

# *American Folklore Society 2003-2004 Annual Report*

## *Report of the President*

The Executive Board welcomed three new members at its spring meeting: Dorry Noyes, Alan Jabbour, and Steve Zeitlin. Thanks are owing to all the candidates who stood for election, and to the Nominating Committee (Lesley Williams, outgoing chair; Tim Evans; Yolanda Hood; and John Dorst). In addition, the Executive Board has selected Harris M. Berger and Giovanna Del Negro as successors to Elaine Lawless when her editorship of the *Journal of American Folklore* concludes at the end of next year. As Elaine has done so admirably, Harry and Giovanna will bring new ideas to the journal, contributing to its distinction in the field.

This past year has witnessed numerous accomplishments by the Board, Executive Director, and committees involving the Society's membership. Some build on prior initiatives; others are new. There are too many to describe in detail, but several warrant mention here.

One of my stated concerns when I ran for office was the issue of increasing AFS membership, particularly students and young professionals. According to a Society survey, the average age of members is 47. Recently, student membership was at its lowest in many years. A larger number of travel awards would bring students to the annual meeting and would likely lead to their continued membership in the Society in years to come. Through private donations and the Society's own funds, AFS will provide 15 student travel awards for this year's meeting in Salt Lake City.

Another aspect of increasing membership is that of providing critical benefits that will attract and retain members. Board member Maida Owens has outlined an extensive strategy for the audiences we seek to attract, possible benefits to offer, and means for disseminating information about the Society and benefits of membership, and has formed a committee under her dynamic leadership to refine details and put a plan in action. We will discuss membership matters further at the Board's meeting in Salt Lake City. The Board and several individuals and committees have revisited an issue dealt with many years ago that is of growing concern to members: the revision of the Society's 1981 statement on promotion and tenure. That brief AFS statement was updated by Simon Bronner last year with additional comments and concerns by Elliott Oring. In the spring of this year, a committee composed of John Dorst, Carole Carpenter, Peggy Yocom, and I elaborated the basic document, doubling it in length. The preamble spells out in even greater detail three broad characteristics of much of folklore scholarship, namely, fieldwork, research products in addition to publications (e.g., archival collections, museum exhibitions, festivals, radio programming, videos, and dissemination through the internet), and collaborative endeavors with consultants and colleagues. The guidelines provide general principles for assessing the work of folklorists, for instance, the fact that exhibitions, festivals, videos, etc. involve analysis and interpretation; that many of these scholarly creations are juried; and that, owing to the research entailed and the extent of interpretations presented, many service activities (e.g., workshops with social workers, health care personnel, public school teachers) may be considered equal to or greater than a paper given at a professional meeting.

This summer we formed a committee consisting of Tim Evans of Western Kentucky University, Sharon Sherman of the University of Oregon, Jim Leary of the University of Wisconsin, and John Laudun of the University of Louisiana to provide specific sets of criteria for the evaluation of "alternative" professional products, as well as a description of the means by which departments can conduct such evaluations. Executive Director Tim Lloyd will be canvassing the AFS

membership in order to compile a list of potential referees for promotion and tenure processes, organized by expertise.

On a related matter, the Executive Director sent an Academic Programs Survey to heads of folklore programs and departments seeking data on courses, funding, faculty, students, and recent graduates. The results of the survey, along with critical issues affecting the academic programs in our field, will be addressed October 13 at a pre-meeting gathering of department and program chairs, which I will participate in as the AFS President.

At its spring meeting and in subsequent correspondence the Board resolved a matter that arose at last year's meeting, that of the AFS policymaking procedure and communication process. The AFS Politics, Folklore, and Social Justice Section and the AFS Cultural Diversity Task Force asked the AFS Executive Board to work with them, and with the rest of the Society, to establish more open, flexible, and effective procedures for communication about issues and statements of Society policy and positions. We are creating an AFS Policy Forum in the members-only area of the AFS web site as a vehicle for posting all Society policies and positions that the Executive Board is considering, and comments, discussion, and debate about those potential policies and positions. In order to ensure that discussion of policies and positions at the annual meeting be open to all--our only regular opportunity for face-to-face discussion as a body--the Board will move the Executive Board Question-and-Answer session from because it conflicts with other meeting activities, and to hold discussion of matters of Society policies and positions at the Annual Business Meeting.

The AFS continues its involvement in activities related to the World Intellectual Property Organization. WIPO's Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore (IGC-GRTKF) was established for the protection of folklore and traditional expressive behavior as intellectual property. Burt Feintuch has been the Society's representative at recent meetings; others include Jack Santino when he was AFS President and, more recently, Tim Lloyd as Executive Director of AFS. At the WIPO's meeting in Geneva in March 2004, there was a series of calls from both nation-state members and non-government organizations (NGOs) for the WIPO Secretariat to work directly with folklorists to prepare agreement-like folklore documents to be discussed at an IGC meeting. Working with Burt Feintuch, Sandy Rikoon, Valdimar Hafstein, Betsy Peterson, and Wend Wendland, Tim Lloyd is preparing a proposal to submit to a funding agency for such a project.

