

2008 Annual Report of the American Folklore Society

Report of the President and the Executive Director

2008 was an extremely challenging **financial year** for the Society. Because of four major factors that unfortunately occurred together, the balance in our cash reserve has been significantly reduced. The four factors?

1. The 2007 annual meeting in Québec was especially expensive for AFS. Because of the decline in the value of the US dollar compared to the Canadian dollar, all the prices we paid in 2007 (e.g., from book room coffee to the printing of the program) rose about 50% from where they stood in 2004, when we signed contracts to meet in Québec. And most prices, particularly those for audio-visual equipment rental, were very high to begin with.
2. The recent declines in the stock market affected our cash reserve directly, reducing our account by approximately 25%.
3. Prior to the decline in financial markets, the Board and Executive Director made commitments to undertake several initiatives that we deemed critical to our mission, knowing that we did not have much in the way of additional revenue coming in to offset the costs of those activities. Largest among these are our efforts to build a partnership with the China Folklore Society, to provide modest funding to our health policy working group, and to professionalize the associate director's position.
4. In addition to everything else, last year saw the conclusion of several AFS special projects, most notably the Ethnographic Thesaurus, while several of our fund-raising campaigns for other special projects were not supported. This led to a fall-off of project management fees and indirect cost support to AFS at an unfortunate time.

Any one or two of these things would have made for a difficult year: all four of them together made it especially difficult.

This sort of situation is precisely why we have a cash reserve: we build it up when we have good financial times so that it will be there to be drawn upon when times are not so good. The balance in our cash reserve tends to ebb and flow on a cycle of 4-5 years or so. We built it up in the middle 1990's as a result of positive growth in our investments, but then we needed to draw it down in the late 1990s and early 2000s to pay for the increased costs of AAA management of AFS. The account again began growing when we took over our own management in 2002 and as a result of several years of good investment returns since then. It is down again now, but we are working to see that it will begin heading upward again.

There are several indicators of better financial times in our fiscal year 2009, which runs from September 2008 through August 2009. First, our annual meeting financial picture is looking up again as we returned to our own meeting arrangements, and a much less expensive location, in October 2008 in Louisville. A modest increase in annual meeting registration fees this year (we have not increased member registration fees since 2005 or student

registration fees since 2002) is also helping, as have some grants and contributions from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Commonwealth of Kentucky toward the costs of the meeting.

Second, some of our other major revenue streams are continuing to grow. For example, calendar year 2008 revenue for *JAF* institutional subscriptions will surpass our expectations, and our royalty income from online access to *JAF* materials looks as though it will be higher in 2008 than in 2007. Third, the Board approved the Director's recommendation that we appoint a new investment advisor in August 2008 to manage our investments more effectively managed in the present environment.

Fourth, expenses for our special initiatives—including the China project in particular—will not be as high in 2009 as they were in 2008. The partnership activities we plan with our Chinese colleagues in 2009 will involve less in the way of direct costs, as we build quietly on the professional and financial investments we made in China in 2008, and in 2009 we'll also undertake new fund-raising activities to support longer-term work there.

And to conclude, the total of present gifts and future pledges to the Society's endowment fund has passed the \$1 million threshold and stands today at \$1,143,000. Of this amount, only about \$98,000 is in hand in the form of current contributions; the remainder is in the form of pledges for future gifts from members' estates. Once these future pledges are received into the endowment, they will produce income of a little over \$50,000 a year (in today's dollars, that amount would support 85% of the costs of the annual meeting or 75% of the costs of the *Journal*), making the fund one of our largest single sources of revenue in the future, and a critical source of long-term financial stability for the Society.

Our **2008 annual meeting**, held at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Louisville, Kentucky, brought together some 700 folklorists from around the world. Our plenary speakers were Alessandro Portelli of the University of Rome, Ruth Behar of the University of Michigan, and Carl Lindahl of the University of Houston. The meeting was also the occasion to recognize and honor Lynwood Montell, and the life and work of the late Leonard Roberts.

On Wednesday, October 22, in Louisville, the Board held its fourth biennial meeting with representatives from folklore academic programs. This meeting also included participation by representatives from public folklore organizations and of independent folklorists. In recent years AFS has made efforts to serve more actively as a "hub" for our field, and these meetings are an important element in that process. They give us an all-too-infrequent opportunity to reflect upon, discuss, and plan for the entire field. The report from that meeting will be posted to the AFS web site soon.

