

## 2007 Annual Report of the American Folklore Society

### Report of the AFS President and Executive Director

2007 has been a remarkable year for the Society. Our activities included significant staffing changes, the production of a major collaborative international meeting, the negotiation of important new publication contracts, the development of relationships with other folklore societies worldwide, and the completion of a major online aid to folklore scholarship and archiving, the AFS Ethnographic Thesaurus. The following sections describe these developments in greater detail.

#### *Administration*

New AFS associate director Maria Teresa Agozzino began work for AFS on June 1, and spent four weeks working in tandem with departing associate director Brent Björkman, who became the executive director of the Vermont Folklife Center at the beginning of July.

#### *Annual Meetings*

The 2007 annual meeting, a joint gathering with the Folklore Studies Association of Canada (FSAC) with the theme of “The Politics and Practices of Intangible Cultural Heritage,” was a resounding success. The meeting program was quite large and complex, and featured 190 sessions (last year’s meeting had 133) in 17 concurrent meeting rooms, including:

Many sessions focused on the theme for this year’s meeting—The Politics and Practices of Intangible Cultural Heritage—including three major international discussions (one a plenary session) planned by the annual meeting committee

A very large number of presentations by French and other scholars who have never before attended AFS

A plenary presentation on new resources for folklore and ethnography, including the just-completed AFS Ethnographic Thesaurus and the H-Folk listserv; and a plenary address by André Gladu, an ethnographic filmmaker who has extensively documented Francophone culture in North America

Bill Ivey’s Presidential address, “Folklore Values and Value,” which articulated “the underlying themes that give a folkloristic perspective special value, giving special attention to those ideas that can build consensus and commitment among folklorists in order to advance the discipline”

Special AFS section-sponsored lectures by Christian Bromberger (Mediterranean Studies Section), Cynthia Cohen (Politics, Folklore, and Social Justice) Sandra Zimdars-Schwartz (Folk Belief and Religious Folklife), and Beverley Diamond (Music and Song)

Professional development workshops on digital audio recording, archiving, and preservation; shooting and editing ethnographic video; integrating folklore into K-12 curricula; and the relationships between oral storytelling and creative writing

Other special events, including a storytelling performance by Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett and her father Mayer, and a performance of Sephardic Jewish music by Judith Cohen

Exhibits by publishers of folklore books and AFS sections

An open reception sponsored by the Université Laval and alumni receptions sponsored by Indiana University and the Memorial University of Newfoundland

Four pre-meeting tours

A Saturday night banquet and Québécois musical performance

Business meetings of AFS and FSAC, of the executive bodies of both societies, of FSAC students, and of 29 AFS interest-group sections

Our 2008 annual meeting will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, and in 2009 we will meet in Boise, Idaho. The Annual Meeting Committee for the Louisville meeting will be Chris Antonsen, Erika Brady, Tim Evans, Barry Kaufkins, Johnston A. K. Njoku, and Michael Ann Williams from Western Kentucky University; and Bob Gates, Mark Brown, and Sarah Schmitt from the Kentucky Folklife Program, and the theme for the meeting will be “The Commons and the Commonwealth.”

We are now working toward the selection of sites for our 2010 and 2011 meetings.

### *Endowment*

The total pledged or given to the AFS endowment through our planned giving program now stands at \$982,000; at this time last year, this total was \$537,000. The cash balance of the endowment account, representing present gifts to the campaign that are part of that larger total, stands at just over \$100,000; at this time last year, the balance was a little under \$75,000. The public phase of our planned giving program will begin next year, at which time we will begin regularly soliciting pledges and donations from all AFS members.

### *Prizes*

The 2007 recipients of AFS’s five annual prizes, announced at the Québec annual meeting, were:

Benjamin A. Botkin Prize (for achievement in public folklore): Steve Zeitlin, *City Lore*, New York, New York

Chicago Folklore Prize (for the best folklore monograph of the year): Cristina Bacchilega. *Legendary Hawai’i and the Politics of Place: Tradition, Translation, and Tourism* (University of Pennsylvania Press); and James P. Leary. *Polkabilly: How the Goose Island Ramblers Redefined American Folk Music* (Oxford University Press)

Kenneth Goldstein Award for Lifetime Academic Leadership: Elaine J. Lawless, University of Missouri

Zora Neale Hurston Prize (for the best student paper on African American folklore): Tracy Carpenter, The Ohio State University, for "The Construction of the Crack Mother Icon"

Américo Paredes Prize (for excellence in integrating scholarship and engagement with the people and communities one studies, or in teaching and encouraging scholars and practitioners to work in their own cultures or communities): Barre Toelken, Utah State University, *emeritus*

2007 section prize recipients are listed in the section pages of the AFS web site.

