

Approved by the
Regents
May 21, 2015

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design

David Turnley, associate professor of art and design, without tenure, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, is recommended for the granting of tenure to be held with his title of associate professor of art and design, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design [also associate professor in the Residential College, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts].

Academic Degrees:

B.A. 1977 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Professional Record:

2012 – present Associate Professor of Art and Design, without tenure, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, and Associate Professor in the Residential College, without tenure, College of Literature, Science and the Arts, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

2011 Visiting Professor, St. Francis University, Fort Wayne, IN

2008 – 2011 Commercial Television Director

2004 – 2005 Visiting Professor, New School for Social Research, New York, NY

1988 – present Professional Photographer and Documentary Director/Producer

1980 – 1988 Staff Photographer, *Detroit Free Press*, based in South Africa (1985-1988) and Detroit, MI (1980-1985)

1978 – 1980 Staff Photographer, *Sliger Home Newspapers*

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Turnley is a passionate educator whose teaching is grounded in a humanistic tradition that crosses disciplines, with a strong emphasis on social justice and engagement with disenfranchised and working class communities locally, and with human rights globally. He creates a positive atmosphere for learning, in which students benefit from each other as well as from his extensive professional experience. Students are pushed into life experiences that are outside of their ordinary expectations for themselves, creating encounters that shift their understandings of who they are and deepening their understanding and respect for the individuals whom they have chosen to photographically document. The result of these experiences consistently impacts the intellectual and artistic outlook of his students in positive ways and is often cited as life changing for many of them.

Creative Work / Research – Professor Turnley is an award-winning photojournalist and documentary filmmaker, and is regarded by his peers and critics as among the finest of his generation. From the inner city streets of his Indiana hometown, to the unraveling of Apartheid in South Africa, to the fall of the Berlin Wall, to the genocide in Rwanda, to revolutions and social strife throughout the world, he has chronicled the human condition. He is the recipient of numerous awards and his work has been featured in major national and international publications. He has published 10 books of his photographs and writings. His most recent work, “Shenandoah, USA,” is a full-length film exploring the events, causes, and effects of the murder of an illegal Mexican immigrant in a small Pennsylvania coal town, which has already garnered significant awards and international recognition.

Significant Works, Awards, and Activities

2014 Best Documentary of the Year—New Filmmakers Los Angeles for “Shenandoah, USA”
2014 Best New Filmmaker of the Year New Filmmakers Los Angeles for “Shenandoah, USA”

- 2014 Best Director—Atlanta International Film Festival for “Shenandoah, USA”
- 2011 Commissioned by Harvard University Business School to produce five documentary profiles of illustrious alumni.
- 2010 Sundance Institute Documentary Grant, to support the production of *Shenandoah, USA*.
- 2008 Turnley, David. Mandela: Struggle and Triumph, Abrams Press (New York).
- 2008 Turnley, David, and Turnley, Peter. McClellan Street. Indiana University Press (Bloomington, IN).
- 2003 Turnley, David. Baghdad Blues: A War Diary, Vendome Press (New York).
- 2002 Awarded Best Documentary at the Miami International Film Festival, the theatrical documentary *La Tropical*.
- 2000 Honorary Doctorate, St. Francis University, Fort Wayne, IN
- 1996 Awarded the Overseas Press Club Robert Capa Gold Medal for Courage, for a photographic essay, chronicling refugees in the war in Bosnia.
- 1995 Awarded the Overseas Press Club Olivier Rebbot Award, for a photographic essay, chronicling refugees in the war in Bosnia.
- 1995 Awarded the World Press Picture of the Year, for a portrait of a refugee from the massacre in Srebrenica and Zepa.
- 1997 Honorary Doctorate, New School for Social Research, New York, NY
- 1987 Awarded the World Press Picture of the Year, for a photograph from the earthquake in Armenia.
- 1991 Awarded the World Press Picture of the Year, for a photograph of a grieving soldier on the last day of the first Gulf War in Iraq.
- 1990 Awarded the Pulitzer Prize, for photographic coverage of the uprising in Eastern Europe and Tiananmen Square in China. (Finalist for Pulitzer Prize again in 1991, 1992 and 1996)

Service – Professor Turnley is an active member of the university community, serving as a Stamps School representative to the University Senate Assembly and as a member of several faculty committees, including the Residential College Executive Committee and the Stamps Exhibitions, Performance and Visitors Committee. He participates actively in faculty governance and regularly supports the university’s institutional advancement efforts through presentations at local and national events and through one-on-one engagement with alumni.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “Professor Turnley’s photography documenting Nelson Mandela and the broader South African apartheid is unparalleled in the field...It will be studied, remembered, and hailed as an example of photojournalistic excellence.”

Reviewer B: “His work goes beyond photography for the sake of good photography but is genuinely concerned with conveying to his viewers a sense of humanity in whatever circumstance he is photographing...He is extremely prolific and consistent for someone working at such a high level.”

Reviewer C: “David’s professional career and photographic work is a story of continual growth, a deep commitment to issues surrounding the human condition and a willingness to take risks and challenge himself both aesthetically and intellectually. His output from individual stories, to books and films is the result of his passion for his work and the stories he is dedicated to telling.”

Reviewer D: “David is one of the most significant and important practitioners working in the field today. He is an exceptional journalist and photographer, with an acute sense of how to identify stories and projects that resonate with the daily news agenda but are not set by it. He has extensive

experience of operating in a global environment, often in situations of considerable danger and difficulty, and his ability to organize his work and himself is a real asset in such situations.”

Reviewer E: “His creative work is simply extraordinary. To win a Pulitzer Prize, to be honored as a recipient of an award for Picture of the Year by the World Press, three times, to serve as photographer to President Obama and to Nelson Mandela is simply far beyond the reach or hopes of most highly successful, productive full professors of photography.”

Reviewer F: “...I will simply say David Turnley is a master image-maker...he has covered the major events that have shaped our world. He is considered one of the elite in the field.”

Reviewer G: “His stature in the photojournalism community brings instant credibility to Michigan’s photojournalism program while his personal work directly benefits his students in the classroom. His ability to reach out to virtually anyone and bring them into the classroom – physically or virtually – is an added bonus for the students.”

Reviewer H: “David Turnley is one of the most important visual journalists of our time...His passion for storytelling, his courage, and his dedication are unsurpassed, and I am gratified he has chosen to direct his energy and talent to the education and training of another generation of visual journalists.”

Reviewer I: “...without question Turnley’s multiple top-level awards speak to his towering stature in that community. More remarkable has been his successful crossover from still photography to filmmaking, which has influenced a generation of photographers and is manifested in his own teaching as well as creative work.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Turnley is a creative practitioner of global standing, a generous and charismatic teacher, and an active University citizen. We strongly recommend David Turnley for the granting of tenure to be held with his title of associate professor of art and design, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design.



Guralan Nadarajan
Dean and Professor,
Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design



Andrew D. Martin
Dean, and Professor of Political Science,
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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