To briefly note a few other matters, AFS Board members are in the process of contacting board members at other professional-scholarly societies regarding possibilities of some sort of affiliation with the AFS, mutual promotion of the organizations, and future joint meetings. We are also actively seeking special projects under the auspices of the Society similar to the Veterans' History Project and the Ethnographic Thesaurus Project. Along with Tim Lloyd and the AFS Media Committee, Board members Steve Zeitlin and Jack Santino are seeking to develop a stronger strategy regarding public information and the news media on behalf of AFS, folklore, and folklorists. Once again, thanks to funding by the Fund for Folk Culture, directed by AFS Board member Betsy Peterson, AFS will again offer professional development sessions on working effectively with the media and on strategies for tenure and promotion. Unique this time, owing to an invitation extended by our dynamic and resourceful Executive Director Tim Lloyd, the media session will be attended by Scott McLemee, Senior Writer for the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

As I near the end of this report, I wish to report on my initiative toward audio-visual documentation of annual meetings of the AFS. The entire collection of AFS official papers has been deposited in the Special Collections and Archives Division of the Utah State University Library, and new records are added each year. Undoubtedly, many members have photos and videos of events at past meetings, which should be added to that repository, and I hereby urge all AFS members with such materials to contact the Executive Director about donating them. For

years I have thought that the Society should videotape plenary presentations, the crowning ceremony, and other activities at our meetings. I am pleased to report that this year we will be videotaping nine events: the four plenary sessions, the four section-sponsored lectures, and the "conversations with" session in which Barre Toelken and Bert Wilson will be interviewed.

This is the off-year for the Presidential address--thankfully! I will not have to deliver one until the annual meeting in 2005, near the end of my term in office. As President, however, I have the honor of selecting a plenary speaker for this year. After querying the Board and several Society members, I settled on an individual of international distinction. I am pleased to conclude my report by stating that Alan Dundes has agreed to give a plenary address; he will speak on the relevance of our field in academe and some of the critical issues facing folklore studies in the future.

*Michael Owen Jones*

### ***Report of the Executive Director***

Let me begin by thanking President Michael Owen Jones, the members of the AFS Executive Board, and all AFS editors, committee members, and other volunteers for their many forms of leadership, service, and support for the Society during the year just ended.

Finances: As of the end of our fiscal year 2004 on August 31, the Society's finances are in positive shape, though not without some darker clouds already here and on the horizon. Let me speak about the clouds first

*Journal of American Folklore* subscription revenues (from college and university libraries) for the year were down about 20% from what, based on past performance, we had budgeted. To put it briefly, I think we are now seeing more fully the effect of *Journal's* availability online through Project MUSE and, more recently, JSTOR.

About a third of this \$15,000 shortfall will be made up by increased income from the royalties we receive from these two content providers, which for the year are coming in at about \$5,000 more than we had anticipated. Nevertheless, we would be prudent to assume that income from the *Journal*—in the past, it has provided almost 25% of our annual income—will continue to decline (though not, I expect, at the present rate).

At the same time, the American Folklife Center—responding to shortfalls in the Library of Congress's budget as a whole—has needed to reduce by half the size of our Veterans History Project contract, which means that our management fee has been reduced from \$20,000 to \$10,000 this year. Therefore, we need to act thoughtfully now to plan for more difficult financial times ahead, and the Board and I will be discussing these matters carefully in Salt Lake City.

Given all this, I am pleased to note that increased income in some other areas and lower expenses in most areas have combined to bring us to the end of the year in the black, and without having to draw upon any of the principal of or earnings on our investments to make ends meet. Happily, too, the value of the Society's investments grew during the year from \$318,000 to \$352,000, headed back toward its peak value of \$400,000 reached in the late 1990s.

Annual Meetings: Several organizations are providing generous support toward the costs of the 2004 annual meeting: the Fund for Folk Culture, the NEA, and the AFS Public Programs Section. Thanks to all of them. The Utah Arts Council Folk Arts Program is providing Thursday night's reception. The Cultural Diversity Task Force, International Issues Committee, Program Committee, and the Public Programs Section have awarded a total of 24 travel support stipends for the meeting, and we have selected the fifteen students who will receive the new AFS student travel stipends of \$300 each.

Our 2005 annual meeting will take place in Atlanta, and in 2006 we will meet in Milwaukee. I am very happy to announce that we have just reached an agreement with the Folklore Studies Association of Canada to hold a joint 2007 annual meeting at the Hilton Québec in Québec, Canada.

