



American Folklore Society



Annual Report
2016

Letter from the President

Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Society Members,

My regards to all of you. I write my 2016 Presidential letter with a sense of optimism about our beloved field of folklore. Working with the smartest and most dedicated Executive Board and staff, I think we have accomplished a great deal this past year. And we are on our way to a progress-packed 2017. I know we've all talked a bit lately about the "peaceful transition of power" and I want to say with thanks and deep appreciation that my predecessor Michael Ann Williams was both an inspiration and a guide, as well as a fellow cat-lover. I couldn't have asked for more in my immediate predecessor.



My tenure began with the board and me being made aware of results of the 2016 AFS member survey, conducted every five years to assess members' professional opinions and needs. This survey is an important tool and we take it very seriously. It gives members an opportunity to tell the board what we should be doing now and in the future. The 2016 survey saw greater response than ever before (we received more than 500 responses) and you made it clear that the board's three top priorities for new work should be: 1) bringing more young people into our field, 2), bringing the work of folklore and folklorists to a wider world, and 3) diversifying AFS. These three charges are interrelated, of course; they entwine to encourage and demand our attention as a Society and as a discipline. Happily, I can report that advances are being made! Let me provide a few snapshots of AFS in 2016, pictures of change, new emphasis, rededication, and staying the same.

Our annual meeting in Miami was very well-received by members and invited guests alike. The meeting theme, "Unfinished Stories," proved very rich, with 80 sessions on folklore and narrative explored in myriad ways. This joint meeting with the International Society for Folk Narrative Research (ISFNR) provided an opportunity for AFS to serve as host to more than 100 international folklorists. The local planning committee and other groups within AFS, working with Associate Director Lorraine Walsh Cashman, created numerous opportunities for people to meet and greet, including several receptions after the opening ceremony and elsewhere in the program, and a lively dance party, sponsored by ISFNR and HistoryMiami Museum, that closed the meeting on Saturday night. Lorraine also shepherded creation of our first-ever annual meeting app, giving the digitally inclined an easy way to navigate our meeting program.

My presidential offerings in Miami included hosting the medievalist and queer studies scholar Carolyn Dinshaw for an invited plenary session. Carolyn's delightful queering of "Rip Van Winkle" was gamely responded to by our colleagues Carl Lindahl, Cristina Bacchilega, and Solimar Otero. Engaging with LGBTQ folklore history, our partners (the HistoryMiami Museum and the University of Miami) helped a group of us (Solimar Otero, Eric Mayer-Garcia, Martin Tang, and Vanessa Navarro, and me) present a unique "archive altar" dedicated to

the life and work of the Cuban lesbian folklorist Lydia Cabrera. I opened the presidential suite to an informal late night Conference on the Couch and I officiated my last Women's Section Crowning Ceremony; the keys to that queendom will be passed along for 2019. Perhaps most important to report, a re-energized Annual Business Meeting found Tim Lloyd delivering the first-ever State of the Society address and increased participation in new business discussions, resulting in a number of our members addressing the Board with ideas, concerns, and requests.

An increasingly active Cultural Diversity Committee (CDC), dedicated to promoting diversity within AFS, sponsored a full slate of panels, and welcomed first-time attendees of color to a lunch gathering. This successful event will be repeated in Minneapolis. The CDC continued its commitment, begun at Long Beach in 2015, to bringing local grassroots organizers for social change to our meeting. This year representatives from Dream Defenders, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, and other groups joined us in forums that galvanized connections between folklorists and local Florida labor and racial justice organizations.

Already a concern of the Board, the charge made by members to attract both diverse and young scholars to our field was seriously addressed this year—and will continue to be—with efforts made in strategic recruitment and curriculum expansion. Working to create more immediate portals of entry into our field for diverse candidates, we have initiated a pilot program between the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage and the Graduate Folklore Program at the University of North Carolina. Our goal is to bring candidates from the Center's diversity internship program, recently initiated by Center director Michael Atwood Mason, into the UNC folklore master's degree program, currently directed by Patricia Sawin. We will continue to seek other ways to cooperate across our field to meet our desire for increased diversity and inclusivity. In addition, we have convened a curriculum opportunities committee to share ideas for bringing more ways to study folklore theory and history in relation with critical race theory, queer theory, transnational, feminist theory/praxis, disability studies, and performance theory.

With encouragement from many of our members, AFS is becoming more immediately responsive to world politics and global pressures on the traditional artists and communities we work with. In 2016, the AFS Executive Board made public statements standing against the North Carolina bathroom bill affecting the transgender community there and standing with the Native Americans of Standing Rock in their protest against a transnational pipeline that would cross through sacred lands owned by the Sioux Nation. As I write this report in early 2017, the Board has just issued another statement taking issue with the Executive Order banning entry to the U.S. of people from seven majority-Muslim countries. In all three cases, people we know and serve as folklorists are directly targeted and compromised. AFS, through its Executive Board, has made it clear that we will not be silent on issues relevant to our field.

I do not underestimate the seriousness of our post-election situation. We live in vulnerable times, times of unknowing. But these are times also for bringing the value of folklore study beyond our usual domains. Folklore study and practice remains central to any understanding of our human cause. Thank you to the many Society members who have moved us forward in 2016.

Yours,
Kay Turner
President

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Financial Summary

These figures reflect the financial activities of the American Folklore Society during the 2016 fiscal year (FY 2016), which ran from September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016.

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 2015 annual meeting in Long Beach, CA, which took place in FY 2016.

** The net income shown for FY 2016 consists almost entirely of \$60,000 in grant funds received during the year that will be spent on AFS special project activities during FY 2017.

Administration

Revenue		\$161,562
{	Membership Dues	71,682
	Investments	25,868
	Gifts and Contributions	60,518
	Other	3,494
Expenses		128,706
Administration Net Income		\$32,856

Annual Meeting *

Revenue	\$64,725
Expenses	115,529
Annual Meeting Net Income	-\$50,804

Projects

Revenue	\$335,332
Expenses	277,288
Projects Net Income	\$58,044

Publications

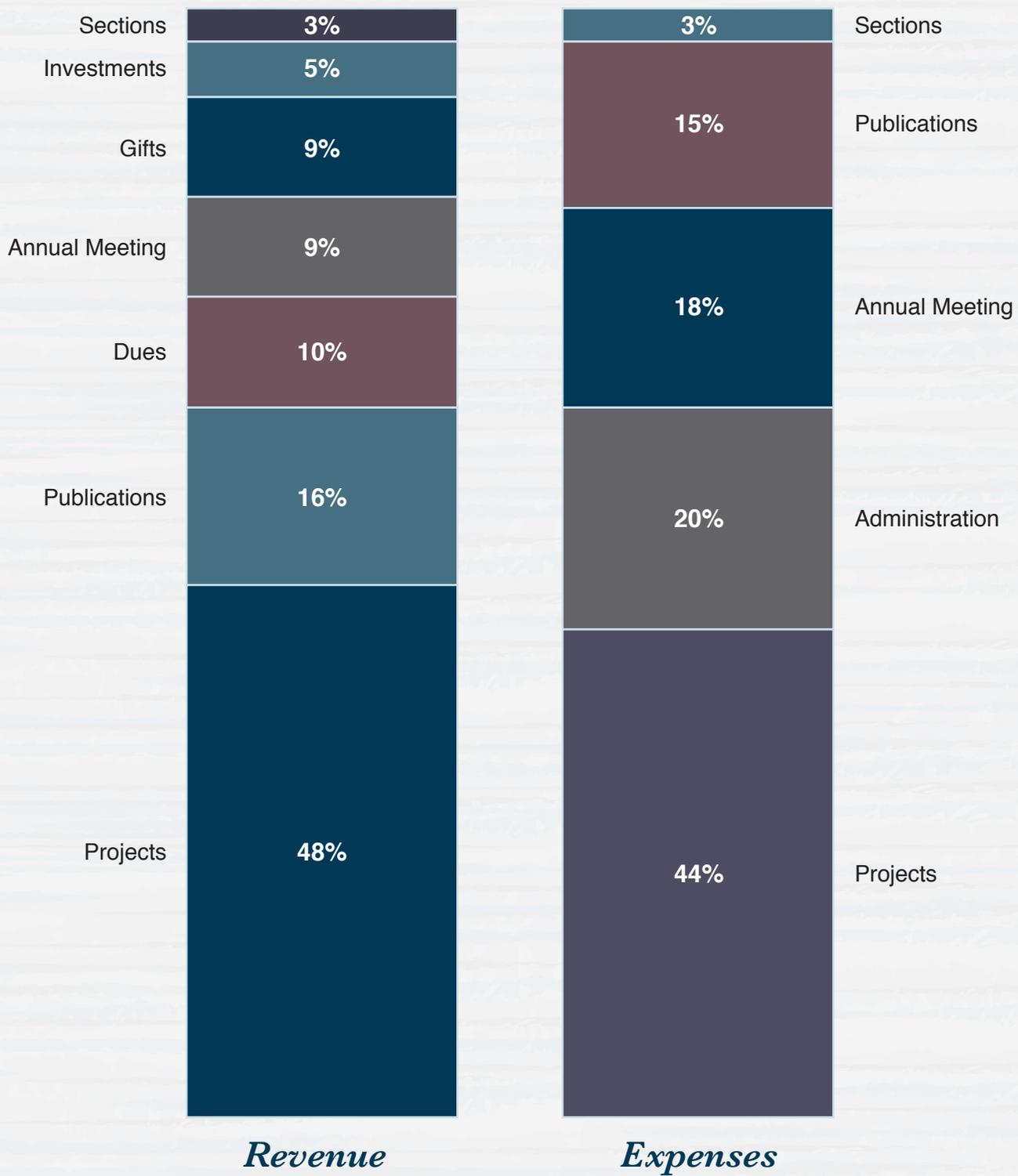
Revenue	\$113,742
Expenses	97,846
Publications Net Income	\$15,896

Sections

Revenue	\$23,583
Expenses	16,168
Sections Net Income	\$7,415

Total revenue	\$698,944
Total expenses	635,537
FY 2016 net income **	\$63,407
Less grant revenue for FY 2017 projects	-\$60,000
FY 2016 final net income	\$3,404

*Revenue and expenses
as percents of total*



Projects

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 was in its ninth year in 2016. 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 shared on the [AFS website](#).

National Folklore Archives Initiative

In 2015, the Society received a two-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support the second phase of 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 project is directed by Vermont Folklife Center co-director and archivist Andy Kolovos, Steve Green of the Western Folklife Center, and Timothy Lloyd of AFS. The database of information about these collections, which the Society manages in partnership with the Indiana University Bloomington Library, is available at folklorecollections.org.

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 Society 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. 2016 marked the 15th year of the Society's involvement in this project; to date, some 9,000 people have participated in over 400 workshops in 41 of the U.S. states and territories.



Veterans and staff attend a donation ceremony at the Veterans History Project offices.

Photo by Owen Rogers, courtesy of Veterans History Project.

China-U.S. Folklore and Intangible Cultural Heritage Initiative

In 2016, we completed work on our second three-year grant for the China-U.S. folklore studies initiative, provided by the Henry Luce Foundation with additional support from the Ford Foundation and other donors in China and the U.S.

Our work on this grant included two conferences on China and U.S. ethnographic museum policy and practice, one at the Museum of International Folk Arts in Santa Fe and one at the Guizhou Museum of Nationalities in southwest China; a pair of international professional development exchanges for younger and mid-career ethnographic museum professionals from China and the U.S.; and the development of several new online resources and programs for folklore scholarship.

