

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION**

Approved by the Regents

May 17, 2007

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION

University of Michigan-Flint
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English

Alicia Kent, assistant professor of English, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of English, with tenure, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2000	University of Wisconsin-Madison.
M.A.	1994	University of Wisconsin-Madison.
A.B.	1990	Stanford University

Professional Record:

2001 to present	Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Michigan-Flint
2000 to 2001	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Ethnic Studies, Bowling Green State University.

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Dr. Kent is an innovative and outstanding teacher. She pioneered online teaching in her department and has mentored all who have followed her in developing courses. She is a patient and constant advisor, has taught and developed a wide range of courses, and receives consistently outstanding teaching evaluations from her students. In addition she constantly strives for improvement of what is already excellent, by attending seminars, revising courses and thoughtfully questioning how she might more effectively engage students in the learning process.

Research – Dr. Kent is a promising scholar whose existing and forthcoming publications have earned significant praise for their innovative approach to American ethnic literature. Her book, *African, Native, and Jewish American Literature and the Reshaping of Modernism* will appear in the spring of 2007. She has three additional publications with a fourth accepted. She also has two reviews and nine conference papers since 2002. Her scholarship has been highly favorably evaluated by external reviewers for its freshness, clarity and convincing argumentation.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Kent, A. “‘2 Diff Kinds of Fruit’: A Tribute to Nellie McKay.” *African American Review*. 40.1 (Spring 2006): 42.

Kent, A. "Mourning Dove's *Cogewea*: Writing Her Way into Modernity." *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States* 24.3 (Fall 1999): 39-66. Reprinted in *Native American Writing: Critical Assessments*, edited by A. Robert Lee. Helm Informations Ltd. Forthcoming 2006.

Kent, A. "Native American Feminist Criticism in the Contact Zone." *Northwest Review* 35.3 (September 1997): 10-114.

Service – Dr. Kent has provided significant service at all possible levels. She is an active voice in all department deliberations; she has performed valuable service on the College's Curriculum Committee, served on University-wide committees, and made her presence known in the Flint community through tutoring and local presentations. Her manner makes her one of the individuals most likely to help guide a disparate group to consensus.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A):

"Dr. Kent's work addresses complex issues in a nuanced way, she is well-versed in both the literature and the criticism in the field, she has published in some of the most important journals in U.S. literature (including MELUS and African American Review), and she has an ambitious forthcoming book from Palgrave Macmillan."

Reviewer (B):

"By looking at modernism through the lenses of migration and geographic movement, however, Dr. Kent is able to stake out an important new area of ideological ground."

Reviewer (C):

"Dr. Kent is obviously a gifted [of her generation] scholar. Her range of critical theory is impressive; she is an articulate writer; and she is well read."

Reviewer (D):

"... Alicia Kent's most recent essays and her forthcoming book demonstrate a vibrant [of her generation] scholar asserting herself within the field of literary criticism with a fresh and intelligent approach. It doesn't hurt that her writing are articulate, thoughtful, and intellectually intriguing as well."

Reviewer (E):

"Dr. Kent's portfolio of scholarship is an impressive collection. As a scholar, she offers a rare combination of highly focused expertise and wide ranging application."

Reviewer (F):

"... her file shows her to be an already accomplished [of her generation] scholar with a very promising future. The work represented here is rich and highly readable. Imaginative, well-researched and original, Kent's scholarship makes a real contribution to the fields of American Modernist and Ethnic Studies. ... The body of work she's produced so far – and the speed with which she has progressed from published article to book manuscript – suggests that she has a

promising scholarly career ahead of her. ... Dr. Kent's book is certain to make a real impact on American literary studies. Indeed, reading the work in this file has complicated my own understanding of the nexus between Modernism and Ethnic Studies."

Summary of Recommendation:

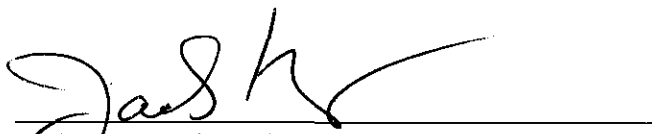
Alicia Kent is an imaginative and rigorous faculty member, a colleague fully engaged with her students, her institution, and her field alike. It is with great pleasure that we join with the Executive Committee's unanimous recommendation favoring tenure and promotion. We therefore enthusiastically recommend that Alicia Kent be promoted to the rank of associate professor of English, with tenure, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences.

Recommended by:



Christine Waters, Acting Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



Jack Kay, Acting Chancellor and
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

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