After the 2004 annual meeting in Salt Lake City, I will begin site research work for our 2008 and 2009 meetings, one to be held in the South and one in the West. At present, we're looking at Charleston and New Orleans in the South, and Eugene, Las Vegas, greater Los Angeles, and Reno in the West. As we do so, we'll also be keeping the door open to a joint meeting in one of these years and places with the Society for Ethnomusicology.

**Academic Issues:** We are close to finishing the report on our recent survey of folklore graduate programs, which will form one basis for the Board's second biannual meeting with the heads of these programs on October 13. We'll publish a summary of the survey's findings in the December *AFS News*.

I have been working with the staff of the Office of Human Research Protection of the US department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to negotiate HHS agreement with an AFS policy regarding folklore and Federal government regulations governing the protection of human research subjects. In essence, our policy statement says that most folklorists' research, like the research of scholars in other ethnographic fields, is significantly different from the biomedical research on which governmentally mandated systems of human subjects protection are based, and thus should not be governed by such systems. To be sure, even if approved by HHS, this statement may not be sufficient for those universities that have adopted even more stringent standards of protection than those of the Federal government, but it will be an important step in the right direction, and should be a useful tool for folklorists dealing with their institutional research review boards.

Finally, in his President's Report, Mike Jones has already mentioned the committee now working on an update of AFS's 1981 promotion and tenure statement.

**Special Projects:** Work is now underway on our Ethnographic Thesaurus Project, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Our four contract workers have begun the intense three-year period of work that will culminate in the thesaurus, which will live and be maintained on the AFS web site. The entire team will be in Salt Lake City for the AFS meeting, and will be leading a workshop session there about the project.

Our work to provide the Veterans History Project with leaders for community-based workshops on conducting ethnographic interviews is continuing into its third year, but at a smaller scale because of the reduced Library of Congress funding I mentioned above.

We have also received a \$150,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to coordinate work toward the preparation of a scholarly edition of the James Madison Carpenter Collection, primarily of folk music and folk drama, collected mostly in the United Kingdom in the 1920s and 1930s.

A group within AFS is also working to prepare a proposal to the Rockefeller Foundation to support an international gathering facilitating an international gathering of specialists in the cultural dimensions of intellectual property (IP) and folklore to review, from a cultural perspective, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) draft documents concerning the IP protection of folklore and traditional cultural expressions. The participants in this gathering will be indigenous community representatives and advocates, IP cultural policy-makers, IP attorneys with experience in the impact of IP laws and regulations on folklore and traditional cultural expressions, and folklorists: four groups of important stakeholders in the work of WIPO.

*Timothy Lloyd*

### *Report of the Membership Committee*

The board asked that the committee chair convene a group representing a cross section of the AFS membership. Committee members Andrea Graham, Lynne McNeil, Dorry Noyes, Marilyn White, Jo Radner, Bert Wilson, myself, and Tim Lloyd (ex officio) represent tenured academics, folklorists in large and small universities in folklore programs and others, public folklorists, independent folklorists, retired folklorists, graduate students, minorities, the International Committee, and folklorists who are the only folklorist in their organization. The committee was charged with identifying groups to target as priorities and then developing strategies to reach them. They were asked to consider enhancing membership benefits as a recruitment and retention tool. The following groups were identified as priorities: graduate students, retired AFS members, international scholars, and folklorists and other cultural professionals doing folklore work who are not currently members. Through email correspondence, they drafted a brochure targeting graduate students to be presented to the AFS Graduate Student Section for comment.

In the course of their discussion, AFS added or is in the process of adding several new membership benefits: travel stipends for graduate students to attend the annual meeting, access to JSTOR, *Teaching Folklore* online, a 20% discount for Smithsonian Folkways recordings, and more detailed information on university folklore programs. Other benefits they are also considering include additional discounts, posting more syllabi of folklore classes, online discussion board, speakers bureau, and press releases on new publications or conference papers on current public issues. The Committee will meet during the annual meeting to further explore strategies. We welcome input from the membership.

*Maida Owens, chair*

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

The members of this committee are Timothy H. Evans (chair), Sabina Magliocco, Lisa Higgins, John Dorst (AFS Executive Board liaison). In April 2004, Yolanda Hood resigned from the Nominating Committee. AFS President Michael Owen Jones appointed Lisa Higgins (2<sup>nd</sup> place finisher in the 2003 AFS election) for a two year appointment to fill her place. In early April 2004, an announcement was circulated seeking names of individuals to be considered as candidates for the AFS Presidency, Executive Board and Nominating Committee. This announcement was posted on the April 2004 AFS News, e-mailed to AFS members, and posted on the Publore listserv. May 1 was given as a deadline.