In late 2016, we received word that the Luce Foundation would provide us with a third three-year grant, which in 2017–19 will support three China-U.S. summer folklore institutes for early-career scholars, and a collaborative research project by our six China and U.S. ethnographic museum partners on southwestern China textile traditions.



Participants in the 2016 summer folklore institute at a woodcarver's studio in Inner Mongolia.

Photo by the China Folklore Society.

Annual Meeting

The Society's 2016 annual meeting was a joint meeting with the [International Society for Folk Narrative Research](#), October 19-22, at the Hyatt Regency Miami, in Miami, Florida. The theme for the meeting was "Unfinished Stories: Folklife and Folk Narrative at the Gateway to the Future."

Our joint meeting expanded in every measurable dimension: the numbers of attendees, presenters, days, time slots, and concurrent sessions all grew over average expectations. Meeting participants enjoyed the quality and diversity of the program; again, as usual, the most common complaint was that attendees felt pulled to too many attractions, especially given the particularly generous portion of the meeting devoted to narrative work.

This meeting introduced two new features: a conference app made it possible to access the full program from mobile devices; 10-minute papers allowed more participants to report on a given panel topic, more participants in the program as a whole, and another option for presenters who prefer to get more feedback on a focused aspect of their work. Both were well-received and will be offered again in the future.

The meeting offered abundant opportunities for socializing, thanks in particular to the generous support of ISFNR, HistoryMiami Museum, the Fellows, and our many friends in folklore programs, publishing and regional organizations.

The complete program book, including the schedule and abstracts, can be found with all the other posted meeting information on the [2016 AFS/ISFNR Joint Meeting web page](#).



The AFS Executive Board welcomes attendees at the Opening Ceremony of the 2016 AFS/ISFNR Joint Meeting.

Annual Meeting By the Numbers

4 days
156 general sessions
most concurrent sessions: **16**

641
presenters

Joint Meeting
of the
American Folklore Society
and the
**International Society
for Folk Narrative Research**

October 19-22, 2016
Hyatt Regency Miami
Miami, Florida

Countries represented: 41

Number of attendees from

Canada	24
India	15
Finland	15
Estonia	12
China	10
Iceland	9
Sweden	9
Turkey	9

747 total attendees

International participants: **184** or 25%

Students: **180** or 24%

First-time attendees: **238** or 32%

Participant Feedback

Average Rating:

9 (out of 10)

Future Meetings

2017 Minneapolis, MN

2018 Buffalo, NY

Participant Feedback

The following selection of quotes is from an online survey taken after the 2016 meeting in Miami.

“Thanks for putting on a conference that is kind of like one big, really smart family reunion, filled with lots of opportunities to network and learn from our colleagues in the field.”

“The meeting is exhausting because I want to try to partake in it all and there is so much offered that it’s too much to handle.”

To my knowledge, I am the only folklorist—student or professor—at my university, so it was immensely helpful to me to get to meet other people in the field and to learn about PhD programs and ongoing projects.

“I enjoyed the opportunities to connect with members of ISFNR and sit in on some of their sessions and panels. The panel discussion on the relationship between folklore and ethnology was also fascinating.”

“I liked the structure of the schedule, which allowed breaks for networking and talking to new acquaintances about the panels.”

“The receptions were wonderful and I saw some great talks. I went to my first diamond session, which I really enjoyed.”

“We’ve become a bit too specialized (perhaps), especially with all of the sections. I’d like to see more events that allow folklorists with similar interests to gather together in ways that challenge some of this fragmentation.”

“I was very appreciative of the receptions in the evening because they allowed me to meet some of my new favorite people.”

“Would love to see more inclusive opportunities for contingent workers, whether that means inviting someone who is not a luminary in the field to give one of the invited talks or putting together workshops and opportunities for contingent workers, young professionals, graduate students...”

“I think the panel on feminism at AFS was my personal favourite this year, and the kind of panel that AFS needs to continue to highlight in future years.”

“So many events did not stick to their time slots. When there are so many activities going on, sticking to the program really needs to be a higher priority.”

AFS Staff Note: This was one of the most-cited problems.

“I think my favorite sponsored event has to be the Everglades tour. The partnership with HistoryMiami Museum could not have been executed in a better way. I got to get out of the city and see a natural phenomenon that is completely unique, talk to the people who interact there on a daily basis, taste the food of the area...”

“The book is easier to use to browse for interesting panels. The app was better for finding specific information about things or people I already knew about.”

“In general, I would suggest fewer concurrent sessions and more session format changes.”

“Socializing and getting to know colleagues are almost as important to me at the annual meetings as are listening to research papers.”

“I would eliminate the early morning sessions. Ask most folklorists and if they answer honestly, some of the most valuable time is that spent connecting with old friends and meeting new ones, and the joyful realization that you’re not alone! These most memorable experiences last until the wee hours, and I have missed many of them because I had to present early, and missed a lot of good presentations because I was up too late the night before.”

“I really enjoyed the heightened international presence because of the ISFNR attendees.”

“The app became my best friend. It helped keep me on track and informed of changes in the schedule and such.”

“I feel badly about saying this, but I found the ever expanding memorial presentations way too lengthy, way too much readings of academic credentials, somewhat pedantic, & exclusive...”

“I enjoyed the new short presentation format; this made for much more engaging conversation between panelists and audience.”

“I find it strange that we have these meetings in fancy hotels in financial districts of large cities. I know we want to be prestigious, but I think given the crowd, and the number of unfunded participants...we should think outside the box and pick some venues that meet our needs to host a large diverse group, but are maybe more affordable and down to earth.” *AFS Staff Note: The main reason that AFS meets in hotels is that they are the cheapest option for a fall meeting of our size. Keeping meeting costs down is the overriding consideration in site selection every year.*

“The final program by the river was a beautiful evening.”

“I talked with many other colleagues who also found the meeting to be ‘energizing’ and ‘inspiring’ (words that quite a number of people used).”

Annual Meeting Presentations on Video



Francis Lee Utley Memorial Lecture
Axel's Masque: A Family Tale
Erica Brady

ISFNR Plenary Lecture
**Big Data of the Past: 19th-Century Folk
Narrative Researchers and Their Relevance
for the Discipline's Future**
Ulrich Marzolph



AFS Presidential -Invited Address
**Rip van Winkle in the East Village: Queer
Times in Stories, Stories in Queer Times**
Carolyn Dinshaw

Don Yoder Lecture in Religious
Folklife and Folk Belief
**Kol Nidre, The Prayer that Haunted the
Rabbis and Charmed Their Folks**
Dan Ben-Amos



Stith Thompson / Phillips Barry Lecture
**(Re)Writing "Thomas the Rhymer":
A Fantasy Writer Finds Truth (and a
Fool-Proof Plot) in Folklore**
Ellen Kushner



**Her-Story: A Feminism and
Folklore Retrospective**
Norma Cantú, Pauline Greenhill, Rosan Jordan,
Kimberly Lau, Elaine Lawless, Margaret Mills



2016 Awards

AFS Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award

Barre Toelken

(Utah State University, emeritus)

Americo Paredes Prize

Susan Kalčík

(Johnstown, Pennsylvania)

Benjamin A. Botkin Prize

Andrea Graham

(University of Wyoming)

Chicago Folklore Prize

Jane Beck

(Founder and former executive director, Vermont Folklife Center)

Daisy Turner's Kin: An African American Family Saga

Zora Neale Hurston Prize

Tyler D. Parry

(California State University, Fullerton)

“Married in Slavery Time: Jumping the Broom in Atlantic Perspective”

Committee Reports

Cultural Diversity Committee

Members of the 2016 committee were: Wanda Addison and Norma E. Cantú, chairs; Rachel González-Martin, Sojin Kim, Debora Kodish, Kimberly Lau, Shirley Moody-Turner, Anand Prahlad, Suzanne Seriff, Kay Turner, and Anika Wilson. The committee's efforts to explore ways to diversify attendance and sustain diverse engagement within the Society, as well as at its annual meetings, remained foremost in the committee's work for the 2016 meeting in Miami. As a result, the committee organized five forums, two brown bag lunch events, co-organized one off-site forum, and sponsored numerous panels. Three sessions focused specifically on issues of folklore and activism. They brought together folklorists and community activists, centering the work of front-line community activists of color, reflecting on theory, practice, and transformational work, and opening space for exploring what we can do together to advance movements for change.

The "Race and Racialization in Folklore Study and Practice" forum discussed the role that race and race politics play in the academic work of a new generation of folklore scholars. The discussion included topics such as teaching folklore as "ethnic" studies, the role of U.S.-based conceptions of race in international scholarship, race, historical uses of race in professional circles, and being a racialized folklorist in the academy. The forum draws attention to a lack of not only cultural but also structural competency affecting the retention of scholars of color within the wider communities of folklore study in the United States.

The "Critical Histories/Folklore Futures: A Discussion of Engaged Folklore Practices Past and Present" presented critical histories of folklore studies, examined how underrepresented communities and

individuals have variously engaged with folklore studies from within, but also beyond, the parameters of the American Folklore Society, and considered how people imagine folklore work, education, community, and themselves into the future. Attendees discussed how individuals and communities have created folklore practices that prioritize engagement, activism, inclusion, social justice, and diversity. Participants share critical histories of figures or events in folklore studies that exemplified efforts to create an engaged folklore practice.

"Honoring Lydia Cabrera's Story: Altar, Performance, and the Living Archive" was a special program honoring Cuban folklorist Lydia Cabrera (1899-1991), prolific scholar of Afro-Cuban religions, poet, artist, feminist, and lesbian. The HistoryMiami Museum hosted the creation of an altar holding materials from Cabrera's life, a display of The Lydia Cabrera Papers from the Cuban Heritage Collection, talks by two Cabrera scholars and a Zora Neale Hurston scholar, and a performance of Cabrera's dramatic work. A guiding concern of this project was to model ways to perform folklore archives, to see them not only as important research sites but also as sites of feeling,



The Lydia Cabrera altar at the HistoryMiami Museum for the 2016 AFS/ISFNR Joint Meeting in Miami, Florida.

memory, and revelation. Using the altar as a format was also a way to invite the Miami public, especially members of the Cuban community, to encounter archival materials in a setting familiar to many. Another important concern was engaging folklore archive materials in a practice of queering, placing Cabrera's work as a folklorist and ethnographer in relation to her history as both a Cuban exile and a lesbian.

AFS President and committee member Kay Turner initiated an exploration of ways to offer more folklore curriculum opportunities to study the intersection of folklore studies and critical race theory, feminist theory, transnational and disability studies, and queer theory. Outcomes and suggestions for further work included an agreement to present a new curriculum workshop of some kind at the Future of American Folkloristics Conference at Indiana University in May 2017; an agreement to have a larger meeting about curriculum opportunities, including both academic and public folklorists, at the 2017 AFS meeting in Minneapolis; and an agreement to use Open Folklore to post examples of syllabi and other resources centered in folklore and critical social and cultural theory.

The Cultural Diversity Committee reviews applications each year from scholars of color for Gerald L. Davis Travel Award. Thirteen people applied for awards in the amount of \$500, and ten applicants received them. In addition, the committee considered five submissions for the Zora Neale Hurston Prize, presented each year to the best graduate or undergraduate work in any medium on African American folklore. The committee awarded the prize to Tyler D. Parry for his paper "Married in Slavery Time: Jumping the Broom in Atlantic Perspective."

Wanda G. Addison completed her term of service at the end of 2016, and Debora Kodish, Kimberly Lau, and Anand Prahlad ended their committee service prior to the end of their terms. The chairs for 2017 committee will be Rachel González-Martin and Suzanne Seriff.