### *Publications*

Our first five-year contract with the University of Illinois Press for the publication of the *Journal of American Folklore* ended in October 2007. Working with Clydette Wantland, head of the Press's Journals Division, we have negotiated the terms of a new five-year contract with the Press.

The staff, assisted by the publications committee, is working to rethink the *AFS News* to make it less of a bulletin board (since in this e-communications age a bimonthly newsletter is out of place) and more a way to deliver important scholarly and professional communications not presently available through our other publications. We plan to have this new *AFSN* in place by the end of the 2008 volume year.

At the annual meeting in Québec, former Board member and AFS International Committee chair Dorry Noyes and I announced the debut of the H-Folk international listserv for folklore scholarship. This listserv is the product of a partnership of AFS with The [UK] Folklore Society, the Folklore Studies Association of Canada, the International Society for Folk-Narrative Research, and the Société internationale d'ethnologie et de folklore. The Estonian Folklore Archives and the folklore department at the University of Tartu in Estonia will manage the day-to-day editorial operations of H-Folk, and the H-Folk editorial board will have representatives from all the partner societies.

During 2007, the Society also entered into a partnership with the American Council of Learned Societies' Humanities E-Book Project (HEB) to make available digitized versions of important scholarly works in folklore. HEB, begun by a major grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and self-sustaining since 2005, is a collaboration of 11 learned societies, more than 80 publishers, and the University of Michigan's Scholarly Publishing Office to make available an online, fully searchable collection of high-quality books in the humanities. HEB currently includes the full text of over 1,500 titles, selected by scholars in most fields of the humanities, now including folklore.

Initially, the AFS's three Centennial publications—the *JAF Centennial Index*, compiled and edited by Bruce Jackson, Michael Taft, and Harvey Axlerod (1988); *100 Years of American Folklore Studies: A Conceptual History*, edited by William Clements (1988); and *Time and Temperature*, edited by Charles Camp (1989)—along with the 1994 supplement to the *JAF Centennial Index*, will be part of HEB by the first of next year, and will be available free of charge as a benefit of AFS membership through the AFS web site. The HEB will also be negotiating with the university publishers of a lengthy list of folklore monographs (including the recent recipients of the Chicago Folklore Prize and the titles included in the Society's Publications Series in the 1980s and 1990s) to include those titles in their offerings. AFS and HEB are now discussing various options for AFS member online access to these titles once they are available.

Finally, we have taken the leading role in the development of a program of shared individual access to the back issues of a number of the folklore journals available through JSTOR. This

program now includes *Folklore*, the *Journal of American Folklore*, the *Journal of Folklore Research*/*Journal of the Folklore Institute*, and *Western Folklore*/*California Folklore Quarterly*.

### *Working Groups and Committees*

At its April 2007 meeting, the Executive Board approved the creation of a series of working groups to provide counsel to the staff as they work in several of the high-priority areas the Board identified in the Society's present long-range plan. The responsibilities and members of these groups are as follows:

**Graduate Students:** Work with the staff to identify the most important professional needs of students that are presently not being fulfilled and the best ways for AFS, working in concert with academic departments and other institutions in the field, to fulfill them. Members: Sheila Bock (Ohio State University; 2007 convener of the AFS Graduate Students Section; Willow Mullins (University of Missouri; 2008 convener of the student section), Nelda Ault (Western Kentucky University), Lynne McNeill (Memorial University of Newfoundland), Rachel Gonzalez-Gomez (Indiana University)

**Retired Members:** Work with the staff to identify the most effective ways for AFS to retain the wisdom, experience, and active participation of folklorists after they retire. Members (all emeritus/a): Lee Haring (Brooklyn College), Rosan Jordan (Louisiana State University), Elliott Oring (California State University, Los Angeles), Polly Stewart (Salisbury State University)

**Annual Meeting:** Work with the staff to study, debate, and propose plans for increasing the intellectual, professional, and social value of our annual meeting. Members: Kurt Dewhurst (Michigan State University Museum), Teresa Hollingsworth (Southern Arts Federation), Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (New York University), Michael Ann Williams (Western Kentucky University)

We have also reconstituted two of AFS's three standing committees (membership and publications; the third—the nominating committee—is populated by election), as follows:

**Membership Committee:** Provide counsel to the staff as we develop a plan for strengthening undergraduate recruitment into the field, focusing on those colleges and universities with existing undergraduate concentrations. Members: Peggy Yocom (George Mason University), Ray Cashman (Ohio State University), Tim Evans (Western Kentucky University), Lisa Gabbert (Utah State University), Jason Baird Jackson (Indiana University), Ruth Olson (University of Wisconsin), Patricia Sawin (University of North Carolina), Dan Wojcik (University of Oregon)