A total of eleven names were suggested to the Nominating Committee by AFS members. The Committee met by conference call on June 1, 2004. We came up with two potential candidates for president, six for the Executive Board, two for the Nominating Committee, and several alternates. Committee members then called or e-mailed potential candidates. By approximately June 20, the Nominating Committee had confirmed the following slate of candidates: President: Simon Bronner and Bill Ivey; Executive Board: Ana Cara, Bill Ellis, Jeanne Johnson, Ruth Olson, Sandy Rikoon, and Elaine Thatcher; Nominating Committee: Amy Kitchener and Gwen Meister. The Nominating Committee will moderate the Candidates' Forum at the AFS annual meeting in Salt Lake City. Last year's forum was sparsely attended; we are hoping for a better turnout this year.

*Timothy H. Evans, Chair*

### ***Report of the 2004 Annual Meeting Program Committee***

The 2004 AFS annual meeting will draw extensively from the cultural, historical, and intellectual resources of Utah's rich diversity of folk traditions, folk artists, folklorists, and cultural workers. The state of Utah has a long legacy of public and academic folklore work, including the

second oldest public folklore program and the first arts council in the country. In addition, folklorists have been documenting and archiving the cultural traditions, practices, and material culture of the state since the mid-1940s, and all of this material can be accessed through the state's three main folklore archives—the Fife Folklore Archives at Utah State University in Logan, the William A. Wilson Folklore Archives at Brigham Young University in Provo, and the Folk Arts Archives of the Utah Arts Council at the Chase Home in Salt Lake City. The Chase Home Museum for Utah Folk Art has become the place where traditional art and artists from Utah's ethnic, native, occupational, and rural communities share their crafts, music, and dance with their own communities, their Utah neighbors, and with tourists from around the world.

Contrary to popular belief and stereotypes about Utah, Salt Lake City is home to an exciting mix of ethnic, native, and religious cultural groups, with over sixty different ethnic groups living along the Wasatch Front alone. Utah, and Salt Lake City in particular, is a microcosm for immigration trends in the western United States, due to mining, railroad, and government job possibilities. It has also extended notions of America as a destination for freedom-seeking peoples, due to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and resettlement opportunities for political refugee communities. As we debated how best to get conference participants to understand the heritage and diversity here in Utah, we realized that cultural landscapes were central to the concepts we were discussing.

The idea of cultural landscapes foregrounds the intimate, but often invisible, relationship between peoples and places; the mutually constitutive forces of culture, place, and space; and the almost infinite ways in which cultural practices contribute to the spatial identity of particular places, even as specific places make their marks on local cultures. While space and place tend to index literal contexts and physical surroundings, they also live in the imagination, and represent conceptual structures and ideological constructs. This year's theme, *Folklore and the Cultural Landscape*, invites us to consider the many possibilities suggested by both literal and symbolic understandings of space and place in the context of folklore and cultural production.

In Utah public and academic folklorists enjoy extremely collegial relationships. Putting together the annual meeting was no exception. Folklorists from many of the major colleges and universities contributed time and ideas. But if you come away from the meeting with a new understanding of Utah it will be largely because of the wonderful tours and activities organized by public sector folklorists throughout Utah. In particular we would like to recognize the significant efforts made by Carol Edison, Craig Miller, and George Schoemaker of the Utah Folk Arts Program.

While as your hosts we want you to enjoy your stay in Utah, we trust that you will glean from the conference new ideas or different ways of looking at old ones. We hope that you will be intellectually challenged. We received a wide variety of papers that were carefully screened and the program promises to have something for everyone. We are particularly proud of the two fine plenary speakers who accepted the committee's invitation to speak—Yi-Fu Tuan and William A. Wilson. Please plan on attending these thought-provoking lectures illuminating the conference theme, *Folklore and the Cultural Landscape*.

*Kim Lau and Kristi A. Young, co-chairs*

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

The International Issues Committee offered seven travel stipends this year. Two were for North American scholars attending a meeting abroad. Stephanie Smith of the Smithsonian attended the Ethnochoreological Group Meeting of the International Council for Traditional Music, and Joan Saverino, independent scholar, attended the International Oral History Association meeting in

Rome. We are particularly interested in funding North American scholars developing ongoing international collaborations.

Five young scholars received stipends to attend the meeting in Salt Lake City. They are Stefan Catalin Constantin, Romania; Maria Kaliambou, Greece; Melika Kindel, Estonia; Anca Stere, Romania; and Michael Wainaina, Kenya. Please make them feel welcome and check out the papers of these and our many other international visitors at the meeting. As always, we look to members for assistance in helping us to make and sustain new international connections.

Veronica Aplenc has organized a Committee-sponsored graduate student forum for the Salt Lake City, featuring some of our stipend recipients as well as international students in North American programs. They will be discussing different national models of graduate training and trying to identify needs for the future at a time when all of these models are in flux.

