

## AMERICAN FOLKLORE SOCIETY 2006 Annual Report

### Report of the President

Since becoming President in January 2006, I have been working with AFS executive director Tim Lloyd and associate director Brent Björkman, with the Executive Board, and with other Society leaders to create and carry out a strategy for improving the standing of folklore in the academy, which I cited as my major goal if elected President of the Society. At the same time, the Board, staff, and I have undertaken a new process of long-range planning for our Society, of which our efforts in the academy are one essential element.

In May 2006, I led a meeting of representatives from the fields of folklore, oral history, and ethnomusicology to discuss the changing places of our three fields in the academy. We selected these two other fields as partners because they share with our field a fundamental commitment to ethnography, and because the academic members of all three fields customarily find themselves in departments with the name of another field—English, anthropology, history, or music, for example—on the door.

Our meeting took place at the Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. Informed by background papers prepared for each field (Elliott Oring prepared the paper for the field of folklore) that will soon be available on the AFS web site, those present at the meeting discussed these topics, among others:

- The changing relationships between our fields and our members on the one hand, and the departments, colleges, and institutions in which they now find themselves
- The need to communicate more effectively about the work of our members within and outside the academy
- The need to better integrate scholarship and public practice in our fields
- The need to strengthen undergraduate education in each of our fields, in order to more effectively reach and recruit potential contributors to scholarship and public practice in our fields

After the meeting, we prepared a summary report on the proceedings and recommendations of the meeting, which will stand as a foundational document for future activities AFS and these other societies, separately or in common, will undertake to improve the standing of our fields in the academy.

For the group representing our field at the meeting (Brent Björkman, Meg Brady, Marcia Gaudet, Tim Lloyd, Elliott Oring, Sandy Rikoon, Patricia Turner, and myself), the priorities for AFS action stemming from this meeting were to create a plan, and identify funding partners, to:

- Identify several outstanding university-based folklore programs that are poised to move to the next level of development from where they stand today; e.g., a lone folklorist who wants to bring a partner onto the faculty, a pair of folklorists working toward developing a program, a program wishing to incorporate public humanities preparation directly into its curriculum, a program wishing to test new ways of delivering an undergraduate folklore curriculum, a program ready to move from the MA-granting level to departmental status and to offer the PhD. Working closely with those programs, we will design appropriate means and methods of support that AFS can provide to help them take that next step. These creative institutional interventions will also serve as models for other programs in the field.

- Carry out a “benchmark” project to design and communicate objective criteria for the review and evaluation of university-based folklore programs.
- To build membership in and increase the diversity of the field, make undergraduate recruitment—making undergraduates with a number of majors aware of folklore as a graduate field—a focus. In this effort, target in particular the historically black colleges and universities, colleges on the borders of the US, and large urban institutions (such as the City University of New York, Temple, or the California State University system).
- Develop a public information capability within the AFS executive office to more actively and effectively manage the image of the field in the academy, in the public policy community, and among the general public.
- Develop a program of AFS-produced ongoing professional development activities for folklorists at all career levels and in all sectors of professional employment to supplement the opportunities now being offered by university-based folklore programs.

In addition, the folklore group at our meeting cited three efforts already underway under AFS leadership that will contribute to resolution of the issues discussed here. We are building upon our field’s current involvement with intellectual property issues, including our strong relationship with the World Intellectual Property Organization, by convening a task force (led by our delegate to WIPO) to develop models for the more effective long-term engagement of our field in the public policy and public service arena. We are working with international partners to create an H-Folk listserv administered through H-Net as a means to increase and deepen international scholarly communication within our field. Finally, we are also creating, in partnership with folklore centers, departments, and programs, a database they and we can use to track the career trajectories of their students.

For AFS, this meeting was the second of three critical planning gatherings taking place in 2006. The first of these was a day-long long-range planning discussion held by the AFS’s twelve-member Executive Board in April, and the third was a day-long, pre-conference symposium on the futures of scholarship and public practice in our field, co-sponsored with the Fund for Folk Culture and supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, to be held at the time of the AFS’s annual meeting in Milwaukee this October. Along with dialogue with the AFS membership as a whole about their outcomes, these gatherings will lead to a new long-range plan for our society in early 2007. At present, the large themes for that plan appear to be:

- Engage in an active campaign to improve the standing of folklore in the academy
- Engage more fully in relevant public policy discussions and policy-making processes
- Take better care of our own
- Manage the image of the field more actively and effectively
- Transform the annual meeting

A more complete articulation of those themes is available on pp. 1-8 of the October 2006 issue of the *American Folklore Society News*, available on the Society’s web site.

My thanks for all their creative and productive efforts during the year go to Tim Lloyd, Brent Björkman, the members of the Executive Board, and the other Society members who have assisted us in this critically important work.

