



American  
Folklore  
Society

2014 ANNUAL REPORT  
the road traveled, the road ahead

# Letter from the President



April 30, 2015

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to report to you on the past year of activity within the American Folklore Society. As this annual report will attest, we had a remarkable year in 2014. Among our achievements were one of the largest annual meetings we have ever had, the successful continuation of a number of significant projects and initiatives, and the smooth and successful transfer of editorship of the *Journal of American Folklore*.

As Diane Goldstein warned me, one's time as President moves quickly. No sooner does one get the hang of things than there is a President-Elect waiting in the wings. However, it is a great system, providing seamless continuity in the leadership of AFS. I appreciate Diane serving as a great presidential role model to me, as I do Kay Turner's active involvement as President-Elect.

Prior to my own active involvement on the Executive Board, I—probably like many AFS members—took the smooth functioning of our Society for granted. It is truly impressive to realize how many working parts there are and how many different initiatives are in play at any given time. While it may be easy to think of AFS as existing only when we collectively gather at an annual meeting, when an issue of *JAF* arrives, or when some particular controversy arises, AFS members, the board, and the AFS staff are continuously moving us forward as a discipline and as a profession. Despite the challenges we face and the disagreements we may have (which in themselves are healthy signs of an active society), we are a remarkably sane, civil, and thriving scholarly and professional society. AFS is blessed with a professional staff whose diplomacy, organizational skills, and work ethic make being President a joy and, at times, embarrassingly effortless.

As many of you know, 2015 brings many new challenges for the American Folklore Society. The generous offer from Indiana University to provide a new home to AFS brings new sustainability benefits to the Society. We are fortunate indeed that we can retain our irreplaceable Executive Director Tim Lloyd and Associate Director Lorraine Cashman in this transition. We will sadly bid a fond farewell to Editorial and Administrative Associate Rob Vanscoyoc when the move is complete. Although the move is just now about to take place, it involved a long period of negotiations and planning in 2014. Thanks both to Diane Goldstein and all the folks at Indiana University who have made this move possible and to The Ohio State University and the folklore community there for years of support.

This year we also face a particularly challenging situation with our annual meeting. I thank everyone within the Society for keeping the dialogue civil and thoughtful. There will be difficult choices to be made both individually and collectively, and let us hope that we can make them free of an atmosphere of recriminations. Again I marvel at the diplomacy of our Executive Director in this situation.

Finally, I would like to offer a few personal thanks for 2014. Thanks to Simon Lichman for his marvelous 2014 AFS Presidential Invited Address. I am so proud to have had the inspiration to invite him—he did all the rest. Thanks also to my colleagues at Western Kentucky University for their willingness to take over the challenge of editing *JAF* and thanks to the former editors at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, for their efforts to ensure a smooth transition. A word of thanks to my fellow members of the Working Group on Historic Preservation Policy who have kept the dialog alive even as our official work has concluded. My gratitude to my colleagues in AFS who have included me in the ongoing China-US folklore studies initiatives, which have provided me with a whole host of new friends and experiences, as well as serious scholarly exchange. Thanks to the 2014 Executive Board, who collectively made board meetings astonishingly fun to attend. And finally, of course, thanks to the membership of AFS for giving me the privilege of being the President of the Society, and to Tim, Lorraine, and Rob for making it such a pleasure.

So buckle your seat belts and let's keep 2015 moving forward.

**Michael Ann Williams**

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A carved door (c. 1984) by Quinault/Isleta Pueblo artist Martin Oliver, part of the Neutrogena Collection at the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Photo by Timothy Lloyd with permission of MOIFA.



# Financial Summary

## Administration

Revenue		\$155,245
Membership dues	80,067	}
Investments	33,181	
Gifts and contributions	40,593	
Other	1,404	
<u>Expenses</u>		<u>148,473</u>
Administration net income		\$6,772

These figures reflect AFS's financial activities during the 2014 fiscal year (FY 2014), which ran from September 1, 2013, to August 31, 2014. Expense figures allocate the cost of staff time as it was spent on each activity instead of counting all staff time as administration.

## Special Projects

Revenue		\$247,823
<u>Expenses</u>		<u>172,924</u>
Special projects net income		\$74,899

## Annual Meeting \*

Revenue		\$66,031
<u>Expenses</u>		<u>115,026</u>
Annual meeting net income		(\$48,995)

## Publications

Revenue		\$119,201
<u>Expenses</u>		<u>79,306</u>
Publications net income		\$39,895

## Sections

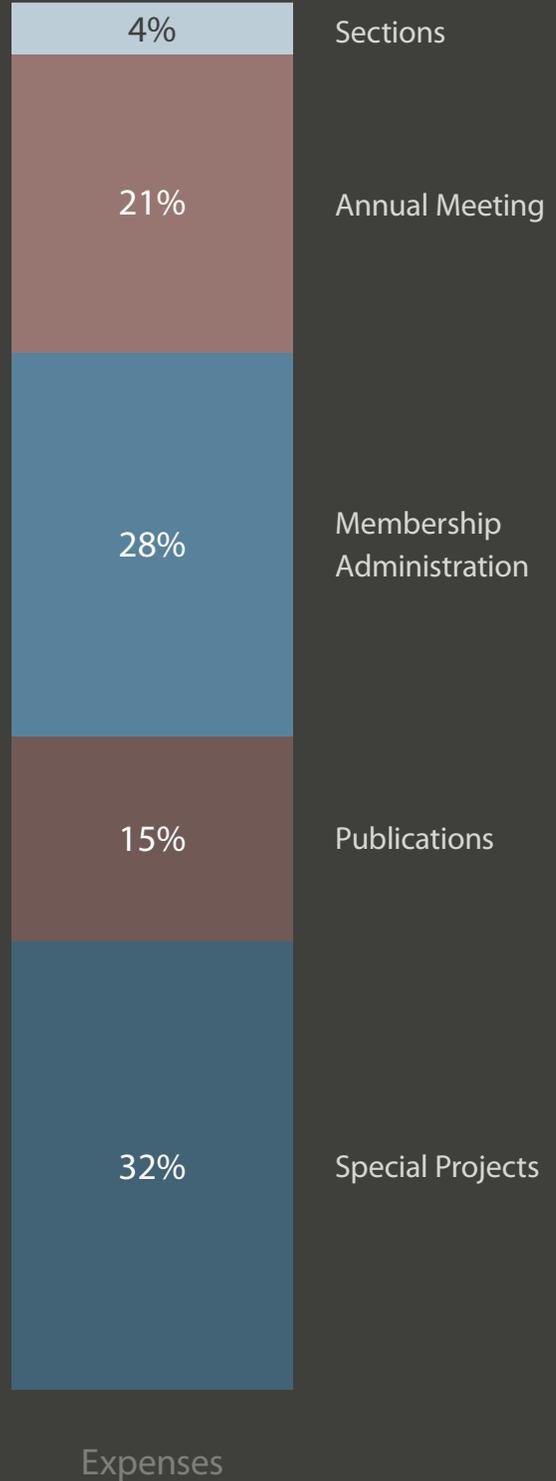
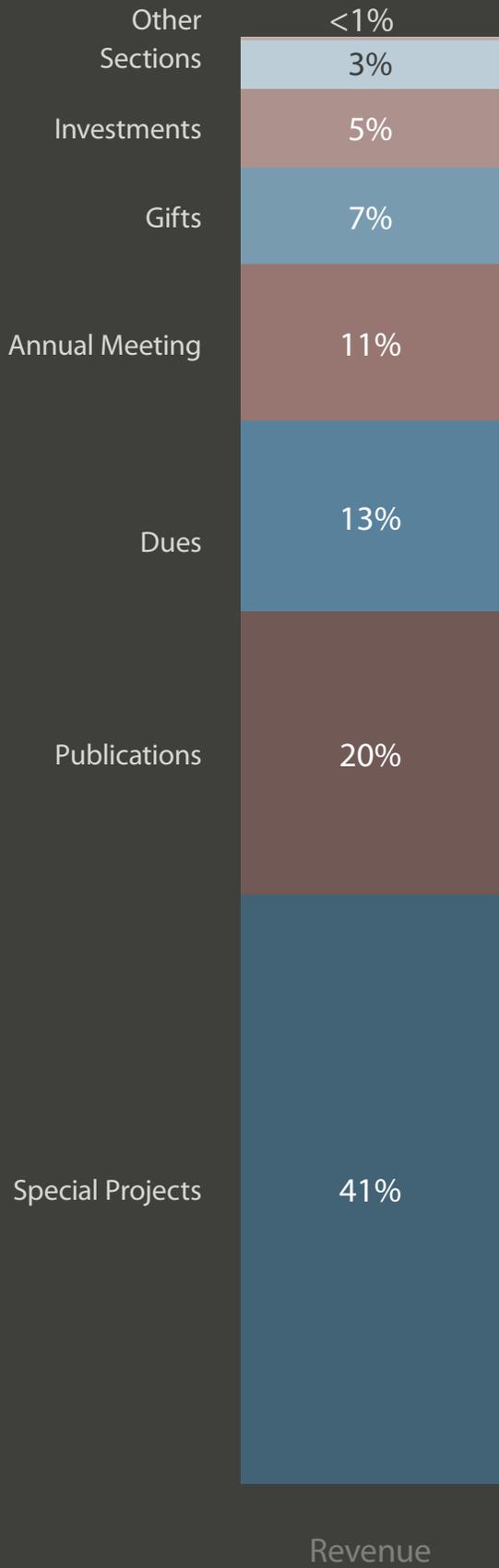
Revenue		\$20,515
<u>Expenses</u>		<u>20,277</u>
Sections net income		\$288

