

**APPENDIX 2:**  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## Asian Baseball Committee

Members and friends of the SABR Asian Baseball Committee contributed to the following live events/papers, publications, special projects and digital media activities that enhanced our collective knowledge of Asian baseball in 2014-2015. Annual highlights include:

### LIVE EVENTS, PRESENTATIONS & PAPERS

July 2014, SABR 44, Houston, Texas.

Robert Fitts, *The Minions of Mikado: The Quest to Form the First Professional Japanese-American Baseball Team*

Emily Hawks and Anthony Salazar, *Evaluating the Impact of Baseball at Japanese-American WWII Internment Camps: An Assessment of the Game and its Portrayal in Popular Culture*

October 26, 2014, Return to Heart Mountain: A Celebration of Japanese American Baseball  
San Jose, CA

In partnership with the Nisei Baseball Research Project, the SABR ABC helped coordinate a special event at the San Jose Japanese American Museum to honor the 70th anniversary of the series between the Gila River vs. Heart Mountain internment teams in 1944.  
[http://www.mercurynews.com/bay-area-news/ci\\_26804023/japanese-americans-recall-their-baseball-glory-during-internment](http://www.mercurynews.com/bay-area-news/ci_26804023/japanese-americans-recall-their-baseball-glory-during-internment)

April 2015, NINE Conference, Tempe, AZ

James Orr, “Little League in Japan: It’s a Hit!”

Robert Fitts, “I Left my Heart in San Francisco: The Inside Story of Japan’s First Major Leaguer”

May 2015, Society of Korean Baseball Studies spring conference, Sungkyunkwan University

Multiple presentations

[http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/sports/2015/05/136\\_178568.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/sports/2015/05/136_178568.html)

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

**Rare Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Nisei Baseball Film** – In partnership with the Nisei Baseball Research Project, on October 28, 2014 we assisted with the public release of rare, never-before-seen footage of Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and Japanese American all-stars from 1927.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcnR4Nn\\_cEY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcnR4Nn_cEY)

**Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History** – In partnership with the Nisei Baseball Research project we provided

research assistance to Noriko Sanefuji of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History on their inclusion of Nisei baseball pioneer Tets Furukawa's baseball uniform. Tets played first base as a teenager at the Gila River War Relocation Center in Arizona (1943-45). His Guadalupe YMBA uniform serves as a reminder of "how baseball was an expression of American identity and citizenship."

**National Park Service, Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) Grant Program** – With support from the Nisei Baseball Research Project and the SABR Asian Baseball Committee, the City of Chandler submitted a proposal and was awarded a grant for \$9,380 to construct the Nozomi Park History Kiosk. The City of Chandler will create and install a kiosk at Nozomi Park, a multi-use recreational park with baseball fields. Originally known as West Chandler, the park was renamed Nozomi – Japanese for “hope” – in 2011 to honor the Japanese Americans who were detained in Arizona. The kiosk will provide an overview of the internment in Arizona, with a focus on daily life and the importance of baseball at the Gila River Internment Camp. The kiosk is now scheduled to be installed in the Fall of 2015.

**Bill Kajikawa Nomination** –In partnership with the Nisei Baseball Research Project, we supported the campaign to nominate Bill Kajikawa (1912-2010), Arizona State University's legendary coach, as a nominee for the 2015 Arizona Sports Hall of Fame. Voting ended November 14, 2014. <http://www.azhof.org/vote-here.html>

**Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado** – Assisted the Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado (JARCC) in research on Japanese American baseball in Colorado.

**Baseball Saved Us, The Play** – Served as a consultant for Child's Play Arizona (<http://www.childsplayaz.org>) in the development of a script based on the award-winning children's book, *Baseball Saved Us*, by Ken Mochizuki. Rights were secured in 2015 and the play is scheduled to run in 2017.

**National Baseball Hall of Fame** – Shared research files with the archives at the National Baseball Hall of Fame on the war-time tryout of Japanese American pitcher Henry Honda with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1943. Source: *The Rohwer Outpost* (AR), Sept 8, 1943, page 5.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Articles/Blogs

The curious case of Benjami ... I mean, Shumza Sugimoto, by Ryan Whirty (July 2014)  
<https://homeplatedontmove.wordpress.com/2014/07/23/the-curious-case-of-benjami-i-mean-shumza-sugimoto/>

Straight Outta Compton ... One Proud Papa: Alan Ishikawa, Father of SF Giants New Home Run Hero Travis Ishikawa, by Bill Staples, Jr. (October 2014)

<http://billstaples.blogspot.com/2014/10/one-proud-papa-alan-ishikawa-father-of.html>

Shumza Sugimoto: A False Spring or Lost in Translation? By Gary Cieradkowski (Feb 2015)

<http://infinitcardset.blogspot.com/2015/02/192-shumza-sugimoto-false-spring.html>

