

Atlantic World Research Network

Graduate Student Research Prizes—2009-2010 are awarded to the following students:

(prize winners are in alphabetical order)

James Findley (History)

James Findley's paper, "The Goodliest Continent that We Ever Saw: Reconnaissance in Two Indian Worlds," explores the failed English settlement established in Popham, Maine, in 1607. It is part of a larger work that compares entrepreneurial settlements on the American coast with similar commercial efforts in India. The Popham settlement has been neglected by previous historians; Phyllis Hunter writes that his work will "tell us much about cultural encounters and imperial ambitions in the early seventeenth-century Atlantic World."

Emma Catherine Howell (Romance Languages, French)

Emma Howell's project on "Refugee Entrepreneurs" addresses Francophone refugees in Greensboro and is based on her work in FRE 599, Community-Based Service Learning in Francophone Studies. Her research portfolio demonstrated the difficulties Francophone West and Central African refugees face as they assimilate into American culture. Her work also involved helping one refugee develop options to turn her traditional African practice of fabric dyeing into a profitable business. Cybelle McFadden writes that Emma has a "commitment to trans-Atlantic bridges, social justice, and positive change within the [immigrant] community."

Jonathan Scott Parker (Film and Video Production)

Jonathan Parker's film *New Beginnings* is his practicum project for the MFA in Film and Video Production. It is the story of Esperance Munseki Biyama and her four sons who have fled their native Congo for the United States. She is a college graduate and has owned her own business but now finds herself dependent on food stamps and unable to find work, partly because she does not speak English. It is a powerful and sensitive film that is, according to Michael Frierson, "a focused, compelling look at the issues of cross cultural assimilation, the struggle to find work in an unfamiliar environment, and the central role of family in keeping hope alive in a new homeland."