This year we enlarged the committee and inaugurated a discussion on strategies for more effectively internationalizing the field. The committee now has members representing the International Society for Folk Narrative Research, the Société Internationale d'Ethnologie et Folklore, and the Folklore Fellows, and with strong ties in several regions of the world. We welcome suggestions from the membership on how such ties might be strengthened.

Thanks to the committee members for their work: Veronica Aplenc, Regina Bendix, Jo-Ann Conrad, Tom DuBois, Lee Haring, Lauri Harvilahti, Galit Hasan-Rokem, Tim Tangherlini, Mbugua wa-Mungai, and Peggy Yocom. Thanks also to Tim Lloyd and the Executive Board for their strong support of international matters.

*Dorothy Noyes, chair*

### ***Report of the Task Force on Cultural Diversity***

The Task Force on Cultural Diversity reports a productive year. At this year's open meeting, participants created the following mission statement: "To develop, to encourage, and to support cultural diversity in the American Folklore Society and among its membership, with the aim of making AFS more fully representative of and more effective in serving, the peoples and the communities at the heart of our work." To achieve these goals, Task Force members Olivia Cadaval, Norma Cantu, Enrique Lamadrid, Diana N'Diaye, Cynthia Vidaurri, and Marilyn White voted to expand our committee, appointing new members: Katey Borland, Xochitl Chavez, Debora Kodish, Becky Morse, Solimar Otero, Guillermo de los Reyes, and Jan Rosenberg.

Seeking to inform the general public and the membership about the scholars in whose name prizes are awarded—Gerald A. Davis, Zora Neale Hurston, and Américo Paredes—the task force requested that biographies of these individuals be added to AFS's website. We give special thanks to Executive Director Tim Lloyd for carrying out this task.

The Gerald A. Davis Travel Fund grants enabled twelve applicants to attend the annual meeting in Albuquerque. Sharon Clark applied for the grant to allow an African American contingent from an environmental conservation organization to participate in a forum, "Women Saving Culture, Community and Environment in rural North Carolina. Dr. Elvin Holt of Southwest Texas State University attended AFS for the first time to present a paper, "Performing the Word: The Black Preacher as Trickster in Selected Folktales by J. Mason Brewer and Zora Neale Hurston. Scheri E. Smith requested travel funds to inspire her effort to promote folk communities as she made the transition from being a graduate student at Western Kentucky University to a full-time journalist. Maria-Carmen Gambliel, director of Folk and Traditional Arts Program applied to represent her agency, the Idaho Commission on The Arts in Boise.

Rosaleen Nhleakisana, a graduate student in the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology at Indiana University, applied to present research on Setswana wedding songs.

Jing Li, a graduate student in folklore and folklife at the University of Pennsylvania, requested funds to present a paper, "Within and Beyond Reinvented Traditions: The Water-Splashing Festival and Identity Politics in Xishuang Banna, China." Also, Margaret Magat of the University of Pennsylvania attended to present a paper, "Cosmopolitan Women, Transnational Lives: Filipina Domestic Workers in Italy." Another advanced graduate student from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, Aunya Byrd, applied for the exchange of ideas to further explore her own research interest related to the material culture of Mardi Gras prestige symbols.

The Task Force awards prizes in the name of two famed folklorists, Zora Neale Hurston and Américo Paredes. The American Folklore Society offers the Hurston prize of \$100 annually to a graduate or undergraduate student for the best academic paper or for other media such as film, recording, or exhibition in African American folklore. On behalf of the Task Force, I would like to congratulate the 2003 recipient, Wanda Addison, a PhD student in Folklore at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette. Her paper, "Self-Representation through Discourse: Bertha Handy's Mirrored Ideology," interrogated the personal experience narratives of a Black Creole woman in southwest Louisiana.

The Américo Paredes Prize is a relatively recent addition, proposed by the Task Force along with the AFS Chicana and Chicano Section and the AFS Folklore Latino, Latino Americano, y Caribeño Section. The American Folklore Society, in collaboration with these sections, awards the Paredes Prize to recognize excellence in integrating scholarship and engagement with the people and communities one studies, or in teaching and encouraging scholars and scholars and practitioners to work in their own cultures or communities. Norma E. Cantú received the Paredes Prize. She is a professor in the Department of English, Classics, and Philosophy at the University of Texas, San Antonio.

In conjunction with the Politics and Social Justice Section, the Task Force also voiced concern about how the American Folklore Society's Executive Board handles resolutions once its constituency approves such measures. Among other issues, these concerns related to matters of procedure and governance. At the Annual Business Meeting, the Board agreed to determine how other academic societies advance such resolutions.

As future goals and strategies, the Task Force on Cultural Diversity looks to develop enduring links with relevant AFS sections and committees. We also look forward to developing programs, panels, forums, etc., of interest to our constituencies for the 2005 annual meeting in Atlanta.