Shunzo Takaki, 2B/OF, University of Pennsylvania, 1907: First Japanese College Player in the United States, by Bill Staples, Jr. (Feb 2015)

<http://billstaples.blogspot.com/2015/02/shunzo-takaki-2bof-university-of.html>

America's Other "Colored" League: The Legacy of Japanese American Baseball, by Bill Staples, Jr. Out of Bounds Magazine (March 2015)

[http://www.magcloud.com/browse/issue/903916?\\_\\_r=551983](http://www.magcloud.com/browse/issue/903916?__r=551983)

Sadowski is bridging the baseball gap between Korea and America, Korean Times, by Patrick Bourgo (April 2015),

[http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/sports/2015/04/600\\_177911.html](http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/sports/2015/04/600_177911.html)

Movie Review: The Vancouver Asahi. Directed by Yuya Ishii, Satoko Okudera, screenplay; produced by Film-makers. Tokyo: Distributed by Pony Canyon, 2014. ([www.vancouver-asahi.jp](http://www.vancouver-asahi.jp)), by Bill Staples, Jr. (July 2015, forthcoming)

### **SABR Bio Projects Completed**

Multiple bios about MLB players in Asia were published between July 2014 and June 2015. Highlights from the list include:

Herb Hunter, by Bill Nowlin, 09/09/2014

Don Zimmer, by Bob Hurte, 09/10/2014

Dave Nilsson, by Rory Costello, 09/22/2014

Lefty Gomez, C. Paul Rogers III, 03/02/2015

Jose Lima, by Rory Costello, 03/04/2015

Mike Lum, by Rory Costello, 04/10/2015

Tomo Ohka, by Lee Kluck, 04/14/2015

Larry French, by Gregory H. Wolf, 05/04/2015

### **New Books**

The following books related to Asian baseball were published between July 2014 and June 2015:

Japanese American Baseball in California: A History, Jul 29, 2014, by Kerry Yo Nakagawa

Mashi: The Unfulfilled Baseball Dreams of Masanori Murakami, the First Japanese Major Leaguer, Apr 1, 2015, by Robert K. Fitts

### **Book Research/Projects Forthcoming**

The SABR Asian Baseball Research committee members provided research assistance on the following projects:

Stockton Japanese at the 1935 National Baseball Congress Tournament, by Kazuo Sayama (in-progress)

English translation of “Gentle Black Giants”, by Kazuo Sayama (in-progress)

### **DIGITAL**

#### **Social media**

Asian Baseball Community, <https://www.facebook.com/asianbaseball>

Nisei Baseball Research Project, <https://www.facebook.com/niseibaseball>

#### **Blogs**

Gary Ashwill (Multi-ethnic Baseball) <http://agatetype.typepad.com/>

Patrick Bourgo (Korean Baseball) <http://myso-calledresearch.blogspot.kr/>

Gary Cieradkowski (Multi-ethnic baseball) <http://infinitecardset.blogspot.com/>

Rob Fitts (Japanese & Nikkei Baseball) <http://blog.robfitss.com/>

Daigo Fujiwara (Japanese Baseball) <http://blog.japaneseballplayers.com/>

Patrick Gordon (Japanese Baseball) <http://blog.philadelphiabaseballreview.com/>

Bill Staples, Jr. (Nikkei Baseball) <http://www.zenimura.com/>

— **Bill Staples Jr. and Daigo Fujiwara**

### **Ballparks Committee**

Over the past year the SABR Ballparks Committee has

1. New leadership with Co-Chairmen Kevin Johnson and Ron Selter.
2. A revived, regularly published newsletter (Palaces of the Fans) managed by new Editor Richard Smiley.
3. A book project to produce an online revision to the monumental “Green Cathedrals”.
4. A start on a project to create a database of minor league ballparks.

Goals for 2015-16 include:

1. Continuing to expand Palaces of the Fans.
2. Completing the Green Cathedrals revision.
3. Developing a plan and organizing research volunteers for the minor league ballpark database.
4. Encouraging more interaction and activity among members via online platforms and other research sharing channels.

— **Kevin Johnson**

### **Baseball and the Arts Committee**

Now, time to file an Arts Report with SABR,  
To tell some news of research, and the labor  
Of reminding baseball fans that Art is surely,  
Important baseball value and is purely  
Part of baseball, the game and of the hist'ry,  
Which serves to solve so much of baseball's myst'ry  
About why music, poems, cartoons tell the story  
Of a game that's more than bats and balls and glory.  
Now Facebook offers Groups for Arts and Books,  
And Bardball adds more Haiku and – Gadzooks!  
I've spent all day caught up in baseball stuff,  
To pull my self away it will be tough.

The New Yorker magazine, today's front cover,  
Shows Ortiz sliding home while Yankees hover.

