

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

Laura M. MacLatchy, associate professor of anthropology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of anthropology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts [Also being promoted to Research Scientist, Museum of Paleontology].

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1995	Harvard University
B.S.	1988	Acadia University

Professional Record:

2004 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, and Associate Research Scientist, Museum of Paleontology, University of Michigan
1997 – 2004	Assistant Professor, Boston University
1995 – 1997	Post-doctoral Associate, SUNY Stony Brook

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor MacLatchy is a dedicated teacher, who excels at undergraduate and graduate levels. She is committed to educating students inside and outside the discipline, as shown by her teaching a large survey course on biological anthropology for undergraduates and the department's required core course on biological anthropology for graduate students. She also teaches a broad array of undergraduate students in classes on human and primate anatomy, and seminars on ape and human evolution for graduate students specializing in the field. Outside of the classroom, she has taken the lead to reform the curriculum in the evolutionary anthropology concentration. Professor MacLatchy is a capable and successful mentor to students; she has supervised three undergraduate honors theses and served on the Ph.D. thesis committees of seven students.

Research – Professor MacLatchy is an internationally recognized scholar, who continues to contribute in important ways to our understanding of primate and human evolution. Her research record is distinguished by remarkable breadth and includes the singular accomplishment of pivotal fossil discoveries and descriptions of entirely new species in the Miocene record. She has published in some of the most highly regarded peer-reviewed journals of her specialization and in peer-reviewed edited volumes. Her 2010 book chapter on Hominids is a monograph length synthesis of the present state of our knowledge about the evolution of early humans in Africa. Her ongoing paleontological fieldwork and behavioral studies of primate locomotion promise to provide new insights into our evolutionary past.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“The Hominins In,” with J. DeSilva, et al., in Cenozoic Mammals of Africa, L. Werdelin and W. Sanders (eds.), University of California Press, 2010, pp. 471-540.

“New Oligocene primate from Saudi Arabia and divergence of apes and Old World monkeys,” with I. Zalmout, et al., *Nature*, 466, 2010, pp. 360-364.

“A fossil hominoid proximal femur from Kikorongo Crater, southwestern Uganda,” with J. DeSilva and E. Shoreman, *Journal of Human Evolution*, 50, 2006, pp. 687-695.

“A new pliopithecoid genus from the early Miocene of Uganda,” with J. Rosse, *Journal of Human Evolution*, 50, 2006, pp. 568-586.

Service – Professor MacLatchy has taken on important administrative roles in the Department of Anthropology by acting as subfield head of biological anthropology and serving on important committees. She has also served as associate editor of two leading journals in her field and played an active role in the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Dr. Laura MacLatchy is a well known collector of very important Hominoid fossil material... Her capacities to be a very innovative leader both as collector and analyst are well known in our international community.”

Reviewer (B)

“Dr. MacLatchy is a major figure in the field of primate evolution, with a well-deserved international reputation in the areas of ape evolution and African paleontology in general. She is remarkable in having conducted very successful paleontological research in Uganda for over fifteen years despite extremely difficult conditions...”

Reviewer (C)

“Dr[.] MacLatchy is a very good scientist, carrying out very exciting research in a number of cutting-edge fields, at a high level of quality, and is highly regarded by her peers both nationally and internationally. She does this better than most of her colleagues. I anticipate that she will continue on this trajectory...”

Reviewer (D)

“MacLatchy’s research program is important because it not only brings astute functional analysis to newly discovered fossil material, but has advanced our appreciation of Miocene faunas, their biochronology and the links between early Neogene mammals and their modern representatives. ... MacLatchy has clearly established herself as a leader in the challenging arena that explores paleoprimatology and the earliest evidence of human evolution.”

Reviewer (E)

“Her many interests, her laboratory research and her field research all represent significant accomplishments... Laura’s publications...are impressive and I would rank them highly as scholarly works that have certainly increased her visibility and the respect given her by her peers.”

Reviewer (F)

“...a significant part of her scholarly accomplishment has been developing and maintaining two very different field programs (paleontological and behavioral) on two different continents. She is increasingly recognized for both...”

Reviewer (G)

“In a field where narrow specialization is not infrequent, her combination of the analysis of fossil taxa, and functional morphological and positional behavioral investigation of extant taxa is exemplary. This combination of approaches allows her to reach a much more comprehensive assessment of the significance of her various investigations than otherwise would be possible.”

Reviewer (H)

“On the national and international level, Laura’s name is most certainly recognized, and there is a reason why she is asked to participate in describing and interpreting important new fossil finds. She has made significant contributions to the field, and I expect her to do so in the future.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor MacLatchy has made seminal discoveries in her field. She is an outstanding teacher and she has assumed important administrative roles in her department. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Laura M. MacLatchy be promoted to the rank of professor of anthropology, 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

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