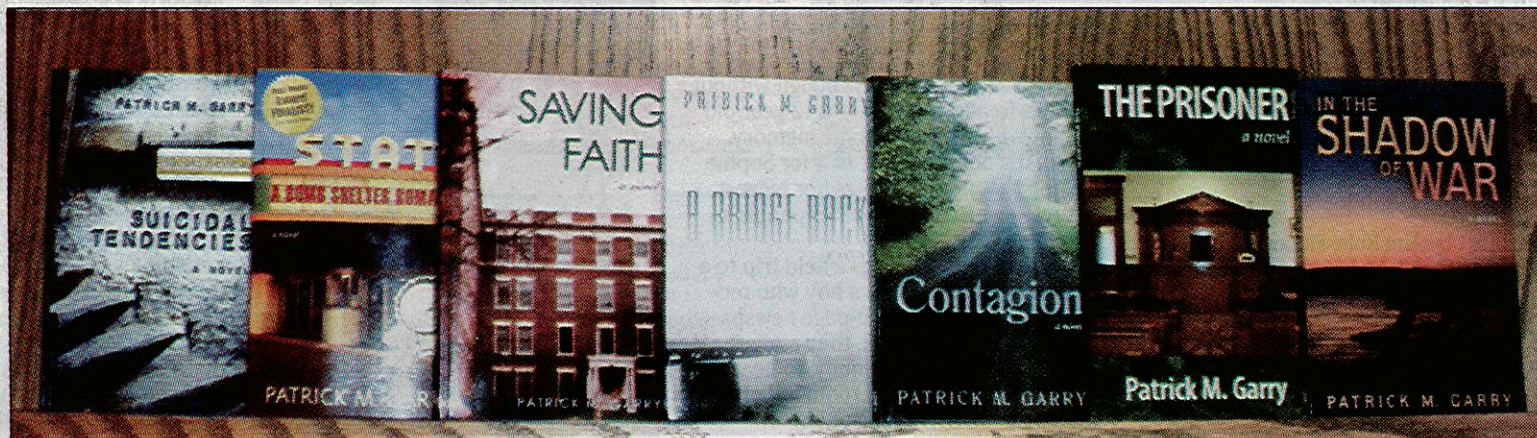


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# By The Book

## USD Law Professor Receives Laurels For Scholarly, Literary Works

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE  
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**VERMILLION** — When Patrick Garry first began writing in college, he never thought he would be receiving awards for his work.

The University of South Dakota law professor has now received more recognition for his scholarly and literary works.

Garry was most recently chosen to speak at a symposium in Charleston, recognizing former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's contributions to First Amendment Jurisdiction.

Several of his books have also received awards, which include a Beverly Hills Book Award and an International Book Award. Garry was also named a winner in the 2013 Global Book Contest in June.

"There was a time when I first started off writing where I didn't expect I would be getting awards," Garry said. "I always liked to write, but you never think sometimes that you're going to be recognized in that particular way for something you really like doing. It's a great honor."

Garry began writing while he was in college, where he worked for the *Minnesota Daily* newspaper at the University of Minnesota.

"Journalism is really where I learned to write," he said. "I never learned it in school or in classes, but I learned it from having to write articles and stories and essays and having to come under the critical eye of an editor."

One experience Garry said he remembers clearly is covering a Bob Dylan concert while he was attending school. Because he had to phone the story in, Garry said it was one of the hardest things he has ever done.