Wanda G. Addison (National University) and Norma E. Cantú (Trinity University), chairs

Committee on International Issues

In 2016 our members were Katherine Borland (The Ohio State University), chair; Lisa Gilman (University of Oregon), Valdimar Hafstein (University of Iceland), and Leah Lowthorp (Harvard University).

As in past years, one of the Committee's primary responsibilities was to grant travel funds through the International Stipend Program. This year we received a record number of applications as a consequence of our joint meeting with the International Society for Folk Narrative Research. Our 29 applicants came from 15 countries. With one-time, additional funding from the AFS Executive Board, we were able to fund 18 scholars.

In addition to ranking applicants based on the quality of their applications, we targeted scholars early in their careers and scholars with little or no institutional support. We offered \$10,000 in stipends. AFS also provided free accommodations for the annual meeting and a waiver of registration fees. We reapportioned the stipends of two awardees who were ultimately unable to attend and redistributed their unused rooms to worthy candidates who were coming to the meeting despite not receiving a travel grant. Overall, we tried to distribute our resources so as to attract the greatest number of worthy candidates to the meeting.

2016 stipend recipients were:

Mrinal Borah, India
Tulika Chandra, India
Shweta Sinha Deshpande, India
Isabel Galicia-López, Mexico
José Garcia Galicia, Mexico
Helen Klæbe, Australia
Dasa Licen, Slovenia
Antti Lindfors, Finland
Juliana Magnúsdóttir, Iceland
Jennifer O'Reilly, England
José Juan Perez Sosa, Mexico
Natasa Polgar, Croatia
István Povedák, Hungary

Sinsiegnon Germain Sagbo, Benin
José Luis Sagrado Castillo, Mexico
Piret Voolaid, Estonia

In addition, Tuomas Hovi (Finland) and Hongjuan Zhao (China) received hotel accommodations without stipend.

In the future, we will request international scholar ribbons, so that it is easier for our general membership to recognize and welcome newcomers. Although the committee sponsored no specific welcoming event, we encouraged our recipients to attend the AFS welcome reception, to sign up for a conference mentor, and to avail themselves of the many other opportunities to interact with our membership during the conference.

In a departure from the individualist nature of the stipend application process, in 2016 we provided partial support to five scholar/dancers from Mexico for a panel and workshop organized by Brenda Romero. In future, we hope to encourage other members to reach out to international colleagues to build panels and workshops and internationalize our scholarship.

As always, the International Issues Committee welcomes practical suggestions from members and the board for further developing international engagement and visibility.

Katherine Borland (The Ohio State University), chair

Mentoring Committee

The 2016 Mentoring Committee consisted of Maggie Holtzberg, Guillermo De Los Reyes, and chairs Diane Tye and Lisa Gilman. This marked the fifth year of the mentoring program, and its last year as an ad hoc committee. The amendments to the AFS Bylaws approved by the membership in 2016 have made the Mentoring Committee into a standing committee of six members.

The mentoring program recognizes that mentoring and being mentored are important aspects of any

career. 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 2016 committee's goals remained the same as in earlier years: to pair students with established scholars of similar interests for the purposes of facilitating connections, exchanging ideas, and fostering future mentorship. The program was also open to first-time attendees and international scholars applying for stipends who requested pairing with an established scholar. 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.

Prior to 2016, the committee organized "Lunch with an Editor" in addition to making mentoring arrangements. Due to the large overlap of participants in both events in the last few years, however, the committee decided to focus only on mentoring for the Miami meeting.

There were 22 applications for this year's program and we were able to match all applicants 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 aspect will grow in future.

The committee was satisfied with the success of the program in 2016, though we do want to acknowledge some potential areas of concern. Despite efforts made by the committee and the generosity of mentors, some mentees never contacted their assigned mentors or did not show up for scheduled meetings. We also want to encourage AFS's efforts to establish standards around appropriate professional relationships.

The committee has a suggestion for improving the process. If AFS could invite conference participants to indicate their willingness to serve as mentors, it would greatly facilitate the committee identifying mentors to pair with applicants.

Diane Tye (Memorial University of Newfoundland) and Lisa Gilman (University of Oregon), chairs

Nominating Committee

The 2016 Nominating Committee consisted of chair Selina Morales (Philadelphia Folklore Project), Joseph Sciorra (Queens College), Steve Zeitlin (City Lore), and Diane Tye (Memorial University of Newfoundland). This year, the nominating committee, in addition to nominating two candidates for President, six candidates for three Board slots and two candidates for Nominating Committee, decided to focus on increasing participation and interest in the candidates' forum. Our approach to this included posing a new kind of question to the candidates. The question was: "How might the American Folklore Society more formally engage with contemporary social and political issues communities face such as police brutality, immigration and the refugee crises, the school-to-prison pipeline, language endangerment or others? Drawing from your research and/or experiences working with folklife in local communities, please discuss ideas and ways the Society can engage more effectively with these issues and other related issues."

Our hope was that a provocative and crucial/critical question to candidates would draw more attendees to the forum, instigate a fruitful dialogue with the Society, and allow voters to better compare candidate responses. (In the past, the general nature of the candidate's questions/responses at the forum made it difficult to evaluate candidates because answers were so varied and often incomparable.) Further, it was our intention to use the candidates forum as an opportunity for selected candidates to "weigh in" on important issues, whether elected or not. We hoped this forum might offer a platform for addressing pressing issues

and as a result move participants to become more active (in different ways) in our society. We hope to continue this practice going forward.

This year, the committee's nominees were:

President (2017–2020):

Dorothy Noyes (The Ohio State University)
Solimar Otero (Louisiana State University)

Executive Board (2017–19):

Wanda Addison (National University)
Olivia Cadaval (Smithsonian Institution)
Phyllis May-Machunda (Minnesota State University)
Christopher Mulé (Brooklyn Arts Council)
Anand Prahlad (University of Missouri)
Suzanne Seriff (Museum of International Folk Art)

Nominating Committee (2017-19):

Diane E. Goldstein (Indiana University)
Marjorie Hunt (Smithsonian Institution)

Dorothy Noyes was elected to the AFS Presidency. Wanda Addison, Olivia Cadaval, and Phyllis May-Machunda were elected to the AFS Executive Board. (Suzanne Seriff withdrew from the election prior to the vote, and Anand Prahlad withdrew during the voting.) Diane Goldstein was elected to the Nominating Committee. 314 members voted in the 2016 election, which is in line with the number who voted in two of the last three elections featuring a Presidential vote: 307 (2014) and 317 (2010), but fewer than the number (377) who voted in 2012.

Selina Morales (Philadelphia Folklore Project), chair

2016 Election Results

The President-Elect will serve from 2017-2020:

President-Elect 2017; President, 2018-2019; Past President 2020



Dorothy Noyes

(The Ohio State University)

The new
Nominating
Committee
member will
serve from
2017-2019:

**Diane E.
Goldstein**

(Indiana University)



New board members will
serve from 2017-2019:

Wanda Addison

(National University)



Olivia Cadaval

(Smithsonian Institution)



Phyllis May-Machunda

(Minnesota State University Moorhead)



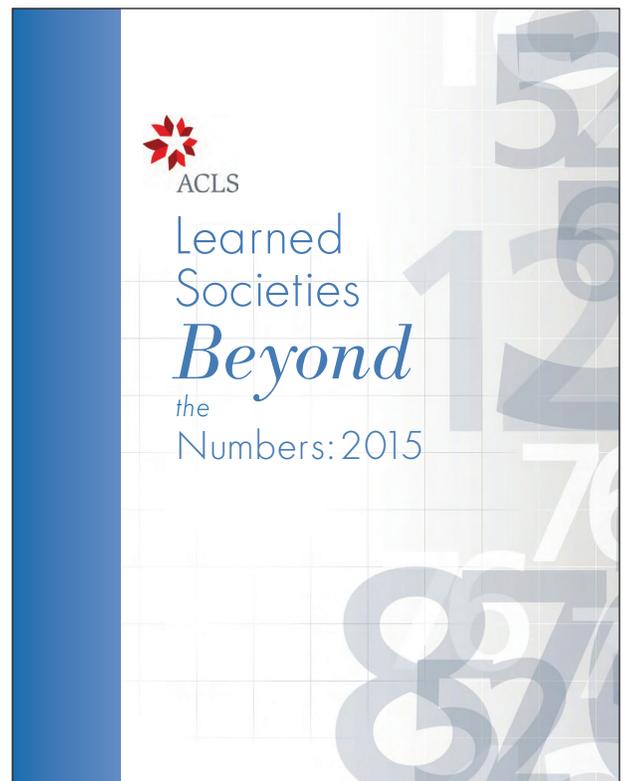
Delegate Reports

American Council of Learned Societies

This year the ACLS met in Arlington, Virginia. In her presidential address, President Pauline Yu, erudite and gracious as always, reviewed the founding of ACLS and then went behind that to cite the celebrated eighth chapter of Bryce's celebrated book *The American Commonwealth*. What made that chapter singularly amusing, for a group meeting just south of the Potomac in 2016, was its title, "Why Great Men Are Not Chosen Presidents." From the election she moved to higher education, mentioning the recent book *Lesson Plan: An Agenda for Change in American Higher Education*, by William G. Bowen and Michael S. McPherson, with the suggestion that a velvet rope economy may be leading the United States toward a velvet rope academy.

Brief reports from member societies followed. Leith Mullings, president of the American Anthropological Association, drew attention to AAA's project on race and migration. Other presentations asked what a learned society is to its members outside the annual conference, how to make a field better known, and how to handle the succession of an executive director, with some very practical advice. Issues of publication, so vital to the efforts of member organizations to make the humanities better understood, were also discussed. The advantages and financing of open access were mentioned. AFS members should know about the [Open Syllabus Project](#), which has collected over a million syllabi for consultation by authors, teachers, administrators, and students. And the new *Learned Societies Beyond the Numbers* publication, which Tim Lloyd edited and compiled for the ACLS, received a favorable review.

Reports from the ACLS Fellows were as innovative and admirable as usual. Although not present in person, Kim Gallon, of Purdue University, described her project "Black Press Born Digital." The project aims at rectifying students' lack of knowledge about a cornerstone element of African American history, by means of net-searchable resources and digital books. Another fellowship recipient was Michael Philip Penn, whose book *Envisioning Islam* examines early



In 2015, the ACLS published "Learned Societies by the Numbers," a summary report of basic statistical information about its member societies and their work, the first of a series of annual censuses. A new version of "By the Numbers" reports on data collected in 2015. This report, "Learned Societies Beyond the Numbers," was edited by AFS Executive Director Timonthy Lloyd and is a companion publication that provides an introduction to the work of learned societies.

accounts of the encounter of Syriac Christians with Islam, an encounter far closer than previously believed. The documents contain the earliest mention of Muhammad by Christians. Both ACLS Fellows are bringing to light unknown cultural encounters, as folklorists so often do.

The Mellon/ACLS Public Fellows Program, launched in 2010, places recent humanities PhDs in two-year staff positions at partnering organizations. It is particularly interesting to students in the field of folklore because its intent is to demonstrate that “the capacities developed in the advanced study of the humanities have wide application both within and beyond the academy.” This year an AFS member is an ACLS Public Fellow. Leah Lowthorp, a folklore PhD from Penn, has been appointed for two years as Program Manager for the Center for Genetics and Society, in Berkeley. The CGS leads public interest efforts to reclaim human biotechnologies for the common good. Lowthorp will be planning and coordinating organizational programs related to the social justice, human rights, and public interest implications of human genetic and assisted reproductive technologies. She will be reporting to AFS on how her studies of folklore and anthropology are being applied in the organization.

