

OSU Center for Folklore Studies  
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# CENTER for FOLKLORE STUDIES

AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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## FOLKLINES

FALL QUARTER 2006

### From the Director

As you can see, we've put a new face on the OSU Center for Folklore Studies' newsletter: *Folklines*. We've not only changed its look, but our content is somewhat different. Our website at [www:<http://www.cfs.osu.edu>](http://www.cfs.osu.edu) now serves as the dissemination point for information about the Center and its activities, but we also like the idea of something more tangible as a way of telling you about the people whose research, teaching and service bring the Center to life.



Center for Folklore  
Studies 2006-07  
GA Sheila Bock.

After an excellent first 2005-06 year, working with Barbara Lloyd, Nancy Yan, Sheila Bock, and Justin Ling, we enthusiastically launch into our second year, continuing with Barbara and Sheila and adding Kirsi Haenninen as our archivist. We extend sincere gratitude to Nancy Yan, who has worked with the Center for three years, streamlining processes and helping to guide our work, and to Justin Ling, work-study student extraordinaire, whose time, talent, and great positive energy are deeply missed.



Center for Folklore  
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Archivist  
Kirsi Haenninen.

*Folklines* will now be published twice a year, during fall and spring quarters. Its purpose is to keep all of us informed about the activities of our colleagues and students: in this instance, to talk about what we did on our summer vacations. We're proud of the minds and hearts that bring vitality to the Center, Ohio State, and our discipline.

We feel very fortunate in our colleagues outside the Center as well as within it: the material and moral support of the College of Humanities and our affiliated departments and centers is gratefully recognized by all of us.

Best wishes,  
**Dorothy Noyes**

Along with our two new folklore hires, we welcome to campus **Adéléké Adéèkó**, Professor of English and of African American and African Studies. Adéèkó studies African meta-proverbs and African praise poetry, specifically Yorùbá oríkì. His current work on the latter topic examines the relation of oral praise poetry to contemporary "praise photography" in southwestern Nigeria.

**Yiorgos Anagnostou** completed his book manuscript "Contours of 'White Ethnicity': Popular Ethnography and the Making of Usable Pasts in Greek America," which has just been accepted for publication by Ohio University Press. He was interviewed for the documentary *Violent August*, a historical film that documents the WWI anti-Greek riot in Toronto (the documentary was produced by the *Programme* in Hellenic Studies at York University, the Canadian Hellenic Historical Society, Bright Lights Film Productions, and the OMNI Television Network, Toronto, Canada).

**Sheila Bock:** In June, Sheila assisted Sabra Webber in the Ohio Humanities Council Teachers' Institute, June 19-24, "Arab American Family Immigration Sagas." Read more about this under Sabra Webber's entry. Sheila and recent folklore MA Ashley Overstreet spent the summer doing fieldwork on Ohio foodways for the American Folklore Society and the Ohio Humanities Council. The information they gathered will become part

of a booklet on Ohio food traditions that will be distributed at the sites of *Key Ingredients*, a Smithsonian Institution touring exhibition on American foodways. During the academic year, Sheila will be taking oral histories with elders associated with the American Indian Education Center in Cleveland for the NEC's Oral History Project.

**Katey Borland:** This summer Katey conducted preliminary fieldwork for the New Jersey Salsa Project. She met and took classes with seventeen notable salseros, spoke with countless aficionados, and organized a roundtable discussion on the current state of salsa dancing in Northern New Jersey, which will inform future research. She also visited Masaya, Nicaragua for the 22nd annual India Bonita Contest of Monimbo, where Katey was awarded a diploma of recognition by the Community of Monimbo for her work supporting the collection, preservation, and publication of indigenous traditions. This fall, Katey along with her colleague Karen Goodell will escort a group of fifteen students to Rio San Juan, Nicaragua, where they will study the conservation of cultural and biodiversity. Students will participate in a grassroots service project making improvements to a primary school Papaturo, one of eight small communities in the Los Guatuzos Wildlife Refuge; and will study the proposed Ecotourism Corridor along the San Juan River in the Southeastern Nicaragua and constructing a library for Papaturo, a community within the Los Guatuzos biosphere reserve.

**Jason Bush** was awarded a FLAS Fellowship, Tinker Travel Grant, and College of the Arts International Travel Grant for his summer research adventures in Peru. He spent the summer studying Quechua in Cuzco as well as travelling around the Andes preparing for future dissertation research on indigenous folk performance and its relationship to articulations of regional and national identities in Peru. He also has a paper being published on playwright Suzan-Lori Parks in the upcoming book *The Suzan-Lori Parks Casebook* published by Routledge.

**Ray Cashman:** After moving to Columbus, Ray Cashman conducted fieldwork in Northern Ireland and presented research at the "Orality and Literacy" conference at the National University of Ireland, Galway. He also sent out for review a book manuscript entitled "Characters and Community: Storytelling on the Irish Border," published an article on Irish wakes in *New Hibernia Review*, published in *Museum Anthropology* a review of a Kuna textile exhibit, and had an article on the relationship between genre and ideology accepted at *Midwestern Folklore*. (He is pooped.)

