

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

Approved by the Regents
May 15, 2008

Lorna G. Goodison, associate professor of English language and literature, with tenure, and associate professor of Afro-American and African studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of English language and literature, with tenure, and professor of Afro-American and African studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

1969 Diploma School of the Art Students' League
1968 Diploma Jamaican School of Art

Professional Record:

2002 – present Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature and
Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan,
2000 – 2001 Associate Professor, University of Toronto,
1994 – 1999 Visiting Professor, Department of English Language and Literature,
University of Michigan
1992 Visiting Professor, Department of English Language and Literature,
University of Michigan
1990 Visiting Professor, Women's Studies Program, University of Toronto
1979 – 1980 Jamaica School of Drama
1969 – 1970 Jamaica College

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Goodison's teaching has clustered largely around three successful courses: Introduction to Poetry, Introduction to Afro-Caribbean Studies, and Workshops in Writing Poetry for Master of Fine Arts' students. She has supervised a number of independent studies and has taught both the Writing of Poetry and the Dynamics of the Black Diaspora. Overall, student response to her teaching is favorable, with evaluations putting her very near or in the top quartile. Student comments make frequent reference to Professor Goodison's enthusiasm, compassion, insightfulness, and sense of humor. Written comments express widespread appreciation for the efforts of a committed, engaging, engaged, and highly effective teacher.

Research – Professor Goodison has published two collections of poetry: *Controlling the Silver* (2005), and *Goldengrove: New and Selected Poems* (2006). Her literary stature, already substantial, has been further attested by her inclusion in both *The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry*, the most prestigious canonizing collection in the field, and *The Longman Anthology of British Literature*. She is frequently invited to appear at major international literary festivals and venues: in England, Scotland, Canada, South Africa, the Netherlands, France, Trinidad, St. Lucia, Jamaica, Germany, Sweden, and elsewhere. In 2007, Professor Goodison also published a memoir, *From Harvey River*. We expect it to become a major presence in the field.

Recent and Significant Publications:

From Harvey River: A Memoir of My Mother and Her People, McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 2007 (U.S. edition to be published by Amistad, Harper Collins, 2008).

Goldengrove: New and Selected Poems, Carcanet Press, 2006.

Controlling the Silver, University of Illinois Press, 2005.

Service – Professor Goodison has regularly read admissions applications in poetry for the Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing and supervised numerous MFA theses. She has also has served on a third-year review committee, three search committees, and two promotion committees. She has been instrumental in facilitating the visits to campus of a number of major writers, including the Nobel Prize-winning poets Wole Soyinka and Derek Walcott.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“.. Goodison has created one of the most elegant and complex songs of place, history, memory, family and identity in a voice of lyrical power and prophetic weight. ... In the last ten years, she has been remarkably prolific and has effectively secured her authority as a major author by her prodigious productivity and by the unquestionable quality of her work.”

Reviewer (B)

“The poet who wrote *Tamarind Season* (1980) and *I Am Becoming My Mother* (1986) is the same poet who wrote *Travelling Mercies* (2001) and *Controlling the Silver* (2005), and she remains a reading\teaching poet, a lyricist whose images blend hard-edged realities with images of aesthetic epiphany and curing graciousness.”

Reviewer (C)

“...the various collections of poetry she has published over the years attest to a sustained flow of inspiration that continues to manifest itself in some of the most powerful verses to have come out of the English-speaking world. ... The frequency with which her poetry has been anthologized, and the numerous prizes she has received are clear indications of the wide recognition her work has received.”

Reviewer (D)

“...with the range of excellent work she has published and rendered in readings all over the English-speaking world, I write in celebration of the excellence she has managed to portray from the exercise of her creative imagination amply reinforced by a creative intellect which never fails to impress.”

Reviewer (E)

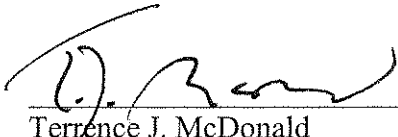
“...I was struck by the extraordinary music, powerful historical imagination, and emotional complexity of her work. ...she is the most widely respected and accomplished English-language Caribbean poet of her generation. ... Goodison’s poetry engages a rich field of sensual experience.”

Reviewer (F)

“As an essayist, anthologist, translator, editor and reviewer, Professor Goodison also commands great respect in [the] world of contemporary letters. Her critical writing remains lucid, attentive, clear in its judgments, and intelligent to a degree not often found in poets these days. ...it’s hard to think of any other poet with as broad a record of accomplishments, in as broad a range of genres.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Goodison has a strong international presence, is an excellent instructor, and a good citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Lorna G. Goodison be promoted to the rank of professor of English language and literature, with tenure, and professor of Afro-American 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

May 2008