

May 17, 2007

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Tiya A. Miles, assistant professor of American culture and assistant professor of Afroamerican and African studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of American culture, with tenure, and associate professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2000	University of Minnesota
M.A.	1995	Emory University
B.A.	1992	Harvard University

Professional Record:

2003 – present	Assistant Professor, Program in American Culture and Center for Afroamerican and African Studies (CAAS), University of Michigan
2000 – 2002	Assistant Professor, Department of Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley.

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Miles is a committed and demanding teacher working in the difficult pedagogical field where African American and Native American history meet – a conjunction that can be charged with racial and ethnic tension. Qualitative evaluations from students express great enthusiasm for her teaching, and she has been awarded two teaching prizes at the undergraduate level. At the graduate level, Professor Miles is mentoring five graduate students, and has played a leading role on the graduate studies committee in the Program in American Culture. She is one of those rare individuals possessed with the talent and potential to become a truly masterful teacher, and she is well on her way to such mastery.

Research – Professor Miles is a crucially important figure in the emerging field of Afro-Native American Studies. This reputation has been solidified by her book, *Ties That Bind*, for which she won prestigious prizes from the American Studies Association and the Organization of American Historians. She also co-edited a collection of essays entitled *Crossing Waters, Crossing Worlds*, and published a number of essays and articles. In addition, she played a lead role in organizing a definitive conference, and was a weighty presence in the two anthologies that serve to define the field. Her historical research meets the very difficult archival challenges of researching African-American women under Cherokee slavery. At the same time, she displays a concern with literary form and expression that positions her squarely in the interdisciplinary world of American studies. Her work exhibits an ethical and moral focus that is characteristic of the best work in ethnic studies.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Crossing Waters, Crossing Worlds: The African Diaspora in Indian Country, co-edited with S. P. Holland, Durham: Duke University Press, 2006.

“Rethinking race and culture in the early South,” with C. Saunt, et al., *Ethnohistory*, 53(2) 2006.

Ties That Bind: The Story of an Afro-Cherokee Family in Slavery and Freedom, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005.

“Africans and Native Americans,” with B. Krauthamer, *A Companion to African-American History*, A. Hornsby Jr. (ed.), Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2005.

Service – Professor Miles has compiled an admirable record, including service on the CAAS curriculum committee and the Program in American Culture graduate studies committee. She coordinated the American Culture graduate brownbag workshop and played a major role in programmatic development for the Native American Studies Program, including a significant role in a major conference held in spring 2005. She serves as an important intellectual mentor for a number of colleagues and has been a particularly important force in graduate curriculum issues. Her colleagues hold her judgment and capability in the highest esteem, and look forward to seeing her play a more substantial leadership role in both units.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Miles stands at the top of a group of scholars [of her generation]...currently engaged in this field. She also, let me add, stands comfortably in the company of more senior scholars... There is something richly unconventional in Miles’ approach to scholarship, and she is absolutely unafraid to embrace that quality.”

Reviewer (B)

“...Miles is not only an active scholar in a fascinating field, but she is unusually well-recognized as a leader and innovator in it. ...I would urge you to look beyond Miles’s special interest in Native-African American relations and to see her value as a leader in an exciting new wave of scholarship in both African American and Native American studies—and by extension in American studies. Her leadership will inspire others to view social groups historically, to watch their innovations, and to measure the disruptions in their cultural traditions as well as the continuities.”

Reviewer (C)

“...she has achieved prominence not by elbowing out, but by joining hands with, others in this small and potentially contentious domain. ... She is already a respected teacher, the author of a prize-winning book, and a true catalyst in an important interdisciplinary field of study. ... Her work will continue to earn her respect in the related fields.”

Reviewer (D)

“In comparison to others who have been working in the same field for about the same length of time, Miles ranks near, if not at, the top. ... There is no question that Tiya Miles would receive promotion and tenure at my institution...”

Reviewer (E)

“She stands at the foremost edge of innovative scholarship on the intersecting histories of Native American and African American peoples in North America, and, as such, brings real distinction to the institution that hosts her. ...Miles’ work will refine and sharpen as she continues to grow

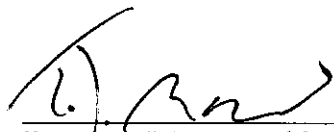
as a scholar. ... I expect her restlessness to spark new projects that should stretch the boundaries of our current understanding [of] race and gender in American slavery in startling ways.”

Reviewer (F)

“Her list of keynote addresses and invited lectures is exemplary for a scholar [of her generation]. ... She has recast discussions of Native, African American and Afro-Native lives, has centered women and gender in these multiracial talks, has reclaimed and reinvented family history, and has reached audiences in a range of disciplines and interdisciplines for all of these projects. ...her work in progress promises even greater achievements in future years. ... Professor Miles would certainly be promoted and tenured in the departments in which I teach...”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Miles is one of the acknowledged leaders in her field. She is expected to continue to produce outstanding research. Her contributions to the teaching and service missions of the College have been substantial. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Tiya A. Miles be promoted to the rank of associate professor of American culture, with tenure, and associate professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,
Professor of History, and Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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