

# AMERICAN FOLKLORE SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2001

## Report of the President

This past year AFS has seen enormous change with a focus on new priorities as well as old challenges. Like other scholarly societies, we are experiencing growing pains and exciting milestones as our field matures and a new generation of professionals enters the society. As well, the institutional infrastructures of our profession and field are in the state of profound change that is impacting our work and our scholarship. Folklorists in the academy and the public sector are redefining the field to meet the demands of multiple workplaces and to address the important issues confronting us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

I have been fortunate to assume the presidency on the heels of a most energetic predecessor. I have benefited from the very capable groundwork laid by Jo Radner, who was instrumental in “birthing” a strategic campaign and long-range plan for the society. I also have been fortunate to assume the presidency as Tim Lloyd joined us as our first executive director; Elliott Oring, Judy McCulloh and Betty Belanus became new board members; Jack Santino assumed the mantle of president-elect; and Elaine Lawless became the editor of the *Journal of American Folklore*.

On January 26-28, 2001, the Board held a retreat in the Washington, DC, area to develop strategies and guidelines for our new working relationship with an Executive Director. Facilitated by Mal O’Connor of the Center for Applied Research, the retreat provided practical suggestions for navigating this new management structure and governance role. I am most grateful for Tim’s energy and organization that have made all the difference in bringing a new sense of purpose and momentum to our governance. In addition, the AFS is enjoying an increased level of activity, continuity of management, and professional oversight to our operations with Tim and the board working as a team, separating the critical tasks of management and governance.

When I ran for president of the AFS, I promised to work at establishing collaborations and outreach to increase our resources and to bring a new sense of partnership between the AFS and allied organizations. It was my hope to implement new programs and services for AFS members through grantsmanship, non-profit fund-raising, and national program development. I am happy to say that we are well on the way to realizing this goal.

Last December, the AFS and the American Folklife Center partnered together to host “Folk Heritage Collections in Crisis”, a symposium exploring the thorny questions faced by all sound archives and collections today -- preservation, access and intellectual property rights, especially the in the digital domain. This symposium was based on a survey, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, that revealed an immediate need for national leadership to establish standards and guidelines to literally save sound collections and archives – especially one-of-a-kind ethnographic recordings that have been the life work of folklorists, ethnomusicologists, anthropologists, and oral historians.

The Council on Library and Information Resources funded the publication of a White Paper from these two days of intense discussion, sent to all AFS members free of charge. The follow-up activities, recommended in the White Paper, included a series of

workshops that were held at the fall meetings of the AFS, the Society for Ethnomusicology and the Oral History Association. In addition, the report called for the development of an agreed-upon common language that will enable folklife archives to eventually be linked electronically. AFS is now the recipient of a Chairman's grant from NEH to implement the creation of an Ethnographic Thesaurus (ET) to facilitate collaboration and links among ethnographic archives across the country. This activity is a collaboration of AFS, NEH, the American Folklife Center and George Mason University and our ET advisors represent many of the most important folklife archives in the nation.

The annual meeting in Alaska has also been a model for community involvement and grantsmanship. For the third year, the Fund for Folk Culture funded stipends to bring community scholars to the meeting and the Gerald Davis stipends provided support for minority scholars to attend. The International Issues Committee supported participation from internationally renowned scholars in the circumpolar region. These initiatives were expanded and supplemented by a National Science Foundation grant, secured by our excellent local Alaska committee, to bring Alaska Natives to our meetings. Together, these programs provided true connection to community and a grassroots outreach that is unprecedented for the society.

In all, this year has seen the AFS board and membership working to put the action steps of the strategic campaign into motion. I will not outline all of the accomplishments and benchmarks reached this past year, but a few are worth noting here, for they indicate the vitality of the society and the changes that are informing our work for the future while building upon the new initiatives of the past few years.

For instance, we have adopted a Statement for Independent Folklorists that provides a broad recommendation on professional standards for contract work in our field. Members of our society, especially Kathy Condon, Elaine Thatcher, and Pat Wells, were instrumental in developing this document and in creating a new section in AFS for independent folklorists.

I have formed an Academic Issues Task Force to continue the dialogue initiated at the Columbus pre-conference, as well as to address other issues that are impacting the future of folklore as an academic discipline. Headed by Simon Bronner, this group will propose goals and priorities, and initiatives stemming from those priorities that will tackle a number of timely and thorny concerns of interest to all AFS members, including the overarching question "What is the intellectual project of folklore?"

AFS now has an expanded and more vital web presence. Our newsletter is posted online and is updated in a more immediate and timely manner, "Folkline" has moved its online home to the AFS website, providing information on jobs, conferences, and other announcements of interest to the membership, updated weekly. For the first time, AFS offered online registration for the annual meeting, along with a complete program posting well ahead of past publication schedules. Finally, the AFS has finalized agreements with Project Muse and Questia to offer the *Journal of American Folklore* and our archival issues in the digital domain.

AFS has hired an advisory editor, Rebecca Maksell, to oversee the evaluation process for our agreement with ABC-CLIO. Since entering into this agreement, whereby the AFS seal of endorsement is appended to selected and adjudicated ABC-CLIO publications, the society has endorsed five titles. My congratulations to Ms. Maksell and

the reviewers for a job well done, and we look forward to future endorsements and a continued relationship with ABC-CLIO.

