

Farrell J. Foreman, senior student affairs office with EOP and playwright awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Playwright Fellowship Grant of \$12,500

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Farrell J. Foreman, a senior student affairs officer with the Early Outreach Program at the University of California, San Diego and a budding playwright, has been awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Playwright Fellowship Grant of \$12,500.

Foreman graduated in June with a Master of Fine Arts degree from the UCSD Department of Drama and has worked with the Early Outreach Program during the past summer. The NEA grant, designed to further his professional writing career, was presented through the Endowment's Theater Program.

Foreman has written 12 plays and recently had his work, "Gym Rats," presented in a reading by the Old Globe Theatre Play Discovery Project. "Gym Rats" involves five desperate males whose only commonality is their enthusiasm for basketball. The interaction between characters is more significant than extensive action. The story unfolds over a time span of two months.

"It is a very good learning process to see one of your plays presented on a stage by real actors," Foreman said. "You can see where it might need some work but you can also tell when what you did was right."

Two years ago Foreman, while still a student, won second prize in the annual Samuel Goldwyn Award contest for playwrights and scriptwriters for his play "Daddy's Seashore Blues." The contest, originally started for students at UCLA, is now open to students at all of the UC campuses and Foreman was the first non-UCLA student to receive the award.

Foreman, a native of Philadelphia, graduated in 1977 from Antioch College in Ohio with a degree in elementary education. He taught drama in a junior high school and later in a youth detention facility. He finished his first play, called "The Ballad of Charlie Sweetlegs Vine," in 1978. The play was a reaction to the "blacksploitation" films of the 1970s, according to Foreman.

The same year, Foreman received the Lorraine Hansberry Award for his play. He used the prize money to mount a production of the play in Rockford, Illinois, where, he says, the play went reasonably well considering they don't have much black theater in Rockford.

In the summer of 1980, Foreman travelled to Northern Illinois University where his play, "The Boy Who Wanted to be Tall," was produced as part of a program to motivate and encourage high school students.

"I like working with kids," Foreman said. "It's kind of like a dual career for me."

In the Early Outreach Program, which is designed to give disadvantaged junior and senior high school students access to information concerning higher education, Foreman worked with summer residential students in a classroom writing program to improve the students' writing skills. He also served as the liaison between the program and the teachers in city and county schools.

"My hope now is to associate with a residential playhouse somewhere on the West Coast," Foreman said.
"The NEA grant will allow me to write and to develop a relationship with a theater that will produce my plays."

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