

# ***American Folklore Society Monthly News Bulletin***

**April 2009**

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

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## **Farewell and Thank You, Mabel**

Mabel Agozzino, AFS associate director since 2007, is leaving the Society this month to take a tenure-track position on the faculty of the Department of Folk Studies and Anthropology at Western Kentucky University. Before moving to Bowling Green, she will work during the upcoming summer for the 2009 Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, DC.

At its spring meeting last weekend in Columbus, the Society's Executive Board recognized and thanked Mabel for her devotion and good works for the Society, and presented her with a parting gift. Please join with the Board in thanking her for her many accomplishments for our field, and congratulating her on her new professional opportunities in Washington and Kentucky.

## **Welcome, Lorraine**

Lorraine Walsh Cashman of Columbus began work as the Society's associate director on April 13. Cashman received her BA in English and anthropology *magna cum laude* from Brown University, and MA in English with a minor in folklore at Indiana University, where she concentrated on narrative and genre theory and on the relationships between folklore and literature. She also earned an MIS in Information Science from Indiana, focusing on computer-mediated communication and instructional technology. She is also currently a lecturer in The Ohio State University's Department of English.

She has served as multimedia editor of web-based curricular material for the Agency for Instructional Technology in Bloomington, Indiana, and as managing editor of *The Information Society*, a quarterly journal of social informatics. She also was the editorial associate at the Center for Foreign Policy Development of the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University.

To reach our new associate director about Society business, please call 614/292-4715; fax to her attention at 614/292-2407, or e-mail [AFSAssocDir@gmail.com](mailto:AFSAssocDir@gmail.com).

## **AFS Selects 2011 Annual Meeting Site**

We're happy to announce that the Society's 123<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting will take place on October 26-30, 2011, at the Indiana Memorial Union and Biddle Hotel on the campus of Indiana University in Bloomington. The Society and the Indiana University Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology will share planning responsibilities for the meeting.

### **AFS Storytelling Section Offers Dan Crowley Award to Students**

The Dan Crowley Award, offered by the Storytelling Section of the American Folklore Society, is a \$200 prize for a graduate or undergraduate student essay dealing with some aspect of storytelling performance in formal or informal settings.

Submissions, which should not exceed 9,000 words in length, should be e-mailed to [jradner@american.edu](mailto:jradner@american.edu) as a Word or PDF attachment no later than June 1, 2009. The cover message should include the title of the paper, as well as the author's name, mailing address, telephone number, e-mail address, academic affiliation and year in program, and the name of the faculty member to whom the essay was submitted. Only the title C no identification of the author C should appear on the essay itself.

The prize recipient will be notified by the end of August. The award will be formally presented at the business meeting of the Storytelling Section at the AFS 2009 annual meeting in Boise, Idaho, on October 21-25. For further information, please contact one of the section co-conveners, Jo Radner ([jradner@american.edu](mailto:jradner@american.edu)) or Theresa Osborne ([theresa.osborne@kctcs.edu](mailto:theresa.osborne@kctcs.edu)).

### **Dan Sheehy Appointed Acting Director of Smithsonian Folklife Center**

Effective April 13, Dan Sheehy will begin serving as Acting Director of the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage of the Smithsonian Institution. He replaces Richard Kennedy, who is retiring from the Smithsonian after more than 20 years of service. Kennedy has served as Acting Director of the Center since October 2007.

Kennedy came to the Smithsonian to curate the Hawai'i program for the 1989 Folklife Festival. In 1994, he was named Deputy Director of the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage and continued to co-curate major festival programs on Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Tibetan Culture, Oman, the Mekong River region, and this past summer, Bhutan. He led the curatorial team in producing the Silk Road festival in 2002 and also led the curatorial team that produced the Smithsonian's 150th Birthday Party on the Mall in 1996.