The Financial Planning Committee, under the dynamic leadership of Kurt Dewhurst, has been looking at the long-range financial health of the society, with an eye to our fiscal history and our budgetary future. The committee is particularly concerned with the fiscal management of our investments, providing guidance for budgetary conservation measures, and suggesting new revenue streams. In collaboration with the Membership Committee, the Financial Planning Committee is working to ensure that the AFS provides more focused and essential services with the resources we have. Results from the work of this committee include the establishment of a Board Leadership Fund, which will be an on-going initiative for the AFS, and the recommendation to establish an AFS Endowment Fund, the campaign for which we'll be undertaking next year.

Finally, the membership approved overwhelmingly several changes in the Bylaws this year. Among these amendments, the allocation of the President's term of service has changed from serving two years as President-Elect and two years as President, to serving one year as President-Elect, two years as President, and one year as Past President. To make the transition years conform to this schedule, I will be handing over the reins to President-Elect Jack Santino on January 1 next year, and will settle comfortably into my exalted role as Past President, still having served my four-year tenure. I was hoping that this might mean I could skate out of the Presidential address, but I have been told I will still be expected to deliver the address at the Rochester meeting (it was a nice thought while it lasted).

It's been an incredibly busy year, and I offer my heartfelt thanks to all who are volunteering their services and their talents to the American Folklore Society, especially the board: a most hard-working and sincere group of individuals.

Peggy Bulger

### **Report of the Executive Director**

The Anchorage annual meeting brought together 426 registrants for what turned out to be a snowy five days in Alaska's largest city. These numbers were swelled—and the meeting was significantly enriched—by the presence of a great many scholars from universities, cultural organizations, and communities throughout Alaska and the Canadian northwest. The annual meeting is arguably the place where the mission of the Society is most fully realized, and the elements of the Society's mission relating to cultural inclusion and working partnerships were certainly fulfilled during the time of the gathering. Native people in particular from these regions—from John Pingayak and the Chevak Tanqik Dancers and Drummers from Bethel, Alaska, to Joe Paul Jack and Cindy Allen from the Northwest Territories, to name just a few—took on important roles in the meeting.

The strongest thanks are due to program committee members Amy Craver, Glenn Hinson, Sally Peterson, Beverly Patterson, Patricia Sawin, Tes Thraves, and all who worked with them to make this remarkable meeting possible.

The AFS Fellows named four new members in Anchorage: Mary Ellen Brown, William Clements, Susan Slyomovics, and Patricia Turner.

The following sections also announced prize recipients there:

- Folklore in Education Section: the Dorothy Howard Folklore in Education Prize to the Oregon Folklife Program for *Traditional Arts of the Oregon Country*, written by Laura R. Marcus (1999) and five folklife entries in the SStart (Support for Teachers in Art) section of the Oregon Public Educators Network's website, compiled by Leila Childs (2000), with additional recognition given to Nancy Nusz, director of the Oregon Folklife Program, for founding this pioneering effort.
- Folk Belief and Religious Folklife Section: the Don Yoder Prize to Zoe-hateehc Durrah Scheffy for "Sámi Religion in Art and Museums"
- Women's Section: the Elli Kongas-Miranda Prize to Elaine Lawless for *Women Escaping Violence: Empowerment Through Narrative*; Honorable Mention to Suzanne Macaulay for *Stitching Rites: Colcha Embroidery Along the Northern Rio Grande*

Dan Patterson, emeritus professor at the University of North Carolina, received the 2002 Chicago Folklore Prize for *A Tree Accurst: Bobby McMillon and Stories of Frankie Silver*.

We also noted the passing of friends and colleagues Joe Graham and Herbert Halpert during the past twelve months.

At its two Anchorage meetings, the Executive Board took the following actions:

- Awarded the Benjamin A. Botkin Prize, in collaboration with the AFS Public Programs Section, to Hal Cannon of the Western Folklife Center,
- Awarded the Zora Neale Hurston Prize to Amy McKibbin of Florida State University
- Re-appointed Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett of New York University as the Society's delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies
- Appointed Jerrilyn McGregory of Florida State University as the new chair of the Task Force on Cultural Diversity
- Approved a proposal from the Electronic Publications Subcommittee to seek proposals from potential web site designers and AFSnet.org web site editors
- Approved a new operating agreement between AFS and AAA
- Determined that active engagement with other academic disciplines was the Board's highest- priority goal for work to improve the academic standing of folklore, and instructed the Executive Director to provide the Board by the end of the year with brief descriptions of possible activities (drawn from past Academic Task Force documents) for ranking, and based on that ranking to bring concrete plans for highest-priority activities to the next meeting
- Approved the draft of the survey questionnaire to be distributed to the membership later this year
- Approved the Executive Director's plan for carrying out an AFS endowment campaign, including Board training to take place at the next meeting, and decided to designate FY 2002 Board Leadership Fund contributions toward the costs of this campaign
- Asked the Executive Director to work with related ACLS societies to prepare a joint policy statement on university human subjects research procedures

However, the most important work the Board began this past year has been an intensive examination of the Society's mission, activities and finances to find better ways of achieving our goals and providing our members the most important services, present and future, while at the same time bringing our Society's budget into better balance.

**Our Current Financial Position:** For the last several years, we have been spending more to provide Society services—from the *Journal of American Folklore* to the stipends that help international scholars attend our meetings—than we have been taking in from dues, subscriptions, and other sources of income. Several years ago, the Executive Board made conscious decisions to spend funds from our cash reserve (our Society's "savings account"), which had grown strongly during several years of rising investment value and had not been used for some years, to create a stronger professional society by supporting important new initiatives. These were appropriate decisions: the initiatives were consonant with our mission to strengthen the field and with our strategic campaign, and (mostly through advances in the stock market) we had earned the money we needed to support them at that time.