— **Joanne Hulbert**

### **Baseball Index Project**

In the past year, the project has begun to make substantial progress towards fixing its antiquated and often broken software. The public search function continues to be available to researchers and is being used heavily, especially by members of the BioProject. However, administration functions have been broken for three years and no new data has been added.

In the past year, we have agreed with a programmer recommended to use by Sean Forman of [baseball-reference.com](http://baseball-reference.com) and he has begun work on improving the system. An expanded search capability is virtually complete and we are working on improved methods for delivering results to researchers. Once that is stabilized, we will turn to the add records function.

We currently have just over 8,000 new or improved records that need to be added to the system. Once that is accomplished, TBI will be close to 250,000 items of baseball research materials. Our main targets for further entries are Sports Illustrated, Sport and Baseball Digest.

— **Andy McCue**

### **Baseball and the Media Committee**

We have just completed the second full year of existence for the Baseball and the Media Research Committee as of this past March 17. The committee continues to be chaired by Chuck Hildebrandt. John McMurray, as vice chair, serves in an advisory capacity.

The mission of the committee continues to be providing research pertaining to the media's coverage of baseball as both news (i.e., the story of baseball journalism and its impact on the evolution of baseball as a cultural and commercial phenomenon) and as an event (i.e., the story of the in-game coverage of baseball games, from telegraph to radio to television to Internet).

We are currently at 179 members as of June 17, 2014, and increase of +10% since the release of last year's annual report. The committee boasts several high profile members who ply their trade in the baseball media, including MLB official historian John Thorn; ESPN baseball columnists Jayson Stark and Christina Kahrl; MLB Network broadcaster Brian Kenny; and prominent baseball media author Curt Smith.

We continue to maintain four key databases:

- (1) MLB Broadcaster/Flagship, detailing all radio and TV flagship stations as well as broadcasters for each MLB team back to 1921. This database currently goes through 2012, with plans to be completely updated through 2015 by the time SABR 45 commences in late June.
- (2) Network TV Broadcasts, with details for every one of those back to 1947. This database is maintained independently by Committee member Tony Miller.
- (3) Radio Station Affiliates, for every MLB team starting with 2013, and should be updated through 2015 by SABR 45.
- (4) Sportswriters, focusing primarily on baseball and maintained by Bill Burgess with help from committee member Tony DeMarco. The updating of the database is on hold pending review.

We will identify needs for additional databases throughout the upcoming year. Earlier this year we secured a commitment to help modernize and update our current databases, and to identify and add new media databases, from Committee member Sean Lahman. However, just a few weeks later Sean accepted the data manager role for all of SABR, so his commitment to the Committee as database consultant is currently on hold.

Earlier this year, we redoubled our efforts to provide relevant baseball media content on an ongoing basis through our website, [SABRmedia.org](http://SABRmedia.org). The website continues as one of the few launched by any SABR research committee as a dedicated content hub for the committee's output. The main focus of the website, the blog, features news items, commentary, items of historical import, and features. An exciting new series of interviews with current baseball media professionals, called "Working The Game", has proven to be very popular in the early going. In addition, the site houses the various databases mentioned above, and we also added full biographies of two baseball media professionals, with plans to add many more in the coming months. We also maintain a Twitter account, [@MediaSABR](https://twitter.com/MediaSABR), which is used primarily to inform followers of new content as well as tweet and retweet interesting items related to baseball and the media.

In 2015 and 2016, we will continue to build on the content we have developed for the Committee so far and hope to identify other projects that will spur the interest and activity of not only those SABR members who have signed up for the Media committee, but also of other SABR members who have an interest in contributing to the building of a rich and substantial store of information, analysis, insight and reference material about baseball media. In particular, we hope to interest members of other SABR research committees to undertake projects or feature stories that contemplate the baseball media angle to the committee of which they are already a member.

The biggest challenge for us moving forward will be to maintain an active volunteer base, as several members who have previously agreed to provide volunteer research and services to the Committee have either backed out, "gone missing", or have placed their commitments on temporary or indefinite hold. We are open to ideas on how to better engage Committee members so that we can both secure their commitments to serve the Committee, and encourage them to follow through.

— **Chuck Hildebrandt**

### **Biographical Research Committee**

It seems that we find fewer players each year. That is understandable since we have found so many and the ones that are left are the really hard ones. We did have some significant finds in the past year nonetheless.

We found Malcolm MacDonald, a player that had been erroneously listed as James McDonald. We found two players that debuted way back in 1871. Michael McGeary was found thanks to the Pennsylvania death certificates that had recently come online, and William Johnson was



found once we learned that was his real name. He had previously been listed as Caleb Johnson. There were three players who had deaths listed, but the death information was for someone else that was not the ballplayer: James Mullen, Jack Fox, and David Black. Black had played in the major leagues as recently as 1923.

