



Center for the Book faculty member wins MacArthur Foundation Award

Timothy Barrett's cellular phone rang, and not wanting to be disturbed during a staff meeting, he quickly hit the silence button.

His phone rang again. This time, he answered it, thinking one of his kids got sick at school. To his surprise, a representative of the MacArthur Foundation was calling.

Barrett, a research scientist and adjunct professor of papermaking at The University of Iowa Center for the Book, learned in September he was a 2009 recipient of a fellowship from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

The \$500,000 MacArthur Fellowships, popularly known as "genius grants," are awarded to 24 individuals per year in a variety of fields who have shown exceptional originality and dedication to their creative pursuits.

Barrett, 59, is the 13th UI-connected fellow, but only the second recipient outside the creative writing community. UI anthropological linguist Nora England received the honor in 1993.



Barrett assists a papermaking student at The University of Iowa.

"This is a big deal to have the MacArthur Foundation effectively say this is a bona fide career track – this is a valuable way to spend your professional time," said Barrett, a paper specialist at Iowa for 25 years and a past director of the Center for the Book.

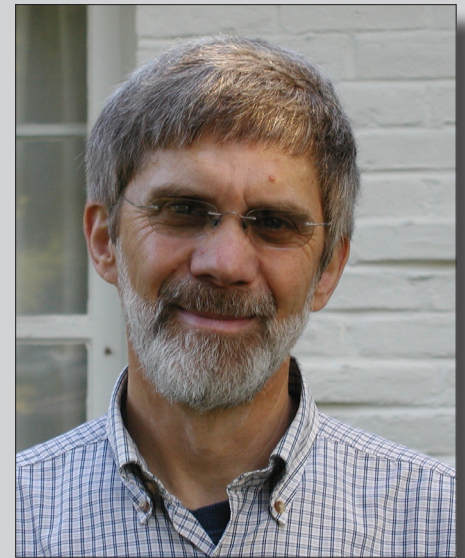
"In having your work acknowledged as a contribution to society, you're kind of getting knighted in a weird way. And that in turn helps recognize this entire emerging field of study. It's not just papermaking, but a whole range of allied specialties."

Matthew Brown, director of the UI Center for the Book, considers Barrett a perfect fit for receiving the prestigious honor despite his non-traditional specialty.

"He has an expertise that no one else in the world really has," Brown said. "He has knowledge of Japanese papermaking. He's like a human archive of that information. Further, he knows the history of European and Western papermaking. He combines craft skill with scientific skill."

Barrett earned a bachelor's degree in art communications from Antioch College in 1973 and later spent two years working with Kathryn and Howard Clark at Twinrocker Handmade Paper, Inc.; two years under a Fulbright Fellowship studying papermaking in Japan; and many years researching early European handmade papers.

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Timothy Barrett, winner of a 2009 MacArthur Foundation fellowship.

About the Center for the Book

The Center for the Book has between 20 to 24 students in its graduate certificate program at any one time. Every year about 170 graduate and undergraduate students take its classes a year. The Center for the Book is aspiring to become a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program. An MFA is a graduate degree typically requiring two to three years of study.

Barrett plans to use the award funds to:

- Further his study of Western papermaking
- Write a new book on Western papermaking
- Promote Iowa's nationally known Center for the Book program



The WiderNet Project: Outreach from Iowa to the World

Information is power, and the WiderNet Project is helping people around the world become more intellectually mighty.

The WiderNet Project, a service project within The University of Iowa's School of Library and Information Science, focuses on the improvement of educational technology systems by helping primarily universities, secondary schools, and hospitals worldwide furnish people with access to computers, digital information, and the Internet.

Cliff Missen, a UI visiting professor who directs the WiderNet Project, says there are over 300 eGranary Digital Library installations in 39 different countries.

An eGranary Digital Library is an "Internet in a Box" device that contains more than 10 million educational resources and is installed in hundreds of clinics and schools in low-bandwidth areas around the world. "Literally, every minute of every day, hundreds of people in the developing world die from a lack of knowledge," Missen said. "They don't know how to drill wells, they don't know about the germ theory. They don't know how to combat malaria using resources at their disposal. This digital library provides instant access to generations of knowledge."

