

Read about **Daria Safronova's** wandering path to Alaska--following in the footsteps of the "holy fools" she studies--in #28 and #29 of the Hilandar Research Library's newsletter: <http://cmrs.osu.edu/rcmss/newsletter.html>. Daria will be returning to Alaska in the fall to teach Russian at the Orthodox seminary on Kodiak Island and to conduct fieldwork for her dissertation on Orthodox discourse among Russian and Native populations in the region.

Congratulations to **Kirsi Hänninen**, who has just been awarded a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at her alma mater, the Department of Folkloristics at the University of Turku! Kirsi will continue to study the supernatural in Finland and pursue a project on extraterrestrial utopias.

**Joanna Spanos** presented "Pardon or Punish? Consequences of Clemency and Infanticide in 19th-Century Pennsylvania" in a panel on maternity and the law at the Fifteenth Berkshire Conference on the History of Women in June.

### **End-of-year kudos from Dorry Noyes:**

Dear all,

There's a remaining roster of congratulations before we all disperse for the summer:

**Ben Gatling** is one of only three humanities students to have won a Presidential Fellowship in the Grad School's spring competition. He returns from fieldwork in Tajikistan this fall to complete his dissertation on the place of oral poetry in Islamic schooling. We congratulate him and his adviser, Margaret Mills, for managing to convince the university's most hard-boiled committee of the value of ethnographic fieldwork.

**Rob Vanscoyoc** has won our own Mullen Prize for the year's best graduate paper in folklore studies. Rob's paper, "America's First Professional Author (and Folklorist?): Ambivalence and the Politics of Folklore in Washington Irving's *Sketch-Book*" traces Irving's exposure to romantic constructions of national legendry during his European tour and shows how Irving injects a welcome dose of irony into his reworking of the project. Congratulations to Rob on completing his MA: we hope to see him back again.

The Mullen Prize committee's general reaction to the submissions was gratitude for the variety and intensity of gifts in our current cohort of graduate students. Ohio State is going to be very proud to give its name to your degrees.

**Dr. Jason Bush** has successfully defended his dissertation on the Peruvian scissoring dance in the Department of Theatre. Not many of us do fieldwork spanning both Quechua villages and Dollywood!

**Cassie Patterson, Yi-Fan Pai, and Levi Gibbs** have just passed their oral comprehensive exams, along with the earlier-celebrated **Tim Thurston** and **Leila ben-Nasr**. Pai, Levi, and Tim are all on their way to China for fieldwork and we wish them well; Cassie and Leila will be conducting their research in Columbus in bars and libraries respectively. (With perhaps occasional role reversal.)

I must just add that Cassie offered the most memorable riposte I've ever heard in a PhD exam, and one that goes to the heart of our discipline. All of us were pushing her to talk about how Appalachia might be "good to think with," irrespective of a relationship to Appalachian realities. Cassie invoked Kant's categorical imperative, saying that the Appalachian people are not a means to an end but an end in themselves. So much for the folk as an ideological fiction.

Finally, **Matt Spanos** revealed an entirely unexpected grasp of Ray Cashman's psychology, thereby winning the prestigious Amy E. Shuman Joke Prize. I won't send the joke over email.

I will, however, thank Lorraine and Ray for another superb party and thank all of you, faculty, students, friends, and staff--especially staff--for your enthusiasm and hard work this year. Rest well and play well this summer.

Dorry

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Big congratulations to the [American Folklore Society](#) (housed on OSU's campus) on receiving a two-year \$257,819 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support the first phase of the [National Folklore Archives Initiative](#) and a two-year \$70,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support a continuing program of support for consultancies and professional development opportunities for public folklorists!

Congratulations to **Kate Parker**, who won a 2011 [GATA teaching award](#).

Hearty congratulations to **Ann Ferrell** (PhD, OSU English 2009) who recently was offered and accepted the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Folk Studies and Anthropology at Western Kentucky University!

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, **Sabra Webber** will participate in a [symposium panel](#) on the issues surrounding the recent uprisings in the Middle East including Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain, and Libya.

On **Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**, at 4:30 in the Ohio Union, CFS is pleased to sponsor [Gearoid O'Crualaoich's keynote address](#), "Talking Among the Manuscripts: Aspects of the Relationship of Folklore and Celtic Studies," as part of the [CSANA annual meeting](#).

The eminent **Professor Kaplan** offers [her views on Kenneth Branagh's 3-D Thor](#), which premiered over the weekend.

