



# AFS*News*

Fall 2008/Volume 37, Number 4

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## *Results of the 2008 AFS Election*

In the 2008 election balloting, the following Society members were elected to AFS office:

### President-Elect:

C. Kurt Dewhurst, Michigan State University, East Lansing

### Executive Board:

Amy Shuman, The Ohio State University, Columbus

Amy Skillman, Institute for Cultural Partnerships, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

William Westerman, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey

### Nominating Committee:

Suzanne Sheriff, University of Texas, Austin

Our congratulations go to the newly elected officers, and our thanks go to all of the candidates for their willingness to serve the Society, and to the members of the 2008 Nominating Committee (Mario Montaña, chair; Solimar Otero, Guha Shankar, and Juwen Zhang) for their work to identify candidates and prepare a slate.

Each year, the AFS Nominating Committee assembles a slate of candidates, from among the Society's members, for the offices that are available in the Society's annual election: three seats on the Society's governing body, the Executive Board; one seat on the Nominating Committee itself; and, in even-numbered years, the four-year office of AFS President (one year as President-Elect, two years as President, and one year as Past President).

We invite all AFS members to submit names of possible candidates for the Committee's 2009 consideration. Please send your recommendations to Solimar Otero of Louisiana State University, chair of the Nominating Committee, at [solimar@lsu.edu](mailto:solimar@lsu.edu) by **May 1, 2009**. Once the Committee has assembled its slate and publicized it in August, any ten AFS members may add names to this slate by means of a written petition.

The final candidates prepare biographical sketches and platform statements outlining their sense of the challenges and opportunities facing the Society, and the responses they would make to these challenges and opportunities. We will post these sketches and statements on the AFS web site in September. The candidates then appear in a Candidates' Forum at the Society's annual meeting each

October. Shortly after the annual meeting members may begin voting online, and the voting deadline is December 31. Those elected will take office on January 1, 2010.

### *AFS 2008 Annual Meeting Report*

The Society's 2008 annual meeting, held at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Louisville, Kentucky, from October 22 to 26 brought together some 700 folklorists from around the world for a very successful and productive three days of presentations, conversations, and social gatherings. Our plenary speakers were Alessandro Portelli of the University of Rome, Ruth Behar of the University of Michigan, and Carl Lindahl of the University of Houston. The meeting was also the occasion to recognize and honor the life and work of Kentucky folklorists Lynwood Montell and the late Leonard Roberts.

We are grateful to the following financial supporters of our meeting: the Kentucky Arts Council; the Kentucky Historical Society; the Department of Folk Studies and Anthropology, Western Kentucky University; the Fellows of the American Folklore Society; the Folk and Traditional Arts Program of the National Endowment for the Arts; and the following American Folklore Society Sections: Folk Belief and Religious Folklife; Mediterranean Studies, Music and Song; Politics, Folklore and Social Justice; Public Programs; and Storytelling.

On Wednesday, October 22, the Board held its fourth biennial meeting with representatives from folklore academic programs. This meeting also included participation by representatives from public folklore organizations and of independent folklorists. In recent years AFS has made efforts to serve more actively as a "hub" for our field, and these meetings are an important element in that process. They give us an all-too-infrequent opportunity to reflect upon, discuss, and plan for the entire field. The report from that meeting will be posted to the AFS web site soon.

The following individuals received Society prizes or honors at the meeting:

New AFS Fellows: Erika Brady, Western Kentucky University; independent folklorist Luisa del Giudice of Los Angeles; Sharon Sherman, University of Oregon; and Timothy Tangherlini, University of California, Los Angeles

Chicago Folklore Prize: Felicia McMahon, Syracuse University, for her book *Not Just Child's Play: Emerging Tradition and the Lost Boys of Sudan*, published in 2007 by the University Press of Mississippi

Benjamin Botkin Prize: Yvonne Lockwood, Michigan State University

Zora Neale Hurston Prize: Aron Myers, Florida State University

Américo Paredes Prize: Barry Jean Ancelet, University of Louisiana, Lafayette

AFS Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award: Richard Bauman, Indiana University

Hande Birkalan-Gedik of Yeditepe University in Istanbul, Turkey; Yucel Demirer of Kocaeli University in Kocaeli, Turkey; and Fernando Fischman of the Universidad de Buenos Aires in Argentina received AFS international travel stipends.

Michael J. Alarid of The Ohio State University, Nishelle Y. Bellinger of California State University, San Marcos, and Joslyn Ladson of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, received AFS Gerald Davis Travel Awards from the Society's Cultural Diversity Task Force.

Recipients of AFS student travel stipends were: Rhonda R. Dass (Indiana University), Monica Foote (Indiana University), Rachel V. Gonzalez (Indiana University), Adam Grydehøj (Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen), Eddie Huffman (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), Cherry Levin (Louisiana State University), Scott Mitchell (University of Missouri), Joseph O'Connell (University of Oregon), Sean T. O'Neil (University of California, Berkeley), Katharine R. Schramm (Indiana University), Tara R. Simmonds (Memorial University of Newfoundland), Joanna B. Spanos (The Ohio State University), Teresa M. Preston-Werner (Northwestern University), Jason Whitesel (The Ohio State University), and Ayako Yoshimura (University of Wisconsin, Madison).

The following individuals, organizations, and projects received awards and honors from AFS sections:

The Children's Folklore Section gave its Aesop Award for excellence in English language books for children and young adults, both fiction and nonfiction, incorporating folklore, to *Ain't Nothing But a Man: My Quest to Find the Real John Henry*. Scott Reynolds Nelson, with Marc Aronson (National Geographic, 2008). Its 2008 Aesop Accolades (honorable mentions) went to *Dance in a Buffalo Skull*. Told by Zitkala-Ša. Illustrated by S. D. Nelson. Prairie Tales Series, no. 2. (South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 2007), and *The Adventures of Molly Whuppie and Other Appalachian Folktales*. Anne Shelby. Illustrated by Paula McArdle (University of North Carolina Press, 2007).

The Folk Art Section's Warren Roberts paper prize went to Robert Dobler of the University of Oregon for his paper "Memorialization and Protest in the Ghost Bike Movement."

The Folklore and Education Section's Dorothy Howard Prize went to the <http://www.folkstreams.net> web site. Honorable mention went to the Tennessee Arts Commission for *Fisk Jubilee Singers, Singing Our Song*. The section's Robinson Roeder Ward Fellowship was awarded to Emily Coffey of Edmonton, Kentucky.

The Folklore and History Section's Wayland Hand Prize for an outstanding book-length publication in folklore and history went to Guy Beiner of Ben-Gurion University for *Remembering the Year of the French: Irish Folk History and Social Memory* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2006). Honorable mention went to Simon J. Bronner of The Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg for his edited volume *The Meaning of Folklore: The Analytical Essays of Alan Dundes* (Utah State University Press, 2007).

The Independent Folklorists Section-Public Programs Section Travel Award went to Karen Miller, independent folklorist of Rockport, Maine.

The LGBTQA Section recognized Jenice Batiforra of the University of Winnipeg by giving her paper "In Search of the Babaylan" its best student paper award.

The Public Programs Section awarded Archie Green Student Travel Stipends to Amber Ridington of the Memorial University of Newfoundland, Linda Ho Peché of the University of Texas, and Sydney Hutchinson of New York University.