Total revenue		\$608,815
<u>Total expenses</u>		<u>535,956</u>
<b>FY 2014 net income</b>		<b>\$72,859**</b>

\* The 2013 annual meeting in Providence, RI, which took place in FY 2014.

\*\* The net income shown for FY 2014 consists almost entirely of grant funds received during the year that will be spent on AFS special project activities during FY 2015.

# Revenue and expenses as percents of total



# Special Projects

## China-US Folklore and Intangible Cultural Heritage Project

The second phase of the China-US folklore studies initiative, funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, began in 2014 with a conference on China and US ethnographic museum policy and practice. The conference took place in Santa Fe immediately after the AFS annual meeting and was the first of a pair of professional development exchanges for younger ethnographic museum personnel from the two countries. Work on the development of new resources and programs for folklore scholarship and fieldwork based on the project also continued.



## Folklore and Public Policy

The active term of AFS's Working Group on Folklore and Museums Policy and Practice, the third in a series of such groups, concluded in 2014 with several museum-related sessions and activities at the annual meeting in Santa Fe. The working group will issue its final report in 2015.

The previous group, which focused on historic preservation policy, continued its work to create meaningful opportunities for folklorists to join current dialogues about historic preservation policies of the future. This group's final reports are available online.

There were no applications for new working groups submitted by the December 2014 deadline.

The organizing committee at the first China-US ethnographic museums conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Front row, L to R: Timothy Lloyd, Marsha Bol, Jason Baird Jackson, Marsha MacDowell, and Bill Ivey; Middle row, L to R: Lijun Zhang, Luo Wenhong, Du Yunhong, Chen Xi, Song Junhua, Gao Cong, and Gong Shiyang; Back row, L to R: Li Shuyuan, Wang Wei, C. Kurt Dewhurst, An Deming, and Levi Gibbs.

# Consultancy and Professional Development Program

Funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Consultancy and Professional Development began its sixth year in 2014. The program supports capacity-building activities for public folklore organizations and individual public folklorists, and these lead to best-practice and case-study reports shared online.

## National Folklore Archives Initiative

Using its own financial resources, AFS continued advancing the National Folklore Archives Initiative, which aims to document the contents of folklore archives in academic, public, and governmental organizations across the country and to make detailed information on these holdings widely available. As part of this work, AFS submitted a proposal in July to the National Endowment for the Humanities for second-phase support of the project.

## Veterans History Project

The American Folklife Center's Veterans History Project is an AFS-managed national program that provides leaders from the fields of folklore studies and oral history for community-based workshops where attendees learn about collecting oral histories from military veterans. 2014 marked the 13th year of AFS's involvement in the project.



Traditional women's clothing on display at the Guizhou Nationalities Museum in Guiyang City, Guizhou Province, China. Photo by Timothy Lloyd.



American representatives of the China-US ethnographic museums collaboration explore a street market in the Huangpu village in Guangzhou, China, during a December 2014 planning trip. Photo by Timothy Lloyd.

# 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

## “Folklore at the Crossroads”

November 5–8 at the  
Santa Fe Community Convention Center  
in SANTA FE, NM

**863**  
total  
attendees

**Presidential  
Invited  
Address**

**124**  
international  
participants

**Opening  
Plenary  
Address**

**NORA NARANJO-  
MORSE**

“Cause and Effect”

**SIMON LICHMAN**

“Prayer Carpets and  
Apricot Stones: How  
Folklore Is Used in  
‘Coexistence’ Education  
between Israeli and  
Palestinian Communities  
and Its Potential  
Application to Other  
Multi-Cultural Settings  
and Conflict Situations”

**Utley  
Memorial  
Lecture**

**SIMON J. BRONNER**

“Convergences in the Hyper  
Era: Thirty Years after  
*American Folklore Studies*”

## UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETINGS

October 2015  
LONG BEACH, CA

October 2016  
MIAMI, FL

October 2017  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN

a joint meeting w/ ISFNR

The Cibecue Creek Apache Crown Dancers perform under a full moon as part of an open house on Santa Fe's Museum Hill during the 2014 annual meeting. Photo by Timothy Lloyd.



# Election

These members were elected to office in the 2014 AFS election:



**Kay Turner**, New York University  
President (President-Elect, 2015;  
President, 2016–18; Past President,  
2018)



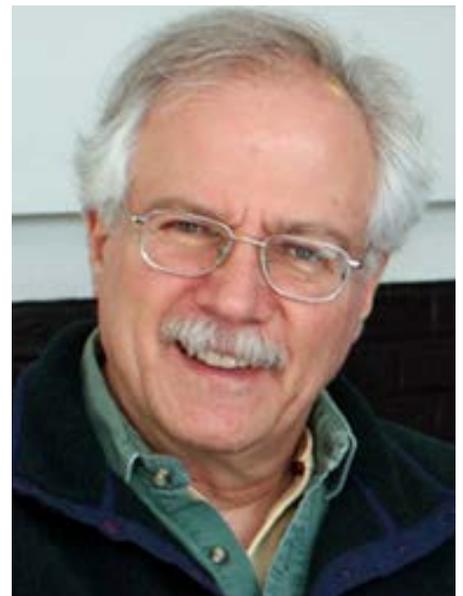
**Joseph Sciorra**, Calandra Italian  
American Institute, Queens College  
Nominating Committee (2015–17)



**Norma Cantú**, University of  
Missouri, Kansas City  
Executive Board (2015–17)



**Lisa Gilman**, University of Oregon  
Executive Board (2015–17)



**Jeff Todd Titon**, Brown University,  
emeritus  
Executive Board (2015–17)

# Committee and Delegate Activities

## Committee on International Issues

As in the past, one of the committee's prime responsibilities in 2014 was granting travel funds through the International Stipend Program. We received applications from 17 scholars, the highest number in several years, and were able to fund 6 applicants—one each from Australia, China, Finland, and Thailand, and two from Italy. (One recipient was unable to attend the conference due to visa issues.) In addition, we allotted a portion of our funds for a special panel organized by William Westerman on minority groups from India. In total, the committee awarded \$6,000.

As always, we focused on selecting scholars early in their careers as well as scholars with little or no institutional support to travel to the annual meeting. Awardees also received free accommodations and waived registration fees. They were encouraged to attend plenary sessions and other events geared specifically for first-time attendees. Several international grantees also chose to participate in the mentoring program (lunch and shadowing programs) recently established by the Executive Board, giving them a chance to meet senior scholars and make contact with others with similar academic interests. The personal

feedback I received from several international attendees was extremely positive, with one scholar exclaiming that AFS was more welcoming than any other scholarly society she has been involved with.

For the second year in a row, the committee also organized a World Café (<http://www.theworld-cafe.com/>) event at the annual meeting. Held on Wednesday afternoon, the event this year was run by committee member David McDonald with the

“Of the nearly 900 participants who came to Santa Fe, approximately 124 came from countries other than the US.”

assistance of the other committee members and several graduate student volunteers. Approximately 30 scholars from around the world participated

in a thoughtful discussion about key issues in folklore studies, sharing perspectives from different parts of the globe. Many participants wanted to linger to continue the discussion after our allotted time was up.