Two other AFS members have received other ACLS Fellowships this year. Emma Rose Silverman, a doctoral candidate in the history of art at the University of California, Berkeley, was awarded a Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellowship in American Art for her project, “From Eyesore to Icon: Outsider Art, Racial Politics, and the Watts Towers.” Candacy A. Taylor, an independent scholar, author, photographer and cultural documentarian, was awarded an ACLS Fellowship for her project, *Sites of Sanctuary: The Negro Motorist Green Book*.

Featured speakers for ACLS this year all pointed to important topics. A conversation with Darren Walker cast light on the human-rights commitment of the Ford Foundation, over which he presides. The luncheon speaker this year was the cordial William “Bro” Adams, chair of the National Endowment for

the Humanities. This year’s Charles Homer Haskins Prize lecturer was the prominent feminist political scientist Cynthia Enloe, emerita of Clark University, author of *The Curious Feminist*.

Most important, the ACLS program this year devoted much time and attention to something AFS needs to think about with respect to graduate training: careers for our students beyond the professoriate. The American Historical Association, like the Modern Language Association, discovered that a quarter or more of recent PhDs were working outside the academy. It became clear that, as executive director James Grossman said, there is not a problem of over-production of historians, but of underutilization, and that is true also for folklorists. AHA’s program Career Diversity for Historians awards \$3,000 to chosen history departments to fund a variety of activities aimed at broadening career horizons and opportunities for graduate students.

In the same direction, the Modern Language Association produced a report in May 2014 on reforming the PhD, *Report of the MLA Task Force on Doctoral Study in Modern Language and Literature*. The report recommends “ways to make graduate training more relevant by rethinking the doctoral dissertation, reducing time to degree, and expanding career horizons.” Despite the multiplicity of subjects in folklore education and the passion entering students feel about folklore, which ought to guarantee employability, the disproportion history and literature studies have experienced exists in folklore programs.

A persuasive speaker on this topic was Adela de la Torre, who is communications director for the National Immigration Law Center, an advocacy organization whose constituency comprises plaintiffs with stories to tell. Clearly the social justice community needs folklorists. She gave the example of Patrick O’Shea, an NILC staff member, who collects personal histories as a basis for “a pro-immigrant narrative that will shine a nuanced light on the issues that impact low-income immigrants and their families.” The research engages with the ways in which socially transformative processes of migration (forced

or voluntary) shape national cultures. Patrick O’Shea has taught interviewing techniques to litigators, whose training normally lacks that skill.

One speaker thought that organizations and corporations could well be funding university programs in folklore. The Society for Military History, for instance, has successfully placed its students in the Department of Defense. That isn’t an employer I recommend to folklore students, but the more folklore MAs and PhDs we can place in public policy decision-making positions, the more impact our field will have on the United States. These inspiring discussions of topics so relevant to AFS made me more grateful than ever to be your delegate to the ACLS.

Lee Haring (Brooklyn College)

AFS Archives

In 2016, as in past years, Utah State University Special Collections and Archives provided excellent reference services for the [American Folklore Society records](#), processed recent Society accruals, and updated the robust Encoded Archival Description (EAD) finding guide.

Special thanks to all who deposited AFS materials in 2016. For information on the AFS collection or about the deposit of AFS materials that you may have, please contact Clint Pumphrey at clint.pumphrey@usu.edu.

Randy Williams (Utah State University)

National Recording Preservation Board

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. As the AFS representative, I often find myself collaborating with the representative from the Society for Ethnomusicology as well as colleagues from the Country Music Foundation and other fellow travelers.

The board met once in the past twelve months, which is typical. This year’s early December meeting included, for the second year running, a discussion of the status of the National Recording Preservation Foundation, also established, belatedly, by the Library in accordance with the 2000 legislation. The Foundation is intended to be a fund-raising and grants-making entity. The issue on the table was whether the Library will meet its legislated funding obligation to the Foundation. With a new Librarian of Congress, Carla Hayden, in position, I’m looking forward to seeing positive movement on the support for the Foundation. The Librarian makes the final decisions as to the year’s additions to the Registry, as well; it will be interesting to see how her musical knowledge, interests, and judgments play out in the announcement of this year’s list.

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](#).

As I write this, the most recent Registry list dates from 2015, and in that year we managed to list a number of recordings of particular interest to folklorists and ethnomusicologists, including Alan Lomax’s 1937 recording of Kentucky fiddler W.H. Stepp playing “Bonaparte’s Retreat.” For 2016, we have nominated important archival collections ranging from Native American collections to recordings from Afghanistan. I would be delighted to hear from colleagues who have suggestions for nominations next year.

Burt Feintuch (University of New Hampshire)

Journal of American Folklore

From the Editors

In 2016, the *Journal of American Folklore* remained under an editorial team composed of folklore faculty at Western Kentucky University, who will edit the *Journal* for volume years 2016–2020. The editorial team consists of Ann K. Ferrell, editor-in-chief, and Brent Björkman, Erika Brady, Timothy H. Evans, Kate Parker Horigan, and Michael Ann Williams, associate editors. In July 2016, Michael Ann Williams took over the rotating co-editor position from Kate Parker Horigan, and in August 2016, Susanna Pyatt took over as editorial assistant from Eleanor Hasken.

Volume 129, Number 514 (Fall 2016) and Volume 130, Numbers 515–517 (Winter, Spring, and Summer 2017) were submitted to the University of Illinois Press according to the established schedule. Number 514 and 515 were co-edited by Kate Parker Horigan, and Numbers 516 and 517 were co-edited by Michael Ann Williams. In total, the four issues included 13 articles, 4 notes, 5 obituaries, and 31 reviews. Of these, four articles and one note were passed to the new editorial team from the previous editors.

We recently compiled statistics on the length of time, since we began our tenure as editors, between an author's submission of an article and notification to the author regarding our decision. The average time between submission and decision is 81 days. If an article is rejected outright, the average time until the author is notified is 37 days. On average, it takes 51 days for a new submission to be reviewed (reflecting not only the editors' decision to send it out, but also the time it takes for reviewers to respond to requests and submit a review), and—for articles sent out for review—the average time between a new submission and the final decision is 148 days.

Over the course of 2016, the editors received a total of 27 submissions (four of which were submitted together as a potential special issue); rejected 15 submissions (including two received in 2015 and rejected in 2016); asked six authors to revise and resubmit (one author did resubmit by the end of 2016); and accepted four submissions (three notes and one article; one of the four was accepted with revisions required, and three of the four were received in 2015 but accepted in 2016). At the end of calendar year 2016, eight submissions were under review (six articles, one creative piece, and one introduction to a special issue).

There is one remaining accepted article passed on by the previous editors which will be published in an upcoming issue.

The editors note that submission rates have dropped over the course of 2016 and have sent out a call for submissions as a result. We suspect that this is due at least in part to the pause in submission acceptance in the months leading up to the transition, which seems to have resulted in a higher than normal submission rate in the early period of our editorship.

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

Book Reviews

In 2016, we received over 50 books for review. We solicited 30 book reviews and have edited and submitted 27 for publication. We have an additional 25 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 2017.

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

Exhibit and Events Reviews

The year 2016 was a slow one for exhibition and event reviews. We published three reviews, and received, edited, and slated two more for publication. We have solicited many more, which remain in various stages of production.

Thank you to everyone who has completed an exhibition 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

Rapid technological changes and advances continue to influence how filmmakers create and distribute their work. All of the films submitted for review are now accessible by streaming services, thus eliminating the burden of disks, although many educational distribution companies continue to rely on DVD and Blu-ray. Filmmakers are liberal with access to their work for review. Our generous

colleagues continue to lend their time and expertise to serve as film reviewers. As a review editor for *JAF*, I hope film reviews are beneficial to the field helping to inform and advance our collective work.

For the 2016 calendar year, seven films were assigned to reviewers and three film reviews were submitted.

Teresa Hollingsworth (SouthArts)

Sound Recordings Reviews

2016 saw a renewal of sound recordings review activity. Five reviews (of seven recordings) were published during the past year, three of which I submitted in 2015, and two of which my predecessor submitted. Contributing writers submitted another seven yet-to-be-published reviews of material, which reflect a wide variety of musical styles and traditions—field recordings of traditional songs and instrumental music from the Upper Midwest, Anglo-American fiddle music, African-American songs, Irish ballads, contemporary Ukrainian folk music, old-time country music, and contemporary popular dance music from the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Bahamas. We ended 2016 on solid footing and look forward to more contributions in the coming year.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who contributed reviews and also those record companies and organizations who generously provided the wide array of musical materials for those reviews, especially Dust-To-Digital, Smithsonian/Folkways, County/Rebel Records, and the Field Recorders Collective.

Jim Nelson (St. Louis Community College)

Digital Resource Reviews

Due to other time commitments at his home institution, Ian Brodie is stepping down as Digital Resource Reviews editor for the journal. He thanks the editorial board for their support in this decision, and wishes good luck to Andy Kolovos.

Top 10 *Journal of American Folklore* Articles

These *Journal of American Folklore* articles were the most used in JSTOR in 2016.

1. Adrian Recinos, "Cuentos Populares de Guatemala," *JAF*, Vol. 31, No. 122 (October–December 1918), 472-87.
7920 views, prints, or downloads
2. Claude Lévi-Strauss, "The Structural Study of Myth," *JAF*, Vol. 68, No. 270 (October–December 1955), 428-44.
5120 views, prints, or downloads
3. H.W. Herrington, "Witchcraft and Magic in the Elizabethan Drama," *JAF*, Vol. 32, No. 126 (October–December 1919), 447.
3535 views, prints, or downloads
4. Kay Stone, "Things Walt Disney Never Told Us," *JAF*, Vol. 88, No. 347 (January–March 1975), 42-50.
3358 views, prints, or downloads
5. Samuel M. Waxman, "The Don Juan Legend in Literature," *JAF*, Vol. 21, No. 81 (April–September 1908), 184.
2873 views, prints, or downloads
6. Stanley Brandes, "The Day of the Dead, Halloween, and the Quest for Mexican National Identity," *JAF*, Vol. 111, No. 442 (Autumn, 1998), 359-380.
2302 views, prints, or downloads
7. Michael A. Robidoux, "Imagining a Canadian Identity Through Sport: A Historical Interpretation of Lacrosse and Hockey," *JAF*, Vol. 115, No. 45 (Spring 2002), 209.
2247 views, prints, or downloads
8. Fletcher Gardner and W. W. Newell, "Filipino (Tagalog) Versions of Cinderella," *JAF*, Vol. 19, No. 75 (October–December, 1906), 265-280.
2088 views, prints, or downloads
9. Cheryl L. Keyes, "Empowering Self, Making Choices, Creating Spaces: Black Female Identity via Rap Music Performance," *JAF*, Vol. 113, No. 449 (Summer, 2000), 255-269.
1917 views, prints, or downloads
10. Ralph S. Porter, "The Story of Bantugan," *JAF*, Vol. 15, No. 58 (July - September, 1902), 143-161.
1743 views, prints, or downloads

Section Publications

Children's Folklore Review

The 38th volume of *Children's Folklore Review* is a special issue honoring the career and scholarship of Simon J. Bronner, who, among many other accolades, was a past convener and long-time executive board member of the Children's Folklore Section of the American Folklore Society. This volume will feature contributions from his peers and past students, including Jay Mechling, Wolfgang Mieder, Elizabeth Tucker, Spencer Green, Amy Milligan, John Price, David Puglia, and Jared Rife. This volume will also be the first in over 25 years to include book reviews. We expect this special issue to be released in June 2017.