The WiderNet Project is currently evaluating the use of its eGranary Digital Library through a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. The Rockefeller Foundation requested an in-depth evaluation of the eGranary Digital Library for other organizations

considering using it in health education throughout the developing world.

Iowa is providing on-line and paper surveys, focus groups, and log evaluations from eGranaries in the field.

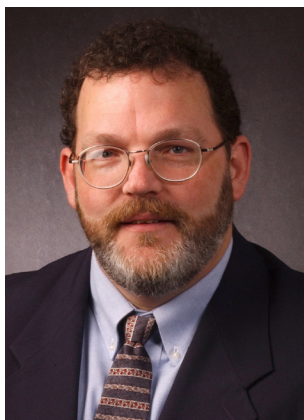
To encourage people to take the survey, all participants have a chance to win a free hard drive for their organization.

In August, the first eGranary Digital Library was awarded to Daed Shokeh of the Jordanian Nursing Council in Amman, Jordan. Joubert Kumwenda of the Beit CURE Hospital of Malawi in Blantyre, Malawi, won a personal USB eGranary.

UI President Sally Mason, who drew the two winners' names in August, is impressed with the WiderNet Project's outreach efforts. "This takes outreach to a new level. This takes outreach all over the world," Mason said.

"This goes to places in the world where many other people and groups aren't. Talk about having a high impact in parts of the world where there's virtually little or no impact from anywhere else."

WiderNet is online at www.widernet.org



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Barrett Wins MacArthur Fellowship

continued from cover

Barrett joined the UI Center for the Book as its paper specialist in 1986 and served as its director between 1996 and 2002. He continues to teach courses that address the history, technique, science, and aesthetics of hand papermaking, and he oversees the Oakdale Paper Production and Research Facility.

In 2002, Barrett helped fabricate the handmade archival paper used to re-house the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the Constitution as part of the “Charters of Freedom Re-encasement Project.”

Barrett will receive \$25,000 every three months for the next five years from the MacArthur Foundation to be used to promote his own creative endeavors.

He intends to use the money to further his study of Western papermaking. Barrett also plans to write a new book on Western papermaking, and this award will help fund illustrations and photos, related research, and possible travel to European historical papermaking sites.

More importantly, the MacArthur Fellowship will promote Iowa’s nationally known program.

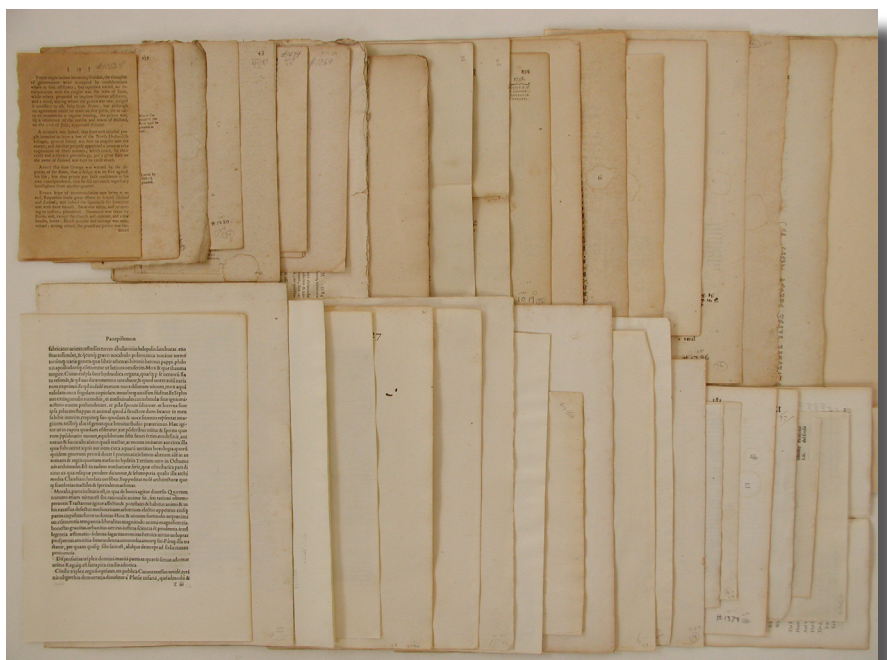
“It is huge in terms of recognizing the field of book art, book studies and book history,” Brown said. “What makes us unique is we conjoin the book arts with study of the historical and cultural context of book production, publishing, and reading. The visibility of the MacArthur and the strengths we already have here on the ground will make the program a national magnet and bring new interesting students to the university.”