But during the last 18 months things have changed. Like everyone's, our portfolio of investments has fared less well, and from it and our other sources of income we now have to support a larger set of expenses. And those expenses are growing; the costs for many items, from *Journal* printing to annual meeting equipment rental, have increased dramatically. Thus we have needed to continue withdrawing funds from our reserve, now not to support further new initiatives but to balance out the annual difference between expenses and income, just as you might transfer money from your savings account to help your checking account balance.

It's good that we had the money there to be used this way during the last year and a half. But, by spending it we've decreased the financial "safety net" that protects the Society against hard times and makes possible new work in good times, we've decreased the amount of the investment income that we receive from our savings, and we still haven't solved the problem of how to match expenses and income without using even more of our savings. Make no mistake: AFS remains in sound financial health today, even with these recent withdrawals. However, if we continue to earn less and spend more as we have in recent years, that health will surely decline. We need to begin practicing preventive organizational medicine by finding ways to increase our income and keep our expenses in balance as we determine and carry out the Society work that is most central to our mission.

**Managing Our Budget:** The Board and I are working on several fronts to increase the amount and diversify our sources of income. Next year we will launch an AFS endowment campaign, which will offer members the opportunity to make lasting financial contributions to the Society's future. At the same time we will begin a planned giving program, which will create possibilities for members to leave bequests to the Society in their wills and estates.

Beginning with the "Folk Heritage Collections in Crisis" project and continuing with the ethnographic thesaurus project, the Society is also becoming more active in creating relationships with outside partners and seeking outside grants for special projects, new activities, or long-term financial stability. In addition to bringing additional income to AFS, these activities will advance knowledge and practice in the field, create

professional opportunities for Society members, and create stronger connections between the Society and other organizations with similar interests.

The Board has also been taking steps to bring expenses into balance. It created the new position of Executive Director as an initiative to manage the Society more efficiently, as a way of consolidating expenses, and as a means of opening up possibilities for new partnerships and fund-raising. As another step, we have found several ways to reduce and reallocate our expenses for the *AFS News*, annual meeting, and general office operations next year without reducing services. We'll keep looking for similar opportunities.

**Building Our Membership:** Membership is also an especially critical issue. Our membership has declined by just over 1/3 in the last ten years, bringing with it decreased income at the same time as demands for services have increased. We've learned that members do not renew, or potential members do not join, for many reasons, including aging and retirement, cost, allegiances to other fields, lack of knowledge about the Society, changes in professional interests, or the belief that the Society does not serve their needs. We need to reverse this trend. Over the next year we will begin efforts to better retain our present members, and to attract more new members from inside and outside our field, remembering, as then-NEA Chairman Bill Ivey reminded us in Memphis two years ago, that one of the best ways to increase our membership is to build a more active and compelling AFS. You can help the Society reach its membership goals by taking a more active role yourself in recruiting new members and retaining current ones.

**Providing and Paying for Our Services:** As I mentioned, in recent years we have expanded the range of services the Society provides, in response to members' requests and the recommendations of our strategic campaign. For instance, we've added considerable computer capabilities to our annual meeting, created several new categories of travel stipends for the meeting, and are expanding our AFSnet.org web site to provide more timely members-only and public information. We've been willing thus far to provide our members with more services than we can afford. And members regularly ask the Board to expand the Society's services even more.

While those new and desired services are helping or could help us reach our mission, it's unlikely that we can provide either recently instituted or potential new services without also seriously considering an increase in our membership dues as one element of our overall financial plan. A review of dues among our partner organizations in the American Council of Learned Societies shows that what we charge is low, even among societies of similar size and services. Such an increase may be one of several steps toward building the more capable Society we want.

What Society do we want? As another element in this process, we need to be sure that we have good, rich information about the state of the profession, the needs of our members, and our members' priorities for Society activities, all of which will help us make decisions about present and future Society work. For the first time since 1996, we will be directly (and concisely) surveying our members toward the end of this year, asking for your perspectives on these matters. And of course, the Board and I are always happy to hear your thoughts and concerns at any time, survey or no.

At our most recent Executive Board meeting, one member chose this way to describe the scale of the overall financial problem in everyday terms, saying, "The

Society has approximately 1,000 members. Our recent deficits have been running at about \$40,000 each year. Divided by the number of members, that's \$40 per member." This doesn't necessarily mean that dues are going to go up \$40. It simply means that the financial gap between where we are and where we need to be can be closed with a combination of actions that must be prudent but need not be severe.

**Achieving Our Goals:** Though most of what I've said seems to be about finances, in fact the really important issue here is articulating and realizing the Society's mission, those goals in terms of which all of our actions ought to be governed. What is that mission? There is no single consensus on this question, but let me form my response this way: it is to support work of all kinds that creates and communicates knowledge about folklore, for the purpose of achieving greater understanding of this fundamental dimension of human expression. In the end, budgets are only ways of expressing in numbers the purposes and goals of our Society, however defined, and the ways we choose to work toward achieving them.

As the Board spends its time working with these issues, the following sorts of questions face us: Where do we want to be in twenty years, and why, and how do we get there? What are the differences we most want to make? How can we use our substantial annual budget to create and stimulate activities that will really make a difference? What are those activities, and how do we support them? When has a Society activity or service achieved its purpose, come to need change, or outlived its usefulness? How can we increase and diversify our membership? How can we make our field stronger in the world outside our field? How does the Board balance and support the various senses of mission strongly advanced by Society members? When is it best for Board members to balance existing interests in their decisions, and when is it best for them, acting as leaders of the Society, to envision and articulate a new course?

Our goal is to find solutions to these challenges that will 1) make the Society more effective today in supporting your work to create and communicate knowledge about folklore; and 2) strengthen the Society so that it can continue to support and develop our field long into the future. We'd especially appreciate hearing your ideas for solutions, we welcome your criticism and responses to our survey, and we thank you for your support.

