



American Folklore Society News

FEBRUARY 2006/Volume 35, Number 1

AFS 2005 Election Results

In the 2005 election balloting, the following members were elected to AFS office:

<i>Executive Board</i>	Diane Goldstein, Memorial University of Newfoundland Dan Sheehy, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings Kay Turner, Brooklyn Arts Council
<i>Nominating Committee</i>	Mario Montaña, Colorado College

In addition, the Board's proposal to change Article III of the *AFS Bylaws* to read: "The Executive Board shall have the authority to create, change, eliminate, and set the benefits and dues for all classes of membership in the Society" passed by an overwhelming majority.

377 AFS members, representing about 40% of the total membership, cast ballots in the election, fewer than the 442 who voted in 2004 or the 436 who voted in 2003. Our thanks go to all of the 2005 candidates for their willingness to serve the Society, and to the 2005 Nominating Committee (Lisa Higgins, chair; Sabina Magliocco, Amy Kitchener, and John Dorst) for their work to identify candidates and prepare a slate. The next issue of *AFS News* in April will contain nomination information for the 2006 election.

AFS Receives Mellon Foundation Grant for Meeting on Folklore's Future in the Academy

In late 2005, the Society received a \$49,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to plan and lead a meeting of representatives from the professional societies of the fields of folklore, oral history, and ethnomusicology to discuss the changing relationships of those fields to the academy. We selected these two other fields as partners because they share with our field a fundamental commitment to ethnography, and the academic members of all three fields customarily find themselves in departments with the name of another field—English, anthropology, history, music—on the door.

Our meeting will take place on May 19-21, 2006, at the Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. Led by AFS President Bill Ivey and (*continued*)

Remember: The deadline for all proposals for the program of the AFS 2006 annual meeting is **March 31, 2006**, except for proposals for professional development workshops, which are due **March 15, 2006**. For meeting information, go to www.afsnet.org/annualmeet/index.cfm. For proposals, go to www.afsnet.org/annualmeet/nextAMreg.cfm.

Executive Director Tim Lloyd, and informed by background papers prepared for each field, those present at the meeting will discuss these major topics:

- The changing relationships between our fields and our members on the one hand, and the departments, colleges, and institutions in which they now find themselves
- The need to communicate more effectively about the work of our members within and outside the academy
- The need to better integrate scholarship and public practice in our fields
- The need to strengthen undergraduate education in each of our fields, in order to more effectively reach and recruit potential contributors to scholarship and public practice in our fields
- The difficulties facing those who work in the ethnographic disciplines when they confront human subjects research protection policies and procedures designed primarily for biomedical research, and the need for common cause with each other and other humanities fields to address these difficulties with the Federal agencies overseeing those policies and procedures

After the meeting, we will prepare a comprehensive report on the proceedings and recommendations of the meeting, which will stand as a foundational document for future activities AFS and these other societies, separately or in common, will undertake to improve the standing of our fields in the academy. We'll post the background papers and final report on the AFS web site.

The participants in the meeting will be:

Folklore

Bill Ivey, Director, Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy, Vanderbilt University;

President, American Folklore Society

Tim Lloyd, Executive Director, American Folklore Society

Brent Björkman, Associate Director, American Folklore Society

Margaret Brady, Department of English, University of Utah

Marcia Gaudet, Chair, Department of English, University of Louisiana, Lafayette

Elliott Oring, Department of Anthropology, California State University, Los Angeles,
emeritus

Sandy Rikoon, Department of Rural Sociology, University of Missouri

Patricia Turner, Dean, College of Letters and Science, University of California, Davis

Oral History

Rebecca Sharpless, Director, Institute for Oral History, Baylor University; President, Oral History Association

Madelyn Campbell, Executive Secretary, Oral History Association

Albert Broussard, Department of History, Texas A&M University

Thomas Charlton, Department of History, Baylor University

Laurie Mercier, Department of History, Washington State University

Linda Shopes, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Ethnomusicology

Philip Bohlman, Department of Music, University of Chicago; President, Society for Ethnomusicology

Alan Burdette, Executive Director, Society for Ethnomusicology
Lester Monts, Department of Music, University of Michigan
Kay Shelemay, Department of Music, Harvard University
Ruth Stone, Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University

AFS Offers the 2006 Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award, Benjamin A. Botkin, Zora Neale Hurston, and Américo Paredes Prizes

In 2006, the Society will again award its **Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award**. The award, offered in even-numbered years, recognizes outstanding scholarly achievement by a living senior scholar over the course of a career. W.F.H. Nicolaisen received the first such award in 2002, and Linda Dégh the second in 2004. The awardee will be honored at the AFS 2006 annual meeting in Milwaukee, and will be given a \$500 prize stipend, a plaque, and lifetime AFS membership.

