Greetings AFS Members and Friends of Folklore,

What to cover first in summarizing a year that bristled with change and possibility for our Society? The most important is to thank Tim Lloyd for years of superior service to our organization and to welcome Jessica Turner as our new Executive Director. We plan a smooth transition during the first part of 2018, with Jessica taking the reins officially on February 1. I want to thank the Succession Committee, the AFS Board, and all the candidates, who realized a lengthy but ultimately satisfying process to bring us a very competent, knowledgeable, generous woman—the first woman—to direct AFS. We look forward to Jessica’s tenure and cheer Tim on to a fully charged rewirement—never retirement.

Even in the midst of this important transition, AFS continued to grow in ways worth noting. Our innovative work with the China Folklore Society moves forward, supported by the Henry Luce Foundation and a number of partners in China and the US. Our finances remain stable, and our Endowment Fund and Sustainers’ Fund received generous contributions from our members in 2017.

New energy and commitment were felt at the independent, graduate student-organized Future of American Folkloristics (FOAF) Conference, held May 18-20 at Indiana University, with some administrative assistance from AFS. The meeting brought over 100 of us together to have very important conversations about what we can do to help our small but vital discipline thrive. This is the sort of intensive, topical conference we should hope to attend more often. A special shout-out goes to FOAF organizers Jesse Fivecoate, Kristina Downs, Meredith McGriff, and Eleanor Hasken.

We also made strides in our desire to align more closely with sister organizations such as the International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF) and the Modern Language Association (MLA). SIEF held its biennial Congress in Göttingen, Germany. Chaired by Regina Bendix and Valdimar Hafstein, the Congress focused on the meaning of dwelling, and a number of AFS members attended and gave papers. An expanded MLA Liaison Committee, headed by James Deutsch and including Shelley Ingram and John Laudun, planned a number of events for the New York MLA meeting in
January 2018. AFS is drawing closer to SIEF, MLA, ISFNR and other organizations in an attempt to broaden folklore studies discourse across disciplines and national boundaries. Tim Lloyd and I also attended the World Humanities Conference in Liège, Belgium, in August. He presented masterfully on American folklore studies and AFS and we connected with humanities scholars from around the world, including our partners from the China Folklore Society and the Folklore Society of Japan.

But of course there's no place like the home meeting. Our Minneapolis gathering in October was a lively, engaging affair with many points of entry for newcomers and old-timers alike. Under the theme of “Community: Resistance, Reclamation, and Re-Creation,” almost 700 folklorists as well as numerous Minnesota guests attended. The theme came with a charge to “explore the absent, invisible, and counter narratives of communities in our midst,” which made a strong connection to our Miami 2016 meeting theme “Unfinished Stories.”

Foregrounding diverse and expressive perspectives on story—broadly defined—has been an organizing concept for me during my Presidency. I hosted a special evening event featuring five local Minnesota Native American women hailing variously from Dakota, Ojibwe, and Diné legacies. All tellers of tales, they use novel formats, including quilting, playwriting, video, and poetry to tell traditional stories in new ways. I also introduced an opportunity for AFS members to tell some of their own stories in my video interview project “Why I’m a Folklorist.” To date we have shot more than 60 videos, and 34 of them can now be viewed on the AFS website and on our YouTube channel; the others will be posted soon. You, too, can tell the world why being a folklorist matters: in 2018 we will open up this project by providing guidelines for shooting your own videos and sending them to AFS.

Our Minnesota-based Annual Meeting Planning Committee did a remarkable job of including their local networks of scholars, artists, performers, and community cultural advocates in our annual meeting program. Along similar lines, our Cultural Diversity Committee (CDC) curated a series of annual meeting sessions intended to help diversify the participation in and content of our meeting. These efforts aim to fulfill our membership’s expressed desire to diversify AFS, and to make ours an organization that truly goes beyond the hotel doorway to engage and learn from the local communities in whose midst we meet. Increased expenditure on special events, travel grants, and the dedicated work of two other AFS committees, Mentoring and International Issues, have given our annual meeting new energies and have brought new commitments to inclusivity, diversity, and equity.

In 2016, as a Presidential initiative in cooperation with the CDC, I formed the Folklore Curriculum Opportunities Working Group aimed at giving folklorists more consistent occasion to study folklore theory and history in intersection with critical race theory (CRT), queer theory, feminist theory and praxis, disability studies, social justice practice, and performance theory. The group was a co-sponsor, with the CDC, of a forum on folklore and critical race studies that saw attendance of close to 100 folklorists eager to learn more about what this perspective offers our field. As a new working group we also met for the second time in Minneapolis to plan for Buffalo and raise other concerns and ideas. One such possibility: re-visiting older folklore texts that embedded CRT, queer, feminist or
post-colonial critiques long before these positions were named as such. As Shirley Moody-Turner remarked, “Gladys-Marie Fry was already doing CRT!”

The hard work of conference days was followed by Minneapolis-inspired fun at night: dancing in the hotel Atrium to local bands Finn Hall and Dan Newton’s Café Accordion Orchestra, taking Latin Dance Class, and participating in a Song Circle. I continued my late-night Conference on the Couch in the Presidential Suite, this year dedicated to the music of Prince.

I want to thank the members of our staff—Associate Director Lorraine Walsh Cashman, Membership Director Meredith McGriff, Graduate Assistants Jesse Fivecoate and Rosalind Rini Larson—who move us forward in ways great and small every day. Similar thanks also go to the many committee members, liaisons, and section conveners who volunteer their time in support of AFS and the field. In particular, I thank Ann Ferrell and her co-editors at Western Kentucky University for regularly getting great ink onto the pages of the Journal of American Folklore. Presidents come and go, but we hope our wonderful staff and volunteers are forever.

And speaking of Presidents going, I will go now. I can’t begin to say what a great privilege and even greater joy it has been to serve the American Folklore Society as your President these past two years. We are a Society dedicated to the folk and to the lore and to the folklore—nothing could be better. Thank you for giving me this time at the top. I encourage everyone to run for elected office on the AFS Executive Board or Nominating Committee. Leadership is real. And necessary. Bring yours to AFS.

Know now that President Dorothy Noyes, already one of the best scholars and most respected leaders in our field, will take the wheel, the helm, the reins, the throne, the office, and the whole kit and caboodle to give you thoughtful, fair-minded, deeply committed, and exceptional guidance. AFS is in very good hands as we enter 2018.

Jessica, Dorry, take it up, up, but not away....

Yours in lore and more,

Kay Turner
Brooklyn, New York
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Annual report design by Meredith McGriff  
Cover Image courtesy of Meet Minneapolis (www.Minneapolis.org).  
All photos published in the annual report were taken by Eleanor Hasken unless otherwise noted.
These figures reflect the financial activities of the American Folklore Society during the 2017 fiscal year (FY 2017), which ran from September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017.

Expense figures allocate the cost of staff time as it was spent on each activity, instead of counting all staff time as administration.

* These figures are from the 2016 annual meeting in Miami, FL, which took place in FY 2017.
Revenue and expenses as percents of total

- **Revenue**
  - Sections: 3%
  - Investments: 3%
  - Gifts and Other: 6%
  - Dues: 11%
  - Annual Meeting: 14%
  - Publications: 15%
  - Projects: 48%

- **Expenses**
  - Sections: 3%
  - Publications: 13%
  - Annual Meeting: 20%
  - Administration: 22%
  - Projects: 43%
In addition to its publications, annual meeting, prizes and awards, and interest-group activities, the American Folklore Society carries out a number of special projects as a way of serving and investing in the field: to increase public understanding of folklore studies, to support the work of Society members and their home organizations, and to build partnerships with other organizations.

Consultancy and Professional Development Program

Funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Consultancy and Professional Development program was in its 10th year in 2017. The program supports capacity-building activities for public folklore organizations and professional development opportunities for individual public folklorists, all of which lead to best-practice and case-study reports. These reports are shared publicly on the AFS website at www.afsnet.org/?page=ConsProfDev.

National Folklore Archives Initiative

In 2017, AFS and two dozen archival partners across the country completed work on a second two-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support this initiative, which is documenting the holdings of folklore archives in academic, public, and governmental organizations across the country and making detailed metadata about these collections openly available online. The database of information about these collections, which AFS manages in partnership with the Indiana University Bloomington Library, is available at folklorecollections.org. We also applied to the NEH for continued support of this project in 2018-2019.

Veterans History Project

Under contract to the Veterans History Project (www.loc.gov/vets) of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, the AFS and the Oral History Association co-manage a national program that provides leaders from the fields of folklore studies and oral history for community-based workshops in which attendees learn about collecting personal experience narratives and oral histories from military veterans. 2017 marked the 16th year of AFS’s involvement in the project; to date, some 9,000 people have participated in over 400 workshops in 41 of the US states and territories.
China-US Folklore and Intangible Cultural Heritage Initiative

In 2017 we began work on our third Henry Luce Foundation grant for the China-US folklore studies and intangible cultural heritage project (www.afsnet.org/?page=FICH), also supported by other donors in China, Japan, and the US.

Our 2017-2019 work on this grant will include the production of three summer folklore institutes (two in China and one in the US) for early-career folklorists from China, Japan, and the US, and a collaborative field research project by several China and US ethnographic museum partners on minority-group textile traditions in northern Guangxi Province in southwestern China.

The theme for the 2017 Summer Institute, held in Inner Mongolia, was “Continuity and Change in Rural Folk Traditions.” This was the first institute undertaken as a collaboration between all three countries.

The summer institute began with a welcome and orientation session for participants at Indiana University’s Global Gateways center in Beijing. Photo: Chao Gejin

Summer institute participants visit a traditional Mongol home for tea, cheeses, and breads. Photo: Timothy Lloyd

This group picture, taken July 17 on the campus of Hailar College in northern Inner Mongolia, includes all the faculty, student and young-scholar participants, and staff of this first-ever China-Japan-US endeavor.
2017 Awards

**AFS Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award**

Norma E. Cantú  
(Trinity University)

**Americo Paredes Prize**

José Limon  
(University of Notre Dame, emeritus)

**Benjamin A. Botkin Prize**

Kathleen Mundell  
(Independent, Camden, Maine)

**Chicago Folklore Prize**

*Quilts and Human Rights*  
Marsha MacDowell, Mary Worrall, Lynne Swanson, and Beth Donaldson  
(Michigan State University Museum)

**Honorable Mention:**

*The Poetry of Everyday Life: Storytelling and the Art of Awareness*  
Steve Zeitlin  
(City Lore)

**Kenneth Goldstein Award for Lifetime Academic Leadership**

James P. Leary  
(University of Wisconsin, emeritus)
Annual Meeting

The Society’s 129th annual meeting took place October 18-21, 2017 at the Marriott City Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The theme for the meeting, on which presentations were encouraged but not required, was “Community: Resistance, Reclamation, and Re-Creation.”

Registration and Attendance

The total number of people who attended the 2017 Annual Meeting was in line with recent years, at around 700. Meetings in recent years have ranged 600-750. Registration has been steady in the last decade across all registration categories.

Every year, AFS provides travel stipends to encourage the participation in the annual meeting of students, international participants and persons of color. In 2017, AFS also received funding from the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies for an expanded program of student travel stipends and for selected annual meeting programming support. This year, 35 people received travel stipend support totaling just over $16,000.

Furthermore, the 2017 Annual Meeting Planning Committee secured financial support for bringing more presenters and participants from the state from the Minnesota State Arts Board through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Meeting Planning Committee also worked with AFS staff to try to increase local engagement with the community with concentrated outreach to area colleges, universities, cultural organizations and allied learned societies beginning with the call for papers in January; later, another

invitation was issued to area newcomers to freely attend the meeting after signing in at registration. 15% of meeting attendees received complimentary meeting registrations; of those, more than half were from Minnesota.

For only the second time, AFS staff and volunteers conducted head counts in each room for concurrent sessions to gain more information about attendance patterns. See “Annual Meeting By the Numbers” on page 16. This data will be more revealing as patterns emerge over time.

**Program**

The Minneapolis meeting returned to the customary schedule, opening on Wednesday evening and offering nine general sessions Thursday through Saturday, with a maximum of 14 concurrent sessions. As is often the case, proposal numbers dropped after last year’s big Miami meeting, but they were well within the range of recent years (151 individual proposals and 80 session proposals).

The 2017 program had more variety in presentation types, since a third of individual paper proposals indicated that the presenters were willing to give short papers. The proposal review committee worked thoughtfully to integrate them successfully into the program. This innovation helps us fit more people into the program without creating more concurrent sessions, and also gives the program committee greater flexibility in creating dialogues between more than four presenters.

