

American Folklore Society Monthly News Bulletin

September 2009

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

Chinese Folklore Forum Planned for Boise

At AFS 2009, there will be a forum on Folk Performance and Local Identity in Changing China, sponsored by the Eastern Asia Folklore Section. This is part of AFS's continuing effort to strengthen the Society's international dimension by interacting with Asian folklorists, and follows on the first official visit of a China Folklore Society (CFS) delegation to AFS (in October 2007 to the AFS/FSAC meeting in Québec); the first official visit to China later in 2007 by an AFS delegation, led by Bill Ivey; and a mid-2008 visit, and an official presence at the China Folklore Society meeting in October 2009, by AFS Executive Director Tim Lloyd.

The forum will be comprised of four folklorists from Sun Yat-sen (Zhongshan) University in Guangzhou, formerly known as Canton (Professors Mingzhi Jiang, Baocheng Kang, Xiaochun Liu, Junhua Song) and one folklorist from Beijing Normal University (Professor Mu Peng, PhD in folklore from the University of Pennsylvania), and chaired by Juwen Zhang of Willamette University.

This forum joins the discourse on the cultural place and local identity, and the dynamics of folklore performance and its relation with the social context, by presenting some distinctive case studies in China. It also provides a new perspective toward the idea and reality of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in both local and global interactions. The first presentation looks at the folksong performance of the Hakka people. While the traditional Hakka songs were all about love, they were seen as indecent prior to 1980s, but later were performed on national stage. This study tries to answer these questions: How could this process be understood? What is the social force for this cultural production? What internal changes are there in the Hakka songs? The second presentation examines the Chinese *nuo* (mask) drama costume in Guizhou. The *nuo* costume can not only help *nuo* drama to fulfill its ritual function of communication between human beings and gods, but also help itself to fulfill its theatrical function to perform a story. The *nuo* drama costume is a main part of China traditional theatrical costume as well as the symbolic characters in Chinese drama. This study also looks at the local identity seen through the custom. The third presentation focuses on the issue of cultural space by looking at the practice and idea of dragon mother belief popular in Southwest China. The

ethics of filial piety in the cultural space relating to the dragon mother is the origin for its vitality of long standing history. In the long history in China, the idea of filial piety in the belief of dragon mother has become the norm for people to act and do things in everyday life. In recent years, the culture of dragon mother has become an important way for the compatriots from Hong Kong and Macao to quest their root and identity, which is the modern transformation and amelioration of the traditional filial piety. The fourth presentation traces the history of the *chuantai* (boat stage) genre of folk performance, popular in South China from the 13th to 19th century. The development of the performing space from the boat over the centuries shows the changes and the society and the folklore performance itself. It is from this genre that many other modern genres of folk drama were created. The fifth presentation explores how different local agents shape villagers' worldviews and practices of funerals, and how the tension between diversity and uniformity is balanced at village and community levels.

A Brief Introduction: Institute of Chinese Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Institute of Chinese Intangible Cultural Heritage of Sun Yat-Sen (Zhongshan) University in Guangzhou consists of three research centers for traditional opera, oral literature and art, and folklore and the protective strategies for intangible cultural heritage. There are fifteen full-time researchers, including nine professors, twelve part-time researchers including eleven professors. The Director of the institute is Professor Kang Baocheng.

In 1950s, traditional opera specialists Wang Jisi and Dong Meikan established the first of these research directions and cultivated the backbone of the institute, the first of its kind in China. Besides, the studies on folklore by Dr. Gu Jiegang and Dr. Zhong Jingwen have had great achievements through persistent efforts. Basing on these two academic traditions and absorbing the studies on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, the institute continues a research tradition, and has gained prominent accomplishments. Upon protecting the advantage of the traditional study, they have also achieved greatly in research of opera texts, forms of performance, oral literature and art and the protection of intangible cultural heritage, etc.

The Institute has a long list of publications, including *The Complete Plays of Yuan Dynasty* edited by Wang Jisi (winner of the First Prize of University Achievements of National Humanities and Social Sciences 2002); *A Series on Classic Collections of Chinese Folklore*, edited by Professor Ye Chunsheng (2004) which exerted an extensively positive influence in China; *Forms of Chinese Ancient Operas and Buddhism* by Kang Baocheng, a breakthrough in the field of studying the history of Chinese ancient operas; and *Study on Chinese Ancient Opera Raiment* by Song Junhua.