To nominate a candidate for the award, submit by e-mail a cover letter and supporting materials detailing the rationale for putting forward the candidate's name, no later than **February 28, 2006**, to AFS Executive Director Timothy Lloyd at lloyd.100@osu.edu. Supporting materials should include a CV or list of degrees; scholarly positions; publications and other scholarly productions; professional and university service; awards, grants, and honors. Other materials in the nominating package may include reviews of prominent works, letters or articles by major scholars attesting to the nominee's contributions and achievements, and texts of awards and honors.

Each year, the Society and the AFS Public Programs Section join together to award the **Benjamin A. Botkin Prize** of \$100 to an individual for significant achievement in public folklore. This prize is given in recognition of the work of [Benjamin A. Botkin](#) (1901-1975). Eminent New Deal-era folklorist, national folklore editor of the Federal Writers' Project in 1938-1939, advocate for the public responsibilities of folklorists, author and compiler of many publications on American folklore for general audiences, and head of the Archive of American Folk Song at the Library of Congress from 1942 to 1945, Botkin has had a major impact on the field of public folklore and on the public understanding of folklore.

The review criteria are:

- Engagement of a broad public audience in the materials of folklore
- Impact on the field of public folklore: development of models, methodology, visibility, advocacy
- Impact on communities/constituents and their traditional culture
- Contributions to the body of materials of folklore/public folklore
- Quality of artistry in presentation: writing, photography, stagecraft, etc.
- Quality of scholarship
- Impact on the discipline of folklore, its theories and methodology
- Quality/adequacy of nomination package itself
- Breadth of support: letters from community members and non-folklorists in addition to folklore colleagues

The deadline for nominations is **September 1, 2006**. Please e-mail nominations, as well as your questions, to Botkin Prize Committee chair Gwen Meister at plainsculture@inebraska.com.

Nominations should include: a letter of nomination; a one- or two-page biography or resume of the nominee; three to five letters of support from a broad range of people, including community members who have benefited from the nominee's work and people from outside the folklore field in addition to colleagues. Letters should specifically address the review criteria listed above and should explain how the nominee has taken folklore to a broad public audience.

All nomination letters and support material must be submitted in electronic format so they can be distributed easily and quickly to the committee members. Nominations remain active for three years. Previous nominators should contact Meister to ensure that their nominations are still in the pool, to arrange to send electronic versions of materials previously sent in hard copy, and to inquire about adding new or updated materials to those nominations.

The **Zora Neale Hurston Prize** of \$100, awarded each year by the Society and its Task Force on Cultural Diversity, is named for the pioneering folklorist, ethnographer, and creative writer who lived from 1891 to 1960, worked in and wrote extensively about African American communities throughout the southern US, and is internationally known for her folklore collection *Mules and Men* (1935) and her novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937), as well as other notable works. The prize is given to a graduate or undergraduate student for the best work in any medium—including but not limited to papers, films, sound recordings, or exhibitions—on African American folklore.

Works submitted for prize consideration do not have to be about Hurston herself. One of the past prize-winning works was a graduate research paper that resulted in a thesis, another was a course paper written by a graduate student and later published as an article in the journal *Southern Folklore*, and the most recent was an ethnography project conducted by an undergraduate student for a senior seminar course. The last three Hurston Prize recipients have been Wanda Addison of the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, for her paper "Self-Representation Through Discourse: Bertha Handy's Mirrored Ideology" (2003); Quan Lateef of Howard University, for her paper "The Rap That Binds: The Evolution of Hip Hop" (2004); and Scott Edmondson of the University of California, Los Angeles, for his film "I Seen and I Know: Testimony from a Los Angeles Storefront" (2005).

The deadline for nominations is **August 31, 2006**. Please send submissions to Jerrilyn McGregory, Department of English, Florida State University, Tallahassee FL 32306-1580.