Our **2009 annual meeting** site will be Boise, Idaho. We will use the Grove Hotel, in the center of downtown Boise, and the entire Boise convention center next door will be set aside for our use—unlike most convention centers, it's just our size. Boise has a small-scale and very pedestrian-convivial downtown, and our hotel is directly across the street from a block-long neighborhood of Basque businesses and community gathering places.

Our **2010 annual meeting** will be held at the Hilton Nashville, across the street from the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum and one block from the Lower Broadway

downtown entertainment district. The Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy at Vanderbilt University, led by former AFS President Bill Ivey, will be our partner in planning the meeting, and a number of middle Tennessee folklorists, as well as the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, will also be involved.

In early 2009, Board member Olga Nájera-Ramírez and Timothy Lloyd will begin research into the possibilities for an **AFS annual meeting in Mexico in or after 2012**. We'll also be considering sites in the Northeast, Southeast, and West for our meetings in 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014.

We have just begun the process leading to the selection in late 2009 year of the next editor of the *Journal of American Folklore* to replace present editors Harry Berger and Giovanna Del Negro, whose term will end in 2010. The Board will be working closely with the Publications Committee to recruit and consider good candidates for this important position.

John Laudun of the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, has accepted our invitation to serve as the editor of the **AFS web site** beginning in January 2009. He and the Executive Director, working with the Society's web manager Jeff Borisch, assisted by a newly formed editorial board, are undertaking a re-design of the site into a more robust and interactive Web 2.0 resource for the field. This redesign will be complete by May 2009.

As a result of this re-envisioning of our site, we have discontinued the publication of the *AFS News* at the end of 2008. The news and Society business it has contained will be conveyed much more efficiently to members through the web site and occasional mass e-mails from the Society office. The web site's contents will be archived electronically, and the official record of the Society's activities will be preserved through our annual report.

Jason Baird Jackson of Indiana University has accepted the Board's invitation to lead five meetings of a working group, and several supporting activities, that 1) will carry out a set of intensive strategic conversations on the futures of **scholarly communications** in our field and, based on that process, 2) will submit briefing papers and formal recommendations and proposals for action to the Society's Executive Board. We plan to submit a proposal for the support of this project in January 2009.

Though various delays slowed the launch of the **H-FOLK** international listserv for folklore scholarship, this new scholarly communications vehicle finally "went live" in October 2008. H-FOLK is a joint initiative of the major international societies in the field—AFS, the Folklore Society of Great Britain, the Folklore Studies Association of Canada/Association canadienne d'ethnologie et de folklore, the International Society for Folk Narrative Research, and the Société internationale d'ethnologie et de folklore, as well as the National Folklore Support Centre in Chennai, India. The Department of Estonian and Comparative Folklore at the University of Tartu in Estonia and the Estonian Folklore Archives is the editorial center for the listserv.

The Society's **graduate student working group** met in January 2008 and submitted its recommendation to the Board in the early spring, and we have already acted on many of their recommendations. The **retired folklorists working group** has had a good e-mail and telephone exchange and will resume their work in early 2009. The **membership committee**

held one conference-call meeting in 2008, and the **annual meeting working group** will hold its first discussions in early 2009. The Society's **publications committee** has been taking a role in the development of the 2.0 web site, and will be very much engaged as we begin the search for the next *Journal* editor. The **folklore and health policy working group** held a very productive meeting in Columbus in July 2008, led a session on their work at the annual meeting in Louisville, will be producing a book manuscript of case studies that the Cornell University Press has expressed a strong interest in publishing, and will be planning other activities to effectively communicate the value of our field's perspectives to the health care world.

The **Cultural Diversity Task Force** sponsored an open meeting at the Louisville annual meeting, and awarded Gerald L. Davis Travel Awards to the following minority scholars: Michael J. Alarid of The Ohio State University, Nishelle Y. Bellinger of California State University, San Marcos, and Joslyn Ladson of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They will offer these awards again in 2009, and will be discussing other possible Task Force activities.

Various Society **special projects** have also been front and center in our 2008 activities. Our work to provide the **Veterans History Project** (an activity of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress) with leaders for community-based workshops on conducting ethnographic interviews is well into its eighth year. 100 workshop leaders (about 2/3 of them folklorists and 1/3 oral historians) have thus far led more than 300 workshops with almost 6,700 participants in 40 states. This project brings many benefits, including public visibility to the field, work and professional service fees to folklorists, and net income to AFS.

