt and Eileen Doll)


We anticipate pursuing similar goals next semester along with undertaking a review and revision of the Medieval Studies curriculum in light of changes in curricula and course offerings throughout the university.

4.0 Budget for Current Academic Year
2011-2012 budget

Dr. Sebastian was on sabbatical leave during the Spring 2012 semester, so budget records are not as detailed for 2011-2012. The program used part of its operating budget to support film screenings and the book club. The program also co-sponsored a series of screenings of films about Joan of Arc in Spring 2012 in cooperation with the Krewe de Jeanne d’Arc to help celebrate the 600th anniversary of the birth of Joan of Arc. This was done in conjunction with the Film Buffs Program. Medieval Studies contributed significant operating budget funds to support this collaboration.

2012-2013 budget

Medieval Studies began the year with $1500.00 in operating funds. Sometime in November the operating budget was reduced by 10% to $1350.00. Expenditures were as follows:

Films: $422.48

This included pizza and refreshments for two on-campus screenings (Braveheart in October and Richard III in April) as well as tickets for students to attend a screening of The Secret of Kells at the Prytania Theatre as part of the Irish Film Festival that took place in September.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Film</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Secret of Kells</td>
<td>$76.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braveheart – food</td>
<td>$199.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard III – food</td>
<td>$146.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Book club: $380.34
This included the purchase of copies of books for Loyola participants in the Greater New Orleans Medieval Scholars (GNOMeS) book club and refreshments for the discussions. In the fall, the group discussed Max Harris’s *Sacred Folly: A New History of the Feast of Fools*; in the spring they read Emma Dillon’s *The Sense of Sound: Musical Meaning in France, 1260-1330*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Books or Food</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Sacred Folly</em> – books</td>
<td>$149.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Sacred Folly</em> – food</td>
<td>$65.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Sense of Sound</em> – books</td>
<td>$165.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lectures:** $266.86

Medieval Studies co-sponsored two talks in the spring: a Biever Lecture by Dr. Emma Lipton of the University of Missouri-Columbia on medieval drama and a talk by writer John Glassie on the 17th-century Jesuit Athanasius Kircher. (Both lectures were coordinated through Medieval Studies but received significant co-sponsorship from other units in the University.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emma Lipton – food</td>
<td>$204.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Glassie – miscellaneous</td>
<td>$62.36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Planning lunch:** $153.41

In May, the program sponsored a working lunch for members of the Classical Studies and Medieval Studies programs to discuss possible future collaborations.

**Miscellaneous:** $105.00
This covered the cost of 21 tickets @ $5.00 for students enrolled in ENGL A424, “Medieval Drama,” in Spring 2013 to attend a performance of Aristophanes’s Wealth on campus.

5.0 Assessment Report

Assessment Report/Program Outcomes

During the period 2004-2008, we examined one area of our program each year to determine what changes needed to be made to meet our learning objectives. We made determinations and changes on the basis of: the consensus of the faculty committee as demonstrated through minutes and votes; peer course observations and evaluations; discussions with students and suggestions submitted from students in writing; evaluations of student portfolios; developments in the discipline as appropriate for our department and institution. This method of program assessment proved to be only moderately successful, in large part because of the limited faculty buy-in. There is no incentive for faculty outside of the Steering Committee to participate in curricular assessment, and consequently our efforts to date have been partial at best. While the members of the Steering Committee have more than demonstrated their commitment to the program, all have obligations to their home colleges, departments, and other interdisciplinary programs that limit their availability for participation in fuller assessment. This has been especially the case in the last three years: Alice Clark and Mark Gossiaux were on year-long sabbatical leaves in 2010-2011; John Sebastian was on sabbatical in Spring 2012; and Sara Butler was on sabbatical during the 2012-2013 year. Additionally Dr. Gossiaux chairs both the philosophy department and the minor in Catholic Studies, while Dr. Butler oversees Legal Studies.

Historically there has been little or no institutional support for assessment activities within interdisciplinary programs, all of which results in much of the responsibility for assessment resting on the shoulders of the program’s Chair. Historically the Chair receives no stipendiary support or course release time and has no administrative assistance and no budget for assessment, nor does the current Chair possess any particular expertise or training in assessment. The result is that assessment within the program has been haphazard at best, despite recognition on the part of the faculty involved in the program of the value of assessment generally. For the same reasons, our learning outcomes have not been revised in several years, nor have we developed or evaluated any particular program goals. We are, however, in talks with members of the Classical Studies faculty about the possibility of a merger there in the hope that we can achieve greater stability and institutional support.

The best we can do under present circumstances is to continue to support students in the minor with rigorous courses, mentoring, and research opportunities in addition to providing programming. During the period 2011-2013, our programming included:

November 21, 2011

Medieval Studies Film Festival: Vision: From the Life of Hildegard von Bingen

March 1, 2012

Biever Lecture: Margot Fassler, “The Throne of Wisdom at Chartres Cathedral in the Twelfth Century” (co-sponsored by Medieval Studies)
April 12, 2012
Biever Lecture: Margaret McGlynn, “The End of an Era? The Rite of Sanctuary in the Reign of King Henry VIII” (co-sponsored by Medieval Studies)

May, 2012
Joan of Arc Film Festival (in collaboration with the Krewe de Jeanne d’Arc)

September 15, 2012
Medieval Studies Film Festival: The Secret of Kells (in conjunction with the New Orleans Irish Film Festival)

October 24, 2012
Medieval Studies Film Festival: Braveheart

March 15
Biever Lecture: Emma Lipton, “Legal Affect and Civic Drama in Medieval York (co-sponsored by Medieval Studies)

April 15
Medieval Studies Film Festival: Richard III

April 22
Lecture: John Glassie, “Athanasius Kircher, the Jesuit Who Knew Everything” (co-sponsored by Medieval Studies)
Realistically, we do not anticipate any major assessment activity for 2013-2014 in the absence of any institutional and administrative support for it.

6.0 Summary of Achievements

Summary of Achievements

Student Awards and Achievements

- Rebecca Hutchinson: The Dr. Julian N. Wasserman Outstanding Literature Major Award, Department of English (2013)
- Chad Landrum, The Loyola University History Department Award (2013)
- Chad Landrum, The Loyola University History Award for Outstanding History Senior Thesis (2013)
- Chad Landrum, The Constance Mui and John T. Sebastian Thesis Award, University Honors Program (2013)
- Allegra Tartaglia, The Thomas Farr Memorial Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement, Academic Resource Center (2013)
- Allegra Tartaglia, The Alumni Graduation Award, College of Humanities and Natural Sciences (2013)
- Allegra Hartmann, The Venerable Bede Award for Outstanding Medieval Studies Graduate, Medieval Studies Minor (2012)

Steering Committee Member Achievements

Publications


**Presentations**

Clark, Alice V. “Experiments of Style and Genre in Machaut’s Songs and Motets.” The First Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, St. Louis University, June 2013.

Clark, Alice V. “Carissimi’s Jephte and Jesuit Spirituality.” American Musicological Society Southern Chapter, Birmingham, February 2012.
Sebastian, John T. “Beyond the Pale: The Post-medieval Irish Fortunes of Early English Drama.” 38\textsuperscript{th} Annual Conference of the Southeastern Medieval Association, University of Southern Mississippi, October 18-20, 2012.


\textit{Awards}

Clark, Alice V. University Senate Award for Excellence in Advising, 2012.


\textit{Medieval Studies Supporting Documents}