**Publications Committee:** Provide counsel to the staff on 1) identifying the gaps in scholarly and professional communications within the field and based on that identification, 2) re-conceptualizing the *AFS News* and 3) developing new print and online publications (from newly commissioned writings and existing online *JAF* materials) to fill those gaps. Members: Judy McCulloh (University of Illinois Press), Erika Brady (Western Kentucky University), Ann Hoog (American Folklife Center, Library of Congress), Andy Kolovos

(Vermont Folklife Center), John Laudun (University of Louisiana, Lafayette), Moira Smith (Indiana University Library)

Marilyn White of Kean University, a long-time member of the Society's Cultural Diversity Task Force, took over the Task Force's chair in late 2007, replacing long-time chair Jerrilyn Gregory of Florida State University. This group selects the recipients of the Gerald Davis Travel Stipends (given to minority scholars/community scholars to attend the annual meeting) and the recipient of the Zora Neale Hurston Prize, given for the best student paper on African or African diaspora folklore. Over the upcoming years, the task force will also provide counsel to the staff as we consider a long-term plan for building relations with Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

### *Special Projects*

Our work to create the Ethnographic Thesaurus (ET), funded by the scholarly communications program of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, was completed in summer 2007; in the fall the thesaurus went "live" on the AFS web site. The ET will function as a shared vocabulary for ethnographers and ethnographic archivists to classify and share information about their materials in their collections. This same community of users will make the ET a living resource by proposing changes, modifications, and improvements to the resource, and especially by elaborating specific areas of the ET based on their own collections. The project staff's presentations on this project on listservs and at conferences have generated a great deal of interest and excitement within the community of librarians and archivists, and we anticipate future partnerships on particular case studies with ethnographic archives worldwide.

Our work to provide the Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center with leaders for community-based workshops on conducting ethnographic interviews is continuing. We have negotiated a new contract with the Library of Congress for the 2007-2008 year, which will support additional workshops throughout the country led by one of our 100 workshop leaders (2/3 of whom are folklorists and 1/3 oral historians), and will net AFS \$10,000 for the year. In the 5+ years of this partnership, our workshop leaders have reached more than 5,300 participants in over 250 workshops in 2/3 of US states.

We are halfway through our second \$150,000, two-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to 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. We applied for a third NEH grant in November 2007. A team of six scholars from the UK and the US is working on the edition.

Independent filmmaker Chris Simon of Salt Lake City is completing work on the documentary video on the early years of the present period of public sector folklore in the US, for which we received \$15,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts last year. This is a project of the Society's Public Programs Section. The video should be completed in spring 2008.

AFS is partnering with the Folk and Traditional Arts Program of the National Endowment for the Arts and Documentary Arts, Inc., a Dallas-based private non-profit organization led by folklorist Alan Govenar, to provide every AFS member with a copy of the new edition of Alan's *Masters of Traditional Arts* DVD-ROM (containing textual, visual, and audio documentation of the more than 300 National Heritage Fellows honored by the NEA since 1982). Through a similar partnership, we distributed the first edition of this DVD-ROM in 2002; the second edition contains information on more recent honorees and much greater search functionality.

Tim Lloyd will be discussing several project possibilities with the staff of the Education division at the National Endowment for the Humanities. Several of their typical grants—for summer workshops and institutes—fit well with our priorities. In a meeting with AFS in early 2007, NEH chair Bruce Cole offered to host a meeting involving us and the heads of that program once our ideas take shape; National Endowment for the Arts chair Dana Gioia also indicated his willingness to provide AFS with a chairman’s grant for a part of these activities that could be made to fit within NEA’s purview.

As we develop our relations with our sister society in China (see the next section below) the staff will be speaking with the Ford Foundation about their interest in supporting future AFS partnerships with folklorists and folklore societies in the Third World. Ford was instrumental in its recent support of several critical folklore research and education institutions in India, and we hope to find common ground between their priorities and our own.

We are investigating whether the Rockefeller Foundation (or, failing that, some other funding source) might be more receptive at this time to a resubmission of the proposal they turned down 2½ years ago for an AFS-led international meeting of community spokespeople, scholars, and policymakers to discuss the implications on traditional communities of the intellectual property and intangible cultural heritage protection systems and mechanisms now being discussed by the UNESCO, the World Intellectual Property Organization, and by a number of national governments.

We also have in hand a prospectus the support of a series of focused conversations within the field to articulate the key problems and issues people in our field are studying, and to describe the sorts of resources scholars and public folklorists will need to engage with those problems and issues. This possible future project grew out of conversations with Mellon Foundation program officers in New York earlier this year.