Sheehy has served as Director and Curator of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings

since 2000. Sheehy earned his doctorate in ethnomusicology from the University of California, Los Angeles. Before coming to the Smithsonian, he served as Director of Folk and Traditional Arts at the National Endowment for the Arts. He is the author and editor of several books, most recently *Mariachi Music in America*. Under his leadership, Smithsonian Folkways has published more than 150 recordings and earned more than a dozen Grammy awards and nominations. He has overseen the Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archive and the efforts to digitize collections and make them widely accessible through the Smithsonian Global Sound and Folkways Web sites. He has served on the boards of the American Folklore Society, the Society for Ethnomusicology, and the National Council for the Traditional Arts, and this past year he served as Acting Director of the Smithsonian Latino Center.

The Smithsonian will announce a search committee for the permanent director's position in the coming weeks.

### **UC Berkeley Expands Its Folklore Graduate Program**

In an effort to enhance its contribution to students, the university, and the discipline, the Folklore Graduate Program at the University of California, Berkeley, has taken two major steps. First, it has instituted a Concurrent Enrollment program, the only one of its kind at Berkeley. Candidates may apply simultaneously to the Folklore MA Program and any PhD Program in the Humanities or Social Sciences. If accepted by both units, students work toward both degrees simultaneously, and they are eligible for multi-year fellowships.

Second, the Program just received approval for a Designated Emphasis in Folklore. Graduate students in any humanities or social science field will, with the approval of their department and the Folklore Graduate Group, be eligible to receive a PhD in their discipline and folklore (for example, "History and Folklore"). The Designated Emphasis Program requires students to take the folklore graduate core and additional coursework and have a member of the Graduate Group on their Examination and Dissertation committees.

Both the Concurrent Enrollment and Designated Emphasis programs will contribute to the future of the discipline in important ways by helping to produce new PhDs in folklore, by providing students with critical and theoretical training, and by enabling them to draw deeply on other fields in their efforts to rethink and renew folkloristic theory, analysis, and research.

Finally, the program is pleased to announce the selection of Renata Limón as its first Alan Dundes Graduate Fellow.

### **New Undergraduate Folklore Program at the University of Kentucky**

The University of Kentucky has succeeded in the first steps toward a revival of a program in folklore. We have a new undergraduate minor in Folklore and Mythology, based in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages. The program combines courses taught by specialists from Classics, French, Russian and German, as well as courses in Music, Anthropology, African-American Studies, Gender and Women Studies, Appalachian Studies, English, Latin American Studies, Linguistics, Sociology, and Apparel and Textiles.

### **New Vernacular Architecture PhD Curriculum at the University of Wisconsin-Madison**

The vernacular architecture option is a PhD curriculum within the Art History Department designed for students whose research is focused on historical study of architecture. The option offers training in specialized skill areas for students working in this area. It also takes advantage of a collaborative relationship between UW-Madison faculty and faculty in the School of Architecture at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee that enables students to take courses at both campuses (known as the Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures companion initiative). It is part of the Material Culture Program, which offers students interdisciplinary training in interpreting the material world. The Architectural Option was approved in June of 2008, and we are accepting applications for our first class beginning in the Fall of 2009.

The Ph.D. Architectural Option allows students flexibility in their coursework that enables them to meet requirements of the Ph.D. in Art History while also taking specialized coursework necessary for them to work effectively in the field of architectural history. Core requirements include an advanced, specialized methods/historiography course in architectural history that would also include students from UWM (to be taken during the student's 2nd semester in residence) and a summer field school. Because work in the field of architectural history requires training not only in art history but also in related fields (such as landscape history, design, material culture, and cultural geography), students also would take some of their required coursework outside of Art History. Students may also enroll in the Material Culture certificate program, and they are encouraged to take material culture courses as part of their coursework.

The collaborative relationship between faculty at the UW-Madison and the UW-Milwaukee afforded by the Traveling Scholars Program (CIC) offers an unparalleled opportunity for students in this area. Our faculty are also committed to using the buildings and landscapes of the Upper Midwest in our research and teaching. This region offers tremendous possibilities for students to pursue original research on understudied resources.

For more information on the Architecture Option, please contact Prof. Anna Andrzejewski at [avandrzejews@wisc.edu](mailto:avandrzejews@wisc.edu).