*Jerrilyn McGregory, chair*

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

The field office for the *Journal of American Folklore* has now been at the University of Missouri under the editorship of Elaine Lawless for its fourth year. The University continues to provide exceptional institutional support, including an office, two computers and support services, two printers, mailing, office supplies, phone/Ethernet, a managing editor (.50 FTE), two graduate student assistants (.25 FTE each), and a graduate student intern-thanks to the generous support of the English Department Chair, the Dean of Arts and Sciences, and the Provost's Office.

The *Journal* continues to be published on schedule.

There is a new Book Review Editor for *JAF* this year, Patricia Sawin (University of North Carolina), replacing Moira Smith. Otherwise, the review editors for *JAF* remain the same as last year: Sound Review Editor, Peter Narváez (Memorial University at Newfoundland), Film Review Editor, Daniel Wojcik (University of Oregon), and Exhibits Review Editor, Pravina Shukla (Indiana University).

During the past year, the *JAF* staff prepared for publication 19 articles/notes/dialogues that appeared in issues #462, 463, 464, and 465. From September 2003 to September 2004, *JAF* received 41 new submissions, accepted 21 (13 articles, 2 addresses, and 6 notes/dialogues-many submitted the previous year), and rejected 71 articles (36 rejected outright, 35 rejected with option to revise/resubmit). Currently, there are 25 articles "in process" (18 under various stages of production with the University of Illinois Press) for issues #467 (Creative Ethnography), 468 (Legend), and 469 (African Diaspora); and 7 articles are still under the external peer review process.

The staff's continuing efforts to solicit articles appropriate for *JAF* has proven effective. Our accumulation of promising articles in process assures enough exciting material at this time to publish through the year 2005.

We have been working out the logistics of the transfer of *JAF* to the new editors, Harris Berger and Giovanna Del Negro of Texas A&M University. During the summer of 2005, the new editors will begin working with new submissions, reviewing revised submissions, and accepting/rejecting submissions. All new and revised submissions that come into our office after spring 2005 will be forwarded to them. Volume 119:472 likely will be the last issue our office copyedits and sends to the University of Illinois Press (in October 2005). The University of Missouri has approved funding for managing editor LuAnne Roth and associate editor Lisa Rathje through the fall 2005 semester to coordinate the complete transition of the journal to its new editors. We have been preparing ahead of time for this transition and expect it to proceed smoothly.

*Elaine J. Lawless, Editor*

*LuAnne Roth, Managing Editor; Lisa Rathje, Associate Editor; Shelley Ingram, Assistant Editor*

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

The following figures are for the year from July 1, 2003, through January 2004, when I stepped down as *JAF* book review editor in order to take up the position of co-editor of the *Journal of Folklore Research*. In January the privileges, responsibilities, and glory of *JAF* book review editor were ceremonially transferred to Patricia Sawin at the University of North Carolina, along with a large accumulation of files and books. At that time we donated a number of unreviewed books that were more than two years old to the library of the newly established folklore program at the University of Malta.

Between July 1, 2003, and January 31, 2004, we received 69 books for review. These materials included two books published entirely on CD-ROM. In the same time period, 29 completed book reviews were sent to *JAF*, and another 11 reviews remained outstanding, some of which have since been received by the new editor.

I would like to thank the dozens of folklorists and ethnomusicologists who volunteered to review books, turned the reviews in mostly on time, and submitted graciously to my nagging and cut-throat editing. It was a pleasure working with you all.

*Moira Smith, outgoing editor*

Moira Smith deserves tremendous thanks from all of us for her years of service as book review editor and from me in particular for making the transition so smooth. I also want to recognize Martin Johnson, the book review assistant, who has transformed the database to simplify the tracking of reviews and otherwise kept me sane while we both learned the ropes.

Between February and August 2004 we received 104 books for review and sent 26 completed reviews to *JAF*. Another 17 reviews are currently outstanding.

I have been delighted with the quality of the reviews received and, for the most part, with the alacrity of the reviewers. Nevertheless, I remain dismayed by the number of titles that should be

recognized and evaluated in the *Journal*, but for which I have not yet found a reviewer. The AFS website has a link to the list of available books, updated monthly.

