



American Folklore Society News

JUNE 2006/Volume 35, Number 3

Folklorist Jay Mechling Receives Teaching Prize Honor

On April 10th, Folklorist Jay Mechling of the University of California Davis was presented with the institution's 2006 Prize for Undergraduate Teaching and Scholarly Achievement. A gala dinner was held May 11 at the University's Freeborn Hall in honor of Mechling, where the \$30,000 prize was formally presented. "The award is believed to be the most valuable prize of its kind nationally and is aimed to recognize outstanding teaching at the national and international level," said UC Davis Foundation Board of Trustees chairman Michael Chapman.

UC Davis Chancellor Larry Vanderhoef noted that Mechling's work is "nationally recognized and held in high regard by his peers," and adding that in 1998, "the same year that he was selected by his national peers to be a fellow in the American Folklore Society; he received the highest teaching prize The American Studies Association gives. These honors placed him in the top echelon not just for this campus, but in the nation."

Mechling began teaching at UC Davis in 1971. His most famous work was the 2001 book *On My Honor: Boy Scouts and the Making of American Youth*. An Eagle Scout himself, Mechling did 25 years of research to complete the book as he chronicled the events of Boy Scout camping trips into the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Workman Named UNF Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Folklorist Mark E. Workman, acting provost and vice president of academic affairs since August 2005, has accepted the University of North Florida's offer to become the University's provost and vice president for academic affairs. Workman will officially begin the position July 1 and will become the University's chief academic officer. He will lead UNF's Academic Affairs and will work closely with the president and the Board of Trustees in charting the University's future course.

As provost, he will oversee more than 460 full-time faculty members and five colleges: Brooks College of Health, Coggin College of Business; Arts and Sciences; Computing, Engineering and Construction; and Education and Human Services. More than 15,000 students attend the University.

Workman received his doctoral degree in folklore from the University of Pennsylvania and has been employed at UNF since 1993, where he has served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, special assistant to the president as well as chair and professor of English and Folklore. Prior to joining UNF, Workman was professor and chair of English at Oakland University.

Workman was instrumental in developing and implementing Transformational Learning Opportunities. UNF wants students to have the chance to be involved in courses that will change their lives, open their eyes and expand their minds. Funding in the amount of \$200,000 has been set aside by UNF for these types of transformational courses, projects and research that require student

participation in unique educational opportunities. A total of 18 programs were funded this year: 10 for international programs and eight for programs within the United States.

Workman serves the campus and community in a variety of capacities, including co-chair of the Committee on Institutional Effectiveness; executive board member, World Affairs Council of Jacksonville; executive board member, UNF Fine Arts Center; Artistic Affairs Committee member, Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra; Affirmative Action Committee member; and College of Education Advisory Council member. In addition to providing strong leadership, he has written numerous scholarly articles, papers and reviews.

Call for Creative Writers and Storytellers

The Folklore and Creative Writing and the Storytelling sections of the American Folklore Society will co-host the Annual Daniel Crowley Concert during the 2006 Annual Meeting of AFS in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The concert will be held on the evening of Friday, October 20th, 2006.

For an evening of readings, we seek submissions from folklorists who also engage in creative writing or storytelling. Written texts can be fiction, poetry, or creative nonfiction and should have an accurate reading time of five to seven minutes. Poets are invited to submit a selection of poems that work together as a group within that time frame. Storytellers are invited to present either original stories or original re-visions of traditional tales, and should submit either a story script or (if it's unscripted) a 150-word summary of their story. All presenters must observe the 5-7 minute time limit.

Submission guidelines:

- 1) Send 2 copies of your manuscript by mail, please do not send your submission via e-mail. Also, do not put your name on the manuscript.
- 2) Send a cover letter with your contact information (email and phone numbers), a 20 word bio, the title of your submission, and an accurate reading time for your manuscript to Lee-Ellen Marvin, 423 N. Albany Street, Ithaca NY 14850. The deadline for submissions is **July 12, 2006**.

The concert will be a benefit performance to support the activities of the Creative Writing and the Storytelling sections. For updated information and a description of the jury process, visit <http://mason.gmu.edu/~myocom/yocomroad/afs.htm>. The project is contingent on being accepted by the AFS 2006 Program Committee.

National Endowment for the Humanities Offers 2007 Summer Stipends

These NEH summer stipends support individuals pursuing advanced research that contributes to scholarly knowledge or to the public's understanding of the humanities. Recipients usually produce scholarly articles, monographs on specialized subjects, books on broad topics, archaeological site reports, translations, editions, or other scholarly tools.

Summer Stipends support full-time work on a humanities project for a period of two months. Applicants may be faculty or staff members of colleges, universities, or primary or secondary schools, or they may be independent scholars or writers.

Summer Stipends provide \$5,000 for two consecutive months of full-time research and writing. Recipients must work full-time on their projects for these two months, and may hold other research grants supporting the same project during this time. Summer Stipends normally support work carried out during the summer months, but arrangements can be made for other times of the year. Individuals may apply for both a Summer Stipend and a Fellowship, but they may not hold both in any given fiscal or calendar year.