*Bill Ivey*  
*Vanderbilt University*

## Report of the Executive Director

AFS Bylaws: The Executive Board's autumn 2005 proposal to amend Article III of the AFS Bylaws to read, in its entirety, "The Executive Board shall have the authority to create, change, eliminate, and set the benefits and dues for all classes of membership in the Society" passed by an overwhelming majority, 328 votes to 29, in the 2005 AFS election balloting.

Annual Meetings: Our 2006 annual meeting in Milwaukee, on the theme of "Homelands and Diasporas," was very successful. 626 people registered for the meeting, in line with attendance in recent years. The annual meeting program featured more than 130 sessions, including:

- A day-long pre-meeting symposium on the futures of scholarship and practice in the field of folklore, supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and produced by the Society and the Fund for Folk Culture
- Plenary presentations by folklorist Galit Hasan-Rokem of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and American author Barry Lopez (this last presentation was followed by a book signing)
- Special AFS section-sponsored lectures by Don Yoder, emeritus of the University of Pennsylvania and Jim Leary of the University of Wisconsin
- Professional development workshops on digital audio recording, archiving, and preservation; working effectively with the media; cultivating individual donors; shooting and editing ethnographic video; developing folklore-based cultural tours for the K-12 curriculum; and folklore and creative writing
- A series of presentations by Iraqi artists and activists about the impact of war on Iraqi culture and life, including a real-time dialogue with Iraqi web loggers
- Four Thursday sessions on the impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the people and cultures of southern Louisiana and southeastern Texas
- Other special events, including a storytelling concert, a tamburitza dance, and a film screening, sponsored by AFS sections and by the Fund for Folk Culture
- Exhibits by 18 publishers of folklore books and four AFS sections
- Demonstrations and sales by six Wisconsin folk artists
- Receptions sponsored by the Milwaukee County Historical Society, by publishers, and by five university folklore programs
- A Saturday night Wisconsin fish fry dinner and polka dance at the restaurant and hall of the Milwaukee Turnverein
- Business meetings of two dozen AFS interest-group sections

Our 2007 annual meeting, a joint meeting with the Association canadienne d'ethnologie et de folklore/Folklore Studies Association of Canada (ACEF/FSAC), is set for the Hilton Québec in Québec City. The theme for the meeting, on which presentations will be encouraged but not required, will be "Intangible Cultural Heritage." Laurier Turgeon of the Université Laval will lead the 2007 annual meeting committee, comprising both Francophone and Anglophone Canadian and US folklorists. For this year, both French and English will be official meeting languages.

Our 2008 annual meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. Western Kentucky University's folk studies program and the Kentucky Folklife Program at the state arts council will serve as the local coordinating organizations.

Our 2009 annual meeting has been set for Boise, Idaho. A group of Idaho and intermountain West folklorists will carry out local work for this meeting. We will use the Grove Hotel, in the center of downtown Boise, and the entire Boise convention center next door will be set aside for our use.

Work to identify our annual meeting sites for 2010-2012 will begin in early 2007.

Elections: The 2006 AFS election balloting is being conducted online for the first time. The experience of other societies that have adopted electronic voting suggests that this way of managing elections can lead to increased participation, which is our primary reason for making this change, but those societies' experience also shows that electronic balloting is simpler for the individual voter and less expensive for the society to manage. We will announce the results of this year's election shortly after January 1, 2007, when balloting ends.

Finances: The AFS ended its fiscal year 2006 (September 1, 2005-August 31, 2006) in the black for the fourth consecutive year. Our unaudited figures show a net income of \$14,825 for the year. During the year, our cash reserve grew by 14% to \$440,000, and our endowment fund, comprising present gifts to the AFS planned giving program, grew 13% to just under \$76,000.

Member Survey: We carried out our most recent member survey in the winter of 2002, making winter 2007 the time for the next installment of the survey, which will need to be planned for over the next ten months. We expect that this survey will be conducted entirely online. So as to produce comparable data, it will follow very much along the lines of our earlier survey. AFS associate director Brent Björkman will be in charge of this project.

Planned Giving: As of December 1, 2006, the "quiet phase" of the Society's planned giving program has brought in a total of over \$861,500 in present gifts and future pledges. Approximately 90% of this amount represents the estimated total of future pledges. In 2007 we will begin the "public phase" of this permanent fund-raising campaign, during which (through mailings, publications, and personal contacts) we will begin encouraging all members of the Society to make a gift or pledge to help secure the Society's long-term future.

Prizes: The following individuals and organizations received the Society's prizes for 2006:

American Folklore Society Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award: Don Yoder, University of Pennsylvania, *emeritus*

Benjamin A. Botkin Prize (for lifetime achievement in public folklore): Elaine Thatcher, Utah State University

Américo Paredes Prize (for conducting fieldwork, research, and public education in one's own community): The El Río Project, sponsored by a number of local and regional organizations

along the Rio Grande Valley, in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

In 2006, AFS negotiated an agreement with the University of Chicago to take over the administration of the Chicago Folklore Prize beginning this year. The prize will retain its present name, and the endowment that funds it will remain in the University's hands, but from now on the prize will be jointly given by the Society and the University. AFS will receive the annual income from the endowment, from which the prize, and AFS's costs to manage it, will be paid. AFS will promote the prize to publishers, select judges, receive book submissions and forward them to the judges, announce the recipients at our annual meeting, pay the prize recipient(s), and carry out any other necessary administrative duties.