The Institute publishes a leading journal in folklore studies in China, *Cultural Heritage* (Wenhua Yichan), in which Bill Ivey's talk on the Three Sectors of Folklore Studies in the US (2007) and Tim Lloyd's talk on the Smithsonian Folklife Festival (2008), both delivered when they were in China, were published.

Juwen Zhang, Willamette University

University of Missouri Position Available

The Women's and Gender Studies Department at the University of Missouri seeks a scholar whose primary research and teaching interests focus on African American and gender topics, pending final approval. This is a tenure-track position beginning in August, 2010. Requirements include an advanced ABD or PhD, evidence of ability to conduct a program of research on African American gender issues, and commitment to teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Applicants should have research and teaching interests in one or more of the various intersections of race, ethnicity, region, culture, class, gender, age, sexuality, disabilities. The teaching load in the department is four courses per year. The department provides excellent research support, mentoring and offers an exciting intellectual environment.

The University of Missouri is committed to increasing the diversity of the college community and curriculum. In relation to this, candidates who support those goals are encouraged to apply and to identify their relevant strengths and experiences, indicating these in the cover letter. We are interested in candidates who work in the intersections of African American Studies and Women's & Gender Studies.

To apply, submit a cover letter that includes a statement of your research, future research program and teaching interests or experience, a curriculum vitae, three letters of recommendation, and publication(s) or writing sample(s). Please submit your application to: Search Committee, Women's and Gender Studies Department, 325 Strickland Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri. 65211 USA. This search has been reopened after being suspended last year; previous applicants need only update previously submitted materials.

The review of applicants will begin on October 1, 2009 and continue until the position is filled. Please direct questions to Dr. Tola Pearce (pearcei@missouri.edu), Chair of the Search Committee, Dr. Jacquelyn Litt (Littj@missouri.edu), Chair of the Department, or Administrative Assistant Shelda Eggers at 573/882-2703 or EggersS@missouri.edu.

You can also contact Prof. Elaine Lawless at lawlesse@missouri.edu you're your questions.

Further information about the WGST program can be found on the website <http://wgst.missouri.edu>. The University of Missouri is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action/ADA employer.

International Perspectives on the Art and Tradition of Storytelling Conference

Storytellers of Canada/Conteurs du Canada National Conference and Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, July 28, to Sunday, August 1, 2010
St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada

Join the Storytellers of Canada/Conteurs du Canada for a 5-day conference as part of the 400th anniversary of English settlement on the much-storied island of Newfoundland, with workshops, professional development, concerts, tours, story slam, and international symposium.

The 2010 Conference Planning Committee invites you to submit proposals for consideration in the following two categories:

1. Professional Development Workshops
2. Panel Discussion Participants

1. Professional Development Workshops (90 minutes)

Attendees at the 2009 SCCC conference listed workshops on Collecting Oral History, Newfoundland and Labrador Ballads, Stories behind the Storyteller (life stories and practical experiences of storytellers), Vocal Warmups, Storytelling and the Internet, and Storytelling in Education as their top choices for workshops for 2010. Other topics identified included Mask and/or Clown, Storytelling Techniques, Grant Writing, Press Release Writing, Stories with Music, Critiquing, Researching Stories, and Body/Movement workshops. The committee will be looking for innovative approaches, hands-on practical workshops for storytellers at different levels of their careers and workshops that will help tellers with the business of storytelling: addressing marketing, technology, and other tools for working storytellers.

Who May Apply:

We welcome proposal submissions from anyone. Presenters do not need to be members of Storytellers of Canada/Conteurs du Canada(SC-CC). Non-members

are strongly encouraged to join SC/CC if their proposal is accepted. Workshops will be funded to a total of \$300 per workshop, and presenters are responsible for their own travel, accommodation, and conference registration costs.

2. Panel participants - International Perspectives on the Art and Tradition of Storytelling

As part of the 2010 Conference, one day will be devoted to panel presentations on international perspectives on the art and tradition of storytelling. The morning will focus on the oral tradition of storytelling, while the afternoon will focus on contemporary performance, art and use. We are seeking representatives of national, regional, state, or provincial storytelling organizations and academic programs who would be willing to address issues of current focus or concern to their organizations or areas.