Finally, in the interest of greater international cooperation we have also begun communications with the leadership of SIEF (the Société internationale d’ethnologie et de folklore) about possible collaborative activities.

### *China Initiative*

The field of folklore is rapidly expanding in the People’s Republic of China, with an active China Folklore Society (CFS), several PhD-granting programs, more than two dozen MA-level programs, many undergraduate course opportunities, and a growing official interest in documenting and conserving intangible and tangible cultural heritage, proceeding in tandem with increased attention to China’s many minority cultures. A number of US folklorists (e.g., Dick Bauman, Barry Bergey, Peggy Bulger, Alan Dundes, and Mike Jones) have been CFS invited guests in recent years, either individually or as part of US government delegations.

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 annual meeting in Québec and then, accompanied by Bill Ivey and Tim Lloyd, traveled to New York City and Washington, DC, to meet with American folklorists, particularly public folklorists, there.

Then in December 2007, Bill Ivey, Juwen Zhang of Willamette University (co-convener of our Eastern Asia Folklife Section), and AFS associate director Mabel Agozzino (representing executive director Tim Lloyd, who was unable to travel because of a death in his family) 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 Guangzhou and Hong Kong in the southeast.

As next steps, we are discussing with the CFS the possibility of several future activities, including longer-term residencies in China by US folklorists, and in the US by Chinese folklorists, to conduct workshops on folklore scholarship and public folklore practice in our respective countries.

*Bill Ivey*  
*Vanderbilt University*

*Timothy Lloyd*  
*Executive Director, AFS*

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

The last year has been an exciting and productive one for the *Journal of American Folklore*. We continue our commitment to publishing works that reflect the breadth of research done in the field and seeking out the very best in folklore studies. This report covers the period from September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007.

The journal, which is a quarterly, continues to be published by the Journals Division of the University of Illinois Press. In last year's report, we noted that in the spring of 2006 UIP began to work with a new printer, and as a result, the delivery of several issues would be delayed. The printer transition has since been completed, and delivery is now back on schedule.

The last year has seen two important changes among *JAF*'s review editors. In the summer of 2006, Patricia Sawin stepped down as book review editor, and Jill Terry Rudy took over that position soon after. The review editor transition continued during the 2006–2007 reporting year and is now nearly complete. New books for review should be addressed to Jill Terry Rudy, Associate Professor of English, 4157 JFSB, Provo, Utah, 84602, USA. In the fall of 2006, Michael Robert Evans stepped down as film and video review editor, and D. Todd Lawrence took over that post in the winter. New films or videos for review should be sent to D. Todd Lawrence, Department of English, Mail #JRC 333, University of St. Thomas, 2115 Summit Ave, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55105, USA. Tina Bucuvalas (Florida Folklife Program) continues to serve as the exhibitions and events review editor, and C. Kati Szego (Memorial University of Newfoundland) continues as sound review editor. *JAF*'s editorial assistant is Jesse Rester. We thank all of these individuals for their work on the journal.

During the report year, we received fifty-two article submissions and one note submission, and we published four issues (474–477), which together contain eleven articles and two addresses. In addition, seventeen article manuscripts were accepted with varying levels of revision (including some that had been submitted during the previous year), ten were rejected with an option to revise and resubmit (including some that had been submitted during the previous year), and twenty-nine were rejected or withdrawn. At the present time, we are seeking external reviewers for one article manuscript, and another is being reviewed by external readers. Six article manuscripts that have been accepted with revision are currently being revised by authors, eight completed article manuscripts are awaiting publication, and six are in process at UIP.

As editors, we want *JAF* to reflect the breadth of work in folklore studies. The reporting year has been a successful one in that regard, with articles in the journal exploring a range of genres that includes verbal art, music, dance, foodways, legend, festival, and everyday vernacular practices such as wayfinding and the use of public space. The cultures and ethnic groups examined include those of the US (with articles on African American folklore, Mexican American folklore, and Greek American folklore), Mexico, Italy, Switzerland, Syria, and Morocco. Articles in upcoming issues focus on an equally wide range of genres (including proverbs, Internet lore, and video games) and cultures (including Navajo folklore, Nepali folklore, and Indian folklore).

The efficiency of journal procedures continues to be a priority for us. Our initial, internal evaluation of article submissions is almost always completed within a month, usually within a week. The search for readers usually takes one to two weeks. We request that external reader's reports be returned to us in four weeks, and authors are informed of the results of this stage of the review process within a week of the time that the final external reader's report has been delivered to us. Queries to the editors are answered quickly, often within twenty-four hours.