The AFS Executive Board and Task Force on Cultural Diversity, along with the AFS Chicana/Chicano and Folklore Latino, Latinoamericano, y Caribeño Sections, invite nominations for the 2006 **Américo Paredes Prize**, given by the Society each year to recognize excellence in one or both of the following achievements: integrating scholarship and engagement with the people and communities one studies, and teaching and encouraging scholars and practitioners to work in their own cultures or communities.

Américo Paredes (1915-1999), a leading scholar in folklore and Greater Mexico studies, worked relentlessly throughout his life, in the words of Olga Nájera-Ramírez, "to better understand, represent, and respect the rights, lives, and culture of U.S. Latinas and Latinos." Dr. Paredes contributed significantly to the formation of various intellectual trends and in particular to the scholarship on "native" folklorists and anthropologists; indeed, he trained several generations of "natives." Dr. Paredes was the first Mexican American to receive a PhD at the University of Texas, where he taught from 1958 until his retirement in 1984.

The prize can be awarded for many forms of accomplishment, including products such as a book, article, software package, or exhibit; or on the basis of the overall impact of the nominee's engaged teaching and scholarship, or her/his fostering of folklore work in one's own community or

culture. William A. Wilson, Brigham Young University, *emeritus*, received the first Paredes Prize in 2002; Norma Cantú of the University of Texas at San Antonio received the 2003 Prize; in 2004 Kurt Dewhurst and Marsha MacDowell of the Michigan State University Museum shared the Prize; and in 2005 Enrique Lamadrid of the University of New Mexico was the Paredes honoree.

Nominations, in the form of a letter describing how the nominee has achieved excellence in either or both of the achievements the Prize recognizes, must be *received* via e-mail by AFS Executive Director Timothy Lloyd (lloyd.100@osu.edu) by **August 31, 2006**.

Although the nomination deadlines for these last three prizes are in late summer, nominations may be made at any time before then. Submit your nominations now! This year's Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award; the Botkin, Hurston, and Paredes prizes; and the AFS Fellows Book Prize (see below), will be awarded at the opening ceremonies of the 2006 AFS annual meeting on Wednesday evening, October 18, in Milwaukee.

AFS International Committee Offers Stipends for Travel to Meetings Outside North America

The American Folklore Society's Committee on International Issues announces the availability of one \$500 stipend for an American Folklore Society member traveling from North America to attend a meeting abroad. Members may receive the stipend only once, and they are also ineligible if they have received previous support from AFS to attend the AFS meeting.

Because of the variability of conference deadlines, we are making this a semiannual competition with some overlap in coverage. There will be a second \$500 stipend available with an application deadline of December 31. The present competition will cover meetings held between August 1, 2006, and August 1, 2007. The December competition will cover meetings held between March 1, 2007 and March 1, 2008.

Applications are due on **June 30, 2006**. We strongly encourage preliminary queries.

The purpose of the stipends is to foster increased international communication, collaboration, and awareness among the AFS membership. In judging applications, therefore, we consider not only how the proposed travel will benefit the individual but the benefit accrued to the Society and the field. Stipends will be paid by check upon receipt of a 500-word report on the meeting for publication in the AFS News.

Our criteria are flexible, but we favor:

- meetings with participants from regions where AFS has had relatively little involvement
- meetings featuring forms of disciplinary practice that are less familiar to AFS members
- meetings likely to foster a significant disciplinary contribution to major international issues
- applicants at earlier stages of their careers
- applicants lacking significant institutional travel support or frequent opportunities to travel abroad
- applicants likely to pursue ongoing international collaborations as a result of attending the meeting abroad

- applicants likely to bring new international participants into the AFS as a result of attending the meeting
- applicants likely to share what they have learned abroad with colleagues in North America
- applicants who are meaningfully involved in AFS

Your letter (ca. 2 pages) should explain what the meeting is, its date and location, the paper or presentation you will contribute to it, and the relevance of your application to the above criteria. Please send your letter with a brief CV (as a Word or .rtf or text attachment) to committee chair Dorothy Noyes at noyes.10@osu.edu.