The recipient of the 2006 Chicago Folklore Prize was Jo Farb Hernández of San José State University, for her *Forms of Tradition In Contemporary Spain*, published by the University Press of Mississippi in cooperation with San José State University.

Several AFS sections awarded or announced prize recipients at the 2006 annual meeting in Milwaukee. They were:

Children's Folklore Section (Aesop Prize, for the best children's book incorporating folklore): Marge Bruchac, *Malian's Song* (Middlebury, Vermont: Vermont Folklife Center, 2005), and Kathleen Ragan (ed.), *Outfoxing Fear: Folktales From Around the World* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2006)

Folklore and History Section (Wayland D. Hand Prize, for an outstanding publication in folklore and history): Wolfgang Mieder, University of Vermont, *Proverbs Are the Best Policy: Folk Wisdom and American Politics* (Logan: Utah State University Press, 2005); runner-up, David Stanley, Westminster College, *Folklore in Utah: A History and Guide to Resources* (Logan: Utah State University Press, 2004)

Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Section (Raphael Patai Prize, for the best student paper on Jewish folklore and ethnology): Eve Jochnowitz, New York University

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Section (Student Essay Prize): Sarah J. Moore, Memorial University of Newfoundland

### Special Projects and Activities:

1. In late 2005, the Society received a \$49,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to plan and lead a meeting of representatives from the professional societies of the fields of folklore, oral history, and ethnomusicology to discuss the changing relationships of those fields to the academy. Bill Ivey has reported on that project in his President's report above.

2. We have come to the end of year three of our three-and-a-half-year Ethnographic Thesaurus Project, funded by a grant of \$484,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Our four project team members (a lexicographer, a database manager, and two subject specialists, aided by a 13-member advisory board) have been working on the project since the summer of 2004, and are keeping right on schedule. A prototype version of the thesaurus is available for comment and review on the AFS website (<http://afsnet.org/~thesaurus/>); once completed in June 2007, the thesaurus will "reside" on our site as a living document, to be modified, enlarged, refined, and corrected by scholars and archivists worldwide.

3. Our work to provide the American Folklife Center's Veterans History Project with leaders for community-based workshops on conducting ethnographic interviews has begun its fifth year. 100 workshop leaders (about 2/3 folklorists and 1/3 oral historians) have thus far led more than 240 workshops with almost 5,000 participants in 38 states. Our work on this project is bringing many benefits, including public visibility to the field.

4. In August our \$150,000, two-year grant from National Endowment for the Humanities to support work toward the completion of a print-format scholarly edition of the James Madison Carpenter Collection came to an end. The proposal we submitted in November 2005 to continue work on this project was funded by the NEH for another \$150,000, and that grant began September 1, 2006, making it possible for our work to continue uninterrupted.

The Collection, one of the most significant in the collections of the American Folklife Center, contains a wealth of folkloric material, particularly of British and American traditional song and drama. Most material in the collection dates from 1929-35, when Carpenter conducted fieldwork in Britain; the remainder was gathered in the US. The collection comprises papers, wax cylinders, acetate discs, photographs and drawings, all of which include the texts and tunes of approximately 1,000 Child ballads, 800 sea shanties, 750 other songs, 300 mummers' plays, and 50 instrumental tunes.

A team of six scholars, most of whom work in the UK, are at work on this project. The University Press of Mississippi has expressed a strong interest in publishing the completed, multi-volume work.

5. AFS associate director Brent Björkman has taken on the responsibility of developing a year-round program of AFS-sponsored professional development activities. He spent a good part of late 2005 and early 2006 researching a number of different possibilities and meeting with a number of folklorists representing groups that we want to have involved in such activities, including the leadership of the AFS Graduate Student Section and the AFS Fellows, consortia of public folklorists, and the like, to see what the most critical needs are and into what niches AFS activities might best fit; e.g., regular workshops held at university folklore programs and public folklore centers, and mentoring programs that would support ongoing learning relationships between younger and senior folklorists. As a result of this work, we applied in August 2006 to the National Endowment for the Arts for a \$94,000, two-year grant to support a series of leadership workshops for junior-level public folklorists, and we are now seeking a foundation partner to support the other 50% of project costs.

6. In May 2006, AFS entered into a \$29,000 contract with the Ohio Humanities Council. The Council is bringing *Key Ingredients*, a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition of foodways (curated by folklorist Charley Camp of Baltimore) to venues in eight sites in Ohio in 2007-2008, and this contract supported Ohio foodways fieldwork by Sheila Bock and Ashley Overstreet, two Ohio State graduate folklore students, that will lead to a publication on Ohio foodways to accompany the exhibition.