The Women's Section awarded its Elli Kōngäs-Maranda Professional Prize to Jacqueline Fulmer of the University of California, Berkeley, for her book *Folk Women and Indirection in Morrison, Ni Dhuibhne, Hurston, and Lavin* (Ashgate, 2007). Its EKM Professional Honorable Mention went to Pravina Shukla of Indiana University for her book *The Grace of Four Moons: Dress, Adornment, and the Art of the Body in Modern India* (Indiana University Press, 2008), and to Kristin M. McAndrews of the University of Hawai'i for her book *Wrangling Women: Humor and Gender in the American West* (University of Nevada Press, 2006).

The Section's EKM Student Prize was awarded to Elo-Hanna Seljamaa of The Ohio State University for her paper "He 'Put Pennies in Her Palm': Crossing Boundaries in an Estonian Infanticide Ballad." The EKM Student Honorable Mentions went to Joanna B. Spanos, also of The Ohio State University, for her paper "'The Ballad of Susanna Cox' and the Transformation of Community," and Sheetal Gandhi of University of California, Los Angeles, for her paper "Freedom Versus Stability: Fantasies of Intimacy in North Indian Women's Songs."

## *2008 Annual Report of the American Folklore Society*

### *Report of the President and the Executive Director*

2008 was an extremely challenging **financial year** for the Society. Because of four major factors that unfortunately occurred together, the balance in our cash reserve has been significantly reduced. The four factors?

1. The 2007 annual meeting in Québec was especially expensive for AFS. Because of the decline in the value of the US dollar compared to the Canadian dollar, all the prices we paid in 2007 (e.g., from book room coffee to the printing of the program) rose about 50% from where they stood in 2004, when we signed contracts to meet in Québec. And most prices, particularly those for audio-visual equipment rental, were very high to begin with.
2. The recent declines in the stock market affected our cash reserve directly, reducing our account by approximately 25%.
3. Prior to the decline in financial markets, the Board and Executive Director made commitments to undertake several initiatives that we deemed critical to our mission, knowing that we did not have much in the way of additional revenue coming in to offset the costs of those activities. Largest among these are our efforts to build a partnership with the China Folklore Society, to provide modest funding to our health policy working group, and to professionalize the associate director's position.
4. In addition to everything else, last year saw the conclusion of several AFS special projects, most notably the Ethnographic Thesaurus, while several of our fund-raising campaigns for other

special projects were not supported. This led to a fall-off of project management fees and indirect cost support to AFS at an unfortunate time.

Any one or two of these things would have made for a difficult year: all four of them together made it especially difficult.

This sort of situation is precisely why we have a cash reserve: we build it up when we have good financial times so that it will be there to be drawn upon when times are not so good. The balance in our cash reserve tends to ebb and flow on a cycle of 4-5 years or so. We built it up in the middle 1990's as a result of positive growth in our investments, but then we needed to draw it down in the late 1990s and early 2000s to pay for the increased costs of AAA management of AFS. The account again began growing when we took over our own management in 2002 and as a result of several years of good investment returns since then. It is down again now, but we are working to see that it will begin heading upward again.

There are several indicators of better financial times in our fiscal year 2009, which runs from September 2008 through August 2009. First, our annual meeting financial picture is looking up again as we returned to our own meeting arrangements, and a much less expensive location, in October 2008 in Louisville. A modest increase in annual meeting registration fees this year (we have not increased member registration fees since 2005 or student registration fees since 2002) is also helping, as have some grants and contributions from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Commonwealth of Kentucky toward the costs of the meeting.

Second, some of our other major revenue streams are continuing to grow. For example, calendar year 2008 revenue for *JAF* institutional subscriptions will surpass our expectations, and our royalty income from online access to *JAF* materials looks as though it will be higher in 2008 than in 2007. Third, the Board approved the Director's recommendation that we appoint a new investment advisor in August 2008 to manage our investments more effectively managed in the present environment.

Fourth, expenses for our special initiatives—including the China project in particular—will not be as high in 2009 as they were in 2008. The partnership activities we plan with our Chinese colleagues in 2009 will involve less in the way of direct costs, as we build quietly on the professional and financial investments we made in China in 2008, and in 2009 we'll also undertake new fund-raising activities to support longer-term work there.

And to conclude, the total of present gifts and future pledges to the Society's endowment fund has passed the \$1 million threshold and stands today at \$1,143,000. Of this amount, only about \$98,000 is in hand in the form of current contributions; the remainder is in the form of pledges for future gifts from members' estates. Once these future pledges are received into the endowment, they will produce income of a little over \$50,000 a year (in today's dollars, that amount would support 85% of the costs of the annual meeting or 75% of the costs of the *Journal*), making the fund one of our largest single sources of revenue in the future, and a critical source of long-term financial stability for the Society.

Our **2008 annual meeting**, held at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Louisville, Kentucky, brought together some 700 folklorists from around the world. Our plenary speakers were Alessandro Portelli of the University of Rome, Ruth Behar of the University of Michigan, and Carl Lindahl of

the University of Houston. The meeting was also the occasion to recognize and honor Lynwood Montell, and the life and work of the late Leonard Roberts.

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Our **2009 annual meeting** site will be Boise, Idaho. We will use the Grove Hotel, in the center of downtown Boise, and the entire Boise convention center next door will be set aside for our use—unlike most convention centers, it's just our size. Boise has a small-scale and very pedestrian-convivial downtown, and our hotel is directly across the street from a block-long neighborhood of Basque businesses and community gathering places.

Our **2010 annual meeting** will be held at the Hilton Nashville, across the street from the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum and one block from the Lower Broadway downtown entertainment district. The Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy at Vanderbilt University, led by former AFS President Bill Ivey, will be our partner in planning the meeting, and a number of middle Tennessee folklorists, as well as the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, will also be involved.

In early 2009, Board member Olga Nájera-Ramírez and Timothy Lloyd will begin research into the possibilities for an **AFS annual meeting in Mexico in or after 2012**. We'll also be considering sites in the Northeast, Southeast, and West for our meetings in 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014.

We have just begun the process leading to the selection in late 2009 year of the next editor of the *Journal of American Folklore* to replace present editors Harry Berger and Giovanna Del Negro, whose term will end in 2010. The Board will be working closely with the Publications Committee to recruit and consider good candidates for this important position.

John Laudun of the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, has accepted our invitation to serve as the editor of the **AFS web site** beginning in January 2009. He and the Executive Director, working with the Society's web manager Jeff Borisch, assisted by a newly formed editorial board, are undertaking a re-design of the site into a more robust and interactive Web 2.0 resource for the field. This redesign will be complete by May 2009.

As a result of this re-envisioning of our site, we have discontinued the publication of the *AFS News* at the end of 2008. The news and Society business it has contained will be conveyed much more efficiently to members through the web site and occasional mass e-mails from the Society's office. The web site's contents will be archived electronically, and the official record of the Society's activities will be preserved through our annual report.

Jason Baird Jackson of Indiana University has accepted the Board's invitation to lead five meetings of a working group, and several supporting activities, that 1) will carry out a set of intensive strategic conversations on the futures of **scholarly communications** in our field and, based on that process,

2) will submit briefing papers and formal recommendations and proposals for action to the Society's Executive Board. We plan to submit a proposal for the support of this project in January 2009.