All back issues of *Children's Folklore Review* since 1990 (Vol. 13) through 2016 (Vol. 37) remain available online through our digital repository hosted by Indiana University's ScholarWorks. To view, please [visit the repository here](#). The *Children's Folklore Review* is continuing to explore the possibility of transitioning the journal into a digital publication. We have had promising discussions and will take up the issue again at the 2017 AFS meeting. We encourage subscribers to keep an eye on the AFS [Children's Folklore Section website](#) and [Facebook page](#), as well as the AFS Review newsletter for any pertinent updates. Should anyone wish to discuss the journal and/or be interested in contributing to it, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation for Trevor Blank, who, under extremely challenging circumstances, needed to relinquish his editorial position with the journal this past year. During his two-year tenure as editor of the *Children's Folklore Review*, Trevor tirelessly endeavored to promote scholarship in children's folklore and propelled the journal forward

into the digital age. He is a rising star in the field, and I am confident the *Children's Folklore Review* will continue to benefit from his scholarship, vision, and leadership for years to come. I would also like to express my immense gratitude to Libby Tucker, who has been so incredibly kind and helpful in providing advice and insights as I transitioned into my new role as editor of the journal. Thanks, too, are due to Kathy Buchta, Sheridan Press, Priscilla Ord, the *CFR* editorial board, peer reviewers, and contributors.

Brant W. Ellsworth (Central Penn College), editor

Digest

In June 2016, *Digest* editorship transitioned from Diane Tye (Memorial University of Newfoundland) to Janet Gilmore (University of Wisconsin, Madison). Mike Lange (Champlain College) continues in his capacity as co-editor. The model remains the same, with Janet Gilmore handling the content and editing, with the support of Wisconsin students, while Mike Lange takes care of the design and digital publication, with the support of Champlain students. *Digest* continues to include materials intended to appeal to a wide audience, such as full-length peer-reviewed articles, briefer research notes, smaller items (for example, recipes, creative pieces, historic ads, and photographs) and reviews. Diane Tye has remained an active and valuable resource in the transition, and Janet Gilmore is making admirable progress in learning the unique, split production process used by *Digest*.

In 2016, *Digest* published one issue, consisting of three scholarly articles, two research notes, four reviews, and three pieces in the Amuse Bouche section. A Fall/Winter 2016 issue coming in early 2017 will include

two lead scholarly articles (by the Foodways Section's Sue Samuelson Student Prize winner and runner-up), three research notes (at least two from among the student prize contestants), four reviews covering five books, at least one Amuse Bouche contribution, and an announcement regarding Yvonne and Bill Lockwood's contribution of their food and foodways collection to Michigan State University's Special Collections. Content editing for this issue is being finalized, and design and layout will follow shortly thereafter. Editing for a Spring/Summer 2017 issue is underway with one lead peer reviewed essay so far, several books under review, and good Research Note and Amuse Bouche potential in progress. We are anticipating making calls for additional themed contributions in all formats to round out our 2017 issues. The Editorial Board accepted one submitted manuscript for publication, with revision; rejected one submitted manuscript; encouraged resubmission for another submitted manuscript; and have also directed several inquiries about possible publication to the editors.

In addition to the transition in editorship, *Digest* is working to involve the editorial board more in the various processes necessary to the making of a journal, including soliciting material and editing. This greater involvement will help assure the continued viability and maintenance of the journal.

Janet Gilmore (University of Wisconsin, Madison)
and Michael Lange (Champlain College), editors

Jewish Cultural Studies Series

The Jewish Cultural Studies book series is a benefit of membership in the Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Section of the American Folklore Society. The series is published for the American Folklore Society by the Littman Library of Jewish Civilization based in Oxford, England. All books in the series are also available to non-members through Littman.

In 2016, editing was completed for the fifth volume in the series: *Motherhood in the Jewish Cultural*

Imagination, edited by Marjorie Lehman (Jewish Theological Seminary), Jane L. Kanarek (Hebrew College), and Simon J. Bronner (Pennsylvania State University). It will be published in March 2017. For more information, see <http://littman.co.uk/cat/jewishculturalstudies-5.html>.

Editing proceeded on the sixth volume: *Connected Jews: Expressions of Community in Analogue and Digital Culture*, edited by Simon J. Bronner (Pennsylvania State University) and Caspar Battegay (University of Lausanne, Switzerland). It covers mediated Jewish cultural expressions from print to the internet. Publication is scheduled for October 2018. For more information, see <http://www.littman.co.uk/cat/jewishculturalstudies-6.html>.

Simon J. Bronner (Pennsylvania State University), editor

New Directions in Folklore

Published biannually, *New Directions in Folklore (NDiF)* is the refereed, open access e-journal of the 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.

David J. Puglia (Bronx Community College) and John Price (Penn State Harrisburg) currently serve as co-editors. John Price (Penn State Harrisburg) also serves as book reviews editor. The remainder of the journal's editorial board and peer-review committee consists of Jade Albuero (University of California, Los Angeles), Suzanne Barber (Indiana University),

Brooke Bryan (independent scholar), 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 (Indiana University).

We are pleased to report that *New Directions in Folklore* published one double issue in 2016: Volume 13, No. 1/2. The article featured editor David J. Puglia's introductory note, Andrea Glass's "I Want to be a Witness?: Blogging for Urban Authenticity and Cultural Authority in the East Village," John Price's "Digital Thunderdome: Performing Identity and Creating Community in a Facebook World," Afsane Rezaei's "'The Superman in a Turban': The 'Thanks, Rouhani' Post-2013 Election Jokes in the Iranian Social Media," Sandra Posey and Megan Fowler's "More Different than the Same?: Customary Characterizations of Alternative Relationship Groups and Types." The issue also included book reviews of Karima Moyer-Gnocchi's *Chewing the Fat: An Oral History of Dolce Vita*, John Laudun's *The Amazing Crawfish Boat*, Moira Marsh's *Practically Joking*, Woody Guthrie: *American Radical*, and Montana Miller's *Playing Dead: Mock Trauma and Folk Drama in Staged High School Drunk-Driving Tragedies*.

David J. Puglia (Bronx Community College) and
John Price (Penn State Harrisburg), editors

The Folklore Historian

At the Folklore and History section meeting during the AFS annual meeting in Long Beach in 2015, we determined to produce a double volume (Volumes 32–33, for 2015–2016) to catch up the publication schedule.

Anthony Bak Buccitelli prepared a special issue on Jon Lee, the Chinese American writer and fieldworker behind Paul Radin's 1940 publication of *The Golden Mountain: Chinese Tales Told in California*.

Lee had a fairly large body of unpublished short story manuscripts from that period, as well as a variety of materials that appear to be unpublished folktale texts he collected, though the provenance of those is often difficult to determine. These are available in two archival collections (University of California, Berkeley and the San Francisco History Center), but have never been published. Buccitelli and research assistants have selected manuscripts from this archive so we can publish the transcripts. This contributes to the study of tale collections by drawing attention to those who contributed texts but were not the main editor. Additionally, we received fine commentary on the documents and contributions of Jon Lee; these will be included as Responses and were written by Debra Lattanzi Shutika, Lei Cai, and Juwen Zhang. The double volume is in the final stages of preparation before printing; we will send it out in spring of 2017 (alas still behind on the year).

We already have manuscripts from a panel on Mormon folklore, chaired by Simon Bronner; this will be Volume 34 for 2017. We also have two other potential manuscripts, one on Herbert Halpert and one by Lee Haring.

The Folklore Historian no longer receives direct monetary support from the Brigham Young University (BYU) College of Humanities, but the Folklore and History section is able to cover the printing and mailing costs. Editing and production support are provided by the BYU Humanities Publication Group with Mel Thorne as director and 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 2016:

Paddy Bowman

(Local Learning)

Deborah Kapchan

(New York University)

Joseph Sciorra

(Queens College)

Jack Zipes

(University of Minnesota)

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 2016.

African Studies Section

Conveners: Hilary Leathem (University of Chicago), Thomas van Buren (Westchester Arts Council)

Our group members communicated individually through email, but not much was planned this past year. The concrete goal of 2017 is to revitalize this section and breathe some fresh life into it. Should this section be renamed, or should it be combined with another? These things may bolster the strength of this section. In turn, these possibilities will be discussed prior to the business meeting at our annual conference.

The section uses email and its AFS online group to communicate; it has 50 members.

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. The section engaged in several activities at the 2016 annual meeting to advance these goals:

- Coordination of a pre-meeting workshop "Personal Archives Collection Management for Folklorists," led by Terri Jordan.
- Co-sponsorship of a panel, "Honoring Lydia Cabrera's Story: Altar, Performance, and the Living Archive."
- Hosting the "Ask an Archivist" table in the meeting exhibition room, where a rotating group of professional archivists was available to answer questions from meeting attendees on archival topics.

Planning has begun for a two-day conference on folklore archives and libraries to be held at the Minneapolis Central Library in Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 16-17, 2017, the Monday and Tuesday prior to the 2017 AFS Annual Meeting. Nicole Saylor of the American Folklife Center and James Leary of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, will be the conference's keynote speakers;

further details are being coordinated by an organizing committee of section members. A call for participation will go out in early 2017 at the same time as the AFS call for papers for the 2017 Annual Meeting. For further information, visit the section webpage or contact Terri Jordan at terrijord@gmail.com. At present the section's primary means of communication with members is via listserv, afs-archives-libraries@vermontfolklifecenter.org, which has 87 subscribers; to be added to this listserv, please email Andy Kolovos at akolovos@vermontfolklifecenter.org. For other questions or further information, please contact convener Terri Jordan at terrijord@gmail.com. The section has 90 members.

British Folk Studies Section

No report submitted.

Chicano and Chicana Section

Conveners: Eric César Morales (Indiana University), Anne Arundel Locker-Thaddeus (Texas A&M University)

The section collaborates closely with the Folklore Latino, Latinoamericano y Caribeño Section. See that section for a full report. The section has 31 members.

Children's Folklore Section

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

The section awards the Aesop Prize and Aesop Accolades honorable mentions for English-language

fiction and nonfiction work responsibly utilizing folklore for children and young adults. The 2016 Aesop Prize went to *Lowriders to the Center of the Earth*, by Cathy Camper and Raúl the Third (Chronicle Books, 2016). Aesop Accolades went to: *I Am Pan!* by Mordicai Gerstein (Roaring Brook Press, 2016); *The Princess and the Warrior*, by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams, 2016); and *The Storyteller*, by Evan Turk (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2016.) Many thanks to Suzy Grindrod for chairing the Aesop Prize committee again this year, and thanks to Spencer Green for stepping in as chair as Suzy steps down.

The section's Opie Prize for best academic publication on children's folklore in 2016 is *Children's Games in the New Media Age: Childlore, Media and the Playground*, edited by Andrew Burn and Chris Richards (Routledge, 2014). Thanks to committee members John McDowell and Elizabeth Tucker for their hard work. No Newell Prize for best undergraduate or graduate paper on children's folklore was awarded this year. We encourage all of our members and friends to promote this opportunity, especially those teaching classes incorporating children's folklore. We thank Brant Ellsworth for his work on this, and welcome Lisa Gabbert aboard as the new Newell Prize committee chair.