Billy Mills had been listed as dying in 1914 due to a newspaper article at the time that identified him from a grocery slip in his pocket. That turned out to be someone else, and it was discovered that Billy Mills actually died in 1933. Of more recent vintage, Cuban Manuel Montejó had vanished after his playing career ended in 1961. We learned he had gone back to Cuba and died there in 2000. James Dee and Fred Mauer were other missing players that were found.

Unfortunately, the past year also saw us lose two of our most renowned committee members. Joe Simenic and Ray Nemeč, two founding SABR members, who had done tremendous work for our committee passed away. Their contributions to biographical research cannot be overstated. Both were true giants and terrific individuals who will be sorely missed.

As hard as it seems to be to find these difficult ballplayers, our crack group of researchers seems to always be able to pluck more guys from the ranks of the missing. With luck, more tools will come online that will help solve others of our enduring mysteries.

— **Bill Carle**

### **BioProject Committee**

The 2015 convention will mark the 13th anniversary of the founding of the BioProject Committee. Our committee manages the Baseball Biography Project, whose purpose is to solicit, write, edit, and maintain high quality journal-length biographies of any player who ever played in the major leagues, as well as any other person connected with baseball in a significant way.

The project includes a large staff of people who help considerably. Lyle Spatz is in charge of maintaining and organizing our lists of assigned subjects and authors. Jan Finkel heads a group of editors who are responsible for turning our submitted biographies into finished products. Bill Nowlin helps foster and advise team or regional projects. Warren Corbett heads a team of fact checkers. Emily Hawks leads an initiative to focus on younger writers and more recent subjects.

We continue to encourage and support “group” projects, and these efforts will have led to the publication of five books since last year’s convention. This will make 29 books since the project began. There should be several more in the next year.

As of today we have completed 3199 articles. We have another 800 biographies in progress.

The committee looks forward to a productive 14th year.

— **Mark Armour**

### **Black Sox Scandal Committee**

A Black Sox Scandal Research Committee project that's been in the works for almost four years is now complete.

*Scandal on the South Side: The 1919 Chicago White Sox* — edited by Jacob Pomrenke with associate editors Rick Huhn, Bill Nowlin, and Len Levin — is set to be published in June 2015 through the SABR Digital Library program (SABR.org/ebooks). The book features peer-reviewed biographies of every figure associated with the 1919 White Sox, including all 31 players who made an appearance during the regular season or World Series, owner Charles Comiskey, manager Kid Gleason, executives Harry Grabiner and Tip O'Neill, and even the batboy, Eddie Bennett. It also includes a month-by-month recap of the White Sox's pennant-winning season, and original essays on the team, the World Series against the Cincinnati Reds, and the subsequent Black Sox Scandal.

Contributing authors and editors include: Bruce Allardice, Russell Arent, Steve Cardullo, Brian Cooper, James E. Elfers, David Fleitz, David Fletcher, Daniel Ginsburg, Irv Goldfarb, John Heeg, Rick Huhn, Bill Lamb, Len Levin, Dan Lindner, Adrian Marcewicz, Brian McKenna, Steven G. McPherson, Paul Mittermeyer, Jack Morris, Peter Morris, Rod Nelson, James R. Nitz, Bill Nowlin, Jacob Pomrenke, Kelly Boyer Sagert, Jim Sandoval, Richard Smiley, Lyle Spatz, Steve Steinberg, Brian Stevens, Andy Sturgill, and Gregory H. Wolf.

In our two committee newsletters this year, Bruce Allardice continued shedding new light on the underworld figures involved in the Black Sox Scandal. The December 2014 newsletter included his articles on the Levi brothers of Kokomo, Indiana, who were both indicted by the Cook County grand jury in 1920, and the St. Louis gamblers Carl Zork and Benjamin Franklin. Allardice also provided biographical sketches on a number of elusive Black Sox-related bettors and grand jury witnesses.

The June 2015 newsletter included Allardice's "follow the money" economic analysis of the World Series bribes, plus his article on the Pittsburgh connection to the Black Sox Scandal and an intriguing story of Hall of Famer Tris Speaker's syndicated newspaper columns during the 1919 Series. Paul Browne interviewed the grandson of outfielder "Honest" Eddie Murphy and Leverett T. Smith reviewed Tim Hornbaker's recent biography of Charles Comiskey.

The committee's annual meeting at the SABR 44 convention in Houston included a lively discussion of the newly discovered British Canadian Pathé News film footage of the 1919 World Series games, with a special focus on the disputed double play turn by Eddie Cicotte

and Swede Risberg in Game One. It was fascinating to watch this controversial play with our own eyes for the first time.

The Houston convention also provided an opportunity for committee members to see the Dickey Kerr statue housed at the Sugar Land Skeeters ballpark, Constellation Field. The statue was commissioned after Kerr's death and dedicated before an Astros game in 1966 with an All-Star cast led by Stan Musial and Dizzy Dean. The statue lived for many years at the now-closed Houston Sports Museum at the Finger Furniture Store on the site of old Buff Stadium, but since the furniture store filed for bankruptcy, the statue's future is now uncertain.

