

Approved by the
Regents
May 21, 2015

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan-Flint
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Theatre and Dance

Shelby Newport, assistant professor of theatre, Department of Theatre and Dance, College of Arts and Sciences, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of theatre, with tenure, Department of Theatre and Dance, College of Arts and Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

M.A.	2009	Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana
B.S.S.	2006	Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa

Professional Record:

2010-Present	Assistant Professor of Theatre, University of Michigan-Flint
2009-2010	LEO Lecturer of Theatre, University of Michigan-Flint
2006-2009	Graduate Instructor, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Newport’s teaching is centered on the development of performance skill and capabilities of her students. Professor Newport’s overall ratings in student evaluations are outstanding. She has a consistent overall teaching effectiveness median score of 4.6 out of 5.0, which is substantially above the College of Arts and Sciences and university wide averages. Overtime, and in the face of some rather adverse circumstances, she has become the primary instructor for the design and technology program and now provides the crucial teaching, learning, advising, and evaluative experiences for all design students. In fact, she is now the gate-keeper for quality and excellence in the design and technology program and has provided it with a real identity. In addition, Professor Newport regularly participates in programs such as the Lilly Conference to keep abreast of the developments in teaching effectiveness.

Creative Activity – Professor Newport’s creative activity has been focused on executing professional costume designs for departmental productions as well as professional theatre companies or art exhibit venues that possess regional, national, and international merit. She has designed costumes for 34 productions, 20 of which have been University of Michigan-Flint main stage productions, 13 professional productions at regional theatres in the Midwest, and one international residency with a youth performance company in England. Her work has been nationally recognized at the Kennedy Center National Theatre Festival. Similarly, Professor Newport’s work has been recognized through the Purple Rose Theatre Company, founded by Emmy Award winning actor Jeff Daniels, and is the home of world-class American theatre. With its roots in the Midwest, it is a theatre company that produces new and classic American plays while providing educational opportunities for young artists, and, through consistently high quality production values, has earned the respect of national theater communities. Regionally, she has also completed four designs for the Tipping Point Theatre in Northville, Michigan. The Tipping Point Theatre is the only professional theatre in the Western Wayne County area and prides itself on producing high- quality, accessible, and affordable theater for the Metro Detroit area. For one of the productions, “Hate Hamlet” by Paul Rudnick, Professor Newport was awarded the Tipping Point Theatre Member’s Choice Award for Favorite Costume Design. This is a notable endorsement of her artistry and skill.

Recent and Significant Creative Activity:

Professional Activity

2014

- Costume Design. "She Loves Me." University of Michigan-Flint, Flint, Michigan. October 2014.
- Designer (costumes, lighting, scenic). "Light-Steps." Turner Contemporary Art Museum, Margate, England. August 2014. (*Recipient of UM-Flint Research and Creative Activities Grant, 2014*)
- Costume and Makeup Design. "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike." Tipping Point Theatre, Northville, Michigan. September 2014.
- Costume Design. "Old Love." Tipping Point Theatre, Northville, Michigan and Williamston Theatre (co-production). May 2014.
- Costume Design. "Bloom." Flint Youth Theatre, Flint, Michigan. May 2014. *World premiere production.*
- Costume Design. "Her Story: Faculty Dance Concert." University of Michigan-Flint, Flint, Michigan. April 2014.
- Costume Design and Makeup. "Ash Girl." University of Michigan-Flint, Flint, Michigan. March 2014.
- Costume Design. "God of Carnage." University of Michigan-Flint, Flint, Michigan. February 2014.

2013

- Costume Design. "The Local." University of Michigan-Flint, Flint, Michigan. October 2013.
- Costume Design. "Little Shop of Horrors." University of Michigan-Flint, Flint, Michigan. October 2013.
- Costume Design. "I Hate Hamlet." Tipping Point Theatre, Northville, Michigan. May 2013.
- Costume Design. "The Learned Ladies." University of Michigan-Flint, Flint, Michigan. April 2013.
- Costume Design. "Movements: Dance Concert." University of Michigan-Flint, Flint, Michigan. March 2013.
- Costume Design. "Gee's Bend." Flint Youth Theatre, Flint, Michigan. February 2013.
- Costume Design. "Good People." University of Michigan-Flint, Flint, Michigan. February 2013.

Conference Presentations

- Newport, Shelby, Reinsel, Joseph and Whitlock, Annie (2014). "What Are You Doing to Teach Naked: A Follow Up." Quad-POD Consortium – Invited Panelist, Baker College.
- Newport, Shelby, Reinsel, Joseph and Whitlock, Annie (2014). "Building Learning Communities Through Social Media." Juried Conference Presentation, Lilly Conference on College and University Teaching, Traverse City, Michigan.
- Newport, Shelby and Dionne, Richard (2014). "Active Learning and Growth Mindset: Studio Instruction in Theatre Technology." Juried Conference Presentation, Lilly Conference on College and University Teaching, Traverse City, Michigan.
- Newport, Shelby (2014). Invited Panelist presenting Learner-Centered Innovations, Pre-Convocation Workshop 2014: New Science of Learning, University of Michigan-Flint.
- Newport, Shelby and Reinsel, Joseph (2014). "Why Fight It? Integrating Social Media into the Classroom." Lilly Luncheon Cloth Bag, University of Michigan-Flint.
- Newport, Shelby and Reinsel, Joseph (2013). "Why Fight It? Integrating Social Media into the Classroom." Juried Conference Presentation, Lilly Conference on College and University Teaching, Traverse City, Michigan.
- Newport, Shelby (2013). Invited Panelist for Costume Commission, "Patterning Palooza." United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Milwaukee Wisconsin.