Although the World Café has been productive these last two years, it has also been challenging to find an appropriate time to hold it; the Wednesday afternoon slot has proven particularly difficult for international scholars, who have often flown a long distance to get to the meeting and may not yet be oriented to the time zone or location. The committee, therefore, has decided to try a new format for the 2015 meeting. If possible, we will hold a forum on folklore around the world in which scholars from various parts of the globe will briefly present current issues in folkloristics

in their own region and then engage with the audience and each other in a wide-ranging comparative discussion. We will propose the forum as a regular annual-meeting session that hopefully will attract members who have been unable to participate in the World Café events.

This year—as always—the AFS annual meeting featured numerous panels and presentations concerning folklore and folkloristics in places beyond North America and/or presented by scholars who are working abroad. Of the nearly 900 participants who came to Santa Fe, approximately 124 came from countries other than the United States. Increasingly, engagement with global issues and the presence of international scholars are intrinsic to the identity of AFS as a scholarly organization.

Michael Dylan Foster, chair

## Publications Committee

The Publications Committee was very active in 2014, with the vetting of proposals for the *Journal of American Folklore* editorship and the recommendation of candidates to the Executive Board constituting its primary business. This process—in which the entire committee was deeply engaged—culminated in the April 21, 2014, board [announcement of the new editorial office](#) at Western Kentucky University. The committee learned a great deal during its review of the proposals and these insights will shape its work in 2015 and beyond.

The committee would like to express its thanks to everyone who assisted in the review of *JAF* editorship proposals, and would especially like to thank those colleagues who submitted proposals for consideration.

Jason Baird Jackson, chair

## Cultural Diversity Committee

In 2014, the Cultural Diversity Committee continued its work to research ways to diversify attendance at the AFS annual meeting. We received 18 applications for Gerald L. Davis Travel Awards, which provide a travel stipend to persons of color who are interested in attending the meeting. We granted nine awards and transferred \$500 of our allotted fund to the Committee on International Issues, which used the money to help William Westerman bring a group of Northeast Indian scholars to the meeting. The committee now uses a rubric for determining how to prioritize award applications, making the decision process easier. We recommend that AFS reach out (perhaps through an annual email) to all past Gerald Davis Award applicants, whether or not they received funding, in order to keep them engaged with the society and interested in attending the meeting.

At the annual meeting, the committee hosted a brown-bag session where 15 attendees discussed participation issues faced by people of diverse backgrounds attending the conference. These attendees discussed the opportunities for and roadblocks to participating in the annual meeting and, based on the conversation, produced a list of recommendations that has been passed on to the Executive Board.

Finally, the committee considered five submissions for the Zora Neale Hurston Prize, two of which were from a previous year, and awarded the prize to Julia Cox for the paper “Sho’ Can’t Read My Mind: Hurston’s Literary Science and Code-Switching in *Mules and Men*.” This award marks only the second one given for a paper about Hurston herself.

Selina Morales, chair

David Todd Lawrence (R), the Executive Board's liaison to the Cultural Diversity Committee, enjoying the annual meeting in Santa Fe with fellow departing board members Juwen Zhang (L) and Solimar Otero (C). Photo by Lorraine Walsh Cashman.



## AFS Archives

In 2014 Utah State University Special Collections and Archives, working with the AFS executive team, created a deposit schedule for AFS materials and created a digital materials plan. This will ensure that key AFS materials continue to be preserved. This plan includes annual reports, annual meeting programs, membership directories (names and affiliations only), Executive Board and working-group meeting minutes, the Executive Director's reports to the board, annual budgets, audits, and policy statements. It also includes the following AFS publications: *JAF*, *AFS Review*, *Children's Folklore Review*, *Folklore Historian*, *Digest*, *New Directions in Folklore*, and books in the Jewish Cultural Studies series. The plan also covers section information, including section annual reports, newsletters (if applicable), and membership directories (names and affiliations only).

As in past years, USU provided excellent reference services for the AFS records, processed recent society accruals, and updated the robust [encoded archival description \(EAD\) finding guide](#).

I would like to offer special thanks to everyone who deposited materials to the AFS archives in 2014. This year we will be soliciting the membership for missing copies of *JAF* in order to complete the collection, and asking section conveners for section reports, newsletters, and directories. For information on the AFS collection or on depositing materials, please contact archivist [Clint Pumphrey](#).

Randy Williams, liaison

## American Council of Learned Societies

One of the pleasures and exhilarations of being the American Folklore Society's delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) is contact with Pauline Yu, whose distinguished work as a scholar of comparative literature is more than equaled by her advocacy for the humanities as president of ACLS, ever inspiring for those of us who despair of the current state of humanities and social-science research. In her presidential [report to the council](#) this year

at the ACLS annual meeting in Philadelphia, she recalled how ACLS resolved its crisis of the 1960s into a new regime, with a new statement of the importance of the humanities. She referred to the founding, back then, of the National Endowment for the Humanities, which though repeatedly threatened today continues to be a partner of ACLS. She also pointed to the achievements and strengths of ACLS, as well as the contributions to the flow of knowledge fostered through its many [fellowships](#). Emphasizing the role of humanities studies in broadening public concerns, she concluded by pointing to the major challenges we must face: to sustain the strength of the humanities against today's crumbling, to contribute to the greater good by seeking to understand human complexity, and "to participate in the intensifying national debate about the nature of higher education in the 21st century."

In 2014, ACLS conducted a census of its member societies, and 56 of them completed a questionnaire about indicators of organizational health. For many, revenue growth has been greater than growth in membership. Conference attendance keeps growing, but any scholarly society, including AFS, has to evaluate its use of larger national or smaller regional meetings. Questions relevant to AFS are how to prevent turnover in membership and what responsibilities the organization bears for the larger project of a professional life. A society like ours will do well to consider these questions, while the ACLS's Conference of Administrative Officers plans to continue the census.

The Friday morning session of the annual meeting began with our hearing from several recent ACLS fellows. Historian Stephen Berry (University of Georgia), art historian Laura Turner Igoe (Temple

University), and archaeologist Lori Khatchadourian (Cornell University) spoke about their ACLS-funded work. Ms. Igoe's project "considers how artists and architects used the body as a framework to visualize, comprehend, and reform the city's rapidly changing urban ecology after the Revolutionary War." Perhaps of equal interest to folklorists is Dr. Khatchadourian's [connecting tangible cultural heritage with politics in the ancient Near East](#).

In the 2013–14 fellowship year, ACLS awarded some \$15 million to nearly three hundred recipients. The very large growth in the fellowship program was noted as a contrast to the perspective of 50 years ago President Yu had mentioned earlier.

By unanimous recommendation of the executive committee of the delegates, the Oral History Association was admitted as a constituent member of ACLS. Perhaps the OHA and AFS will find ways to cooperate in the future.

This year's luncheon speaker was the historian Earl Lewis, president of the Andrew W. Mellon

Foundation, which is a principal supporter of ACLS and of several American Folklore Society initiatives. Also of interest to folklorists was [the presentation by this year's](#)

[Charles Homer Haskins Prize lecturer](#), the renowned ethnomusicologist Bruno Nettl (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, emeritus).

I end this report in my usual way by urging more folklorists to follow [the example of our colleague Timothy Tangherlini](#) and make our field better known by applying for ACLS fellowships.

Lee Haring, delegate

“ In the 2013–14 fellowship year, ACLS awarded some \$15 million to nearly three hundred recipients. ”

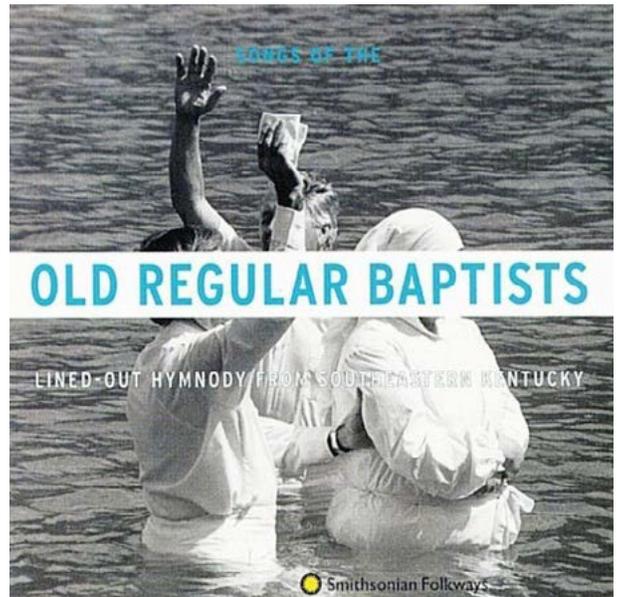
# National Recording Preservation Board

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. 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 last year, which is typical. Two years ago, at the board's direction, the Library of Congress produced a national sound recording preservation plan, and much of the meeting was devoted to discussing how to move that plan forward. There was also a tense 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 entity. The issue on the table was whether the library would meet its funding obligation to the foundation; eventually library staff announced that, contrary to earlier indications, it would.