*Patricia Savin, incoming editor*

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

Since my last report, a very small number of videotapes and DVDs were submitted for review in *JAF*. All of them have been assigned to reviewers. Because so few works were submitted, I have solicited films and videotapes from filmmakers and distributors, and enlisted reviewers for these. Three film reviews have been published in *JAF* and four are currently in press (forthcoming in issue no. 466, Fall 2004). Three additional reviews have been edited and sent to *JAF*, and five are in process. I urge filmmakers to send me their work, and encourage members interested in reviewing films or videos of relevance to folklore studies to contact me at the Folklore Program, 1287 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-1287; by phone at (541) 346-3946, or through email at [dwojczik@uoregon.edu](mailto:dwojczik@uoregon.edu)

*Daniel Wojcik*

### ***Report of the Journal of American Folklore Exhibitions and Events Review Editor***

As the Exhibitions and Events Review Editor for the *Journal of American Folklore*, I am pleased to report that we have had four published reviews in the last year, two on temporary exhibitions, and two on permanent exhibits, these dealing with the cultures of Native Americans and African and African Americans, respectively. This increase in the visibility of exhibits as valid expressions of (material) culture, and one worthy of careful scrutiny and review in our journal is one of my primary goals. A notable way to validate the work of public sector folklorists is to treat festivals, events and exhibitions with professional commitment and exposure through reviews in the *JAF*, providing them the same presence scholarly publications receive. As more folklorists engage in the research, production and implementation of events, festivals and exhibitions, we hope to increase the number of reviews of these kinds of professional products, aiming to reach the great popularity of book reviews.

*Pravina Shukla*

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

In May, I had the honor of substituting for Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett as this year's delegate of AFS to the annual meeting of the American Council of Learned Societies, held in Washington, D. C. A well-planned program brought together nearly two hundred representatives of the university world to hear from President Pauline Yu and recent recipients of ACLS fellowships, and to participate in discussions of the organization's programs and policies. The annual Charles Homer Haskins Lecture, *A Life of Learning*, was given this year by the prolific historian Peter Gay, who retraced his two emigrations, from Europe to the United States and from Public Law and Government to History. The delegates were also addressed cordially by Bruce Cole, the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. While trying, through the weekend, to point out the place of folklore among the many disciplines, I listened for ideas that we could steal or profit from. There were several.

One is the defensive position of the humanities disciplines in universities. Folklorists might be pardoned for saying, "Yah, we been there already," having experienced the erosion of their position despite vigorous action. A response was implied in President Yu's query about the ever enlarging program of ACLS fellowships: Should this program reinforce contemporary trends in scholarship or...seek new directions? ". One can imagine using or developing a fellowship program aimed at providing new opportunities to 'underserved' segments of academia." Folklore is surely such a segment, but folklorists hardly ever apply for ACLS fellowships. This year's awardees are remarkably interdisciplinary. For instance, an anthropologist in an Italian Studies department (which appointed is making an historical, anthropological, and architectural-historical study of the twelve "new towns" created in Italy's colonies under fascism. This scholar was appointed to an Italian Studies department, which wanted to move towards interdisciplinarity so as not to be dissolved. Isn't this a model for folklorists? She also spoke to the double need of the young scholar to be pigeonhole-able and versatile at the same time, and suggested attending conferences that he or she might not otherwise attend, to broaden professional horizons.

Especially interesting to me, as a member of AFS's Committee on International Issues, was the attention given this year to the ACLS programs that support and advance international scholarship. An example is the humanities program to support the humanities in Belarus, Russia, Ukraine (see <http://www.acls.org/humanities-byruuk.htm>). In the future, the ACLS may consider direct support to international scholarly collaboration--in which AFS could become a leader. Another theme of future ACLS practice could well be collaborative scholarship of the kind American public folklorists have developed with community scholars. AFS can contribute to and benefit from these new emphases.

The most important challenge for folklorists to take up is information technology. Too often, we have shrunk from technological advances instead of embracing them, appropriating them, and making them work for our goals. It's too easy for us to ridicule a word like "cyberinfrastructure," which occupies the attention of serious scholars. This term, coined by the National Science Foundation, describes "new research environments in which capabilities of the highest level of computing tools are available to researchers in an interoperable network." Currently, an ACLS commission is charged with "describing and analyzing the state of humanities and social science cyberinfrastructure; articulating the requirements and the potential contributions of the humanities and the social sciences in developing a cyberinfrastructure for information, teaching, and research; and recommending areas of emphasis and coordination for the various agencies and institutions, public and private, that contribute to the development of this cyberinfrastructure." AFS has something to say to this commission.

A related ACLS project is the History E-Book Project, which has launched a Web site of about 800 digitized books in the field of history ([www.historyEbook.org](http://www.historyEbook.org)). The project declares it is "open to discussions with ACLS constituent societies concerning other fields and titles (both new and already published) in History." Representatives of AFS should be communicating with this project, to make our special contribution to it.

To surmount the isolation of folklore as an academic discipline, the American Folklore Society does well to maintain and increase contacts like its membership in ACLS.