In recent months, we have received a variety of excellent manuscripts, and the number of submissions is high as well. With all of this fine work, the upcoming year promises to be a good one for the journal. We continue to solicit new submissions 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 at the American Folklore Society for their help during the year. We would also like to express our appreciation to the following units at Texas A&M University for the support that they have provided to us: the Department of English, the Department of Performance Studies, and the Melburn 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**

This report covers from November 1, 2006 through November 1, 2007. In this time period, I received approximately 130 books and sent out 40 books for review. I submitted over 45 complete reviews to the editors of the journal; the previous review editor, Patricia Sawin, also submitted a number of reviews. There were 21 reviews published during this time frame.

After several years contributing to the field as book review editor, Patricia Sawin has continued to assist in follow up with several reviews. We continue to work with AFS personnel to post the titles of available books for review on the *JAF* website, and to make more reviews available on line.

A backlog of books that are in need of review continues to exist; the book review editor will continue to solicit prominent and active members of the field to contribute to the important scholarly task of evaluating research and contributions to knowledge through book reviews. I appreciate everyone who has taken books for review, submitted insightful reviews, and all who have given helpful suggestions about matching books with reviewers. The general editors of the *Journal of American Folklore* make final decisions about accepting reviews and determining the publication date. If solicited to write a review, please consider every possibility to agree or be prepared to suggest qualified colleagues; if interested in titles posted on the website or others of significant interest to the field, please contact me. Standard reviews are not lengthy, only 750 words, with a turn around of receiving a review back within four to six months after receiving the book. Potential reviewers and all authors should submit their questions, suggestions, and reviews to me at [jill\\_rudy@byu.edu](mailto:jill_rudy@byu.edu).

Jill Terry Rudy  
Brigham Young University

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

Folklorists continue to be extremely active in creating exhibitions and events focused on a variety of topics in traditional culture, including innovative and educational on-line exhibitions. Thus it has been disappointing that so few folklorists are electing to write reviews.

During the last year, I received only the review of the Chase Home Museum of Utah Folk Arts, which was edited and submitted to the *JAF* editors. I have solicited and will continue to solicit reviews of exhibitions and events on Publore as well as numerous individuals. At this time I expect to receive three reviews to edit and submit in time for the next *JAF* deadline in November.

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. Send reviews to me at: Florida Folklife Program, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee FL 32399-0250; 850/245-6333; [tbucualas@dos.state.fl.us](mailto:tbucualas@dos.state.fl.us).

Tina Bucualas  
Florida Folklife Program

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

Since taking over as Film and Video Review Editor for *JAF* in Spring 2007, I have been engaged in editing and proofing reviews that were submitted by the previous editor as well as keeping track of reviews in progress that were solicited by him. As well, I have solicited reviews myself and have submitted one review essay for publication.

Five reviews were published in *JAF* issues 475 and 476 (Lawrence, Bebernitz, Dupres, Poizat-Newcomb, and Adams). These reviews were solicited by the previous editor, Michael Evans—though at least one of these was originally solicited by his predecessor, Daniel Wojcik.

*JAF* 477 contains a review by John Holmes McDowell of the film, *Carnivals of the Caribbean: Puerto Rico/Trinidad/Martinique*. *JAF* 478, which is currently in production, contains a review by Elliot Oring of *The Aristocrats*. Both of these reviews were solicited and edited by Michael, although I proofed them at the galley stage.

I have submitted one review essay written by Jack Zipes on the film *Pan's Labyrinth*. This review should appear soon. There are currently four more reviews that have been solicited, but are in process and have not yet been submitted to the *JAF* editors.

My thanks go to *JAF* editors Harry Berger and Giovanna Del Negro for giving me the opportunity to serve as *JAF* Film and Video Review Editor. I encourage producers to send their films and videos to me for review and I also encourage those desiring to review films or videos to contact me. My address is Department of English, Mail # JRC 333, University of St. Thomas, 2115 Summit Ave, Saint Paul MN 55104; 651/962-5625; [dtlawrence@stthomas.edu](mailto:dtlawrence@stthomas.edu).

David Todd Lawrence  
University of St. Thomas

### 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 Delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies

This year the American Council of Learned Societies departed, in every sense, from its accustomed meeting places like Philadelphia. Foreshadowing the border-crossing example set by AFS, the ACLS met in Québec--in Montréal, to be exact. Two hundred Anglophone delegates from south of the border formed a little cultural island within the walls of the plush Marriott Montréal Château Champlain. The Montréal Tourist Board (Tourisme Montréal) was outstandingly helpful and generous in welcoming ACLS, as part of a broader program of encouraging international meetings.