We recently began work on our third two-year grant (this one for \$200,000) from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support the completion of a print-format scholarly edition of the **James Madison Carpenter Collection**. The Collection, one of the most significant in the collections of the American Folklife Center, contains a wealth of folkloric material, particularly of British and American traditional song and drama. Most material in the collection dates from 1929-35, when Carpenter conducted fieldwork in Britain; the remainder was gathered in the US. The collection comprises papers, wax cylinders, acetate discs, photographs and drawings, all of which include the texts and tunes of approximately 1,000 Child ballads, 800 sea shanties, 750 other songs, 300 mummers' plays, and 50 instrumental tunes. Seven scholars, most of who live and work in the UK, constitute our team for this project. The University Press of Mississippi has expressed a strong interest in publishing the completed, multi-volume work.

The **AFS-China Folklore Society partnership** has continued to develop through this year. To recapitulate: In summer 2007, CFS and AFS agreed to exchange official delegations as a first step in establishing permanent relations between our societies and among our members. A four-member delegation from the CFS participated in our 2007 annual meeting in Québec and then, accompanied by Bill Ivey and Timothy Lloyd, traveled to New York City and Washington, DC, to meet with American folklorists there.

Then in December 2007, Bill, Juwen Zhang of Willamette University (co-convenor of the AFS Eastern Asia Folklife Section), and AFS associate director Maria Teresa (Mabel) Agozzino traveled to China for two weeks of meetings with folklore faculty members and

visits to intangible cultural heritage sites and organizations in Beijing, Shandong Province in northeastern China, Yunnan Province in the southwest, and Guangdong Province in the southeast.

In May 2008 Timothy Lloyd spent two weeks in China as the guest of the China Folklore Society and several Chinese academic folklore programs. He delivered a number of lectures and talks, was taken to many sights of historical and cultural importance, and met formally and informally with many senior and junior scholars, academic administrators, and graduate students in Beijing and in Shandong and Guangdong Provinces.

As a result of these efforts, several informal exchanges have already begun, and we look forward to more formal partnerships in the near future:

Several advanced graduate students and young faculty members from China will be in residence at US universities during the 2008-2009 academic year. Some of them were able to participate in the Louisville annual meeting.

AFS and the Shandong University of Art and Design (SUAD) in Jinan are poised to sign a Memorandum of Agreement outlining a permanent relationship between the university and the Society. SUAD has a China Folk Art Research Institute, which exhibits a fine collection of Chinese folk and traditional art and is about to begin a residency and teaching program involving master folk artists from Shandong and other Chinese provinces. SUAD has also collaborated for some years with US folklorists Doug Blandy and Kristin Congdon on the ChinaVine project.

We are collaborating with the Institute of Chinese Intangible Cultural Heritage of Sun Yat-Sen (Zhongshan) University in Guangzhou to arrange for the translation into Chinese of a selection of major articles from 121 years of the *Journal of American Folklore*.

In July 2008 AFS submitted a proposal to the Preservation and Access Program of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) requesting \$500,000 for the initial planning and testing phases of a national project titled the **Ethnographic Archives Initiative**. The EAI is an ambitious long-term effort, led and managed by AFS, 1) to create field-wide best practices and infrastructure for access to the multi-format ethnographic collections maintained by academic programs, nonprofit educational organizations, and state arts and humanities council programs in the field of folklore across the US; and, based on those best practices and infrastructure, 2) to preserve, catalog, and provide integrated digital access to the ethnographic collections of these programs and institutions. We will receive word about this proposal in March 2009.

Our thanks go to Past President Bill Ivey, to the 10 other members of the Executive Board, to associate director Mabel Agozzino, to all Society committee members and volunteers, and to all members of the Society for their hard work, support, and counsel during 2008.

Elaine Lawless, University of Missouri, Columbia
Timothy Lloyd, AFS Executive Director

Report of the Journal of American Folklore Editors

The past year has been an exciting and productive one for *JAF*, and we continue to be impressed by both the quality and quantity of research in the field. In the spring of this year, AFS executive director Timothy Lloyd reported to us that *JAF* royalties were up 33% over the previous year, and “hits” credited to *JAF* content on Project Muse, the scholarly web site that offers issues of *JAF* from 2002 to the present, were up 44% over the past three years. We believe that these data speak to the quality of our authors’ work, the scholarly impact of the *Journal*, and the strength of folklore studies in general. We continue our commitment to publishing pieces that reflect the breadth of inquiry in our discipline and seeking out the very best research that folklorists produce. *JAF* continues to be published by the University of Illinois Press (UIP). This report covers the period from September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008.

