



DAVID L. HARMON
COLLEGIATE
PROFESSOR

“I believe it was my father’s service in WWII that instilled the sense of service above self in us,” stated Dr. David L. Harmon. Passionate about history and teaching military students, Dr. Harmon knows what it means to be a student while serving your country. He took UMUC courses as an airman in the U.S. Air Force while stationed in Bitburg, Germany. Even then, he always knew he wanted to give back to those who serve, which eventually led him to return to UMUC.

The youngest son of six children, Dr. Harmon was born and raised in Pennsylvania. After his military service, he enrolled in Penn State University in 1986 and explored five different majors until he eventually discovered his love for history. Because of his own experience, he often advises his students to sample a “buffet of courses” to see what they truly enjoy.

He began teaching history at Iowa State University while earning an MA and PhD. Dr. Harmon then served as associate professor at SUNY Finger Lakes Community College, teaching courses in Western civilization and U.S. history. There, he held numerous committee and leadership positions, and ultimately became chair of the Academic Senate.

Additionally, he worked with the Advanced Program (AP) College Board and at several other universities, expanding his teaching repertoire to subjects such as women’s history and African-American history. Throughout his career, Dr. Harmon has published numerous articles, received multiple awards, and was active in charitable organizations such as the American Red Cross and United Way.

Joining UMUC in 2014, he has since taught in Italy and Germany. Dr. Harmon describes his teaching style as “lecture with levity” and his goal is to make learning fun, while instilling in his students an understanding of the interconnectedness of the past to the present. He feels they appreciate the passion he holds for his discipline and for teaching. “My students are the best part of teaching,” he stated. “I love watching them learn and grow intellectually; they often come to share my passion for history.”