To be eligible for this stipend the applicant must be faculty or a staff member of a college or university, or of a primary or secondary school, or an independent scholar or writer. All applicants must have completed their formal education by the application deadline. While applicants need not have advanced degrees, individuals currently enrolled in a degree-granting program are ineligible to apply. Applicants who have satisfied all the requirements for a degree and are awaiting its conferral may apply, but such applicants need a letter from the dean of the conferring school attesting to the applicant's status as of **October 2, 2006**. This letter must be faxed to the Summer Stipends program at 202-606-8204. Applications for NEH Summer Stipends are submitted electronically through the NEH website. All the details about the program may be found at: <http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/stipends.html>

Meeting News

VAF 2007 Annual Meeting in Savannah, Georgia

The Vernacular Architecture Forum invites paper proposals for its annual meeting in Savannah, Georgia, March 28-31, 2007. The conference theme is "The High and Low, Ideal and Real: Architectural and Social Sorting in the City." Although papers may address any aspect of the cultural landscape worldwide, submissions are welcomed on topics related to the conference theme, such as: African American Identity; Coastal Landscapes; Creole architecture; German Lutheran Settlement Patterns; Plantations; Landscapes of Faith. Also welcome are proposals for complete sessions, roundtable discussions, and any innovative means that facilitates scholarly discourse. VAF encourages paper and session proposals from graduate and undergraduate students.

Proposals may be for a twenty-minute paper, or for a ten-minute "work in progress." Papers should be theoretical or analytical in nature, rather than descriptive. Presenter Fellowships are available to students and young professionals. For more information on the Annual Meeting and Presenter Fellowships see <http://vernaculararchitectureforum.org>

Proposals must be one-page; be fewer than 400 words; include paper title, author's name, and email address; state clearly the argument of the paper and explain the methodology and content. Also send a one-page CV by the **September 1, 2006** deadline.

Accepted papers must be submitted in full to the session chairs by January 12, 2007. Presenters must deliver their papers in person and be a VAF member at the time of the conference. Electronic submissions in Word format are preferred. Please send email proposals to Clifton.ellis@ttu.edu, or hardcopies to Clifton Ellis, VAF, c/o College of Architecture, Texas Tech University, Box 42091, Lubbock TX 79409-2091. For information about the Savannah VAF meeting, contact Dave Rossell at erossell@scad.edu

SIEF Conference on the Ritual Year

The National (Czech) Institute of Folk Culture (NULK) and the SIEF working group on The Ritual Year, are inviting paper proposals for the third annual conference of the SIEF (Société Internationale d'Ethnologie et de Folklore) Working Group on the Ritual Year to be held in Straznice, Czech Republic. The general theme of this year's conference, taking place May 25-29, 2007, is "The Ritual Year and History" with papers being requested on the following topics: the incorporation of historical events in the recurring cycle of the ritual year, the ritual year in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, life cycle parallels to the ritual year cycle, or any topic relating to the ritual year accepted by the committee.

The language of presentations at the conference will be English, but discussion may take place also in the other SIEF languages, French and German, with the help of colleagues familiar with one or both of these languages in addition to English. Proposals are invited from around the world for contributions to this conference. The presentations will normally be allowed 30 minutes, including discussion. If you are interested in offering a paper, please send a title and a short abstract (between 70 and 120 words, in English) and the following details: name (with your family name in capital letters), affiliation, postal address, e-mail address, phone and fax numbers, to Dr Irina Sedakova at: irina_sedakova@comtv.ru, or ised@mail.ru. The deadline for submission of abstracts is **October 9, 2006**. The Conference Committee will respond with acceptance or rejection of your proposal in November 2006. For further information on The Ritual Year conference visit their website: www.ritualyear.com.

International Conference on Advances in Oral Literature Research

The Organizing Committee of the International Conference on Advances in Oral Literature Research (AELO35) is pleased to invite paper proposals for its program celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the Spanish Department at the University of Belgrade. The Conference will take place November 24 through 26, 2006 at the Faculty of Philology at the University of Belgrade (Serbia and Montenegro).

The central topic of the conference will be *Theoretical and Practical Contributions to the field of Oral Literature Study*. The main purpose of the Conference is to present advances made in the field of oral literature research, with emphasis on interdisciplinary and comparative studies and on Hispanic and South-Slavic oral traditions. The conference program will be organized around plenary sessions and simultaneous sessions for presenting papers and meetings of researchers. Included with be a round table discussion with the title *Future of Oral Literature Study*. The official language of the conference will be English and Spanish.

All the abstracts will go through a formal evaluation before the papers can be included in the program. Individual papers will be allotted 20 minutes of presentation plus 10 minutes for discussion. Only papers presented by their authors will be included in the program.

For any further information please contact General Secretary of the Organizing Committee Jasmina Nikolic (jn@jasminanikolic.net) or check for the latest information on the Conference website: <http://www.jasminanikolic.net/aelo35>.