**Dan Collins** co-edited (along with Miroslav Jokovic, Predrag Matejic, and M.A. Johnson) *Love of Learning and Devotion to God in Orthodox Monasteries: Selected Proceedings of the 5th*

**Collins Cont.:** *International Hilandar Conference*, vol. 1 (Belgrade/Columbus, 2006); authored "Speech Reporting and the Suppression of Orality in Seventeenth-Century Russian Trial Dossiers," *Journal of Historical Pragmatics* 7:1 (2006): 265-292; and "Mixed Blessings: From Benediction to Command in Medieval Slavia Orthodoxa." He currently is working on an article on the myth of language loss in the medieval Legend of Salonica and another on delocutivization and pragmatic metonymy in semantic shifts. His long-term project is a monograph on monstrosity and evil in Slavic folk beliefs.

**Kate Dean-Haidet** spent three weeks traveling in China and Japan. In China she was part of a 10-person delegation to Columbus' sister city Hefei in Anhui Province, where their time was divided between clinical rotations in the TCM hospital and lectures at the TCM medical school. Content included the theory and practice of acupuncture, moxibustion, herbal pharmacy, *tuina* massage, cupping and manipulation. (They experienced each of these treatments personally also and a knee injury Kate had from yoga cleared up while there!) Despite all of this time with practitioners and theorists, she's still unsure of the definition of Qi! She also traveled to Kyoto, Japan, where she met with Dr. Carl Becker, chair of a comparative studies department at Kyoto University. There she attended a class on research methods and connected with students who have various diverse interests in healing and dying. She toured the Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines most of the week, visiting the haunts of rival Buddhist monks Kukai and Saicho, as well as walking through Zen gardens and bamboo forests, and taking in the last geisha house in Gion—all the while drinking copious amounts of green tea!

**Ann Ferrell** was invited to speak on a panel showcasing past and current projects on Kentucky tobacco farming at the 30th Anniversary conference of the Kentucky Oral History Commission in Louisville, September 8-9. It was an excellent venue for talking about her fieldwork toward her dissertation on the changes taking place in Kentucky tobacco farming communities. She has a media review coming out in the next issue of *Oral History Review* of "Born and Raised in Tobacco Fields: Portrait of a Changing American Landscape," an oral history-based CD by Talking Across the Lines, LLC.

**Sande Garner** was able to spend a month in Mexico this summer traveling and living with members of an Aztec dance group. Participation in Aztec dance is a growing phenomenon in both Mexico and the US, indicative of a reclamation and revitalization of Indigenous spiritual practices. She was able to attend one dance in Los Remedios that is part of a five-location annual pilgrimage to the four directions and the center. For the dancers this is part of a conscious movement to re-conquer sacred sites that were colonized by the Spanish. She also traveled to Queretaro, considered the birthplace of Aztec dance, for a large four-day ceremony. There were over 10,000 dancers that took part and over one million spectators for this ritual, which included a five-mile processional of dancers throughout the city, concluding with a dance through the main church. Sande will be talking about the trip at the FSA meeting on November 5th. Come enjoy the pictures!

**Kirsi Haenninen** spent her summer back home, in Finland. She finalized her PhD course work in the folklore studies in the University of Turku and started the archiving of her research material, the first-person narratives about supernatural experiences. She also traveled in Europe, worked on her parents' farm, and enjoyed the midnight sun and sauna by the lake.

**Merrill Kaplan** traced the route of the Vikings in reverse, leaving the east coast of North America for Iceland, Northumbria, and Norway. After two weeks of library research in Reykjavik at the Árni Magnússon Institute, she continued to Durham and York for the International Saga Conference. She paid respects to the Venerable Bede (patron of scholars everywhere) and trod the sand of Lindisfarne (site of the 793 raid that opened the Viking Age), and also delivered a paper involving Thor and oral tradition among the trolls. She took the whale-road from Newcastle to western Norway and the island of Karmøy. There she saw Avaldsnes, the landscape where several narratives treated in her dissertation are set. After meeting with Marit Synnøve Veia, the head of the Avaldsnes Prosjekt, and seeing the Project's current excavations and interpretive visitors' center, she flew to Oslo for the International Ibsen Conference, where she presented a paper on the Icelandic translation of *The Vikings at Helgeland*, soon to be published in Modern Drama. She ended her journey in the city called Columbus, which, given the context, is perhaps ironic.

**Valerie Lee** continues as chair of the Department of English and celebrates the publication of her most recent book, *The Prentice Hall Anthology of African American Women's Literature* (Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2005).

**Barbara Lloyd** was a consultant and guest lecturer for the Ohio Humanities Council Teachers' Institute "Arab American Family Immigration Sagas," directed by Sabra Webber. She designed the database for the collaborative OHC Key Ingredients project, served on the Ohio Folk Arts Network panel, worked on designing a forthcoming Folk Ohio website, assembled the Folklore Center's activities and events booklet, and generally kept the home fires burning.