Service – Solid evidence of Professor Newport's commitment to service may be seen in the numerous meaningful projects she has taken on and the more than \$20,000 dollars she has raised in funding, grants, and fellowships. To that end, her service to the Department of Theatre and Dance has been invaluable. She is fully active in departmental governance and sincerely committed to advancing departmental work in very

real ways. Within the department, Professor Newport has served on three successful department search committees – two of which she chaired. She has also been the keeper, organizer, coordinator, administrator, and co-designer of practically all visual materials for the department. From the season brochure to the University Drupal website, from the departmental Facebook page, to all departmental production press release images, Professor Newport has worked (and continues to work) tirelessly to keep the department's visual presence creative.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “She has a significant list of credits at her home institution and has designed repeatedly for local theatre companies... I particularly commend her work for the Flint Youth Theatre because creating quality children's theatre is very challenging. The productions of *Bloom*, *Gee's Bend* and *Amber Waves* provided Professor Newport with exciting research possibilities and important character/social analysis that show off her expertise. Her work in England seems to bring her contributions to the international level, and the awarding of a grant for one of those productions, *Light-Steps*, illustrates that the work is deemed significant by others.”

Reviewer (B): “In evaluating the costume design work found in her online dossier I found the production photos demonstrated realized costumes that defined the characters and were quite commendable. The written component describing each production and her intentions was clear, informative and articulate... It is my opinion that, with her record, Ms. Newport possess [sic] a strong national reputation and based on the information provided will continue to do so in the future. With her current creative, and artistic productivity, her commitment to professional development opportunities and her ongoing work...”

Reviewer (C): “My evaluation of Ms. Newport's creative work is very good. In my opinion, Ms. Newport has been very productive during her 5 years as an assistant professor at Flint... ...Ms. Newport has also maintained a creative relationship as costume designer with several professional theatres in the Flint/Detroit area. I was quite impressed with her abilities to obtain several grants for student participation and collaboration with her at these professional venues.”

Reviewer (D): “I rank Ms Newport in the top 5 in her field in terms of professional development, grant writing and funding, and in nurturing her students... The most outstanding publication work is the Detroit Metro Bride Magazine layout. The first page of the feature looks like something out of T magazine in the New York Times... ...I see a well-rounded designer who lives with design in her life every day.”

Reviewer (E): “The process of hiring in theatre is in itself a form of peer review, and continuing professional relationships indicates the approval of one's peers. Rehires at The Purple Rose Theatre Company, Flint Youth Theatre, and Tipping Point Theatre indicate such success... Professor Newport shows very good understanding of script, research, and genre in her designs. Her renderings are clear in terms of character development and detail necessary to communicate with the rest of the production team... I believe she is a step above many other undergraduate theatre faculty, and is developing as a graduate school professor.”

Reviewer (F): “In reviewing the career of Professor Shelby Newport, it is clear that there is an activity output that is energetic. There are several costume designs each year at the University and also at least one to three productions designed outside of the University department... In a smaller community where many of those opportunities do not exist it seems that Professor Newport contributes to the artistic life of the area at the highest levels available.”

Reviewer (G): “There is evidence of an artistic interpretation in the photos, not the renderings, that has the seed of promising contributions. This is evident in the consistency with which Newport seems to understand the character, character relationship and considers the evolution of a character through the action of the play through the choices she is making in the silhouettes, color and so forth of the ensemble of costumes. The indicator that Newport demonstrates promise is, again, in the consistency of the designs...”

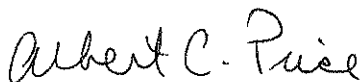
Reviewer (H): “The scope of her publications, that is publications as we view them in the theater, production and presentation before an audience, is impressive... Simultaneously, she has found time to contribute to various conferences and professional groups such as the American College Theater Festival and the United States Institute for Theater Technology... She has worked in a variety of styles and periods. This makes her a valuable asset to a university theater company. Moreover, the execution of her designs is of the highest quality and from the photos that I’ve seen appear to be the highlight of each production.”

Reviewer (I): “Ms. Newport is prolific. Costume design is quite time consuming; designers are required to be hands on... Her work is quite varied, designing for theatre (educational and professional), dance, and film... I believe that Shelby Newport’s costume design work since her tenure track faculty appointment in 2010 is excellent.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Newport has demonstrated significant excellence in each of the three areas of teaching, scholarly/creative work, and service in her career. I fully concur with the Executive Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences and enthusiastically recommend that Shelby Newport be promoted to associate professor of theatre, with tenure, Department of Theatre and Dance, College of Arts and Sciences.

Recommended by:

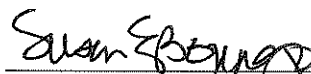


Albert C. Price, Interim Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



Barbara B. Dixon, Interim Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Susan E. Borrego, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

May 2015