

American Folklore Society Monthly News Bulletin

February 2010

[A monthly e-mail update from AFS to fill the gap between the *AFS News* and the new AFS web site.]

Marilyn White Appointed to AFS Executive Board

The Executive Board has appointed Marilyn M. White of Kean University to serve a three-year term (2010-2012) as its 12th voting member.

Dr. White is currently a Professor of Anthropology and Africana Studies in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Kean University in Union, New Jersey. She teaches cultural anthropology (in English and in Spanish), African American studies (one humanities-based course and one social science-based course), and American folklore.

She was previously an Assistant Professor in the Folk Studies Program at Western Kentucky University, a TA in the Afro-American Studies Program at the University of Texas at Austin, and an Instructor in the English Department at Central Washington University.

Dr. White received her BA in English at Hampton University, her MA in Folklore at Indiana University, and her PhD in anthropology (folklore) at the University of Texas at Austin. Her dissertation, under the direction of Dr. Richard Bauman, is entitled "We Lived on an 'Island'": An Afro-American Family and Community in Rural Virginia, 1865-1940.

Her research interests have included African American culture, family folklore, folk narratives, joking, folklore and literature, and stratification. She has conducted research in the United States, as well as in Ecuador and Japan. Most recently, she has been doing ongoing research in Little Cayman. She has frequently presented her research as a panelist at the annual meetings of the American Folklore Society, where she has also chaired a number of panels. She has also given lectures in the United States and abroad. She has had her research published in various journals and books, and she has served on several editorial boards. She has also served as a folklife and/or oral history consultant for several different local and state organizations, as well as on folk arts grant review panels in New Jersey, Michigan, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, and for the National Endowment for the Arts.

She is the long-term President of the Association of African and African American Folklorists, and currently serves on the boards of the New Jersey Folklore Society and of City Lore in New York City. She previously served on the board of the Middle Atlantic Folklife Association. For the American Folklore Society, she has been on the Nominating Committee and currently serves as Chair of the Cultural Diversity Task Force.

AFS 2010 Annual Meeting in Nashville

The Society will hold its 122nd annual meeting on October 13-16, 2010, in Nashville, Tennessee. The theme for the meeting, on which presentations are encouraged but not required, is "Lay and Expert Knowledge." We will post the Invitation for Participation for the meeting, along with online proposal and registration forms, on the AFS web site (www.afsnet.org/annualmeet/index.cfm) in a few days. All proposals for the annual meeting program will be due by March 31.

Call for "Folklore Studies in a Multicultural World" Book Proposals

The University of Illinois Press, the University Press of Mississippi, and the University of Wisconsin Press, in cooperation with the American Folklore Society and with the support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, are collaborating to host an author's workshop at the 2010 conference of the American Folklore Society for authors working on their first book. Up to six authors will be selected to participate in a full day of intensive activities devoted to critiquing and developing their individual projects. Workshop activities will include one-on-one mentoring sessions with editors and senior scholars and group discussions of revision and editing strategies, publishing processes, and project critiques. A modest stipend will be provided to participants to help defray the costs of attending the workshop.

This opportunity is open only to authors preparing their first books. Projects must be single-authored, nonfiction books based on folklore research. Edited volumes, photography collections with minimal text, and memoirs will not be considered.

Projects selected for the workshop will be candidates for publication in the Presses' new collaborative series, *Folklore Studies in a Multicultural World*, which aims to publish exceptional first books that emphasize the interdisciplinary and/or international nature of the field of folklore. Within the series, each Press will focus on specific aspects of folklore studies related to its areas of expertise: Illinois on gender and queer studies, world folk cultures, and multiculturalism as manifested in forms of vernacular expression such as music, dance, and foodways; Mississippi in folk art, American folk music, African American studies, popular culture, and Southern folklife; and Wisconsin in folklore studies that

intersect with Upper Midwest cultures, Irish/Irish-American studies, Jewish studies, Southeast Asian studies, gay/lesbian studies, foodways, and travel. Applicants may indicate in their proposal whether they have a preference of publisher.

Proposals should be e-mailed before April 1, 2010, to fsmw@uillinois.edu. For submission guidelines, please see <http://folklorestudies.press.illinois.edu/guidelines.html>.

Western States Folklore Society 2010 Meeting

The annual WSFS meeting will be held in Willamette University on April 16-17. The theme for the meeting is Asian and Asian American Folklore. The deadline for abstracts is February 28.

