

*Celebrating
25 years*

Thursday - Friday,
July 15-16, 2021



Welcome to Ottawa University

and the 25th Annual Baseball in Literature and Culture Conference. In celebration of the 25th Conference Anniversary, this year we have added some extra events and expanded our guest presenters to the lineup. We hope that you will enjoy your time with us, each other, and learning more about the beloved game of baseball.

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to all our sponsors for their part in making this conference successful:

The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum
Kansas City, Missouri

John R. Landis

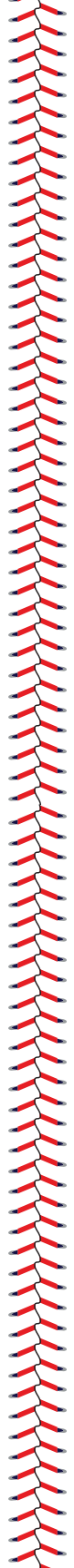
Order of Service

THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021

- 6:00 p.m.** **Welcome and Dinner**
Reggies Wenyika, Ottawa University Midwest President
- 7:00 p.m.** **Introductions**
Andy Hazucha, Conference Coordinator
- 7:10 p.m.** **Keynote Program**
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lawrence “Larry” Hogan
Guest Artist: Kevin Kane

FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2021

- 7:45 a.m.** **Registration and Breakfast**
- 8:15 a.m.** **Opening Remarks**
Andy Hazucha, Conference Coordinator
- 8:30 –** **Morning Keynote Address**
9:15 a.m. Morning Keynote Speaker: Emily Rutter
Ball State University
Book signing in the Mabee Lounge following the talk.
- 9:30 –** **Concurrent Sessions A**
10:30 a.m. **Session A1: Baseball Magic & Horror**
Location: Hasty Conference Room
Chair: Murle Mordy, Ottawa University
- “Sleight of Hand and the Magic of Baseball”
Justin Clarke, Ottawa University
 - “Triple Play: Take Me Out at the Ball Game”
Barb Dinneen, Ottawa University
 - “The Power of Playing Catch”
Ethan Bryan, Independent Scholar





Session A2: Baseball Creative Nonfiction

Location: Zook Conference Room

Chair: Shannon Dyer, Ottawa University

- **“Dressing in Code: Examining the Roles Uniforms Play When the Playing Days are Over”**
Andrew Jones, University of Dubuque
Matt Muilenburg, University of Dubuque
Casey Pycior, University of Southern Indiana

Session A3: Baseball History

Location: Goppert Conference Room

Chair: George Eshnaur, Ottawa University

- **“‘The Necessary Intelligence’:” Rube Foster, the African American Press, and the Chicago Renaissance”**
Dan Anderson, Dominican University
- **“Legacy: The Tiant Family and Cuban/U.S. Relations”**
Todd Fertig, *Topeka Capital-Journal*
- **“Fifty Years of Dazzling, Dizzying Threads: Anniversary of Pittsburgh Pirates’ Debuting Double-Knits”**
Ken Moon, Iowa Western Community College

**10:45 –
11:45 a.m.**

Concurrent Sessions B

Session B1: Baseball’s Cultural Myths

Location: Hasty Conference Room

Chair: Shannon Dyer, Ottawa University

- **“The Unfortunate Truth about Jackie Robinson and Baseball”**
Andrew Sprague, Ottawa University
- **“Fixing the Game: *Field of Dreams* and the American Story”**
Keir Hichens, Grinnell College

Session B2: Early Black Baseball

Location: Zook Conference Room

Chair: Steven Foulke, Ottawa University

- **“Minnesota’s First African-American Baseball Player: Prince Honeycutt”**
Eric Berg, MacMurray College
- **“Integrated Minor Leagues of Kansas, Colorado, and Nebraska”**
Mark E. Eberle, Fort Hays State University
- **“Baseball Bona Fides: Sol Butler and Black Sports Entrepreneurship”**
Brian Hallstoos, University of Dubuque

