

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION

The University of Michigan

School of Art and Design

A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

William Shaun Jackson, associate professor of art and design, with tenure, School of Art and Design, and associate professor of architecture, without tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, is recommended for promotion to professor of art and design, with tenure, School of Art and Design, and professor of architecture, without tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

Academic Degrees:

B.S. 2001 University of Michigan, Architecture
Ann Arbor, MI

Professional Record:

2006 – present Associate Professor of Art and Design, with tenure, School of Art and Design, and Associate Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning, without tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan

2001 – 2006 Associate Professor of Art and Design, with tenure, School of Art and Design, University of Michigan

1996 – 2001 Associate Professor of Art and Design, without tenure, School of Art and Design, University of Michigan

1994 – 1996 Adjunct Associate Professor, School of Art and Design, University of Michigan

1993 – 1994 Adjunct Assistant Professor, School of Art and Design, University of Michigan

1990 – present CEO and Design Director, Shaun Jackson Design, Inc., Ann Arbor, MI

1973 – 1990 Founder and CEO, Eclipse, Inc., Ann Arbor, MI

1970 – 1973 Designer, Moss Design, Inc., Ann Arbor, MI

Evaluation Summary:

Teaching – Shaun Jackson is a dedicated and thorough teacher of design who provides students with “real world” experiences and instills a strong sense of excellence in craftsmanship. He ties design history with contemporary expressions and business practices to help students develop their creative and aesthetic sensitivities in a range of design aspects pertaining to the object culture. His interdisciplinary approach to teaching has resulted in several popular cross-listed courses that focus on integrated product design and attract students with art-design, architecture, business, and engineering backgrounds. Professor Jackson goes to great lengths to find and create opportunities for broad exposure and dissemination of student work, and utilizes his relationships with design-driven industries to expand classroom experiences and ensure that projects are relevant and applicable to the marketplace. His commitment to bringing these valuable lessons to the art-design curriculum is appreciated by his students and his colleagues.

Creative Work / Research – Shaun Jackson is an internationally recognized designer-entrepreneur and creative director with an expansive array of products. His creative work ranges from

explorations of the impact of new technologies on workplace environments, to architectural solutions for large-scale displays, to carrying devices for personal electronics. His client list includes such national and international companies and organizations as GE Medical Systems, the American Red Cross, BMW Motorcycles, Yamaha, and LL Bean. In addition to his consulting practice, Professor Jackson designs, markets, and manufactures products under two independent brands – Shaun Jackson Design® and Higher Ground® – where he focuses on tools and technologies that facilitate the increasing “nomadic” nature of the workforce. Professor Jackson’s work as a design entrepreneur has been published in and reviewed by numerous major newspapers, journals, and broadcast media, including *Time Magazine*, *Wired*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, *Business Week*, *The Today Show* and the *New York Times*. He holds more than 30 U.S. and foreign patents, and he is a frequent guest speaker and lecturer on design strategies and entrepreneurship. His work is displayed and available through the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Significant Recent Works and Activities:

- 2007 “Designing a Business: The Transformation of an Idea into an Enterprise,” Presentation, International Congress of Societies of Industrial Design, San Francisco, CA
- 2006 Integrated WIFI locating device and carrying case for portable electronic devices (patent pending)
- 2006 Vivid I (Portable Cardiac Ultrasound Device), GE Medical Systems, Haifa, Israel. Design, development, and manufacture of two new components used by United States Olympic Team to monitor cardio fitness.
- 2006 Phase I design of case solution for M-400 Tablet PC, Toshiba Digital Products Division
- 2005 Chair, National Design Conference, Industrial Designers Society of America, Washington, DC
- 2005 Design research and product design, The Safeguard® child safety seat/restraint, IMMI Inc.
- 2004 Carrying case design, “Freedom to Learn” Collaboration, Hewlett Packard and State of Michigan 6th Grade Laptop Initiative
- 2004 Portable claims processing center, the American Red Cross

Service – Shaun Jackson a valued colleague and contributor to the mission of the University. He has worked to bridge the disciplines of architecture, business, engineering and art-design by developing interdisciplinary initiatives and faculty collaborations. He has chaired and actively participated in numerous committees, and for the past 10 year has served as the faculty advisor to the local student chapter of the Industrial Designers Society of America. He serves as a member of the University’s Conflict of Interest Committee and is a past board member of the Yaffee Center at the Ross School of Business. He maintains a high professional profile in the design community, and in 2005 chaired the national conference of the Industrial Designers Society of America.

External Reviewers

Reviewer A: “His breath of industry sponsored projects enables him to teach with experience in the field.”

Reviewer B: “He has had a profound effect on the design community and on the future of business. I strongly believe Professor Jackson will continue to have a positive and constructive

impact on the design industry over the next decade. I feel the University would be well served by promoting him to full professor.”

Reviewer C: “His ability to anticipate future user needs in new work environments is of paramount significance...Both in his practice and research Professor Jackson continues to push boundaries. This is a most valuable characteristic in a design educator and should be cherished.”

Reviewer D: “Professor Jackson has accumulated many years of professional and academic experience and is a disciplined professional, contributing to the research and advancement of the profession on an international scale...I can attest that it has been difficult to find qualified and competent design educators, even more difficult to find design educators with leadership skill such as Shaun Jackson’s. He has built a fine reputation in the design industry and academia, and his capital continues to grow.”

Reviewer E: “Shaun Jackson is a seasoned professor, consummate design professional and dedicated service worker for design. His creative work is on par with design professionals in the field and this is an accomplishment that is rare with industrial design professors...He is able to move between the professional world and the academic world and this is what makes his work special.”


Reviewer F: “Since industrial design is very much about connecting theory to practice and demonstrating how concepts can become successful products, Shaun is an exemplar in the field.”


Reviewer G: “ In all instances... centering on serving in responsible positions in these professional organizations... I was impressed with Shaun’s vision to address the direction of the foundation’s goals and programs in a manner that would relate to our various publics and enhance our already positive position in our industry.”

Reviewer H: “Your Design Department should consider itself lucky to have a person on staff that can bring practical design and business awareness to the students. His combination of business and design happens to be one of the hottest areas in design right now.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Shaun Jackson is an internationally renowned designer and educator with a strong practice of design entrepreneurship. We strongly recommend him for promotion to professor of art and design, with tenure, School of Art and Design, and professor of architecture, without tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.


Bryan Rogers
Dean, School of Art and Design


Douglas Kelbaugh, Dean
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

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