

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

Approved by the
Regents
May 15, 2014

Hani J. Bawardi, assistant professor of history, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of history, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 2009 Wayne State University, History
M.A. 1996 University of Michigan, Flint, American Culture
B.A. 1991 University of Michigan, Flint, Political Science

Professional Record:

2009 – present Assistant Professor of History, Department of Social Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2008 – 2009 Instructor of History, Department of Social Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2006 – 2008 Research Investigator, Center for Arab American Studies, University of Michigan-Dearborn

Teaching: Professor Bawardi is rated significantly capable in teaching. He is a key member of the history discipline as well as the Arab-American studies program, teaching an impressive variety of essential courses. These include the American Past II, Islamic Civilization, Emergence of Modern America, Immigration in American History, and Michigan History as well as interdisciplinary courses that he developed or re-crafted: Arab American Identities, Arab Americans Since 1890, and a first year seminar, “The World in a Grain of Sand.”

Professor Bawardi is a dedicated teacher of history. Students greatly appreciate his in-depth knowledge of the course material and his high standards for student achievement. In the last academic year he averaged 4.5 in the category instructor evaluation, with his Arab American history courses typically out-rating his traditional American history courses. An October 2013 peer review of his teaching was very positive, and made particular note of progress achieved in communicating course materials to students.

Research: Professor Bawardi is rated excellent in research. His book, The Making of Arab Americans, which will be published by the University of Texas Press this winter, offers a new and compelling view of the political history of Arab Americans. Until recently historians have argued that prior to the 1967 Arab Israeli war, Arabs in America showed little interest in politics. Professor Bawardi effectively challenges this claim, demonstrating that they were political activists in the period 1915 to 1950. Among his chief contributions is tracing how Arab American political activism helped crystallize Arab American identity. His recently published conference paper adds biographical detail to the early history of Arab immigrant politics.

What makes Professor Bawardi's research also impressive is the brilliance of his archival work, without which the book (and others like it in the future) could not have been published. Professor Bawardi has discovered and archived important private correspondence, and unpublished manuscripts, including formal political documents and personal papers belonging to some early Arab American leaders. His knowledge of Arabic made it possible for him to read texts, including scores of Arabic newspapers, hitherto neglected by historians. Local recognition of the importance of his archival work came in Spring 2013, when his Syria to Michigan Archival Exhibit was displayed at the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Bawardi, Hani J. The Making of Arab Americans: From Syrian Nationalism to U.S. Citizenship. University of Texas Press, in press.
- Bawardi, Hani J. "From Nazareth to Flint, Michigan: The Importance of Amin Farah and Immigrant Historiography," *Nazareth Academic Studies* No. 2 (2013), pp. 125-154.
- Bawardi, Hani J. "Foreword," *Through Another's Eyes: Emerging Perspectives on Arab Americans*, Resource for Kalamazoo College. (New York: The American Social History Project, 2011).

Service: Professor Bawardi is rated significantly capable in service. He has a substantial list of service contributions. He is the faculty advisor for Phi Alpha Theta and was elected to the college curriculum committee in 2013. He is deeply committed to the Center for Arab American Studies, including helping to draft a successful Arab-American Studies Minor. He chairs the Diversity Enhancement Advisory Committee. In the community, his contributions are valuable and numerous; most significant is his work on developing Arab-American Studies curriculum with public schools in Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Flint.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "'The Making of Arab Americans' will be the first serious history of the political activism of Arabic-speaking immigrants from Greater Syria in the first half of the twentieth century... I am confident that Professor Bawardi's first book will bring about a paradigm change in Arab American research and encourage a new historiography... Bawardi is a pioneer in Arab American political history and I anticipate many volumes penned by him will be published in the years to come."

Reviewer B: "Dr. Bawardi discusses the political careers and activities of a variety of influential early Arab Americans...in some cases for the first time in terms of historical scholarship. He has been able to reconstruct the early political history thanks to his discovery and even acquisition of important private correspondence and unpublished manuscripts belonging to some early Arab American leaders and from his close reading of the early twentieth-century American press. ... [Once his] manuscript is published it will oblige scholars to acknowledge his important contributions to the writing of early Arab American political history... To conclude, Dr. Bawardi has made a significant contribution to scholarship on Arab American political life and institutions before 1950."

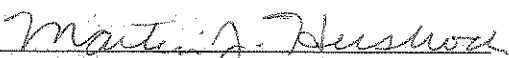
Reviewer C: "This MS seems to be a considerable achievement on several levels... Professor Bawardi's book is...of significance as he charts the evolution of a group of immigrants to the


United States to whose papers he had privileged access, and which he has now catalogued and made available to other researchers... Bawardi posits a theory regarding the political activism of leading elements of the Arab-American community starting in the pre-World War I period and continuing until the present day that is at odds with the conventional depiction of them as largely apolitical until recent decades... This too is a worthy contribution, as bodies such as the Arab National League and the Institute of Arab American Affairs have not previously been the subjects of serious historical research... Bawardi's findings will undoubtedly spur further research."

Reviewer D: "Dr. Bawardi's research is important because it is playing an important role in correcting [the] picture [of pre-1967 Arab Americans as apolitical] and giving back to a growing ethnic community with the U.S. a much more detailed and accurate picture of its historical roots... Unlike many scholars who have touched on this area, Professor Bawardi does have fluent command of Arabic and so has access to the primarily Arabic language documentation for the origins and early years of the Arab community in the United States. Also, his active investigations have uncovered many unknown or ignored early documents. He has done a first rate job in translating these documents into English, and integrating them into his book and scholarly articles."

Reviewer E: "By connecting the immigrants to Arab cultural and political awareness through their writings and attempts at political organization, Bawardi has skillfully placed these organizations in historical context, while he succeeded at the same time at demonstrating that Arab national political awareness accompanied the immigrants from the start... This is an original narrative... Dr. Bawardi's research work is very high quality and deserves to be disseminated in scholarly publications. His monograph, accepted for publication by the reputable University of Texas Press, is a serious inquiry which reflects high-developed research skills and sound expertise in Arab American and modern Middle Eastern studies... I would rank Dr. Bawardi's achievement very highly."

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Bawardi is a valued member of the Department of Social Sciences. He continues to strive for excellence and is making steady progress toward high quality classroom performance. Professor Bawardi's ground-breaking book on Arab Americans is in the final stages of production. Judging by our evaluation of his book, his archival work, and the strong letters from his external reviewers, we consider him an excellent scholar. Finally, he has a strong service record that, along with his research, embodies the metropolitan vision of our campus. We are very pleased to recommend, with strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters's Executive Committee, Hani J. Bawardi for promotion to associate professor of history, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.


Martin J. Hershock, Dean
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters


Daniel Little, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Dearborn

May 2014