AFS Fellows Book Prize 2006

In 2006, the Fellows of the American Folklore Society will again award a prize of at least \$100 to a book that reflects excellent scholarship in and presentation of folklore studies. The purpose of the prize is to strengthen the field of folklore in the academy and in public life. Consequently, preference in awarding the prize will be given to works of interest to scholars beyond the discipline of folklore or to the general public. The recipient of the first Fellows Book Prize in 2005 was Dorothy Noyes of The Ohio State University for her *Fire in the Plaça: Catalan Festival Politics after Franco*, published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in 2003.

Any member of the American Folklore Society may nominate a book for consideration by the Prize committee. The work must explicitly be a work of folklore scholarship. The work must be in English. Authors may not nominate their own books. The work must be an original monograph or a series of essays by a single author focused on a particular topic. Anthologies of documents, collections of essays by a variety of authors, and folklore collections that lack extensive commentary and analysis are not eligible. For the current prize consideration, the work must have been first published in 2003, 2004, or 2005.

The nominator must have read the book that is being nominated and write a nomination letter that describes the book, its significance for folklore studies, and its interest to a wider audience. This letter must be signed and should be no more than 500 words in length. A nominator should include both a phone number and e-mail address. The nomination must be submitted no later than **April 30, 2006**. The letter of nomination should be attached to an e-mail and sent to ribbis1@cs.com. The winner of the AFS Fellows Book Prize will be announced at the annual meeting of the American Folklore Society. In addition, the Fellows will help advertise the winner of the Prize to folklorists and the wider scholarly community.

Folkloristics and the Wikipedia: A Call for Submissions, of Sorts

Folklorists have been presented with an unusual opportunity by the development of the Wikipedia. For those who don't yet know, the Wikipedia is an online encyclopedia project begun in 2001 emerging from the open-source software movement, allowing anyone to make edits to the online text. It is volunteer-run and has no central editor, the theory being that other knowledgeable members of the community will monitor entries for accuracy and quality and edit entries and changes on an ongoing basis, following community standards.

The Wikipedia has also been a huge success in terms of readership, quickly becoming one of the thirty most visited websites on the internet and outpacing many other encyclopediae, both online and print. Its growth has been phenomenal, as page hits have increased six-fold in the past year alone and now stand at around 2.5 billion hits a month, according to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. For this reason alone the Wikipedia represents a great opportunity for our field -- aside from that fact that such a process of creation is of inherent interest to folklorists, given the role of the community, the absence of an official editor, the dialogic nature of its scholarship, its own manifestation of libertarian democracy, the rules that govern community practice, and the folk and non-hierarchical natures of wikis as communicative media.

For once we have an opportunity as a field to script our own entries and insert them as part of the canon of academic discourse, without an outside editor or committee to stipulate our field is a minor discipline which cannot be included for reasons of space. For the first time in a multidisciplinary omnibus, the folklorist's definition and interpretation of such topics as *craft, myth, legend, morphology, folk art, belief, superstition*, and other topics will stand alongside other entries from other humanities and social sciences. If we lament the fact that Alan Lomax, or Ralph Rinzler, say, are not given their due by the academic community for their importance in American cultural and intellectual history, we now have a free and unfettered opportunity to make the case ourselves, in as close to a "free marketplace of ideas" as we are likely to see.

Because of the unplanned and all-volunteer editorial process, the Lomax entry is short, the Rinzler entry non-existent (as of the time of this writing; all it would take would be one enterprising author somewhere and that could change tomorrow), while Alan Jabbour and Peggy Bulger have more extensive, developed entries. Many articles on African American folklore have been written by a university student in the Czech Republic, who has not had the overview of the field of folkloristics to include such major figures from the recent past. The site now includes lists of other folklorists whose entries have yet to be written (including Melville Herskovits, Elsie Clews Parsons, Archer Taylor, Archie Green, Don Yoder, and Américo Paredes, while Stith Thompson has an entry in the German-, but not the English-, language edition). Other entries, such as *proverb* and *joke* are particularly weak at the moment, ripe for improvement and elaboration, while other potential entries, such as *tale-type, motif* (as it is used in folkloristics), and many entries for folklore by region (e.g. *Native American folklore*), do not yet exist.

