

## Steve Gietschier Shares Book Award for Baseball Anthology

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Steve Gietschier, Professor of History and the University's Curator, shared recently in a major award given to a book to which he contributed. The North American Society for Sport History gave its annual award for Best Sports Anthology to *The Cambridge Companion to Baseball*, published by Cambridge University Press.



The award was announced the first week of June at the society's annual convention in Berkeley, Calif., at which Gietschier delivered a commentary at a session called "San Francisco Bay Area Baseball: The Color of Race and Ethnicity." The book, which was published in fall of 2011, was edited by Leonard Cassuto and Stephen Partridge and contains 15 essays written by baseball scholars from around the country.

Gietschier's essay, which opens the book, is titled "The Rules of Baseball" and details the evolution of the game from its birth, in the decades before the Civil War, to the end of the 19th century, prior to which rule changes were common. Through different portions of those early years, for instance, there was no strike zone, batted balls caught on one bounce resulted in an out, and pitchers delivered the ball underhanded. The shifts in rules that occurred before the turn of the 20th century made those that have occurred since then look like minor tweaks.

Gietschier came into the project when a friend who works at Skidmore College in the state of New York approached him and asked him to pinch hit, if you will, by writing an essay for the book in his place because he did not have the time. The essay was initially supposed to be on the history of baseball in Japan. The editors later told Gietschier they wanted an essay on the origins and rules of baseball instead.

A sports historian for 25 years, Gietschier said he was more comfortable with

## Did You Know?

**Did you know that in the mid-1980s Lindenwood nearly sold part of its campus to a developer intent on creating a retirement community? The "Lindenwood Village" would have raised some much-needed operating cash, in addition to providing a training outlet for our Gerontology Program. At the last moment, the plan was abandoned.**

that subject than he was with the former, none the less, he said writing about the origins of the game is difficult.

“It is always changing as we do research,” Gietschier said. “The challenge is writing something detailed that stands the test of time.”

Other essays in the book deal with subjects like diversity in the game and baseball and war.

“It’s a good one-volume survey,” he said.

Gietschier notified the editors of the book about the sports history society’s competition and suggested they get the book nominated. He said he was pleased to hear the book had won.

“It’s a nice feeling,” he said. “The organization is a group of my peers. To have your work recognized is very pleasant.”

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## Klar, Thies, and Stein to Present at National Social Work Conference

Three Lindenwood University professors will jointly present during the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) national conference in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, July 25. Dana Klar, Associate Professor and Field Education Coordinator; Michael Stein, Professor of Sociology ; and Jeanie Thies, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and Dean of Institutional Research, will discuss *Measuring Hope: Lessons Learned in the Creation of a Therapeutic Rehabilitation Community*.



Klar

The research findings are centered on the trio’s involvement in a new therapeutic rehabilitation community known as Jupiter, which is sponsored by Bridgeway Behavioral Health in St. Charles, Mo. The pilot program provides substance abusers, particularly those who have been incarcerated, with aid in reintegrating into the community through housing and employment opportunities.



Thies

Jupiter administrators reached out to Klar, Thies, and Stein about a year ago for help in developing assessment tools to measure how levels of hope affect a person’s success in the program



Stein

“Our hypothesis is that those who have more hope will do better reintegrating,” said Klar. “It’s a cross-collaboration between sociology, criminology, and social work that brings different perspectives to the process of determining areas in which we can shore up that hope.”

Klar also noted that the research presentation will be a great addition to this year's NASW conference because of its theme, "Restoring Hope through Social Work."

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