JAF benefits from the work of four excellent review editors: book review editor Jill Terry Rudy (Brigham Young University), sound review editor C. Kati Szego (Memorial University of Newfoundland), exhibitions and events review editor Tina Bucuvalas (Florida Folklife Program), and film and video review editor David Todd Lawrence (University of St. Thomas). The *Journal* could not be produced without the diligent and enthusiastic efforts of Jesse Rester, the *JAF* editorial assistant here at our Texas A&M University offices. We thank all of these individuals for their fine work for the *Journal* over the last year.

In the spring of this year, Jill Terry Rudy announced that she would be stepping down from her position. We thank her for her work on the *Journal* and are pleased to announce that Carolyn Ware of Louisiana State University will be taking over as the new book review editor. The editorship is currently in transition, and Ware will assume full responsibilities for this post in the first half of 2009.

JAF is a quarterly publication. Issues 478–481 contained 2 addresses and 14 articles, including a special issue edited by Heather A. Diamond and Ricardo D. Trimillos. During the review year, our office received 51 article submissions, 1 entry for the dialogs section, and 1 address. 3 articles, 1 dialog piece, and 1 address were accepted for publication, 9 articles were accepted with revision, 9 were rejected with an option to revise and resubmit, and 30 were rejected outright. Currently, we are making our initial, internal review of 1 article submission and 1 note. External readers are reviewing 6 articles and 1 note. 12 accepted articles are in various stages of revision by their authors or editing by our office, 3 are completed and ready to be sent to UIP, and 6 are in process at UIP. (Some of the pieces reviewed by our office or published in the *Journal* in 2007–2008 were submitted before the start of the reporting year.)

We continue to receive a substantial quantity of excellent submissions. With all of this fine work, the upcoming year promises to be a particularly good one for *JAF*. Though a health issue precluded us from attending the 2008 AFS conference, we are continuing to actively solicit new submissions for the *Journal* and encourage all folklorists to send their best work to *JAF*. We would like to thank Clydette Wantland and Heather Munson at the University of Illinois Press and Timothy Lloyd and Maria Teresa Agozzino at the American Folklore Society for their support. We would also like to express our appreciation to the following

units at Texas A&M University for the support that they have provided: the Department of English, the Department of Performance Studies, and the Melburn G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research.

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

Report of the Journal of American Folklore Book Review Editor

Between November 1, 2007 through October 31, 2008, we received approximately 130 books and 30 books were sent out for review. 25 complete reviews were submitted to the editors of the journal, and reviews of 16 books were published during this time frame. This report includes the transition of the book review editor duties from me to Carolyn Ware at Louisiana State University.

I would like to thank the *JAF* editors Harris M. Berger and Giovanna P. Del Negro, the Brigham Young University English department, and all of the reviewers with whom I have corresponded during the past few years. Communicating with folklore scholars and seeing current publications has been a highlight of this service. I will complete the review process of books that are currently out for review and with several books that I have on my shelves. If you have already initiated a review, continue to send correspondence to me at jill_rudy@byu.edu. Carolyn Ware will handle all new books received for review and new requests from the listing posted on the AFS website. Please contact her at cware1@lsu.edu. We will be in frequent communication during the transition, so contacting either of us will get you and your review to the right place.

The database of books available for review is now posted on the AFS website at <http://www.afsnet.org/publications/jafbooksforreview.cfm>. I thank Timothy Lloyd, Mabel Agozzino, and Jeff Borisch for their attention to the listings. A backlog of books written by folklorists and in need of review continues to exist; the book review editor will encourage prominent and active members of the field to contribute to the important scholarly task of evaluating research and contributions to knowledge through book reviews. If solicited to write a review, please consider every possibility to agree or be prepared to suggest the name of an even more qualified colleague; if interested in titles posted on the website or others of significant interest to the field, please contact the new editor.

Jill Terry Rudy
Brigham Young University

Report of the Journal of American Folklore Sound Recordings Review Editor

This year *JAF* continued its practice of publishing sound review essays, and added shorter reviews focused on single or small groups of thematically related discs. From September 1, 2006 to September 1, 2007, I received and submitted reviews for 11 CDs. Two more have been assigned to reviewers, and many more await distribution. I received four sound review essays, two of which have been edited and submitted for publication. Four more essays have

been solicited.