Though various delays slowed the launch of the **H-FOLK** international listserv for folklore scholarship, this new scholarly communications vehicle finally "went live" in October 2008. H-FOLK is a joint initiative of the major international societies in the field—AFS, the Folklore Society of Great Britain, the Folklore Studies Association of Canada/Association canadienne d'ethnologie et de folklore, the International Society for Folk Narrative Research, and the Société internationale d'ethnologie et de folklore, as well as the National Folklore Support Centre in Chennai, India. The Department of Estonian and Comparative Folklore at the University of Tartu in Estonia and the Estonian Folklore Archives is the editorial center for the listserv.

The Society's **graduate student working group** met in January 2008 and submitted its recommendation to the Board in the early spring, and we have already acted on many of their recommendations. The **retired folklorists working group** has had a good e-mail and telephone exchange and will resume their work in early 2009. The **membership committee** held one conference-call meeting in 2008, and the **annual meeting working group** will hold its first discussions in early 2009. The Society's **publications committee** has been taking a role in the development of the 2.0 web site, and will be very much engaged as we begin the search for the next *Journal* editor. The **folklore and health policy working group** held a very productive meeting in Columbus in July 2008, led a session on their work at the annual meeting in Louisville, will be producing a book manuscript of case studies that the Cornell University Press has expressed a strong interest in publishing, and will be planning other activities to effectively communicate the value of our field's perspectives to the health care world.

The **Cultural Diversity Task Force** sponsored an open meeting at the Louisville annual meeting, and awarded Gerald L. Davis Travel Awards to the following minority scholars: Michael J. Alarid of The Ohio State University, Nishelle Y. Bellinger of California State University, San Marcos, and Joslyn Ladson of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They will offer these awards again in 2009, and will be discussing other possible Task Force activities.

Various Society **special projects** have also been front and center in our 2008 activities. Our work to provide the **Veterans History Project** (an activity of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress) with leaders for community-based workshops on conducting ethnographic interviews is well into its eighth year. 100 workshop leaders (about 2/3 of them folklorists and 1/3 oral historians) have thus far led more than 300 workshops with almost 6,700 participants in 40 states. This project brings many benefits, including public visibility to the field, work and professional service fees to folklorists, and net income to AFS.

We recently began work on our third two-year grant (this one for \$200,000) from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support the completion of a print-format scholarly edition of the **James Madison Carpenter Collection**. The Collection, one of the most significant in the collections of the American Folklife Center, contains a wealth of folkloric material, particularly of British and American traditional song and drama. Most material in the collection dates from 1929-35, when Carpenter conducted fieldwork in Britain; the remainder was gathered in the US. The collection comprises papers, wax cylinders, acetate discs, photographs and drawings, all of which include the texts and tunes of approximately 1,000 Child ballads, 800 sea shanties, 750 other songs, 300 mummers' plays, and 50 instrumental tunes. Seven scholars, most of who live and work in the

UK, constitute our team for this project. The University Press of Mississippi has expressed a strong interest in publishing the completed, multi-volume work.

The **AFS-China Folklore Society partnership** has continued to develop through this year. To recapitulate: In summer 2007, CFS and AFS agreed to exchange official delegations as a first step in establishing permanent relations between our societies and among our members. A four-member delegation from the CFS participated in our 2007 annual meeting in Québec and then, accompanied by Bill Ivey and Timothy Lloyd, traveled to New York City and Washington, DC, to meet with American folklorists there.

Then in December 2007, Bill, Juwen Zhang of Willamette University (co-convenor of the AFS Eastern Asia Folklife Section), and AFS associate director Maria Teresa (Mabel) Agozzino traveled to China for two weeks of meetings with folklore faculty members and visits to intangible cultural heritage sites and organizations in Beijing, Shandong Province in northeastern China, Yunnan Province in the southwest, and Guangdong Province in the southeast.

In May 2008 Timothy Lloyd spent two weeks in China as the guest of the China Folklore Society and several Chinese academic folklore programs. He delivered a number of lectures and talks, was taken to many sights of historical and cultural importance, and met formally and informally with many senior and junior scholars, academic administrators, and graduate students in Beijing and in Shandong and Guangdong Provinces.

As a result of these efforts, several informal exchanges have already begun, and we look forward to more formal partnerships in the near future:

Several advanced graduate students and young faculty members from China will be in residence at US universities during the 2008-2009 academic year. Some of them were able to participate in the Louisville annual meeting.

AFS and the Shandong University of Art and Design (SUAD) in Jinan are poised to sign a Memorandum of Agreement outlining a permanent relationship between the university and the Society. SUAD has a China Folk Art Research Institute, which exhibits a fine collection of Chinese folk and traditional art and is about to begin a residency and teaching program involving master folk artists from Shandong and other Chinese provinces. SUAD has also collaborated for some years with US folklorists Doug Blandy and Kristin Congdon on the ChinaVine project.

We are collaborating with the Institute of Chinese Intangible Cultural Heritage of Sun Yat-Sen (Zhongshan) University in Guangzhou to arrange for the translation into Chinese of a selection of major articles from 121 years of the *Journal of American Folklore*.

In July 2008 AFS submitted a proposal to the Preservation and Access Program of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) requesting \$500,000 for the initial planning and testing phases of a national project titled the **Ethnographic Archives Initiative**. The EAI is an ambitious long-term effort, led and managed by AFS, 1) to create field-wide best practices and infrastructure for access to the multi-format ethnographic collections maintained by academic programs, nonprofit educational organizations, and state arts and humanities council programs in the field of folklore across the US; and, based on those best practices and infrastructure, 2) to preserve, catalog, and

provide integrated digital access to the ethnographic collections of these programs and institutions. We will receive word about this proposal in March 2009.

Our thanks go to Past President Bill Ivey, to the 10 other members of the Executive Board, to associate director Mabel Agozzino, to all Society committee members and volunteers, and to all members of the Society for their hard work, support, and counsel during 2008.

*Elaine Lawless, University of Missouri, Columbia*  
*Timothy Lloyd, AFS Executive Director*

### ***Report of the Journal of American Folklore Editors***

The past year has been an exciting and productive one for *JAF*, and we continue to be impressed by both the quality and quantity of research in the field. In the spring of this year, AFS executive director Timothy Lloyd reported to us that *JAF* royalties were up 33% over the previous year, and “hits” credited to *JAF* content on Project Muse, the scholarly web site that offers issues of *JAF* from 2002 to the present, were up 44% over the past three years. We believe that these data speak to the quality of our authors’ work, the scholarly impact of the *Journal*, and the strength of folklore studies in general. We continue our commitment to publishing pieces that reflect the breadth of inquiry in our discipline and seeking out the very best research that folklorists produce. *JAF* continues to be published by the University of Illinois Press (UIP). This report covers the period from September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008.

*JAF* benefits from the work of four excellent review editors: book review editor Jill Terry Rudy (Brigham Young University), sound review editor C. Kati Szego (Memorial University of Newfoundland), exhibitions and events review editor Tina Bucuvalas (Florida Folklife Program), and film and video review editor David Todd Lawrence (University of St. Thomas). The *Journal* could not be produced without the diligent and enthusiastic efforts of Jesse Rester, the *JAF* editorial assistant here at our Texas A&M University offices. We thank all of these individuals for their fine work for the *Journal* over the last year.

In the spring of this year, Jill Terry Rudy announced that she would be stepping down from her position. We thank her for her work on the *Journal* and are pleased to announce that Carolyn Ware of Louisiana State University will be taking over as the new book review editor. The editorship is currently in transition, and Ware will assume full responsibilities for this post in the first half of 2009.