I invite all of you to visit www.wikipedia.org if you have not already done so, and poke around, familiarizing yourselves with the style of the project and the shortcomings of the folklore entries. Then dive in. Our field will greatly benefit if our generation of scholars takes it upon ourselves to add our unique contribution to scholarly knowledge to what may well become the most widely-read encyclopedia project in history. We may also want to convene an informal gathering at the AFS annual meeting to review what entries need to be written, which ones rewritten, and who can commit to working collaboratively on them.

William Westerman

Publication News

Call for Papers: Jewish Cultural Studies – Past, Present, and Future

The Society has entered into an agreement with the Littman Library of Jewish Civilization in Oxford to resume publication, under a new title and in a new, annual book format, the *Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Review*, published until a few years ago by the Society's Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Section. We are now seeking papers for this exciting new book series, *Jewish Cultural Studies* (see

www.littman.co.uk). Members of the Section will receive this publication as a benefit of membership.

The inaugural *JCS* volume will be titled “Jewish Cultural Studies: Past, Present, and Future.” The editorial board seeks contributions that explore Jewish culture as a subject of inquiry. Topics of interest for the volume include, but are not limited to, historiography of Jewish cultural studies with social psychological interpretations of figures and movements such as Yiddish nationalism, identity politics, and Jewish cultural revitalization; connections and breaks between cultural studies, religious studies, folklore and ethnology studies, and Jewish studies; uses of folklore and ethnology in the intellectual construction of Jewish culture in different countries and historic periods; models for interpreting emergent Jewish cultural movements in the twenty-first century; ideas of race, gender, and class in the perception and iconography of Jewish culture; relations between folk and popular culture, textual and visual culture, and domestic and public culture in conceptualization of Jewish culture.

The format of the volumes will be similar to the successful book series *Polin*, also published by Littman (www.littman.co.uk/polin/). It typically contains 10 to 12 essays of 8,000 words anchored by an introduction addressing the theme, and a section (usually 3 or 4 essays) called “New Views” of original research on Jewish studies not on the theme. Unlike many publications on Judaica studies, the Jewish cultural studies series will be exploring the secular as well as religious spheres, and the intersections of the two, with attention to the diversity of traditions and customs in the Jewish world—and particularly their significance and meaning. The publication is sponsored by the Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Section of the American Folklore Society in cooperation with the Council on the Anthropology of Jews and Judaism of the American Anthropological Association. Deadline for submissions is **May 1, 2006**.

For more information, contact editor Simon J. Bronner, School of Humanities, The Pennsylvania State University, 777 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown PA 17057-4898; sbronner@psu.edu

Prize News

2005 Brenda McCallum Prize Announced

The 2005 Brenda McCallum Prize committee of the AFS Archives and Libraries Section has selected the Florida Folklife Digitization and Education Project of the Florida State Archives to receive this year's award.

The Prize honors the late folklife archivist, Brenda McCallum. The award is given for an exceptional work dealing with folklife archives or the collection, organization, and management of ethnographic materials. To receive the award, a work must provide education, techniques, or services to those who collect, organize, and preserve folklife materials, either on the individual or institutional level.

The 2005 award committee was very impressed with the way the online project was designed and executed, and felt it is a good model for folklife archives working to establish a web interface to collections. The committee congratulates all those who contributed to creating this wonderful resource. To view the Florida Folklife Digitization and Education Project, please visit <http://www.floridamemory.com/Collections/folklife/>.

Raphael Patai Prize in Jewish Folklore and Ethnology

The Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Section of the American Folklore Society and the

Committee on the Anthropology of Jews and Judaism of the American Anthropological Association invites submissions for its Raphael Patai Prize in Jewish Folklore and Ethnology awarded for the best unpublished student paper completed in 2005 or 2006. Submissions are reviewed by an international committee and notifications are made by September 2006. The winner of the prize receives \$200 and a citation from the American Folklore Society. Finalists are considered for publication in the book series *Jewish Cultural Studies* (Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, Oxford, UK).

The review criteria are:

- Approaches to the subject cover folkloristic and ethnological perspectives and Jewish content.
- The length of papers are of publishable essay length—usually around 8,000 words. The preferable citation style is in humanistic style with endnotes.
- The submitted unpublished paper was written by a student in 2005 or 2006.