I encourage producers and distributors of CDs, music/oral tradition websites and radio documentaries to send material to me at the School of Music, Memorial University, St. John's NL Canada A1C 5S7; 709/737-7479; katiszego@mun.ca.

*C. Kati Szege
Memorial University of Newfoundland*

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

This year I have continued *JAF*'s practice of soliciting reviews of films produced by small and independent filmmakers, and I have also attempted to secure reviews of wide release films as well. For instance, one of the two film reviews published in 2008 thus far was an extensive film review essay on *Pan's Labyrinth* written by Jack Zipes.

There are currently two more reviews in the production queue, one of which is a review essay on six films about the Iraq War. In addition, six more films are in the process of being reviewed, and I have several queries out to potential reviewers. I ask that members who receive film review queries seriously consider writing a review, as it is difficult to offer a steady number of reviews without qualified folklorists who are willing to write them.

I encourage anyone interested in submitting a film for review or in reviewing a film for *JAF* to contact me at dtlawrence@stthomas.edu or 651/962-5625.

*David Todd Lawrence
University of St. Thomas*

Report of the Journal of American Folklore Exhibition and Event Review Editor

2008 was a good year for exhibition and event reviews. Since the last report, I received and submitted reviews of the following exhibitions: *Rhythm & Roots: Southern Music Traditions*, *Weavings of War*, *Fabrics of Memory*, *Key Ingredients: America by Food*, *Iowa Place-based Foods* (Website), *Quilts in Common* and *Nancy Crow: Cloth, Culture & Context*, *Work is Art and Art is Work: The Art of Hand-crafted Instruments*.

In the coming year I will continue to solicit reviews of exhibitions and events through Publore and directly from individual scholars. At this time I expect to receive three reviews in time for submission at the next *JAF* deadline in December, and I have another lined up for the spring deadline.

Since folklorists are constantly creating innovative and educational exhibitions and events, I would like to encourage everyone to consider writing a review of at least one of the many fine events or exhibitions that you attend. Please send them to me at: Florida Folklife Program, 500 S. Bronough Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250, 850-245-6333, tbucualas@dos.state.fl.us.

*Tina Bucuvalas
Florida Folklife Program*

Report of the AFS Committee on International Issues

The Committee has continued with the important work of developing and fostering international contacts, primarily through awarding international travel stipends; has started work on several initiatives begun last year, most importantly a Google Earth layer detailing the location and contact information for every folklore society or association in the world; and changed the composition of the committee as several members had finished their term of service. Timothy R. Tangherlini served for the second year of his three-year term.

This year, the committee said farewell to Lauri Harvilahti, John Lindow, and Mbugua wa-Mungai, whose hard work and dedication to the vision of the work of the committee has been instrumental in the success of our work. We welcome three new members to the committee to serve for initial three-year terms Maria Teresa Agozzino, Tok Thompson, and Peter Jan Margry. In addition, we thank continuing members, Merrill Kaplan, JoAnn Conrad, Lee Haring, and Mark Bender for their ongoing participation. Finally, Daniel Sheehy continues to serve as the liaison to the AFS board, and Dorothy Noyes continues on in her role as the liaison to the H-Folk advisory board.

This year the committee was able to support four foreign scholars with travel stipends to the AFS conference in Louisville. The committee made one award for an American member traveling to a foreign conference. We expect to make another award after our competition closes in December.

Our regular stipend winners were Fernando Fischman (Argentina); Sue Lewis, (Great Britain—withdraw); Hande Birkalan-Gedik (Turkey); and Yücel Demirer (Turkey). Also, Lalu Narayan (India) and Valerie Feschet (France) were extended a waiver for registration fees so that they could attend the conference. All of these recipients participated actively at the Louisville conference, and we expect to continue to cultivate our relations with these young and emerging scholars in the coming years.

Jens Lund was the recipient of our first award for an American scholar traveling abroad. Dr. Lund traveled to South Korea where he participated at the NAI Meeting in Sokcho, Republic of Korea (see Jens Lund's report, *AFSNems* 37:3 (Summer 2008), pp. 3-4).