*JAF* is a quarterly publication. Issues 478–481 contained 2 addresses and 14 articles, including a special issue edited by Heather A. Diamond and Ricardo D. Trimillos. During the review year, our office received 51 article submissions, 1 entry for the dialogs section, and 1 address. 3 articles, 1 dialog piece, and 1 address were accepted for publication, 9 articles were accepted with revision, 9 were rejected with an option to revise and resubmit, and 30 were rejected outright. Currently, we are making our initial, internal review of 1 article submission and 1 note. External readers are reviewing 6 articles and 1 note. 12 accepted articles are in various stages of revision by their authors or editing by our office, 3 are completed and ready to be sent to UIP, and 6 are in process at UIP. (Some of

the pieces reviewed by our office or published in the *Journal* in 2007–2008 were submitted before the start of the reporting year.)

We continue to receive a substantial quantity of excellent submissions. With all of this fine work, the upcoming year promises to be a particularly good one for *JAF*. Though a health issue precluded us from attending the 2008 AFS conference, we are continuing to actively solicit new submissions for the *Journal* and encourage all folklorists to send their best work to *JAF*. We would like to thank Clydette Wantland and Heather Munson at the University of Illinois Press and Timothy Lloyd and Maria Teresa Agozzino at the American Folklore Society for their support. We would also like to express our appreciation to the following units at Texas A&M University for the support that they have provided: the Department of English, the Department of Performance Studies, and the Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research.

*Harris M. Berger and Giovanna P. Del Negro*  
*Texas A&M University*

### ***Report of the Journal of American Folklore Book Review Editor***

Between November 1, 2007 through October 31, 2008, we received approximately 130 books and 30 books were sent out for review. 25 complete reviews were submitted to the editors of the journal, and reviews of 16 books were published during this time frame. This report includes the transition of the book review editor duties from me to Carolyn Ware at Louisiana State University.

I would like to thank the *JAF* editors Harris M. Berger and Giovanna P. Del Negro, the Brigham Young University English department, and all of the reviewers with whom I have corresponded during the past few years. Communicating with folklore scholars and seeing current publications has been a highlight of this service. I will complete the review process of books that are currently out for review and with several books that I have on my shelves. If you have already initiated a review, continue to send correspondence to me at [jill\\_rudy@byu.edu](mailto:jill_rudy@byu.edu). Carolyn Ware will handle all new books received for review and new requests from the listing posted on the AFS website. Please contact her at [cware1@lsu.edu](mailto:cware1@lsu.edu). We will be in frequent communication during the transition, so contacting either of us will get you and your review to the right place.

The database of books available for review is now posted on the AFS website at <http://www.afsnet.org/publications/jafbooksforreview.cfm>. I thank Timothy Lloyd, Mabel Agozzino, and Jeff Borisch for their attention to the listings. A backlog of books written by folklorists and in need of review continues to exist; the book review editor will encourage prominent and active members of the field to contribute to the important scholarly task of evaluating research and contributions to knowledge through book reviews. If solicited to write a review, please consider every possibility to agree or be prepared to suggest the name of an even more qualified colleague; if interested in titles posted on the website or others of significant interest to the field, please contact the new editor.

*Jill Terry Rudy*  
*Brigham Young University*

### ***Report of the Journal of American Folklore Sound Recordings Review Editor***

This year *JAF* continued its practice of publishing sound review essays, and added shorter reviews focused on single or small groups of thematically related discs. From September 1, 2006 to September 1, 2007, I received and submitted reviews for 11 CDs. Two more have been assigned to reviewers, and many more await distribution. I received four sound review essays, two of which have been edited and submitted for publication. Four more essays have been solicited.

I encourage producers and distributors of CDs, music/oral tradition websites and radio documentaries to send material to me at the School of Music, Memorial University, St. John's NL Canada A1C 5S7; 709/737-7479; [katiszego@mun.ca](mailto:katiszego@mun.ca).

*C. Kati Szege*  
*Memorial University of Newfoundland*

### ***Report of the Journal of American Folklore Film and Video Review Editor***

This year I have continued *JAF's* practice of soliciting reviews of films produced by small and independent filmmakers, and I have also attempted to secure reviews of wide release films as well. For instance, one of the two film reviews published in 2008 thus far was an extensive film review essay on *Pan's Labyrinth* written by Jack Zipes.

There are currently two more reviews in the production queue, one of which is a review essay on six films about the Iraq War. In addition, six more films are in the process of being reviewed, and I have several queries out to potential reviewers. I ask that members who receive film review queries seriously consider writing a review, as it is difficult to offer a steady number of reviews without qualified folklorists who are willing to write them.

I encourage anyone interested in submitting a film for review or in reviewing a film for *JAF* to contact me at [dtdlawrence@stthomas.edu](mailto:dtdlawrence@stthomas.edu) or 651/962-5625.

*David Todd Lawrence*  
*University of St. Thomas*

### ***Report of the Journal of American Folklore Exhibition and Event Review Editor***

2008 was a good year for exhibition and event reviews. Since the last report, I received and submitted reviews of the following exhibitions: *Rhythm & Roots: Southern Music Traditions*, *Weavings of War*, *Fabrics of Memory*, *Key Ingredients: America by Food*, *Iowa Place-based Foods* (Website), *Quilts in Common* and *Nancy Crow: Cloth, Culture & Context*, *Work is Art and Art is Work: The Art of Hand-crafted Instruments*.

In the coming year I will continue to solicit reviews of exhibitions and events through Publore and directly from individual scholars. At this time I expect to receive three reviews in time for submission at the next *JAF* deadline in December, and I have another lined up for the spring deadline.

Since folklorists are constantly creating innovative and educational exhibitions and events, I would like to encourage everyone to consider writing a review of at least one of the many fine events or exhibitions that you attend. Please send them to me at: Florida Folklife Program, 500 S. Bronough Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250, 850-245-6333, [tbucuvalas@dos.state.fl.us](mailto:tbucuvalas@dos.state.fl.us).

*Tina Bucuvalas  
Florida Folklife Program*

### ***Report of the AFS Committee on International Issues***

The Committee has continued with the important work of developing and fostering international contacts, primarily through awarding international travel stipends; has started work on several initiatives begun last year, most importantly a Google Earth layer detailing the location and contact information for every folklore society or association in the world; and changed the composition of the committee as several members had finished their term of service. Timothy R. Tangherlini served for the second year of his three-year term.

This year, the committee said farewell to Lauri Harvilahti, John Lindow, and Mbugua wa-Mungai, whose hard work and dedication to the vision of the work of the committee has been instrumental in the success of our work. We welcome three new members to the committee to serve for initial three-year terms Maria Teresa Agozzino, Tok Thompson, and Peter Jan Margry. In addition, we thank continuing members, Merrill Kaplan, JoAnn Conrad, Lee Haring, and Mark Bender for their ongoing participation. Finally, Daniel Sheehy continues to serve as the liaison to the AFS board, and Dorothy Noyes continues on in her role as the liaison to the H-Folk advisory board.

This year the committee was able to support four foreign scholars with travel stipends to the AFS conference in Louisville. The committee made one award for an American member traveling to a foreign conference. We expect to make another award after our competition closes in December.