Tim Barrett demonstrates the art of papermaking at the Center for the Book Medieval Book Symposium this past spring.



Barrett's research assistant Jessica White (MFA Printmaking, UICB Certificate 2009) tests a 15th century book with a non-destructive XRF (x-ray fluorescence) spectrometer. The instrument provides data on calcium, iron, and other elemental content in the paper.



Barrett's research investigates why some historical paper is brown and brittle, while other, often much older, paper is in excellent condition.

Lewis, a Remarkable Educator

UI Ph.D. alumnus in Rehabilitation Counseling

The bullet was a blessing. On June 9, 1990, Phillip Lewis' life took what he first thought was a tragic twist, when a 14-year-old boy walked up to the passenger side of Lewis' white Eclipse GSX and pointed a gun at the football player bound for the University of Memphis.

Lewis, then 20, had no intention of finding out if the gun-wielding youth wanted his sports car, his fancy jewelry, or his life. Lewis put the car in gear and took off, prompting the boy to pull the trigger.

That life-changing bullet blasted through Lewis' right arm, by his chest and through his left arm.

At a moment like that, "you really connect with the reality of life," Lewis says.

He suffered nerve damage in both hands that ended his football dreams and left him with a pins-and-needles sensation to this day. The shooting set him in a different direction, academic instead of athletic.

Lewis, now 39, became the first man in his immediate family to graduate from college, but he didn't stop there. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Counseling Education at The University of Iowa in 2004. He then became the director of the master's program in Rehabilitation Counseling at Alabama State.

Currently, Lewis is the graduate coordinator for the master's program in Rehabilitation Counseling at Langston University's Tulsa, Oklahoma, campus.

Two decades ago, being in the wrong place at the wrong time left Lewis feeling hopeless, helpless,

and even suicidal. "To say the least, I often was afraid to go out in public for a long time, which led to depression and post traumatic stress disorder," he says.

He resisted temptations that could have spun his life out of control. In high school, some of his teammates made \$10,000 a week selling drugs. Dealers in his neighborhood always had the best clothes and cars, and the prettiest girls.

Lewis didn't believe dealing drugs was the only way out of his neighborhood. He couldn't betray the rock-solid support of his mother, Claudia Peterson. Ironically, Lewis was shot on her birthday.

"She reassured me it would be all right through prayers and God. That was support in itself," Lewis recalls. "My mother helped me believe it would be OK even though I didn't know how I would recover."

Lewis, who was working two jobs and attending a community college to improve his grades at the time of the shooting, got straight As at Rust College in Holly Springs, Miss.

He earned a master's degree from Southern Illinois University before coming to Iowa City.

At Iowa, Lewis experienced initial culture shock, but quickly established an adopted family.

"It's a unique environment, especially for someone from inner city Memphis," Lewis says. "You think certain things will be problems, but they are not problems. Through the Graduate College, I received grants and scholarships. Ultimately, the external community was very important."



Phillip Lewis

Community members Billie and Orville Townsend gave Lewis a home away from home, inviting him to their house for dinner and conversation.

Joe Henry, recruitment and outreach coordinator for the Graduate College's Office of Graduate Ethnic Inclusion, also reached out to Lewis. Henry observed a student who treated the bullet as a blessing in disguise.

"It gave him an opportunity to slow down his life and to reflect," Henry says. "He shared with me that he did look internally at the life he was leading. The bullet gave him time to think about what he was doing. He is a person who enjoys life and has a passion for helping others. Those qualities make him successful and a survivor."

The young man who Lewis believes shot him was tried but not convicted of the crime. Today he's serving time for an unrelated offense.

"I would like to confront the young man. Living a life of crime and being in and out jail, what does that lifestyle do for you?" Lewis said.

The shooting may have stolen Lewis' dream of playing college football, but it has redirected his life.

"I love being a rehabilitation counseling educator," Lewis said. "It allows me the opportunity to train future rehabilitation counseling professionals, and to ultimately do my part to bridge the gaps in the delivery of rehabilitation counseling services in minority communities."