Timothy Lloyd

### **Report of the 2001 AFS Program Committee**

"Partners in Knowledge," the featured theme of this year's AFS Annual Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, invited inclusiveness as AFS welcomed over seventy-five Alaskan participants presenting in over twenty organized panels, forums, workshops, plenary sessions, and performances. The challenges of travel to Alaska did not deter many AFS members and friends living outside of the U.S. from joining their colleagues from the lower forty-eight states and Hawaii, resulting in an exciting and diverse program that has far exceeded our attendance expectations. As the program book went to press, the program consisted of 204 papers in 53 panels, nineteen forums, five roundtables, five workshops, and two video sessions. AFS was also happy to welcome its first poster session this year, which features five separate poster presentations. On Thursday evening, Craig Mishler gave the 2001 Phillips Barry Lecture, *Alaska Native Music: Now*

*and Then, Here and There*. Ann Fienup-Riordan offered "*We Talk to You Because we Love You*": *Learning from Yup'ik Elders at Culture Camp*, at a late Friday plenary session, and Society for Ethnomusicology President Kay Kaufman Shelemay discussed (via video, since she was not able to attend the meeting in person) *Becoming Significant Others: Building Communities through Music* at Saturday morning's plenary.

This year's program emerged from the coordinated efforts of committees in both Alaska and North Carolina. The North Carolina Committee composed the "Call for Papers," received and reviewed the abstracts, and prepared the schedule—organizing paper sessions, developing the program, preparing the program booklet, and communicating with members, the AFS executive director and webmaster, and AAA. The Alaska Program Committee, in turn, organized the conference's special events; invited and coordinated Alaskan university, public, and community scholars; applied for and received special funding for Alaskan participants; and made all local arrangements. Thanks in large part to the Alaskan committee's efforts, most of the Alaskan submissions took the form of organized panels and forums. We have scheduled these throughout the program to make them as accessible as possible to all attendees. In like manner, we grouped individual Alaskan submissions thematically rather than geographically, to encourage the representation and experience of our host Alaskans throughout the meeting.

This year's "Partners in Knowledge" theme seems to have struck a chord with many members, and the ensuing response allowed us to create five linked paper sessions that discuss emergent issues within this approach to research and documentation. Additionally, more than a dozen organized panels, forums, and roundtables explore themes of collaboration and/or address the location of sites of knowledge. The "Partners" theme also invited broad representation from individuals and organizations who might not normally attend AFS, including tradition-bearers who have collaborated with academic researchers, members of local councils of elders, and researchers from a range of museums and public agencies.

The collaboration referenced in this year's theme additionally makes itself evident elsewhere in the program. The opening ceremony at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art, for instance, invites AFS attendees to celebrate traditional Alaskan culture in a performance setting quite different from the usual hotel space. Incorporating the National Park Service's *Beringia Days* conference in the program adds another institution to this year's meeting.

AFS program-goers will have to make do with several drawbacks relating to accommodating participant needs and requests. Since we received and accepted far more submissions than had been projected, the size and number of rooms available for presentations (as pre-arranged by the AAA) proved barely adequate. In the end, we had to schedule many sessions in rooms more suitable for small section meetings than for formal paper sessions. Consequently, some presenters and their audiences may have to crowd into inappropriately sized rooms. Although we struggled to keep Sunday free of sessions, we eventually had to bow to the inevitable, and scheduled two Sunday-morning panels.

This year, those planning computer-assisted presentations will have to provide their own equipment, due to rising costs and reduced revenue from registrations. AFS will also not be providing a room available for continuous computer use. On the bright side,

in keeping with recent AFS meeting practice, we did arrange for two-hour sessions in both the morning and afternoon to accommodate five-paper panels and those forums and workshops hosting numerous participants. We also kept the ninety-minute lunch break.

The “Partners in Knowledge” theme required us to understand that the purposes and procedures of annual professional meetings like ours are indeed cultural constructs, and that if we wish to expand the participation of knowledge-keepers from outside of the academy, we must be willing to accommodate different perceptions of appropriate time segments, presentation formats, and participant numbers. At the same time, we had to acknowledge the need for an understandable and predictable cognitive map of the conference that would allow all attendees to navigate their way from session to session, day to day. Again and again, we found ourselves suspending or postponing deadlines, suggesting revisions of session formats, revising (and re-revising) abstracts, doubling sessions to accommodate participant numbers or presentation lengths, and adding and removing participant names as late as four months after the original submission date. In essence, we remained flexible as long as we possibly could. (We extended these same courtesies to AFS members.) Such procedure seems contrary to good conference-organizing sense; the process was both stressful and time-consuming, but it seemed the only way to accommodate the diverse participation that this year’s program attracted. In retrospect, this commitment to collaboration demanded far more time and flexibility than can reasonably be expected from individuals volunteering their time to AFS.

This year’s increased use of on-line registration greatly facilitated program organization. Members should realize that paper submissions must be scanned into the database, a procedure that can wreak havoc with spelling, punctuation, and formatting. Such submissions can also present tracking problems, exacerbated by the fact that they arrive at different times, in different forms, and from many different directions. Many thanks to the skills and foresight of Thomas Zimmerman, AFS webmaster, who not only paid us a visit early in the process, but remained in touch throughout the programming as troubleshooter and e-mail postmaster. E-mail has certainly proved to be the most reliable, if not exclusive, means of communication between presenters and the program committee. (This ease, however, can itself pose problems. This year, for example, the North Carolina Program Committee chair received and responded to more than 800 e-mails regarding the Anchorage meetings.) As noted by last year’s committee, the days of opening the August issue of the newsletter to find your spot—like it or not—are gone. The early posting of the program on the web and the ease of e-mail not only correct many mistaken spellings and wordings, but also allow members to inform the program committee of scheduling conflicts. Sometimes, requests for change can be accommodated, but we must all remember that fixing one person’s problems may cause trouble for numbers of others. Presenters must be continually informed of deadlines for responses to early editions of the program posted on the web. An updated article in the newsletter describing the process and benefits of on-line registration and web-posting—including response deadlines—might make the procedure easier for everyone.