Who May Apply:

We welcome proposal submissions from anyone, though official representatives of established groups are preferred. Presenters do not need to be members of Storytellers of Canada/Conteurs du Canada(SC/CC). Non-members are strongly encouraged to join SC/CC if their proposal is accepted. Panel participants will be given an honorarium of \$50, and participants are responsible for their own travel, accommodation, and conference registration costs.

Please include:

- a one-two paragraph description of your proposal
- a copy of your recent CV or artists profile
- complete mail, telephone and email contact information

Send to:

SCCC2010proposals@gmail.com

The deadline for submissions is September 30, 2009. Only successful applicants will be contacted, by mid-November.

American Folklore Society "Monthly" News Bulletin

Mid-September 2009

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

1. Indiana University Seeks Native American Specialist

The College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University, Bloomington (IUB) seeks an outstanding senior scholar with a specialization in Native American Studies for a tenured faculty position with some administrative responsibilities; advanced junior candidates may be considered, as well. Responsibilities include normal faculty research expectations, a 1-1 teaching load, and halftime duties as Director of IUB's First Nations Educational and Cultural Center (FNECC). FNECC, established in 2007, has as its mission building the Native American community (students and faculty) within the university, supporting and engaging in active recruitment and retention of Native American students and advancing awareness and understanding of Native Americans/First Nation peoples.

The successful candidate will have a strong record of scholarship and teaching in some area of Native American Studies and will have experience in program development, community building, and event planning/implementation. Candidates are expected to have a record of extramural funding demonstrating the capacity for acquiring external funding necessary to fulfill the mission of the FNECC. Area of specialization might be any among sociocultural anthropology, folklore, linguistic anthropology, ethnomusicology, Native prehistory, archaeology, oral literature, contemporary social and political life, or study of Native cultural traditions, but self-nominations from all fields are welcome. The successful appointee will have a tenure home in an appropriate department, possibly in Anthropology, Communication and Culture, or Folklore and Ethnomusicology. Additionally, the appointee will be affiliated with the American Studies Program, and will become a part of IUB's Committee on Native American & Indigenous Studies (NAIS), which coordinates a doctoral minor and an anticipated undergraduate degree, both administered through the American Studies Program. NAIS is a campus-wide community of scholars with research and teaching interests in Native American/First Nations/Indigenous issues.

Interested candidates should submit an electronic application or send a complete package by mail. Applications should include a statement of research and teaching interests, curriculum vita, relevant publications, a brief vision statement for the FNECC, and a list of at least six referees with full contact information, including email addresses. Cover letters should address administrative

experience. E-mail complete applications to kdhunt@indiana.edu or mail to Search Committee, c/o Professor Kevin D. Hunt, Indiana University, Anthropology Department, 701 East Kirkwood Avenue, Student Building 130, Bloomington IN 47405 USA. Formal review of applications will begin on **November 1, 2009** and continue until the position is filled. Indiana University is an equal opportunity / affirmative action employer. Applications from women, underrepresented minority candidates, and international scholars are especially welcomed.

2. Addis Ababa University Announces PhD Program and Seeks Visiting Professors

Fekade Azeze, professor of Folklore at Addis Ababa University, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, announces that the University has expanded its folklore program (previously an MA program) into a PhD program, beginning Fall semester.

Prof. Azeze has indicated that they have an urgent need for visiting professors to teach advanced one-month seminars (listed below), beginning this October.

Interested scholars are invited to contact Prof. Azeze with a current CV, indicating which courses they would be interested to teach, and indicating when they would be available. Knowledge of Amharic is not required: the courses may be taught in English.

The remuneration for these courses is as follows: round-trip air ticket; accommodation; for block teaching of a course in about one month, an honorarium of \$1,000 US for expatriates, or, for scholars of Ethiopian origin, the equivalent amount in Birr; daily subsistence allowance of Birr 120. Transportation to and from accommodation may also be arranged.

To contact Prof. Azeze before October 5, 2009: Fekade Azeze, 12524 Viers Mill Rd Apt #303, Rockville MD 20853 USA; cell: 240/688-0364

After October 5, please use the following: Fekade Azeze, Department of Ethiopian Languages and Literature, Institute of Language Studies, POB 1176, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; cell: +251+911684093; office 1: +251+111239702; office 2: +251+111239701

3. NEH-Funded Digital Humanities Institute Seeks Participants

Folklorist Tim Tangherlini of UCLA is one of the leaders of an NEH-funded summer institute entitled "Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics & The

Center for Digital Humanities: An NEH Institute for Advanced Topics in Digital Humanities," scheduled for August 15-27, 2009. The Institute is now seeking participants, who must apply by **November 5, 2009**.

