

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan-Dearborn
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters
Department of Language, Culture and Communication

Approved by the Regents
May 14, 2009

William DeGenaro, assistant professor of composition and rhetoric, Department of Language, Culture and Communication, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of composition and rhetoric, with tenure, Department of Language, Culture and Communication, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 2002	University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona
M.A. 1998	Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio
B.A. 1996	University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit, Michigan

Professional Record:

2005 - present	Assistant Professor of Composition and Rhetoric, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2002 - 2005	Assistant Professor of English, Miami University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor DeGenaro is rated excellent in his teaching, as evidenced by a number of dimensions. Student teaching evaluations consistently indicate a very high level of satisfaction with his classes, with most responses in the two highest categories, "strongly agreed" and "agreed." Students especially appreciate Professor DeGenaro's genuine concern for their development as writers; his ability to create a supportive learning environment; his organization of the class structure; and his energy. Peer observations affirm that he has been able to create just the right balance between meeting the learning needs of the students and maintaining high expectations for student achievement. Peer evaluations also corroborate that Professor Genaro is an exceedingly thoughtful, engaging and energetic teacher. He has contributed centrally to the composition and rhetoric curriculum by teaching eight different courses and developing two new courses in the program. He has collaborated fruitfully with other programs in the college by teaching an honors tutorial, and by developing and teaching a course that contributes to the Civic Engagement initiative. The course materials he has provided, including a teaching statement, also attest to the very high quality of Professor DeGenaro's teaching.

Research: Professor DeGenaro is rated excellent in research. He is highly regarded among his peers in the field of rhetoric and composition studies. His publication record is exemplary in terms of both quality and quantity. His focus on the impact of socio-economic class on identity, community, and literacy has led to a coherent body of scholarship and a high level of productivity. His contributions in this area are considered by his peers to be necessary, timely and highly insightful. His second emphasis is on the history of community colleges and regional campuses, especially as they touch on writing instruction. In this area, too, his work is admired by his peers for the important contributions it makes and the critical insights it offers. He has published in venues of high repute, which has led to his high standing in the field. His steady

productivity, the coherence of his research agenda, and his commitments, promise a rich and robust research career. Professor DeGenaro provides a shining example of the “teacher scholar,” whose scholarship integrally informs his classroom practice. External reviewers consider him to be at the top of his field in terms of the substance of his work and the quality of the venues in which he has published.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- DeGenaro, William, ed. *Who Says? Working-Class Rhetoric, Class Consciousness, and Community*. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2007).
- DeGenaro, William. “Legitimizing Corporate Education: Two-Year College Mission Statements.” *The International Journal of Critical Pedagogy*, Accepted for publication.
- DeGenaro, William. “Eight Mile and Woodward: Intersections of Difference and the Rhetoric of Detroit.” *jac: A Journal of Composition Theory* 27.1-2: 135-161, 2007.
- DeGenaro, William. ‘The New Deal’: Burkean Identification and Working-Poetics.” *Rhetoric Review* 26.4: 385-404, 2007.
- DeGenaro, William. “Us and Them: Joyce Carol Oates and the Stories Students Tell.” *Teaching English in the Two-Year College* 34.4: 380-393, 2007.
- DeGenaro, William. “Why Basic Writing Professionals on Regional Campuses Need to Know Their Histories.” *Open Words* 1.1: 54-68, 2006.
- DeGenaro, William. “Community Colleges, the Media, and the Rhetoric of Inevitability.” *Community College Journal of Research and Practice* 30.7: 529-545, 2006.
- DeGenaro, William. “William Rainey Harper and the Ideology of Service at Junior Colleges.” In *Local Histories: Reading the Archives of Composition*. Ed. Patricia Donahue and Gretchen Flesher Moon. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2007), 181-198.

Service: Professor DeGenaro is rated excellent in his service to the discipline, department, college and campus. There are strong connections between his service, scholarship and teaching in ways that enhance each of them. He has participated in the Civic Engagement Faculty Fellows Program. He has also participated in significant curriculum development in the first-year Writing Program. This has demonstrated compellingly how innovative and rigorous pedagogy such as academic service-learning can also serve the community and support the University’s mission. On the college level he has worked with students and faculty in the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program to clarify expectations about interdisciplinary writing on the graduate level. Professor DeGenaro’s service to the profession is also impressive, and includes chairing the Nominating Committee for the discipline’s national organization, the Conference on College Composition and Communication.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “DeGenaro’s focus on this topic [the impact of socio-economic class on identity, community, and literacy] is admirable; his scholarly achievements in studying it are excellent.”

Reviewer B: “Given the substance of this collection [*Who Says? Working-Class Consciousness and Community*], the standing that such a collection places him in the field of working-class rhetorics, and the quality of DeGenaro’s journal articles, I would fully expect him to continue actively publishing in the field.”

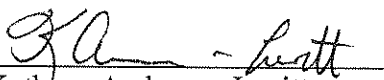
Reviewer C: “Regarding Dr. DeGenaro’s standing in relation to his peers, he has in my estimation published more, and in better venues, than I would expect of most of those in his field at his career stage and with his teaching load.”

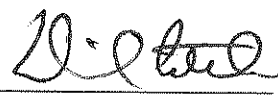
Reviewer D: “I must say, I enjoyed reading the materials sent to me, for the themes I mentioned weave nicely through the work without the work being repetitive – each piece is a separate intellectual endeavor. And the range and sensibility both engage. Professor DeGenaro is a good thinker and writer and takes on interesting topics.”

Reviewer E: “I find Professor DeGenaro an incredibly productive scholar, who, while teaching a standard load of three courses per semester, has managed to research, write and publish much fine work. He truly fits the “teacher-scholar” model of the University of Michigan-Dearborn.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor DeGenaro is a highly regarded scholar in the field of composition and rhetoric, having made a mark with both the high quality and quantity of his work. He is also a highly skilled educator, truly exemplifying the “teacher-scholar” model. In addition, he has proven himself to be a most valuable colleague, supporting initiatives at the discipline, department, college and campus levels with energy and enthusiasm. We are very pleased to recommend, with strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, William DeGenaro for promotion to associate professor of composition and rhetoric, with tenure, Department of Language, Culture and Communication, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.


Kathryn Anderson-Levitt
Dean
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters


Daniel Little
Chancellor
University of Michigan-Dearborn

May 2009