



**22nd Annual
Baseball in Literature and
Culture Conference**

Friday, March 31, 2017

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7:45 a.m. **Registration and Breakfast**

8:15 a.m. **Welcome**

Andy Hazucha, Conference Coordinator
Terry Haines, Ottawa University Provost

8:30 – **Morning Keynote Address**

9:15 a.m. Morning Keynote Speaker: Jonathan Eig

9:30 – **Concurrent Sessions A**

10:30 a.m.

Session A1: Baseball Rituals, Ritual Makers, and Ritual Breakers

Location: Hasty Conference Room

Chair: Shannon Dyer, Ottawa University

- Gerald C. Wood, Carson-Newman University: “*Baseball and Ritual; or, Why I Hated Joe West Before It Was Cool*”
- Barbara Dinneen, Ottawa University: “*Baseball ‘History’ in the Trump Era: Stretching the Seventh-Inning Stretch*”
- Phil Oliver, Middle Tennessee State University: “*Missing Vin*”

Session A2: Baseball History, Real and Imagined

Location: Zook Conference Room

Chair: George Eshnaur, Ottawa University

- Katherine Walden, University of Iowa: “*‘Is this Heaven? No, it’s Iowa’: Reframing Minor League Baseball Narratives*”
- Mark Eberle, Fort Hays State University: “*The Wichita Monrovians and the Colored Western League of 1922*”
- Todd Fertig, Topeka Capital-Journal: “*The Dodgers’ Plan B*”

**10:45 –
11:45 a.m.**

Concurrent Sessions B

Session B1: Baseball in Popular Culture

Location: Hasty Conference Room

Chair: Shannon Dyer, Ottawa University

- Phil Wedge, University of Kansas: *“Taking ‘the crooked with the straights’: Baseball in the Play and Film Fences”*
- William Bishop, Baker University: *“‘All that once was good and could be again’: Baseball Nostalgia and Fantasies of the New York Yankees Renaissance in the Early 1990s”*
- Ethan D. Bryan, Writer, and Nathan Rueckert, The Baseball Seams Company: *“America at the Seams”*

Session B2: Baseball Players’ Other Lives

Location: Zook Conference Room

Chair: George Eshnaur, Ottawa University

- Shawn O’Hare, Carson-Newman University: *“The Crab’s Other Career: Johnny Evers Sporting Goods”*
- Warren Tormey, Middle Tennessee State University: *“Chick Gandil: Multisport Athlete”*
- Joseph Heininger, Dominican University: *“Taking a Closer Look at Monte Irvin, a Five-tool Player for the Ages”*

**12:00 –
1:30 p.m.**

Luncheon and Afternoon Keynote Speaker

Location: Schendel Conference Center

Afternoon Keynote Speaker: Jay Johnstone

Autograph/networking in Mabee Lounge following the luncheon.

**1:30 –
2:30 p.m.**

Concurrent Sessions C

Session C1: Baseball in Philosophy, Psychology, and Symbology

Location: Hasty Conference Room

Chair: Andy Hazucha, Ottawa University

- Justin Clarke, Ottawa University: “*The Epistemology of Baseball: Is Bill James a Pragmatist?*”
- Steve Andrews, Grinnell College: “*The Ovals of Cassini and the Dream of a Timeless Order: A Baseball Cover Story*”
- Joc Collins, Carson-Newman University: “*Baseball as Metaphor of the Mind: Batting Averages, Brain Areas, Strikeouts, and Mental Statistics*”

Session C2: Baseball in Experimental Poetry

Location: Zook Conference Room

Chair: Karen Ohnesorge, Ottawa University

- Susan M. Schultz, University of Hawaii at Manoa: “*Baseball and Memoir: Kevin Varrone’s Box Score*”
- Douglas N. Rothschild, Independent Scholar: “*America’s Poetry Transcendence: 100 Years Outside of Time*”
- Dennis Etzel, Jr., Washburn University: “*Meditations on the Ball: Susan M. Schultz’s Memory Cards: Dogen Series*”

**2:35 –
3:35 p.m.**

Concurrent Sessions D

Session D1: Baseball in Creative Non-fiction

Location: Hasty Conference Room

Chair: Greg Moore, Ottawa University

- Casey Pycior, Southeastern Community College: “*On Being Red Assed*”
- Julie Hensley, Eastern Kentucky University: “*Boys I Have Known*”
- Matt Muilenberg, University of Dubuque: “*The Leadoff Men*”

Session D2: Baseball Fiction, Poetry, and Twitter

Location: Zook Conference Room

Chair: Lyn Wagner, Ottawa University

- Bob Johnson, Eastern Kentucky University: “From Bobby Murcer to Larry Randle: Excerpts from the Novel, *Californium*”
- Nicholas Bush, Motlow State Community College: “Are These Good Enough for a Baseball Chapbook? Lyrical Rants and Poetic Reflections on America’s Pastime”
- Chris Kamler, Independent Scholar: “Royals Twitter: Building a Championship Online Community”

Session D3: Baseball in Fiction and Poetry

Location: Goppert Conference Room

Chair: Bill Towns, Ottawa University

- Richard V. McGehee, University of Texas at Austin: “Darkness and Hope in Two Sergio Ramírez Stories: ‘El Centerfielder’ and ‘Tarde de Sol’”
- Débora Tiéno, University of Illinois: “‘Playing Ball is in the Blood’: Baseball and US Settler Colonialism”
- Jan Johnson, Independent Scholar: “‘The Happiest Mortal’: An Introduction to Walt Mason’s True Baseball Fan”

**3:45 –
5:45 p.m.**

Session E: Extra Innings

Location: Smoked Creations; 222 E. Logan Street; Ottawa, KS

Feel free to gather for some post-conference conversation and conviviality.



Morning Keynote Speaker

Jonathan Eig

Jonathan Eig is the New York Times best-selling author of four books: “Luckiest Man,” “Opening Day,” “Get Capone,” and, most recently, “The Birth of the Pill.” He is currently working on a biography of Muhammad Ali.

Before writing books, Jonathan worked as a reporter for The Wall Street Journal, Chicago magazine, The Dallas Morning News, and the New Orleans Times-Picayune. He has also written for The New York Times, The New Yorker, and The Washington Post. He has appeared on NBC’s Today Show, NPR’s Fresh Air with Terry Gross, and two PBS documentaries made by Ken Burns. Burns calls Jonathan “a master storyteller.” But what really impresses people is that he once appeared on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.

Jonathan lives in Chicago with his wife and children.



Afternoon Keynote Speaker

Jay Johnstone

Jay Johnstone was a versatile outfielder, clutch post-season hitter, clubhouse favorite, and two-time World Series champion over his 19-year career. Originally drafted by the California Angels, Johnstone spent his career with various

teams including the Philadelphia Phillies, San Diego Padres, Chicago Cubs, New York Yankees and Los Angeles Dodgers—the latter two with whom he won World Series rings. Following his on-field career, Johnstone served as a color commentator for the New York Yankees and Philadelphia Phillies, and he participated in numerous philanthropic endeavors while also beginning a career as an author. His three books, “Temporary Insanity” (1985), “Over the Edge” (1988), and “Some of My Best Friends are Crazy” (1990), co-written with Los Angeles Times columnist Rick Talley, depict Johnstone’s zany career in great detail and provide some of the most entertaining stories ever told about the game of baseball. Widely regarded as one of baseball’s most creative thinkers and craftiest pranksters, Johnstone once said of his antics, “I don’t rehearse anything. I just do what my instincts tell me to.”



Logo designed by Todd Radom



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