

Annual Assessment Report

Academic Year 2012-2013

Brad Hall continued to serve as Department Head and Cacilda Rego served as Associate Department Head. The department graduated 96 students this year. This is 17 more students than the previous high of 89 students in 2009-2010. The department was able to hire two new tenure track faculty to begin in the Fall of 2013. The new Assistant Professors will be Ekaterina Arshavskaya in Intensive English and Lisa Guntzviller in Communication Studies.

A major focus of attention this year revolved around the creation of teaching portfolios. Five different workshops were organized, each consisting of small groups of faculty who wrote portfolios and then participated in the review of each other's portfolios. This created a self-reflective approach to teaching and an appreciation for what others in the department were doing. There were a number of curricular changes in the Spanish program and a long-term curriculum plan was also created for our Master's of Second Language Teaching program. We were able to strengthen our Arabic and Portuguese programs through a Fulbright grant that allowed us to bring in two Foreign Language Teaching Assistants. These allowed us to offer classes we could not have done otherwise, including offering lower division Portuguese for the first time in more than a decade.

Our faculty members continue with the tradition of excellence in all areas. The following were given departmental awards and, if noted, college ones as well: Researcher of the Year – Abdulkafi Albirini; Teacher of the Year – Doris McGonagill; Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year – Matthew Sanders (also won at the college level); Faculty Service Award – Karin deJonge-Kannan (also won at the college level); Undergraduate Adviser of the Year – David Richter; Lecturer of the Year – Robin Heaton; Adjunct Teacher of the Year – Kristi Krumnow; and Margaret Garr won the college award for Outstanding Employee of the Year.

Our Global Communication scholarship received a new name. It is now called the Ray and Andrea Coward Global Communication Scholarship. The department also produced a plan for linking the General Education program with each of our seven majors in a clear way and has produced a small pamphlet for each major that students and advisors can use for coordinating their planning efforts. The departmental Debate and Ethics Bowl teams continued to do very well in regional and national competition. Both teams participated in the national their respective national tournaments and this was the first year that the Ethics Bowl team qualified for the national tournament.