AFS committees and sections sponsored a wide and deep slate of program events; see their reports for particulars. Respondents to the post-meeting survey of attendees bore witness that sessions sponsored by the Cultural Diversity Committee created particular buzz, as did a four-part series on “Fake News,” sponsored by the New Directions in Folklore Section, and the perennially favorite Fellows-sponsored events. The Meeting Planning Committee, made up of AFS members from the state, worked all year on an array of ways to help meeting attendees engage with the place and its people, from tours and a local guide to coordinating with other committees and
sections to include area representatives in their sessions, including several notable CDC-sponsored sessions and the evening forum with Native American women storytellers.

Furthermore, as noted above, the 2017 Annual Meeting Planning Committee secured funding from the Minnesota State Arts Board through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, which made it possible to bring people from throughout the state to participate, present and perform at the meeting. The Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, headquartered in suburban Minneapolis, also provided support for some special events.

Though much of this generous local support had the quiet effect of enabling meeting attendees, it also had an impact that was impossible to miss, since it made possible a more musical meeting:

• The RedBone Singers, a Twin Cities-based Native American group from the Ojibwe, Lakota and Ho-Chunk Nations, opened the meeting by performing songs connected to the meeting theme of “Community: Resistance, Reclamation and Re-Creation,” thanks to support from the Minnesota Arts Board.

• Finn Hall, a local Finnish American dance-hall music ensemble, played for the Nordic-Baltic Section Reception, sponsored by the Nordic-Baltic Section and the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies.

• Dan Newton’s Café Accordion Orchestra, playing French musette as well as a music for a wide range of dance styles, from tangos to polkas, brought the meeting to a close, thanks to support from the Minnesota State Arts Board.

• AFS members also made important musical contributions with the annual, nightly vocal and instrumental jam sessions sponsored by the Music and Song Section, the Dance and Movement Analysis Section’s workshops on Latin and Swing dancing, and “Words and Music in Memory of Alan Jabbour,” a memorial and jam session sponsored by the Fellows and Music and Song Section.

The social dimension of the meeting, a long-standing top-three favorite part of the meeting for survey respondents, was, as ever, generously supported by many friends and partners. If you ate or drank at an Annual Meeting event, it was probably thanks to the AFS Fellows, Indiana University Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University Press, Memorial University of Newfoundland, The Ohio State University Center for Folklore Studies, and the AFS Nordic-Baltic Section and Public Programs Sections. AFS funded the customary general Welcome Reception and Welcome for First-Time Attendees, a section conveners’ breakfast, and morning and afternoon coffee breaks in the exhibit hall. Since the Planning
Committee’s very limited budget had greater reach because of outside funding this year, AFS and the Meeting Planning Committee had the additional and unusual pleasure of offering complimentary light food at the closing reception.

Communications

With the considerable help of the Meeting Planning Committee and AFS sections, AFS staff increased efforts to promote the 2017 Annual Meeting and specific parts of the program. This year, about 20 guides or meeting highlights were released in the AFS Review and circulated in social media in the few weeks before the meeting. All meeting announcements can be viewed at: https://afsnet.site-ym.com/page/AM17inReview.

AFS staff experimented this year with a new data management system designed by Atanto, the providers of the popular 2016 conference app for iPhones, iPads and Android devices. It worked well for proposal submission and review, but created new hurdles at program book production time that slowed down the release of the 2017 app until the opening of the meeting. AFS staff will continue to explore ways to improve program data management for both internal and external users.

Every year, we videotape plenary lectures, section-sponsored lectures, and oral histories. This year, for the first time, AFS-sponsored professional development sessions were also recorded. In addition, the two plenary lectures—The Fellows’ Francis Lee Utley Lecture by Elliott Oring and the AFS Presidential Address by Kay Turner—were live streamed. All recordings are accessible in the AFS Collection in IUScholarWorks and on the AFS YouTube Channel (see page 18-19).

This year we had a newly published policy on inappropriate behavior at the annual meeting. As part of the new policy we will report complaint statistics. AFS staff received no reports of inappropriate behavior in 2017.

Feedback

About 12% of attendees responded to a post-meeting survey that asked them to identify favorites, what worked well, what didn’t, and what should change. It also asked for specifics about attendees’ use of the app; suggestions for improvements were forwarded to Atanto, the app provider. A more comprehensive report on the survey results was posted in the AFS Review in December: http://www.afsnet.org/news/378952/2017-Annual-Meeting-Attendees-React-to-Meeting.htm.

The 2017 AFS Annual Meeting app, designed by Atanto.
Overall, the feedback was favorable, in terms of over-all rating and comments. Most respondents report that they are satisfied with the meeting on the whole, though they were willing to make suggestions toward continual improvement. When it came to specific suggestions, though, consensus disappeared.

The single biggest complaint was, again, that there are too many sessions at a time (23%), but many people who said this went on to indicate that they prefer not to make other compromises. In the last member survey in 2016, respondents clearly preferred not to change the schedule. Though a substantial minority preferred to reduce the number of concurrent sessions, an overwhelming majority rejected every other change that could make that possible (changing the number of conference days, time slots per day, number of presentations per session, or the number of presenters).

The conference app was enormously popular with those who used it, but the survey results make clear that the app can’t replace the program book entirely. Most app users liked to use both the book and the app, saying that each had advantages of its own. For every user who vowed to use only the app in the future, there was a respondent who vowed to use only the book. Moreover, almost one third of the respondents couldn’t use the app for various reasons.

For more feedback, see page 20-21. Throughout the year, AFS staff welcome suggestions for how to improve the annual meeting experience. Please contact us with your specific ideas.

**AFS 2017 Travel Award and Stipend Recipients**

**Gerald L. Davis Travel Awards**

- Javitta Brockington (community artist)
- Mintzi Martinez-Rivera (Indiana University)
- Ashley Minner (Maryland Traditions)
- Ngo Thanh Nhan (Center for Vietnamese Philosophy, Culture & Society)
- Veronica Ponce de Leon (community artist)
- Phan Gia Anh Thu (Center for Vietnamese Philosophy, Culture & Society)

**International Stipends were awarded to:**

- Rashmi Attri (Aligarh Muslim University)
- ASM Abu Dayen (Jahangirnagar University)
- Mustafa Duman (Ege University)
- Pinar Donmez Fedakar (Ege University)
- Petr Janeček (Charles University, Prague)
Annual Meeting
By the Numbers

4 days
123 general sessions
most concurrent sessions: 14
60 short papers presented
475 presenters

691 total attendees
International participants: 19%
Students: 24%
First-time attendees: 19%

18 Countries represented
Number of attendees from:
- Canada: 18
- China: 17
- India: 13
51% of AFS members attended

3 sessions with more than 40 in audience
42% of sessions had 10-20 in audience
Average audience in:
- 8:00 am sessions: 17
- 10:15 am sessions: 19
- 2:00 pm sessions: 20

Participant Feedback
Average Rating: 9 (out of 10)

AFS Travel Support Awarded:
$16,000
51% of AFS members attended
AFS-Sponsored Annual Meeting Events

Opening Ceremony
Featuring the RedBone Singers, a Twin Cities’ group from the Ojibwe, Lakota and Ho-Chunk Nations, with support from the Minnesota State Arts Board through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Welcome Receptions
A general Welcome Reception for all attendees, and the Executive Board’s Welcome for First-Time Attendees.

Why I’m a Folklorist Video Project
Completed videos were on display for two days, and more interviews were recorded.

Professional Development Sessions
On topics suggested by a 2017 survey of members (see page 18 for videos).

Conversations with Bill Ferris and Tim Lloyd
Installments in Collecting Memories: Oral Histories of American Folklorists, a joint project with Utah State University’s Special Collections and Archives. These sessions were videotaped (see page 19).

Session: The China-U.S. Folklore and Intangible Cultural Heritage Project: Retrospects and Prospects
With AFS project participants from the Michigan State University Museum, the Museum of International Folk Art, the Yunnan Nationalities Museum, and the Anthropological Museum of Guangxi.

Session: Fake News, Part III: Figures of Division in European Politics
A joint panel with the International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF). The panel was part of a four-part series on “Fake News,” sponsored by the New Directions in Folklore Section.

Session: State of the Labor Force
A public forum sponsored by the AFS Committee on Contingent Workforce Concerns. Attendees gave input that will be used to generate contingent-worker specific professional development sessions for 2018 and incorporated into a report on contingent-worker needs to be presented to the AFS Board.

Session: Museums and Cultural Centers Community (Dis)Engagement and Essentially Becoming Essential
Thanks to the support of the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, this session examined community engagement strategies, particularly from the perspective of local community anchors. The conversation continued over coffee or tea and pastries at three locations that are directly engaged in these issues, on the “Community Cultural Anchors: A Neighborhood Foodways Tour.” Preregistration was required for the tour, though the panel was open to all.

Session: Her-Story: A Feminism and Folklore Retrospective 2017
The second part of a two-year series, this time focusing on folklore’s study of gender and feminism from 1995 to the present. This session was videotaped (see page 19).
Special Event: Resistance, Reclamation and Re-Creation in Minnesota Native American Women’s Storytelling

An evening forum with Heid E. Erdrich, Robin Nelson, Mona M. Smith, Gwen Nell Westerman and Rhiana Yazzie, Minnesota Native women who are active in carrying forward traditional story content and modes of telling in novel formats, including film, play writing, poetry, mapping, and quilting. This event was also made possible by support of the Cultural Diversity Committee; the Creative Writing and Storytelling Section; the Folklore and Literature Section; the Folk Narrative Section; the Politics, Folklore and Social Justice Section; the Women’s Section; Kay Turner; and a grant provided by the Minnesota State Arts Board through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. At the request of participants, this session was not videotaped.

A Time of Remembrance

A reading of tributes to colleagues who have died since the last annual meeting, in a new time slot before the AFS Business Meeting; these tributes are also posted to In Memoriam in the AFS Review. In addition, attendees were invited to contribute to a Memorial Board and Table.

Presidential Address: The Witch in Flight

Kay Turner’s Saturday evening lecture was videotaped (see page 19).

Closing Reception

Featuring live music by Dan Newton’s Café Accordion Orchestra with light food and a cash bar, open to all. The performance by Café Accordion Orchestra was made possible by a grant provided by the Minnesota State Arts Board through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.
View these videos and more on the AFS Youtube Channel.

**AFS Presidential Address**
**The Witch in Flight**
Kay Turner

**Francis Lee Utley Memorial Lecture**
**Back to the Future: Questions for Theory in the 21st Century**
Elliott Oring

**Don Yoder Lecture in Religious Folklife and Folk Belief**
**Ecojustice and Folklife**
Jeff Todd Titon

**A Conversation with Bill Ferris**
Bill Ferris and Glenn Hinson

**A Conversation with Tim Lloyd**
Tim Lloyd, Michael Ann Williams, and Randy Williams

**Her-Story: A Feminism and Folklore Retrospective**
Patricia Sawin, Kay Turner, Kristina Downs, Lisa Gilman, Jeana Jorgensen, Solimar Otero, Summer Pennell, Afsane Rezaei, and Brittany Warman
“I would like it to be longer (one extra day), but I understand that’s not doable for everyone.”

“The diversity of panels was really appealing and the different types of events such as pop-ups and workshops made the conference a great experience.”

“The theme was just right for this year.”

“I would like to see concerted engagement from the Society leadership in significant issues of the day affecting members (like the various problems besetting university faculty and staff, for instance, including but not limited to the parasitic spread of reliance on contingent faculty). This could involve specific campaigns that invite comment or dissent from membership at the conference, for instance, but the campaigns themselves would of course have to last throughout the year.”

“I liked seeing colleagues old and new.”

“Filling out ideas with images is always good—even for well seasoned academics.”

“The app is really great, much easier than flipping through a paper schedule or PDF.”

“Although it was different than my usual experience, having four fake news themed panels worked well for me. Such an extended meditation on a single topic got me thinking about folklore in the modern world in a way that a single panel would not.”

“Professional folklorists at the meeting did an excellent job of interacting with and encouraging graduate students.”

“I do not think I would change anything.”

“As usual, there were panels that I wanted to attend but couldn’t because of conflicts. Also as usual, I have no idea how this could be avoided.”
“Some presenters did not attend their panels, and I missed some talks that I wanted to see because the panel was forced to push around their schedules. I am not sure how to improve this because it relies upon an individual person contacting AFS that they will not be attending, but maybe in the future, urge people who are not going to attend to alert the planning committee ahead of time.”

_AFS Staff Note: Information that we receive about program changes is detailed in the addendum. We will remind participants to report changes to AFS and to use the program addendum._

“I enjoyed the whole thing.”

“There’s just never enough time for conversations and networking.”

