

## 2007

**Matthew Restall**, professor of Latin American history, anthropology, and women's studies, received the Arts and Humanities Medal for his scholarship that has revolutionized our understanding of Colonial Latin American and of the Spanish Conquests in the Americas. By acquiring and using linguistic skills in indigenous languages, he has helped open up Native American perspectives on the events that dramatically changed the history of our hemisphere. He transformed our knowledge of colonial Mayan history through a series of books published in the late 1990s, based on hundreds of Mayan-language manuscripts that he discovered. In the coming year, he will publish groundbreaking books on the conquest of Guatemala and on colonial Afro-Mexico.

**Ottar Bjornstad**, associate professor of entomology and biology, received the Life and Health Sciences Medal for his research in the area of modeling disease and animal populations. One of the best statistical ecologists in the world, he has conducted cutting-edge application of statistical modeling combined with ecological theory and experimentation. His work is focused on statistical techniques such as time series, an analysis of spatial data, with recent focus on transportation networks, risk mapping and geographic dissemination of acute diseases such as measles, influenza and whooping cough. In addition, he collaborates with the epidemiological unit of Doctors Without Borders on optimizing their vaccination campaigns in sub-Saharan Africa.

**David S. Weiss**, professor of physics, received the Physical Sciences Medal for his work with ultra-cold atomic gases. His experiments trap atoms in optical lattices, which are crystals made of light, to address a wide range of physical problems, including quantum simulations, quantum computation and precision measurements. Along with testing fundamental theories in condensed matter physics, high-energy physics, and statistical mechanics, his research could revolutionize our understanding of such important materials as high-temperature superconductors and quantum magnets and lead to new classes of materials with unprecedented properties.

**Darrell Steffensmeier**, professor of sociology and crime, law and justice received the Social and Behavioral Sciences Medal for his work on criminal careers and organized and professionalized crime. As one of the most influential scholars in criminology, Professor Steffensmeier has made scholarly contributions to the demography of crime; criminal courts and sentencing and influential factors; gender, work and crime; criminal business enterprise, and criminological theory. He has published three books, including *Confessions of a Dying Thief* and *The Fence*, as well as many journal articles and book chapters. He served as president of the International Association for the Study of Organized Crime from 1992 to 1994.