

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan – Flint
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of History

Thomas C. Henthorn, assistant professor of history, Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of history, with tenure, Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2009	Michigan State University, Lansing, Michigan
B.A.	2004	Saginaw Valley State University, Saginaw, Michigan

Professional Record:

2013-2014	Dorothea E. Wyatt Professor of United States History, University of Michigan-Flint
2010-Present	Assistant Professor of History, University of Michigan-Flint

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Henthorn is the University of Michigan-Flint’s first public historian. As such, he has dramatically expanded the curriculum in history to include courses in both public history and urban history and has grown an internship program to include multiple community partners. His courses range from introductory online survey courses (HIS 221, U.S. History Since 1898) to advanced graduate courses in urban history (HIS 531, American Urban History). Using a wide range of assignments ranging from creation of museum exhibits to community-based research, Professor Henthorn captivates his students’ interests by “doing history” as a way of learning history. His course materials, reflective writing, peer evaluations, and student evaluations all confirm that his pedagogy has been very successful.

Research – As a public historian, Professor Henthorn’s scholarly work involves the advancement, integration, application, and transformation of knowledge. He has produced both traditional peer-reviewed scholarship in the form of published articles in the *Journal of Urban History* (two manuscripts), and *Frontier: A Journal of Women’s Studies* and two significant works of applied public history, “Lumber City Base Ball Club: An Experiment in Shared Authority” and “Historic Resource Survey, City of Grand Blanc, Michigan.” These applied public history works were highly collaborative, engaged students and community members alike in defining the scope and research questions, and are rooted in a methodological approach characterized as “shared authority.” Community partners and external reviewers alike agree that these works are meaningful in advancing a community’s sense of built environments. As a frequent partner in community-engaged learning activities, Professor Henthorn’s scholarly and creative activities integrate his teaching and scholarly interests.

Recent and Significant Scholarly Activity:

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Henthorn, Thomas C. (2014). "Building A Moral Metropolis: Philanthropy and City Building In Progressive-Era Houston." *Journal of Urban History*, February 20, pp. 1-19.
- Henthorn, Thomas C. (2014). "Experiencing the City: Experiential Learning in Urban Environments." *Journal of Urban History*, May, Vol. 40, 3: pp. 450-461.
- Henthorn, Thomas C. (2011). "A Nation's Need – Good and Well-Trained Mothers: Gender, Charity and the New Urban South." *Frontier: A Journal of Women's Studies*, 32, no. 1.

Public History Scholarship

- Henthorn, Thomas C. (2014). "Lumber City Base Ball Club: An Experiment in Shared Authority." Live Historical Interpretive Programming.
- Henthorn, Thomas C. (2012). "Historic Resource Survey, City of Grand Blanc, Michigan." Geographic Information Systems (GIS) contributions from Department of Earth and Resource Science Professor Greg Rybarczyk.

Conference Presentations

- Henthorn, Thomas C. "Heritage Tourism for Michigan." Michigan Humanities Council/Ironwood Downtown Art Place, Ironwood, Michigan, 2015.
- Henthorn, Thomas C. "Experiencing the City: Experiential Learning in Urban Environments." Organization of American Historians/National Council on Public History Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 2012.

Public Presentations and Exhibits

- Henthorn, Thomas C. "Factories in the Farmland: An Industrial History of Hudson, Michigan." Presented at Hudson Community Library, Hudson, Michigan, February 7, 2015.
- Henthorn, Thomas C. "The Worst Jobs in American History." Presented at Artworks, Big Rapids, Michigan, October 10, 2014.
- Henthorn, Thomas C. "A Social History of Grand Blanc's Historic Buildings." Presented at Grand Blanc Heritage Museum, Grand Blanc, Michigan, February 28, 2013.
- Henthorn, Thomas C. "New Challenges for Community-Based Organizations." Panel Participant, Flint Area Public Affairs Debate, Flint Public Library, Flint, Michigan, February 8, 2012.
- Henthorn, Thomas C. "Behind the Bowtie: The People and Culture of Chevrolet Motor Co. in Flint, Michigan." Exhibited at the Sloan Museum, Flint, Michigan, July-September, 2011.
- Henthorn, Thomas C. "A Home-Like Place to Stay: Historic Hotels and Rooming Houses in Flint." Presented at Genesee County Historical Society Annual Meeting, Flint, Michigan, May 26, 2011.