“Just the usual—so many amazing panels scheduled against each other.”

“Breakfast of (Folklore) Champions was fantastic.”

“It’s hard to stay active in multiple sections when all of the meetings are at the same time!”

“It was nice to hear some voices that haven’t been heard at AFS for a while.”

“8 am panels are a terrible thing when people stay up late seeing friends they may only see once a year.”

“It is a pity that so many of the tours are on the Wednesday pre-conference day. It would be nice to integrate tours into the regular days of the meeting, or to have sections sponsor events that integrate site-specific round-tables.”

“The evening schedule makes it hard to attend programmed events and take the time to explore the host city.”

“I’d like more audio/visual representation of ideas.”

“I enjoyed the location and the archives and libraries meeting before the regular AFS meeting was exceptional.”
Buffalo, New York
October 17-20, 2018

The 2018 planning committee, coordinated by Ellen McHale (New York Folklore Society) and Robert Baron (New York State Council on the Arts), began work by deciding on a theme, “No Illusions, No Exclusions,” inspired by its location in Buffalo, “The City of No Illusions.” A delegation presented the theme, complete with slide show and dramatic readings, at the AFS Business Meeting in Minneapolis. Committee members also met in Minneapolis to discuss plans for an array of ways to help meeting attendees engage with the place and its people. The meeting hotel and convention center (Hyatt Buffalo and the Buffalo Niagara County Convention Center) are unionized. The last meeting in this area was in Rochester in 2002.

Baltimore, Maryland
October 16-19, 2019

AFS signed a contract in May with the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Baltimore’s Inner Harbor to serve as the 2019 Annual Meeting site. AFS last met in Baltimore in 1986, a meeting still remembered fondly for its bull and oyster roast. The Hyatt is located in the heart of the Inner Harbor, known as a model of post-industrial redevelopment and not far from some distinctive neighborhoods. The Hyatt is a union hotel, and agreed to the incorporation of UniteHere’s recommended protective language in the contract. AFS staff members look forward to working with many folklorists from greater Baltimore, Maryland, and the District of Columbia, from 1986 meeting planning veterans to new professionals, including Baltimore natives.

Tulsa, Oklahoma
October 14-17, 2020

AFS signed a contract with the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Tulsa to serve as the 2020 meeting site. AFS has never before met in Oklahoma. This property is not unionized, but the hotel agreed to include UniteHere’s recommended protective language concerning labor disputes. Because AFS signed with the Hyatt Regency chain for two consecutive years at essentially the same time, the Hyatt gave AFS important concessions for both 2019 and 2020, including free internet throughout the meeting, in addition to Tulsa’s more affordable guest room rates ($139 regular, $99 student). More importantly, AFS staff has enthusiastic partners on the ground who look forward to shining a light on the work of local people and organizations, including a particularly rich vein of archives and museums. Local committee members have well-established relationships with Native American partners and expect to help us find points of engagement with them for the annual meeting.
Cultural Diversity Committee

Members of the 2017 Cultural Diversity Committee (CDC) were: Suzanne Seriff (University of Texas, Austin) and Rachel González-Martin (University of Texas, Austin), chairs; Norma E. Cantú (Trinity University), Kay Turner (New York University), Sojin Kim (Smithsonian Institution), Shirley Moody-Turner (Pennsylvania State University), Edward Y. Millar (Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University), Aaron N. Oforlea (Washington State University), Anika Wilson (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee) and Nancy Yan (The Ohio State University).

The committee’s efforts to explore ways to build and sustain diverse engagement within the Society and at the annual meetings, engage more directly with local communities and local struggles, and broaden our internal conversations about racial diversity, equity and inclusion remained foremost in the committee’s work for the 2017 meeting in Minneapolis. As a result, the committee organized four sessions, a brown bag lunch event, an evening panel, and a three-hour “Reimagination Lounge” designed to catalyze meaningful conversations and engagements around issues of racial diversity within our Society and our field. Most of the sessions were well-attended; some were standing room only.

Three sessions focused specifically on issues of folklore and activism, bringing together folklorists and Twin Cities community activists and artists to reflect on theory, practice, and transformational work, and to create space for exploring what we can do together to advance movements for change. The CDC also served as fiscal sponsor or co-sponsor for these events, providing honoraria for more than a dozen local artists/organizations in Minnesota.

“Art and Activism: Lessons from the Black Lives Matter Movement in Minneapolis” brought together a panel of black activist artists in Minneapolis who discussed the role their poetry, music, and art play in mobilizing for change. A special evening panel, “Resistance, Reclamation and Re-Creation in Minnesota: Native American Women’s Storytelling,” featured five Native American women storytellers who shared their innovative approach to engagement with new audiences and

Vanessa Navarro speaking to Suzy Seriff at the Allies for Change station during the Cultural Diversity Committee’s Reimagination Lounge.
new art forms to address issues of diversity and justice. Three pop-up stations in the Reimagination Lounge, “What’s Going On Here,” “Voices from the Streets,” and “Million Artist Movement Power Tree Quilt Station,” featured local artists/activists who performed or demonstrated their music and protest arts, engaged audiences in participatory quilt-making activities for social change, and sparked conversations about how folklorists can be allies for change in their communities.

The three remaining CDC sessions, as well as the brown bag lunch event, turned the diversity lens inward to explore issues of diversity, inclusion and equity within our own Society and the field writ large. Each of these sessions sparked lively discussion on the forum’s topic and included a diverse and engaged audience. “Folklore and Critical Race Studies: Practice, Theory, Curriculum and Pedagogy Within and Beyond the Discipline” built and expanded on the CDC’s ongoing work in curricular development by highlighting folklorists’ efforts to imagine, document, articulate, and share an alternative, antiracist, engaged folklore practice that begins, in part, by critiquing and reconstructing folklore curricula. “Precarity, (In) Visibility, and Inclusion: A Conversation on Privilege within Our Own Ranks” addressed the realities of the labor force for contingent labor, people of color, disabled workers, the LGBTQIA community, and other marginalized groups that affect larger issues of inclusion in our Society, from recruitment, conference participation, and professional opportunities to dues structures and Board nominations. “Fostering Empathy Beyond the Echo Chamber” sparked a lively roundtable conversation about strategies folklorists have and might use to engage widely oppositional or opposing ideas, viewpoints and stakeholders in conversations about social change in their communities.

The CDC Brown Bag Welcome Lunch was set up as a roundtable of chairs designed for AFS attendees (especially young folklorists of color) to meet each other and members of the CDC, learn more about the issues we are currently addressing, and join a conversation about what we can collectively do to reimagine and create a more inclusive, activist folklore theory, practice and Society for the 21st century. Three additional Reimagination Lounge stations invited folklorists to reflect and engage with diversity issues within our Society’s practices and histories, including a dramatic reading of the AFS President’s Invited Lecture by Gerald L. Davis in 1995, and interactive exercises in expanding the folklore canon and reflecting on mentors and models of engaged and critical folklore in our training and history.

The CDC presented its annual awards for the Gerald L. Davis Prize for 2017, given to persons of color interested in attending the AFS annual meeting. Seven people applied for award stipends, and five applicants received full awards. The Zora Neale Hurston Prize committee consisted of Suzy Seriff, Rachel González-Martin, and Marilyn White (Kean University, retired). No award was given this year.

Nancy Yan, Rachel González-Martin, and Katherine Borland at the CDC’s Reimagination Lounge.
year due to a lack of submissions. A call was put out for new submissions, acknowledging wider promotion as necessary to building a robust applicant pool.

Sojin Kim, Suzy Seriff, Norma Cantú, and Kay Turner complete their terms of service this year. The chairs for 2018 will be Rachel González-Martin and Anika Wilson.

Suzanne Seriff and Rachel González-Martin (University of Texas at Austin), chairs

Committee on Contingent Labor Concerns

The committee’s work began in spring 2017 with a review of a document prepared by the members of a forum on adjunct labor at the 2016 AFS/ISFNR Joint Meeting in Miami. The committee accepted that document as a working document addressing the needs of adjunct academics only. We determined that the proposal could be developed to include recommendations and solutions for providing support to academics as well as contingent workers outside academia.

At the October 2017 meeting, the committee led a roundtable “community conversation” for members of AFS. The session was well attended by a variety of folklorists, both academic and public sector, including a significant graduate student contingent. At this session, we presented an overview of the survey we had drafted and asked for feedback on the general issues we had been called to address, in particular requesting ideas about components of the survey. We also envisioned this conversation as an opportunity to bring awareness of contingent concerns to more members of the Society and seek input from our colleagues about their needs and concerns. The involvement of those in attendance at the session was heartening and affirms for us our belief that we are hitting notes that resonate with more than just the members of our committee (most of us seasoned folklorists with years in the field).

We expect to launch the survey in 2018 and anticipate that the survey results and our follow-up interviews with select respondents will form a solid base in both our creation of concrete suggestions of action for the Board as well as for planning an annual meeting workshop addressing ways to deal with contingent labor issues and support contingent workers in the field.

Martha C. Sims (The Ohio State University), chair

Committee on International Issues

The 2017 International Issues Committee comprised Lisa Gilman (University of Oregon), Valdimar Hafstein (University of Iceland), and Leah K. Lowthorp (Harvard University).

Seven people applied for international travel stipends. The number was greatly reduced from 2016, largely because 2016 was a joint meeting with the International Society for Folk Narrative Research, which brought in additional international participants. 2017 was consistent with previous years, but the low number of applicants does suggest that more outreach could extend the benefit to a greater number of potential participants. The countries represented by applicants were China, India, Bangladesh, France, Turkey, and the Czech Republic.

AFS allotted $4,000 to the committee for this program. Awardees were also offered shared accommodation at AFS’s expense; this aspect of the award was not included in the committee’s budget.
The committee elected to offer all applicants some support. Decisions were made based on multiple factors, including whether the applicant had attended AFS (priority given to those who had not), whether they had had previous opportunities to visit the US for professional reasons (priority to those who had not), and assessment of financial need (priority to those for whom the award could make the difference between attending or not). Special consideration also was given to invited applicants—if members of AFS invited someone to be on an organized panel and were concerned about their ability to participate based on financial need.

One applicant rejected our offer and did not attend the meeting because she could not afford to attend even with the award. Another withdrew from the program at the last minute for reasons unrelated to finances.

Lisa Gilman (University of Oregon), chair

Mentoring Committee

The 2017 Mentoring Committee consisted of Lisa Gilman (University of Oregon), Guillermo De Los Reyes (University of Houston), Wanda Addison (National University), Barry Bergey (Bethesda, Maryland), Nancy Groce (Library of Congress), Amy Kitchener (Alliance for California Traditional Arts), and Solimar Otero (Louisiana State University). This marked the sixth year of AFS’s mentoring program and the Mentoring Committee’s last as an ad hoc committee.

The AFS mentoring program recognizes that mentoring and being mentored are important aspects of any career, and that some students and newcomers to AFS meetings welcome, and report benefiting from, mentoring opportunities that foster relationships and allow for the sharing of knowledge, skills, and experience.

The 2017 committee’s goals remained the same as earlier years: to pair students with established scholars of similar interests for the purposes of facilitating connections, exchange of ideas, and possibilities of future mentorship. The program was also open to first-time attendees and international scholars applying for stipends who requested pairing with an established scholar. In addition, the committee was asked to pair winners of the Gerald Davis awards with mentors.

Typically mentees and mentors spend approximately half a day together sometime during the meeting. Proposed activities are at the mentors’ discretion but include attending meeting sessions together, coffee or lunch, introductions and conversations with other scholars, discussion of the mentee’s goals and interests, and personalized advice about the field.

There were 23 applications for this year’s program in addition to three Davis awardees; all were matched with mentors. From the unsolicited, positive feedback received, we know that at least some of these pairings resulted in fruitful and rewarding experiences. Several established folklorists approached the committee this year, volunteering to be mentors, and the committee hopes this phenomenon will grow in the future.

The committee was satisfied with the success of the program in 2017, though we do want to acknowledge some potential areas of concern.

1) We had very few applicants by the initial deadline. We extended the deadline and sent out another announcement in the summer after which we received quite a few additional applications. We may want to build in re-announcing the program closer to the meeting.

2) Several AFS members over the course of the 2017 meeting expressed that they felt that they did not know very much about the mentorship program.
On this note, we heard some misconceptions, for example, that the mentorship program privileges certain groups, which was troubling since we created the program explicitly to address some of the imbalances in mentorship in the society.

3) Some people who want to be mentors are never asked. Last year, the committee suggested that AFS members be asked during the proposal submission process whether they were interested in serving in this capacity. We are not sure what that would entail, but it would be worth considering.