Web Site: During the first half of 2007, we expect to add a Resources and Opportunities chapter to the AFS web site. The Opportunities side of the chapter will contain the notices of jobs, conferences, and the like that the site carries now. The Resources side of the chapter will contain useful materials for the practice of folklore, including detailed reports on all AFS annual meeting professional development sessions; syllabi, curricula, and other teaching materials for a variety of classes submitted by members; links to other useful resources; and the like.

Finally, I want to thank our 2006 President Bill Ivey, Past President Mike Jones, all the members of the Executive Board (Bill Ellis, Diane Goldstein, Alan Jabbour, Dorry Noyes, Sandy Rikoon, Dan Sheehy, Elaine Thatcher, Kay Turner, and Steve Zeitlin), AFS associate director Brent Björkman, the chairs and members of all AFS standing and ad hoc committees, all AFS editors, all AFS delegates to and liaisons with other organizations, and all AFS members for their many contributions toward our field and Society during 2006.

*Timothy Lloyd*  
*American Folklore Society*

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

In 2005, the editorship of the *Journal of American Folklore* was transferred from Elaine Lawless and her staff at the University of Missouri to us. This report covers the period from September 1, 2005 (by which time the editorial transition was complete) to September 1, 2006.

The *Journal* continues to be published by the Journals Division of the University of Illinois Press. In the spring of 2006, the press began to work with a new printer, and as a result the delivery of issues 472 and 473 was delayed. The delivery of issue 474 is likely to be delayed by a few weeks as well, and the press anticipates that it will return to the usual schedule with the following issue.

Patricia Sawin (University of North Carolina) is currently the *JAF* book review editor. C. Kati Szego (Memorial University of Newfoundland) is the sound review editor. Tina Bucuvalas (Florida Folklife Program) is the exhibitions and events review editor. Michael Robert Evans (Indiana University) is the film and video review editor. Bobby Kuechenmeister served as the *JAF* editorial assistant.

During the summer of 2006, Patricia Sawin informed us that she would be stepping down as book review editor. We would like to express our appreciation to her for her work in this capacity. Jill Terry Rudy of Brigham Young University is the new book review editor, and this review editorship is currently in transition. New books for review should be addressed to Jill Terry Rudy, Associate Professor of English, Brigham Young University, 4157 JFSB, Provo UT 84602.

*JAF* is a quarterly publication. Issues 470 and 471, which were prepared by Elaine Lawless and her staff, contained 1 address, 10 articles, and 1 note. Issues 472 and 473, which were prepared by our office, contained 8 articles and 1 note. From September 1, 2005 to September 1, 2006, our office received 47 article submissions and 3 note submissions; 16 articles were accepted, 5 were accepted with revision, 17 were rejected with an option to revise and resubmit, and 19 were rejected outright. Currently, we are seeking readers for 2 articles and making a decision on 1 more; 3 articles and 1 note are being reviewed by readers, 6 are currently accepted with varying levels of revision, 7 are fully accepted and in process at our office, and 9 are in process at UIP.

We are continuing to actively solicit articles for the journal. Both the quality and the quantity of the submissions has been high in the last year, and the outlook for *JAF* in 2006 is bright. We would like to thank Clydette Wantland and Heather Munson at the University of Illinois Press and Tim Lloyd at the American Folklore Society for their help during the year. We would also like to express our appreciation to the following units at Texas A&M University for the support that they have provided: the Department of English, the Department of Performance Studies, the Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, the Women's Studies Program, and the Women's & Gender Equity Resource Center.

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

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

This report covers from July 1, 2005, through November 1, 2006, and includes the transition of the book review editor duties from Patricia Sawin at University of North Carolina to Jill Terry Rudy at Brigham Young University. Next year's report will cover from November 2006 to November 2007.

During this period, we received approximately 155 books and sent out 87 books for review. We submitted fifteen complete reviews to the editors of the *Journal*, and 26 reviews were published during this time frame. Patricia Sawin thanks graduate assistant Michael Knoll for conscientious service with the book reviews. After several years contributing to the field as book review editor, she has worked over the past four months to initiate Jill Terry Rudy into the intricacies of the review process. Patricia is completing the preparation of some reviews for submission to *Journal of American Folklore*, and Jill is also working with some reviews that Patricia has solicited. At this point, all authors are to contact Jill about submitting their reviews at [jill\\_rudy@byu.edu](mailto:jill_rudy@byu.edu).

The database of books available for review and updated guidelines for writing and submitting reviews will be available by January 2007 on the AFS website. AFS website manager Jeff Borisch is helping to connect databases so the information on the website will reflect the latest books received for review. More reviews will also appear online in the members section of the website. A backlog of books written by folklorists and in need of review currently exists; the book review editor will continue to solicit prominent and active members of the field to contribute to the important scholarly task of evaluating research and contributions to knowledge through book reviews. Standard reviews are not lengthy, only 750 words, and we usually expect a tight turn around of receiving a review back within three to four months after the review author receives the book. If solicited to write a review, please consider every possibility to agree or be prepared to suggest the name of an even more qualified colleague; if interested in titles posted on the website or others of significant interest to the field, please contact the new editor.