Human Toxicology at Iowa

An interdisciplinary program gains traction

The University of Iowa's human toxicology graduate program has made a successful return to academia.

In only its third full year as a restarted program, human toxicology has had a positive impact on the field in the state of Iowa, evidenced by the state's membership in the Society of Toxicology (SOT), the professional organization of toxicologists in the United States and abroad.

Iowa's SOT membership has grown exponentially from 18 to 45 since January 2007, when the new interdisciplinary graduate program was launched, led by Professors Larry Robertson and Gabriele Ludewig, who now serve as the program's director and director of graduate studies, respectively, and with the support of the UI Graduate College, the College of Public Health, and the Environmental Health Sciences Research Center (Professor Peter Thorne, director).

The field of toxicology as defined by the SOT is "the study of adverse effects of chemical, physical or biological agents on living organisms and the ecosystem, including the prevention and amelioration of such adverse effects."

According to Robertson, the increased growth and participation at both the regional and national levels are due principally to the creation of the new toxicology program and the toxicology effort at the university.

"We have a program now, and students have a real interest in participating in their regional and national SOT, therefore they become members," Robertson said. "In a

sense, we feed the membership of the regional and national SOT by having this formalized program."

On October 1-2, twenty-five UI students and faculty attended the Central States (CS-SOT) regional annual meeting in Ames. Three of four possible awards for outstanding student and post-doc presentations went to UI students and post-docs Erin Allen, Izabela Korwel, and Wei Xie.

The Central States regional includes Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. The 2010 meeting will be held in Iowa City.

While Iowa's SOT membership is increasing, the UI's enrollment figures in human toxicology also are steadily climbing. In the spring of 2007, there were three students—all transfers—in the program. Spring 2009 marked the graduation of both the first master's degree and the first doctoral degree students. This semester, the program boasts an enrollment of 17 Ph.D. students.

"Our applicants are going up. While those numbers are still modest, already for this next fall we have good applicants," Robertson said.

Why the increased participation? Robertson has some theories.

"The subject matter itself is very interesting. It's truly interdisciplinary in that toxicology sits among various disciplines," Robertson said.

"It's among chemistry, biology, pathology, and the analytical sciences. While that's extremely interesting, it doesn't necessarily mean you'll get students to study it if there are no jobs on the backside. And the great thing about toxicology is there are lots and lots of jobs."

For starters, you can work for the Environmental Protection Agency checking out pollution sites, the Food and

Drug Administration measuring the toxicity of drugs, a pharmaceutical house shepherding in new drugs, or in academia teaching future toxicologists.

For more information about the human toxicology program, go to <http://toxicology.grad.uiowa.edu>.

What is toxicology?

The field of toxicology is "the study of adverse effects of chemical, physical or biological agents on living organisms and the ecosystem, including the prevention and amelioration of such adverse effects."

— Society of Toxicology

The UI's history in the study of toxicology

- The University of Iowa's first toxicology program, active for three decades, closed in the early 1980s.
- The program, which included the Center for Biochemical Pharmacology and Toxicology, produced some of the foremost leaders in toxicology worldwide.
- Program graduates went on to leadership roles at the highest levels in academia, government, and industry.

Writing the World

Christopher Merrill and the International Writing Program

At age 6, Christopher Merrill began a brief but lucrative career as a newspaper publisher.

His first story was about a young girl who shared the same wing of the hospital as he did and was dying of leukemia. "I remember writing a story about her. I sold them to my neighbors for one penny apiece," Merrill said.

"I had to copy out each one, so it didn't last very long." While his newspaper career stopped before it ever really started, Merrill has never quit writing. From his office at Shambaugh House, where he has been director of The University of Iowa's International Writing Program since 2000, to a basement in Sarajevo,

Yugoslavia, during the Bosnian War, Merrill has used the written word to explain his life's journey.

And his experiences have provided great prose. He describes his time in Sarajevo in the early 1990s as "long periods of boredom punctuated by terror."

"At one point, I was stuck in a basement for about 30 hours because they were shelling all around us. There were 12 of us in this basement," Merrill said.

"I was so terrified. My first reaction was to tell jokes and try and relieve the pressure. Then, I thought I will just take notes. I was scribbling down what people said and the stories they told.