Papers can be submitted electronically or in hard copy in English on or before **May 1, 2006** to Simon Bronner, School of Humanities, The Pennsylvania State University, 777 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown PA 17057-4898. Electronic submissions can use Word or Word Perfect software and sent directly to sbronner@psu.edu

Web and Media News

Webcast Opportunity

Rieks Smeets, Chief of the Intangible Cultural Heritage section of UNESCO, will present a lecture on **February 20, 2006**, at 8:00 pm central time at the University of Missouri--Columbia, as part of the 20th anniversary celebration of the founding of the University's Center for Studies in Oral Tradition and the first anniversary celebration of the founding of the University's enter for eResearch--both founded and directed by John Miles Foley.

The title of Smeets' talk is "The Story of a Convention: Safeguarding Living Heritage," and will address the following areas:

- The history of UNESCO's Conventions in the field of culture and the place among them of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
- The definition of the intangible, or living heritage.
- Criteria for identifying intangible heritage: living, traditional, and representative.
- Translating the Convention into actual safeguarding projects, involving communities and respecting human rights.
- Different views of the intangible heritage in different regions of the world. Political implications and complications.
- What we expect from researchers; why it is necessary and thrilling to work on this world-wide experiment.

Anyone with an internet connection can access this lecture, which will be webcast in real time and available in archival form after the event. For details on the internet connection, go to www.oraltradition.org by February 10, 2006.

Journal of Folklore Research *Reviews Go Online*

The *Journal of Folklore Research* has launched a venture called JFR Reviews, in which reviews of books and other media formats of folklore scholarship will be delivered to a list of subscribers electronically. The JFR will start sending out reviews in early 2006. This new service is free and subscriptions are open to anyone.

To have your name added to the list of subscribers, please send a message to jfrr@indiana.edu with the word "subscribe" placed on the subject line. For more information about this venture, consult the Journal of Folklore Research website (<http://www.indiana.edu/~jofr/>).

The Migrant Project: Contemporary California Farm Workers

The Migrant Project is an in-depth photojournalistic portrait detailing the lives, stories and struggles of today's California migrant farm workers: an army of over a half-million strong - the hands that quite literally feed us. The resulting 40 image exhibit (with bi-lingual text in English and Spanish) previewed in Los Angeles as an official affiliate exhibit of the California Council on the Humanities "Grapes of Wrath/California Stories" program and is now touring museums, universities, and cultural centers throughout North America as an art, humanities and education tool.

The Migrant Project depicts everything from family life, culture, children and pesticides, to the search for housing, work, health care, and the scraping together of community. By providing these and other human details it aims to foster a greater sense of empathy with today's farm workers as well as provide a humanistic lens through which to understand this, the poorest and most consistently exploited segment of our society.

Through benefits and print sales, *The Migrant Project* has helped raise thousands of dollars for numerous non-profit and charitable organizations including The Dolores Huerta Foundation, California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc., El Faro Orphanage (Tijuana), American Friends Service Committee (Stockton), Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, The Cesar Chavez Foundation, and Kern AIDS Lifeline. Currently it is being presented to audience of all ages in the form of the physical exhibit, as well as through a new CD ROM standards-based curriculum for middle and high schools, and an exciting interactive and multi-media professional/educators workshop (created with the award-winning non-profit Facing History & Ourselves).

Selected upcoming engagements include: The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque (Spring 2006), the Wichita Art Museum, Wichita KS (Summer 2006), Escondido Center for the Arts, Escondido CA (Fall 2006), San Francisco's Central Public Library (Fall 2006), and The Ice House Cultural Center, Dallas TX (Fall 2006).

To see images and text from the exhibit and learn more about "The Migrant Project in all its forms, please visit the website: <http://rcnphoto.com/mpr.html> , or email info@rcnphoto.com.

Meeting News

Graduate students at Indiana University are producing the **Pushing Boundaries: Extreme Folklore and Ethnomusicology** conference in Bloomington on March 31-April 1, 2006. This conference is intended for graduate students in folklore, ethnomusicology, and related disciplines to present materials that expand the boundaries of the conference format and the theoretical orientations of our respective disciplines.

This conference provides an opportunity to engage in formal discourse with graduate students from other universities and programs in our scholarly community. This conference will

focus on providing a less intimidating environment for graduate students to present new and forward-thinking ideas. Dr. Elaine Lawless, Professor at the English Department of the University of Missouri will be the keynote speaker.