**12:00 –
1:30 p.m.**

Luncheon and Keynote Speaker Interview

Location: Schendel Conference Center

An interview with keynote guest Pedro Sierra

Interviewer: Greg Echlin,

Kansas Public Radio & KCUR-FM

**1:30 –
2:30 p.m.**

Concurrent Sessions C

Session C1: Baseball, Politics, and (In)Justice

Location: Hasty Conference Room

Chair: Ron Kates, Middle Tennessee State University

- **“From the YMCA to the KBO (Korean Baseball Organization): How Baseball in Korea was Used for Political and Religious Gains”**
Christopher Doll, University of Dubuque
- **“And Now the Sinclair Broadcast Group: Reflections on the Chicago Cubs and Politics”**
Gerald C. Wood, Carson-Newman University
- **“‘No Justice in this World’: David James Duncan’s *The Brothers K*”**
Phil Oliver, Middle Tennessee State University





Session C2: (Anti-)Romantic Baseball Legacies

Location: Zook Conference Room

Chair: Mike Webber, Franklin County Historical Society

- **“Just Plain Screwed: Good Pitchers on Bad Teams in the Pre-Free Agency Era”**
Warren Tormey, Middle Tennessee State University
- **“It’s Hard Not to be Romantic about Baseball’: *Moneyball*’s Ambivalent Marxist Materialism and Baseball Cinematic Tradition”**
William Bishop, Baker University

**2:35 –
3:35 p.m.**

Concurrent Sessions D

Session D1: Voices of the Game

Location: Hasty Conference Room

Chair: Ryan Louis, Ottawa University

- **“I’m Author Hernandez”**
Sarah D. Bunting, TomatoNation.com
- **“Scout’s Honor”**
Nicholas Bush, Motlow State Community College
- **“The Fantastics: Or What We Can Learn from Historical Fiction”**
Scott D. Peterson, University of Missouri–St. Louis

Session D2: The Economics of Baseball

Location: Zook Conference Room

Chair: Murle Mordy, Ottawa University

- **“The Organization of the Dugout”**
Peter Jacobsen, Ottawa University
- **“Sign Stealing in Baseball: Does It Produce Measurable Results”**
Chris Azevedo, University of Central Missouri
- **“How Jackie Robinson and Adam Smith Desegregated Baseball”**
Russ McCullough, Ottawa University

Session D3: Baseball in Fiction and Poetry

Location: Goppert Conference Room

Chair: Phil Wedge, University of Kansas

- **“Black Baseball in Angela Jackson-Brown’s *When Stars Rain Down*”**
Michelle Schiavone, Marshall University
- **“‘Baseball Canto’: One Last Round with Ferlinghetti”**
Steve Andrews, Grinnell College

**3:45 –
5:45 p.m.**

Session E: Extra Innings

Location: Ottawa University Gangwish Library
Scherich Atrium
1001 S. Cedar Street
Ottawa, KS 66067

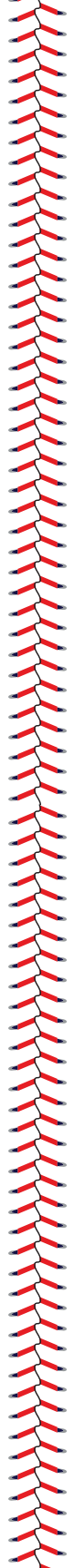
Angry River Barbecue food truck will be on-site serving dinner for purchase; beer and wine will be available free of charge.

7:10 p.m.

Royals vs. Orioles Game

Location: Kauffman Stadium
1 Royal Way
Kansas City, MO 64129

An Ottawa University bus will be taking attendees to and from the game to a pre-determined pick-up and drop-off location.





Thursday Guest Artist

Kevin Kane

Kevin Kane has made the better part of his living as a songwriter, musician, and playwright. “Breaking the Line with the Mudville Nine” was written for and first performed at the Cooperstown Baseball Hall of Fame, where he did a program with Frank DeFord, who read the original “Casey at the Bat” before introducing Kevin’s performance. Since then Kane has done readings of his poem at New York City’s 92nd Street Y, at the SABR annual conference in Philadelphia in 2016, and at many libraries and local venues in New Jersey and New York. His play entitled *A Love of the Game* was first performed in 1995 at the O’Neill National Playwrights Conference, directed by Lloyd Richards. Kane has had many plays produced in New York City and in regional theaters, performs often as a singer/songwriter, was a performance representative for August Wilson, taught theater at Wagner College on Staten Island for a number of years, and has received several significant grants for his writing, both fiction and nonfiction. He is currently teaching music and performance art at a school in the South Bronx, just blocks from Yankee Stadium.