"I had no feeling that I would even survive this, because we had big tanks of propane right next to us in the basement, so if there was a direct hit we were curtains. I knew if I was writing that was a way to deal with the terror."

Those words became the book, "Only the Nails Remain: Scenes from the Balkan Wars," published in 1999 by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

Merrill's current project, expected to be completed in the next few months, is being written in the key of terror.

The book is about his travels since 9/11 to Malaysia, China, Mongolia, and the Middle East, and the place rituals and ceremonies have in our lives.

"I'm trying to understand war, faith, poetry and ceremony," Merrill said. "I wouldn't say I have any answers, but I do think I have areas of experience that I'm trying to articulate."

Merrill, 52, recently shared stories about writers who didn't let grave circumstances stand in the way of the creative process with Somali youth in the Nairobi and Dadaab refugee camps in Africa.

The U.S. Embassy's Somalia Unit hosted a reading and lecture tour, under the auspices of the UI's International Writing Program. Four participants conducted workshops with Somali youth from June 9-18. Four distinguished writers – Merrill, Eliot Weinberger, Terese Svoboda, and Tom Sleigh – conducted a workshop



Merrill reviews the writing of a student in the Dadaab refugee camp.



Merrill and his colleagues

More about the legacy of The University of Iowa International Writing Program

The Peter Nazareth Collection archived online

Peter Nazareth is a UI faculty member and an advisor to the International Writing Program since 1974. Nazareth recorded 66 audio interviews with IWP participants and guests spanning 30 years. Some interviews aired on "Humanities at Iowa," a 1980s radio show that was broadcast on WSUI/KSUI.

In May 2009, Jim Elmborg, director of the UI's School of Library and Information Science, finished a three-year project digitizing Nazareth's interviews. They are posted on the Virtual Writing University Archive at <http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/vwu>.



Peagues listen to a teacher's reading.

For more about *The International Writing Program*, visit <http://iwp.uiowa.edu>

“I said, ‘We’re just writers and we have nothing to give except we can try and write about this,’” Merrill said. “And one of the three young men who were my translators turned to me and said we could write about this. I said, ‘Bingo. That’s what this is all about. I don’t know this story at all. You’ve been here for years. You know the story much better than I do. Write the story and then people will know what’s going on here.’”

The willingness of these African youth to help themselves is remarkable considering many have called the refugee camps home their whole lives and are facing dim prospects of getting an education beyond high school.

“We were amazed at the number of young people who wanted to do big things with their lives,” Merrill said. “One wanted to be the president, one wanted to be the prime minister, one wanted to be a pilot, one wanted to be a doctor. They had what the young share everywhere – a sense of possibility.”

Growing up in rural New Jersey, Merrill dreamed of playing professional soccer ... or being a poet. Seven literary works later, it appears that Merrill made the right career choice.

While Merrill’s competitive athletic career is long over (he also played hockey as a youth), his older daughter Hannah, 13, is carrying that torch for the family. Hannah is a talented figure skater who lives in Chicago five days a week with her mother, while she’s

training and attending school. “From the minute she got on the ice she felt at home there,” Merrill said.

Merrill’s younger daughter Abby, 8, has a love of acting. Taking his writing hat off, which he does every so often, Merrill is simply a proud parent when watching his daughters perform.

“It’s the joy of any parent watching their child doing something they clearly love to do,” Merrill said. “(Abby) seems so happy on stage. That’s what I watch when my other daughter skates. She’s so happy on the ice.”

When talking about his greatest creations – his daughters – Merrill is reminded of something a friend and fellow parent told him. “He said, ‘Now when I cut the grass, I know why I cut the grass.’ The focus is off you and the focus is on someone else,” Merrill said.



Merrill speaks with a UI alum during his travels.

in Eastleigh, and then spent three days in Dadaab, where they visited all three camps and reached nearly 200 young people.

In addition to telling tales of a Greek poet writing poems in prison and Soviet poets having to memorize their poems, Merrill was asked an important question by a local woman, which reflected the culture of the camps.

What are you going to do for us?



Peter Nazareth pictured here sometime in the 1980s with his wife, Mary (right) and Mariela Arvelo.