Our regular stipend winners were Fernando Fischman (Argentina); Sue Lewis, (Great Britain— withdrew); Hande Birkalan-Gedik (Turkey); and Yücel Demirer (Turkey). Also, Lalu Narayan (India) and Valerie Feschet (France) were extended a waiver for registration fees so that they could attend the conference. All of these recipients participated actively at the Louisville conference, and we expect to continue to cultivate our relations with these young and emerging scholars in the coming years.

Jens Lund was the recipient of our first award for an American scholar traveling abroad. Dr. Lund traveled to South Korea where he participated at the NAI Meeting in Sokcho, Republic of Korea (see Jens Lund's report, *AFSNews* 37:3 (Summer 2008), pp. 3-4).

We urge the membership to be active in referring international scholars to the stipend program and to remember that they themselves can apply to go abroad. We are particularly eager to build our network in Latin America, Africa, South Asia and East Asia.

In addition, the committee has continued its work to cooperate with folklore organizations abroad on the foundation of an international listserv for folklorists, H-Folk. Dorothy Noyes has been instrumental in the success of this enterprise. We thank Timothy Lloyd, Mabel Agozzino, and the Executive Board for their strong support of international matters.

*Timothy R. Tangherlini, Chair  
University of California, Los Angeles*

### ***Report of the AFS Nominating Committee***

In the 2008 election balloting, the following Society members were elected to AFS office:

#### President-Elect:

C. Kurt Dewhurst, Michigan State University, East Lansing

#### Executive Board:

Amy Shuman, The Ohio State University, Columbus

Amy Skillman, Institute for Cultural Partnerships, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

William Westerman, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey

#### Nominating Committee:

Suzanne Seriff, University of Texas, Austin

My congratulations go to the newly elected officers, and my thanks go to all of the candidates for their willingness to serve the Society, and to the other members of the 2008 Nominating Committee (Solimar Otero, Guha Shankar, and Juwen Zhang) for their work to identify candidates and prepare a slate.

*Mario Montaña, Chair  
Colorado College*

### ***Report of the AFS Delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies***

This year's meeting of the ACLS took place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on May 8-10, 2008 at the invitation of, and with partial subsidy from, VisitPittsburgh (the Greater Pittsburgh Convention and Visitors Bureau), which gave every indication of hoping to host an AFS meeting in the future. One new organization was admitted to constituent membership in the ACLS, the Rhetoric Society of America, an interdisciplinary body founded in 1968. The Board of Directors proposed a liberalizing revision of the policy statement on the admission of new constituent societies; this was adopted. Delegates to the meeting were urged to support the National Endowment for the Humanities. Budget for the fiscal year 2009 has reduced the NEH to below its level in 1994. Folklore has a long record of supporting and being supported by NEH, which needs our backing now more than ever. Further information can be found at <http://www.nhalliance.org>.

The Charles Homer Haskins lecturer this year, and recipient of the prize, was Theodor Meron. This distinguished jurist and academician is the former president of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. He is Charles L. Denison Professor of Law Emeritus and Judicial Fellow at New York University Law School—in other words, a person folklorists might not ordinarily meet. His address offered a moving and impressive combination of poignant reminiscence and lofty achievement. Meron's modesty did not conceal a record of formidable accomplishment in the cause of human rights.

Presentations by ACLS Fellows are always a stimulating part of the annual meeting program, and this year was no exception. Tina Gianquitto, who teaches literature at the Colorado School of Mines, described her study of Charles Darwin's correspondence with American and British writers, demonstrating the unrecognized role that women observers of nature played in providing Darwin with field data. Historian Jonathan Levy is conducting a truly interdisciplinary study of risk in nineteenth-century America. He says of that period, "The ability to foresee, act upon, and be responsible for one's risks became thoroughly bound up with what it means to be, or become, a free person." The presentation closest to our work came from Louise Meintjes, an ethnomusicologist at Duke University, who is making a study of Zulu *ngoma* (song and dance). Her talk and video clips dramatized the extent to which people in today's world are calling up their traditional expressive forms, in this case as their means of dealing with the AIDS pandemic. They show how central aesthetic practice is to the production of political power.

Every year, the fellows chosen to speak at the annual meeting show themselves to be crossing disciplinary boundaries and setting the example for folklorists. This year, ACLS and its associated programs awarded 191 fellowships, valued at just over \$7.9 million, to faculty members from 44 institutions. About a third of these awards were in history, especially American and European. There were 1,037 eligible applicants. Again this year, ACLS is in very good financial shape. Because of the shrinking of university folklore programs, few folklorists apply for ACLS fellowships, yet their interdisciplinarity ought to be a recommendation in itself, even before a project proposal is written.

Anthropologist Donald Brenneis (University of California, Santa Cruz), was a featured speaker in a most interesting discussion titled "Learned Societies and the Future of Publishing: When Will the Internet Revolution Arrive?" The Harvard model, in which all scholarly journals are to be freely available through Internet access, and which poses a threat to journals whose survival depends on subscriptions, was discussed. Merely having a journal, one panelist said, is no assurance of quality control. Another remarked that the foremost synthesizer of scholarly materials is the anonymous Wikipedia, whereas in contrast, a scholarly journal lists the members of its editorial board. It was suggested that scholarly societies and libraries can and should take more responsibility for supervising digital publications in their fields. As an ethnographer of the behavior of ethnologists, Brenneis suggested that societies like ours can make clear their criteria of competence, for example evidence of scholarship; can produce materials to educate administrators about the nature of publication standards for their field; and can help journal editors think through how to fund the "non-frictionless" parts of producing their journal.

These ideas seem especially relevant to a threatened discipline like folklore. We may want to look at Project Bamboo, the "multi-institutional, interdisciplinary, and inter-organizational effort that brings together researchers in arts and humanities, computer scientists, information scientists, librarians, and campus information technologists to tackle the question "How can we advance arts and humanities research through the development of shared technology services?" (<http://projectbamboo.uchicago.edu/>). Tara McPherson, of the University of Southern California, pointed out that scholars like us will want to put musical examples on line, but are frustrated by the copyright problem. She suggested strongly that we make more use of the "fair use" provision of the law ("Use it or lose it," she said), and that we seek institutional support for exposing ourselves to lawsuits. Members of Congress should be asked to reduce the excessively long periods of copyright protection now in force. Other points relevant to AFS included the small field journals within some societies (cf. the sections in AFS), ways of keeping annual meetings affordable to the increasing number of younger scholars, and the irrelevance of the "business model" to the need for keeping all

articles on line. At the end of this discussion, I reflected that folklore needs computing (not just providers of content, but theoreticians of form and content) and computing needs folklore to open opportunities to rethink methodologies and the reach to a public.

*Lee Haring  
Brooklyn College (Emeritus)*

### *Report of the AFS Delegate to the World Intellectual Property Organization*

I attended the twelfth session of the World Intellectual Property Organization's Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore at WIPO headquarters in Geneva in February 2008. This was my last session as AFS delegate. It may be that the biggest lesson I've learned from five years of participation in these meetings is that international deliberations seem to move at a pace that would leave a snail feeling speedy. But the pace has picked up, especially in the two last meetings I attended, and the twelfth session produced a document that should be of interest to many folklorists.