### **Second Annual Public Anthropology Publishing Competitions Announced**

The University of California Press in association with the Center for a Public Anthropology are again sponsoring, in 2009, two international competitions focused on encouraging anthropologically inclined authors to address major public problems and broad audiences. Both competitions will award book contracts at early stages in the research/writing process, without the applicant necessarily having completed (or even started) the specified research and/or writing of the specified manuscript.

To learn more details - regarding the competition, the submission process, and the standards by which entries will be judged, please go to:  
[www.publicanthropology.org/PA-Competitions/2009-1.htm](http://www.publicanthropology.org/PA-Competitions/2009-1.htm)

### **Call for Papers, 2009 International Committee for Museums of Ethnography Conference**

ICME (the ICOM International Committee for Museums of Ethnography) will hold its 2009 annual conference in Seoul, Korea on 19-21 October, 2009. The meeting will be hosted by The National Folk Museum of Korea.

ICME 2009/Seoul invites papers addressing one of two topics: Peace and Reconciliation as addressed in ethnographic museums, and The Role of Ethnographic Museums in general. This conference invites museum ethnographers and others to address either this very focused topic or the more general topic both from the point of view of museum collecting activities and public programs including exhibitions and educational programming.

Papers are also invited on the general topic of Roles of Ethnographic Museums in the World. The conference seeks to serve as a forum to understand the place that ethnographic museums have sought to take in their own societies whether they are representing cultures living in their communities or the cultures of overseas peoples.

This conference is open to museum professionals and all scholars involved in the issues and topics of the annual meeting. Presentations should not exceed 15 minutes. The main language of the conference will be English. We are encouraging the use of visual images wherever possible.

Abstracts, which should not exceed 250 words, should be sent to Dr. Yang Jongsong, Senior Curator, The National Folk Museum of Korea by 31 May 2009,

at the latest. Abstracts will be submitted to our editorial committee and a decision on their suitability will be made by the end of June. Please send materials to:

Dr. Yang Jongsung, Senior Curator, Folklorist  
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Samcheongdong-gil  
Jongno-gu Seoul 110-820, Korea  
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Final details are still being confirmed. The general format of the annual meeting will consist of keynote speakers, papers, roundtables, and museum visits. Registration forms and other details will be available on the ICME and the conference website in April at [icme2009seoul.icom.museum](http://icme2009seoul.icom.museum).

### **Pioneer America Society Offers Material Culture Book Awards**

The Pioneer America Society: Association for the Preservation of Artifacts and Landscapes is proud to issue a call for nominations for the 2009 Fred Kniffen Book Award, and the 2009 Allen Noble Book Award.

The Fred Kniffen Book Award, established in 1989, is given in honor of the work that Prof. Kniffen completed as a long-time scholar at Louisiana State University. His work was influential especially in the fields of cultural geography and vernacular architecture and he is known as the founder of an entire approach to looking at and understanding the landscape. The award recognizes the best authored book in the in the field of North American material culture.

The Allen Noble Book Award, established in 2001, is given in honor of the scholarship in cultural geography that Prof. Noble has completed. The award recognizes the best-edited book in the field of North American material culture. As a long time scholar and professor emeritus of geography and planning at the University of Akron, Professor Noble is recognized for his influential and seminal work.

The awards are intended to honor these two scholars by recognizing outstanding contemporary or recently published books. The nominated books may address several topics that include some aspect of material culture, vernacular/contemporary/pop culture, cultural and physical landscapes, cultural geography or extant artifacts. PAS awards bestow an esteemed honor on recipients.

The PAS encourages scholarly presses to submit books that have been published

in the years 2007-2009, and solicits submissions that you believe deserve recognition. Many award-winning books have become classroom texts or significant references for other scholars. We encourage you to submit nominations for both awards.

Please send three copies of your submissions for the book award committee members by June 1, 2009, to: Chris Post, Department of Geography, Kent State University, Stark Campus, 427 Main Hall, 6000 Frank Avenue, North Canton OH 44720 USA. For information, contact [cpost2@kent.edu](mailto:cpost2@kent.edu).