This year's lecturer, and recipient of the Charles Homer Haskins Prize, was my old friend Linda Nochlin, the Lila Acheson Wallace Professor of Modern Art in the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University. It was a pleasure to all the delegates, but especially to me because memories kept coming up, to hear this distinguished feminist art historian reminisce warmly about her childhood and early career.

Business was efficiently managed. At the recommendation of the Board of Directors, the North American Conference on British Studies was admitted to constituent membership in ACLS. As to the Fellowship programs, which folklorists so rarely apply to, ACLS and its associated programs awarded 168 fellowships in 2006-2007, valued at just under \$7.4 million. Awardees included faculty members from 49 institutions, working in eighteen of the 35 disciplines for which applications were reviewed. Many of the successful applicants work in American or European history, or in anthropology. Surely some university-based folklorists could think of applying in these programs. "ACLS supports humanistic research in all fields of the humanities and social sciences." Financially ACLS is in very good shape indeed, thanks to some very clever supervisors of its investments. Thus to no one's surprise, the proposed budget for 2007-2008 was approved.

The ACLS History E-Book Project is being expanded to "ACLS Humanities E-Book" ([www.humanitiesEbook.org](http://www.humanitiesEbook.org)). HEB now has over 1,500 titles and 500 institutional subscribers. The transition to Humanities E-Book is to be completed by the end of June 2007. The History of Science Society (a topic recognizable to folklorists) has recently affiliated with it. As this collection expands into other fields, it will begin to include folklore, by offering PDF and text-searchable versions of the Society's three Centennial publications: *The Centennial Index to JAF* (edited and compiled by Bruce Jackson, Michael Taft, and Harvey Axlerod, 1988), *100 Years of American Folklore Studies: A Conceptual History* (edited by William M. Clements, 1988), and *Time and Temperature* (edited by Charles Camp, 1989). After arrangements with university press publishers have been made, folklore monographs will also be accessible through the Humanities E-Book site.

Delegates heard reports from three of last year's fellowship recipients. As usual, the level of thinking was inspiring. Daniel J. Cohen, of George Mason University, described software that takes the researcher a step or two beyond Google, to extract, annotate, and search digital resources on the Web ([zotero.org](http://zotero.org)). Other projects, on "Japan Studies and the American Anthropology of the Self"

and on eighteenth-century European fictions about Asia, touched on folkloric matters. An afternoon session was held on “The Global Academy and the Geography of Ideas,” in which the speakers were Kwame Anthony Appiah, the Princeton philosopher, as chair; Paulin J. Hountondji, Professor of Philosophy at the National University of Benin; and Kenneth Prewitt, emeritus President of the Social Science Research Council and former director of the United States Census Bureau. Since national traditions of folklore study differ so much around the world, it was particularly interesting to hear these distinguished scholars consider the three questions: (1) How global is “the academy” today? (2) To what extent and in what ways does geographical location affect the production of ideas? (3) What can or should be done to make “the academy” more global and to promote more sharing of knowledge? I largely agreed with Professor Hountondji that the intellectual differences among nations are structural, being subordinate to the relations of production. The scholar in every nation is tied to that nation’s national project, even to the involvement of professors in national life. It isn’t only lab equipment, he said, that gets imported from northern to southern countries; it’s also ideas and methods, and the product is exported. The problems selected for southern countries to work on and the language(s) in which they are studied are also imports. As the session ended, Professor Prewitt wondered whether the culture of peer review, for instance, which is so valued in American university life, can be exported to other nations.

Every year I encourage AFS members to apply for ACLS fellowships. This year I append more encouragement, by ACLS fellowship program director Saul Fisher:

The range of disciplines covered under the ACLS Fellowship programs was, and remains, the entire extent of the humanities and related disciplines, which of course includes folklore and folklife studies.

On the other hand, folklore studies is not a separate category in our in-house taxonomy for assigning reviewers, and this fact shows up in the fellowship application forms in the field where applicants must designate the one single discipline into which their work fits best. This choice would vary for most folklorists though I suspect the majority of them would fall under such categories in our taxonomy as anthropology; American studies; one or another of the language/literature categories; art and architectural history; theatre, dance, and performance studies; and so on. The best fit will undoubtedly vary from folklorist to folklorist.

In addition, with the past competition year, we also have started asking applicants which 5 disciplines or subdisciplines their work best fits into, in order to get a broader notion of who are our applicants are than can possibly be reflected by the 1-discipline-choice question used for assigning reviewers.