Although we anticipated that some of those who submitted abstracts might not be able to come to Alaska, we are deeply dismayed at the number of withdrawals that have already occurred. By late August, we had received almost twenty cancellations, with that number increasing daily. Participants who submit individual abstracts are perhaps unaware of the amount of time and effort required to create panels that unite previously

unrelated papers under a common theme. Withdrawals frequently force programmers to completely reorganize panels, yielding changes that reverberate through the entire program. Further, each such change must be tracked through the various program-book listings (overview, schedule, subject index, name index, paper abstracts). This adds immeasurably to the workload of people who are already volunteering their time. AFS should perhaps reconsider their policy on “no-shows,” broadening it—as many other professional organizations do—to include withdrawals that occur after program preparation.

Thanks for hard work on this year’s program are due all around. Committee members Patricia Sawin and Beverly Patterson devoted many hours to reviewing abstracts, scheduling panels, and creating the subject index. Tes Thraves quickly mastered the database and kept us scanned, entered, and up-to-date. Working on the Alaska end, Amy Craver not only masterfully organized Alaskan participation (truly embodying the spirit of collaboration), but also proved a constant source of excellent advice and insight. And Glenn and Sally—who created the paper sessions, answered most of the e-mail queries, and juggled the never-ending schedule changes—are just glad that it’s over. We are also looking forward to attending an array of remarkable presentations at what we believe will be one of the most memorable AFS meetings yet.

Glenn Hinson and Sally Peterson, co-chairs

### **Report of the 2001 Annual Meeting Local Arrangements Committee**

The Alaska Native Science Commission requested and received funds from the National Science Foundation’s Arctic Social Science Program to support the travel and participation of 16 Alaska Native tradition bearers and researchers to participate in the plenary workshop, Ethical Practices for Documenting Alaska Native Cultures as well as in a number of other sessions. The local arrangements committee has cultivated the involvement of a total of Alaska Native and non-Native researchers and tradition bearers who will participate in fourteen sessions and two plenary talks.

The Lila Wallace-Readers’ Digest Community Folklife Program is underwriting the Funds for Folk Culture grants to community scholars for meeting attendance. As of this writing, the following community scholars have been identified: Oscar Kawagly, Paul Ongtooguk, Marie Mead, Herb Anungazuk, Susie Silook, Barbara Svarny-Carlson, Kenny Thomas, Sean Topkok, Willard Jones, Bosco Olson, Bill Choate and Nick Tanape.

Just before the meeting, the committee received word that the University of Alaska-Anchorage would provide funding to support meeting registration costs for university and local high school students.

Amy Craver, chair

### **Report of the Editor, *Journal of American Folklore***

The editorship of the *Journal of American Folklore* moved in the summer of 2000 to the University of Missouri, Columbia. The new Editor, Elaine Lawless, was able to get excellent support for the journal and its staff through the generosity of the Chair of the English Department and the Dean of Arts and Science. This support includes an

office for the journal on the MU campus, computer, and a printer. The university covers all mailing costs, many supplies, the phone and ethernet connections, computer services from the Dean's office, two quarter-time graduate student assistants, a graduate student intern, and, beginning August 2001, a managing editor, provided through the Provost's Office. The current *JAF* staff has worked very hard during this year to get *JAF* on target with the publication of papers and Special Issues the office inherited from the former Editor, as well as processing new submissions. Although *JAF* publication was running behind schedule for some months in 2001, due to personnel changes at AAA, the journal is now back on schedule.

*JAF* has a new Book Review Editor, Moira Smith (Indiana University), a new Film Review Editor, Daniel Wojcik (University of Oregon), and a new Exhibits and Events Review Editor, Betty Belanus (Smithsonian Institution). Peter Narvaez continues to serve as Sound Recordings Review Editor. The *Journal* has a new section entitled "Dialogues," where responses to articles published in the journal will appear.

Beginning with Vol. 114, No. 451, *JAF* has prepared for publication 18 articles that were previously accepted by Jack Santino. This includes four articles (already accepted) that appeared in 451 and also includes articles for five special issues: Southwestern Louisiana Mardi Gras, 452; and upcoming issues on Ossian Epic, 454; Richard Bauman and Verbal Art, 455; Canadian Folklore, 456; and Creolization, 457. Number 453 includes new articles recently accepted by the Missouri *JAF* staff.

From September 2001 to August 2002 the *JAF* staff rejected 32 articles. Some of these articles we inherited from the previous editor; some had been under review during the move to Missouri; some were rejected before they went out for review. Two authors withdrew their articles from consideration.

Currently, the *JAF* staff has three articles accepted and ready to publish and 24 articles in the process of external review and very promising in terms of publication in *JAF*. The staff continues to solicit articles from AFS members and other scholars whose work we think may be appropriate for *JAF*. Our accumulation of articles ensures that we have enough good articles at this time through the year 2003.

AFS members and other scholars submitting articles should be aware that the Journal has moved to a process of "blind" reviews by external reviewers.