For a list of recordings on the National Registry and for other information about the work of the board, including the full text of the national sound recording preservation plan, go to the [NRPB website](#). As I write this, the most recent registry list dates from 2013 (the 2014 list comes out in late March 2015), and in that year we managed to list a 1938 set of field recordings by Franz Boas and George Herzog as well as the very first release on the Arhoolie record label, an LP featuring Mance Lipscomb.

Burt Feintuch, representative



Top: *Old Regular Baptists: Lined-Out Hymnody from Southeastern Kentucky* (Smithsonian Folkways, 1997), a collection of hymns performed by the Indian Bottom Association of Old Regular Baptists and recorded by AFS Fellow and Executive Board member Jeff Todd Titon in the early 1990s, was added to the Library of Congress's 2014 National Recording Registry.

Bottom: Titon (L) with Elwood Cornett (C), moderator of the Indian Bottom Association, and John Wallhausser (R), professor at Berea College, in Blackey, KY, in 1990. Photo by Kathy Cornett and courtesy of Jeff Todd Titon.

# Awards

AFS Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award

**Dan Ben-Amos** (University of Pennsylvania)

Judith McCulloh Award for Lifetime Service to the Field

**Timothy Lloyd** (American Folklore Society)

Chicago Folklore Prize

**David A. McDonald** (Indiana University) for  
*My Voice Is My Weapon: Music, Nationalism, and the Poetics of Palestinian Resistance*

Benjamin A. Botkin Prize

**Robert Cogswell** (Tennessee Arts Commission)

Américo Paredes Prize

**Maria Herrera-Sobek** (University of California,  
Santa Barbara)

Zora Neale Hurston Prize

**Julia Cox** (University of Pennsylvania) for "Sho' Can't  
Read My Mind: Hurston's Literary Science and Code-Switching in *Mules and Men*"

# Journal of American Folklore

## From the Editor

In the summer of 2014, *Journal of American Folklore* editors Thomas A. DuBois and James P. Leary of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, handed the journal over to its new editorial team at Western Kentucky University. Thanks to the Madison editors and their team for five years of excellent service to *JAF*.

*JAF* temporarily stopped accepting submissions in January 2014 in order to give the AFS Executive Board time to choose a new editorial team, and to give the new editors time to get up and running. During the freeze, the Madison editors received five articles: two were eventually withdrawn by the authors, and the other three were passed to the editorial team at WKU along with eight accepted articles, two special issues containing nine articles, and one article that was under review. By the end of the year, the new editorial team had received 15 submissions (including the 3 forwarded on from Madison): 1 was accepted, 4 were rejected, and 10 are still out for review.

Ann K. Ferrell, editor-in-chief

## Book Reviews

I would like to thank everyone who completed a review in 2014. In 2015, I will turn the editorship over to Deborah Lattanzi Shutika, Benjamin Gatling, and Joy Fraser, the new team from George Mason

University—contact them directly with inquiries. The new editors encourage prominent and active members of the field to contribute to the important scholarly task of evaluating research through doing book reviews—an especially important task given the limited number of folklorists and the highly specialized knowledge within our discipline. If solicited for a review, please consider every possibility to agree. The editors also request suggestions for other qualified colleagues who may wish to write reviews.

Gregory Hansen, editor

## Exhibit and Event Reviews

I have learned, as a review editor, that identifying relevant exhibitions is easy. Unlike books and websites, however, exhibitions are not portable or as easily accessible. Reviewers often must travel to exhibitions, which can create scheduling and financial issues. Additionally, exhibitions in our field are typically collaborative endeavors that include the expertise of many folklorists in curation, management, and presentation. Therefore, I've also learned that finding reviewers in close proximity to exhibitions, and without conflicts of interest, poses a challenge. In late 2014, I passed the baton to Carrie Hertz and look forward to reading more exhibition reviews in the future.

Lisa Higgins, editor

# JAF by the Numbers

Issues 506–510

Articles

**25**  
published

**1/15**

submissions accepted of those received by the WKU editorial team in 2014

Book Reviews

**70**

books submitted for review

**42/62**

reviews published of those approved

Exhibit & Event Reviews

**2/3**

accepted for future publication of those received

Obituaries

**3**

published

Creative Pieces,  
Film Reviews &  
Addresses

published (each)

**1**

**2016**

year when issues under new WKU editorial team will begin to appear in print

**431,635**

views, prints, or downloads of JAF content from JSTOR in 2014

**3**

most viewed, printed, or downloaded JAF articles on JSTOR in 2014:

- 1) 7,531 views**  
Adrian Recinos. "Cuentos Populares de Guatemala."
- 2) 5,213 views**  
Claude Lévi-Strauss. "The Structural Study of Myth."
- 3) 5,154 views**  
Kay Stone. "Things Walt Disney Never Told Us."

# Section Publications

## *Children's Folklore Review*

Volume 36 of *Children's Folklore Review* was coedited by Elizabeth Tucker and Trevor J. Blank in 2014. This was a transitional year—Tucker's last as editor, with Blank preparing to become sole editor in 2015.

Volume 36 includes two essays that are based on papers delivered at the 2013 AFS annual meeting: Simon J. Bronner's "The Shooter Has Asperger's": Autism, Belief, and 'Wild Child' Narratives," and Elizabeth Tucker's "The Endangered Child: Choking and Fainting Games in the Online Underground of YouTube." The volume includes the introduction to the panel "Children's Folklore in the Twenty-First Century: Folklorists of Childhood Respond to the Newtown Tragedy," on which the two papers were originally delivered. There is also an article by Jeffrey G. Howard called "Trickster's Economics: Conservation and Innovation in the Game of Jinx."

Back issues of *Children's Folklore Review* from 1990 (vol. 13) to 2013 (vol. 35) are available online via Indiana University's [ScholarWorks](#) repository website. Research published by our journal is now accessible to anyone with an Internet connection and subsequent volumes will be added to the repository approximately one year after their initial publication.

The Dean's Office at Harpur College of Binghamton University covered all production and mailing expenses for the journal in 2014. Since this was the last year of Elizabeth Tucker's editorship, it will also

be the last year of Binghamton funding. Kathy Buchta did excellent work on layout and design, and Sheridan Press printed and mailed the issue very effectively.

Thanks very much for all of your outstanding support of our journal, which we have greatly appreciated.

Trevor J. Blank and Elizabeth Tucker, editors

## *Digest*

*Digest: A Journal of Foodways & Culture* is in its third year as a web-based, open-access journal. Diane I. Tye of Memorial University of Newfoundland continues to manage the journal's content, while Michael Lange of Champlain College does the design and digital publication work. In 2014, *Digest* published two issues, 3.1 and 3.2, with articles by Adrienne Johnson, Mu Li, Laura Sanchini, Lacey Michelle Cornell, Diana Lempel, M. Ruth Dike, and Diana Garvin, as well as other contributions from 18 different authors. The journal continues to serve as a publication outlet for the AFS Foodways Section's Sue Samuelsson Prize winners in addition to soliciting content from a wide range of scholars. Work is underway on future issues, with the material for volume 4.1 nearly ready for digitization. Material is being gathered for volume 4.2 at the moment, including the expectation of the winning papers of the latest Sue Samuelsson competition.

The inability to consistently keep a designer has hampered the efficiency of publication with each volume, as has the slow process of securing submissions. The journal's new editorial board is helping with the latter issue, generating material for future issues while

providing continuity across editors. As *Digest* continues its efforts to solicit new material and expand its audience, we thank you for your support.

Diane I. Tye and Michael Lange, editors

## Jewish Cultural Studies Series

The *Jewish Cultural Studies book series*, published by the Littman Library of Jewish Civilization in Oxford, England, is a benefit of membership in the Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Section of AFS. All books in the series are also available to nonmembers through Littman. Four volumes have been published since 2008, including the latest—*Framing Jewish Culture: Boundaries and Representations* (2014).