Service – The primary service contributions of Professor Henthorn have been in the areas of departmental and professional service. One of the most important aspects of service has been Professor Henthorn's sustained and expanding efforts to cultivate external relationship with cultural institutions, program partners, and community groups, for the purposes of developing applied teaching and learning activities, the department's internship program, and scholarly pursuits. He has worked tirelessly since arriving on campus to broaden and deepen relationships between the university and community partners. In addition to these professional service activities,

Professor Henthorn has served as the History Club advisor and is actively involved in the Wyatt Exploration Program and activities within the Department of History. It is anticipated that Professor Henthorn will continue on this path of meaningful service to his department, to include college and university service in the coming years.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “Evidence for Thomas’s [sic] standing can be found in his stellar record in the following areas: participation in and service to local, state, regional, and national public history organizations and active grant-seeking through internal and external sources in your region.”

Reviewer (B): “His commitment to public engagement, his historical scholarship, and his overall embodiment of the principals of shared authority in his work, present a model for all historians – ‘traditional’ and public alike... ... his 2013 Journal of Urban History article, ‘Experiencing the City: Experiential Learning in Urban Environments,’ is particularly revealing because it offers a practical pedagogical outline for his broader approach in how to combine research in urban history and study of the sense of place (and placelessness), with student learning and community engagement... ... [Regarding the Lumber City Baseball Club project] ...The depth of Henthorn’s work on this project, and what this project reveals about interpretation, the challenges of ‘living history’ reenactments, Flint’s own history, and types of participatory engagement, is remarkable.”

Reviewer (C): “[Regarding Lumber City Base Ball Club: Experiment in Shared Authority] Henthorn’s reflective essay documents his own learning curve in a way that provokes critical thinking about the realities of sharing authority in the production of history.”

Reviewer (D): “...‘Lumber City Base Ball Club: An Experiment in Shared Authority’ and ‘Historic Resource Survey, City of Grand Blanc, Michigan.’ ... Both of these are excellent examples of public history projects that engage the university and the community in developing, protecting, and sustaining important historical resources. They are both grounded in historical scholarship and both offered hands-on opportunities for students to gain real world experience... ... All three of his articles were published in what are major journals in the field...”

Reviewer (E): “His article, ‘A Nation’s Need – Good and Well Trained Mothers,’... ...demonstrates fluency with the latest literature on gender, race, and social welfare, and significantly intervenes in this literature by offering an intersectional case study of a city in racial flux... ... He offers a sophisticated and nuanced approach and never shies away from complexity... ... The Grand Blanc Historic Resource survey is in and of itself a major piece of scholarship that has entailed significant research, an innovative incorporation of students, and a demonstration of Henthorn’s embrace of a collaborative methodological approach... ... I am convinced he will continue to develop his reputation among public history professionals and community historians...”

Reviewer (F): “Partners in Preservation: 2013 Grand Blanc Historic Resource Survey... ...is an excellent example of how the work of public history incorporates all three areas of professional evaluation, including teaching, scholarship, and service... ... ‘A Nation’s Need – Good and Well-

Trained Mothers'... .. represents an extremely important historical contribution published in a rigorously peer-reviewed, well-respected journal."

Reviewer (G): "I am particularly impressed with the ways he has involved students directly in fieldwork and service learning in the Flint area and how he has forged collaborative partnerships both at the university and in the broader community."

Summary of Recommendation:

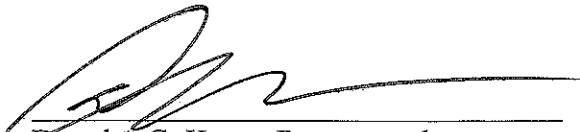
Professor Henthorn has woven together a record of teaching (both university students and the public), with community-engaged scholarship and professional and community service which fully meets the requirements for teaching excellence, scholarship, and quality service. The Executive Committee and I recommend that Thomas C. Henthorn be promoted to the rank of associate professor of history, with tenure, Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences.

Recommended by:

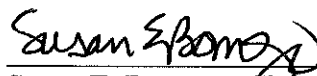


Susan Gano-Phillips, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



Douglas G. Knerr, Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Susan E. Borrego, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

May 2016