— **Jacob Pomrenke**

### **Collegiate Baseball Committee**

The Collegiate Baseball Committee held its Annual Meeting at SABR 44 with 25 attending. Mike Gustafson, Director of the College Baseball Hall of Fame spoke briefly about the “Hall” and then did a presentation on the 1947 and 1948 College Baseball World Series.

The Fall Newsletter became available for distribution in January 2015. The Spring Newsletter will become available for distribution around June 1, 2015.

We published all collegians who attended either a Senior or Junior college making their Major League debuts in 2014.

We continued publishing a “necrology” of former collegiate baseball coaches who passed away.

Kent Henderson agreed to serve as Editor for the newsletter. The spring 2015 newsletter is his first.

A temporary home exists for the “archive” of the previous chair (which apparently includes items dating to Cappy Gagnon who served as first Committee Chair. A permanent solution has not been found.

A limited project to update and expand the information available about college programs has started. The project includes the following: updating and converting the existing Word files into Excel spreadsheets for easier maintenance uploading into a database; adding the following pieces of information where available:

- Post-season records by school and by head coach
- Conference won-loss records
- Alumni who played professionally at other than the Major League Level
- Alumni who played professionally but did not play collegiately
- Alumni who were drafted but did not sign a professional contract

Alumni who served as either Head Coach (collegiate level) or Manager (professional level)

As part of the project, a cross-reference file is being created that allows for documenting won-loss records for each head coach. This is helpful for those who serve as head coach at multiple institutions.

A file was created for Northland Community and Technical College's baseball program which the Committee had no record of previously.

— **Karl Green**

### **Deadball Era Committee**

Now in its fifteenth year of existence, the Deadball Era Committee continues to grow each year while fulfilling its mission of researching and chronicling baseball history from 1901 through 1919. The Committee remains one of the largest and most active in SABR.

The Committee is chaired by John McMurray with Trey Strecker as Vice Chair. The Committee publishes its newsletter, *The Inside Game*, under the editorial direction of newsletter editor Bill Lamb and Assistant Editors Mark Dugo and Bob Harris. This year, the Committee published four regular issues of *The Inside Game* as well as two supplemental issues. Each newsletter is typically about thirty pages in length and often includes original research. The newsletter is further distinguished by the depth of its book reviews, which are overseen by Book Review Editor Dr. Gail Rowe, and critiques of the period.

Under the supervision of Gail Rowe, the Deadball Era Committee presents the Ritter Award annually to the best book focused primarily on the Deadball Era published during the year prior. This year, the ten-member Ritter Award subcommittee selected co-winners for the first time: Nathaniel Grow's *Baseball on Trial: The Origin of Baseball's Antitrust Exemption* (University of Illinois Press) and Chuck Kimberly's *The Days of Wee Willie, Old Cy and Baseball War: Scenes from the Dawn of the Deadball Era* (McFarland & Co.).

The DEC continues work on a project co-chaired by Steve Steinberg and DEC Chair Emeritus Tom Simon to chronicle the World Series of the Deadball Era primarily through photographs. With Steinberg as photo editor and Simon as text editor, the project also has separate chapter editors in place for each different Deadball Era World Series.

In addition, Deadball Era Committee members have been devoted to writing biographies of contemporary players for SABR's BioProject, which are posted exclusively online. Dialogue on matters of interest to members occurs on the Committee's active online discussion group.

Committee members remain committed to fulfilling the mission of the Deadball Era Committee and to continuing in the same free-spirited

vein which characterizes both our Committee and the baseball era to which it is devoted.

— **John McMurray**

### **Educational Resources Committee**

The second meeting of this committee (founded in September 2012) was well attended. Andy Andres and Bill Nowlin indicated that they were looking for permanent Co-Chairs for the Committee to lead the group and develop new projects. The Committee will continue to develop sharing of syllabi of baseball-themed courses. An email discussion group is also under consideration. Herb Wilson and Tom Mueller have agreed to take over the leadership of the Committee and will bring some new ideas for the 2015 meeting.

— **Leslie Heaphy**

### **Negro Leagues Committee**

The Negro Leagues Committee (NLC) had another banner year. Its quarterly newsletter, "The Courier," goes out to roughly 700 members. Since our last convention in Houston, we have lost eight Negro League veterans: Billy Harrell, Arthur Lee Hamilton, Minnie Minoso, Ernie Banks, Hank Presswood, Harold "Briefcase" Simpson, Bernard "Toto" Fernandez, and Carl Long. We also lost Mrs. Nettie Stearnes at the age of 96. She was the widow of perhaps the greatest slugger in Negro League history, Norman "Turkey" Stearnes.