Future volumes are in progress, including number 5 on motherhood in the Jewish cultural imagination, which is going to press in 2015. Other planned volumes are number 6 on mediated Jewish culture from print to the Internet, number 7 on the Jewish cultural identity of artists in a global market, number 8 on Jewish folk spirituality, and number 9 on Jewish heritage studies. Ideally, one volume will be published each year beginning in 2016.

Simon J. Bronner, editor

## *New Directions in Folklore*

Published biannually, *New Directions in Folklore (NDiF)* is the refereed, open-access ejournal of the New Directions in Folklore Section of AFS—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 the Indiana University Libraries and IUScholarWorks in partnership with the American Folklore Society.

As *NDiF* 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.

We are pleased to report that *New Directions in Folklore* published one issue last year. Volume 12 was published in April 2014 and featured outgoing editor Trevor J. Blank's farewell note, Janet L. Langlois's essay "'They all see dead people—but we (do)n't want to tell you about it': On Legend Gathering in Real and Cyberspace," and book reviews of Eric A. Eliason and Tom Mould's *Latter-day Lore: Mormon Folklore Studies* and Lynne S. McNeill's *Folklore Rules: A Fun, Quick, and Useful Introduction to the Field of Academic Folklore Studies*. At the time of my writing, the note, essay, and book reviews have been downloaded hundreds of times. The download figures for the issue are highly encouraging and further exhibit *New Directions in Folklore's* growing reach and appeal.

In addition to achieving greater readership, we are also pleased to note that, yet again, the past year has netted the largest number of article submissions to the journal thus far, and we are eager to continue providing a home for new and exciting folkloristic scholarship. Currently, we are putting together our 2015 double issue for anticipated publication in late May or early June of 2015.

David J. Puglia, editor

# Fellows

The following scholars were inducted into the Fellows of the American Folklore Society in 2014:

**John Lindow** (University of California, Berkeley)

**Elizabeth Peterson** (American Folklife Center)

**Leonard Norman Primiano** (Cabrini College)

**Carol Silverman** (University of Oregon)

**Margaret R. Yocom** (George Mason University, emerita)



2014 Fellows president Simon J. Bronner poses with new inductees Elizabeth Peterson (L), Leonard Norman Primiano (C), and John Lindow (R). Photos by Jay Mechling.

At the 2014 annual meeting, the Francis Lee Utley Memorial Lecture of the AFS Fellows was presented by Simon J. Bronner on “Convergences in the Hyper Era: Thirty Years after *American Folklore Studies*.” The group held its annual reception for students following the lecture, with a record high of 125 students and 40 Fellows in attendance.

The Fellows panel complemented the meeting’s theme of “folklore at the crossroads” with a discussion of scholarly journeys and disciplinary intersections under the heading of “Road Crossings, Crossroads, and the Study of Folklore.” The session was chaired by Jack Santino and featured participants José Limon, Sabina Magliocco, and Margaret A. Mills.

The Fellows also held their annual Breakfast of Folklore Champions for students, this year featuring conversations with Jay Mechling on folk-popular relations, Jim Griffith on borderlands, William Hansen on mythology, and Norma Cantú on gender studies.

Lee Haring served as the Fellows’ representative on the AFS Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award Committee in 2014. Marcia Gaudet was elected Fellows secretary-treasurer for a two-year term beginning in January 2015. Frank de Caro will move into the position of vice-president and Erika Brady will become the new president in 2015.

Simon J. Bronner, president

Fellow Jim Griffith (C) leads graduate students in a discussion on borderlands during the annual “Breakfast of Folklore Champions” at the Santa Fe annual meeting. Photo by Simon J. Bronner.



# Section Activities

Visit the AFS website to [join any of these sections](#) and for [more information on their activities](#). The sections' online [groups](#) are free to join and provide tools for communicating with other group members.

The reports that follow were submitted by section conveners. Listed at the beginning of each report are the section's conveners in 2014. The precise number of members in any section may vary throughout a year. Figures below concerning section membership were collected in December 2014.

## African Studies

Conveners: **Hilary M. Leathem** (University of Chicago), **Thomas Van Buren** (Westchester Arts Council)

This year the African Folklore Section, which has recently been renamed the African Studies Section, began reviving itself and had its annual business meeting to discuss modes of communication and plans for the future. The consensus said the section would communicate via email and through the AFS [section page](#) since it is looking to build its community and engage and excite scholars. In order to do this, the section is compiling a bibliography that will be posted on its page and will be editable by any section member. The section also plans to put together a

panel at the annual meeting and to incorporate other African folklorists into theoretical panels whose participants' geographic interests span the globe. Further, the section is considering offering an annual graduate student paper prize.

In 2014, the section had 44 registered members.

## Archives and Libraries

Convener: **Terri M. Jordan** (independent)

The mission of the AFS Archives and Libraries Section is to promote the exchange of information on all types of archival methodology relating to folklore, folklife, and

other ethnographic collections. In addition, the section aims to share information and to help develop standards relevant to library collections and activities in folklore.

In 2014, the section engaged in several annual-meeting activities toward the advancement of these goals. These included coordinating two workshops: a premeeting workshop, "Using the OHMS to Index Oral Histories" (unfortunately cancelled due to travel delays for its leader, Doug Boyd), and an evening workshop, "Hands On With the Folklore Collections Database and the Ethnographic Thesaurus" led by Andy Kolovos, Catherine H. Kerst, and Margaret Kruesi. The section also sponsored the panel "Alan Lomax in Michigan: The Cooperative Revitalization of an Archival Collection" and hosted the "Ask an Archivist" table in the exhibit room, where a rotating group of professional archivists was available to answer questions from meeting attendees on archival topics.

The Archives and Libraries Section has several activities planned for 2015, including potential new workshops, panels, and events for the 2015 annual meeting in Long

Beach. The section also voted to increase the amounts of its biennial prizes, with the Polly Grimshaw Prize (awarded in odd years) increasing from \$500 to \$750, and the Brenda McCallum Prize (awarded in even years) increased from \$100 to \$250.

At present the section's primary means of communication with members is its listserv; please email [Margaret R. Yocom](mailto:Margaret.R.Yocom) to join. For other questions or further information, contact convener [Terri Jordan](mailto:Terri.Jordan).

In 2014, the section had 72 registered members.

## Children's Folklore

Convener: **Jared S. Rife** (Penn State Harrisburg)

*Children's Folklore Review* volume 36 (2014) was released in early 2015. Many thanks to Elizabeth Tucker for her long editorship and leadership of the journal. The Children's Folklore Section looks forward to great work from Trevor J. Blank as he transitions into being the journal's sole editor this year.

The section awards the Aesop Prize and the Aesop Accolade honorable mentions each year to English-language fiction and nonfiction

books on folklore for children and young adults. The 2014 Aesop Prize was awarded to Shiho S. Nunes for *Chinese Fables: "The Dragon Slayer" and Other Timeless Tales of Wisdom* (2013). The 2014 Aesop Accolades went to Jacqueline Jules for *Never Say a Mean Word Again: A Tale from Medieval Spain* (2014), Debbie Levy for *We Shall Overcome: The Story of a Song* (2013), Donald Montileaux for *Tasunka: A Lakota Horse Legend* (2014), and Gita Wolf for *Gobble You Up!* (2013). Many thanks to Anne Marie Kraus for chairing the Aesop Prize Committee the past year.

Suzy Grindrod will become the new chair for 2015. New Aesop Prize Committee members Spencer Green and Katharine Schramm were voted onto the committee, bringing its membership to four.

No Newell Prize for best graduate or undergraduate paper on children's folklore was awarded this year. The section encourages all its members and friends to encourage students to apply for this prize. In 2015, the biennial Opie Prize for best academic book on children's folklore will be awarded. Opie Prize Committee members John H. McDowell and Elizabeth Tucker are currently assembling a list of books for review.

At the business meeting, the twelve attendees thanked Jared Rife for his two-year run as section convener and elected Katharine Schramm as the new convener.

In 2014, the section had 74 registered members and used the [AFS group tools](#) to communicate.