Official meeting information is available at <http://www.westernfolklore.org>

If you are interested in participating but have questions, please contact Juwen Zhang at juwen@willamette.edu.

Society for Ethnomusicology 2010 Annual Meeting in Los Angeles

The Society for Ethnomusicology will hold its 55th Annual Meeting on November 11-14, 2010, in Los Angeles. The meeting will take place at the Wilshire Grand Hotel, with UCLA serving as the host institution. The conference theme is "Sound Ecologies."

For a copy of the Call for Proposals (including submission guidelines) and preliminary meeting information, please visit www.ethnomusicology.org and select "Conferences." The deadline for submission of proposals is March 15, 2010.

On November 10, 2010, UCLA will present a Pre-Conference Symposium titled "Music Research and Performance in South Asia: The Life and Work of Nazir Jairazbhoy." The Pre-Conference and Annual Meeting mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the ethnomusicology program at UCLA.

International Committee for Museums of Ethnography 2010 Annual Conference in Shanghai

The International Committee for Museums of Ethnography (ICME) is an international committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) devoted to ethnography (ethnology, anthropology, folk) museums focusing on local, national and international cultures. ICME is concerned with the challenges facing

ethnographic museums and collections in a changing world.

ICME will hold its 2010 annual conference on November 7-12, 2010, as part of the ICOM 22nd General Conference in Shanghai, China. Final details of the ICME conference are still being confirmed, but the general format of the annual meeting will consist of paper and discussion sessions.

The theme for ICOM 2010 is "Museums for Social Harmony." The theme statement describes different approaches to the concept of harmony and invites to examinations of how museums can contribute to processes that are important for the development of societies.

In line with this, ICME/2010/Shanghai invites papers addressing the general conference theme, but specified to the following sub-themes:

The Challenging Museum/Challenging the Museum - Through this topic, we hope to look at how museums of cultures and societies address themes that are perceived as difficult, silenced, connected to dilemmas of various nature, etc. This theme will be followed up following the ICME/2010 meeting through an ICME Work Group chaired by Per B. Rekdal (p.b.rekdal@khm.uio.no).

Exchanging Meaning – joint session with ICEE (International Committee of Exhibitions and Exhibition Exchange). Speakers are invited to examine how objects and exhibitions acquire new and different meanings when collected or displayed in art, ethnographic or even natural history museums

Submitting abstracts

Abstracts of between 250 and 300 words will be submitted for selection to the ICME Review Committee, chaired by Annette B. Fromm. Submissions should be sent to president@icme.icom.museum or annettefromm@hotmail.com by April 31, 2010. If you send the abstract as attachment, please also include the text of the abstract in the text of the e-mail itself.

The following information should be included with the abstract: title of submitted paper, name(s) of author(s), affiliation(s) and full address(es), abstract in English (between 250 and 300 words), and support equipment required.

Registration forms, registration fee information, hotels, and other details are available on the ICOM 22nd General Conference website, <http://icom.museum/general-conference2010.html>.

Details of the ICME conference will be forthcoming on the ICME web site, <http://icme.icom.museum>.

The Summer Institute in Museum Anthropology (SIMA)

SIMA is a NSF-funded graduate student training program in museum research methods offered through the Department of Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. During four weeks of intensive training in seminars and hands-on workshops at the museum, students are introduced to the scope of collections and their potential as data. Students become acquainted with strategies for navigating museum systems, learn to select methods to examine and analyze museum specimens, and consider a range of theoretical issues that collections-based research may address. In consultation with faculty, each student carries out preliminary data collection on a topic of their own choice and develops (and continually refines) a prospectus for research to be implemented upon return to their home university.

Who should apply: Graduate students preparing for research careers in cultural anthropology who are interested in using museum collections as a data source. The program is not designed to serve students seeking careers in museum management. Students at both the masters and doctoral level will be considered for acceptance. Students in related interdisciplinary programs (Indigenous Studies, Folklore, etc.) will be considered if the proposed project is anthropological in nature and if an anthropology faculty member at the student's university commits to supervising its implementation. All US students are eligible for acceptance, even if studying abroad, as are international students enrolled in universities in the USA.

Costs: The program covers students' tuition and housing is provided at a local university. A small stipend will be provided for food and other local expenses. Participants are individually responsible for the cost of travel to and from Washington, DC.

The deadline for applications is March 1. SIMA program dates are June 28-July 23, 2010. For information, visit <http://anthropology.si.edu/summerinstitute/index.htm>.