4) The addition of the Davis awardees late in the process was cumbersome and added extra work for the committee. Connecting mentorship with the international issues and Davis awards is a great idea—especially for the international scholars who are attending for the first time and for Davis awardees who are junior. We recommend thinking ahead about whether and how to combine these efforts and establish a more streamlined process.

5) We also had a large number of international participants who found out about the program long after the deadline and sent late requests for mentors. We accommodated them, though it was time consuming and not efficient. We recommend considering a better mechanism for bringing the mentorship program to the attention of international first-time attendees.

Lisa Gilman (University of Oregon), chair
and Guillermo De Los Reyes
(University of Houston), co-chair

Nominating Committee

The 2017 Nominating Committee consisted of chair Joseph Sciorra (Queens College), Olivia Cadaval (Independent, Washington, DC), Diane E. Goldstein (Indiana University), and Steven Zeitlin (City Lore). The committee nominated six candidates for the Executive Board and two candidates for the Nominating Committee.

This year’s nominees were:

Executive Board (for 2018–2020 terms):
Sheila Bock (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)
Michael Dylan Foster (University of California, Davis)
Jon Kay (Traditional Arts Indiana)
Patricia Sawin (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)
Debra Lattanzi Shutika (George Mason University)
Sally Van de Water (Independent, New Park, Pennsylvania)

Nominating Committee (for a 2018–2020 term):
Danille Christensen (Virginia Tech University)
Rachel González-Martin (University of Texas, Austin)

Michael Dylan Foster, Patricia Sawin, and Debra Lattanzi Shutika were elected to the AFS Executive Board. Rachel González-Martin was elected to the Nominating Committee. 309 members voted in the election, a significant increase compared to the numbers of members who voted in the last three non-presidential elections: 262 in 2011, 280 in 2013, and 258 in 2015.

Joseph Sciorra (Queens College), chair
New Executive Board members will serve from 2018-2020:

Michael Dylan Foster  
(University of California, Davis)

Patricia Sawin  
(University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)

Debra Lattanzi Shutika  
(George Mason University)

The new Nominating Committee member will serve from 2018-2020:

Rachel González-Martin  
(University of Texas, Austin)
American Council of Learned Societies

This year the ACLS met in downtown Baltimore; once again, innovations made the program more engaging than it used to be. Pauline Yu, in her presidential address—first noting that dystopia is back in fashion—reminded us that the humanities ask questions the public doesn’t want to ask (and the study of folklore has an important role here). She commended the work of the National Humanities Alliance (http://www.nhalliance.org) in proclaiming the need to preserve the National Endowment for the Humanities, and mentioned a special need to contact legislators about NEH’s place in the federal budget for FY2018. ACLS itself has a strong present and future: the number of fellowships is being increased, the reach is to be extended beyond PhD-granting institutions to institutions that are teaching-intensive, and the organization is building its capacity to convey its message to new constituencies, perhaps also increasing staff. The humanities, she said, are populated by skilled, dedicated researchers who address questions of public policy and meet the demand for evidence and reason, rather than mere assertion.

There followed five three-minute “micro” reports from constituent societies, of which Tim Lloyd’s report for AFS was of course the outstanding item. He used his limited time to describe our growing connections with the China Folklore Society, including conferences and publications; he also noted that new constraints are likely to be imposed on non-governmental organizations operating in China. Other reports were given by the African Studies Association, the American Schools of Oriental Research, the Middle East Studies Association, and the Society for Cinema and Media Studies.

The formal meeting of the Council included the election of new officers and the admission and welcome of a new constituent member, the Austrian Studies Association. Unsurprisingly, the report on the current fellowship season showed growth in numbers and awards to institutions seldom represented up to now. The treasurer’s report showed an increase in net assets and a change in management of the endowment, to safeguard it.

The luncheon speaker, especially stimulating and inspiring, was Freeman A. Hrabowski III, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). Later, Yu interviewed the president of ACLS’s most reliable donor, the Mellon Foundation. Earl W. Lewis, social historian, was formerly a member of the ACLS Board of Directors. Lewis, to illustrate the need for humanities scholars to address the challenges of a particular time, told that classic story about development experts digging a well and thereby depriving village women of their main opportunity to interact. As to the NEH, Lewis advocated cooperation between the public and the private. I wished every folklorist could hear...
Earl Lewis urging us to explain how important the work of the humanities is to the community and the nation. This year’s speaker in the Charles Homer Haskins Prize Lecture series was the philosopher Harry G. Frankfurt, author of the book *Bullshit.*

Every year, the reports from ACLS Fellows get better: they show where humanities studies are headed. Folklore is beginning to gain a footing. In 2009, Tim Tangherlini of UCLA received an ACLS digital innovation fellowship, and in 2016, three more of our members were awarded fellowships: Emma Rose Silverman, Leah K. Lowthorp, and Candacy A. Taylor. Present at this year’s meeting was independent scholar Candacy A. Taylor, who was awarded an ACLS fellowship for her multimedia project *Sites of Sanctuary: The Negro Motorist Green Book.* The “Green Book” was a historic travel guide published for black people during the Jim Crow era (taylormadeculture.com/the-green-book). Her presentation demonstrated to the ACLS audience the capacity of folkloristics to embrace both rigorous fieldwork and innovative media presentation. The other two (non-folklorist) Fellows present reported on innovative research that impelled one member of the audience to speak about the relation of scholarship to advocacy.

Finally, I’ll mention a session on digital humanities and the threats to it. Out of a concern for the fragility of digital documents, the presenter, Nancy Partner (delegate for the Medieval Academy of America) reported, “There are experts in the field of digital preservation working internationally; public and private institutions are organizing and funding efforts to arrive at some practicable approach to the complex problems posed by digital ‘archiving’ and preservation generally… However, recognition of the problem and the efforts to date of this rather new cadre of specialized experts do not amount to anything remotely like a solution yet.” The problem of digital deterioration, I note, applies not only to the verbal, but to all folklore data, especially records of performance. Funding sources like the NEH, and ACLS itself, require projects to have a management plan; some universities have appointed a staff person to oversee digitally-based projects by their faculty. Nancy Partner listed some techniques for preservation, and referred us to sources of further information. Her final question remains relevant to folklore studies: “Which institutions are big enough, well endowed enough, to be entrusted with perpetual data management?”

As always, I am grateful for the honor of serving as your ACLS delegate.

Lee Haring (Brooklyn College)

**AFS Archives**

As in past years, Clint Pumphrey (Utah State University Manuscript Curator) and Randy Williams provided excellent reference services for the American Folklore Society records. Pumphrey processed recent Society accruals and updated the robust EAD finding guide. Furthermore, Pumphrey worked with Tim Lloyd and Lorraine Walsh Cashman to plan for and accession Society born-digital (electronic) materials into a digital collection. These materials will be available through the finding guide.


Special thanks to all who deposited AFS materials. For information on the AFS Collection or deposit of materials, please contact Clint Pumphrey: clint.pumphrey@usu.edu. For information about the Collecting Voices project, contact Randy Williams: randy.williams@usu.edu.

Randy Williams (Utah State University)
The National Recording Preservation Board was established by Congress in 2000 to help raise awareness of the importance of the nation’s recorded sound heritage. The board works with the Librarian of Congress to create the annual National Recording Registry, a yearly list of 25 sound recordings distinguished by their aesthetic, cultural, or historical qualities. The list is intended to focus attention on the need for audio preservation and on the importance of recorded sound. The board itself is made up of representatives of the recording industry, various societies and organizations, and other specialists.

The board met once in the past twelve months, in early December. The current AFS representative is Burt Feintuch, but as he was unavailable for this year’s meetings I attended as an alternate. The majority of the meeting was given over to discussions of the items nominated for the registry. As the AFS representative, I gave input advocating for recordings drawing strongly on root traditions to be added to the registry in the categories of Country/Bluegrass (Merle Travis’s “Folk Songs of the Hills”), Field Recordings (Mike Seeger’s recordings of Lesley Riddle), Latin (Narciso Martinez), Blues (Mississippi Sheiks), and Pop 1955-1975 (Ritchie Valens’s “La Bamba”). The board only discusses items that have previously been nominated, so my advocacy sought to identify the best among the available nominees from the perspective of AFS. The Librarian of Congress makes the final decisions as to the year’s additions to the Registry.

This year’s meeting also included a report from the National Recording Preservation Foundation, a fundraising and grants-making entity established by Congress that works closely with the Library of Congress and the NRPB. You can read more about the foundation’s activities at its website (http://recordingpreservation.org/about/).

As I write this, the most recent Registry list dates from 2016. In that year we did not list any folklore field recordings, but did list a few recordings featuring traditional songs, including “Gunfighter Ballads and Trail Songs” by Marty Robbins. For a list of recordings on the National Registry and other information about the work of the board, including the full text of the national sound recording preservation plan, see the National Recording Preservation Board website (https://www.loc.gov/programs/national-recording-preservation-board/about-this-program/). Colleagues who have suggestions for nominations next year should contact Burt Feintuch.

Stephen D. Winick (American Folklife Center)

Modern Language Association

Through its AFS@MLA Liaison Committee, the American Folklore Society sponsored three events at the Modern Language Association’s Annual Convention, January 4–7, 2018, in New York City. In February 2017, the committee—consisting of James Deutsch (Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage), Shelley Ingram (University of Louisiana, Lafayette), and John Laudun (University of Louisiana, Lafayette)—drafted a call for proposals for the “Destabilizing Folklore” panel, which corresponded to the 2018 MLA Presidential Theme, “States of Insecurity.” The committee received fourteen proposals, from which three papers (described below) were selected.

Attendance at the convention was significantly affected by an unusual weather pattern known as a “bomb cyclone,” which hit New York on Thursday
morning, January 4, 2018, causing many flights to be canceled. Nevertheless, all three of the AFS@MLA events proceeded as scheduled.

On January 4, three papers were presented at a panel session titled “Destabilizing Folklore: Cultural Production in Moments of Insecurity”:

- “‘The Rebellious Underground’: Lomax, Henderson, Lloyd, and the Conception of the Radical Folklorist in the Mid–Twentieth Century,” by Corey Gibson (University of Groningen)
- “Folk the Police: Blues Song Response to Law Enforcement in the Black Community during the Era of Jim Crow,” by Mark Allan Jackson (Middle Tennessee State University)
- “From Fox to Goldilocks: The Reformations of a Folktale,” by Shuli Barzilai (Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design)

The panel discussion was moderated by James Deutsch. Estimated attendance was 15 persons.

On January 5, a panel of folklorists participated in a roundtable discussion titled “Folklore Careers beyond and within Academia.” The panelists were Robert Baron (New York State Council on the Arts), James Deutsch (Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage), Mira Johnson (Pelham Arts Center), Maria Kennedy (Council of the Southern Finger Lakes), Ellen McHale (New York Folklore Society), and Kay Turner (president of the American Folklore Society). The multi-disciplinary panel covered definitions of folklore, the mission of the American Folklore Society, the discipline of folkloristics, differences and similarities between academic and public folklore, and the work of regional arts councils. Estimated attendance was 20 persons.

Also on Friday, January 5, a cash bar/reception took place in one of the ballrooms of the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel, which was one of the official conference hotels. Attendees came and went during the reception; an estimated 20 persons took part, including many who attended the roundtable discussion earlier that afternoon, and some who attended the paper session the day before.

By February 28, 2018, the AFS@MLA Committee is planning to issue a call for proposals that will be in keeping with the 2019 MLA Presidential Theme, “Textual Transactions.” The committee plans to select three papers from the proposals received for the 2019 MLA Convention, which is scheduled to take place in Chicago, January 3–6, 2019. Also taking place in 2019 is the Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) Convention, scheduled for the Gaylord National Resort Center, just outside Washington, DC, March 21–24, 2019. Proposals for such a session are due May 29, 2018.

James Deutsch (Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage)
From the Editors

In 2017, the Journal of American Folklore remained under an editorial team composed of folklore faculty at Western Kentucky University, who will edit the journal for the volume years 2016-2020. In 2017, the editorial team consisted of Ann K. Ferrell, Editor-in-Chief; Michael Ann Williams, Co-Editor; Brent Björkman, Erika Brady, Timothy H. Evans, and Kate Parker Horigan, Associate Editors; and Susanna Pyatt, Editorial Assistant.

Over the course of 2017, Volume 130, Number 518 (Fall 2017) and Volume 131, Numbers 519 and 520 (Winter and Spring 2018) were submitted to the University of Illinois Press. Number 521 (Summer 2018) was submitted in early 2018. In total, the four issues included 11 articles, 1 note, 1 creative writing piece, 1 interview transcript, 2 “retrospectives,” 9 obituaries, and 39 reviews. Of these, 1 article was accepted by the previous editors. Four of the articles (including an introduction) were accepted and published as a special issue on family folklore.