## Dance and Movement Analysis

Conveners: **Nadia De Leon** (Stanford University), **Nicholas Hartmann** (University of Arizona and Memorial University of Newfoundland)

In 2014, the section appointed Eric Cesar Morales co-convener, replacing Nadia De Leon, and it communicated through its [Facebook group](#). At the annual meeting, the section sponsored a performance by the Cibecue Creek Apache Crown Dancers and held its regular business meeting with approximately seven people in attendance.

In 2014, the section had 18 registered members.

## Folk Arts and Material Culture

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

The section's main focus in 2014 was on increasing the number of submissions for its annual paper prize, the

Warren E. Roberts Prize for best student paper in folk art. The section was successful in this pursuit, receiving a number of strong submissions from the US and one from the UK. Meredith McGriff won the 2014 paper prize for the paper “Aesthetics and Philosophy in the Development of the Michiana Pottery Tradition.” The section plans to continue its work soliciting strong submissions for the prize as well as developing a professional support network for prize winners. The [section’s webpage](#) and the annual business meeting continued as the primary means of communication for members. During 2015, the section will be investigating collaborations with other sections, primarily the Storytelling Section and Folklore and Museums Section.

In 2014, the section had 80 registered members.

## Folk Belief and Religious Folklife

Conveners: **Margaret Kruesi** (American Folklife Center), **Leonard Norman Primiano** (Cabrin College)

The section sponsored the annual Don Yoder Lecture in Folk Belief and Religious Folklife at the annual

meeting and was extremely pleased that Henry Glassie delivered the lecture “Text and Icon in Religious Art” to a standing-room audience of more than two hundred people, with Leonard Norman Primiano acting as discussant. The section also sponsored the panel “Animals and the Spiritual Imagination,” which was chaired by Sabina Magliocco, and looks forward to sponsoring a follow-up panel in 2015.

At the annual business meeting, which had approximately 30 attendees, the section discussed plans for the 2015 silent auction, potential 2015 lecturers, section communications, and AFS financial requirements. May thanks to Sandra Zimdars-Swartz, who took minutes at this and previous meetings. Announcements of the winners of the section prizes were made by Leonard Norman Primiano. The 2014 Don Yoder Graduate Student Paper Prize in Religious Folklife was awarded to Irina Stahl for the paper “The Romanian Saints: Between Popular Devotion and Politics.” The William A. Wilson Undergraduate Student Paper Prize in Religious Folklife went to Aniket De for the paper “Siva and His Disguises.” There was a brief report from the SIEF Working Group on Religion and Ethnology. Membership in the working group is free, and conferences are held every two years. There will be a conference in Zagreb, Croatia, in June 2015 and papers are being

solicited for two panels. It would be valuable for the two sections to collaborate when possible.

In 2014, the section had 104 registered members and communicated through the [AFS group tools](#) and through its own [Facebook page](#).

## Folk Narrative

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

In 2014, the AFS Folk Narrative Section doubled the membership of its [Facebook group](#), which now has more than 700 members. The section now also has an official Twitter account, [@folknnarrative](#), and a [Google+ group](#) to provide additional means of disseminating information. The Folk Narrative Section continued to raise funds through its [Café Press store](#), which offers an assortment of section-branded merchandise. Look for a new selection of items in 2015. The section promoted its merchandise through its official social media channels.

The Folk Narrative Section sponsored several sessions at the annual meeting, including the third biennial Stith Thompson Lecture, given by Robert Patrick, who spoke on the “Veterans History Project: The Challenge of Expectations—Perceptions, Pitfalls, and Reality.”

The section also sponsored three paper sessions: two “Channeling Wonder” sessions on fairy tales and television and one called “Soldier Talk: Beyond the ‘War Story,’” which was thematically connected to the Stith Thompson Lecture. The section is actively planning the 2016 Stith Thompson Lecture for the annual meeting in Miami.

In 2014, the section had 93 registered members.

## Folklore and Creative Writing

Conveners: **Aunya P. R. Byrd** (Lone Star College System), **Christine J. Widmayer** (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

The section sponsored a “Walking Workshop” at the annual meeting that got members of the section out of the conference hotels and into Santa Fe to write about and be inspired by the local ambiance and culture. Led by poet and writer Stella Reed, the workshop took its two dozen participants to various sites around the city for prompted writing. Members were delighted to have had participants from within the section and outside of it, and the writing that was produced during the two-hour walk was compelling and beautiful. The section hopes to host an open mic event at the 2015

annual meeting to share its writers’ work and invite more community involvement. Thanks to all the folklorists who continue to inspire and produce exceptional writing!

In 2014, the section communicated through the [AFS group tools](#) and had 65 registered members.

## Folklore and Education

Conveners: **Nelda R. Ault** (independent), **Betty Belanus** (Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage)

The Folklore and Education Section welcomes all AFS members and others working in or interested in folklore and education. In 2014, conveners continued to move activities forward. The biannual online [newsletter](#), edited by Gregory Hansen and Rosemary Hathaway, published news of members’ activities. Occasional blog posts and emails were sent to members via the [AFS group tools](#) and messages were posted on the [section’s webpage](#), keeping members informed of upcoming activities, annual meeting information, and other timely news.

The Dorothy Howard Prize for outstanding folklore and education product went to Gwen Meister at the annual meeting. Calls for entries

will be posted well in advance of this coming year’s prize. The Robinson-Roeder-Ward award was suspended for the year due to a lack of qualified applicants, and is being re-evaluated for the coming year. Members feel it is important to honor these eminent past folklore and education pioneers, so discussion is underway on doing so appropriately through the reinstatement of the award (which has in the past provided funds to an educator to attend the annual meeting).

At its annual business meeting (minutes are available on the section’s webpage), which had 18 members in attendance, the section made plans to continue supporting an education-related workshop at the annual meeting (in 2014, the section contributed to the “Museum Hacking” workshop at the International Museum of Folk Art). The section continues to work closely with national organizations including the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress, and Local Learning.

In 2014, the section had 80 registered members.

## Folklore and Literature

Conveners: **Shelley A. Ingram** (University of Louisiana, Lafayette), **Todd D. Richardson** (University of Nebraska, Omaha)

In July, the Folklore and Literature Section hosted a weekend-long think tank in Red Cloud, Nebraska, the hometown of Willa Cather. Attendees Sara Cleto, Kate Kelly, Victoria Harkavy, Shelley Ingram, Todd Richardson, Jess Lamar Reece Holler, and Brittany Warman spent a weekend in Cather's family's second home, where they brainstormed and discussed issues and ideas relevant to the study of folklore and literature. On the last day of the think tank, the group conducted a public discussion on folklore and literature at the Red Cloud Opera House, headquarters of the Willa Cather Foundation. The entire weekend was a fun, energizing, and thought-provoking experience in a uniquely unforgettable locale, and everyone involved expressed strong support for the section's holding another think tank in the summer of 2016. The think tank inspired many compelling ideas and projects, one of which is a collection of scholarly essays entitled *Louise Pound: A Folklore and Literature Miscellany*. Named in honor of one of the discipline's true trailblazers, the collection is being produced collaboratively by the Folklore and Literature Section and the Nebraska Folklife Network. It includes shorter, accessibly written pieces that could appeal to anyone interested in folklore or literature, and it will be available at the 2015 annual meeting. For more information on these and other section activities,

please join the section's [Facebook page](#) or [AFS group page](#), both of which are updated consistently.

In 2014, the section had 66 registered members.

## Folklore and Museums

Convener: **Jason Baird Jackson** (Mathers Museum of World Cultures, Indiana University)

The Folklore and Museums Section was approved and established by the AFS Executive Board at its November 2014 meeting. The section is an outgrowth of work pursued by the Society's Folklore and Museum Policy and Practice Working Group. Jason Baird Jackson was named the first convener, and the section communicates through the [AFS group tools](#).

While they were organized by the working group in partnership with existing sections and the society at large, a number of section-relevant sessions and panels were held on museum topics at the 2014 annual meeting. These were anticipated in a [story](#) Jackson contributed to the *AFS Review* in September.

The section's goals for 2015 focus on recruiting members and fostering a robust set of museum-focused

events for the 2015 annual meeting. AFS members interested in learning more about the section and its activities are invited to contact the convener, [Jason Baird Jackson](#).

In 2014, the section had 43 registered members.