Over the years, the WIPO sessions have featured a great deal of discussion of certain recurring issues. Among them are the definition and characteristics of folklore, the question of whose interest is served at the nexus of intellectual policy regimes and community cultural expressions, the state of the art in legal and moral protections, the desirability—or lack thereof—of binding global agreements on the legal protection of traditional cultural expression, and the adequacy of existing measures and policies. Much of that discussion has seemed to me to repeat itself at every session. But last February, the assembled delegates requested that the WIPO Secretariat compile a gap analysis, as a way of getting at the issues and the state of the art.

More specifically, the assembly instructed the Secretariat to compile a document with five goals. "TCE's" (or "traditional cultural expressions) by the way, is the term that has largely replaced "folklore" at WIPO, and it has also supplanted "EoF ("expressions of folklore"), which was also in vogue in Geneva for a time. Here is what the analysis attempts to do:

- (a) Describe what obligations, provisions and possibilities already exist at the international level to provide protection for TCEs,
- (b) Describe what gaps exist at the international level, illustrating those gaps, to the extent possible, with specific examples,
- (c) Set out considerations relevant to determining whether those gaps need to be addressed,
- (d) Describe what options exist or might be developed to address any identified gaps, including legal and other options, whether at the international, regional or national level,
- (e) Contain an annex with a matrix corresponding to the items mentioned in subparagraphs (a) to (d), above.

I recommend this document to anyone interested in the complicated cultural, legal, and moral issues at the heart of the WIPO efforts. I also commend WIPO for the many important resources it has put on line, and I would urge US folklorists to have a look at WIPO's Creative Heritage Project web pages (<http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/folklore/culturalheritage/index.html>), which contain a wealth of resources for research and teaching. Many folklorists will find the "Database of Existing Codes, Guidelines, and Practices" especially valuable ([http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/folklore/creative\\_heritage/](http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/folklore/creative_heritage/)).

Sandy Rikoon will be representing the AFS at WIPO for the next few years, and I wish him all the best. Finally, I want to say that sitting in Geneva at these meetings has given me a glimpse of the global interest in, significance, and potential of what we do in our field. One of the ways to re-imagine our future is to broaden our participation in international ventures, and to speak as knowledgeably, forcefully, and ethically as we can on behalf of those communities and practices that so very clearly need us.

Burt Feintuch  
University of New Hampshire

### *Report of the AFS Archival Liaison*

This year we continued microfilming the collection to provide a preservation copy of the AFS Papers, and we processed incoming materials. As well, we began investigated the possibility of copying the microfilm collection to an Internet-searchable digital format.

Randy Williams  
Utah State University

### *AFS and University of Chicago Offer Chicago Folklore Prize*

AFS invites submissions for the 2009 [Chicago Folklore Prize](#), which recognizes the best book-length work of folklore scholarship for the year. Offered jointly by AFS and the University of Chicago and first awarded in 1928, the Chicago Folklore Prize is the oldest international award of its kind for publishing in folklore.

From its inception, the administrators and judges for the prize have interpreted “folklore” in a broad and inclusive sense, and winners have traditionally come from the fields of folkloristics, cultural studies, ethnomusicology, literary studies, anthropology, sociology, cultural geography, and dance ethnology. The recipients of the prize in the past three years provide a sense of the disciplinary range represented in the competition: Jo Farb Hernández (San José State University). *Forms of Tradition in Contemporary Spain*. University Press of Mississippi (2006); Cristina Bacchilega (University of Hawai’i). *Legendary Hawai’i and the Politics of Place: Tradition, Translation, and Tourism*. University of Pennsylvania Press, and James P. Leary (University of Wisconsin). *Polkabilly: How the Goose Island Ramblers Redefined American Folk Music*. Oxford University Press (2007); Felicia R. McMahon (Syracuse University). *Not Just Child’s Play: Emerging Tradition and the Lost Boys of Sudan*. University Press of Mississippi (2008). See <http://www.afsnet.org/aboutAFS/AFSprizes.cfm#chicago>

We encourage entries from scholars in folklore and their publishers all over the world. Works submitted must be monographs published in 2008 or within one year of the submission deadline of **April 1, 2009**. We will not consider articles, dissertations, reissues of older works (unless they have been substantially revised and rewritten), editions of works by others, or works-in-progress for the prize. A modest cash award is made to the winner or winners of the prize. If no entry is deemed worthy, no prize will be awarded. The winners will be announced at the Society’s October 2009 annual meeting in Boise, Idaho.

If you have questions, please direct them to American Folklore Society associate director Maria Teresa Agozzino at agozzino.2@osu.edu

Please submit **three copies** of your entry to:

2009 Chicago Folklore Prize  
American Folklore Society  
1501 Neil Avenue  
Columbus OH 43201-2602  
USA

### *Busy Bees at the Maine Folklife Center*

The Maine Folklife Center at the University of Maine, Orono is a hive of activity. Established by Edward D. (Sandy) Ives in 1992 (an amalgamation of the Northeast Folklore Society and the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History, which he founded in 1957), and now under the directorship of Pauleena MacDougall, the Center and Archives host numerous projects while offering undergraduate courses in Folklore, Fieldwork, and Oral History.



Bobby and Sandy Ives, Buchanan Alumni House, University of Maine. November 6, 2008.

Photo courtesy of Pauleena MacDougall

### *Story Bank Launches at 2008 Folk Festival*

The Maine Folklife Center in collaboration with Cultural Resources Inc. in Rockport organized the debut of Story Bank at this year's American Folk Festival in Bangor. An estimated 165,000 people attended the festival during its three days, and the Folklife Center organized the Folk and Traditional Arts area.

The Story Bank Narrative Stage was located in the Folk Arts Area of the festival and was facilitated by folklorist Jo Radner. Here, members of the Story Bank project, who had been trained at the Story Bank Institute at the Maine Folklife Center in June, brought members of the communities they had studied to present their stories and give festival goers a look at what life is like in various parts of Maine. The stage featured a variety of special topics, including Hispanic culture in Maine, stories of working in the woods and waters of Maine, and the lore of making rugs.

The Story Bank RV was a field-gathering exercise. Folklorist Kathleen Mundell and radio producer Rob Rosenthal collected stories in a special portable sound recording studio. Seventeen 30-minute interviews were gathered during the afternoons of Saturday and Sunday. They have been archived in the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History. Interviewees are also given a copy of their recording.

In the same area the Foodways Stage highlighted traditional cuisine, tasting and performances of cooking. This year's theme featured Aroostook County: "A Taste of Aroostook – Un p'tit gout d'Aroostook." Several cooks from Aroostook County made a variety of traditional Acadian-style dishes. The guest cooks also shared advice with festival goers not only on matters of cooking but on topics such as herbal lore, farm sustainability, and history of northern Maine.

### *Eastern Fine Paper Update*

Work continues on the Maine Folklife Center's study of the Eastern Fine Paper mill of Brewer, which closed in 2004. Hundreds of new photos of the mill and the people who worked there have been entered into the Center's database, providing a visual history spanning decades.

The photography database contains more than 2,000 photographs and their descriptions. It is a companion piece to other parts of the Eastern Fine Paper project, such as more than 40 recorded and transcribed interviews, and documents in the Special Collections Department of Fogler Library at the University of Maine, in Orono.

The Folklife Center is working toward putting the database online, so that it will be searchable from the URSUS catalog containing not only the University of Maine system library data, but other Maine libraries as well, notably the Maine State Library.