Over the course of 2017, the editors received 30 individual submissions (including 1 from an author asked in 2016 to revise and resubmit) and 2 complete special issues, totaling 54 potential articles; rejected 16 submissions (1 author later resubmitted); asked 6 authors to revise and resubmit (2 authors resubmitted by the end of 2017; 1 was then rejected); and accepted 12 submissions (8 articles, 1 introduction, 1 creative piece, and 2 “retrospectives”; 3 articles and the introduction were submitted together as a special issue in 2016 but accepted in 2017; 2 other articles and the creative piece were also received in 2016 but accepted in 2017). At the end of calendar year 2017, 28 total submissions were under review (2 complete special issues and 4 individual articles).

Ann K. Ferrell, Michael Ann Williams, Brent Björkman, Erika Brady, Timothy H. Evans, Kate Parker Horigan (Western Kentucky University)
**Book Reviews**

In 2017, we received over 50 books for review. We solicited 35 book reviews and have edited and submitted 24 for publication. We have an additional 8 outstanding or in process. Our goal has been to review works that highlight the international diversity of work in folklore. We find it a challenge to engage skilled book reviewers who have the time to dedicate to this service, which is so vital to the intellectual life of our discipline and supports our scholars and writers. We thank those who have donated their time to this endeavor. We welcome volunteers and recommendations for book reviewers for 2018.

Benjamin Gatling, Joy Fraser, and Debra Lattanzi Shutika (George Mason University)

**Digital Resource Reviews**

This year, the emphasis of Digital Resources Reviews shifted to focus on practical, online tools that can serve folklorists in their work. The section editor felt it particularly important to highlight two types of resources: 1) online platforms with broad potential applicability to the work of folklorists and 2) resources to facilitate research on—and engagement with—online communities and digital folklore. The editor reached out to multiple scholars, but due to professional demands on the sides of both reviewers and editors, no reviews were forthcoming. The section editor welcomes suggestions for future resources and reviewers.

Andy Kolovos (Vermont Folklife Center)

**Exhibit and Events Reviews**

During 2017, we published two exhibit and events reviews. Three more were submitted, edited, and slated for publication. Many more have been solicited and remain in various stages of production. Thank you to everyone who has completed an exhibit or event review. Exhibitions and special programming are vital, yet ephemeral, contributions to the field. Reviews acknowledge this significant work and fold it into broader conversations about matters important to folklorists. Please share your recommendations for potential reviews and reviewers.

Carrie Hertz (Museum of International Folk Art)

**Film and Video Reviews**

Seven documentary films were submitted for review in 2017, including new work from several AFS members. Four films were assigned to reviewers with one review submitted for publication. Thank you to those who submitted films and to our reviewers. We have a number of films awaiting reviewers on behalf of the JAF. Please contact me if you are interested in reviewing films or have recommendations for new work that should be considered.

Teresa Hollingsworth (SouthArts)

**Sound Recordings Reviews**

2017 was an active year for sound recordings reviews activity. Five reviews (of eleven total recordings) were published during the past year, three of which I submitted in 2016. There are several soon-to-be-submitted reviews of material which reflect a wide variety of musical styles and traditions—field recordings of Anglo-American fiddle and banjo music from throughout the South, Tejano dance music, early 20th century traditional Irish music and old-time country music. We ended 2017 once again on solid footing and look forward to more contributions in the coming year. I would like to thank all those who graciously contributed reviews and also those record companies and organizations who generously provided musical materials for those reviews, especially Dust-To-Digital, Smithsonian Folkways, County/Rebel Records, Spring Fed Records and the Center For Popular Music, and the Field Recorders Collective.

Jim Nelson (St. Louis Community College)
These *Journal of American Folklore* articles were the most used in JSTOR in 2017.

   5840 views, prints, or downloads

   5456 views, prints, or downloads

   4144 views, prints, or downloads

   3741 views, prints, or downloads

   3741 views, prints, or downloads

   3256 views, prints, or downloads

   2993 views, prints, or downloads

   2892 views, prints, or downloads

   2617 views, prints, or downloads

    2552 views, prints, or downloads

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    2434 views, prints, or downloads

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    2270 views, prints, or downloads

    2253 views, prints, or downloads

    2242 views, prints, or downloads

    2143 views, prints, or downloads

    1834 views, prints, or downloads

    1770 views, prints, or downloads

    1756 views, prints, or downloads
Section Publications

Children’s Folklore Review

The Children’s Folklore Review is the journal of the Children’s Folklore Section—a group of scholars, professionals, and graduate students dedicated to the study of children’s traditions, including oral, customary, and material culture. Brant W. Ellsworth (Central Penn College) serves as editor of the journal, and Spencer L. Green (Penn State Harrisburg) serves as book reviews editor. This year Trevor Blank (State University of New York, Potsdam) agreed to join the editorial board to work alongside Jay Mechling (University of California, Davis), Elizabeth Tucker (Binghamton University), Priscilla Ord (McDaniel College), and Simon J. Bronner (Penn State Harrisburg) in providing guidance and peer-review support to the journal.

This year, the 38th volume of Children’s Folklore Review—a special issue honoring the career and scholarship of Simon J. Bronner—was published in June 2017. The issue featured editor Brant W. Ellsworth’s introductory note, Amy K. Milligan’s “Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow: Upsherin, Alef-Bet, and the Childhood Navigation of Jewish Gender Identity Symbol Sets,” Elizabeth Tucker’s “‘There’s An App For That’: Ghost Hunting with Smartphones,” Wolfgang Mieder’s “‘Little Pitchers have Big Ears’: The Intricate World of Children and Proverbs,” Andrew Delfino and Jay Mechling’s “Wrestling with Masculinity,” David Puglia’s “Growing Little Traditions: Baltimore’s Little Miss Hon Contests” and Cory Thomas Hutcheon’s “Finding New Monsters in Old Places: A Review of the Works of Simon J. Bronner Through an Age-Intersectional Lens.” The issue also included a review of Andrew Burn and Chris Richards’ Children’s Games in the New Media Age: Childlore, Media and the Playground and a film review of Irene Chagall’s Let’s Get the Rhythm! The Life and Times of Miss Mary Mack (2014).
During the Children’s Folklore Section meeting during the AFS Annual Meeting in Minneapolis in 2017, the section unanimously voted to transition the journal from print to digital. Beginning in 2018, the journal will be hosted by Indiana University Libraries and IUScholarWorks in partnership with the American Folklore Society. As the journal continues to operate without institutional monetary support, we believe this move will provide long-term financial stability to the section by defraying publishing costs and increasing the journal’s visibility and readership.

Brant W. Ellsworth (Central Penn College), editor

Digest: Journal of Foodways and Culture

Co-editors Janet Gilmore (University of Wisconsin, Madison) and Michael Lange (Champlain College) continued to serve during 2017. Gilmore handled the content and editing with UW student support, and Lange covered the online publication with the help of a Champlain College graphics design student. Digest continued to include materials intended to appeal to a wide audience, such as full-length peer-reviewed articles, research notes, and shorter items (for example, culinary collections news, recipes, creative pieces, historic ads, and photographs), and book reviews. Diane Tye remained on-call for transitional help, several editorial board members contributed timely and valuable advice, and many colleagues provided expert peer reviews. Dustin Knepp (California State University, Bakersfield) began transitioning into a co-editorship role as Lange considered easing out of his important editorial role.

One issue, Digest 5:2 for Late Fall 2016, was published in spring 2017. It included two lead scholarly articles (the AFS Foodways Section’s 2016 Sue Samuelson Student Prize winner and runner up), two research notes (one from among the student prize contestants), four reviews covering five books, one Amuse Bouche contribution, and an announcement regarding Yvonne and Bill Lockwoods’ contribution of their food and foodways collection to Michigan State University’s Special Collections. Editing for a summer-fall 2017 issue (Vol. 6) proceeded throughout 2017, and hopefully will emerge online in early spring 2018. It is anticipated to include one or two lead peer-reviewed articles, one or two research notes, an Amuse Bouche photo-text assemblage, and nine book reviews. We are also well underway with possibilities for the next issue beyond this one.

During 2017 we received an enthusiastic response from our email announcement, through the AFS Foodways Section website, of books available for review. Enough additional books have since come in for another request. We received five article submissions, three of which received peer review, and two of which received editor review for consideration as research notes. Of these, two of the peer-reviewed submissions and one of the research notes have been accepted with edits as main articles. One research note submission and one peer-reviewed submission have been returned for revision and resubmission. Gilmore has also urged several colleagues to submit specific essays in Digest, and is also seeking completion of an essay accepted some time ago pending revisions.

Incoming co-editor Gilmore continues to update the submission guidelines and style sheet, with the help of UW-Madison graduate students. These now include guidelines for online entry in the varied digital formats. She and team hit an upward learning curve with the 5:2 issue because of the online formatting complexities, as well as the graduation of the Champlain College graphics design technical assistant in May with no readily available student backup over the summer. A UW-Madison graduate student with remarkable technical capabilities came to the rescue in late summer 2017 to complete entry
of most final corrections and adjustments; we are hoping that she will complete the upcoming issue before she departs campus as a dissertator. We may be looking again for someone with these skills, and this kind of expertise will remain an important aspect of Digest’s editorial needs.

Also over the summer, AFS Executive Director Tim Lloyd involved all AFS sections with journal publications in conversations with Indiana University Library Systems about the availability of their online journal publication service (OJS). Discussions with the IU team revealed there is the same level of complexity in entering final journal copy into several platforms. The IU website and OJS systems are also undergoing changes that may affect whether we enter into this type of publication arrangement. So far our comparative analysis indicates a toss up whether Digest should stay published on its own or enter into this type of service relationship. Some advisors encourage staying independent, but we also must be poised to adapt to change, realizing our limited resources and the ongoing complexities of digital infrastructures.

The extra technical duty on Gilmore’s part this year definitely deflected attention away from her chief Digest content duties. Both her and Knepp’s university administrative service loads in 2017 and continuing into 2018 have also been slowing progress on all fronts. We are in need of more involvement from section members in editorial processes, solicitation of quality submissions and themed issues, as well as thought on our digital technology needs, resources, and future plans.

Janet Gilmore (University of Wisconsin, Madison), Michael Lange (Champlain College), and Dustin Knepp (California State University, Bakersfield), editors

Jewish Cultural Studies Series

The Jewish Cultural Studies book series is sponsored by the Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Section. Volume 5 in the series is titled Mothers in the Jewish Cultural Imagination, edited by Marjorie Lehman (Jewish Theological Seminary), Jane L. Kanarek (Hebrew College), and Simon J. Bronner (Pennsylvania State University), was released in August 2017. It was published by Liverpool University Press (UK) in association with the Littman Library of Jewish Civilization. The volume was sent gratis to dues-paying members of the Jewish Folklore and Ethnology section as a benefit of membership and sold to consumers world-wide through Amazon and other outlets. The book can be viewed and purchased online through Liverpool

On January 10, 2018, *Mothers in the Jewish Cultural Imagination* was named a finalist in the National Jewish Book Awards, Women’s Studies category, given by the Jewish Book Council. The National Jewish Book Awards, which began in 1950, is the longest running awards program of its kind in the field of Jewish literature and is recognized as the most prestigious. This is the second time that a book in the series has been named a finalist. The winners of the 2017 National Jewish Book Awards are honored on March 6, 2018 at a gala awards dinner and ceremony at the Prince George Ballroom in New York City.

Volume 6 of the series is *Connected Jews: Expressions of Community in Analogue and Digital Culture*, edited by Simon J. Bronner (Pennsylvania State University) and Caspar Battegay (University of Basel, Switzerland), is scheduled for release in October 2018.

Simon J. Bronner (Penn State Harrisburg, emeritus), editor

**New Directions in Folklore**

Published biannually, *New Directions in Folklore* (NDiF) is the refereed, open access e-journal of the AFS New Directions in Folklore Section—a community of scholars, professionals, and graduate students dedicated to pushing the envelope of folklore scholarship in the exploration of contemporary culture. The journal’s online interface is generously hosted by Indiana University Libraries and IUScholarWorks in partnership with the American Folklore Society.

As *New Directions in Folklore* is an open access publication, it is our policy to provide immediate open access to all published content on the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge.