Elaine J. Lawless

### **Report of the Task Force on Cultural Diversity**

The work of the committee in the past few years has begun to come to fruition. We are pleased to note the report by Executive Director, Tim Lloyd, stating that "the Anchorage annual meeting program will include a greater number of presentations by community scholars, and a greater overall presence of community-based people and work from the meeting region, than any previous Society meeting." We applaud the proactive work of the Anchorage Program Committee in assuring that local and diverse voices and perspectives will enrich our meeting this year.

The Task Force on Cultural Diversity has been involved in several areas of activity this year. Gerald Davis Travel Fellowships have been awarded to five applicants including Cindy Allen, a Yellowknives Dene Native American collaboratively documenting Dene music traditions of several communities in the Northwest territories,

Canada; Alexis Bunten, an Native Alaskan anthropology graduate student from U.C.L.A. who will be making a presentation at the meeting on the impact upon various Native Alaskan communities of a Heritage project-Qayaqs and Canoes; David Champion, who has worked to document and present the music of South Texas; Joe Paul Jack, a member of the Kwanlin Dun Nation, researching Ahtna traditions and culture in Canada; Jamila Jones of the University of Missouri-Columbia who is researching the folklore of fear; and Monicque Larocque, a student of Francophone studies at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, who is writing on the Creoles Noirs of Soileau, Louisiana.

The Zora Neale Hurston Prize for student scholarship relating to African and African American Folklore has been awarded to Amy McKibbin, an undergraduate in English education at Florida State University in Tallahassee.

The Task Force has also proposed that the Society's Executive Board establish the "Américo Paredes Prize" to recognize outstanding scholarship and professional engagement with the people studied and represented in the fields of Chicano, Latino, and Latin American folklife.

Diana N'Diaye

### **Report of the International Activities Committee**

The International Committee offered five travel stipends in this fifth year of the stipend program. Frank Korom attended the meeting of the Société Internationale d'Ethnologie et Folklore in Budapest last April, presenting a paper on place and narrative in rural West Bengal. Four international scholars received stipends to attend AFS in Anchorage, and we encourage you to introduce yourself to them during the meeting:

Qubumo Bamo is Deputy General-Secretary of the National Folklore Society of China and a Ph.D. candidate in Folklore at Beijing National University. Her specialty is in Yi epic poetry, on which she has been working for many years as an Associate Researcher in the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of Ethnic Minority Literature. At the meeting she spoke on her position as a minority scholar attached to a state institution: "A Native-Born Scholar in Field Connections: Insider Yet Outsider."

Sally Pomme Clayton is a professional storyteller and a lecturer in Drama and Theatre Studies at Middlesex University, London. She co-founded The Company of Storytellers, an organization pioneering storytelling for adult audiences in Britain. More recently, she has done fieldwork in Kazakhstan as work towards a degree in ethnomusicology. She is interested in developing a more international curriculum for folklore studies in England, and planned to garner ideas at the AFS meeting, where she participated in a "Partners in Knowledge" panel on university and library collaborations.

Francisco Gentil Vaz Da Silva is Auxiliary Professor of Anthropology at the University of Lisbon, where he is working to establish a folklore center. He has published extensively on symbolism in European folktale traditions, and spoke at AFS on the folkloristic foundations of psychoanalytic theory.

Suzanne Macaulay is director of the Quay School of the Arts at the Wanganui Polytechnic Institute, Wanganui, New Zealand. Dr. Macaulay works on transnational issues in New Zealand, both on the revitalization of traditional arts among Cook Islands immigrants, and on the migration of European and North American professionals. She is particularly interested in the Alaska meetings for the parallels to bicultural dynamics in

New Zealand. Her paper was on performance and role-shifting in a field interview with a Serbian couple about their exile experience.

To take fuller advantage of the presence of these visitors, the committee sponsored this year for the first time a lunch for each stipendiary with two or three AFS members with complementary interests. We hope that these contacts will assist in building the international networks that are the long-term goal of the stipend program.

While the stipends we can offer are insufficient to cover travel costs by themselves (generally \$500), they are underused by AFS members seeking to attend meetings abroad. We are especially interested in funding public and independent folklorists lacking institutional support for travel. Unfortunately, our limited funds mean that we cannot offer the rolling application deadline that would be most convenient to members.

Please watch for the call for applications, which will appear (assuming continued funding) in a forthcoming *AFS News*. Donations to the stipend fund (at the time of renewing AFS membership) are also very much appreciated in the present tight budget environment.

We also strongly encourage members to think about international colleagues they'd like to bring to AFS: please pass the call for stipend applications on to them, and include them in the panels and events you organize. If you have an international event in mind for a forthcoming meeting, the committee would like to be aware of it as early as possible (contact me at [noyes.10@osu.edu](mailto:noyes.10@osu.edu)). In some cases we can suggest additional funding sources, and we can also put you in touch with members planning related initiatives.

Early consultation with the committee led to some innovations in this year's meeting. One was structural: the Nordic Section agreed to hold its traditional pre-conference as a sort of inner symposium within the meeting program, allowing other Society members to take advantage of it without needing to spend an extra day away. One was financial: thanks to Amy Craver's initiative, Ekaterina Belousova, a Siberian scholar, was fully funded by the Arctic Research Consortium, thus opening up International Committee funds for additional stipends. Such early coordination, though it's logistically challenging, is a way to enhance the quality of the meeting.