Jill Terry Rudy  
Brigham Young University

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

Since taking over the position of exhibitions and events review editor a little over a year ago, I have received four reviews—all of which have been edited and submitted to the *JAF* editors. I have solicited and will continue to solicit reviews of exhibitions and events on Publore, and from numerous individuals. However, at this time only one review is in process.

Tina Bucuvalas  
Florida Folklife Program

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

Since I took over as the film and videotape review editor for *JAF*, I have advanced the reviews that were already in the pipeline and launched the solicitation process to bring in new ones. I edited and submitted four reviews that were solicited by the previous editor: the films of Bess Lomax Hawes, two films about pimps, *Il Maggio Emiliano* and *Il Maggio Dramatico*, and Mysterious Object at Noon. In addition, I solicited, edited, and submitted reviews about Carnival and *The Aristocrats*. I have additional reviews in various stages and will submit them at a steady pace in the future. I want to thank editors Harry Berger and Giovanna del Negro for inviting me to serve as the film and video review editor. I encourage producers to send their films and videos to me for review;

my address is 103 Ernie Pyle Hall, School of Journalism, Indiana University, Bloomington IN 47405 USA; 812/855-0550; [mirevans@indiana.edu](mailto:mirevans@indiana.edu).

*Michael Evans  
Indiana University*

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

As readers will know, *JAF* has a long history of publishing substantial essays that review a body of recordings associated with a musical genre, place, "scene," artist/group or label. Because it has yielded such rich results, the practice of soliciting sound review essays continues. In consultation with the main editors, we made a decision to include shorter reviews focused on single or small groups of thematically related discs. As a result, since September 2005 I have submitted reviews for 11 CDs or CD sets, and received one unsolicited review. Six more CDs have been assigned to reviewers. One sound review essay has been edited and submitted; two more essays have been received, and another two have been solicited. I encourage producers and distributors of CDs, music/oral tradition websites and radio documentaries to send material to me at the School of Music, Memorial University, St. John's NL Canada A1C 5S7; 709/737-7479; [katiszego@mun.ca](mailto:katiszego@mun.ca).

*C. Kati Szege  
Memorial University of Newfoundland*

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

Members of the Nominating Committee were Sabina Magliocco (Chair), Amy Kitchener, and Mario Montaña. Elaine Thatcher served as Executive Board Liaison. In March 2006, Tim Lloyd posted to the membership the announcement seeking names of individuals to be nominated for candidacy for the AFS presidency, Executive Board and Nominating Committee, via the April *AFS News*, the AFS email list and Publore. The deadline for nominations was May 1, 2006. A reminder announcement was made at the Western States Folklore Society Business Meeting on April 22.

The Nominating Committee shares AFS's commitment to, and concern with, diversifying the leadership of the organization. We believed that offering a slate made up predominantly of minority candidates would help diversify AFS's leadership more fairly than some of the strategies discussed in the past, such as having the Executive Board appoint minority candidates not elected by the general membership. Upon convening by conference call on May 22 and reviewing the list of ten candidates nominated by the membership, the committee decided to seek out additional minority candidates.

The process of finding minority candidates willing to run was instructive in and of itself. We encountered a number of setbacks that typify the difficulties shared by organizations struggling to diversify. The first is the low number of minorities in AFS overall. A second, related problem is that many minority members are already overcommitted due to being in demand as members of under-represented groups. This leaves them unable to serve, at least for the time being. Finally, some minority individuals may, because of limited access to power, lead lives more marked by instability and lack of resources than members of dominant ethnic and cultural groups. This also hampers their ability and willingness to serve in leadership positions that require time commitments and travel expenses. All these complexities emphasize the need to reach out more broadly to all minorities and encourage their membership in AFS from an early career stage. It is at that stage that friendships and alliances are formed which lead to feelings of loyalty and belonging, and result in life-long activism in organizations. It would also be very helpful if the AFS were able to subsidize

travel, at least for officers and candidates for whom the expense of a yearly meeting represents a considerable financial hardship.

After several months of searching, the Nominating Committee did come up with a slate of candidates. These include Norma Cantú and Elaine Lawless for President; Anand Prahlad (who subsequently withdrew from the election), Lisa Higgins, Lucy Long, Guha Shankar, and Patricia Turner for Executive Board; and Sharon Clarke and Solimar Otero for Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee looks forward to presenting the candidates to the membership and to moderating the candidates' forum at the AFS Meetings in Milwaukee in October.

*Sabina Magliocco  
California State University, Northridge*

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

The Committee renewed its membership this year, saying farewell to Regina Bendix, who has sustained it for years as co-founder, chair, and hard-working member, along with Galit Hasan-Rokem, who found time to be an active member from a long distance amid heavy commitments. We are deeply grateful to them both. In their stead, we are delighted to welcome Mark Bender, Merrill Kaplan, and John Lindow for the energy and networking skills they bring to us. In addition, we thank continuing members Veronica Aplenc, JoAnn Conrad, Lee Haring, Lauri Harvilahti, Tim Tangherlini, and Mbugua wa-Mungai for their ongoing participation.