Local Learning and the AFS Folklore and Education Section sponsored a Happy Hour at the Miami meeting, inviting our section members as special guests. A delightful discussion ensued, and I hope that more members will attend in the future. Eleven members attended the section business meeting on October 21. Kate Schramm was re-elected as convener. Brant Ellsworth was elected as Secretary; this position will now be separate from the position of Treasurer, held by Priscilla Ord.

Editor Trevor J. Blank, assisted by Priscilla Ord and Brant Ellsworth, will release Volume 38 of the *Children's Folklore Review* in 2017.

The Children's Folklore Section uses the AFS group tools for section business, with additional discussion and member-curated content shared in the "[AFS Children's Folklore Section](#)" public Facebook group, which has 93 members.

The section has 80 members.

Dance and Movement Analysis Section

Conveners: Eric César Morales (Indiana University), Nicholas Hartmann (National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library)

The section is dedicated to the promotion of dance as a rich area of study within the discipline of folkloristics. We have in the past and we plan to continue sponsoring dance performances and panels at the annual meeting that highlight the way folk communities perform and problematize their culture through movement.

At the 2016 meeting, the section co-sponsored a panel, "Ethnochoreological Approaches to the System of Collective Danzas of the Sierra Norte of Puebla, Mexico," as well as an associated concert, "Puro Corazón: The Music of Puebla, Mexico," and workshop, "Puro Corazón: Fandango Dance Workshop."

To stay in discussion throughout the year, we use a 35-member public Facebook group, "[AFS Dance & Movement Analysis](#)," where we share videos, articles, and current events.

The section has 36 members.

Folk Arts and Material Culture Section

Convener: Martha C. Sims (The Ohio State University)

This year, the section awarded the Warren E. Roberts Paper Prize to Mathilde Lind for her essay "Handspinning Tradition: Traditionalization, Revival, and a Cyclical Spin on Honko's 'Folklore Process.'" Six people attended the section's business meeting in Miami. We are working on plans for a section event in Minneapolis, and we welcome input from interested section and society members.

Members communicate using the AFS online group, occasional email messages and meeting at AFS annual meetings.

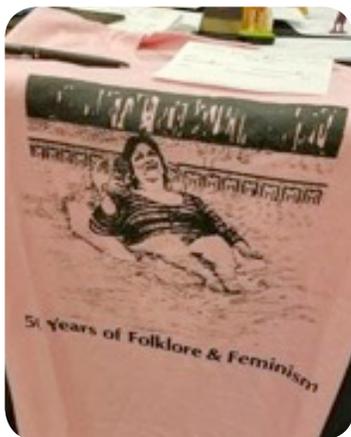
The section has 98 members.

Folk Belief and Religious Folklife Section

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

In 2016, the section sponsored the annual Don Yoder Lecture in Religious Folklife at the AFS annual meeting with distinguished speaker Dan Ben-Amos, University of Pennsylvania, presenting "Kol Nidre, The Prayer that Haunted the Rabbis and Charmed Their Folk," with a response by Simon Bronner. The section also sponsored two panels on vernacular Catholicism. The section's 2016 Don Yoder Prize for the best graduate student paper in Folk Belief and Religious Folklife was awarded to Kristel Kivari, University of Tartu, Estonia, for her paper, "Webs of Lines and Webs of Stories in the Making of Supernatural Places."

The section also sponsors the William A. "Bert" Wilson prize for the best undergraduate student paper in religious folklife, but no submissions of papers were received for the 2016 prize. Section members Lynne McNeill and



A wide variety of items were sold at the Folk Belief Section's silent auction in Miami.

Folk Narrative Section

Conveners: Linda J. Lee (University of Pennsylvania), Adam D. Zolkover (University of Pennsylvania)

The section's public Facebook group, "[American Folklore Society–Folk Narrative Section](#)," is active throughout the year, and is used as the primary channel of communication with members; in 2016, the group grew to almost 1500. The section also has a Twitter account (@folk narrative), which currently has more than 600 followers.

The Folk Narrative Section sponsored several sessions at the annual meeting, including the fourth biennial Stith Thompson Lecture. This year's lecture was sponsored jointly with the Music and Song section as the Stith Thompson/Phillips Barry Lecture, with support from the Creative Writing and Folklore and Literature sections. The lecture was given by fantasy author Ellen Kushner, who gave a talk called "(Re) Writing "Thomas the Rhymer": A Fantasy Writer Finds Truth (and a Fool-Proof Plot) in Folklore."

The section also sponsored four paper sessions at the joint AFS/ISFNR meeting: "(Re)Finishing Narrative: Adaptation as Completion in American and British Fairy-Tale Retellings," "Mannerpunk, Myth-Ritual, and the Faerie Court: The Uses of Folk Narrative in the Works of Ellen Kushner" (thematically linked with the Stith Thompson/Phillips Barry lecture), "The Folk Awakens: Star Wars, Folkloristics, and the Intersection of Hollywood, Narrative, and Memory" (co-sponsored with New Directions in Folklore), and "Stripping the Finish: Challenging Scholarship through Creative Adaptation of Folklore" (co-sponsored with the Folklore and Creative Writing and Folklore and Literature sections).

At the business meeting, Kerry Kaleba (George Mason University) and Maia Daniel (University of Aberdeen) were elected as new co-conveners.

Following the joint AFS/ISFNR meeting, the Folk Narrative Section reopened its [Cafe Press store](#), which

Andrea Kitta coordinated a silent auction in Miami, with assistance from various other members; proceeds fund the section's student prizes.

The Folk Belief Section held its business meeting October 22 in Miami. Topics included future plans for the silent auction, Don Yoder lecture, and sponsored panels, including "Author meets Critics," which has been very successful in the past. Collaborations with other academic societies with interests in folk belief and religious folklife were discussed including the upcoming "Folklore and Religion" sponsored panel at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in San Antonio in November 2016, and our ongoing communications with SIEF's Ethnology of Religion working group, and ISFNR Belief Narratives Network. The meeting ended with an exchange of news among the members about upcoming publications, book awards, national and international conferences on religious folklife, and dissertation fellowships and funding opportunities for graduate students.

Section members communicate face to face at the AFS annual meeting. Conveners send official messages using the section's online AFS group email. We also have a Facebook page, "[AFS Folk Belief and Religious Folklife](#)," with 122 page likes.

The section has 134 active members.

this year offered an assortment of section-branded “Nasty Women of Folklore” and “Bad Hombres of Folklore” themed merchandise, including t-shirts, tote bags, and mugs. The section promoted its merchandise through its official social media channels.

The section has 144 members.

Folklore and Creative Writing Section

Conveners: Sara B. Cleto (The Ohio State University), Victoria Harkavy (independent)

In 2016, the section held its second Open Mic night for storytelling and author readings of creative prose and poetry. The section also supported the Stith Thompson and Phillips Barry Lecture, sponsored by the Folk Narrative and Music and Song sections. The Creative Writing Section passed a motion at its business meeting for a merger with the Storytelling Section, which will be voted on by both sections membership in early 2017.

The section, which has 88 members, communicates via email and a Facebook page, “[American Folklore Society: Folklore & Creative Writing Section](#),” that has 58 page likes.

Folklore and Education Section

Conveners: Betty J. Belanus (Smithsonian Institution), Jan Rosenberg (Heritage Education Resources, Inc.)

The section continues to actively promote and support the work of folklorists working in education in all its forms (K-16; museum education; etc.), and encourages anyone interested in the field of folklore and education to join us. This year, activities included the awarding of the Dorothy Howard Prize

to Laurie Sommers for lesson plans based on Alan Lommax’s work in the 1930s in Michigan and Wisconsin; the Robinson-Roeder-Ward award went to Pheng Lim, principle of the Folk Arts Cultural Treasures School in Philadelphia to attend the AFS meetings in Miami and present the work of the school at a panel.

The section subsidized morning refreshments for the annual Saturday morning educator’s workshop, in partnership with Local Learning, which took place at HistoryMiami Museum during the AFS meeting. In-service training credits allowed a number of Miami teachers to attend the workshop for credit.

Communications continued throughout the year in occasional email blasts and blog posts in the AFS online group, and the twice-yearly Folklore and Education Section Newsletter.

The section has 88 members.

Folklore and Literature Section

Conveners: Brittany B. Warman, (The Ohio State University), Victoria Harkavy, (independent)

In 2016, the section supported the Stith Thompson and Phillips Barry Lecture, sponsored by the Folk Narrative and Music and Song sections. We held our annual business meeting in Miami and discussed plans for increasing the visibility of our section by creating an annual peer-reviewed publication and organizing triennial “think tanks,” modeled after the Folklore and Literature think tank that took place in Red Cloud, NE in 2014.

The section used a closed Facebook group, “[American Folklore Society–Folklore and Literature](#),” which has 189 members, and the AFS group for announcements to its 91 members.

Folklore Latino, Latinoamericano, y Caribeño Section

Conveners: Kristina G. Downs (Indiana University), Gloria Colom (Indiana University)

This year our section helped to sponsor several ethnochoreologists/musicians from Mexico to attend the annual meeting. These scholars participated in panels and workshops and performed in the concert, “Puro Corazón: The Music of Puebla, Mexico.”

The Folklore Latino, Latinoamericano, y Caribeño section can be reached via our AFS online group or our listserv, afslatino@lists.wku.edu. New members can be added to the listserv by contacting the conveners.

The section has 48 members.

Folklore and Museums Section

Convener: Jason Baird Jackson (Indiana University)

As anticipated in its [annual guide](#) for folklore and museum activities at the annual meeting, the section fostered and promoted a rich set of presentations, panels, and special events for the AFS/ISFNR gathering in Miami, including a full slate of panels and a preconference “Experiments in Exhibition” workshop, which was made possible by the generous support of HistoryMiami Museum, Local Learning, and the Folklore and Education and Public Programs sections. We look forward to encouraging equally rich program offerings for the Minneapolis meeting in 2017.

Additionally, section members established and contributed an article on “Museum Folklore” to represent the field in Wikipedia.

At its section meeting in Miami, founding convener Jason Baird Jackson concluded his service in this role. With the unanimous support of those in attendance, the convenership passed to Carrie Hertz (Museum of International Folk Art).

During 2016, section membership continued to grow impressively, with more than 100 members joining since the section was approved by the AFS Executive Board at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

The section relies on its AFS online group for communication with the membership, but also maintains a Facebook page, “[Folklore and Museums](#),” with 125 page likes, where news from the museum folklore world can be shared.

Folklore and Oral History Section

Conveners: Dana M. Ernst (Diarna Cultural Heritage Oral History Educational Institute), Helen A. Regis (Louisiana State University)

The section seeks to foster discussion of oral history methodology and theory at the annual AFS meeting, throughout the year, and to improve communication between AFS and Oral History Association (OHA) and between folklorists and oral historians more generally.

At the section’s business meeting in Miami, group members discussed potential for increased collaboration and cooperation between the AFS and the Oral History Association.

We invite you to attend the section meetings held annually at the AFS annual meeting and to join and take part in our section communications using the section’s AFS group in order to share and discuss ideas for sponsored panels and workshops at the 2017 AFS Annual Meeting.

There are no dues for membership in this section, which has 152 members.

Foodways Section

Conveners: **Katrina S. Wynn (Maine Folklife Center), Lacey Cornell (FoodCorps)**

2016 was a good year for the section, with a reception and a successful transition in leadership for our online journal, *Digest*. The section has awarded the Sue Samuelson Award for Foodways Scholarship continuously for seven years; the winning essay is published in *Digest*. This year, Rachel Hopkin (The Ohio State University) won with her 2015 AFS conference paper “The Way of the Croissant,” with honorable mention to Daša Ličen (Institute of Slovenian Ethnology) for “The Authentic Blend.” Hopkin received the section’s travel stipend to attend the 2016 meeting, where she presented another chapter of her croissant research. Ličen also presented a version of her paper in Miami.