I'd like to thank our committee members Norma Cantú, JoAnn Conrad, Kurt Dewhurst, Lee Haring, Galit Hasan-Rokem, and Alan Jabbour, as well as Jo Radner, Shalom Staub, Peggy Bulger, and Tim Lloyd for their support for our endeavors through this year of transition. Special thanks go to Regina Bendix, who as outgoing chair managed this year's stipend competition, and who to our collective relief and delight continues to serve as the committee's *éminence grise*—or better yet, *éminence blonde*. Ideas and suggestions for the committee are welcome: please send them to me at the address above.

Dorothy Noyes

### **Report of the Membership Committee**

The membership committee had an unusually quiet year, expending most of its energy on a set of discussions as to whether to recommend the creation of a new category of membership—a reduced rate for under-employed members. That proved to be less

simple than it might have seemed. After considerable discussion, the committee recommended to the board, not at all unanimously, that the society institute the new category. The board voted the recommendation down.

As retiring chair of the committee, I want to thank all the members over the past several years for their work and good counsel.

Burt Feintuch

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

The members of the 2001 Nominating Committee are Terry Liu (chairperson), Paddy Bowman, Lesley Williams, and the Executive Board liaison Simon Bronner. The committee communicated with one another mostly by e-mail and made one conference call in mid-April. The committee considered a pool of over 70 recommendations including those considered by the committee in past elections, nominations from the membership, as well as new recommendations brought by this year's elected Nomination Committee and from the Executive Board via their liaison. All members helped make calls to prospective candidates.

The Committee offered the following slate for candidates for Executive Board and Nominating Committee in May: for three-year terms as Executive Board Members, John W. Johnson (Indiana University), Kimberly Lau (University of Utah), Jerrilyn McGregory (Florida State University), Maida Owens (Louisiana Division of the Arts), Elizabeth Peterson (Fund for Folk Culture), and Margaret Yocom (George Mason University); and for a three-year term on the Nominating Committee, Timothy Evans (Western Kentucky University) and Peter Tokofsky (University of California at Los Angeles).

I have observed over the last three years an increase in communication between the Executive Board and the Nomination Committee. Executive Board liaison Simon Bronner was involved in all e-mail correspondences and the conference call. He was truly a fourth member of the committee. Executive Director Tim Lloyd provided documents to the candidates that gave a clear idea of Executive Board member responsibilities as well as Society's current issues and challenges. Lloyd also helped the Committee work with Thomas Zimmerman to post the candidates' bios and statements on AFSnet.org

As in the previous two years, the Nominations Committee worked hard to provide a slate that represents as much as possible geographic distribution, race, gender, age, type of employment, and a balance and diversity of perspectives. We worked to offer candidates whose qualifications compliment those of Board members whose terms will not expire in the coming year. We also considered the time and energy prospective candidates would be able to bring to the Board.

The Committee is grateful for nominations from members. It helps the Committee if the nominator provides reasons why the person they nominated is qualified, a brief bio, and contact information. Nominations for the 2002 election should be submitted to the incoming Chairperson, Paddy Bowman (pbowman@ix.netcom.com, 609 Johnston Place, Alexandria, VA 22301; 703/836-7499).

Terry Liu

## Report of the Publications Committee

The AFS Publications Committee has developed a good working relationship with ABC-CLIO, which publishes folklore reference works. According to the Society's agreement with ABC-CLIO, that firm submits projects to us that it plans to publish, we ask appropriate scholars to review them, and on the basis of their recommendations, we decide whether to endorse a particular project as an American Folklore Society publication. The committee developed a guide for reviewers. Rebecca Maksel, an editor for *Smithsonian* magazine, serves very ably as Advisory Editor for this arrangement with ABC-CLIO. She has found good reviewers and secured useful reports.

Thus far the following projects, among those proposed, have been approved for official endorsement by the Society: *Encyclopedia of Urban Legends*, edited by Jan Harold Brunvand; *Handbook of Norse Mythology*, edited by John F. Lindow; *Medieval Folklore: An Encyclopedia of Myths, Legends, Tales, Beliefs, and Customs*, edited by Carl Lindahl, John McNamara, and John Lindow; and *UFOs and Popular Culture: An Encyclopedia of Contemporary Myth*, edited by James R. Lewis.

The first projects considered for the AFS imprimatur were either already published or in page proof. While it was not ideal to consider projects already this far along, this did give ABC-CLIO's "AFS list" a jump-start. As we move forward, we expect to see projects at the manuscript stage, early enough that constructive suggestions can make a difference in what finally reaches print.

While there has been some discussion of other possible arrangements with ABC-CLIO, such as series developed by AFS members or sections, nothing tangible has developed.

Responding to the Executive Board's concern for the image that the Society projects to the larger world, we have reflected on the look of our various publications. One publishing axiom holds that design should evolve, not simply for the sake of change, but to gain the most pleasing and productive attention to the message being conveyed. Another axiom is that regular re-evaluation of design is wise, especially in the face of changing technologies and heightened competition for attention. The Society's web site, for example, well maintained by Tom Zimmerman for more than five years, will be undergoing a revision in design as we simultaneously search for a web site editor to replace him. The *Journal of American Folklore*, our most visible publication, has also begun a transition from the look it held for many years. We recognize the good work of the current editor, Elaine Lawless, as she has taken the lead in this process.

We continue to discuss what additional materials might be made available on our web site, whether for members only or for the public at large. Our arrangement with Project Muse to make available on a nonexclusive basis current and future issues of the *Journal of American Folklore* appears to be solid. Our arrangement with Questia Media to make available on a nonexclusive basis back issues of the *Journal* bears monitoring in light of the general economic downturn in publishing.