The NLC continues to raise funds to purchase headstones for unmarked graves of former players and executives. Recent marker purchases and installations from the past 12 months have been for:

- Elias "Country Brown" Bryant (Frederick Douglass Memorial Cemetery, Staten Island, NY)
- Clarence "Waxey" Williams (Atlantic City Cemetery, Pleasantville, NJ)
- Fred Goree, Billy Francis and Ted Strong (Lincoln Cemetery, Alsip, IL)
- Wesley "Biggie" Barrow (New Hope Baptist Church Cemetery, Gretna, LA)
- William Binga (Crystal Lake Cemetery, Minneapolis, MN)
- Grant "Home Run" Johnson (Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg, NY)

The Grave Marker Project is led by Dr. Jeremy Krock of Peoria, Illinois. Donations can be made to the SABR office. More information can be found at: <http://www.larrylester42.com/jerry-malloy.html>

Please note the loss of our best friend and co-chairman, Dick Clark in December of 2014. A special tribute to a SABR legend and everybody's best buddy can be found at: [http://www.larrylester42.com/uploads/1/9/5/4/19545937/dick\\_clark\\_tribute.pdf](http://www.larrylester42.com/uploads/1/9/5/4/19545937/dick_clark_tribute.pdf)

This year's \$2500 Thomas R. Garrett Memorial Scholarship winners are: Kari Whiteside from Granada Hills Charter High School in California, and Jeff Boelter from St. John Vianney High School in Missouri. Their winning essays were based on the topics, "Choose One figure from the Negro Leagues and explain why you think they are significant" and "Explain who Effa Manley was and why she was significant".

Noteworthy publications this year included:

Joe Black: More Than A Dodger by Martha Jo Black and Chuck Schoffner

Before Jackie: The Negro Leagues, Civil Rights and the American Dream by Mary E. Corey and Mark Harnischfeger

The Set-Up Men: Race, Culture and Resistance in Black Baseball by Sarah L. Trembanis

Black Baseball Entrepreneurs, 1902-1931 by Michael Lomax

Negro Leagues Baseball A to Z by Philip Ross and Pedro Sierra

A Special Gift from God: Baseball by Bryan Steverson

Black Ball and the Boardwalk: The Bacharach Giants of Atlantic City, 1916-1929 by James E. Overmyer

Living on Borrowed time: The Life and Times of Negro League Player Ted Toles, Jr., by Michael T. Swank

Southern League: A Baseball History, 1920-1951 William Plott

Other notable events included:

Jerry Malloy won SABR's Henry Chadwick Award

The Black Ensemble Theatre in Chicago debuts the play "The Trial of Moses Fleetwood Walker."

Willard "Home Run" Brown and Bob Thurman are inducted into the Santurce Sports Hall of Fame in Puerto Rico.

UCLA honors Jackie Robinson by retiring No. 42 for all athletic teams.

The 17th annual Negro League Conference, with a theme of "Turkey Stearnes & Black Baseball in Michigan" was held in Detroit, Michigan.

Wendell Smith won the Red Smith Award from the Associated Press Sports Editors.

— **Larry Lester**

**Nineteenth Century Committee**

Our Nineteenth Century Committee held its last annual business meeting during SABR 44 in Houston Texas. The meeting was chaired by the Committee's Vice-Chair, Robert (Bob) Bailey.

The Committee has also continued to publish its regular quarterly newsletter, "Nineteenth Century Notes" which is never fewer than twelve pages, in a timely manner thanks to the diligence of our Vice-Chair.

Since last summer the Committee has organized and hosted two 19th-century baseball conferences. The first was the NYC 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium which was successfully co-hosted with SABR's Origins Committee. The Symposium was held at John Jay College in Manhattan on Saturday, November 15, 2014 with over 75 persons in attendance. The program included an optional post conference gathering / dinner attended by approximately 40 persons at a nearby restaurant where lively NYC 19th century baseball-talk was the main course. The following day, SABR member Donald Jensen led an informative two hour tour attended by approximately 20 persons of Manhattan's Historic Madison Square District where so much of 19th-century baseball and related history took place. Our next city specific 19th century interdisciplinary symposium in another city is being planned now for November 2016, along with the start of preliminary discussions for a November 2017 program in yet another city.

The second conference of this year was our 7th Annual Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference, a.k.a. "The Fred". The Fred took place on Friday & Saturday, April 17 & 18, 2015 at its usual venue, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, NY. This conference for the first time was expanded to a full two days. The Fred was sold out to its maximum 57 person capacity a month in advance (68 persons registered counting attendees' guests who attended all or some of the meal functions). The conference will take place again next April (2016).

The committee also held its annual 19th Century Overlooked Baseball Legends selection which included a committee-wide primary election with a slate of 25 candidates in January/February 2015 and the soon to be launched (May 2015) SABR-wide final election with a slate of 10 candidates. The 2015 19th Century Baseball Legend will be announced at our annual business meeting during SABR 45 in Chicago.