Among the Fellows, 1 scholar indicated that his/her work involved or was related to folklore studies; for the entire applicant pool, 19 scholars indicated such a relationship. The data reflect a 2/3 response rate from applicants cohort and 4/5 response rate from the Fellows. Finally, as concerns encouraging members to apply for ACLS Fellowships, this is an issue of great concern for us as we would like to see scholars from all our constituent member societies applying in significant numbers. Our application data indicate, by the way, that 5 applicants (but no Fellows) in the past competition year self-report themselves as members of AFS.

*Lee Haring*

*Brooklyn College, emeritus*

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

The Committee has undergone significant transition this year, with former chairperson Dorothy “Dorry” Noyes stepping down after many years of service, and Timothy Tangherlini accepting the position as chair for the coming three years. During her long tenure as chair, Dorry Noyes was able to develop a consistent system for soliciting and selecting travel stipend recipients, and for articulating well the important mission of the international committee. Before she turned over the reigns, Dorry authored a remarkably thorough handbook for the international committee, which will guide our work in the coming years. Of greatest importance was the establishment of a clear term of service for the chair (three years) and the implementation of a mechanism for a smooth transition between chairs.

As will now be the practice, committee members will serve a renewable three-year term. The chair will be selected from the current members to ensure continuity in the programs. This year, the committee will be saying farewell to Veronica Aplenc and Tom Dubois 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 Dan Sheehy to the committee; and we expect to soon welcome several new members to round out the committee. In addition, we thank continuing members, Merrill Kaplan, John Lindow, JoAnn Conrad, Lee Haring, Lauri Harvilahti, and Mbugua wa-Mungai for their ongoing participation. Finally, Dorry Noyes will continue on the committee, focusing her efforts on the H-Folk advisory board.

This year the committee was able to support six foreign scholars with travel stipends: to the AFS conference in Quebec. The committee will make awards for two American members traveling to foreign conferences after our competition closes in December.

Our regular stipend winners were Laurent Sebastien Fournier, University of Nantes (France); Judit Gulyas, Institute of Ethnology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; Meszaros Csaba, Eötvös Loránd University (Hungary); Liisi Laineste, University of Tartu (Estonia); Markus Tauschek Georg-August–Universität Göttingen (Germany); V. Hari Saravanan, National Folklore Support Centre (India). All of these recipients presented papers at the Quebec conference, and we expect to continue to cultivate our relations with these young and emerging scholars in the coming years.

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 and East Asia.

In addition, the committee has continued its work to cooperate with folklore organizations abroad on the foundation of H-Folk, an international listserv for folklorists and committee member Dorry Noyes has become a member of the advisory board of this enterprise. We thank Tim Lloyd and the Executive Board for their strong support of international matters.

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

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

The eleventh session of the World Intellectual Property Organization's Intergovernmental Committee on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore met at WIPO headquarters in Geneva in July 2006. AFS is an accredited nongovernmental organization at WIPO, and I attended the folklore portion of the meeting as our representative. AFS did not have representation at the tenth session; I was unable to attend, and our alternate was prevented, at the last minute, from flying to Geneva last winter because of weather delays.

This was the most substantive WIPO session I've attended. Following the tenth session, the WIPO secretariat put together a list of ten issues pertaining to traditional cultural expressions, the current organizational term for folklore (also sometimes referred to as expressions of folklore), and the meeting devoted most of two days to discussing them. I am reproducing them here from the WIPO documents because they are key to understanding the substance being debated at the meetings.

1. Definition of traditional cultural expressions (TCEs)/expressions of folklore (EoF) that should be protected.
2. Who should benefit from any such protection or who should hold the rights to protectable TCEs/EoF?
3. What objective is sought to be achieved through according intellectual property protection (economic rights, moral rights)?
4. What forms of behavior in relation to the protectable TCEs/EoF should be considered unacceptable/illegal?
5. Should there be any exceptions or limitations to rights attaching to protectable TCEs/EoF?
6. For how long should protection be accorded?
7. To what extent do existing IPRs already afford protection? What gaps need to be filled?
8. What sanctions or penalties should apply to behavior or acts considered to unacceptable/illegal?
9. Which issues should be dealt with internationally and which nationally, or what division should be made between international regulation and national regulation?
10. How should foreign rights holders/beneficiaries be treated?

There are comments attached to each of these issues. You can view them, along with all the other documents for the 11<sup>th</sup> session at [http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=12522](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=12522).

It also became clear that some positions are hardening. Member states tend to caucus, and we heard forceful statements from the African Group and from some Latin American delegations of the need for a binding international instrument, such as a treaty, to extend intellectual property protection to traditional cultural expressions and to do so in perpetuity. On the other hand, developed nations, represented primarily by the United States, Japan, and Canada, sometime joined by European Union members, resisted that stance, generally saying that there has been insufficient discussion and research to undergird any binding instrument, and that current national and international intellectual property practices could well be adequate to the task. This surprises me, given the history of discussion at the WIPO sessions and the extensive WIPO publications of research, case-studies, and other fact-finding.