**Margaret Mills** prepared the final draft of a paper for the *Journal of Folklore Research*, entitled "What(s) Theory?" for a special issue on "Grand Theory and Folklore." She submitted to the *National Women's Studies Association Journal* Special Issue on Feminism, Peace and War, with co-author Sally Kitch, a conference review of *Afghan Women Leaders Speak*, an OSU Mershon Center conference held in November, 2005. At the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists, Margaret participated in a pre-conference symposium, "Ethnographic Archives, Communities of Origin, and Intangible Cultural Heritage," held at the National Museum of the American Indian, and, sharing the stage with Ken Bilby who has done long-term research with Caribbean Maroon populations, delivered a Botkin Memorial lecture/discussion at the LOC, entitled "The Same River: Dilemmas and Challenges of Long-term Research in Conflict Zones and Failing States." She worked on a manuscript on everyday ethical speech in post-Soviet Tajikistan. Apart from that, she repaired boats, painted her house, started singing in a choir, and still plans to enhance her knowledge and skills in basic wiring and plumbing in anticipation of looming projects.

**Pat Mullen** conducted research on vernacular music for much of the summer. Highlights were the Columbus Jazz Orchestra R&B Concert at the Southern Theater in June; Alan Jabbour, Judy Sacks, and Howard Sacks old-time string band at Sabra Webber's Summer Institute for Teachers also in June; and the same week L.A. rock guitarist David Lindley at Little Brothers and various rock bands at Comfest. Unfortunately, he got there too late to hear the latest from his favorite local band, Five Guys Named Moe. In July, the fieldwork shifted to the Texas Gulf Coast and country music on his brother's MP3 player. August included a field trip to a bar in Orleans, Massachusetts, where the music was amazingly like that in bars in Columbus. Finally a trip to Marblehead Peninsula on Lake Erie yielded little musically.

**Dorry Noyes**, in her scant intervals of rest from saving the world for folklore (a.k.a. doing email), took a couple of trips this summer. In London she consulted on the exhibition "Midnight Robbers: The Artists of Notting Hill Carnival," co-curated by OSU Theatre Professor **Lesley Ferris**, which will open at London's new City Hall space on the Thames in September 2007. At the same time she participated in a panel discussion at the British Academy, organized by Ruth Finnegan, on "Participating in the Knowledge Society" and slipped off to Germany amid British football fans to give a keynote address at the Göttingen conference "Prädikat 'Heritage': Wertschöpfungen aus kultureller Ressourcen." Later in the summer she went to Cluj, Romania to teach for a second year at an Open Society Institute seminar for young scholars on religious pluralism and fundamentalism; she also visited the Finnish-inspired Folklore Archive of Transylvania.

In the Summer 2006 issue of the *Journal of American Folklore*, just arrived in our mailboxes, you will see two fine articles by **Kristin Peterson-Bidoshi** and **Eric Ball**. Both are OSU PhDs, Kristin from Slavic Languages and Literatures, Eric from Greek and Latin. Congratulations to Kristin (now Assistant Professor of Russian at Union College), Eric (now Assistant Professor of Cultural Studies at Empire State College-SUNY), and their former professors Sabra Webber, Pat Mullen, Amy Shuman, Yiorgos Anagnostou, and others.

**Dan Prior** won an NEH Fellowship for his project "Holy War, Tribal War, and Raiding in Kirghiz Culture, 1846-1916."

**Eric Shepherd** was awarded an OSU Presidential Fellowship for his dissertation project on his apprenticeship as a performer of Shandong fast tales, "Building Performances: Constructing a Pedagogy of Culture from Storytelling Traditions."

**Amy Shuman** presented a paper on her political asylum research with co-author Carol Bohmer (Dartmouth College) at the International Society of Political Psychology in Barcelona in July. From Barcelona, she traveled to Holland, Israel, and Italy. Carol and Amy's book manuscript, "Political Asylum in the 21st Century: Searching for Safe Havens" has been accepted for publication by Routledge. Amy's book *Storytelling Rights: the uses of oral and written texts by urban adolescents* has been reissued in paperback by Cambridge University Press. She published an article, "Entitlement and Empathy in Personal Narrative," in *Narrative Inquiry*: Vol. 16: 1, 2006.

**Sabra Webber** directed an Ohio Humanities Council Teachers' Institute, June 19-24, "Arab American Family Immigration Sagas," that was comprised of 15 Ohio educators and OSU graduate students. The purpose of the institute was to open up a dialogue to assist concerned teachers and future teachers in understanding the challenges their new (or newly noticed) student populations face and in teaching more effectively about the Arab world to non-Arab students. It also aimed to help teachers find ways to involve Arab and Muslim students as well as elders, friends or neighbors in that dialogue, especially through field research and simple, "folk" video technology. The institute especially considered loci where cultures collide and the kinds of interventions writers and filmmakers make at those times through different media of self-representation.