

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan-Dearborn
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters
Department of Behavioral Sciences

Approved by the Regents
May 20, 2010

Jane P. Sheldon, associate professor of psychology, with tenure, Department of Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to professor of psychology, with tenure, Department of Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees

Ph.D.	1992	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Developmental Psychology
M.A.	1987	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Developmental Psychology
B.A.	1983	Pomona College, Psychology

Professional Record

2004 – Present	Associate Professor (with tenure), Department of Behavioral Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn
1996 – 2004	Assistant Professor (without tenure), Department of Behavioral Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn
1995 – 1996	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Behavioral Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn
1993 – 1995	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Ferrum College

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Sheldon's teaching is rated excellent. She is our department's most recent recipient of the campus Distinguished Teaching Award (2004). More recently her teaching won national recognition when she was awarded the prestigious Robert S. Daniel Teaching Excellence Award from the American Psychological Association. No one in our department has ever received an award of this stature from his/her professional organization. A perusal of Professor Sheldon's teaching evaluations provides insights into her strengths. On the two summary items on the department's teaching evaluation form ("Compared to other instructors you have taken, how would you evaluate this instructor?" and "Compared with other courses you have taken, how would you evaluate this course?" where 5= excellent) she consistently averages at or above 4.7. The individual items average above 4.7 as well, and they range over a variety of class sizes and course contents. For example, in the Winter 2008 term her instructor rating averages for both Psychology 170 and Psychology 407 were a perfect 5.0. Across a wide swath of courses her students give her very high marks for enthusiasm, accepting questions in class, being available outside of class, setting high standards for achievement, and improving their critical thinking skills. Her colleagues are well aware of the significant amount of time she spends on evaluating students' written work—and students are highly appreciative of her dedication in this regard. She actively encourages her students to do research, and she nurtures the best of the projects toward publication.

Research: Professor Sheldon's research is rated excellent. Since her promotion to associate professor five years ago in 2004 she has seven publications in peer-reviewed journals. In the last

six years she has published eleven. Her publication stream is consistent and impressive: two in 2009, two in 2007, two in 2006, one in 2005, and four in 2004. The reviewers rated Professor Sheldon's publication record as very good and her contribution to the profession as very strong. She produces high quality work that has made, and will continue to make, an impact on a number of fields including social, developmental, and educational psychology as well as to women's studies and genetics. Several reviewers spoke well of her 2009 publication in a highly respected APA journal, *Review of General Psychology*. What the reviewers and the department committee found especially impressive about Professor Sheldon's publication record was the success she has had in researching different topics, using different methodologies, and involving diverse co-authors. There is general agreement that she is a careful and creative writer who works well with others of various backgrounds and training.

Recent and Significant Publications

- Jayaratne, T. E., Gelman, S., Feldbaum, M., Sheldon, J. P., Petty, E. M., & Kardia, S. L. R., "The perennial debate: Nature, nurture, or choice? Black and White Americans' explanations for individual differences," *Review of General Psychology*, 13(1), 24-33 (2009).
- Habhab, S., Sheldon, J. P., & Loeb, R. C., "The relationship between stress, dietary restraint, and food preferences in women," *Appetite*, 52, 437-444 (2009).
- Sheldon, J. P., Jayaratne, T. E., & Petty, E. M., "White Americans' genetic explanations for a perceived race difference in athleticism: The relation to prejudice toward and stereotyping of Blacks," *Athletic Insight*, 9(3), 31-56 (2007).
- Sheldon, J. P., Pfeffer, C., Jayaratne, T. E., Feldbaum, M., & Petty, E. M., "Beliefs about the etiology of homosexuality and about the ramifications of discovering its possible genetic origin," *Journal of Homosexuality*, 52(3/4), 111-150 (2007).
- Sheldon, J. P., Jayaratne, T. E., Feldbaum, M. B., DiNardo, C. D., & Petty, E. M., "Applications and implications of advances in human genetics: Perspectives from a group of Black Americans," *Community Genetics*, 10(2), 1-11 (2006).
- Jayaratne, T. E., Ybarra, O., Sheldon, J. P., Feldbaum, M., Brown, T. N., Pfeffer, C., & Petty, E. M., "White Americans' genetic lay theories of race differences and sexual orientation: Their relationship with prejudice toward Blacks, and gay men and lesbians," *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations: Special Issue: Lay Theories and Intergroup Relations*, 9(2), 77-94 (2006).
- Sheldon, J. P., & Eccles, J. S., "Physical and psychological predictors of perceived ability in adult male and female tennis players," *Journal of Applied Sport Psychology*, 17(1), 48-63 (2005).

Service: Professor Sheldon's service contributions are rated significantly capable. She has served the department and campus capably by serving on the Academic Standards Committee, CASL Curriculum Committee, and chairing a department search committee recently. Her service record to the profession is notable. She currently serves on three committees of the American Psychological Association. Additionally, she has been a consulting editor for the last three years of *Teaching of Psychology*. Though the external reviewers were asked to evaluate her research, several of them praised her service to the profession. They remarked that it was commendable that she served as a consultant of an APA journal at this stage of her career. They also praised her extensive work with the Society for the Teaching of Psychology.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Overall, the quality of Dr. Sheldon's published research is high, and the focus important....I think [her] publication record is very good."

Reviewer B: "I see her research on sports and stress as good, and her research on beliefs about group differences as the most intriguing, with both theoretical and applied promise."

Reviewer C: "Dr. Sheldon is a productive teacher-scholar...the Review of General Psychology is a first-rate outlet, and Appetite, the Journal of Adolescence, and the Journal of Adolescent Health all have solid reputations. [She] is a serious and productive teacher scholar, whose work is of excellent quality and sure already to have made (as well as to make future) solid contributions to the fields of social, developmental, and educational psychology, as well as to women's studies and genetics."

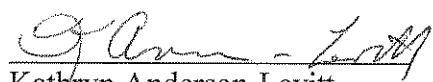
Reviewer D: "I believe that her recent articles in the Review of General Psychology, the Journal of Homosexuality, and Group Processes and Intergroup Relations are outstanding and will be widely cited by scholars in the area of stereotyping and prejudice....[Her] record is indeed impressive for someone at her stage in her career...."

Reviewer E: "Within the scope of Dr. Sheldon's primary line of research, her publication [in Review of General Psychology] is among her most significant contribution...."

Reviewer F: "Although the full impact of [her recent work] has yet to be realized (because it is newly published) there is no doubt but that it is innovative and promising. In sum, every indication is that Dr. Sheldon will continue to be involved and productive with this line of research well past her promotion to Professor."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Sheldon is a well-regarded scholar who consistently produces innovative journal articles that involve different methodologies, theoretical approaches, and subject matter. She is an excellent teacher with an established national reputation. Her service to the American Psychological Association is widely praised by those with whom she has worked. We are pleased to recommend, with the strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Jane P. Sheldon for promotion to professor of psychology, with tenure, Department of Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.



Kathryn Anderson-Levitt
Dean

College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters



Daniel Little
Chancellor
University of Michigan-Dearborn

May 2010