In 2017, David J. Puglia (City University of New York) and John Price (Penn State Harrisburg) served as co-editors. John Price also served as book reviews editor. The remainder of the journal’s editorial board and peer-review committee consisted of Jade Alburo (UCLA), Suzanne Barber (Indiana University), Brooke Bryan (Independent), Anthony Bak Buccitelli (Penn State Harrisburg), Richard Burns (Arkansas State University), Lydia Fish (Buffalo State College), M. Rachel Gholson (Missouri State University), Matthew Hale (Indiana University), Lynne S. McNeill (Utah State University), Montana Miller (Bowling Green State University), Nicolas Hartmann (Memorial University of Newfoundland), and Jeffrey A. Tolbert (Bucknell University).


In 2018, New Directions in Folklore will welcome a new editorial staff. John E. Price will take over as editor-in-chief, and Jared Lee Schmidt (University of Wisconsin) will take over as reviews editor.

David J. Puglia (City University of New York) and John Price (Penn State Harrisburg), editors

The Folklore Historian

The Folklore Historian production schedule now aligns with the calendar year, beginning with Volume 34 printed in 2017 and mailed in early 2018. This volume features a special issue honoring William A. “Bert” Wilson and extending scholarship on Mormon folklore. Simon Bronner introduces the volume by reviewing Wilson’s contributions and noting the historical presence of Mormon folklore in American folklore studies. Brant W. Ellsworth, Kathryn Holmes, and Spencer Green contribute articles on attitudes towards the supernatural, contiguities of the fairy tale and messages for Mormon young women, and possibilities of contemporary Mormon matchmaking.

In 2017, The Richard Reuss Prize for Students of Folklore and History was awarded to Mary Sellers for her essay, “A Revolutionary, Urban Legend: Charlotte Temple.” The paper was written for American Studies 510 taught by Dr. John Haddad at Penn State Harrisburg. This, and a couple of other submissions, will be revised for publication in a future volume. We also have two other potential manuscripts, one on Herbert Halpert and another by Lee Haring.

The Folklore and History Section covers the printing and mailing costs for this journal. Discussions are underway for including digitized versions of the journal online. Our membership, and thus subscriptions, remain somewhat steady near 70 people or institutions. Editing and production support are provided by the BYU Humanities Publication Group with Suzy Bills as the new director, as well as several competent student editors.

Jill Terry Rudy (Brigham Young University), editor
New Fellows

These AFS members were inducted into the Fellows of the American Folklore Society in 2017:

Galit Hasan-Rokem (The Hebrew University)

Diana Baird N’Diaye (Smithsonian Institution)

Jo Radner (Lovell, Maine)

Tom Rankin (Durham, North Carolina)

These Honorary International Fellows were also inducted in 2017:

Hermann Bausinger (University of Tübingen, emeritus)

Ruth Finnegan (The Open University, emeritus)

Ulrich Marzolph (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen)

Kwesi Yankah (Minister of State, Ghana)
Section Activities

Visit the AFS website to join sections or for more information about their activities. The sections’ online groups are free to join and provide communication tools that any member may use, though some sections have additional communication channels as described below. You must sign in to access the private section web pages.

The reports that follow were submitted by the sections’ conveners, who are listed at the beginning of each report. The precise number of members in any section may vary throughout a year; the numbers reported were collected in December 2017.

African Studies Section
No report submitted.

Archives and Libraries Section
Convener: Terri M. Jordan (independent)

The mission of the AFS Archives and Libraries Section is to promote the exchange of information on all types of archival methodology relating to folklore, folklife, and other ethnographic collections. In addition, the section aims to share information and to help develop standards relevant to library collections and activities in folklore.

In 2017, the section engaged in several activities toward the advancement of these goals. These included:

With the American Folklore Society and the AFS Oral History Project, co-sponsorship of annual meeting panel 02-05, “A Conversation with Timothy Lloyd.”

Awarding the 2017 Polly Grimshaw Prize to two winners: Tina Bucuvalas (City of Tarpon Springs) for her work with the American Folklife Center toward the establishment of a Greek music archive, and Joy Fraser (George Mason University) for her archival research on mumming and violence in Newfoundland.

Partnering with the Public Programs Section to host the “Ask an Archivist or a Public Folklorist” table in the Exhibition Room at the 2017 AFS Annual Meeting, where a rotating group of folklore professionals was available to answer questions from attendees on archival and public folklore topics.

Most significantly, the Archives and Libraries Section organized and hosted the Adventures in Folklore Archiving Conference, a two-day event immediately prior to the 2017 AFS Annual Meeting, held on October 16-17 at the Minneapolis Central Library. The conference was the result of two years of effort from the section, spearheaded by a planning committee consisting of Terri M. Jordan (independent), Moira L. Marsh (Indiana University), Nicole Saylor (American
Folklife Center), and Randy E. Williams (Utah State University). The conference was attended by 50 individuals from 18 U.S. states as well as from Canada, Norway, Sweden, and the U.K., and featured an opening keynote by Nicole Saylor of the American Folklife Center; four panels with 21 presenters on folklore archives-related topics; technology showcases for the Folklore Collections Database (by Timothy Lloyd of the American Folklife Society and Steve Green of the Western Folklife Center) and the Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (by Doug Boyd of the University of Kentucky); and a closing keynote by James P. Leary of the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

At present the section’s primary means of communication with members is via a section listserv, afs-archives-libraries@vermontfolklifecenter.org; to be added to this listserv, please email Andy Kolovos at akolovos@vermontfolklifecenter.org.

For other questions or further information, please contact the section convener, Terri M. Jordan, at terrijord@gmail.com.

The section has 94 members.

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### British Folk Studies Section

**Convener: Thomas A. McKean**  
(Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen)

Five section members attended the section business meeting in Minneapolis. The section sponsored no other events in 2017, though it has sponsored panels in recent years and discussed plans for 2018. Section members may communicate with each other using the section’s AFS online group.

The section has 72 members.

### Chicano and Chicana Section

**Convener: Eric César Morales**  
(Indiana University)

The Chicano and Chicana Section is continuing its practice of working directly with the Folklore Latino, Latinoamericano, y Caribeño Section of AFS to raise the profile of Latino issues in folklore study and practice at the AFS annual meeting. Through this collaboration, the sections will continue building on our community of invested academic and public scholars to work together and explore the vibrancy and relevance of contemporary Latina/o folkloristics among communities in the United States, Latin America, and beyond. The sections share essential announcements with the section’s online group and also communicate via a listserv, AFSLatino. To join the listserv, contact afslatino@lists.wku.edu.

At the 2017 annual meeting, the Chicano and Chicana and Latino Sections sponsored a panel on immigration, held a business meeting, assembled for a dinner, and continued efforts to recognize
scholars of Latino culture by awarding the annual Américo Paredes Prize. This year’s Paredes Prize was given to José Limon (University of Notre Dame, emeritus).

The Chicano and Chicana Section has 32 members.

**Children’s Folklore Section**

**Convener: Katharine R.M. Schramm (Indiana University)**

This year, the Children’s Folklore Section met on Saturday, October 21 at the AFS Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, with 10 members in attendance.

The Children’s Folklore Section conducted a secret vote prior to the 2017 AFS Annual Meeting to confirm Simon J. Bronner (Penn State Harrisburg) as recipient of its Lifetime Achievement Award. The section had a unanimous vote in favor of the award, and it was presented at the opening ceremony of the Annual Meeting.

*Children’s Folklore Review* (Volume 38, 2017), a special issue celebrating the scholarship of Simon J. Bronner, was published in June. Trevor J. Blank (State University of New York, Potsdam) has passed the role of editor to Brant W. Ellsworth (Central Penn College), and Spencer L. Green (Penn State Harrisburg) has agreed to join the journal as book review editor. Warm thanks to everyone who put together this fantastic issue.

The Children’s Folklore Section awards the Aesop Prize and Aesop Accolades honorable mentions for English-language fiction and nonfiction work that responsibly uses folklore for children and young adults. The 2017 Aesop Prize went to *Noodleheads See the Future* by Tedd Arnold, Martha Hamilton, and Mitch Weiss (Holiday House, 2017). Aesop Accolades were awarded to: *Yokki and the Parno Gry*, by Richard O’Neill, illustrated by Katharine Quarmby (Child’s Play International, 2017); *The Wishing Foxes* by Margaret Read MacDonald, illustrated by Kitty Harvill with Jen Whitman and Nat Whitman (Plum Street Publishers, 2017); and *The Secret of the Kelpie*, by Lari Don, illustrated by Philip Longson (Floris Books, 2016). Many thanks to Spencer L. Green for chairing the committee this year.

The Opie Prize for best academic publication on children’s folklore is awarded every two years, and so was not awarded this year. No Newell Prize for best undergraduate or graduate paper on children’s folklore was awarded this year.

Conveners communicate with section members with the section’s online group as well as with a public Facebook group, “AFS Children’s Folklore Section,” which has 104 members, at www.facebook.com/groups/1537025426561841.

The section has 74 members.

**Creative Writing and Storytelling Section**

**Conveners: Victoria Harkavy (independent), Joseph D. Sobol (University of South Wales)**

This marked the first year of the Creative Writing and Storytelling Section, a merger of the former Folklore and Creative Writing Section and the Storytelling Section. The newly merged section hosted a third annual Open Mic Night at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, in addition to holding our annual business meeting.

The section uses its online group for emailing all section members for section-wide communications. There was some activity on the “American Folklore
Society: Folklore & Creative Writing” Facebook page as well, which has 110 followers, at www.facebook.com/afscREATIVewriting/.

The section has 128 members.

Dance and Movement Analysis Section

Conveners: Eric César Morales (Indiana University), Samantha Castleman (University of Louisiana)

The Dance and Movement Analysis Section is dedicated to raising the profile of dance studies in folkloristics. At the 2017 Annual Meeting, the section held two dance workshops devoted to teaching the basics of swing and various Latin dances, sponsored a panel on the cardinal points of studying dance as folklore, awarded two travel grants, co-sponsored a cash bar with the Graduate Student and Young Professionals Section, and held an annual business meeting.

The section has a public Facebook group where we share items of interest, and we encourage individuals who have interest in dance to join. The group, “AFS Dance and Movement Analysis,” has 39 members and can be found at www.facebook.com/groups/302348803124833.

The section has 41 members.

Folk Belief and Religious Folklife Section

Conveners: Margaret Kruesi (American Folklife Center, Library of Congress), Leonard Norman Primiano (Cabrini University)

This past year the section sponsored the annual Don Yoder Lecture in Folk Belief and Religious Folklife at the annual meeting. Jeff Todd Titon (Brown University) spoke on “Eco-Justice and Folklife” with prepared responses by Mary Hufford (University of Pennsylvania) and Rory Turner (Goucher College), and an engaging discussion followed the lecture.

The section held its annual meeting chaired by convener Margaret Kruesi on October 19 with approximately 25 people in attendance. The winners of the section-sponsored student prizes were announced. The William A. Wilson Undergraduate Prize in Folk Belief and Religious Folklife was awarded to Ben Bridges (Indiana University) for his paper “Navigating Tourism Through Myth In Quechua Communities of Southern Peru.” The Don Yoder Graduate Student Prize in Folk Belief and Religious Folklife was awarded to Amanda Randhawa (The Ohio State University) for her paper “A Goddess and
Section members discussed plans for the 2018 silent auction, potential future Don Yoder lecturers, section website and communications, and reports of activities and recent publications by members. Thanks to Erin Kathleen Bahl (The Ohio State University) for updating the section pages.

The section sponsored a silent auction in the book room at the 2017 Annual Meeting and reported income of approximately $300.00, with thanks to section members Lynne S. McNeill (Utah State University) and to Andrea Kitta (East Carolina University) for organizing and managing the auction, and thanks to all our donors. Several hundred people engaged in conversation at the table.

The section primarily uses the group email feature on the AFS website for communication with members, who are encouraged to use these AFS communication tools themselves. The section also has a Facebook page called “AFS Folk Belief and Religious Folklife,” which has 128 followers, at www.facebook.com/AFSfolkbelief.

The section has 141 members.

Folk Narrative Section

Conveners: Maia V. Daniel (independent), Kerry Kaleba (independent)

The Folk Narrative Section sponsored the following panels at the Annual Meeting: “Reconsidering Cultural and Folk Narratives,” “The Hero Re-Created: Different Perspectives on Folklore Characters Around the World,” and “Fairy-Tale Cultures and Media: Collections and Collectives from Frankenstein and Fat Princesses to Live Radio and Opera.” In addition, the section contributed funds to support the “Resistance, Reclamation and Re-creation in Minnesota Native American Women’s Storytelling” event.

Six people attended the business meeting in Minneapolis. The group discussed plans for its upcoming biennial Stith Thompson Lecture in Buffalo. It was also decided that the section would close its CafePress store and switch to a different online venue instead. The section mainly communicates with its members through its Facebook group “American Folklore Society -- Folk Narrative Section,” which can be found at www.facebook.com/groups/afs.folk.narrative; this group is open to the public and has 1557 members.

