

Approved by the
Regents
May 15, 2014

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
University of Michigan-Flint
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English

James R. Schirmer, assistant professor of English, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of English, with tenure, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2008	Bowling Green State University, Ohio
M.A.	2004	Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, Texas
B.A.	2000	Hope College, Holland, Michigan

Professional Record:

2008 – Present	Assistant Professor of English, University of Michigan-Flint
2004 – 2008	Graduate Instructor, Bowling Green State University
2003 – 2004	Graduate Instructor, Texas A&M - Corpus Christi

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Schirmer is an engaged teacher who involves his students in careful analysis and understanding of the media environment in which they exist. His methods utilize cutting edge technology to reach students and help them develop meaningful skills in written communication. His teaching is viewed positively by students and colleagues. The practice of writing is the focus of all of the teaching in which Professor Schirmer is involved. This preparation will serve the University of Michigan-Flint students well as they enter the employment market and need to interact using the most recent technology. This is an important development as the society and the media utilized for communication has changed dramatically in recent years.

Research – Professor Schirmer has produced a significant set of publications in peer reviewed journals and edited volumes addressing writing in the new media environment. He has contributed papers to well respected conferences and has developed a considerable following in the academic niche of social media. He has developed an active research agenda that will likely lead to even greater visibility in the scholarship of alternative media communication. It is anticipated that Professor Schirmer will be a significant scholar who helps to define the subfield of alternative media and gaming communication and the meaning that these forms have for participants and society.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

Schirmer, James. "Techne as Play: Three Interstices." Rhetoric/Composition/Play Through Video Games: Reshaping Theory and Practice of Writing, ed. by Matthew S. S. Johnson, Rebekah Shultz Colby, and Richard Colby. Palgrave, 2013, pp 149-159.

Schirmer, James. "Fostering Meaning and Community in Writing Courses via Social Media." Teaching Arts and Science with the New Social Media, ed. by Charles Wankel. Emerald Group Publishing Limited, 2011, pp 15-38.

- Schirmer, James. "'We All Stray From Our Paths Sometimes': Morality and Survival in Fallout 3." Network Apocalypse: Visions of the End In An Age of Internet Media, ed. by Robert G. Howard. Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2011, pp 183-199.
- Schirmer, James. "The Personal as Public: Identity Construction/Fragmentation Online." The Computer Culture Reader, ed. by Judd Ruggill, Ken McAllister and Joseph R. Chaney. Cambridge Scholars Press, 2009, pp 61-72.

Conference Presentations

- Schirmer, James. "Rise Above the LMS," Conference on College Composition and Communication. Las Vegas, Nevada, March 2013.
- Schirmer, James. "Performance and Meaning in Contemporary Art and Video Games," Meaningful Play. East Lansing, Michigan, October 2012.
- Schirmer, James. "Full-Screen and Distraction-Free," Great Lakes THAT Camp (The Humanities and Technology Camp). East Lansing, Michigan, April 2011.
<http://www.2011.greatlakesthatcamp.org/2011/03/full-screen-and-distraction-free/>.
- Schirmer, James. "Developing a Statewide Open Course Ware Initiative," Great Lakes THAT Camp (The Humanities and Technology Camp). East Lansing, Michigan, March 2010.
<http://www.2010.greatlakesthatcamp.org/2010/03/developing-a-statewideopencourseware-initiative/>.
- Schirmer, James. "Lost in San Andreas," Conference on Computers and Writing. Detroit, Michigan, May 2007.

Service – Professor Schirmer has contributed primarily in service to the Writing Program within the Department of English. He has also served the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) through election to the Academic Standards Committee. This committee has a high volume of work and is vital to the ability of students to address conflicts with grades, assignments and rules of the institution. He regularly attends governing faculty meetings of CAS and is an excellent academic citizen of the University of Michigan-Flint.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A):

"It is through this amalgam of seemingly unrelated theories that Schirmer has written a fascinating piece and does so with mastery of the form. ... This depth of understanding also extends to his own social media practices."

Reviewer (B):

"In his published scholarship, James Schirmer is adept at approaching technology both as critic and participant. It is in this sense that he is modeling some of the best practices that digital humanities scholars have articulated."

Reviewer (C):

"Professor Schirmer's writing is strong. ... Of the four book chapters, although I consider them solid work, ... they each have provocative aspects and pose interesting considerations. ... Across his work, a profile of a focused and coherent research trajectory emerges...."

Reviewer (D):

"Each of the pieces that Dr. Schirmer have [sic] submitted here would count for tenure and promotion at [my university] in our English department based on two main criteria 1) the work

represents and contributes to a sub-field of English studies and 2) it is a scholarly work published in an edited collection and has thus met the rigors of that subfield. Having four published manuscripts would be sufficient evidence of scholarly production....”

Reviewer (E):

“Dr. Schirmer is well on his way to becoming a serious ‘name’ in the field of Rhetoric-Composition, specifically in its growing subfield of digital games studies. What I appreciate so thoroughly about his scholarly record is that he is a *genuine* scholar...”

Reviewer (F):

“Where James really shines is in the network he engages on Twitter. With a following of nearly 2000, many of them high-profile scholars in new media studies and digital humanities, James places himself at the centre of these fields, attuned to and shaping the early debates....”

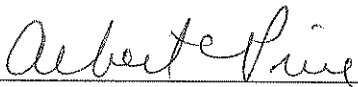
Reviewer (G):

“Overall, I find Dr. Schirmer’s work to be part of larger, national conversations the field of rhetoric and composition participates in regarding writing, writing instruction, rhetoric, and new media. The specific focus here on social media and video games fits directly with other scholarship interested in such issues.”

Summary of Recommendation:

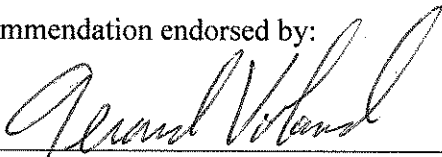
Professor Schirmer is an excellent teacher, cutting edge scholar, and fine colleague. I fully concur with the Executive and enthusiastically recommend that James R. Schirmer be promoted to associate professor of English, with tenure, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences.

Recommended by:

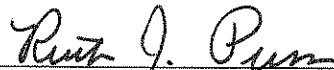


Albert C. Price, Interim Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



Gerard Voland, Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Ruth J. Person, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

May 2014