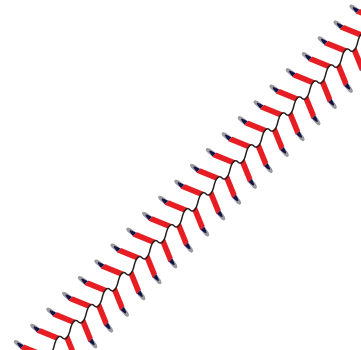


Thursday Keynote Speaker

Dr. Lawrence “Larry” Hogan

Dr. Lawrence Hogan is professor emeritus of history from Union County College in New Jersey. Along with other books on Black culture and history, he is the author of *The Forgotten History of African American Baseball*. Hogan

was executive producer and historian of the documentary, *Before You Can Say Jackie Robinson: Black Baseball in America during the Era of the Color Line*. His travel exhibit of the same title has been shown at sites across the country. Hogan served as a member of the committee which in 2006 elected 17 Black baseball figures to the National Baseball Hall of Fame.





Friday Morning Keynote Speaker

Emily Rutter

Emily Ruth Rutter is an Assistant Professor of English and a Ball Brothers Honors College Faculty Fellow at Ball State University. She is the author of *Invisible Ball of Dreams: Literary Representations of Baseball behind the Color*

Line (University Press of Mississippi, 2018) and *The Blues Muse: Race, Gender, and Musical Celebrity in American Poetry* (University of Alabama Press, 2018), as well as a co-editor of *Revisiting the Elegy in the Black Lives Matter Era* (Routledge, 2019). Her numerous essays have been published in *African American Review*, *Aethlon*, and *MELUS*, among other journals. Her book chapter on African American women poets appears in *A Cambridge History of Twentieth-Century American Women's Poetry*, and a book chapter on Amiri Baraka and sports is forthcoming in *Some Other Blues: New Perspectives on Amiri Baraka* (Ohio State UP, 2021).

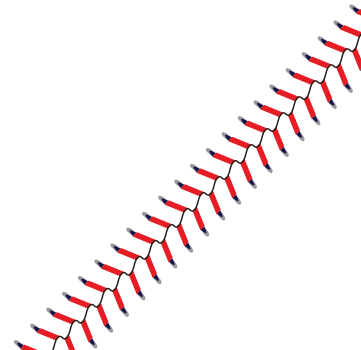


Friday Afternoon Keynote Interviewee

Pedro Sierra

Born in 1938 in Havana, Cuba, Pedro Sierra signed his first contract to play baseball with the Indianapolis Clowns of the Negro American League in 1954. He was just 16 years old. In 1955 Sierra joined the lineup of the Detroit Stars, for whom he pitched until 1959. During the four years that he played for the Stars, Sierra was chosen to pitch in the East-West All-Star Game each year, attracting the notice of major league scouts and earning him a tryout with the Washington Senators in the spring of 1959.

Sierra was drafted into the U.S. Army that same year, and when his tour of duty ended in 1962 he signed with the Minnesota Twins. He played in the Twins' organization from 1962 until 1966 before jumping to the Provinciale League in Canada, where he pitched from 1967 to 1969. Sierra ended his playing career after a brief stint with the Washington Senators in 1970. Since his playing days Sierra has been involved in various kinds of social work: assisting troubled youth and their families in delinquency prevention programs, helping Cuban refugees enter the United States during the 1980 Cuban Refugee Crisis, developing drug prevention programs for youth in Montgomery County, Maryland, and acting as a mediator to ease cross-cultural conflicts in the Montgomery County public school system.





Logo designed by Todd Radom



1001 South Cedar Street • Ottawa, Kansas 66067