Further, thanks in part to the establishing of a WIPO fund to support the participation of indigenous people in the meetings, many of the NGOs now represent indigenous groups, and those organizations tend to be very strongly in favor of binding international agreements. The discussion has grown increasingly vigorous, and, because WIPO works on consensus rather than majority rule, it is still difficult to imagine the outcome of this initiative. As the AFS representative, I made an "intervention" (this is a very ceremonial process with its own oral traditions), suggesting the creation

of expert committees to work through the issues and the discussion, and to find points of agreement and make recommendations for the next session. This is modeled on the working procedures of other international organizations. The delegation from Yemen, sitting next to me, gave the recommendation a thumbs-up, but it's not clear that there is even the mechanism for establishing such committees.

The 11<sup>th</sup> IGC session was the last under the current mandate, but the initiative is likely to continue after reauthorization from the WIPO general assembly. For a full list of the decisions of the 11<sup>th</sup> session, please go to

[http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/tk/en/wipo\\_grtkf\\_ic\\_11/wipo\\_grtkf\\_ic\\_11\\_www\\_81852.pdf](http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/tk/en/wipo_grtkf_ic_11/wipo_grtkf_ic_11_www_81852.pdf).

*Burt Feintuch*  
*University of New Hampshire*

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

In 2006, the MLA renewed AFS as an Allied Organization for another seven years. This status enables AFS to host 2 sessions at the MLA annual meeting. At the 2006 MLA convention, AFS sponsored two sessions organized by Christie Fox.

*Folklore and Dramatic Literature* featured four papers: "Irish Folklore, Japanese Noh, and W.B. Yeats's 'Noble' Irish Theater," Carrie J. Preston; "Tunneling Through the Bedrock of Memory: John Henry On Stage In Theodore Browne's *Natural Man*," Jonathan Shandell; "Witches, Spirits, Spells and Seduction: The Uses of Appalachian Folklore In *Dark of the Moon* and *The Love Talker*," Laura Grace Pattillo; "Performance and Identity At Work In Contemporary Irish Folklore," Christie Fox. *Folklore in Post-Colonial or Ethnic Literature* also featured four presentations: "Neo-Oral Culture and the Construction of Post-Imperial Identity in Julian Barnes' *England, England*," Edward Barnaby; "The Anancy Poetics of Caribbean Women Writers: The Case of Scholar/Novelist Erna Brodber," Shirley Toland-Dix; "Chingiz Aitmatov: Conscience of Soviet Central Asia," Erika Haber; and "Princess of the Snake Palace: Myth as Empowerment in Chitra Divakaruni's Novels," Bansari Mitra.

Camilla Mortensen of Eugene, Oregon, will become the Society's liaison to MLA in 2008. AFS will not be sponsoring any sessions at MLA 2007. Sarah Catlin Barnhart will organize the 2008 MLA sessions.

*Bonnie D. Irwin*  
*Eastern Illinois University*

### **Report of the Archival Liaison**

This year we continued microfilming the collection to provide a preservation copy of the AFS Papers and we processed incoming materials.

*Randy Williams*  
*Utah State University*

**AFS FY 2007 (September 2006-August 2007) Financial Summary**  
(Unaudited figures)

<b>Revenue</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
Memberships	91,417	Management and Administration	202,478
Publications	111,785	Publications	59,630
Annual Meeting	65,253	Annual Meeting	64,491
Investments	(12,372)	Programs	<u>185,653</u>
Grants and Contracts	227,509	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>512,252</b>
Other Revenue	<u>19,034</u>		
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>502,626</b>	<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(9,626)</b>

### AFS Executive Board, 2007

#### **President**

Bill Ivey (Vanderbilt University)

#### **President-Elect**

Elaine J. Lawless (University of Missouri)

#### **Members**

Bill Ellis (Pennsylvania State University, Hazleton)

Diane Goldstein (Memorial University of Newfoundland)

Lucy Long (Bowling Green State University)

Olga Nájera-Rámirez (University of California, Santa Cruz)

Sandy Rikoon (University of Missouri)

Guha Shankar (American Folklife Center, Library of Congress)

Dan Sheehy (Smithsonian Folkways Recordings)

Elaine Thatcher (Utah State University)

Kay Turner (Brooklyn Arts Council)

Patricia A. Turner (University of California, Davis)

#### **Ex Officio**

Timothy Lloyd, Executive Director, American Folklore Society