The 2016 Samuelson prize committee consisted of Theresa Vaughan (chair), Janet Gilmore, Michael Lange, Yvonne Lockwood, Kristin McAndrews, Diane Tye, Lacey Cornell, and Katrina Wynn.

Two issues of *Digest* were published in 2016, and the journal gained a new editor in Janet Gilmore (University of Wisconsin, Madison), as Diane Tye (Memorial University) stepped down. Michael Lange (Champlain University) 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. In 2016, Yvonne Lockwood, Lucy Long, LuAnne Roth, Robert Smith, Theresa Vaughn, and Katrina Wynn served on the *Digest* editorial board.

Lacey Cornell prepared a [foodways guide](#) for the 2016 AFS annual meeting, published in the *AFS Review*, which highlighted the rich and diverse ways members of our society approached the study of food and culture in panels and events at the conference. Section members reported that it was a useful planning tool.

The section held its business meeting at a Miami Peruvian restaurant, Poallos y Jarras; Dominic Tartaglia (Indiana University) became the section secretary. The section also hosted a well-attended reception serving Cuban food at the HistoryMiami Museum on October 20. The section plans to host another reception for AFS 2019. The section’s primary channel of communication is its AFS group, though section members tend to communicate with each other primarily via email. This year we have also started a closed Facebook group, “[AFS Foodways Section](#)”; currently, it has 11 members, but we are slowly adding more. This page is a place for the section to chat, with the hope that it will serve as a way for members to let us know about new publications, projects, grant deadlines, upcoming conferences, etc., so that we can post them to a wider audience on the official website.

The section has 108 members.

Graduate Student Section

Conveners: **Jesse A. Fivecoate (Indiana University), Eleanor Hasken (Indiana University)**

This year the section continued to engage in events that fostered communication between young folklorists, both those in school and those entering the professional field. This year we hosted a student-only mixer, where students were able to meet those who attend other universities and colleges. This was a great way to break the ice with one another on the first day of the conference. We also hosted “Trivia Night for Grad Students,” where students were quizzed about facts related to folklore and folklorists. We sponsored a panel, “Unfinished Folkloristics,” that served as a precursor to Indiana University’s Conference on the Future of American Folkloristics in May 2017. Finally, we co-hosted the AFS Fellows Reception with the AFS Fellows.

Our section uses a public Facebook group, “[AFS Graduate Section](#),” to engage with its 80 members, which has allowed for planning, as well as encouraging new members to attend the meeting.

The section has 89 members.

History and Folklore Section

Convener: Simon J. Bronner (Penn State Harrisburg)

The section awarded the Wayland D. Hand Prize for an outstanding book published between June 2014 and June 2016 that combines historical and folkloristic evidence, methods, and/or perspectives. The prize, established in 2004, honors the eminent folklorist and historian Wayland D. Hand (1907-1986), who in his teaching and scholarship encouraged historical methodology in folkloristic research. The winner of the prize was recognized at the American Folklore Society business meeting October 22, 2016. The winner of the 2016 prize is *Daisy Turner’s Kin: An African American Family Saga* by Jane C. Beck (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2015). The book centers on the family narrative of Daisy Turner, a daughter of freed African American slaves. Beck masterfully presents her oral history covering the saga of a family from Africa to the 20th century. Dr. Beck’s interviews with Daisy Turner began in 1983 and she has patiently labored with the subject over a long period. Her sophisticated study not only offers an important record of slavery and the years afterwards but is also written in an engaging style that appeals to a wide audience. Dr. Beck, of Ripton, Vermont, is Executive Director Emeritus and founder of the Vermont Folklife Center in Middlebury, Vermont.

In recognition of the many high-quality submissions received for the prize, the judges selected

three books for accolades as honorable mentions. They are listed here in alphabetical order by title: *City of Neighborhoods: Memory, Folklore, and Ethnic Place in Boston* by Anthony Bak Buccitelli (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2016); *Folksongs of Another America: Field Recordings from The Upper Midwest, 1937-1946* by James P. Leary (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2015); *The Amazing Crawfish Boat* by John Laudun (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2016).

The next Wayland Hand Prize competition is scheduled for July 2018.

The group communicates mainly through the AFS online group and an active public Facebook group, “[American Folklore Society–History & Folklore Section](#),” which has 541 members.

The section has 106 members.

Independent Folklorists’ Section

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

This year the Independent Section awarded two travel stipends to support presentation at the annual meeting. James Abrams was awarded one of the travel stipends given jointly with the Public Programs Section. He was unable to attend the annual meeting, however, and so the award was returned to the kitty. Nancy Nunz was awarded the other stipend, which is given jointly with the Women’s Section.

Discussion at the section’s business meeting centered on the need for more visibility and networking among independents and with other folklore organizations. Six people attended.

The section relies on its online AFS group to communicate; it has 90 members.

Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Section

Convener: Simon J. Bronner (Penn State Harrisburg)

This year, the section co-sponsored, with the Religious Folklife and Belief Section, the Don Yoder Memorial Lecture; Dan Ben-Amos gave the address on the subject of the history of the Kol Nidre prayer at Yom Kippur.

The next publication of the section's Jewish Cultural Studies book series is *Mothers in the Jewish Cultural Imagination*, edited by Marjorie Lehman, Jane Kanarek, and Simon Bronner, which will be out in March 2017, followed by *Connected Jews*, edited by Simon Bronner and Caspar Battegay in 2018.

The group communicates mainly through the AFS group site, but shares information in a public Yahoo group, jfe or "Jewish Folklore and Ethnology," of 340 members, and a Facebook page, "[Jewish Cultural Studies](#)," with 233 page likes.

The section has 53 members.

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer and Allies Section

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

While we are a small and relatively inactive section, we feel that our presence continues to be significant in two areas: 1) We continue to exist as a space for academics seeking support in dealing with issues of LGBTQ identities, particularly in relation to how personal identity influences/is influenced by

teaching and research (in particular, questions of visibility and safety in fieldwork); 2) Together, we collect various examples of LGBTQ folklore and research, as well as push for greater visibility of folklore and a folklorist's approach within the broader areas of LGBTQ Studies and Queer theory. We seek input on how to increase visibility for folklore research in these areas, particularly in our goal to better support young scholars who are trying to find their way into this small, yet pertinent area. Currently, we are particularly interested in collecting syllabi from those who teach courses and/or sections on LGBTQ issues—a topic that some of our members will be presenting on at the upcoming Future of American Folkloristics Conference in Indiana.

The group communicates mainly through informal, direct email between members.

The section has 36 members.

Medieval and Early Modern Folklore Section

Conveners: Kerry Kaleba (George Mason University), Judith Lazendorfer (University of Findlay)

This year, the section sponsored a panel, "Tell My Story': Musings on Narrative on the 400th Anniversary of Shakespeare's Passing," with engaging papers, and subsequent lively discussion.

The section communicates primarily in person at the annual meeting, through direct email among members, and through our AFS online group. We also have a public Facebook group, "[American Folklore Society: Medieval and Early Modern](#)," with 16 members.

The section has 78 members.

Mediterranean Studies Section

Conveners: Incoronata Inserra (University of Hawai'i, Mānoa), Yeliz Çavuş (The Ohio State University), Meltem Turkoz (Isık University)

It was a low-key year for the section, as a couple of our conveners and several section members were not able to attend the conference. We had a small annual business meeting in Miami and were able to discuss a few items of interest for the upcoming year. The intensity of our section's interactions varies with the calendar and intensifies closer to deadlines.

Two of our section members, Deborah Kapchan and Joseph Sciorra, became Folklore Fellows this year and we are very proud of them.

The section has been using a listserv through the Island Dynamics group very generously managed by former section member Adam Grydehoj. However, this year we plan on moving our essential communications to the AFS-provided group. We also regularly post content of interest to our members in our closed Facebook group, "[Mediterranean Folklore Section of AFS \(American Folklore Society\)](#)," with 111 members. The section has 56 members.

Music and Song Section

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

The section exists to study and explore folk music, folksong, and any other connections among folklore, ethnography, music, and song. Each year, the section sponsors the Phillips Barry Lecture, nightly informal jam sessions (vocal and instrumental), and a section meeting at the AFS annual meeting. Every other year, the section awards the Bertrand Bronson Paper Prize for a student paper on folk music or song. At the 2016 meeting, the Barry lecture was combined with

the Folk Narrative Section's Stith Thompson lecture, and featured fantasy author, folk music performer, and radio host Ellen Kushner. The jam sessions were lively, and the section meeting was interesting. Please join us in 2017! The section also sponsors panels, films, and other components of the AFS meeting. If you have an idea that would benefit from section sponsorship, please contact our conveners.

In addition to our activities at the meeting, the section communicates year-round through a public Facebook group, "[American Folklore Society--Music and Song Section](#)," which has 740 members. You don't have to be a section member to join the discussion group.

The section has 95 members.

New Directions in Folklore Section

Conveners: John E. Price (Penn State Harrisburg), Andrew Peck (University of Wisconsin)

As our membership increased in 2016, our *New Directions in Folklore* journal continued to build upon previous success with the publication of Volume 14.1. Of the four featured articles, two are past Bill Ellis Prize-winning papers. The journal is peer-reviewed, open access and free to all.

Annual dues help support the publication of the section journal as well as sponsorship and award opportunities at the AFS annual meeting.

This year's Bill Ellis Prize was won by Annamarie O'Brien for her paper, "Hello My Darling, Pisces! Video Horoscopes and Social Expression through Occultic Practice." In addition to the award's honorarium, O'Brien was presented the ultimate marker of scholarly achievement: the Official Bill Ellis Howling Wolf Tie. This year promises to be even more successful, with multiple publications planned in addition to

sponsored panels and presentations. Proposals for the upcoming special issue, “The Folk Awakens: Star Wars and Folkloristics in Popular Culture,” will be accepted for review through the end of January 2017. The journal is also accepting any 2016 annual meeting summaries and panel reviews for inclusion in our next regular issue. Remember to keep your focus on how the session affects the future of the discipline. Finally, be sure to follow us on Twitter and Facebook. Our Facebook page, “[New Directions in Folklore](#),” has 222 page likes, and our Twitter feed, @AFSNewFolklore, has 412 followers. Thank you for your continued support as we keep striving to push folklore scholarship up exciting new avenues of research and analysis. The section has 94 members.

Nordic-Baltic Folklore Section

Conveners: B. Marcus Cederström (independent), Merrill Kaplan (The Ohio State University), Guntis Šmidchens (University of Washington)

At the 2016 meeting, the section sponsored “Folklore in Social Media: Perspectives on Continuity in Narration and Communication.” We also curated a “[Nordic-Baltic Section Guide to AFS 2016](#)” of panels and presentations of interest for our members. We plan to sponsor panels and provide another guide for AFS 2017.

The Nordic-Baltic Section did not award the Boreal Prize for an outstanding article-length student essays on a folklore topic having to do with Northern Europe and/or the diasporas of its various peoples this year. We encourage anyone interested in submitting to read more about the submission process on the section’s page on the AFS website. At the section business meeting, attended by about seven people, the section selected Thomas DuBois (University of Wisconsin, Madison) and Marcus

Cederström (independent folklorist) as co-conveners. Amber Rose (University of Wisconsin, Madison) was selected as the graduate student convener. The section also changed our discounted dues category to include contingent employees and independents, as well as students.