In addition to the above, the Nineteenth Century Committee is in the process of forming two new working sub-committees: a 19th Century Baseball Grave Monument Committee and a 19th Century Baseball Research Resources Committee. We have also begun a preliminary discussion on contributing the 19th-century portion to a book on the history of baseball's winter meetings.

— Peter Mancuso

### **Oral History Committee**

The mission of SABR's Oral History Committee is to collect, preserve, and make available recordings which provide insight into the people and events in baseball. As Jonathan Mahler noted in *The New York Times* in 2008, "Bart Giamatti, the former commissioner of baseball, was fond of saying that the history of the game was oral." Given our focus on interviewing former major league players, the Oral History Committee committee serves a role central to SABR's mission.

John McMurray became Chair of the Oral History Committee in July 2014. Paul Ringel, Paul Rogers, and Mark Pattison, each of whom have been members of the Oral History Committee for years, serve as Vice Chairs. Paul Ringel (pbringel@gmail.com) is the primary contact for members seeking to conduct interviews with former players and others who have been formally affiliated with major league baseball.

The Committee is involved with multiple endeavors. In May, it published its first newsletter since 2012. Mark Pattison is working in conjunction with the SABR office to assist with the release of existing interview content online, on our committee website. An updated primer to assist interviewers along with a release form which outlines rights shared with interviewers are both now available. A list of completed interviews is posted on the committee website. Several interviews recently conducted by members of the Oral History Committee have been posted online, and more are soon to come.

The Oral History Committee also serves as a resource for interviewers. Several articles in our recent newsletter, including two by Paul Rogers, related to the craft of interviewing. Rob Neyer, an experienced interviewer who writes for FoxSports.com, discussed his interviewing experiences at the Oral History Committee's annual meeting last year in Houston. The scope and depth of the Oral History Committee's work invites the participation of both new and veteran interviewers, as we aim to augment and preserve baseball's historical record.

— **John McMurray**

### **Pictorial History Committee**

Our core activity is maintaining and updating the major league player/manager/umpire image database. For the past year:

14 previously missing players found

4 previously missing managers found

117 previously missing umpires found

28 misidentified players corrected



In addition we worked with [Baseball-Reference.com](http://Baseball-Reference.com) to correct 218 player ID errors on Baseball-Reference player pages.

The current missing lists stand at:

505 missing players

11 missing managers

404 missing umpires

All image indexes are in a constant state of upgrade

Near term plans for chair:

newsletter index – player names, team names, ballparks, subjects (NYPL, DPL, Merkle game), etc.

frequently misidentified photo index

### **Awards**

The second George Michael SABR Pictorial History Committee Award was given to long-time PHC chairman **Bill Hickman**. The announcement appeared in the May newsletter.

Text as seen on SABR's PHC web page:

During Bill's time as chairman, the following things happened:

- The Player Image Index grew from 14,300 major leaguers to 17,399 major leaguers and the Player Image Index database grew from about 20,000 records to about 40,000 records. The Index now covers about 97% of the major league players.
- The Manager Image Index was launched and it grew to the point where it now covers 97% of the major league managers.
- The Ballpark Image Index was launched and now covers about half of the historical major league ballparks.
- Coach and Umpire Image Indexes were launched.
- Several thousand vintage baseball photos have been identified in SABR PHC sponsored group projects, including the Library of Congress Bain and Ewing & Harris collections, and the Boston Public Library Leslie Jones collection.
- The process of archiving and digitizing the collection of SABR photo negatives was started.

It should also be pointed out that PHC membership more than tripled in size during Bill's tenure.

Bill knew how to define an important research objective and create an inclusive plan to achieve it. Most importantly, he knew how to inspire

people to participate.

In all of this, Bill established a great example for future PHC chairpersons to follow.

We currently do not have a tangible award (plaque, trophy, etc.) This can be discussed when we address the budget.

### **Newsletters**

We have issued two newsletters:

Oct. 2014: Featured misidentified and under-identified 19thC Phi NL team photos from the NYPL Spalding collection. We also ran an extensive article on the well-known but also under-identified 1910 White Sox at the Royal Gorge spring training photo. We also pointed readers to Craig Brown's amazing research on 19thC major and minor league uniforms.

May 2015: This included the announcement of the 2015 George Michael SABR PHC Award winner. We featured an article about the Detroit Public Library online Ernie Harwell Collection. We pointed out and provided IDs for a number of really nice previously unidentified 19thC cabinets in the collection. We also discussed some of the team photos and pointed out that there were quite a few photos in the collection that needed IDs or ID correction and invited members to go through the collection. We also featured previously unpublished (we think) Bos NL 1891, Syracuse NYSL 1885, and Davenport CISL 1888 team photos, the latter two making significant contributions to our player image database.

### **Committee Projects**

The chair just doesn't know how to entice volunteerism.