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

In addition, the committee has continued its work to cooperate with folklore organizations abroad on the foundation of an international listserv for folklorists, H-Folk. Dorothy Noyes has been instrumental in the success of this enterprise. We thank Timothy Lloyd, Mabel Agozzino, and the Executive Board for their strong support of international matters.

*Timothy R. Tangherlini, Chair
University of California, Los Angeles*

Report of the AFS Nominating Committee

In the 2008 election balloting, the following Society members were elected to AFS office:

President-Elect:

C. Kurt Dewhurst, Michigan State University, East Lansing

Executive Board:

Amy Shuman, The Ohio State University, Columbus

Amy Skillman, Institute for Cultural Partnerships, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

William Westerman, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey

Nominating Committee:

Suzanne Seriff, University of Texas, Austin

My congratulations go to the newly elected officers, and my thanks go to all of the candidates for their willingness to serve the Society, and to the other members of the 2008 Nominating Committee (Solimar Otero, Guha Shankar, and Juwen Zhang) for their work to identify candidates and prepare a slate.

*Mario Montaña, Chair
Colorado College*

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

This year's meeting of the ACLS took place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on May 8-10, 2008 at the invitation of, and with partial subsidy from, VisitPittsburgh (the Greater Pittsburgh Convention and Visitors Bureau), which gave every indication of hoping to host an AFS meeting in the future. One new organization was admitted to constituent membership in the ACLS, the Rhetoric Society of America, an interdisciplinary body founded in 1968. The Board of Directors proposed a liberalizing revision of the policy statement on the admission of new constituent societies; this was adopted. Delegates to the meeting were urged to support the National Endowment for the Humanities. Budget for the fiscal year 2009 has reduced the NEH to below its level in 1994. Folklore has a long record of supporting and being supported by NEH, which needs our backing now more than ever. Further information can be found at <http://www.nhalliance.org>.

The Charles Homer Haskins lecturer this year, and recipient of the prize, was Theodor Meron. This distinguished jurist and academician is the former president of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. He is Charles L. Denison Professor of Law Emeritus and Judicial Fellow at New York University Law School—in other words, a person folklorists might not ordinarily meet. His address offered a moving and impressive combination of poignant reminiscence and lofty achievement. Meron's modesty did not conceal a record of formidable accomplishment in the cause of human rights.

Presentations by ACLS Fellows are always a stimulating part of the annual meeting program,

and this year was no exception. Tina Gianquitto, who teaches literature at the Colorado School of Mines, described her study of Charles Darwin's correspondence with American and British writers, demonstrating the unrecognized role that women observers of nature played in providing Darwin with field data. Historian Jonathan Levy is conducting a truly interdisciplinary study of risk in nineteenth-century America. He says of that period, "The ability to foresee, act upon, and be responsible for one's risks became thoroughly bound up with what it means to be, or become, a free person." The presentation closest to our work came from Louise Meintjes, an ethnomusicologist at Duke University, who is making a study of Zulu *ngoma* (song and dance). Her talk and video clips dramatized the extent to which people in today's world are calling up their traditional expressive forms, in this case as their means of dealing with the AIDS pandemic. They show how central aesthetic practice is to the production of political power.

Every year, the fellows chosen to speak at the annual meeting show themselves to be crossing disciplinary boundaries and setting the example for folklorists. This year, ACLS and its associated programs awarded 191 fellowships, valued at just over \$7.9 million, to faculty members from 44 institutions. About a third of these awards were in history, especially American and European. There were 1,037 eligible applicants. Again this year, ACLS is in very good financial shape. Because of the shrinking of university folklore programs, few folklorists apply for ACLS fellowships, yet their interdisciplinarity ought to be a recommendation in itself, even before a project proposal is written.

Anthropologist Donald Brenneis (University of California, Santa Cruz), was a featured speaker in a most interesting discussion titled "Learned Societies and the Future of Publishing: When Will the Internet Revolution Arrive?" The Harvard model, in which all scholarly journals are to be freely available through Internet access, and which poses a threat to journals whose survival depends on subscriptions, was discussed. Merely having a journal, one panelist said, is no assurance of quality control. Another remarked that the foremost synthesizer of scholarly materials is the anonymous Wikipedia, whereas in contrast, a scholarly journal lists the members of its editorial board. It was suggested that scholarly societies and libraries can and should take more responsibility for supervising digital publications in their fields. As an ethnographer of the behavior of ethnologists, Brenneis suggested that societies like ours can make clear their criteria of competence, for example evidence of scholarship; can produce materials to educate administrators about the nature of publication standards for their field; and can help journal editors think through how to fund the "non-frictionless" parts of producing their journal.