The conference is organized into five categories of presentation, which the planners are tentatively considering sessions; however, the modes of presentation are necessarily open for discussion and will partly depend on the proposals that are submitted. Initially, the categories are theory, applied work, technology, field work, and alternative modes of representation.

Panel proposals are also welcome. Please send proposal for panel abstract with paper abstracts. We will also be organizing forums for presenters who have works in progress who would like to present but feel that their work isn't at a stage for a formal presentation. These will be grouped into similar topic areas for discussions.

Abstracts should be a maximum of 300 words and are due by **February 15, 2006** via e-mail to folkethn@indiana.edu. Please list Spring Conference in subject heading. Abstracts should be sent as attachments using either Word or .rtf formats, and names should be left off the attachment. Acceptance notification will be e-mailed on March 1, 2006.

Questions about submissions or the conference should be sent to minmarti@indiana.edu. The conference web site is www.indiana.edu/~esa/2005conference/index.htm.

The **2006 Qualia Festival of Gay Folklife** will take place on the campus of the Ohio State University on April 21-23. Qualia are an organization for the promotion and celebration of LGBT folklife. Founded in 2002, Qualia's mission is to educate people about LGBT culture through scholarship, entertainment, and celebration.

Qualia is seeking papers on topics relating to family and the LGBT community. This year's theme is OHANA: We Are Family. The festival is also seeking and welcomes folklife performers (dancers, storytellers, musicians) and film submissions that deal with LGBT issues. Some examples of featured events and presentations this year include a recent work by filmmaker Tom Murray, who will show his documentary on gay rural families called *Farm Families*, and Hina Kahanu, a traditional Hawaiian storyteller from Waianae, Oahu.

For more information contact coordinators Mick Mason-Weems (mickeyweems@yahoo.com) or Kevin Mason-Weems (kmason26@yahoo.com)

On behalf of the British Folk Studies Section of the American Folklore Society, the students and faculty of the University of California at Berkeley Folklore Program invite you to join them for a one-day **British Folk Studies** conference. Preliminary plans include a workshop, a forum discussion, a section meeting, and a reception. The reception will be hosted by the Folklore Program at Berkeley will also serve as the opening of the Western States Folklore Society (formerly the California Folklore Society) Annual Meeting, being held at Berkeley, April 21-23, 2006.

The overarching theme for this year's WSFS meeting is "Theoretical Directions," with a plan to incorporate some consideration of that theme into this linked conference as they take an overview of the state of the field and current research and theoretical directions in British Folk Studies. The last few years have seen some interesting new developments in the UK as British folklorists and scholars of British folklore have questioned old geographical and conceptual boundaries and borders, made new collaborations and encouraged fresh theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches.

The immediate goals of the conference are two-fold: First, to encourage students and younger scholars to gain practical experience and second to be aware of and actively help develop new paradigms and theoretical models. In the morning folk music workshop students will be introduced to an important way of "doing" folklore -- through participatory experience. In the

afternoon session, to be led by Dr. Juliette Wood from Cardiff University, they will explore some of the recent changes, new developments and unresolved issues in British folklore studies and how these may relate to the present state of folkloristics in the United States. What roles should we play in advancing folklore studies on both sides of the Atlantic?

The British Folk Studies conference is free of charge to UC Berkeley students, faculty, and alumni, and AFS, WSFS and Folklore Society (UK) members. For more information and to make a reservations contact Maria Teresa Agozzino (mabela@berkeley.edu).

Vermont Folklife Center Announces Spring 2006 Workshop Series

Tools and Techniques of Oral History

Friday, February 17

This workshop, taught by Vermont Folklife Center (VFC) folklorists Jane Beck, Gregory Sharrow and Andy Kolovos, will provide a comprehensive introduction to folklife/oral history research and will cover such topics as defining a project, finding people to interview, doing background research, developing topics to guide an interview, mastering recording technique, conducting an interview, writing field notes, transcribing a recording, translating research into publications/public programming, and archival preservation concerns. The workshop tuition is \$75 and pre-registration is required.

Digital Documentary Photography

Saturday, February 25, and Sunday, February 26

This workshop, led by freelance photographer Sarah Lavigne, is a full weekend of digital photography immersion that includes a survey of documentary work, discussion of the roll of the observer, lessons in composition and lighting, work on your own field project, and wrap up with a brief introduction to Photoshop and sequencing. The workshop tuition is \$175 and pre-registration is required. Attendance limited to 15 participants. In case of inclement weather, the workshop will be moved to March 4 and 5.