The mill closed after over a century of operation, but through the work of the Maine Folklife Center, the history of its operation and effects on the community have been recorded and preserved. In the past couple decades of the paper industries' decline in Maine, it has left a significant impact, socially as well as economically. This project seeks to preserve those folklore traditions that were an important part of the paper industry.

Both historical and anthropological, the study of this mill from 1889 to 2004 gives not only a historical timeline, but also insights into how it affected the people involved with the mill, their lives and social interactions. The photographs contained in the database show things ranging from machinery of the mill in different time periods, to workers during operation as well as more recreational activities such as company vacations, open house events and retirement parties.

### *Folklife Center Welcomes Visiting Scholar*

The Maine Folklife Center is pleased to welcome visiting scholar Jeff Todd Titon of Brown University. Titon, who is studying at the University of Maine for the fall semester, will be conducting research on music as a renewable and sustainable resource. Titon, a renowned ethnomusicologist and long-time member of the Folklife Center board, is currently co-editing a book called *The Handbook of Applied Ethnomusicology*. He is also guest editor, and contributing an essay, for a special edition of the academic journal *The World of Music* that will be dealing with the topic of music sustainability.

Titon's ethnomusicology research is best summed up in his own words from his blog: "I have been thinking about 'worlds of music' as music-based cultural ecosystems since 1984 when I introduced the analogy in the book, *Worlds of Music* (New York: Schirmer Books, 1984, p. 9): 'Each world [of music] can be regarded as an ecological system, with the forces that combine to make up the music-culture . . . in a dynamic equilibrium.' Although much of my activities over the years as a folklorist and ethnomusicologist have involved music and sustainability, I began to try to theorize it more systematically a few years ago."

By applying methods traditionally used for ecological systems, Titon hopes for a unique outlook on the subject of how music survives and if certain musical cultures endangered. Titon selected the University of Maine not only because he has a home in Little Deer Isle, but also because of the resources offered here. "The University of Maine is strong in terms of studying sustainability and offers a strong sustainability initiative," said Titon. Titon has also been writing about the process of his work in a blog dedicated to the project at [sustainablemusic.blogspot.com](http://sustainablemusic.blogspot.com).

*Contributed by Pauleena MacDongall, Director  
Maine Folklife Center, University of Maine, Orono*  
<http://www.umaine.edu/folklife>

### *Call for Papers for AFS Annual Meeting 2009*

"Postmodern Folklore": what would a postmodern study of folklore look like? The next and third panel in the annual series "Philosophical Foundations of Folkloristics" will take up this question. What is the next development—towards descriptive ethnography, towards 'humble theory', towards interdisciplinarity? Would or should the style of folkloristic discourse become more heterogeneous, historical, metafictional, contextual, self-reflexive? Is there, can there be, a poststructuralist folkloristics? Proposals are invited by Lee Haring; no later than by **February 1, 2009**. ([lharing@hvc.rr.com](mailto:lharing@hvc.rr.com)).

*Contributed by Lee Haring  
Brooklyn College (emeritus)*

### *Ethnology Reorganizes Itself in France*

In September 2008, following up a December 2007 conference that long-time AFS member Lee Haring attended, representatives of several French anthropological associations came together. Their purpose was to examine the overlap among their organizations, and they discussed the formation of a new single French anthropological association, to be founded in 2009. It is hoped that this unifying movement can reach out to include other disciplines and nations, including American folklore. Contact Laurent Sebastien Fournier for more information ([laurent.fournier@univ-nantes.fr](mailto:laurent.fournier@univ-nantes.fr)).

*Contributed by Laurent Sebastien Fournier  
University of Nantes*

### *Finding Aid for the Luisa Del Giudice and Edward (Fowler) Tuttle Collection*

The University of California, Los Angeles Ethnomusicology Archive has made the contents of the Luisa Del Giudice and Edward (Fowler) Tuttle Collection 1950-2000 available online, arranged by region. <http://content.cdlib.org/view?docId=kt7870289c&chunk.id=dsc-1.2.6&brand=oac>

*Contributed by Luisa Del Giudice  
Independent folklorist, Mediterranean Studies Section convener*

### *Mars Hill College Challenge Grant*

Mars Hill College, a small, private college located in Western North Carolina about fifteen miles from Asheville, has been awarded a highly competitive stewardship challenge grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities. The college's Southern Appalachian Archives has a national reputation for its unusually rich collections of materials reflecting the life and culture of the southern Appalachian region. The grant will provide \$500,000 in federal funds, the maximum award possible. The challenge is that the college must raise \$1.5 million in matching funds.

The grant would cover both a permanent archivist position, badly needed given the quality of the collections, as well as preservation and programming funds for the archives. Dr. Karen L. Paar has accepted the position of archivist and director of the Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies. The need for preservation is obvious, but the programming plans are very innovative. Programming will draw on the themes and the content of the archival collections, developing teaching resources and community programming with speakers, tours, performances, and workshops.

The 2008-2009 academic year is focusing on the Gertrude M. Ruskin Collection of Native American artifacts dating from 3,000 B.C. to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and includes a rich assortment of artifacts from the Cherokee and other peoples of the Southern Appalachian region. The head of the History

Department and a star history student are researching the collections that focus on the Cherokee and determining how these materials can be used in the curriculum. Speakers have given lectures on the Cherokee including Barbara Duncan of the Museum of the Cherokee and writer Robert Morgan. The 2009-2010 year will draw on the James G.K. McClure Farmers Federation Collection of photographs, recordings, and manuscripts depicting life in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The 2010-2011 year will highlight the Bascom Lamar Lunsford collection of 2,000 handwritten ballads, letters, photographs, musical recordings, instruments, and an enormous scrapbook that document the rich musical heritage of Southern Appalachia. The plan is to release one faculty member each year to work on curriculum materials.

The stewardship of these treasures is expensive requiring both financial and human resources. The goal is to raise the matching funds by 2011 and with the \$2 million endowment, permanently fund the archivist position and a preservation and programming budget for the Southern Appalachian Archives.

*Contributed by Betty N. Smith*

### *Calls for Papers and Participation*

#### *“Identities and TechnoCulture”*

*University of Iowa Center for Ethnic Studies and the Arts (CESA) and  
the Mid-America American Studies Association (MAASA)*

April 3-4, 2009  
University of Iowa  
Iowa City, IA

A 2-day conference about American culture and technologies that examines how new technologies dominate and define Americanness in the US and abroad. Key questions include:

- How do social arrangements of new technologies shape aspects of “identity,” including ethnicity, race, gender, sexualities, and class?
- How does the diffusion of new technologies affect power relations?
- How do human/machine relationships contribute to new expressive cultures?

The conference will feature three research strains: (1) Afrofuturism (how culture and technology frame African American experiences); (2) Identities and the Internet; (3) Technology and Culture before the Information Age. CESA/MAASA invites anyone interested in these and all related topics to submit proposals for 20-minute paper presentations, panels, or “hands-on” workshops.

Workshops will focus on and showcase an “artifact” (e.g., movie, Internet sites, TV show, documentary, comic book pages, radio broadcast, art exhibition, historic site). Immediately following the artifact experience, facilitators will lead a discussion. We invite proposals for any workshop “artifacts” and how an individual’s leadership of discussion would frame important questions. Workshops will serve as “laboratories” about specific cultural instances of identities and technoculture.

