

Archives News



The Center for Folklore Studies Archives at the Ohio Union Suite 218 of the Ohio Stadium

Winter 2011

Welcome back, everybody!

Although the weather this time of year makes us all a little sluggish in mind and body, the CFS Archives is as active as ever! We were able to obtain a new computer, a 2TB external hard drive, and Sound Forge (a digital audio editing suite) for the new music carrel that will be used as a listening station in the Archives. This station will allow patrons to hear digital versions of the Utley Record Collection and other field recordings held in the archives. Chris Burney, our music specialist, is working hard on this project.

Cassie is continuing her work on the OSU Student Ethnographic Projects Collection. Together with Emma Carpenter (one of the CFS work-study students), Wes Merkes (the FSA undergraduate co-chair), and Becky Richey (a folklore student volunteer), Cassie has organized all of the student projects by year and teacher and has ensured that each file contains an archival database sheet. Input of collection data into the searchable [FolkOhio](#) database will be an ongoing project throughout the rest of the year, so everyone can look forward to an increase in search results!

We had a number of patrons last quarter, including researchers Josh Hunt and Joshua Simpkins. Josh Hunt made his way to the Archives after reading *Aliens, Ghosts, and Cults: Legends We Live* (2003), a book by OSU folklore alum Bill Ellis, which referenced several of our holdings. Hunt is conducting research on the Gore Orphanage legend, a topic about which many undergraduate folklore students have written. Joshua Simpkins is from Marion, Ohio, and recently signed a book deal with The History Press to write about legends and ghost stories that either originated in or are about Marion. The book will be part of their "Haunted America" series. Joshua also has personal ties to the Archives as he worked for Amy Shuman in the Denney basement during the late '90s—a time, he says, when they catalogued with an old DOS program.

We were also able to serve Wendy Coons, a former student of Linda Oxley, who was happy to hear that her report titled “Small Town Family Owned Businesses- What Roles Do They Play?” was safe and sound in our archives. She emailed us after we sent her a copy and she had this to say: “Thanks so much for finding my research paper from the 1980s! How wonderful that OSU has a folklore archives and my family history paper is there. I am so excited to be able to locate this information!”

The Folklore Student Association has also made use of our facilities by holding their Ethnography Workshop Series (a student-only event) in the main room of the Archives. Three doctoral students who have recently returned from conducting international fieldwork are leading conversations about their experiences abroad. The Archives was brimming with life and discussion when Tim Thurston kicked off the series with an impressive presentation about doing fieldwork in “sensitive” locales. He posed a number of politically charged situations for students to think about and discuss. Future presenters include Levi Gibbs on the intersection of Chinese and American research practices, and Liz Bell on establishing rapport and the politics of reciprocity in Guatemala.

Warm wishes during these cold days,

The CFS Archives Team

Autumn 2010 Open Archives Hours: Fridays from 9 am to 2pm, and by appointment

Archives Personnel: Archivist, Cassie Patterson (Patterson.493@buckeyemail.osu.edu), Archivist Assistant, Chris Burney (burney.5@buckeyemail.osu.edu)

How to get to the Archives: Walk to the east side of the Ohio Stadium and go through entrance #19 (between entrance #20-#18). Either take the stairs or the elevator to the second floor and the Center for Folklore Studies Archive is the first door on your right in the hall.