International Society for Luso-Hispanic Humor Studies Conference

The 10th conference of the International Society for Luso-Hispanic Humor Studies is scheduled to take place October 4-6, 2006 in Monterrey, Mexico. Papers on any aspect of Luso-Hispanic humor are welcome and may be given in English, Spanish or Portuguese. Presenters must be members of the ISLHHS. For more details on presentation requirements and deadlines contact Eduardo Parrilla Sotomayor at cparrill@itesm.mx.

Prize News

Elli Kögäs-Maranda Prizes

Each year, the Women's Section of the American Folklore Society awards two prizes in honor of folklorist Elli Kögäs-Maranda for work on women's traditional, vernacular, or local culture and/or on feminist theory and folklore. One prize recognizes an undergraduate or graduate student paper (up to 30 pages in length). The other is awarded to a non-student or professional project—including books, films, videos, exhibitions or exhibition catalogues, or sound recordings—that has been published, mounted, or produced within the two years prior to the submission deadline. The student prize carries an award of \$100; the non-student/professional prize, an award of \$250. Awards will be announced at the AFS meetings in October. Prize recipients need not be members of the Society.

The submission deadline for the student prize is **September 15, 2006**; for the non-student or professional prize, September 1 (postmarked). Student prize entrants must either be currently enrolled in a degree program as of the submission deadline or have been enrolled within the previous academic year. Please submit three copies of books, videos, etc. Student papers may be submitted as hard copy or email attachment. All materials should be sent to Professor Patricia Sawin, Department of Anthropology, CB# 3115, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill NC 27599-3115. E-mail submissions should be directed to Dr. Sawin via the following link: sawin@unc.edu

Alcée Fortier Prize

The Folklore Program at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette invites submissions for the Alcée Fortier prize to be awarded for outstanding recent work accomplished since 2002 in the area of French or French-American folklore studies. The selection committee will consider books, articles, films, recordings, exhibitions or other media. The deadline for submissions is **September 15, 2006**. Send submissions to Barry Jean Ancelet, Box 4-3331 UL, Lafayette LA 70504. The prize award will be \$200. The winner will be announced at the annual meeting in Milwaukee.

AFS Datebook

2006

- June 7-11 SIEF Working Group on The Ritual Year 2nd International Conference, Göteborg/Gothenburg, Sweden (see June 2005 *AFSN*, p. 4)
- June 14-17 Vernacular Architecture Forum 2006 Conference, New York, New York (see August 2005 *AFSN*, p. 9)
- June 30 Deadline for applications, AFS Committee on International Issues travel stipends for travel to meetings outside North America (February 2006 *AFSN*, p. 5)
- June 30 Deadline for proposals, 9th SIEF Congress (see April 2006 *AFSN*, p. 4)
- July 15 Deadline for the Annual Daniel Crowley Concert short story/storytelling entry (see story, p. 2)
- July 20-23 International Society for Oral Literature in Africa 6th Conference, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago (see April 2005 *AFSN*, p. 3 and p. 7)
- July 26-30 Second North Atlantic Fiddle Convention, Aberdeen, Scotland (see August 2005 *AFSN*, p. 9, and December 2005 *AFSN*, p. 5)
- August 31 Deadline for nominations, Zora Neale Hurston and Américo Paredes Prizes (see February 2006 *AFSN*, p. 4)
- September 1 Deadline for nominations, Benjamin A. Botkin Prize (see February 2006 *AFSN*, p. 3)

2006 (continued)

- September 1 Deadline for proposals, Vernacular Architecture Forum, Savannah, Georgia (see story, p. 2)
- September 15 Deadline for nominations, Elli Kōngäs-Maranda and Alcée Fortier Prizes (see story, p. 1)
- October 2 Deadline for National Endowment for the Humanities 2007 Summer Stipends (see story, p. 4)
- October 4-6 International Society for Luso-Hispanic Humor Studies Conference, Monterrey, Mexico (see story, p. 4)

- October 9 Deadline for proposals, SIEF Working Group on the Ritual Year Conference, Straznice, Czech Republic (see story, p. 3)
- October 18-22 AFS 2006 Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (For information, see www.afsnet.org/annualmeet/index.cfm)
- November 1 Deadline for submissions, *Jewish Cultural Studies- Jews at Home: The Domestication of Identity* (see April 2006 AFSN, p. 2)

2007

- April 20-22, 2007 Folklorists in the South Retreat, 20th Anniversary, Palm Key Resort, Ridgeland, South Carolina

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The *American Folklore Society News* (ISSN 0745-5178) is published online bimonthly by the American Folklore Society, Mershon Center, Ohio State University, 1501 Neil Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201-2602. All American Folklore Society members receive *AFSN*, with \$19 of their dues designated for it. Nonmember subscriptions cost \$25. Periodicals postage for institutional subscriber copies paid at Columbus OH, and additional offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Editor's address shown above.

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