We seek presentations that further the Center's aim of promoting scholarship on ethnicities and the arts and that reflect disciplinary and institutional diversity. We welcome ALL proposals interested in interdisciplinary questions regarding the study of technology and American culture. Graduate students are eligible for the Katzman-Yetman prize for best conference paper, which includes a \$250 prize and review for publication by *American Studies*.

For each workshop, paper, or panel proposal, please submit:

- Name(s) of all participants
- Address, telephone number, and e-mail address for each participant
- Institutional affiliation(s), if any
- Title(s) of paper
- 250-word proposal
- 100-word biographical note for each participant

Send proposals via electronic mail by **January 9, 2009**, to: [cesa@uiowa.edu](mailto:cesa@uiowa.edu)

For further questions or information on Identities and TechnoCulture, please contact:  
Center for Ethnic Studies and the Arts, Department of American Studies  
University of Iowa, 210 Jefferson Building  
Tel: (319) 384-3490; E-mail: [cesa@uiowa.edu](mailto:cesa@uiowa.edu)

*“Folklore and Aesthetics”  
Western States Folklore Society Annual Meeting*

April 16-18, 2009  
Otis College of Art and Design  
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Though Folklore and Aesthetics is the suggested theme of the conference, topics on all aspects of folklore are welcome. Registration will begin Thursday evening, 16 April; papers will be presented on Friday and Saturday, 17-18 April.

Abstracts must be 100-200 words in length and must be accompanied by a registration fee payable to WSFS and mailed to: Otis College, LAS Department, 9045 Lincoln Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Email your abstracts by **20 February, 2009** to Heather Joseph-Witham at: [hwitham@otis.edu](mailto:hwitham@otis.edu)  
For full submission guidelines and hotel information, see  
<http://www.westernfolklore.org/CallForPapers.htm>

Special discounted rates are available for regular members, student members, and student non-members. Meeting registration fees for regular members are \$45; for non-members \$70. Registration fees for student/retired members are \$25; for student/retired non-members \$40.

Non-members who join the Society at the time of registration are eligible for membership benefits, including reduced registration fees and a subscription to *Western Folklore*.

For further information: [www.westernfolklore.org](http://www.westernfolklore.org)

*“World Folk Heritage: Past, Present, and Perspective Directions of Research”  
The International Ballad Conference*

July 13-18, 2009  
National Academy of Sciences  
Minsk, Belarus

Suggested paper topics include, but are not limited to:

- 1) The history of intercultural interaction in folk and ballad art,
- 2) National varieties of cultural values, values rooted in tradition and currently undergoing transformation,
- 3) Universal values of traditional folk cultures as a basis for communication and cooperation,
- 4) The art of the ballad in world folk heritage: plots, types, poetic forms.

Abstracts of up to 300 words together with requests for equipment should be submitted by **February 28, 2009** to Prof. Morozov at [morozoff @tut.by](mailto:morozoff@tut.by). Please also provide author's address, affiliation, contact details and a brief CV.

The conference will take place in the Humanities Building of the National Academy of Sciences in Minsk and accommodations will be at the Akademicheskaja hotel (prices 30-50 euros per night). Conference registration of 50 euros is payable on site. It is anticipated the conference registration will take place in the afternoon of July 13 and that the program will begin at 10AM on the 14th. An excursion is planned for the 15th and a visit to the National Library is planned for the 17th. A conference banquet will be held on the evening of the 17th. Minsk is easily accessible by air and by ground transportation.

Contact Prof. Morozov for more information: [morozoff @tut.by](mailto:morozoff@tut.by)

### *Call for Submissions*

#### *Raphael Patai Prize in Jewish Folklore and Ethnology*

Awarded for the best unpublished essay in Jewish folklore and ethnology by a student completed in 2008 or 2009

Format and Guidelines: 8-12,000 words, in English or Hebrew, prepared electronically in Word (preferably with in-text citations and reference list).

Deadline: **July 1, 2009**

Contact: Professor Simon J. Bronner, School of Humanities, Pennsylvania State University, 777 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057-4898, USA, [sbronner@psu.edu](mailto:sbronner@psu.edu)

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 invite

submissions for its Raphael Patai Prize in Jewish Folklore and Ethnology awarded for the best unpublished student paper on Jewish folklore and ethnology completed in 2008 or 2009. Submissions are reviewed by an international committee and notifications are made by October 2009. Papers sent for the Prize are considered submissions to the book series Jewish Cultural Studies (Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, Oxford, UK, <http://www.littman.co.uk/jcs/index.htm>) and should not be under review with any other publication. The winner of the prize receives \$200 and a citation from the American Folklore Society.

The criteria for submissions are:

- Papers will be written in English or Hebrew. Approaches to the subject cover Jewish material and apply folkloristic and ethnological perspectives.
- The length of papers is of publishable essay length—usually 8 to 12,000 words. The preferable citation style uses in-text citations and a reference list.
- Submitted unpublished paper was written by a student in 2008 or 2009, and not submitted for publication.
- Papers should be submitted electronically in Word on or before July 1, 2009 to [sbronner@psu.edu](mailto:sbronner@psu.edu)
- Submitters should identify the university and department where the paper was prepared, and give their contact information, including postal and email address.

For more information, see <http://www.afsnet.org/sections/jewish/>

*Contributed by Simon J. Bronner  
The Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg*

### *New folktale titles from M.E. Sharpe*

M.E. Sharpe has published *An Anthology of American Folktales and Legends* (Cloth 978-0-7656-2129-0 \$79.95), edited by Frank de Caro, and *An Anthology of Russian Folktales* (Cloth 978-0-7656-2305-8 \$84.95) edited by Jack V. Haney. For folklorists, students, and general readers alike, *An Anthology of American Folktales and Legends* is the most comprehensive survey of American folktales and legends currently available. It includes an amazing variety of American legend and lore—including hard-to-find Native American and Hawaiian tales as well as African American folktales. *An Anthology of Russian Folktales* gathers a broad selection of Russian folktales, legends, and anecdotes, and includes helpful features that make this world more accessible and engaging for English-language readers. Look for both titles in the discount flyer recently distributed to AFS members. Also available is the new three-volume set, *Storytelling: An Encyclopedia of Mythology and Folklore* (Cloth 978-0-7656-8047-1 \$299.00). This appealing set brings past and present cultures of the world to life through their stories, oral traditions, and performance styles. It includes specific storytelling techniques and retellings of stories from various cultures. For more information on all three titles and to purchase visit [www.mesharpe.com](http://www.mesharpe.com).

## *All Good Things Must Come to an End*

*AFSNews*, the American Folklore Society newsletter will no longer appear in hard-copy print form (or portable document format). The news, reports, and announcements will instead be incorporated into the forthcoming redesigned and upgraded Society webpages ([www.afsnet.org](http://www.afsnet.org)).

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### *Datebook 2009*

January 9	“Identities and TechnoCulture” abstracts due (see pp. 21-22)
January 16	FSAC-ACEF annual meeting abstracts due <a href="http://www.celat.ulaval.ca/acef/carletona.htm">http://www.celat.ulaval.ca/acef/carletona.htm</a>
February 20	WSFS abstracts due (see p. 22)
February 28	International Ballad conference abstracts due (see p. 23)
April 1	Chicago Folklore Prize submission deadline (see pp. 16-17)
May 1	Deadline for AFS committee nominations (see p. 1)
July 1	Patai Prize submission deadline (see pp. 23-24)

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