This year the committee was able to support eight scholars with travel stipends: two for North American folklorists traveling to meetings abroad, four regular stipends for international scholars to the AFS meeting, and two special stipends to international invitees of the Program Committee.

Our regular stipend winners were Deming An, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China; Inola Apakidze from Tbilisi State University, Georgia; Jasna Capo Smegac, Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb, Croatia; and Lihui Yang from Beijing Normal University, China.

In addition, we supported Program Committee invitees Wu Yifang, a Miao (Hmong) scholar from the Guizhou Provincial Museum, China, and Naila Ceribasic, a music and dance scholar from the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb, Croatia. Both of these visitors gave scholarly papers but also participated in sessions and meetings outside the conference with community members (Hmong and Croatian respectively). In this way the homeland-diaspora relations that were the theme of the meeting were also strengthened by it.

Going abroad from North America were Laurel Horton, independent scholar, who will be attending the annual meeting of the British Quilt Study Group in Belfast in November. Guillermo de los Reyes, Assistant Professor at the University of Houston, attended the 52nd International Congress of Americanists in Seville in late July.

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

In addition, the committee has continued its work to cooperate with folklore organizations abroad on the foundation of an international listserv for folklorists, and expects to announce this early in 2007. We thank Tim Lloyd and the Executive Board for their strong support of international matters.

*Dorothy Noyes  
The Ohio State University*

## Report of the Cultural Diversity Task Force

The Gerald L. Davis Travel Fund Grant provides an opportunity for greater participation by people of color at the annual meeting. Typically, eight grants are awarded. Last year, an unprecedented ten individual recipients received a travel grant. Atlanta was a popular destination and attracted a larger application pool. Included among recipients, folklorist photodocumentarian Roland Freeman stands out. At Wednesday's Opening Ceremony, he provided the Invited Plenary Address, "Do You See What I'm Saying?: A Personal Perspective on Folklore, Equal Access, and Social Action." Moreover, Freeman also was instrumental in organizing a gala reception in honor of Atlanta folklorist Worth Long for his outstanding career. Sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution, the reception attracted a throng of dignitaries, who spoke about Long's lifetime achievement. Among them were: Bernice Johnson Reagon, civil and human rights activist and founder of Sweet Honey in the Rock; Patty Crosby, Executive Director, Mississippi Cultural Crossroads; and Richard Kurin, Director, Smithsonian Institution Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. As part of the tribute, Freeman mounted a photo exhibition, documenting Long's contributions as a civil rights activist and cultural and blues historian. Later, in 2005, the Smithsonian and The Group for Cultural Documentation published a book, *Still on the Case: A Pioneer's Continuing Commitment*, containing statements by family, friends, and those whom Worth Long inspired.

I am pleased also to report that The Zora Neale Hurston Prize subcommittee unanimously judged Scott M. Edmondson to be winner of the 2005 award. His submission, "'I Seen, I Know': Testimony from Pastor Billy Watkins and His Freedom of Spirit Church" (A reflexive Guide and Analytical Companion to the Video), was submitted as a MA thesis in Culture and Performance in UCLA's Dept. of World Arts and Cultures. It is accompanied by a video recording on DVD. Ultimately, there were five graduate submissions. Edmondson attended the annual meeting and debuted his piece there.

The Task Force also would like to remind the AFS membership to nominate scholars for the Américo Paredes Prize, awarded to recognize excellence in integrating scholarship and engagement with the people and communities one studies. In addition, the prize is intended to recognize teaching and scholars and practitioners, who work in their own cultures or communities. Enrique Lamadrid, of the University of New Mexico, was the 2005 recipient.

I would like to thank the following Diversity Task Force members: Katey Borland, Olivia Cadaval, Norma Cantu, Xochitl Chavez, Guillermo de los Reyes, Enrique Lamadrid, Becky Morse, Diana N'Diaye, Solimar Otero, Jan Rosenberg, Cynthia Vidaurri, and Marilyn White. Since this will be the end of my term chairing the task force, I want to thank Tim Lloyd for the consideration that he's always shown our mission.

*Jerrilyn McGregory*  
*Florida State University*

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

The 2006 meeting of the American Council of Learned Societies, held in Philadelphia as a "Humanities Convocation" jointly with the Association of American Universities, and titled "Reinvigorating the Humanities," enjoyed overwhelming attendance and support. This year's lecturer, and recipient of the Charles Homer Haskins Prize, was Martin E. Marty, the Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. Guests at the luncheon, who surprised us with their sympathetic attention to the importance of the humanities, were U. S. Representatives James Leach (R-IA) and David Price (D-NC). They offered assistance in getting visas for visiting foreign scholars, through their "humanities caucus" in the

Congress. The only bad news was a rise in the dues of AFS and all other member organizations to ACLS.