Congratulations to **Katey Borland** for winning support from the Mershon Center for her conference next fall, entitled "Good Works in Central America: A Conference Interrogating North American Voluntary Service." Put October 6th-8th on your calendars!

Congratulations to **Leila Ben-Nasr**, who passed her comprehensive exams and has advanced to candidacy in her doctoral program!

Congratulations to **Meagan Winkelman**, who won Best Undergraduate Paper at the IU-OSU Joint Student Conference in Folklore and Ethnomusicology for her stellar presentation of "McMeaning in the Maw of the Masses"!

Check out the Spring issue of *¿Que Pasa, OSU?* to see a [profile article](#) on featured folklore student **Cassie Patterson**.

The submission deadline for the [Patrick B. Mullen graduate student paper prize](#) is **May 1<sup>st</sup>**.

On April 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> at the Ohio Union, CFS will co-sponsor the symposium "[Religious Crossings in Literature, Art, and Practice](#)." Among the featured speakers is **David Delgado Shorter** (UCLA), winner of the 2010 Chicago Folklore Prize.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, **Professor Amy Shuman** will present "Discourses of Innocence and Suspicion: Political Asylum, Gender and States of Emergency" as part of a [Women's Studies symposium](#).

At a [Literacy Studies seminar](#) on April 15, **Cassie Patterson** will present her research on Appalachian educator Leonard Roberts' use of traditional Appalachian "Jack Tale" stories to build writing confidence in his dialect-conscious students.

OSU Folklore will be well represented the [70<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Western States Folklore Society](#) at the University of Southern California, April 14th-17th: **CFS Associate Director Barbara Lloyd** will present "The Pace of Knowledge," **Professor Merrill Kaplan** will present "Curating Folklore Online: An Etymological Excursus," and **Professor Amy Shuman** will present "Mourning the Lost Everyday: Political Asylum and the Politics of Loss."

CFS congratulates the **Folklore Student Association** on their successful 4<sup>th</sup> Annual joint conference with Indiana University, "[Mediating Culture: Experience, Harmony, and Discord](#)." Ohio State was well represented through student presenters, faculty discussants, and the FSA conference planning committee.

**Kate Parker** presented her research at a multidisciplinary panel on "Methodology and Narratives" sponsored by LiteracyStudies@OSU on March 11th.

Congratulations to Folklore PhD candidate **Joanna Spanos**, who has won a competitive Ray Travel Award from the Council of Graduate Students. She will be participating in the prestigious Berkshire Conference on the History of Women in June.

On March 12, Folklore PhD student and CFS Archivist **Cassie Patterson** will present "Reviewing and Considering Critical Integrations of Culture in the Appalachian Classroom," at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Appalachian Studies Conference in Richmond, Kentucky.

Congratulations to recent Folklore PhD **Sheila Bock**, who just accepted an offer for a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Multidisciplinary Studies in the Interdisciplinary Studies Program in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas!

Congratulations to **Professor Mark Bender**, who recently gave the 25th Albert Lord and Milman Parry Lecture at the University of Missouri. The talk, sponsored by the Center for Studies in Oral Tradition, was titled "[Butterflies and Dragon-Eagles: Processing Epics from Southwest China.](#)"

CFS, along with Digital Media Studies, will welcome **Iana Gershon** on **March 3**, for her lecture "[And Then She Texted 'its over': Breakup Narratives and New Media.](#)"

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, **CFS will host a workshop** supported by the Teagle Foundation, featuring the American Folklore Society's Working Group on Lay and Expert Knowledge: [Community Knowledges in the Folklore Classroom.](#)

CFS is pleased to announce our upcoming lecture by **Professor Joseph Sciorra**, "[The Italian-American Imaginarium in the Digital Era.](#)" to be held in Denney 311 on Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, from 3:30-5:30pm.

The **Folklore Student Association** has extended the Call for Papers for their [annual joint conference](#) with Indiana University to January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Stop by 202 Thompson Library for this week's [ReadAloud](#) from 3-4 p.m. Thursday (1/20) and listen as **Margaret Mills**, from the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Cultures, presents Afghan stories and folk tales.

OSU Humanities Distinguished Professor of English **Richard Firth Green** will give the [CFS Dinner Lecture](#) on Wednesday, January 19; his talk will be "From Sir Eglamour to Old Bangum: the Travels of a Ballad Hero."