The section has 141 members.

Folklore and Education Section

Conveners: Betty J. Belanus (Center for Folklife and Heritage Resources), Jan Rosenberg (Heritage Education Resources, Inc.)

The Folklore and Education section stayed busy and relevant during 2017. Regular “eblasts” kept the members up-to-date with news, events, and deadlines, and the Folklore and Education Newsletter gave a well-rounded overview of the
events of the year. At the 2017 Annual Meeting, the section sponsored four presentations, including: “In Search of the Impact of Folk Arts Education,” “Tell Us a Story: Interviewing and Alchemy,” “Folklife and STEAM Education;” and co-sponsored a panel with the Politics, Folklore, and Social Justice Section on “Community and Activism in Folklife and Education Environments.” The section also co-sponsored the Saturday “Folk Arts Education Workshop: A Focus on the Artist” with Local Learning and the National Network for Folk Arts in Education. In this workshop, Linda Deafenbaugh (Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School, FACTS) and FACTS teachers led a workshop for AFS attendees and local artists and teachers on how to design an effective folk arts educational program.

The Folklore and Education Section was also proud to announce a 2017 prize-winner for the Dorothy Howard Folklore and Education Prize for outstanding work in K–12 educational environments. This year, the prize went to Daisy Ling and Nisha Arya at FACTS for their application of yoga and folk tales into the second grade physical education classroom. Aligning diversity education, physical movement, and creativity, this program was a beautiful example of the “rich and meaningful” ways in which folklore can be intertwined in curriculum, as per Dorothy Howard’s legacy.

The section has 85 members.

Folklore Latino, Latinoamericano, y Caribeño Section

Conveners: Gloria Colom (Indiana University), Brenda Romero (Colorado University)

The Folklore Latino Section collaborates closely with the Chicano and Chicana Section. See that section for a full joint report.

The section has 49 members.

Folklore and Museums Section

Convener: Carrie Hertz (Museum of International Folk Art)

As anticipated by its “museum-minded” guide to the annual meeting in the AFS Review, www.afsnet.org/news/367622/Folklore-and-Museums-at-the-2017-AFS-Annual-Meeting.htm, the section fostered and promoted a robust set of presentations, panels, and special events for the AFS gathering in Minneapolis.

During the section meeting in Minneapolis, members clarified procedures for leadership, establishing a co-convenership with staggered
two-year terms. Current convener Carrie Hertz, whose term will run through 2018, will be joined by Michael W. Knoll (HistoryMiami) in 2018.

In 2017, the section added new members and the section Facebook page, “Folklore and Museums,” nearly doubled in size to more than 200 followers. Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/folkloreandmuseums.

The section has 107 members.

Foodways Section

Conveners: Katrina S. Wynn (University of Maine), Lacey Cornell (Kids Cook)

Katrina S. Wynn continues to fill the position of senior convener with Lacey Cornell as junior convener for 2017-2018. Dominic Tartaglia (Indiana University) has become the section secretary. The section held its annual business meeting at a local German restaurant, Gluek's Restaurant & Bar. Twenty-one Foodways Section members and interested AFS members attended.

The section awarded the Sue Samuelson Foodways Essay Prize to Kylie Marie Schroeder (Utah State University) for her paper “Identity and Gozitan Culinary Tourism: Two Case Studies.” Kylie had already presented her paper at the 2016 AFS Annual Meeting. This prize has been given continuously for eight years; it includes $200 and publication in the foodways journal Digest. Winners may apply for a travel stipend (of up to $300) to attend the upcoming American Folklore Society conference. There is no entrance fee and the contest is open to undergraduate and graduate students. The 2017 Prize Committee consisted of Theresa A. Vaughan as chair, Janet C. Gilmore (University of Wisconsin, Madison), Michael Lange (Champlain College), Lacey Cornell, Kristin McAndrews, Diane I. Tye (Memorial University Newfoundland), and Katrina Wynn.

The Foodways Section's journal, Digest, which moved online in 2012, transitioned editorship smoothly last year to Janet C. Gilmore from Diane I. Tye. Michael Lange continues in his role as co-editor. Articles from Digest are available in...
downloadable pdf form, making material more accessible for classroom and research uses. As of 2013’s section meeting, it was agreed that Foodways Section members would comprise an Editorial Board and in 2017 Yvonne R. Lockwood, Lucy M. Long (Center for Food and Culture), LuAnne Roth (University of Missouri), Robert James Smith, Theresa A. Vaughn, and Katrina S. Wynn served in this capacity. Members are asked to please keep an eye out for interesting papers or short research notes that are foodways related for Digest. In addition, Yvonne R. Lockwood continues to work on writing a history of the journal Digest and the Foodways Section. If you have any memory or stories from the section’s early days, please contact convener Katrina S. Wynn (ktwynn32@gmail.com).

Produced by co-convener Lacey Cornell, the “Foodways Guide for AFS 2017” in the AFS Review noted panels and presentations related to foodways at the annual meetings and highlighted the rich and diverse ways members of our Society approach the study of food and culture. Section members reported it was useful in planning their time at AFS. See www.afsnet.org/news/367827/Foodways-at-the-2017-AFS-Annual-Meeting.htm.

The Foodways Section conveners primarily communicate with section members with the section’s online group email. Section members tend to communicate with each other primarily via email. Last year we also started a closed Facebook page that is slowly growing. The “AFS Foodways Section” page has 19 members, and can be found at www.facebook.com/groups/1236195923088164/. This page is a place for the section to chat, with the hope that it will serve as a conduit/clearing house and a way for members to let us know about new publications, projects, grant deadlines, upcoming conferences, and more, so that we can post them to a wider audience on the official website.

The section has 105 members.

Graduate Students and Young Professionals Section

Conveners: Eleanor Hasken (Indiana University), Kaitlyn Lucille Kinney (George Mason University)

This past year our section successfully changed its name from the “Graduate Students” Section to the “Graduate Students and Young Professionals” Section to become more inclusive of those who have recently graduated and are beginning to enter the field. We used social media to market and strongly encourage graduate students
and young professionals to participate in the independent, student-organized “Future of American Folkloristics” conference at Indiana University in May. We also planned two successful events for the the annual 2017 AFS annual meeting: a trivia night and a students-only mixer.

At the 2017 Graduate Student and Young Professionals Section business meeting, we discussed combining these two events for the 2018 meeting. This is so that section members will have more time to attend more events during the AFS meeting. We then discussed the IU/OSU Folklore Graduate Student Conference, and members from Indiana University and The Ohio State University asked for help advertising the event. The conference is largely attended only by members of the host universities, with very little attendance from graduate students from other universities, despite being open to all.

We discussed strategies for reaching out to students in folklore programs and decided to create a list of all the student clubs from these programs to be kept and maintained on the Facebook page. This will allow graduate students and young professionals looking to market their events to reach out easily to other folklore programs. Throughout these conversations, it was brought up by several members that there also needs to be a list of possible conferences for young folklorists to attend. Many felt that if the section kept such a list, it would be beneficial for those newly entering the folklore discipline.

In response to these discussions, the conveners have created a working list of the current leaders of the various folklore student-run clubs; the list is a pinned post in our group’s Facebook page. We have also created another working list of various folklore-related conferences as a Google document that people can add to as they come across events that might be of interest. Both of these are easily found and accessible on our Facebook group page, and we happily encourage others to add to them.

The section members communicate with each other in the “AFS Graduate Student and Young Professional Section” Facebook group, which has 101 members, at www.facebook.com/groups/afsgrads.

The section has 84 members.

**History and Folklore Section**

**Convener: Simon J. Bronner (Penn State Harrisburg)**

This year the section issued Volume 34, 2017 of the *Folklore Historian*. It is a special issue devoted to Mormon folklore in honor of the folklorist William “Bert” Wilson (1933-2016). The volume includes an introduction by Simon J. Bronner and essays by Spencer L. Green (Penn State Harrisburg), Brant W. Ellsworth (Central Penn College), and Kathryn M. Holmes.

The section also bestowed its Richard Reuss Prize for an outstanding paper by a student on a subject dealing with historical approaches to the study of folklore or the history of folklore studies to Mary L. Sellers of Pennsylvania State University for her essay “A Revolutionary, Urban Legend: Charlotte Temple.”

The History and Folklore Section convener communicates with members primarily through its AFS online group. The convener is also the administrator for a Facebook group, “American Folklore Society-History and Folklore Section,” which has 900 members, at www.facebook.com/groups/1550062601904433.

The section has 103 members.
Independent Folklorists’ Section

Conveners: Joan L. Saverino (University of Pennsylvania), Lucy Long (Center for Food and Culture)

This year the Independent Folklorists’ Section again awarded two travel stipends. These awards require presentations at the annual meeting. Joshua Chrysler (independent) was awarded a $1000, given jointly with the Public Programs Section. He participated in a forum on “The Concept and Practice of Conducting Folklife Surveys.” Jodine Perkins was awarded $750, given jointly with the Women’s Section. She presented a paper, “Inside of Each Story was a Piece of My Story’: Applied Folklore Addressing Stigma around Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders.”

Discussion at the business meeting centered on a session sponsored by the AFS Committee on Contingent Workforce Concerns, and their plan for a survey of contingent workers. Independent folklorists should be interested in the ongoing work of this committee.

Other discussion centered on the possibility of sponsoring a workshop or presentation for the 2018 AFS annual meeting that would help indies with developing a consulting business, indies’ need for health care options, and perspectives from individuals with folklore training who work in different fields.

Seven people attended the section meeting. Joan Saverino will continue as senior convener and Joshua Chrysler volunteered and was approved as junior convener for 2017. Lucy Long steps down this year.

The section communicates through its AFS online group, and has 88 members.

Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Section

Convener: Simon J. Bronner (Penn State Harrisburg)

The Jewish Folklore and Ethnology section is the sponsor of the 408-page paperback publication, Mothers in the Jewish Cultural Imagination, edited by Marjorie Lehman, Jane L. Kanarek, and Simon J. Bronner, released August 2017. It is Volume Five in the Jewish Cultural Studies Series published by the Littman Library of Jewish Civilization in association with Liverpool University Press (UK). The volume was sent to section members who paid dues for 2017. See https://liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/products/87492.

The Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Section convener communicates with members primarily through the AFS online group. The convener is also administrator for a section listserv through Yahoo, accessible at https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/jfe/info, which has 341 members, and a Facebook page, accessible at www.facebook.com/JewishCulturalStudies, with 290 followers.

The section has 56 members.

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer and Allies Section

Convener: Cory W. Thorne (Memorial University of Newfoundland)

Eight members were in attendance at the LGBTQQA Section business meeting on Saturday, October 20. During the meeting, the section elected two new co-conveners, Meredith McGriff (American Folklore Society) and Samuel Buelow.
The section thanks Cory W. Thorne, outgoing convener, for his leadership and service to the section over the last many years.

In discussing ways to revitalize the section, members decided to start a closed Facebook group to serve as a means to share relevant resources and continue conversations throughout the year. This group, “LGBTQA Section of the American Folklore Society,” was created in late 2017. It has 34 members, and can be found at www.facebook.com/groups/365985110498266.

The LGBTQA Section encourages members to communicate official section business by using the AFS online group email. Members are also encouraged to join the section’s Facebook group, listed above, for more casual conversation and sharing of resources. The section has 46 members.

Medieval and Early Modern Folklore Section

No report submitted.

Mediterranean Studies Section

Conveners: Meltem Turkoz (Isık University), Yeliz Çavuş (The Ohio State University)

This year the Mediterranean Studies Section celebrated new publications by several members, including a volume edited by Joseph Sciorra (John D. Calandra Italian American Institute) and Laura E. Ruberto (Berkeley City College), New Italian Migrations to the United States: Vol.2: Art and Culture since 1945 (University of Illinois Press, 2017); a volume edited by Luisa Del Giudice, On Second Thought: Learned Women Reflect on Profession, Community, Purpose (University of Utah Press); a volume edited by Deborah Kapchan (New York University), Theorizing Sound Writing (Wesleyan University Press); and Global Tarantella: Reinventing Southern Italian Folk Music and Dances (University of Illinois Press) by Incoronata Inserra (Virginia Commonwealth University).

The section sponsored a panel at the AFS Annual Meeting, “On Second Thought: Learned Women Reflect on Profession, Community, Purpose.” This session was chaired by Luisa Del Giudice, co-sponsored by the Women’s Section, and featured section members Christine Zinni, Cristina Bacchilega (University of Hawai’i, Mānoa), and Sabina Magliocco (University of British Columbia).