Many of the remarks of the excellent speakers were apposite to the discipline of folklore. Rather than report generally on their ideas about the humanities, I'll narrow the focus. From a roundtable held at Case Western Reserve University in May 2005 came the first question (which I adapt), "Why does or should academic folklore studies matter to the university? To the larger public?" So often debated among us, this question had two answers. Humanities scholars tend to think of their work as historicizing, contextualizing, and problematizing all formations that claim to be framing value judgments and thinking critically. Academic and public folklorists, in common with university people outside the humanities and with the general public, tend to see their work as enriching. Many of us see folklore as part of a "moral-philosophical context for education concerning how to 'make a life' (as opposed to 'making a living')" (from Timothy K. Beal's report on the roundtable). Therefore it may be easier for a folklorist to declare and convince people that our work creates meaning, especially in the public sector, than for a university professor to convince the public that the teaching of literature or philosophy enables people to live with ambiguity.

The second great question, if I can rephrase it, is familiar among folklorists: "How can we more effectively communicate why folklore studies matter to the university, to the general public, and to policy makers?" Our failure to communicate relevance is an old story, made more difficult by the complexity and variety of our practices. For instance, the use of folklore is often not visible to other disciplines, and it is not only folklorists who have failed to negotiate amongst the bureaucratic forces and patterns around them. Don Michael Randel, President of the University of Chicago, advocated abandoning the model of the nineteenth-century German university, which restricts "what is legal in your field" and impedes interdisciplinarity. Folklorists can appreciate the need President Randel was advocating, to liberate ourselves from the historic constraints of disciplinary boundaries. He pointed to structures such as "committees" and "workshops," which are alternatives to the kind of department Richard Dorson fought for at Indiana. Thomas Mallon, Deputy Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, spoke to the urgent need for cultural translation, beginning with the language of particular disciplines. "Intelligibility begins at home." As I was wondering what schemes folklorists could devise to move towards these goals, our ethnomusicologist sister Kay Kaufman Shelemay rose to ask about the division, in universities, between the practice and the study of the arts--another point that speaks to folklorists.

As to the ACLS Fellowships, one thing that may be preventing folklorists from applying for these (as I have recommended in previous reports) is that applicants are asked to select only one disciplinary category from a list limited to about two dozen, including regional studies and anthropology. Good news is that when ACLS discovered that its applicants identified themselves with as many as 145 disciplines or subdisciplines, it was decided to expand the list. Since I began attending ACLS meetings, the amount of available money has greatly increased. It would be good for folklore if more of us applied for such grants. ACLS is beginning to think about funding collaborative research.

A presentation of the greatest relevance to folklorists focused on the project Ethnomusicological Video for Instruction and Analysis (EVIA) Digital Archive, a joint project of Indiana University and the University of Michigan. Alan Burdette, executive director of the Society for Ethnomusicology, described the project, in his role as its executive investigator: "The mission of the project is to create systems for long-term digital preservation of ethnographic video, provide internet access to high-quality video, enhance the searchability and value of the video content through intense collaboration with scholars and librarians in the creation of metadata, and create a viable intellectual property strategy for internet access to video created by scholars." Talking afterwards with Alan Burdette, I realized that if we were to try to match this archive's high standards

for preservation, folklorists would probably have to improve their field methods beyond what we were taught. Would that be so bad? Already, scholars hearing of EVIA are eager to contribute their materials and install the site in their laptops, but it will be several years before it is fully developed ([www.indiana.edu/~eviada](http://www.indiana.edu/~eviada)). I should also note that the personnel for the AFS's Ethnographic Thesaurus Project (see the Executive Director's report above) are working in close contact with the staff of the EVIA project.

This year's meeting of ACLS was collegial as always and especially informative.

*Lee Haring  
Brooklyn College (emeritus)*

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

The ninth session of the World Intellectual Property Organization's Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore convened at WIPO headquarters in Geneva in late April. A summary report of the meeting is available at [http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=60152](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=60152). Anyone who is interested should peruse that document and the many more extensive texts on the WIPO site.

To this observer, the pace of these international deliberations is remarkably slow (although I imagine some would prefer "deliberate"), and it is increasingly clear that if anything tangible is to come from the IGC (Intergovernmental Committee), it will represent a compromise between advocates of the creation of a binding international agreement, such as a treaty, and those who believe something along the lines of a set of nonbinding recommendations is the only acceptable outcome. I find that my thinking is changing, and that I recognize that some sort of middle ground is the only likely conclusion. In fact, one need look only at the political realities of the Kyoto Treaty to understand that international treaties are not necessarily as effective as one might wish, no matter how attractive the notion of a binding instrument of international law may be.