Congratulations to **Lauren Welker** on her MA in Slavic and East European Studies, with concentrations in Rural Sociology and Folklore Studies! Lauren's thesis is on "Rural Inequality in the Republic of Karelia: Considering Nonfarm Communities in Russian Rural Studies."

Congratulations to folklorist **Dr. Sheila Bock**, who graduated with her PhD on December 12, 2010!

Congratulations to CFS grad assistant **Kate Parker**, who passed her qualifying exams on Tuesday, December 7th and is now ABD!

Congratulations to **Amy Horowitz**, whose [Mediterranean Israeli Music and the Politics of the Aesthetic](#) won Honorable Mention in the Social Science, Anthropology, and Folklore category of the 2010 Jordan Schnitzer Book Awards of the Association for Jewish Studies!

**Ray Cashman** presented "Mystery and Mastery in Supernatural Legend and Myth" at the Hoosier Folklore Society Conference in Terre Haute.

**Elo-Hanna Seljaama** presented "The Legacy of Past Flows: Soviet Era Immigrants in Contemporary Estonia" at the American Anthropological Association's Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

**Amy Shuman** presented "The Unsayable, the Oversaid, and Impossible Innocence in the Political Asylum Process," the Annual Alan Dundes Lecture at the University of California, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.

On November 9th **Sheila Bock** defended her dissertation, "'A Little Sugar': Interactions Between Professional and Lay Understandings in Diabetes Education." Now she is Dr. Bock! Congratulations to Sheila, who as a teacher and colleague has given so much to OSU's folklore community.

On Friday, November 19th, CFS welcomed **Michael Dylan Foster** to campus for a [lecture on Japanese legends of modernity](#).

**Dorothy Noyes** will spend 2011-2012 in Germany as an invited fellow of the Lichtenberg-Kolleg, Georg-August Universität, Göttingen.

PhD student **Kate Parker** has published "[Legends at Work, Post-Katrina](#)." *Harlot: A Revealing Look at the Arts of Persuasion* No. 5 (October 2010).

CFS is delighted to announce that in September 2011 **Katey Borland** will be moving from the Newark campus, where she is currently Assistant Dean and Associate Professor, to a fulltime position on the main Columbus campus as Associate Professor of Comparative Studies, with special responsibilities for the undergraduate folklore major. Katey has already worked closely with many of our grad students: now she will be teaching graduate courses, expanding our undergraduate course offerings, and developing her innovative study-abroad programs in Nicaragua and Brazil.

**Amy Shuman** and Wendy Hesford will serve as the conveners of a new Human Rights Working Group. OSU's Humanities Institute has committed to fund the group for two years, starting Spring 2011. Faculty interested in joining the group and presenting work at upcoming symposia should contact [hesford.1@osu.edu](mailto:hesford.1@osu.edu).

Congratulations to **Sheila Bock** for winning the American Folklore Society's 2010 Zora Neale Hurston Prize, and to Ziyong You for winning the AFS Storytelling Section's Daniel Crowley Memorial Research Award.

CFS has published the proceedings of our conference Culture Archives and the State: Between Nationalism, Socialism, and the Global Market online with the [OSU Knowledge Bank](#). International case studies and a keynote address by Regina Bendix!

**Ray Cashman** and **Margaret Mills** were featured authors at the September 2010 Fall for the Book Festival in Washington D.C.

The **CFS Archives** is now open Fall Quarter on Thursdays, 11:30 am-1:30 pm, and on Fridays, 11:30 am-5:30 pm, or during the academic year by appointment.

The **Folklore Student Association** is pleased to announce the fourth-annual OSU/IU joint student conference in Folklore and Ethnomusicology, which will take place in Bloomington, on March 25-26.

**Exciting News about the Patrick B. Mullen Endowment Fund!**

We are thrilled to be able to announce that the [Patrick B. Mullen Fund](#) to support the intellectual and professional development of folklore graduate students is now fully endowed, well ahead of schedule, at the once-terrifying sum of \$50,000. This ensures that the fund will be maintained for folklore and allows us to begin to accumulate interest from it. (To be sure, we will continue to beg you to remember us in your giving.) More importantly, it shows the university that there is a constituency strongly supporting the continuity of folklore study at Ohio State.

For this major accomplishment we offer deep thanks to all of you for the support you have given the fund over the years, as well as the deeper support of your intellectual and social participation in the life of the Center. Above all we thank Dean John W. Roberts for his extraordinary personal and institutional commitment to this goal, and once more we wish him all the best as he moves to Houston.