### **Budget**

We received a \$100 donation. \$120 was spent on photo rights for the newsletter, with \$20 reimbursement from SABR.

— **Mark Fimoff**

## Statistical Analysis Committee

As of May 2015, the SABR Statistical Analysis Committee is comprised of some 1,076 members who share an interest in Sabermetrics.

Our last issue of "By the Numbers," (BTN) the committee newsletter, was released in May 2014. We expect another out this month (May 2015).

BTN is more a journal than a newsletter; we feature original research studies, and committee communications and announcements are handled through the SABR website rather than the newsletter. This has allowed us to promote BTN to the wider research community, and we have many regular readers outside of SABR's virtual walls.

As for our publishing schedule ... we are at the mercy of researchers inside and outside SABR who may or may not provide enough submissions for regular publication. Sabermetrics is probably the most popular area of study in the baseball research community, and analysts have a wide range of outlets for publishing their work. Many have expressed a preference for publishing on the web, rather than through SABR: the turnaround is faster, and the interactive nature of the web provides them faster feedback and recognition.

In that light, the Statistical Analysis Committee has, in practice, a different function from some of SABR's other committees. It's just one of many, many places that sabmetricians can pursue their research in a peer-to-peer setting, rather than, as other committees are, the primary community for those interested in a certain area of baseball research.

Further, committee members have noted that much of the statistical analysis with which SABR is credited takes place in other forums than the Statistical Analysis Committee. For instance, we were not involved in SABR's participation in the Rawlings Gold Glove Award, and sabermetric submissions to the "Baseball Research Journal" are peer-reviewed separate from BTN. Some members have commented on this at our annual meeting, and I suspect the topic will come up again, on how we can participate more actively in SABR's other statistically-oriented endeavors.

There has been some discussion of a committee project, perhaps an annotated bibliography, and I hope to try to get that rolling this year. The project will be discussed at the Chicago meeting.

Our research discussion group on Yahoo!, "Statistical Analysis" (<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/StatisticalAnalysis/info>), is used occasionally for group discussion. Every sabermetrics site on the web has a slightly different emphasis and tone; in my view, ours has a SABR "flavor" of the kind you find on SABR-L, as well as the advantage of SABR members' warm collegiality.

At our meeting in Chicago, I hope our members will suggest further ways in which the SAC can enhance and serve their interest in statistical

analysis of baseball, for our active researchers, and also for the majority who enthusiastically receive their work. However, I see our main function being more a forum for interested members, rather than a source of actual research output.

— **Phil Birnbaum**

### **Women in Baseball Committee**

Members and friends of the SABR Women in Baseball Committee contributed to the following live events/papers, publications and digital media activities that enhanced our collective knowledge of women in baseball and their ide participation in 2014-2015. Annual highlights include:

#### **Presentation/Panels**

2014 Fan Fest—July 2014, Minneapolis

The SABR Women in Baseball Toni Stone panel discussion was held at the MLB All-Star FanFest in July 2014, Minneapolis. The panel consisted of historian and author Leslie Heaphy as moderator; Frank White, author and historian; Peter Gorton, historian, and Stew Thonley, author and historian. Panel organized by the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR.org).

Individual/Group Presentations

Leslie Heaphy, African American Women in Baseball, March 2015, Trumbull Campus, Kent State.

Sarah Burns, keynote Speaker at Cooperstown Symposium, May 2015.

IWBC Symposium at Louisville Slugger Museum, August 30, 2014.—Perry Barber, Leslie Heaphy, Kat Williams, Maybelle Blair, Katie Horstman, and Mary Hums.

Missy Booker, presented at 19th Century Conference in April.

Donna Halper led off Boston SABR Day with her presentation about Marion Downer, the notable African-American sports reporter.

Class

Sheila Sikorski at Camden County College—short course on women’s baseball, summer 2015

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

Articles

“Is Softball Sexist?” Emma Span, *NYT* Editorial, 6 June 2014.

“Reflections on a Life in Baseball Research.” Deadball Era Newsletter, Dorothy Seymour Mills

<http://fusion.net/story/117484/11-women-who-would-make-kickass-mlb-announcers/>

<http://www.myfoxla.com/story/28623954/dr-justine-siegal-empowers-girls-to-play-ball>

### Books

*A Game of Their Own*. Jennifer Ring

*Belles of the Ballpark: Celebrating the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League* [Kindle Edition] [Diana Star Helmer](#)  
(Author), [Thomas S.](#) (Author)

### **Newsletter(s)**

3 issues sent out

### **Exhibit**

“Line Drives and Lipstick” Exhibit—

6/16/2014 - 10/20/2014

Joliet Area Historical Museum

Joliet, IL

### **DIGITAL**

#### **Social media**

Baseball for all website/facebook page/twitter account—Justine Siegal

IWBC webpage/facebook page

Dorothy Seymour Mills webpage

— **Leslie Heaphy and Justine Siegal**