Archival Techniques for Family and Community Collections

Saturday, March 11

Led by VFC archivist Andy Kolovos, this workshop centers on archival preservation with a focus on personal, family and local historical society collections. Attendees will be presented with best-practices for the preservation of tangible archival materials such as paper, photographic images and audio/video recordings under non-ideal storage conditions, as well as information on the complex problem of preserving digital materials and the role of scanning and digitization in archival preservation programs. The instructor will provide information on sources for archival supplies and additional resources on archival preservation. A special emphasis will be placed on the preservation requirements of oral history collections. The tuition for this workshop is \$75 and it is limited to 20 participants.

Telling Community Stories: A Video Documentary Workshop

Saturday, April 1, and Saturday, April 8

Led by documentary filmmaker Mary Arbuckle this workshop is a hands-on practical overview of the documentary production process. Workshop activities include tips on how to shoot unscripted events, use of microphones, interview techniques, and how to shape a scene out of "raw

life." Through camera exercises, demonstrations, and film clip screenings, participants will sharpen their powers of observation and expand their understanding of the power of life's stories. Enrollment is limited to 12 students. Workshop fees are \$175 and pre-registration is required. Participants must have access to camcorders for out-of-class camera exercises.

Recording Words: An Audio Field Recording Workshop

Saturday, April 29, and Sunday, April 30

Led by sound designer Scott Gillette and VFC Archivist Andy Kolovos this workshop will introduce participants to audio as a documentary medium. A variety of session will explore recording theory with an emphasis on digital audio, an overview of audio recording equipment including recorders and microphones, instruction in recording techniques for voice, music and ambient sound, and a discussion of the preservation of analog and digital audio recordings. If there is interest among participants, the instructors will also provide a brief introduction to digital audio editing on a PC. The workshop tuition is \$175, pre-registration is required and also limited to 15 participants.

Digital Storytelling: Using Multimedia to Tell Personal and Community Stories

Date and time for the workshop not yet announced.

Led by Middlebury College digital media specialist Mack Roark this workshop will start with digital audio, video, photographs, and/or text and explain how these media forms can be shaped into a multimedia documentary for computer or internet. Pre-registration for this Middlebury College-based workshop is required and limited to 15 participants.

Unless stated otherwise, all workshops take place at the Vermont Folklife Center, Middlebury, Vermont. For more information and to register for any of these workshops, contact Joanna or Sarah at the Vermont Folklife Center, PO Box 442, Middlebury, VT 05753, 802/388-4964 or by e-mail at info@vermontfolklifecenter.org.

AFS Datebook

2006

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|-------------|---|
| February 15 | Deadline for proposals, Pushing Boundaries: Extreme Folklore and Ethnomusicology conference, Bloomington, Indiana (see story, p. 10) |
| February 28 | Deadline for nominations, 2006 AFS Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award (see story, p. 3) |
| March 15 | Deadline for proposals for professional development workshops, AFS 2006 annual meeting (contact loyd.100@osu.edu for workshop proposal forms) |
| March 31 | Deadline for all other proposals, AFS 2006 annual meeting (see www.afsnet.org/annualmeet/nextAMreg.cfm) |
| April 30 | Deadline for nominations, AFS Fellows 2006 Book Prize (see story, p. 6) |

- May 1 Deadline for submissions, *Jewish Cultural Studies* (see story, p. 7)
- Deadline for nominations, Raphael Patai Prize in Jewish Folklore and Ethnology (see story, p. 8)
- May 15-18 Association for Interpretation “Interpreting World Heritage: Connecting People to Places Through Sustainable Heritage Tourism” Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico (see August 2005 *AFSN*, p. 8)
- 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)
- 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)
- June 30 Deadline for applications, AFS Committee on International Issues travel stipends for travel to meetings outside North America (see story, p. 5)
- 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 story, p. 4)
- September 1 Deadline for nominations, Benjamin A. Botkin Prize (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; for proposal and registration forms, see www.afsnet.org/annualmeet/nextAMreg.cfm)

American Folklore Society News

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