Our AFS online group, which provides the distribution list for section business, has 48 members. Anyone interested in section-related discussion topics may also join the section’s public Facebook group, “[AFS Nordic-Baltic Section](#),” which has 147 members. We look forward to an exciting meeting in Minneapolis with the rich Nordic-Baltic influence in the area!

Politics, Folklore, and Social Justice Section

Convener: Rhonda Dass (Minnesota State University, Mankato)

The section did not meet in Miami, but it is in the process of revitalizing and reinvigorating. Through a targeted online campaign, we are making efforts to gain new membership, organize 2017 annual meeting activities, and engage members in a collective process of redesigning our section for future work. We remain committed to providing tools for those working on social justice issues, creating space for examinations of political thought, narratives, and actions, and serving our members through support of panels, events, and workshops on politics and social justice.

The section has 136 members.

Public Programs Section

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

The section awarded the 2016 Benjamin Botkin Prize for lifetime achievement in public folklore to Andrea Graham (University of Wyoming).

The section awarded the Archie Green Student Travel Award to Cristina Benedetti (The Ohio State University), Marcus Cederström (University of Wisconsin, Madison), and an undergraduate student, Bethani Turley (The Ohio State University). Each awardee received a monetary prize and was given a copy of *Ola Belle Reed and Southern Mountain Music on the Mason-Dixon Line*, by Henry Glassie, Clifford Murphy and Douglas Dowling Peach, donated by Maryland Traditions, which showcased public folklore work over two generations by three different state folklorists.

The section also contributed substantially to the travel stipends awarded by the Independent Section.

The section sponsored nine panels at the AFS/ISFNR meeting, supported the Experiments in Exhibition workshop at HistoryMiami Museum, and held its annual section business meeting Thursday evening, followed immediately by its annual Student Mixer. There was no auction in 2016.

At the business meeting, it was decided to review procedures for section sponsorship of annual meeting panels, and a new committee to review applications for sponsorship was formed: Sue Eleuterio, John Fenn, Anne Pryor, Jim Deutsch, and Hannah Davis. This committee will solicit relevant panels for sponsorship, review applications, submit decisions to AFS, and compile the section's guide to the 2017 meeting. The Archie Green Student Award committee for 2016 was again comprised of Thomas Richardson, Michelle Stefano, and Jennifer Jameson. Thomas Richardson rotated off the committee and Michelle Stefano will assume the role of chair for 2017.

Andrea Graham will now rotate onto the Botkin Prize committee. The structure of the committee is under review by current chair Roby Cogswell.

Cliff Murphy, NEA Director of Traditional Arts, reported at the section meeting that NEA funding is steady, anticipating a little over three million for Art Works and Partnerships. Cliff notes, “[folk and traditional arts field] are a plant that needs a bigger pot. How do we work together for a bigger pot? We need to try to be creative about identifying resources our field can tap into.” He reported that applications for Partnerships have been increasing and applications in Art Works have decreased for the last two cycles. If this continues, funds allocated to folk and traditional arts may decrease. Heritage fellow nominations are steady. Cliff encourages the field to look at the breadth of National Heritage Fellowship winners and consider how we can advocate for forms, regions, and other things that have yet to be recognized. The 2017 Smithsonian Folklife Festival will feature Heritage Fellows. Lisa Rathje reported on the state of Local Learning and the Journal of Folklore and Education. The current journal's theme is “Folklife and Museum Education,” and she put out a call for new material under the next theme of “Newcomers and Belonging.” The full call can be found on the new [Local Learning Network website](#). She also noted that Local Learning held education workshops at HistoryMiami Museum during the Miami meeting. The section has 175 members.

Socialist and Post-Socialist Area Studies Section

Conveners: Elo-Hanna Seljamaa (University of Tartu), Erik A. Aasland (Azusa Pacific University)

The section sponsored a panel titled “Memory, Mythology, and Ontology in Post-Soviet Societies” at the Florida meeting, featuring papers by

Jeanmarie Rouhier-Willoughby, István Povedák, and Erik Aasland, with Margaret Mills as discussant.

We held our annual business meeting with ten people in attendance to discuss plans for the upcoming year, including sponsoring a panel for the 2017 meeting. With so many of our members focusing on folk/vernacular religion, we may pursue a topic in that subfield. We are also interested in having members publish in the journal *Folklorica*.

The section uses the AFS online group to communicate; it has 36 members.

Space, Place and Landscapes Section

No report submitted.

Storytelling Section

Conveners: Joseph D. Sobol (Eastern Tennessee State University), Milbre E. Burch (University of Missouri, Columbia)

The Storytelling Section sponsored its annual Daniel Crowley Memorial Concert for the 2016 Meeting in Miami, featuring traditional Caribbean storytelling by Tersí Benderberg (Cuba) and Lucrèce Louisdhon-Louinis (Haiti). We did not award a Crowley Prize for best student paper this year due to lack of funds. At the 2016 Section meetings we discussed finalizing a proposal that has been under discussion since 2015: the merger of the Storytelling and Creative Writing Sections. The reasons were as follows:

1. The two sections have a considerable overlap in territory, specifically in the conjunctions of verbal art, aesthetics, and poetics with the underlying structures and communal grounding of folklore.
2. The sections have piloted two years of joint efforts in co-curating panels, with excellent results.

3. This year, also for the second time, we jointly organized a story/poetry slam following the Crowley concert, which was similarly satisfying.

4. The business model of the Storytelling Section—involving producing a professional storytelling concert at annual meetings in order to fund a student paper prize—is clearly not sustainable. The avocational economics of poetry and of the contemporary story slam movement seem to resonate more with each other as well as with the overall ethos of the folklore field. Given the choice between an annual pursuit of funders and benefactors to enable the traditional Storytelling Section slate of activities and adapting the Creative Writing Section model of non-hierarchical participation events, we feel it most appropriate to go with the latter.

5. Although storytelling has a legitimate place in the map of folklore subfields, the Storytelling Section has remained small in the scheme of AFS interest groups, and has been unable to compete effectively for time and participation at the meetings.

6. The Creative Writing Section has indicated a receptivity to an infusion of performative energy from the Storytelling Section, in exchange for a broader conjoined membership base and genre focus. The merger was provisionally approved at the 2016 joint section meeting as a mutually beneficial arrangement, under the name Creative Writing and Storytelling Section. Members of both sections will be asked to formally confirm the merger with a ballot early in 2017.

The Storytelling Section has 65 members.

Transnational Asia/Pacific Section

Conveners: Levi S. Gibbs (Dartmouth College), Yuko Nakamura (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee)

Women's Section

Conveners: Ruth Olson (University of Wisconsin, Madison), Kerry Kaleba (George Mason University)

In 2016, the section held its biennial Croning Ritual. Approximately 25 Cronees were inducted, each accompanied into the cauldron by a mentor Crone, and supported throughout the lengthy ceremony by a group of younger Cronettes. More than 150 people were involved or in attendance at this ritual, always a highlight of the AFS conference in the years in which it occurs.

The Women's Section also sponsored several awards: the Polly Stewart Student Travel Stipend went to Afsane Rezaei; the Elli K ng s-Maranda Professional Prize went to Marsha MacDowell et. al. for *Quilts and Human Rights* and to Evy Johanne Haaland for *Rituals of Death and Dying in Modern and Ancient Greece*; and the Elli K ng s-Maranda Student Prize, which went to Mathilde Frances Lind for her paper "Lace Makers of Ireland and Shetland." In addition, the Women's Section and the Independent Folklorists' section shared sponsorship of a travel prize, awarded to Nancy Nusz. We will continue to offer these same award opportunities in 2017.

The section has 201 members, and uses a listserv (afswomen@list.indiana.edu) with 242 subscribers, a closed Facebook group, "[AFS Women's Section](#)" with 26 members, and announcements through the AFS group.



The 2016 Women's Section Croning in Miami.

Levi S. Gibbs stepped down as senior convenor (2014-2016) and was succeeded by Charles La Shure at the 2016 AFS/ISNFR Meeting in Miami. La Shure is an assistant professor at Seoul National University, Korea, where he teaches Korean literature, culture, and folklore in the Department of Korean Language and Literature. He will join Yuko Nakamura in her second year as junior convenor (2015-2017) in handling section business. 2016's Jonathan T. Y. Yeh Award for Student Scholarship was presented to Eric C sar Morales (Indiana University) for his paper, "Gender Policing on the Stage: Trans Identities in Tahitian Dance." The Jonathan T. Y. Yeh Award, sponsored by Dr. Nora Yeh, aims to foster and promote graduate and undergraduate students in the early stages of their careers, encourage advanced scholarly research and publication on Asian and/or Asian American folklore subjects, and support young scholars who want to participate more actively in the American Folklore Society. This award has, up until now, been presented to students in U.S. institutions, but during the section meeting members discussed the possibility of extending this opportunity to students studying abroad as well, and later consultation with Society officers confirmed that this would indeed be possible. In keeping with the increasingly international nature of the Society and the Transnational Asia/Pacific Section, we thus hope to increase the scope of the award in the future. The section sponsored three panels at the 2016 AFS/ISNFR meeting and hopes to sponsor more in the future in an effort to increase the profile of Asian and Asian-American folklore studies in the Society. About 15 people attended the section business meeting. The section has a listserv to facilitate communication and collaboration among members; it has about 115 subscribers, and its postings include questions, news, and academic and professional opportunities. It is hoped that future conversation on this listserv will allow us to send content to the *AFS Review* and thus keep the Society informed of section activities. The section also created a [directory of member research profiles](#).

The section has 67 members.

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AFS is grateful to the following organizations and individuals for their generous support, without which the society's 2016 activities would not have been possible.

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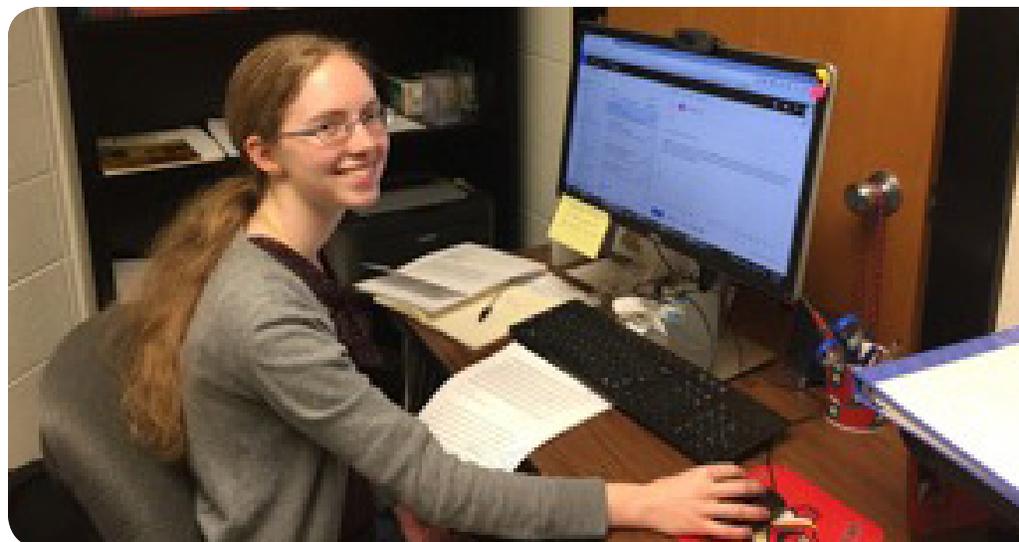
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