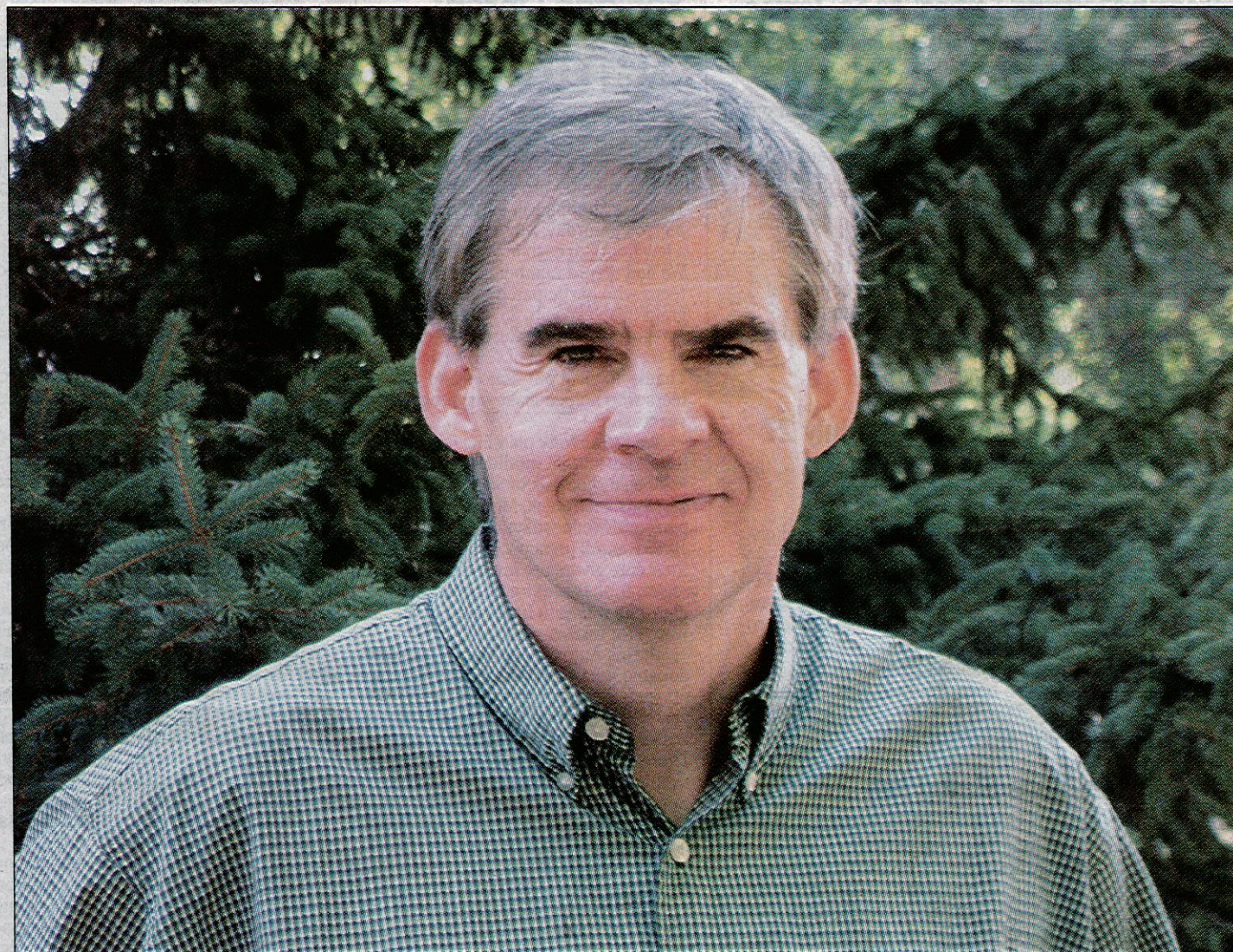
"I had never done anything like that before," he said. "Speaking with an editor on the phone and sort of transcribing my story from a haphazard notebook of notes — I remember it being a very different writing experience."

Garry also grew fond of fiction writing. He said he began taking courses for fiction writing and really enjoyed it, even though most of his early work was never published.

"I've got a whole stack of short stories and attempted novels that really never went anywhere, but I kept at it and I still do it," he said. "I just keep doing it, I like it and it's really quite unexpected to be able to get awards for that."

"When you're dealing with just writing, I always think that fiction writing is really the purest form of writing. You begin with no established content — it's all in the writing."

Once Garry graduated, he went on to



COURTESY PHOTOS  
University of South Dakota law professor Patrick Garry has garnered accolades for both his scholar works as well as his literary endeavors, which are shown in the top photo.

graduate school and eventually law school. One area Garry said he became interested in was First Amendment law.

"For lawyers in particular there's probably no skill that's needed more than writing," Garry said. "Lawyers need to be able to write, but they need to be able to write in a clear way. They need to be able to write in an organized way and often times they need to be able to write in a creative way."

His writing experience also sets him apart as a professor now, Garry said.

"Sometimes students can get so embroiled in content — trying to learn content

— that they can sort of forget about the very fundamental skill of writing," he said. "That's kind of an important thing, and it says a lot about the different impact on students."

Garry said his experiences have taken him all over the world. He recently returned from Europe, where he had the chance to do some research for another book he is currently working on.

"During the summers is when I spend a lot of time doing that kind of research," he said. "During the school year you might only get two or three days at a time. You can travel to different places that have the re-

sources that you need and take the time to be able to do that."

But Garry still looks back at his first novel as one of his favorite experiences.

"Back when I was in college I always wanted to write a novel, but I never thought I could actually do it," he said. "With many things, the first one you do is the one you remember the most."

You can follow Emily Niebrugge on Twitter at [twitter.com/ENiebrugge](http://twitter.com/ENiebrugge)

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