Mariela Arvelo, Venezuelan writer, attended an Iowa International Writing Program seminar in 1980. Her work is featured in the Peter Nazareth Collection.

She says of the collection, “With a fantastic and unknown power, the tape recording commanded my imagination to fly and run. That’s why the Peter Nazareth Collection brought back to my life – with all its intensity – one of the most remarkable experiences I’ve ever lived.”



John C. Keller
Associate Provost for Graduate
Education and Dean of the
Graduate College

Letter from the Dean

When meeting people for the first time, it's common to be asked, "What do you do for a living?"

We teach our graduate scholars to be prepared to give short, accurate, and compelling answers to this question. A professor of neuroscience, Daniel Tranel, expects his students to be able to deliver a one-minute "elevator speech," explaining their research in lay terms.

Of course, students work hard to engage in detailed discourse about their graduate studies. In this tough economic climate, though, it is crucial to have the

skill to speak clearly and succinctly about one's work.

As dean of the Graduate College at Iowa, my answer is simply this: *I serve the scholars who contribute research and creative work that make this world a better place.*

It's a rewarding, humbling, and challenging job. From advanced brain research to mind-opening poetry, graduate education at Iowa is continually uncovering new views of humanity.

The Graduate College is expanding its reach this semester by offering a first-year seminar course for UI freshmen entitled "Grad School – Is It For YOU?" I am team-teaching the course with Associate Dean Dan Berkowitz. All the enrollees in this course have indicated they are strongly considering extending their academic lives beyond their undergraduate years. With this kind of interest in graduate education, the demand for high quality graduate programs will continue.

As you read this newsletter and explore our website, I hope you will find stories that pique your interest in the exciting research and creative work happening on our campus.

John C. Keller
Associate Provost for Graduate Education
Dean, Graduate College

Bryant Honored with Board of Regents Award

Diana Bryant received a Board of Regents Staff Excellence Award for 2008/2009. The Board of Regents, in cooperation with the Staff Councils of the five Regents institutions, annually recognizes staff for outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the institutions as well as the State of Iowa. Winners were recognized at a University event in October. The University grants a \$1,000 prize to each awardee's department to be used for his/her benefit.

Bryant works with the Graduate College's Office of Graduate Ethnic Inclusion, coordinating the Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP)/McNair Scholars Program, retention efforts, and new graduate student orientation. The Graduate College is very proud of her accomplishments and pleased that the Board of Regents has recognized her dedication and hard work for graduate education at Iowa.



OGEI, SROP/McNair students offer thanks and congratulations to Bryant

Ms. Bryant has exposed me to all that I needed for Graduate School and I am very grateful for that. This summer had been the best one ever, and I would not give it up for the world. To show her my thank you, I will succeed. Thank You Ms. Bryant!

—**Indira Turney**, SROP/McNair 2009

When I filled out my SROP application, Miss Diana was contacting me to help me through the process. She made me realize through e-mail that people in Iowa were really nice. She was one of the people who made my experience in Iowa exceptional.

—**Katia Gonzalez**, SROP/McNair 2009

Ms. Bryant not only does her job, she does everything from her heart. She cares! She cares about the future of the coming generations.

—**Omer Elgaali**, SROP/McNair 2009

Mrs. Bryant has been a breath of fresh air. She presented me opportunities that I would have never known about otherwise.

She is always someone you can go to and she will go out of her way to help you. She is one of those people a student needs to be able to matriculate successfully!

I am so grateful to be able to know Mrs. Bryant and this award could not be given to a more deserving person!

—**Dorian Richardson**, SROP/McNair 2009

You always greet me with a big hug, a warm smile, and encouraging words. Thank you for all your hard work, dedication, and helping me pursue my educational goals.

—**Noaquia Callahan**, SROP/McNair 2008
UI Dean's Fellow - History MA/Ph.D.

Ms. Diana's passion for the success of students is truly admirable. Her persona is warm, supportive, and deserves nothing but the utmost respect.

During my experience at the Summer Research Opportunity Program/McNair Scholars Program, she was willing to do whatever it took to make those eight weeks as productive as possible.

She is truly laudable as the 2009 recipient of the Board of Regents Staff Excellence Award, and her dedication is to be commended.

