



# Council of Graduate Schools

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Christopher C. Fennell Wins 2010 Arlt Award in the Humanities

Washington, DC – The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) has awarded the 2010 Gustave O. Arlt Award in the Humanities to Dr. Christopher C. Fennell, Associate Professor, Associate Head & Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The awards ceremony was held during the CGS 50th Annual Meeting.

The Arlt Award is given annually to a young scholar-teacher who has written a book deemed to have made an outstanding contribution to scholarship in the humanities. Dr. Fennell becomes the award's 39th recipient for *Crossroads and Cosmologies: Diasporas and Ethnogenesis in the New World* (University Press of Florida, 2007). He received a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Virginia in 2003.

*Crossroads and Cosmologies* has been hailed as “a powerful interpretative framework within which to posit how new cultural identities were formed from the interactions of different cultural groups” by the Journal of Middle Atlantic Archaeology; it examines the way different cultures retained their religious artifacts and symbols as they moved from Europe and Africa to North America, the Caribbean, and South America. Theresa Singleton of Syracuse University called it “an intriguing analysis of religious artifacts that provides an innovative conceptual framework and methodology for the archaeological study of diasporas” saying it “greatly advances our understanding of cultural creativity over simplistic notions of creolization.”

Created in 1971, the Arlt Award honors the first president of CGS. The winner must have earned a doctorate within the past seven years from, and currently be teaching at, a North American university. Nominations are made by CGS member institutions and are reviewed by a panel of scholars in the field of competition, which rotates annually among seven disciplines within the humanities. This year's field was Classical Studies/Archaeology. The winner receives a \$1000 honorarium and travel to the awards ceremony.

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*The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is an organization of over 500 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada engaged in graduate education, research, and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. Among U.S. institutions, CGS members award 93% of the doctoral degrees and 76% of the master's degrees. \* The organization's mission is to improve and advance graduate education, which it accomplishes through advocacy in the federal policy arena, research, and the development and dissemination of best practices.*

\* Based on data from the 2009 CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment and Degrees

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