*Lee Haring*

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

As the AFS delegate to the World Intellectual Property Organization, I attend occasional meetings of the intergovernmental committee on folklore, traditional culture, and genetic resources,

sitting in the back of the room with the representatives of other nongovernmental organizations. WIPO is affiliated with the U.N. Its purview is intellectual property—those aspects of human creativity that are, or can be, protected by such mechanisms as copyright, patent, trademark, marks of origin, and other such devices. The IGC—intergovernmental committee—is investigating, and perhaps making recommendations on, the challenge of connecting community-based forms of creativity to international intellectual property devices. This is a real challenge, as most intellectual property conventions view creativity as the result of individual inspiration and work to protect individuals' rights of ownership. That may be fine for Merck and Sony, but it begins to fall apart when vernacular creativity is the subject.

This is a long-running process. It is increasingly politicized, particularly in the genetic resources subsection, where bio-prospecting is a high stakes game, economically, culturally, and morally. WIPO works by consensus, which further complicates the nature of outcomes, given that a national delegation, such as the U.S., can stand against a broad accord. As a consequence, it is difficult to predict whether the work will lead to international treaties (probably unlikely, especially because the U.S. seems to view such instruments as not in the interest of free trade), model provisions, or some other set of guidelines and principles. At the same time, WIPO has produced a number of practical tools and case studies, some of them growing from important fact-finding missions that predate our involvement with the organization. Several of those publications are listed at <http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/publications/index.html>.

NGOs such as AFS hold little more than moral power. Many of the NGOs represent indigenous people, and those voices are often strongly present in discussions. Few folklorists participate in the meetings—national delegations seem not to include folklorists, and the NGOs, by and large, seem not to as well. SIEF (the European folklore organization) is represented, and folklorists from the American Folklife Center are part of the U.S. delegation. But folklorists' expertise is recognized, especially in the portion of the meetings devoted to folklore, and that has led AFS to consult informally on significant reports and recommendations developed by WIPO staff. We are making a difference. The relationship with WIPO staff also led to a plenary session at the Albuquerque meeting, featuring Wend Wendland, who directs the folklore initiative at WIPO, and Rhonda Griffiths, from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, who presented a set of provisions they have developed for the protection of folklore.

These are increasingly significant issues, potentially touching much of the work we do, and having huge implications for human creativity and community integrity across the world. It is striking to sit in a room with delegates from many nations and from various NGOs, hearing passionate discussion of folklore, variously understood, as it relates to international policy. Other U.S. folklorists have been engaged with the very important work on cultural heritage at UNESCO, but it strikes me that by and large our field has been far too little involved with these initiatives.

*Burt Feintuch*

### *Report of the AFS Archival Liaison*

The 2003-04 American Folklore Society archival monies (\$1,200, received in October 2003) were used by the Utah State University Library Special Collections and Archives Division towards microfilming the AFS collection. This project was started in the fiscal year 2002-2003, and continued over into 2003-2004. By the end of FY 2004, we had microfilmed the collection through the series titles Constitution.

*Randy Williams*

### *Report of the AFS Liaison to the Modern Language Association*

At the 2003 AFS meeting, Camilla Mortensen was elected to the [AFS@MLA](mailto:AFS@MLA) Executive Board. She will organize the AFS-sponsored sessions at the Modern Language Association convention in 2007. She joins Christie Fox (2006), Karen Beardslee (2005), Reinhold Hill (2004), and John Laudun (2003).

The 2004 MLA Convention will be held December 27-30 in Philadelphia. The AFS-sponsored session on "Folklore, Literacy, and Education" will feature papers by Paddy Bowman ("Folklore and Fieldwork: Tools for Teaching Literacy"), Miriam Camitta ("Fantasy and Play in the Writing Process"), and Stephen Criswell ("Fieldwork, Service Learning and the Development of Cultural Literacy"). Kenneth DeShane will preside. The second session, "Cultural Authenticity: Contemporary Approaches to Folklore and Literature," will be presided over by Stephen Criswell and will feature papers by Sarah Beth Catlin Barnhart ("Beyond Domestic: Southern Women Writers Revise the Kitchen"), Kenneth DeShane ("Cultural Authenticity in Linda Hogan's *Mean Spirit*"), and Bonnie Irwin ("Culture and Community in the Writings of Arab American Women"). AFS members who have ideas for future sessions or who wish to present their research at the Modern Language Association convention are urged to contact any member of the [AFS@MLA](mailto:AFS@MLA) committee for more information.

Bonnie D. Irwin

*AFS Fiscal Year 2004 Financial Report (September 2003-August 2004)*

<b>REVENUE</b>		<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Memberships	63,131	Management and Administration	144,888
Publications	84,095	Publications	60,657
Annual Meeting	65,298	Annual Meeting	63,523
Investments	16,567	Program Activities	<u>108,561</u>
Grants and Contracts	132,140	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>377,629</b>
Other Revenue	<u>18,675</u>		
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>379,906</b>	<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>2,277</b>