The organizing committee for the institute includes Tim Tangherlini (UCLA), Russ Caflisch (IPAM), Tina Eliassi-Rad (LLNL), Peter Jones (Yale), Mark Green (UCLA), Ronald Coifman (Yale), Jonathan Berger (Stanford), Lewis Lancaster (Berkeley), Greg Crane (Tufts), and Zoe Borovsky (UCLA).

Confirmed speakers for the institute include: James Abello (Rutgers), Edoardo Airoldi (Harvard), Eli Ben-Naim (Los Alamos), Jonathan Berger (Stanford), Luis Bettencourt (Los Alamos), David Birnbaum (Pitt), David Blei (Princeton), Katy Börner (Indiana), Greg Crane (Tufts), Ronald Coifman (Yale), James Danowski (Univ. Illinois, Chicago), Fernando Diaz (Yahoo!), Tina Eliassi-Rad (LLNL), Christos Faloutsos (CMU), Lise Getoor (Maryland), C. Lee Giles (Penn State), Kendall Giles (VCU), Yannet Interian (Google), Jon Kleinberg (Cornell), Aaron Koblin (Google), Lew Lancaster (UC Berkeley), Jure Leskovec (Stanford), David Liben-Nowell (Carleton), Edo Liberty (Yale), Sofus Macskassy (Fetch), John Mohr (UCSB), Franco Moretti (Stanford), W. Brad Paley (Columbia), Laurie Pearce (UC Berkeley), David Smith (UMass), Kryztof Urban (UCLA), John Walsh (Indiana), and Steven Zucker (Yale).

Scientific Program: In recent years, attention has been drawn in both the academic and popular press to the ubiquity of networks in everyday life, from communications networks to investment networks to power transmission networks to social networks. As a result of this increasing awareness, the study of the different types of networks that link us together, and the analysis of the structure of those networks has risen to greater and greater prominence not only in the mathematical and social sciences but also in the humanities. The topics to be addressed in the institute are: (a) the science of networks and networks in Humanistic inquiry (b) preparing and cleaning humanities data for network analysis (c) internal networks in humanistic data: networks of characters, networks of texts, networks of language (d) external networks in Humanistic data: networks of influence, networks of production, networks of reception.

Institute Schedule: The institute will include morning presentations by leading scholars in computer science and applied mathematics, and humanities scholars who have been successful at applying these computational techniques in their research; and hands-on afternoon sessions.

Participation: The goal of the institute is to bring both junior and senior Humanities scholars into a close collaborative environment to learn from leading voices in the study of networks and network analysis from the fields of computer science and applied mathematics.

Humanities scholars from any discipline are encouraged to apply. We encourage

applications from women and minority scholars. Travel and housing expenses will be paid by the institute for successful applicants. The institute will accept up to 25 participants. Participants selected for this institute will be expected to be in residence for the entire workshop period.

Apply online at: <http://www.ipam.ucla.edu/programs/hum2010>. For more information, e-mail hum2010@ipam.ucla.edu.

4. Social Science Research Council Announces 2010 International Dissertation Research Fellowship Competition

Deadline: **November 3, 2009** (9:00 pm EST)

Apply Online: <http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/idrf-fellowship/>

About the Fellowships: The IDRF Program supports the next generation of scholars in the humanities and social sciences pursuing research that advances knowledge about non-U.S. cultures and societies. IDRF accepts applications for research that is situated in a specific discipline and geographical region and is informed by interdisciplinary and cross-regional perspectives, as well as research on multiple countries and/or multiple world regions. While proposals may cover all periods in history, they must demonstrate relevance to contemporary issues and debates.

Eligibility: The program is open to graduate students in the humanities and social sciences - regardless of citizenship - enrolled in doctoral programs in the United States. Applicants must complete all PhD requirements except on-site research by the time the fellowship begins. Proposals that identify the US as a case for comparative inquiry are welcome; however, proposals which focus predominantly or exclusively on the United States are not eligible.