Other than that, it was a low-key year for the Mediterranean Studies Section, as a couple of our conveners and several section members were not able to attend the 2017 annual meeting. We had a small section business meeting in Minneapolis and were able to discuss a few items of interest for the upcoming year.

Conveners communicate with section members with the AFS online group; the section also used a Facebook group, “Mediterranean Folklore Section of AFS (American Folklore Society),” that has 130 members; see www.facebook.com/groups/1421713648046627. The section has 45 members.

Music and Song Section

Conveners: Stephen D. Winick (American Folklife Center, Library of Congress), Margaret Steiner (independent)

The AFS Music and Song Section supports activities by AFS members with an interest in music and song. We encourage scholarship on music and song topics and participation in music and song
traditions. We thank our members, and the AFS staff, for another productive year. During the past year, we awarded the Bertrand Bronson Paper Prize to Amy Aiyegebisi of Indiana University. We also planned and scheduled the Phillips Barry lecture with Henry Sapoznik. However, due to illness the lecture did not occur. (We are happy to say that Henry is better now!)

At the 2017 AFS Annual Meeting, the section sponsored the evening event “Words and Music in Memory of Alan Jabbour,” and the panels “Lumberjack Songs and Songcatchers in the Upper Midwest” and “Old Time Music Community: Mentors and Apprentices of Resistance, Reclamation and Re-Creation.” As usual, we sponsored the evening instrumental and vocal jam sessions for three nights of the conference as well. We also had our annual section business meeting, at which we discussed the upcoming AFS meeting, next year’s Barry Lecture, and other issues.

The section communicates to members formally a few times a year using the AFS online group. Section members also communicate informally through a Facebook group, “American Folklore Society – Music and Song Section,” with 807 members at www.facebook.com/groups/afs.music.song. The group is not limited to section members, but new group members must be approved by the section convener. To join, Facebook users simply submit a request through a button on the page.

The Music and Song Section would welcome more members to the section, and more participation by section members. We therefore invite AFS members to join the section, and we invite section members to join the discussion group at the Facebook link above. Our goal is to be an active and vibrant section supporting research, presentations, and music-making, and we could, as always, use your help.

The section has 105 members.

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New Directions in Folklore Section

Conveners: John Price (Penn State University), Andrew Peck (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

New Directions in Folklore had a highly successful 2017, including sponsoring various AFS Annual Meeting sessions and the publication of a special issue of the journal. The annual Bill Ellis Prize was awarded to Saeedeh Niktab Etaati, a master's student in Folkllore at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Her paper, “‘I Repeat, Vote for All Individuals in Both the Lists’: Digital Hybridity in the ‘Telegramic’ Elections in Iran,” is a fascinating analysis of the ways in which political power and digital culture converge in real time. The much praised “Fake News” series of panels dominated conversation at the 2017 AFS Annual Meeting. The sessions were coordinated and planned by a wide team of people, and NDiF is proud of its involvement in helping to bring those sessions together. In addition, the second annual New Directions Forum featured a panel of folklorists discussing the role and future of podcasting for the field. The year was concluded with the publication of Volume 15, “The Folk Awakens: Star Wars and Folkloristics,” a special issue of the section’s journal New Directions in Folklore (NDiF) focused on the use of Star Wars as a prism for a new perspective on folk studies.

Through the hard work of our section members, New Directions in Folklore strives to be the leading edge of folklore studies. Membership is open to all and the journal remains an open access online publication. Be sure to follow the section on twitter at @AFSNewFolklore and “New Directions in Folklore” on Facebook, a page with 234 followers, at www.facebook.com/New-Directions-in-Folklore-116662955028108.

The section has 96 members.
Nordic-Baltic Folklore Section

Conveners: B. Marcus Cederström (University of Wisconsin, Madison), Thomas A. DuBois (University of Wisconsin, Madison), Amber J. Rose (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

The 2017 annual meeting was an exciting one for the Nordic-Baltic Section as we hosted a reception with live music by Finn Hall, a Minneapolis-based Scandihoovian band that treated us to an array of Finnish and other Nordic music. Thank you to everyone who attended, who danced, who sang along, and who helped make the event possible.


At the business meeting, attended by about 20 people, the section elected B. Marcus Cederström and Jason Schroeder (Scandinavian Cultural Center at Pacific Lutheran University) as co-conveners for 2018. Mathilde Lind (Indiana University) was elected as the graduate student co-convener.

The Nordic-Baltic Section awarded the annual Boreal Prize to Amber J. Rose, PhD candidate at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. This prize is given to recognize outstanding article-length student essays on a folklore topic having to do with Northern Europe and/or the diasporas. Rose’s work is highly deserving of such recognition; her paper, “Thinking with Wolves on the Icelandic Frontier,” was chosen for its deftness in examining the intersections of folklore, history, and literature while commenting on the contemporary environmental issues that face us today. This honor includes a $150 award and a year’s subscription to Arv, the Nordic Yearbook of Folklore.

The AFS online group, which provides the distribution list for section business. Anyone interested in section-related discussion topics throughout the year may also join the section’s Facebook group, “AFS Nordic-Baltic Section,” which has 156 members, at www.facebook.com/groups/4011918299777743.

The section has 53 members.

Politics, Folklore, and Social Justice Section

Convener: Rhonda R. Dass (Minnesota State University, Mankato)

The Politics, Folklore, and Social Justice Section had a productive year for 2017. The section has a very active Facebook group, “American Folklore
Society – Politics, Folklore, and Social Justice,” which can be accessed at www.facebook.com/pages/American-Folklore-Society-Politics-Folklore-and-Social-Justice-Section/497021950347458. Our page began last year with 293 followers and increased at an even pace over the year to a total of 366 followers as of January 1, 2018. Traffic on the page has steadily increased over the year as well. Along with the section’s open page, we have another page for a working group that has stayed active and productive for our work, allowing us to contact members of the section for discussions and to help facilitate decision-making for our section. The Facebook working group page currently has 74 members—very similar to the section’s number of dues-paying members.

The section helped to sponsor and organize a sponsored evening panel for the AFS Annual Meeting in Minneapolis. We put the funds from our Shuldiner lecture prize toward “Resistance, Reclamation and Re-Creation in Minnesota Native American Women’s Storytelling,” suggested participants, and communicated with Kay Turner, AFS president and organizer of the project.

The membership had a good turn out for the annual section business meeting with approximately 12 people attending. During our meeting we elected a junior convener, Jesse Fivecoate (Indiana University). We made plans for our involvement for the next annual meeting in Buffalo.

The membership heard a suggestion from Bill Westerman during our business meeting. Bill suggested that AFS consider opportunities for social justice work within the format of how the annual meeting sites are chosen. He suggested that Puerto Rico could be strongly influenced on issues of social justice, with our meeting funds going to support the island in the wake of the hurricanes season. It was agreed that we would ask the Society to support social justice by thinking of what areas would benefit from our funding and choose sites in need of an economic boost. Bill was chosen to bring the suggestion to the Society, with the idea that AFS should consider Puerto Rico for the next venue to be booked.

The section has 142 members.

Public Programs Section

Conveners: Thomas G. Richardson (independent), Selina E. Morales (Philadelphia Folklore Project)

The Public Programs Section continues to maintain a large and active membership. The conveners for 2017–18 are Thomas G. Richardson (independent) and Selina E. Morales (Philadelphia Folklore Project).

The Public Programs Section selected and funded three students through Archie Green Travel Awards: Jessica LeBree Cushenberry (Utah State University), Sarah Craycraft (The Ohio State University), and Nicole Musgrave (Western Kentucky University). The section also partnered with the Independent Folklorists’ Section to award an independent travel award, which went to Joshua Chrysler (independent).

The Botkin Award committee was slightly restructured, with PPS members serving in new capacities. Jessica A. Turner (American Folklore Society) served a one-year term. Thomas G. Richardson and Nicole Musgrave joined the committee as new members. The Botkin Award winner for 2017 was Kathleen Mundell (Cultural Resources).

PPS also established a new presence in the book room at the “Ask a Public Folklorist” table, alongside the “Ask an Archivist” table.
New members are always encouraged to join the AFS online group, pay dues to support section activities, and attend the section business meeting at the AFS annual meeting. Those who want to join the ongoing conversation about issues in public programs may also join the Publore Listserv and the closed Facebook group “Publore Annex,” which has 458 members, at www.facebook.com/groups/1511202559129064. Neither Publore nor the Publore Annex are AFS or PPS projects, but section members use them to communicate with each other. Publore is administrated by Claude Stephenson, a retired folklorist at New Mexico Arts. The Facebook group Publore Annex is administrated by Mike Luster and Mary Hufford, both independents. To join Publore, email PUBLORE@unm.edu or visit https://list.unm.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A0=PUBLORE to establish an email and password and subscribe. To join Publore Annex, simply log into Facebook, search Publore Annex, and click “join.”

The section has 174 members.

Socialist and Post-Socialist Area Studies Section

Conveners: Elo-Hanna Seljamaa (University of Tartu), Erik A. Aasland (Fuller Theological Seminary)

The Socialist and Post-Socialist Area Studies Section sponsored a panel at the 2017 AFS Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, “Negotiating National Identity in Socialist and Post-Socialist Settings through Story, Proposition, and Wisdom.” This panel was chaired by Erik A. Aasland (Fuller Theological Seminary) and featured papers by Erica Haskell (University of New Haven), Maurice Mengel, Cory W. Thorne (Memorial University Newfoundland), and the chair.

The section communicates with its current and prospective members via email. All interested parties are welcome to contact section conveners.

The section has 37 members.

Space, Place and Landscapes Section

No report submitted.

Transnational Asia/Pacific Section

Conveners: Charles D. La Shure II (Seoul National University), Yuko Nakamura (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee)

Yuko Nakamura stepped down as junior convenner (2015-17) and was succeeded by Wenyuan Shao for 2018, approved by a unanimous vote at the annual business meeting in Minneapolis. Wenyuan is a doctoral student of East Asian Languages and Literature at The Ohio State University, where she is studying a Tibeto-Burman-speaking community in southwest China. She will join senior convenner Charles D. La Shure II (Seoul National University) in his second year (2017–2018). The section continues to work toward its mission to encourage student scholarship and participation in the American Folklore Society.

The final Jonathan T. Y. Yeh Award for Student Scholarship (sponsored by Dr. Nora Yeh) was presented to Shakthi Nataraj (University of California, Berkeley) for her study, “Legal ‘Lore’: The Co-Constition of Legend and Law in Colonial Contemporary India.” During the section’s annual business meeting in Minneapolis, Shakthi presented her paper, sparking a fascinating dialogue with section members in attendance.
The section would like to thank Dr. Yeh for her support in this endeavor.

The section sponsored three panels at the 2017 annual meeting in an effort to raise awareness of Asian and Asian-American folklore studies in the Society.

The section held its annual business meeting in Minneapolis; the meeting was attended by approximately 15-18 people (attendance varied throughout the meeting). In addition to the business meeting, the section also sponsored a reception outside the conference venue to allow section members the opportunity to engage in dialogue in a more relaxed setting.

The section uses the AFS online group email to facilitate communication and collaboration among members. The section also maintains a directory of member research profiles, with photos.

The section has 71 members.

Women’s Section

Conveners: Christine J. Widmayer (University of Wisconsin, Madison), Ruth Olson (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

The Women’s Section sponsored nearly a dozen panels at the AFS Annual Meeting in Minneapolis. Panels covered feminist and medieval foodways, pussy hats, women of color’s folklore, the folklore of the Girl Scouts, and many more topics. The section also co-sponsored “Resistance, Reclamation and Re-Creation in Minnesota Native American Women’s Storytelling,” a special evening panel that highlighted local Native American women and artists. We hope to keep up this momentum in the future.

The Women’s Section also sponsored several awards: the Polly Stewart Student Travel Stipend went to Sallie Anna Steiner of the University of Wisconsin, Madison and Mariah Marsden of The Ohio State University; the Elli Köngäs-Maranda Professional Prize went to Lucy Fraser for her book Pleasures of Metamorphosis: Japanese and English Transformations of The Little Mermaid; and the Elli Köngäs-Maranda Student Prize went to Nic Campetto for “Reclaiming the Lesbian Vampire: Carmilla the Series Fandom and LGBTQ Identities.” In addition, the Women’s Section and the Independent Folklorists’ Section shared sponsorship of a travel prize, awarded to Jodine Perkins (University of British Columbia).

The section conveners send announcements through its AFS section online group to communicate with members. Members also use a listserv (afswomen@list.indiana.edu) and a Facebook group (“AFS Women’s Section”) with 37 members at www.facebook.com/groups/261784077313010.

The section has 201 members.
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