

Union faculty members achieve Highest Honors

Union faculty members have a long history of winning awards, publishing research and partnering with colleagues at other academic institutions in pursuit of knowledge. But in the past 12 months, several members of the Union faculty—representing a variety of disciplines—have captured some of the highest honors possible in their respective fields.

David Austill: Fulbright scholarship winner



A professor of accounting and business law, Austill will use the prestigious Fulbright scholarship to study European employment law in Bulgaria and lecture at Sofia University in the country's capital city.

"I hope to write a paper on the employment law, making the comparison of European employment law to American employment law," said Austill, who has never visited Bulgaria but plans a short summer visit to acclimate himself prior to his research leave from October-February.

Austill is believed to be the first Union faculty member to win a Fulbright scholarship while serving at the University. McAfee School of Business Administration Dean Keith Absher won a Fulbright while serving at the University of North Alabama.

Micah Watson: research fellow, James Madison Program, Princeton University



Watson, assistant professor of political science and director of Union's Center for Religion and Politics, says the Madison program is meant to provide access to Princeton's resources and enable original research related to American ideals and institutions.

He will research the writings of John Locke (1632–1704) and benefit from a collection of 900 books in the Princeton library

devoted to the British philosopher.

"My project is about trying to recapture how his Christian faith informed his political thinking," Watson said. "I find not only was he interesting in his own right, but a lot of his thoughts have continuing relevance for the debates that we're having today."

Hal Poe: Edgar Award from the Mystery Writers of America



Poe, the Charles Colson Professor of Faith and Culture, was on hand at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City to receive the award for his book, *Edgar Allan Poe: An Illustrated Companion to His Tell-Tale Stories*, published in 2009.

"I was truly surprised," said Poe, who is a descendant of Edgar Allan Poe. "It was a huge honor."

The Mystery Writers of America established the Edgar

Awards to recognize the best mysteries each year, and the best critical biographical books related to mysteries. The awards are named in honor of Edgar Allan Poe, who is recognized as the founder of the mystery genre.

Bobby Rogers: Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize

About 900 poets around the world enter the prestigious Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize Competition each year. It's an honor to finish in the top 20, but only the winning entry is published by the University of Pittsburgh Press.

Professor of English and Writer-in-Residence Bobby Rogers has had a number of top 20 finishes over the years, but in 2009, he took the top spot. His winning poetry collection, likely to be entitled *Paper Anniversary*, will be published later in 2010.

"It's one of the places you hope your book will land," says Rogers. "And Pitt University Press publishes people out of respect, so that's where you want to be."



Emily Lean: 2009 AME Best Paper Award

Union business professor Emily Lean ('03) received the 2009 Academy of Management Best Paper Award at the Academy of Management annual meeting in Chicago.

Lean says about 6,000 articles per year are submitted and the journal has an acceptance rate of less than 10 percent. After they are accepted, the papers go through the process of being reviewed multiple times until the editors choose the articles to be published in the journals.

"We never went in thinking we were going to win," Lean said. "It really caught us by surprise."

The paper, which Lean co-wrote, was about the effects of domestic violence in the workplace. ☛