—**Quinnetta Claytor**, SROP/McNair 2009
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.
Delta Chapter-Univ. of Iowa

Applied Mathematical & Computational Sciences Alumnus Develops Sports Stats Sites

Sean Forman has made life much easier for baseball beat reporters. These scribes no longer lug around a heavy encyclopedia to find answers to their statistical questions. Everything they need now requires only a few keystrokes on their laptops, thanks to this former University of Iowa graduate student.

Forman, 37, launched Baseball-Reference.com in 2000 while working on a doctorate in applied mathematical and computational sciences at the UI.

Nine years later, his five websites patented as Sports Reference LLC – baseball, basketball, pro football, hockey and the Olympics – average half a million page views and over 100,000 unique users per day. Barry Bonds, Major League Baseball's home run king who is currently a free agent, receives the most hits of any baseball player.

"The baseball site has been around nine years, and it has a lot of credibility in the field," Forman said. "The media feel comfortable citing us as sources for data. I've been to the (Major League Baseball) Winter Meetings and seen people using Baseball-Reference. You're proud of what you've done when you see the pros using it. It's one of those things where a lot of work has accumulated over a long period of time."

In May 2006, Forman took a leave

from his position as an assistant professor in mathematics and computer science at St. Joseph's University to work full time on the website. He has since resigned from his academic position and works as the president of Sports Reference LLC and lives in Philadelphia.

As a long-time baseball fan, former high school catcher and self-professed Rotisserie baseball addict, Forman saw a need for people like him. Want to find out the Triple Crown winners or the 1980 American League Rookie of the Year? Baseball-Reference.com is just the place. The website has stats for every player and every season in major league history.

Forman got the basic data in 2000 from the Lahman Database. Some data has been donated, some he has entered himself, and some has been purchased. Daily updates are performed using data bought from a third party.

"Mostly, there wasn't a place to get stats online," said Forman, a native of Manning, Iowa. "It was the peak of the Internet boom and there was no place online to look up Ty Cobb's or Rogers Hornsby's stats. I thought the Internet would be a better form for this data than a baseball encyclopedia. We aren't confined by space. If you would print (my website) out, you couldn't carry it around. There is so much data on there."



Sean Forman, UI doctoral alum in applied mathematical & computational sciences

Forman's desire for more data isn't stopping. His staff of three full-time employees isn't overwhelmed by the numbers yet since the data entry is an automated process.

Expect a few more sites to pop up in the future. Forman is exploring adding Negro League baseball, soccer and college sports pages.

"There's always more data to be had," Forman said.

Forman had good times in Iowa City while attending The University of Iowa. He graduated in December 2001, and his thesis title was *Torsion Angle Selection and Emergent Non-Local Secondary Structure in Protein Structure Prediction*.

Not only did he earn his doctorate, but he met his wife, Sylvia Forman, in a numerical analysis class.

"I loved Iowa City and loved living there," Forman said. "We still talk about moving back to Iowa City some day. I have fond memories of going to school there and getting a high quality education."



Dan Brooks

Psychology Graduate Student Creates Baseball Stats Site

University of Iowa graduate student Dan Brooks has created brooksbaseball.net. His site offers data in eight pitching categories from every Major League Baseball game since 2008, including average speed, strike percentage and average pitch movement. Brooks is pursuing a doctorate in behavioral and cognitive neuroscience, but started the site as a hobby in 2008.

The site averages about a thousand unique visitors per day, many of whom are journalists who cover Major League Baseball. The site's data is from Sportvision, a company whose cameras track the ball's starting position, velocity, and acceleration in three dimensions. Sportvision provides the data, called PITCHf/x, for free.

"My website grabs that data and puts it on the screen in a way people can do something with it," said Brooks, a die-hard Red Sox fan from Boston, Mass. Brooks is partnering with Sean Forman, an alumnus of the Graduate College, who runs Baseball-Reference.com.

Brooks doesn't consider building and administering baseball websites his calling; he's more interested in academia than athletics. At the UI, he studies animal learning in psychologist Ed Wasserman's comparative cognition lab.

Honor Roll of Graduate College Contributors

This honor roll gratefully recognizes alumni and friends who contributed \$100 or more from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009, to the Graduate College through The University of Iowa Foundation, the preferred channel for private support of all areas of the University.

Contributors of \$1,000 or more

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