## Folklore Latino, Latinoamericano, y Caribeño

Conveners: **Kristina Downs** (Indiana University), **Rachel V. Gonzalez** (Indiana University)

The Folklore Latino/a, Latinoamericano/a, y Caribeño/a Section organized a concert at the annual meeting called *Puro Corazón: Sounds of the Southwest and Latin America*, which featured performances from section members and local musicians and had about 90 attendees. The section is planning to host a similar concert at the 2015 annual meeting. The section also organized several successful annual meeting panels, including one on Latino/Latin American folkloristics.

Section communication is via a listserv; email convener [Kristina Downs](#) to join the list.

In 2014, the section had 40 registered members.

# Foodways

Conveners: **LuAnne K. Roth** (University of Missouri), **Katrina S. Wynn** (Maine Folklife Center)

The section has awarded the Sue Samuelson Award for Foodways Scholarship to two recipients annually for the past five years. In 2014, Adrienne Rose Johnson received first place for “Poisoning the Gingerbread Paradise: A Folkloric Interpretation of an American Domestic,” and Laura Sanchini received second place for “I’ve been to Italy and they don’t do this: Invented Tradition, Gendered Space, and Immigrant Identity in Montreal Italian Foodways.” Both received a \$300 stipend to travel to the annual meeting, and their essays will be published in the journal *Digest*.

*Digest* continues to produce two issues annually under the editorship of Diane I. Tye and Michael Lange. Looking at succession planning, the section is seeking a new coeditor to replace Tye in two years. The *Digest* coeditor responsible for the journal’s content works closely with the coeditor overseeing web design. For more information on this position, contact [Diane I. Tye](#).

The section hosted networking receptions at both the 2012 and 2013 annual meetings and plans

to host another in 2015. Thanks to Lacey Cornell, who served as section secretary this past year.

In 2014, the section communicated through the [AFS group tools](#) and had 95 registered members.

# Graduate Students

Conveners: **Dominick Tartaglia** (Indiana University), **Myc Wiatrowski** (Indiana University)

The Graduate Student Section wants to continue its reputation as a networking lifeline for students in folklore and related fields. It will continue to host the section mixer at the annual meeting, which allows students from various departments to socialize together. This event went very well at the annual meeting in Santa Fe, and the section is dedicated to increasing the turnout and accessibility of this event in the future. The section also wants to expand its influence so that it doesn’t just exist once a year at the annual meeting, but acts as a year-round presence in the lives of folklore graduate students.

In 2014, the section communicated through email and social media, including a [Facebook group](#), and had 72 registered members.

# History and Folklore

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

The section published volume 30 (2013) of the *Folklore Historian* in October 2014. Editor Jill Terry Rudy expects volume 31 (2014) to be published in spring 2015, and volume 32 (2015) to be released by the end of 2015. Volume 30 was on the subject of fairy-tale scholarship on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Jack Zipes’s *Fairy Tales and the Art of Subversion*. Contributors included Jennifer Schacker, Christine A. Jones, Nancy L. Canepa, Molly Clark Hillard, and Jack Zipes. Brigham Young University printed the volume with a subsidy from Dr. Rudy’s department, but this will not be available in 2015, and the section will need to pick up the costs of the journal.

The section awarded its biennial Wayland D. Hand Prize, given to an outstanding book combining historical and folkloristic perspectives, to Ann K. Ferrell for *Burley: Kentucky Tobacco in a New Century* (University Press of Kentucky, 2013). The award’s jury of senior scholars assessed 19 submissions and found that the book’s combination of historical and ethnographic methodologies with rhetorical analysis made it stand out among the many entries.

For more information on the History and Folklore Section and past prize winners, see the [section's webpage](#).

The section met during the Santa Fe annual meeting and plans were made for publicity of the Richard Reuss Prize in 2015. This prize honors an outstanding contribution to the history of folklore studies by a student.

In 2014, the section used the [AFS group tools](#) to communicate with its 79 registered members.

## Independent Folklorists

Conveners: **Andrea Graham** (University of Wyoming), **Lucy Long** (Center for Food and Culture)

The section awarded its 2014 Independent Folklorists' Travel Award, which is jointly funded by the Public Programs Section, to Meredith Martin-Moats. In future years, the section will have a second award with funding from the Women's Section. Nine members attended the annual section business meeting in Santa Fe and discussed possible topics for a forum or roundtable next year showcasing the range of work done by independent folklorists. The co-conveners were asked to continue serving for another year at this meeting.

In 2014, the section communicated via the [AFS group tools](#) and had 80 registered members.

## Jewish Folklore and Ethnology

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

In 2014, the Littman Library of Jewish Civilization published *Framing Jewish Culture: Boundaries and Representations*, the fourth volume of the [Jewish Cultural Studies series](#), edited by Simon J. Bronner and sponsored by the section as a benefit of membership. Boundaries and borders raise fundamental questions about the difference between Jews and non-Jews in modern life, and this volume considers this discourse on a global scale, examining both the thinking behind the rhetoric of boundaries and the manifestation of difference in social life. Future volumes are in progress.

To encourage attendance, the section held its annual business meeting on Thursday during the AFS annual meeting (instead of during the traditional lunch slot) and provided a "nosh" of bagels, lox, and fruit. The meeting attracted 20 members, which was a significant increase from years past. Members present encouraged continuation of the meeting "nosh." The group toasted new AFS

Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award winner Dan Ben-Amos and planned a heightened presence with panels or workshops at the 2015 annual meeting. Ben-Amos met with convener Simon J. Bronner in December 2014 and the two discussed plans for an annual meeting session focusing on the historiography of Jewish folkloristics with speakers drawn from the Southern California region.

The section continues to disseminate information through the AFS group tools and its [listserv](#), and also added a [Facebook page](#) in 2014. The Raphael Patai Prize was not awarded in 2014; an announcement for the 2015 paper competition will be distributed in March with a submission deadline of September 1 to match the [announcement](#) on the AFS website. The section hopes to generate more prize submissions this year with the later deadline (previously, it was July 1).

In 2014, the section had 46 registered members.

## Medieval and Early Modern Folklore

Conveners: **Kerry Kaleba** (Maymount University), **Steven Stanzak** (Indiana University)

This year, the Medieval and Early Modern Folklore Section marked its expanded focus with two sponsored panels at the AFS annual meeting: “Folkloristic Approaches to Medieval Culture” and “Shakespeare and Spenser: Early Modern Adaptations of Folklore.” At the annual section business meeting, attendees voted Judith Lanzendorfer the new co-convener, along with Kerry Kaleba, who is continuing in the role. The section communicates primarily through the [AFS group tools](#), but a [Facebook group](#) is also available.

In 2014, the section had 78 registered members.

## Mediterranean Studies

Conveners: **Incoronata Inserra** (University of Hawai‘i, Mānoa), **Meltem Turkoz** (Işık University)

In 2014, the Mediterranean Studies Section consolidated its online mailing list and also communicated via its [Facebook page](#) to discuss issues and topics of relevance to its members. At the 2014 annual meeting, the section had a strong presence with four panels: “Mediterranean Women at the Crossroads,” “*Sabato Rodia’s Towers in Watts: Art, Migrations, Development: Samplings*,” “Humor, Liminality, and Emergence in Iran, Turkey, and

Armenia,” and “Television Drama in the Eastern Mediterranean: Politics, Narrative, and Creativity.” In addition, the section sponsored an evening book party and reception presenting new publications by its members. At the section business meeting, Meltem Turkoz was confirmed as co-convener along with Incoronata (Nadia) Inserra, who will serve for two more years.

In 2014, the section had 43 registered members.

## Music and Song

Conveners: **Margaret Steiner** (Indiana University), **Stephen Winick** (American Folklife Center)

At the 2014 annual meeting, the Music and Song Section sponsored the Phillips Barry Lecture, which featured Daniel Sheehy of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings discussing the company’s innovative model for documenting, marketing, and promoting traditional music. The lecture was a great success, and stepped outside the usual conventions of an academic paper in an altogether enchanting way. The section cosponsored, with the Public Programs Section, the screening of *This Ain’t No Mouse Music*, Chris Simon’s film about Chris Strachwitz and Arhoolie Records. The film had an enthusiastic audience. The section also sponsored

the session “Cultural Crossroads in Blue Ridge Traditions,” a very successful panel of student and faculty papers chaired by Cece Conway, and the vocal and instrumental jam sessions, always a favorite activity for many AFS members.