Fellowship Terms: The IDRF program provides support for nine to twelve months of continuous dissertation research outside of the United States. Seventy-five fellowships are awarded annually. Fellowship amounts vary depending on the research plan, with a per-fellowship average of \$18,750. The fellowship includes participation in an interdisciplinary workshop upon the completion of IDRF-funded research.

For more detailed information and to apply, visit the IDRF website: <http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/idrf-fellowship/>

The IDRF Program is administered by the Social Science Research Council in consultation with the American Council of Learned Societies and funding provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Read more about it at

<http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/idrf-fellowship/>

The Social Science Research Council brings necessary knowledge to critical social issues. To learn more about us and to support our work, please visit <http://www.ssrc.org/>

5. Institute of International Education Offers Scholar Rescue Fund Fellowships

We are pleased to announce a call for applications for the IIE Scholar Rescue Fund (SRF). Fellowships support temporary academic positions at safe universities and colleges anywhere in the world for threatened academics whose lives and work are in danger in their home countries.

Who can apply: Professors, researchers and lecturers from any country or field may apply. We invite you to refer eligible candidates and ask for your help in forwarding this announcement to any academic colleagues who may be interested.

- Qualifying applicants are currently facing or have recently fled from direct and immediate threats.
- Professors, established researchers and other senior academics from any country, field or discipline may qualify
- Preference is given to scholars with a PhD or other highest degree in their field who have extensive teaching or research experience at a university, college or other institution of higher learning
- Applicants must demonstrate superior academic accomplishment or promise
- Applications from female scholars and under-represented groups are strongly encouraged

* Students or professionals seeking funding to pursue academic studies or training are not eligible.

Fellowships are awarded for visiting academic positions ranging from 3 months to 1 calendar year. Awards are issued for up to US \$25,000, plus individual health coverage.

Fellowships are disbursed through host academic institutions for direct support of scholar-grantees. In most cases, host campuses are asked to match the SRF fellowship award by providing partial salary/stipend support and/or housing, material support for researching/publications, and other in-kind assistance. Applications are accepted at any time. For a decision by late November, please apply by **October 12, 2009**. Visit www.scholarrescuefund.org for more details.

To apply, please download the information and application materials from <http://www.scholarrescuefund.org/pages/for-scholars.php>. Universities and colleges interested in hosting an SRF scholar should visit <http://www.scholarrescuefund.org/pages/for-hosts.php>. Contact SRF@iie.org with your questions.

SRF Iraq Project: In 2007 SRF launched the Iraq Project in response to the crisis of higher education throughout Iraq. If you are an Iraqi scholar seeking assistance or you are a university interested in hosting an SRF Iraqi scholar, please contact SRFIRAQ@iie.org or visit www.scholarrescuefund.org/iraq.

Follow SRF on Twitter at www.twitter.com/scholarrescue

6. Call for Papers: North Atlantic Fiddle Convention 2010

Theme: "Roots & Routes"

Date: Wednesday 14 – Sunday 18 July 2010

Location: University of Aberdeen, Scotland

Submission deadline: **January 31, 2010**

The Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen, Scotland, is making a call for papers for the fourth North Atlantic Fiddle Convention. NAFCo 2010 will celebrate the excellence and diversity of fiddle and dance traditions from countries around the North Atlantic, combining an international academic conference with performances and workshops to create an event devoted to 'Roots & Routes'.

The conference will expand on the theme of "Roots & Routes," exploring the ways in which local roots have been transformed through transnational routes in the context of countries and communities that border the North Atlantic. Thus to be "local" is also to be "global." No longer will blanket labels such as "Scottish fiddling" suffice; scholars/performers need to know if it is Orcadian or Border, West Highland or North-East, Shetland or Cape Breton. The aim of the conference is to explore our understanding of the interrelatedness of fiddle and dance traditions, and how they are affected and transformed by processes of globalization to create fresh insights and new perspectives. Possible subjects for papers include:

- Fiddle and dance traditions in transformation
- Performance, place, and identity
- Centers and peripheries
- Mediation and cultural tourism

The role of the individual
Socialization and competition
Tradition and innovation
Dance and music interplay
New research approaches and methods

If you are interested in offering a twenty-minute academic paper, please submit a 250-300-word abstract, a 100-word biography, and contact information by **January 31, 2010**. The Elphinstone Institute will present abstracts of papers for peer review and anticipates the publication of proceedings.

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