I would say that the three most significant developments of the ninth session were these:

- The creation of a board to work with a new international fund to support the participation of indigenous peoples in the meeting. A number of nations have promised financial contributions to that fund.
- A proposal for a way forward—essentially a tactical compromise—from the delegation from Norway. In essence, this recognized the difficulties of reaching full concurrence on a binding instrument and instead recommended building on areas of agreement, creating a set of guidelines and best practices to be made available internationally. This proposal was offered as a stopgap measure, not intended to prevent the eventual creation of binding international agreements. But it acknowledged the lack of progress at the international level. That is, after years of deliberation, much fact-finding, a number of publications, and an increased awareness on the part of many national delegations of the complexities of the issues, there remains a sense that little has been resolved in the IGC deliberations.
- The decision that the 10<sup>th</sup> session, to be held in late November or early December 2006, will be longer than its predecessors to provide time to make progress toward final outcomes

In addition, I am pleased to report that the AFS statement on ethics is now posted on the WIPO website as an example of best practice. (For this document, please see <http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/folklore/culturalheritage/predatabase.html>.) There you will also find a useful set of documents on cultural policy, intellectual property, and cultural documentation, ranging from Tanzania's cultural policy statement to the National Film and Sound Archives of Australia's

indigenous materials policy. There's a great deal of interesting information on that site, representing many parts of the world.

The Society's participation in WIPO raises a number of general questions and pragmatic issues about our involvement with public policy. The AFS board, consistent with its own interest in long-range planning, has asked me to chair a committee charged with examining the relationship between AFS and public policy agencies and initiatives. A committee consisting of Barry Bergey (National Endowment for the Arts), Peggy Bulger (American Folklife Center, Library of Congress), Valdimar Hafstein (University of Reykjavik), Jerry Pocius (Memorial University of Newfoundland), Sandy Rikoon (University of Missouri, who is also a member of the AFS Executive Board), and I will be working on these matters in the coming months.

*Burt Feintuch*  
*University of New Hampshire*

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

As in the past, in our effort to provide a preservation copy of the AFS collection of official papers, the Utah State University Special Collections and Archives staff continued microfilming the collection, using the AFS funds to purchase microfilm and pay for a part-time student employee.

*Randy Williams*  
*Utah State University*

### **Report of the AFS-Association of Writers and Writing Programs Liaison**

I attended the March 2005 Association of Writers and Writing Programs conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, to learn about the association and how folklorists might best take part.

In April 2005, I organized a panel for the March 2006 meeting of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs in Austin, Texas ([www.awpwriter.org](http://www.awpwriter.org)). Entitled "Mysticisms, Medicines, and the Other: Writing Traditions in Place," the panel featured four southwestern writers of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry who have "drunk deeply" from places: folklorist and writer Norma Cantú, poet J. Michael Martinez, memoir and children's literature author Pat Mora, and novelist Alexander Parsons. (Poet Alberto Ríos was to be with us, but because of a family emergency, he could not come to the conference). Each author read from her/his works and then discussed the gifts and challenges of weaving traditions (legends, personal and family stories, beliefs, customs, rituals, medicines, and more) into their writings. For more information, see [http://mason.gmu.edu/~myocom/yocomroad/afs/fcw/f\\_creative.htm](http://mason.gmu.edu/~myocom/yocomroad/afs/fcw/f_creative.htm).

The AWP session was very well attended and enthusiastically received; a conference organizer voiced her support for additional folklore and creative writing sessions. In April, I organized a panel on ballads and writing produced in response to ballads for the February 2007 AWP Conference. The proposal was accepted Fall 2006 (a sizeable percentage of proposals, I'm told, are rejected).

I founded the Folklore and Creative Writing Section of AFS in 2005 with Amy Skillman, and our activities since then (listserv, website, concert of readings at AFS 2006, writing workshop at AFS 2006) contribute to my work as AWP liaison.

*Margaret R. Yocom*  
*George Mason University*

### **AFS FY 2006 (September 2005-August 2006) Financial Summary**

(Unaudited figures)

**Revenue**

Memberships	77,620
Publications	107,215
Annual Meeting	70,074
Investments	52,434
Grants and Contracts	314,796
Other Revenue	<u>14,249</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>636,388</b>

**Expenses**

Management and Administration	199,502
Publications	65,878
Annual Meeting	67,095
Programs	<u>289,088</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>621,563</b>

**Net Income** 14,825

**AFS Leadership**

**President**

Bill Ivey (Vanderbilt University, Nashville)

**Past President**

Michael Owen Jones (University of California, Los Angeles)

**Members**

Bill Ellis (Pennsylvania State University, Hazleton)  
Diane Goldstein (Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's)  
Alan Jabbour (Washington, DC)  
Dorothy Noyes (The Ohio State University, Columbus)  
Sandy Rikoon (University of Missouri, Columbia)  
Dan Sheehy (Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, Washington, DC)  
Elaine Thatcher (Utah State University, Logan)  
Kay Turner (Brooklyn Arts Council)  
Steve Zeitlin (City Lore, New York City)

**Ex Officio**

Timothy Lloyd, Executive Director, American Folklore Society, Columbus, Ohio