These ideas seem especially relevant to a threatened discipline like folklore. We may want to look at Project Bamboo, the "multi-institutional, interdisciplinary, and inter-organizational effort that brings together researchers in arts and humanities, computer scientists, information scientists, librarians, and campus information technologists to tackle the question "How can we advance arts and humanities research through the development of shared technology services?" (<http://projectbamboo.uchicago.edu/>). Tara McPherson, of the University of Southern California, pointed out that scholars like us will want to put musical examples on line, but are frustrated by the copyright problem. She suggested strongly that we make more use of the "fair use" provision of the law ("Use it or lose it," she said), and that we seek institutional support for exposing ourselves to lawsuits. Members of Congress should be asked to reduce the excessively long periods of copyright protection

now in force. Other points relevant to AFS included the small field journals within some societies (cf. the sections in AFS), ways of keeping annual meetings affordable to the increasing number of younger scholars, and the irrelevance of the “business model” to the need for keeping all articles on line. At the end of this discussion, I reflected that folklore needs computing (not just providers of content, but theoreticians of form and content) and computing needs folklore to open opportunities to rethink methodologies and the reach to a public.

*Lee Haring
Brooklyn College (Emeritus)*

Report of the AFS Delegate to the World Intellectual Property Organization

I attended the twelfth session of the World Intellectual Property Organization’s Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore at WIPO headquarters in Geneva in February 2008. This was my last session as AFS delegate. It may be that the biggest lesson I’ve learned from five years of participation in these meetings is that international deliberations seem to move at a pace that would leave a snail feeling speedy. But the pace has picked up, especially in the two last meetings I attended, and the twelfth session produced a document that should be of interest to many folklorists.

Over the years, the WIPO sessions have featured a great deal of discussion of certain recurring issues. Among them are the definition and characteristics of folklore, the question of whose interest is served at the nexus of intellectual policy regimes and community cultural expressions, the state of the art in legal and moral protections, the desirability—or lack thereof—of binding global agreements on the legal protection of traditional cultural expression, and the adequacy of existing measures and policies. Much of that discussion has seemed to me to repeat itself at every session. But last February, the assembled delegates requested that the WIPO Secretariat compile a gap analysis, as a way of getting at the issues and the state of the art.

More specifically, the assembly instructed the Secretariat to compile a document with five goals. “TCE’s” (or “traditional cultural expressions) by the way, is the term that has largely replaced “folklore” at WIPO, and it has also supplanted “EoF (“expressions of folklore”), which was also in vogue in Geneva for a time. Here is what the analysis attempts to do:

- (a) Describe what obligations, provisions and possibilities already exist at the international level to provide protection for TCEs,
- (b) Describe what gaps exist at the international level, illustrating those gaps, to the extent possible, with specific examples,
- (c) Set out considerations relevant to determining whether those gaps need to be addressed,
- (d) Describe what options exist or might be developed to address any identified gaps, including legal and other options, whether at the international, regional or national level,
- (e) Contain an annex with a matrix corresponding to the items mentioned in subparagraphs (a) to (d), above.

I recommend this document to anyone interested in the complicated cultural, legal, and moral issues at the heart of the WIPO efforts. I also commend WIPO for the many important resources it has put on line, and I would urge US folklorists to have a look at WIPO's Creative Heritage Project web pages (<http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/folklore/culturalheritage/index.html>), which contain a wealth of resources for research and teaching. Many folklorists will find the "Database of Existing Codes, Guidelines, and Practices" especially valuable (http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/folklore/creative_heritage/).

Sandy Rikoon will be representing the AFS at WIPO for the next few years, and I wish him all the best. Finally, I want to say that sitting in Geneva at these meetings has given me a glimpse of the global interest in, significance, and potential of what we do in our field. One of the ways to re-imagine our future is to broaden our participation in international ventures, and to speak as knowledgeably, forcefully, and ethically as we can on behalf of those communities and practices that so very clearly need us.

Burt Feintuch
University of New Hampshire

Report of the AFS Archival Liaison

This year we continued microfilming the collection to provide a preservation copy of the AFS Papers, and we processed incoming materials. As well, we began investigating the possibility of copying the microfilm collection to an Internet-searchable digital format.

Randy Williams
Utah State University