Judith McCulloh

## Report of the AFS Archival Liaison

The American Folklore Society Manuscript Collection finding aid can be found on line at: <http://www.usu.edu/~specol/manuscript/collms206.html>. The collection is strong and growing through the donations of section members. During the past year Frank de Caro deposited professional society papers from various AFS committees he served on, Erika Brady sent in back issues of the *Women's Section Newsletter*, and other members donated folklore journals to help fill out the collection. To ensure the continued strength of the collection we encourage members holding historical AFS papers or records to consider submitting them to the AFS Folklore Society Manuscript Collection. Listed below are the guidelines for archival transfer of AFS materials.

1. All materials should be sent to: AFS Archives; Special Collections & Archives; Utah State University; 3000 Old Main Hill; Logan, UT 84322-3000.
2. Donors do not need to purge or process their own records other than to remove large bulk duplicates or personal/confidential materials.
3. Sections and society leaders should send the Archives two (2) copies of all publications: journals, newsletters, and bulletins. We are also interested in receiving donations of large runs of past issues of *JAF* and section publications in order to fill out our collection.
4. Society leaders are encouraged to send their AFS papers to the Archives when their term is finished. (Papers are broadly defined as any materials pertaining to the work of the American Folklore Society, including correspondence, notes, printed e-mails, section and society meeting minutes, etc.)
5. All materials must be in paper format. The Archives cannot support non-print media, such as diskettes, videos, tapes, or other formats due to their poor archival quality and technical usage problems.

For more information on the transfer of AFS manuscript materials or the AFS Collection please contact: Stephen C. Sturgeon, Manuscript Curator, Special Collections and Archives, Utah State University, Logan UT 84322-3000, 435/797-0891, [stestu@ngw.lib.usu.edu](mailto:stestu@ngw.lib.usu.edu)

Randy Williams

### **Report of the American Council of Learned Societies Delegate**

The ACLS, under the admirable direction of John D'Arms, continues to raise money for fellowships, lead the way in defining and strengthening the role of learned societies, and support new approaches and resources for scholarship. For the latest news regarding grants and fellowships, ACLS publications and publication projects, and fundraising achievements, see [www.acls.org/extra.htm](http://www.acls.org/extra.htm). According to the President's Report in the *ACLS Annual Report*, which can also be found online, ACLS has been focusing on four sets of issues: awarding Burkhardt Fellowships for recently tenured faculty; addressing the electronic future of publishing; funding young humanists in the

former Soviet Union; and raising funds for the core fellowship program and strengthening the process of peer review.

I will focus here on highlights of the ACLS annual meeting, which convened this year in Philadelphia. The first theme of this year's meetings was "Phases of the Humanist's Academic Career." This welcome complement to the ACLS's important initiative to support and listen to recently tenured faculty, who are expected to become the intellectual leaders in their fields, encouraged us to consider later stages in academic careers, including the generational structure of departments and learned societies, issues of succession within fields, and managing retirement from both institutional and individual perspectives.

The second theme was "The Electronic Humanist: Some Notable Scholarly Advances." Three excellent presentations of exemplary projects demonstrated the extraordinary value of electronic resources and tools for scholarly research. To see these projects, go to Valley of the Shadow Project ([www.jefferson.village.virginia.edu/vshadow2](http://www.jefferson.village.virginia.edu/vshadow2)), which deals with two communities on opposite sides of the Civil War; The William Blake Archive ([www.blakearchive.org](http://www.blakearchive.org)); and the Digital Design Collection Project at the Museum of Modern Art by Luna Imaging, Inc. ([www.lunaimaging.com](http://www.lunaimaging.com)).

The meetings continue to be informative, convivial, and meticulously planned. Our warm thanks to the ACLS for its invigorating leadership.

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett

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

Last year the AFS@MLA Committee elected Reinhold Hill as its new member of the executive committee. The members of the committee (and their year to serve as organizers of AFS-sponsored sessions at the Modern Language Association's convention) are Maria Herrera-Sobek (2002), John Laudun, (2003) and Reinhold Hill (2004).

Bonnie Irwin, Eastern Illinois University, organized two sessions for MLA 2001: "Academic Conferences as Sites of Folklore" and "Theory and Methods of Teaching Composition through Ethnography." Presenters for the former were Bonnie D. Irwin, "Conferences as Festivals: Celebration, Commemoration, Edification"; Kimberly Ann Nance, "Stories from the Job Search: The Nature and Functions of Search Lore"; and Camilla H. Mortensen, "Mimesis, Literature, Ethnography: The Ethics of the Ethnographic Presentation." Presenters for the session on composition and ethnography were Sally Weber Chandler, "Ethnography in the Classroom: Undergraduate Composition Class as an Experiential Site for Student Re-Thinking of the Writing Processes"; Charlie T. McCormick, "Ethnographic Writing about Students' Everyday Lives: Developing Critically Thinking Writers"; and James Ray Watkins, "Ethnographic Methodology and Critical Thinking in a Basic Business Writing Course."

Debbie A. Hanson, Augustana College, has organized the AFS sessions for MLA's 2002. One session will be a roundtable discussion entitled "Folk Culture and the Literary Invention of Louisiana: Evolving Images of the Cajuns and Creoles"; discussants will be Marcia M. Gaudet, Barry J. Ancelet, Darrell Borque, and John Laudun, all of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Presenters in a second session, entitled "Adaptations and Animations: Children's folklore and Children's Literature," are Bennett Tracy Huffman, "Squirrels and Bears, Sea Lions and Indian Boys: Ken Kesey's Folktales

for Children"; Jennifer A. Schacker-Mill, "Imagining Otherness: The Ethnographic Impulse in Children's Literature"; and Bill Ellis, "Sleeping Beauty Wakes Herself Up: Folklore and Gender Inversion in Cardcaptor Sakura."

Kathleen E. B. Manley