The Music and Song Section also took several steps to increase its visibility and step up its level of activity in 2014. The section voted to re-establish the Bertrand Bronson Student Paper Prize, subsequently formed a prize committee, and set up a [Facebook group](#) that is open to members and nonmembers of the section. The group is interactive, so the conveners can communicate with members, and members can communicate with one another. Section members are excited to see what kinds of new communication the Facebook page will spark. In 2015, the section plans to engage in all its usual activities, as well as to award the first Bronson prize in years.

In 2014, the section had 76 registered members.

## New Directions in Folklore

Conveners: **Nicholas Hartmann** (University of Arizona and Memorial University of Newfoundland), **David J. Puglia** (Penn State Harrisburg)

At its annual business meeting, which had about 20 attendees, the section elected John Price as its new junior convener and awarded the third annual Bill Ellis Prize for the best graduate student essay that combines research and analysis on folklore, broadly construed, and digital culture, popular culture, or new media, to Afsane Rezaei for her paper “When Superman Comes in a Turban: The ‘Thanks Rouhani’ Post-Election Joke Cycle in Iranian Social Media.” Along with several other sections, the New Directions in Folklore section, represented by convener Nicholas Hartmann, also participated in a collaborative panel called “Building Networks for Social Justice Organizing.”

In 2014, the section communicated through an open [Facebook group](#) and had 64 registered members.

## Nordic-Baltic Folklore

Conveners: **Thomas A. DuBois** (University of Wisconsin, Madison), **James P. Leary** (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

At the 2014 annual meeting, the section sponsored five panels: “Mythology as Cultural Knowing” (a two-part panel), “Alan Lomax in Michigan: The Cooperative Revitalization of an Archival

Collection” (cosponsored by the Archives and Libraries Section and the Public Programs Section), “Songs, Stitches, Women, and Witches: Femininity in Scandinavian Folklore,” and “The Crossroads Are Owned: Folklore Institutions and the Negotiation of Public and Personal Tradition.” Altogether there were 23 official participants on these five panels, including participants from Finland, Scotland, Sweden, and the United States.

At the section business meeting, which was attended by about 20 people, B. Marcus Cederström was selected to be junior convener for 2015. The Boreal Prize for the best article-length graduate student essay was not awarded in 2014. The section encourages anyone interested in submitting a paper to read more about the submission process on the [section’s page](#) on the AFS website.

In 2014, the section used the [AFS group tools](#) and a [Facebook group](#) to communicate with its 41 registered members.

## Politics, Folklore, and Social Justice

Conveners: **Meredith Martin-Moats** (independent), **Rhonda Dass** (Minnesota State University, Mankato)

This year the section sponsored a series of panels on social justice in the field, including a new panel series entitled “Building Networks for Social Justice Organizing.” For this panel, the section worked in partnership with seven other AFS sections and committees to explore the successes and struggles of community organizing, social-justice education, and community-based advocacy. The goal of the forum was to both create and strengthen organized networks that allow for an ongoing exploration of the underlying theories that fuel practices while also generating new theories of action that work toward sustainable forms of representative community-based engagement. The section recorded the session and will be publishing an overview of what was discussed so that it can be built upon in the future. The panel was mostly a success, though it did receive some critical feedback about the ways in which it didn’t really get to the heart of social justice work. The section welcomes this feedback and will incorporate it as it moves forward.

During its business meeting, the section decided to move forward with continuing this panel series the following year as well as working in partnership with an organization in California (as yet to be decided) to organize an antioppression training workshop for next year’s annual meeting. The section will be working with Jennifer Jameson to form

a committee to move forward with this plan. Members also discussed the need for more than one convenor. Other sections suggested having both a senior and junior convenor, and Rhonda Dass has signed on as the junior convenor for this year. Meredith Martin-Moats will continue to serve as convenor for 2015 and will step down after that, when Rhonda will move into the senior convenor role and a new junior convenor will be elected.

The section does most of its communication via a [Facebook group](#) and an email list, though it is constantly trying to figure out the best way to communicate and views this as a work in progress.

In 2014, the section had 137 registered members.

## Socialist and Post-Socialist Area Studies

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

In 2014, the section held a business meeting and sponsored a panel at the AFS annual meeting. It communicated through email via the AFS group tools and had 50 registered members last year.

## Storytelling

Conveners: **Milbre Burch** (Kind Crone Productions), **Joseph Sobol** (East Tennessee State University)

At the annual meeting, the section sponsored a panel, “Storytelling at the Crossroads of Community and Commodity,” examining contemporary storytellers from various traditional community backgrounds who have either brought their repertoires to audiences beyond their traditional community base, or have resisted doing so. Panelists were Milbre Burch, Varick Chittenden, Joseph Sobol, and Dovie Thomason. Around 10 people attended the session. The section also sponsored the annual Dan Crowley Concert featuring Kiowa Apache and Lakota storyteller Dovie Thomason, and 54 tickets were sold.

The section held its annual business meeting with seven attendees. Chelise Fox won the Dan Crowley Memorial Research Award for her essay “Narrative Frame and Boundary: Language and Transport in Clare Murphy’s *Love and Madness*.” Members brainstormed ways to track and manage section expenses more effectively, to expand the response to its paper competition, concert, panels and business meetings, to more deeply engage its current members, and to encourage other AFS members to join.

Attendees also reviewed past or potential partnerships with the Folk Narrative, Folklore and Creative Writing, Music and Song, Folk Arts and Material Culture, and Women’s Sections and planned to approach their conveners to discuss joint programming and more effective ways to convene in the future.

In 2014, the section communicated via a [listserv](#) and had 44 registered members.

## Transnational Asia/Pacific

Conveners: **Li Jing** (Gettysburg College), **Semontee Mitra** (Penn State Harrisburg)

The section’s primary activities this past year were organizing and sponsoring panels for the annual meeting, including those involving folklorists and scholars from China. At the recommendation of award coordinator Fariha Khan, the section awarded the Jonathan T. Y. Yeh Award for Student Scholarship to Semontee Mitra for “Worship of the Goddess Durga: An Ethnographic Study of Hindu Religious Festivals in the United States.”

At the annual business meeting, section members elected Levi Gibbs as co-convenor in 2015. Members also discussed a number of projects for

2015. These include further publicizing the Yeh Award in order to solicit more submissions, establishing section bylaws in order to smooth transitions during convener election and change, gathering a list of all the members' scholarship and bios to post to the [section webpage](#), further energizing the section's activities, and including more opportunities to communicate among members and coordinate conference panels. Currently, the section uses a [listserv](#) established and managed by Juwen Zhang to communicate with its members. Members discussed making use of the AFS group tools in addition to the listserv.

The section will continue to sponsor Asian-related panels at the annual meeting and will work with section members and AFS to host international visitors. The past few years have seen an increase in international participation at the annual meeting due to AFS's increased efforts to engage international scholars. Section members will continue to work with AFS to foster this scholarly exchange. These efforts would not be possible without the

travel funding offered by AFS for international attendees.

In 2014, the section had 64 registered members.

## Women

Conveners: **Kristina Downs** (Indiana University), **Theresa Vaughan** (University of Central Oklahoma)

The AFS Women's Section communicates with its members three ways: an annual business meeting at the AFS annual meeting, the [AFS group tools](#), and a [listserv](#). This past year, the section gave out two awards, the Elli Kongas-Maranda Prize (both a professional and student prize), and the new Polly Stewart Student Travel Award (two prizes, first and second place). The section also agreed to provide \$500 to an independent woman folklorist to travel to the next AFS annual meeting. Details will be arranged through the Independent Folklorists Section.

In 2014, the section had 167 registered members.

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AFS is grateful to the following organizations and individuals for their generous support, without which the society's 2014 activities would not have been possible.

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The AFS Executive Board after its spring 2014 meeting in Columbus, Ohio. Front row, L to R: Maria Carmen Gambliel, Diane E. Goldstein, Michael Ann Williams, Solimar Otero, Pravina Shukla, Maggie Holtzberg, and Carolyn E. Ware. Back row, L to R: David Todd Lawrence, Diane I. Tye, Juwen Zhang, Brent Björkman, Margaret Kruesi, and Timothy Lloyd.

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Chinese and US folklorists and ethnographic museum professionals visit the Church of St. Anthony in Cordova, New Mexico, as part of a local cultural tour just before AFS's first China-US ethnographic museums conference in Santa Fe in November 2014. Photo by Timothy Lloyd.





Details from a Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead altar assembled by Stephanie Riggs at the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 2014. Photos by Timothy Lloyd with permission of MOIFA.

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