

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

Approved by the Regents
May 20, 2010

Carolyn W. Kraus, associate professor of communications and composition, with tenure, Department of Language, Culture, and Communication, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to professor of communications and composition, with tenure, Department of Language, Culture, and Communication, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees

Ph.D. 1999	University of Michigan, Interdisciplinary Program in English and Education, Ann Arbor
M.A. 1973	University of California, Comparative Literature, Berkeley
B. A. 1966	Occidental College, English and French, Glendale, CA

Professional Record

2004 – Present	Associate Professor (with tenure), Department of Language, Culture, and Communication, University of Michigan-Dearborn
1999 – 2004	Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities, University of Michigan-Dearborn
1974 – 1999	Lecturer, Department of Humanities, University of Michigan-Dearborn
1984 – 1988	Contributing Editor, Columnist, <i>Metropolitan Detroit</i>
1981 – 1983	Contributing Editor, Columnist, <i>Monthly Detroit</i>

Summary of Evaluation

Teaching: Professor Kraus' teaching is rated excellent. Her thoughtful teaching narrative, well-designed course materials for both undergraduate and graduate courses, and outstanding student evaluations attest to the sound pedagogical structure of her courses, her dedication, and the effectiveness of her teaching. In addition, she has supervised nine theses in the Master of Arts in the Liberal Studies Program. Professor Kraus has also worked on significant curriculum development, successfully shepherding through the reorganization of the Journalism and Screen Studies (JASS) curriculum in designing and introducing new courses. In her administrative-teaching position as director of the Internship Program, she has substantially increased student participation and the academic component of the course. Several of her publications address pedagogical issues or are excellent examples of creative nonfiction, and numerous reviewers noted that they plan to use her publications in their teaching. Moreover, her teaching has extended beyond the walls of the university and the boundaries of the United States. She has taught at Camp Brighton in 2004, at the Scott Correctional Facility in 2005-2006, and in South Africa in Winter 2005 as part of a Fulbright Program.

Research: Professor Kraus' research is judged excellent; her publications both complement and have grown out of her teaching. As a literary journalist, she has published in the area of literary non-fiction and on the pedagogy of teaching literary non-fiction writing. She has also had a piece accepted on film. Her works are poignant, self-reflective, humorous, and always involve larger ethical issues or philosophical questions. While much of her writing may not be

considered traditional research by some in the academy, it entails a great deal of research. As a writer of creative non-fiction, she is an outstanding role model for her students. She has built on an already impressive publication record, and has established a rare range. Moreover, she has demonstrated evidence of an established reputation nationally and internationally. The Committee has no doubt that Professor Kraus will continue to be a prolific and profound writer. Her publications dovetail with the mission of the Journalism and Screen Studies Program. Her work exemplifies the discipline's mission to explore the forms, techniques, and technologies of storytelling used both to inform and entertain. Moreover, she continually considers the moral aspect of writing.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Kraus, C., "A Parliament of Bastards," *The Antioch Review*, Vol. 63, No.1, Winter 2005, pg. 40-89.

Kraus, C., "Big," *Living Forge Review*, Vol.1, No. 2, Fall 2005, pg. 53-59.

Kraus, C., "Proof of Life: Memoir, Truth, and Documentary Evidence," *Biography*, Spring 2008, pg.156-182.

Kraus, C., "Recycling Detroit," *Journal of Ecocriticism*, Winter 2009, pg. 71-79.

Kraus, C., "The Memory Bird," *Alaska Quarterly Review*, Vol. 26, No. 3, Fall 2009, pg. 48-71.

Kraus, C., "Running in Place," *Chicago Quarterly Review*, Vol.12, 2009, pg. 93-103.

Kraus, C., "The Journalist and the Exorcist: Perils of Reporting on the Margin," *English Language Notes*, Vol. 47, No. 2, Fall 2009, pg.167-180.

Kraus, C., "A Parallel Universe," *Women's Studies Quarterly*, Winter 2010, pg. 237-251.

Service: Professor Kraus' service is rated excellent. She has been active in the discipline, department, college, and university. For example, she has served as Discipline Representative, Chair of the Campus Grants Committee, and liaison with the College of Engineering and Computer Science on the development of a graduate program in Multimedia Studies, to name a few. Moreover, her teaching in the prison system and the mentoring of a young woman transitioning from prison life to life as a student is evidence of her work outside the walls of the university.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Professor Kraus has produced an impressive number of articles [...]. Kraus also shows an understanding of the moral obligations of nonfiction, the continual dance between capturing a subject in the round and showing respect for the person's flaws and shortcomings. Professor Kraus has shown herself to be a prolific scholar and essayist on an admirable range of subjects in an equally generous array of venues."

Reviewer B: "Dr. Kraus' professional productivity has clearly established her as an important influence both on composition and on its pedagogy. To have had her writing appear in such publications as *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Antioch Review*, and *Women's Studies Quarterly*—just to name a few—attests to that fact. These publications, because of the intense competition for being included there, assure not only that her work is of the highest quality, but that it will have an impact on a wide national and international readership."

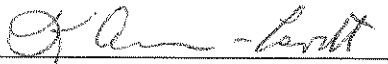
Reviewer C: "I was impressed by Professor Kraus's [sic] breadth and depth of scholarship—both in more traditional research and in her practice as a literary journalist. I would rate Professor Kraus's [sic] scholarly and creative activity as equal to others up for Full Professor at institutions where teaching is valued equally to research."

Reviewer D: "In my opinion, it is outstanding work, some of the finest essays I have read in a long, long time. Her prose is riveting, witty, deeply moving. ... I value the experience of being in the presence, so to speak, of a creative mind whose curiosity is blended with serious empathy. The range of her interests is wide; her politics, in my opinion, are astute. I am also impressed by the range and quality of the journals and publications in which she appears. Kraus can move from scholarly ... to fine film criticism."

Reviewer E: "First, these pieces demonstrate real skill in storytelling, reporting, crafting an argument. Second, she seems to be centrally located in the community that describes its work as creative nonfiction or the personal essay. She has the ability to write a quality scholarly article, but she clearly prefers memoir and personal essay grounded in field reporting. She is a fine writer. In my opinion, that means her peer group is composed of professional writers who are teaching at American universities in the discipline of creative nonfiction or literary journalism. Writers of her caliber are in desperately short supply in academe."

Summary of Recommendation

Professor Kraus is a prolific scholar, an engaged teacher, and a vital citizen within the university community. In her work as a teacher and administrator, she reaches out to the Metropolitan Detroit community, provides students with experiential learning, which benefits both students and the community. In her creative non-fiction, she unearths fascinating narratives in the area. With her involvement in the creation and development of the Journalism and Screen Studies discipline and her collaboration with the College of Engineering and Computer Science on program development, she has extended her expertise as a storyteller. We are very pleased to recommend, with strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Carolyn W. Kraus for promotion to professor of communications and composition, with tenure, Department of Language, Culture and Communication, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.



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



Daniel Little
Chancellor
University of Michigan-Dearborn

May 2010