

Kudos to OSU Folklorists

To our own **Maria Teresa Agozzino**, soon alas no longer to be our own but Assistant Professor in the Department of Folklore and Anthropology at Western Kentucky University. Prior to taking up this position she'll be leaving us to work on the Smithsonian Folklore Festival's 2009 Welsh project. We hope she'll be visiting us often.

For a dissertation converted to a book in record time: **Mickey Weems**, *The Fierce Tribe: Masculine Identity and Performance in the Circuit*. Logan: Utah State University Press, 2008. <http://www.usu.edu/usupress/books/index.cfm?isbn=6912>

To the prolific Prof. **Ray Cashman** for his "Visions of Irish Nationalism." *Journal of Folklore Research* 45/3:361-381. And for "Storytelling and the Construction of Local Identities on the Irish Border." *Anáil an Bhéil Beho: Orality and Modern Irish Culture*. Ed. Nessa Cronin, Seán Crosson, and John Eastlake. Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing. 2009. 115-125.

<http://www.c-s-p.org/Flyers/Anail-an-Bheil-Bheo--Orality-and-Modern-Irish-Culture1-4438-0152-6.htm>

To **John Moe** for a Norwegian Marshall Scholar Grant for 2008-2009 to support research on Norwegian emigration and translations of "letters home" from the collection of the Norsk Utvandremuseum.

To **Elo-Hanna Seljamaa** for winning a Dr. Gordon P.K. Chu Memorial Scholarship, which will help to defray her expenses for summer fieldwork on interethnic relations and urban iconography in Tallinn, Estonia.

Metro School to offer Folklore Course

Folklorist Martha Sims will be teaching an Introduction to Folklore course at Columbus, Ohio's recently established Metro High School. The school is a small, intellectually vibrant public school option open to 9th through 12th graders in Franklin County who are focused on pursuing a college career.

The English 270: Introduction to Folklore course will introduce students to basic concepts of folklore and methods for studying and interpreting folklore (past and present). Students will examine verbal, behavioral, and material expressions of cultures and communities, looking at how folklore is created, re-invented, and made meaningful within particular folk groups. Those groups may be recognizable to "outsiders" in some way-such as occupational, religious, or ethnic groups-or they may be groups whose borders are less visible to outsiders. The course will take a special look at folk art and material culture, including exploring the work and cultural context of several Ohio folk artists (again, past and present).

Presidential Fellowship

Kudos to Jason Bush, who has just gotten back from fieldwork in Peru to learn of his Presidential Fellowship! Jason is working with Katey Borland and Lesley Ferris; he follows on other folklore students including Eric Shepherd and Terry Schoone-Jongen in winning this honor from the university.

And Terry's dissertation, by the way, has just been published: *The Dutch-American Identity: Staging Memory and Ethnicity in Community Celebrations*, from Cambria Press.

The Department of African American and African Studies Community Extension Center, College of Arts and Humanities Diversity Committee, Project Narrative, Center for Folklore Studies, Department of English, Department of Comparative Studies, and Literacy Studies presents

Sugar

Friday, March 13, 7-9:00 pm

Department of African American and African Studies Community Extension Center, 905 Mount Vernon Avenue.

Robbie McCauley's *Sugar* brings together storytelling, social commentary, and interactive dialogue on the subject of diabetes and health care disparities. She plays sugar as a metaphor and a reality related to race, class, gender, and health. Both poignant and humorous, the performance reflects her work in residence at The Ohio State University and with local Columbus groups active in the education and care for individuals and families with diabetes. Her stories target how the body both holds memory and is a source of transformation. "Not a scientist," says Ms. McCauley, "I am more interested in questions of truth, love and beauty. How might we transform the seduction and decay of sugar in this life, and still have some sweetness?"

Brown-bag Lunch Discussion on Participatory Theater, Storytelling, and Social action

Friday, March 13, noon-1:30 pm

311 Denney Hall, 164 W. 17th Avenue

Robbie McCauley will lead a brown-bag lunch discussion on participatory theater, storytelling, and social action. If you would like to become more familiar with Ms. McCauley's work prior to this discussion, suggested readings include:

McCauley, Robbie. "Thoughts About My Career, The Other Weapon, and Other Projects." *Performance and Cultural Politics*. Elin Diamond, ed. London; New York: Routledge, 1996, pp. 267-285.

Cieri and Robbie McCauley. "Participatory Theatre: Creating a Source for Staging an Example in the USA." *Participatory Action Research Approaches and Methods - Connecting People, Participation and Place*. Sara Louise Kindon, ed. London; New York: Routledge, 2007, pp. 141-149.

Contact Sheila Bock at 614-203-1256 or bock.42@osu.edu for copies of these readings and to RSVP.

Robbie McCauley is Professor of Performing Arts Department at Emerson College in Boston. She is an OBIE Award playwright for *Sally's Rape*, and a nationally recognized performance artist and director. Directing credits include the premier of Daniel Alexander Jones' *BEL CANTO* co-produced with The Theater Offensive and Wheelock Family Theater, which she also directed at the 2000 Sundance Theater Lab; and Kamal Sinclair Steele's *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome* at the New Federal Theater in New York City. Her recent acting credits include *Circle of Time* by Shirley Timmerck at Boston's Lyric Theater. She is widely anthologized including *Extreme Exposure* by Jo Bonney, ed. and *Moon Marked and Touched by Sun*, Sydne Mahone, ed.. Her performance of *Sugar* is the center of an extended community residency at The Ohio State University in 2006.

Congratulations Amy!

Amy Shuman has been elected to the Executive Board of the American Folklore Society, where she will serve a three-year term, 2009-2011. Congratulations to Amy, who will represent us well!

2008-2009 Collaborative Conference

We are happy to announce the 2008-2009 collaborative conference, "[Public and Private](#)," March 27-28, 2009, Produced by the Indiana University Folklore & Ethnomusicology Student Associations and The Ohio State University Folklore Student Association. This conference aims to create a space for graduate and undergraduate students to share their research in folklore, ethnomusicology, cultural studies, material culture, performance studies, and related disciplines, as it relates to the study of academic and vernacular interpretation of everyday life.

Community Health and Vernacular Health Systems Panel

During July 2008 the American Folklore Society will be convening a group of folklorists with extensive experience in health care policy to prepare a set of case studies demonstrating the ways in which folklorists can make unique and important contributions to the creation, implementation, and evaluation of public policy in the health care fields.

Interested students, faculty, and others are welcome to attend a panel discussion that will be held:

Monday, July 21, 2008

3:30 - 4:30pm

Room 165 Davis Heart & Lung Research Institute

473 W. 12th Ave

David Hufford, recently retired from the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, will lead the group; its members will be **Erika Brady** of Western Kentucky University, **Mariana Chilton** of the Drexel University School of Public Health, **Diane Goldstein** of the Folklore Department of the Memorial University of Newfoundland, **Michael Owen Jones** of the UCLA Folklore Program, and **Bonnie O'Connor** of the Brown University Medical School Department of Pediatrics.

While here, the group will make a presentation at the OSU medical school on folklore and community health. We've attached a PDF of the [announcement of this event](#) [PDF], and we hope to see you there.

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