

May 15, 2008

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

Vicente M. Diaz, assistant professor of Asian/Pacific American studies, Program in American Culture, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of American culture, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1992	University of California, Santa Cruz
M.A.	1984	University of Hawai'i
B.A.	1982	University of Hawai'i

Professional Record:

2001 – present	Assistant Professor, Program in American Culture, University of Michigan
1997 – 2001	Associate Professor, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, University of Guam
1992 – 1997	Assistant Professor, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, University of Guam

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Diaz is a devoted instructor who has taught over twenty courses and has received funding from curricular development grants. Student evaluations testify to his excellence in small classroom settings. He currently chairs two dissertation committees in the Program of American Culture and has served on two others in American Culture and History. His devotion to undergraduates is evident in the fact that between fall term 2001 and winter term 2007 he supervised reading, field work, or video editing projects for thirteen undergraduates through the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, the Department of History, and American Culture.

Research – Professor Diaz has had great visibility as a leader in the growing field of native Pacific cultural studies. External reviewers predict that this status will be solidified by his forthcoming book, *Repositioning the Missionary: Rewriting the Histories of Colonialism, Native Catholicism, and Indigeneity in Guam* (forthcoming 2008). Professor Diaz combines careful historical research with difficult, honest, reflexive ethnography and close attention to critical theory. His work speaks directly to American studies, Native American studies, and Asian American studies as it investigates such cultural forms as Roman Catholicism, American patriotism, identification with the U.S. military, and the practice of American football as expressed by the native peoples of the Pacific.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Repositioning the Missionary: Rewriting the Histories of Colonialism, Native Catholicism, and Indigeneity in Guam, University of Hawai'i Pacific Islands Monograph Series, forthcoming 2008.

“To P or not to P: Marking the territory between Asian American and Pacific Islander studies,” *Journal of Asian American Studies*, 7(3), 2004, pp. 183-208.

“‘Fight boys till the last’: Football and the remasculinization of indigeneity in Guam,” in *Pacific Diaspora: Island Peoples in the United States and the Pacific*, P. Spickard, et al. (eds.), University of Hawai’i Press, 2002, pp. 167-194.

Service – Professor Diaz is an exemplary citizen who is willing to take on difficult assignments. At the departmental level, he served on the Executive Committee, the Media Committee, and chaired the Graduate Admissions Committee. He also helped design the new Asian/Pacific Islander American minor, evaluated manuscripts for the American Culture writing workshop, and served on the organizing committee and moderated the panels for Martin Luther King week. At the University level, he is collaborating with the Planetarium and has embarked on the formation of a Pacific studies initiative, akin to the Atlantic studies initiative.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“His leadership...in Pacific Studies circles is already well beyond that of an Assistant Professor. ... I have absolutely no doubt...that Professor Vicente Diaz will bring honor, insight, and intellectual attention to the University of Michigan for many years to come.”

Reviewer (B)

“...Vince is the single, most important driving force behind the current remapping of Pacific Studies. ... A number of his articles...are among the most cited writings in recent Pacific studies, and appear on numerous syllabi for Pacific and Cultural studies courses and seminars. ...I fully expect that his soon-to-be-published manuscript *Repositioning the Missionary* will prove a seminal book in the field of Pacific studies.”

Reviewer (C)

“...Dr. Diaz has already attained an influential international stature in transdisciplinary Pacific studies. ...his reputation as a stellar scholar in transdisciplinary Pacific studies is likely to grow for many years to come.”

Reviewer (D)

“No other institution... in the world comes close to matching the scholarly distinction found at Michigan in the study of Pacific Islander history and culture... Diaz plays an important role in that cohort...because his gifts as a cultural researcher, writer, analyst, and interpreter enable him to challenge existing paradigms successfully and generatively. ...Diaz would secure tenure and promotion for this file at any elite research university.”

Reviewer (E)

“He links the indigenous Pacific cultures with the indigenous cultures of North America through a paradigm that he titles ‘canoe cultures’. In doing so Professor Diaz has created a unique and innovative premise for understanding and articulating indigeneity... In the field [of] Pacific and Indigenous studies, Professor Diaz is regarded as a senior statesperson as well as a senior scholar.”

Reviewer (F)

"I would rank Vince on the top of the field in relationship to others who have been working in the same specialty for a similar period of time. ...[*Repositioning the Missionary*] will be an important resource that sets a high standard for indigenous scholars to follow. ...There is no doubt that Vicente M. Diaz would be successful in obtaining promotion and tenure at [my institution]..."

Reviewer (G)

"Would that every program in American studies were the beneficiary of such an expert. ... I plan to make *Repositioning the Missionary*...required reading in my course... You are very fortunate to have this extraordinary scholar on your faculty."

Reviewer (H)

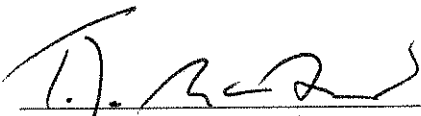
"My colleagues and I agreed that not only was Professor Diaz's area of scholarship critical to a well-balanced American culture program...but also that it was one of the things that makes the AC program at UM unique."

Reviewer (I)

"...he has established himself as one of the most important scholars of Pacific studies as well as an increasingly significant voice in the debates regarding the linkages between Asian and Asian American Studies. ... As a compelling scholarly work that engages so many topics...*Repositioning the Missionary* will be, I daresay, a landmark in Pacific Island scholarship. ... And it will, I suspect, attract a broad audience... Were he to come up for promotion and tenure in my department, he would easily get it, as he would in many other comparable institutions."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Diaz is an innovative scholar and teacher, who is willing to take on important service roles. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Vicente M. Diaz be promoted to the rank of associate professor of American culture, with tenure, 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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