

## Center for Folklore Studies 2012-2013 News and Announcements

*Congratulations are in order to:*

**Cassie Patterson, Dr. Patty Cunningham, and Krista Bryson**, who have won a \$15,000 grant from the Governor's Office of Appalachia (a division of the Ohio Development Services Agency) for "The Appalachian Project, Ohio: How I Got to College." The project will be administered, housed, and archived by the Center for Folklore Studies. The interdisciplinary team of faculty, staff, and students is conducting fieldwork at Ohio State and in Ohio counties to learn from community members about the factors shaping the life choices of young people in the region, especially in relation to higher education. The project focuses in particular on college students from the region: how they get to college, their strategies for negotiating the college experience, and their destinations afterward.

[Dr. Levi Gibbs](#) for defending his dissertation "Song King: Tradition, Social Change, and the Contemporary Art of a Northern Shaanxi Folksinger," chaired by Mark Bender with Ray Cashman and others on the committee. Levi and Aida move to New Hampshire this summer so that Levi can begin his position as Assistant Professor of Chinese at Dartmouth College.

[Dr. Kate Parker-Horigan](#) for successfully defending her dissertation, "'They probably got us all on the news': Personal Narratives and Public Trauma in Post-Katrina New Orleans." Kate will start her position as Visiting Lecturer in Folklore at Indiana University in Bloomington this August (April 8, 2013)

[Joanna Spanos](#) who was this year's recipient for the Patrick B. Mullen Prize for best graduate student paper. Her paper was entitled "But Why a Hanging? Festival, Reenactment, and Social Memory."

[Ziying You](#) (East Asian Languages and Literatures), along with the support of her husband, department, and the Folklore Student Association, hosted a silent auction on Friday, March 29th to support disaster relief in Hongtong, China, where she did her fieldwork last year. Ziying was able to raise over \$1,400 to take back with her to the village later this week. Congratulations, Ziying!

Folklore PhD student [Tim Thurston](#), engaging in intensive reflexive ethnography during his fieldwork, was married to Tashi Tsomo, a local activist and student of ecotourism and regional culture, on January 16, 2013 in Xining, Qinghai Province, PR China. Our congratulations to Tim and Tsomo!

The Center for Folklore Studies relied on local talent to create an [advertisement to recruit folklore minors](#). The "hipster ad," as we've come to call it, will run for the next three weeks on campus area buses (CABS), so keep an eye out for them!

The *Journal of Folklore Research* has just published an important special issue, [The Stigmatized Vernacular](#) (JFR 49:2, 2012) with papers from the AFS panel co-organized by **Amy Shuman** and **Diane Goldstein**, with papers by our alumnae **Ann Ferrell** and **Sheila Bock** as well as by Diane and Amy with her collaborator Carol Bohmer. This conversation has already been influential within folklore and other disciplines.

[Galey Modan](#) presented "The Personal is spatial, the spatial is personal: 'Jewish talk' in Amsterdam" for the keynote address at the [Symposium on Locating Language: The Linguistics of Place](#) for the Department of Linguistics on April 20, 2013.

[Sarah Craycraft](#), who received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Bulgaria. Sarah will be teaching English language courses and creating lessons to share and promote a greater understanding of American culture. (April 4).

[Rachel Paiscik](#) for receiving an internship spring semester at the Ohio Craft Museum as an education assistant where she helped create curriculum for their Folk Art Around the World summer camp.

Congratulations to **OSU folklore Emeritus Professor, Patrick Mullen** and **alumnus, Aaron Oforlea**, who co-wrote "[Introduction: Critical Race Theory and African American Folklore](#)" for the recent special issue of *The Western Journal of Black Studies* (36.4, Winter 2012). OSU alumni also contributed to the volume: **Tracy Carpenter's** article is titled "Construction of the Crack Mother Icon," and **Sheila Bock's** is titled "Toward a Performance Approach to African American Personal Narratives about Diabetes."

[Amy Shuman](#) will co-direct the OSU Project Narrative summer institute on Narrative Theory for the Humanities and Social Sciences on June 3 - June 14, 2013.

Assistant Director, [Cassie Patterson](#), convened and presented for two roundtables at the 36<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Appalachian Studies Association. Cassie presented "Building an Activist Group for Appalachia in the University: The Literacy in Appalachia Graduate Group at The Ohio State University" with **Krista Bryson**, co-chair of the [Literacy in Appalachia GradGroup](#).

[Cassie Patterson](#), our Assistant Director, for receiving a Staff Career Development Grant!

Center for Folklore Studies alumna, [Anne Henochowicz](#) was recently interviewed by *Al-Jazeera* about the [Chinese protests for press freedom](#). The longer version of her interview can be downloaded [here](#). Anne received her M.A. in Chinese literature and folklore from Ohio State University in 2009 and is now the Translation Coordinator at [China Digital Times](#).

Congratulations to alumnus [Dr. Eric Shepherd](#) on receiving tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at the University of South Florida! Shepherd teaches in the Department of World Language Education.

The *Toledo Blade* interviewed [Elizabeth Bell](#), Senior Lecturer in Spanish and Portuguese, about the upcoming December 21, 2012 apocalypse predictions.

Numerous students and faculty attended the [2012 annual meeting of the American Folklore Society](#) in New Orleans. OSU Folklore Students who were awarded prizes at the annual meeting of the American Folklore Society:

**Kate Parker Horigan** received the 2012 Zora Neale Hurston Prize, given to a graduate or undergraduate student for the best work in any medium on African American folklore, for her paper, "Unofficial Histories in Katrina Survivor Narratives."

**Benjamin Gatling** received the 2012 Don Yoder Graduate Student Prize in Religious Folklife for his paper "the Guide after Rumi: Tradition in Tajik Sufism."

**Nancy Yan** received the 2012 Sue Samuelson Foodways Student Essay competition in the AFS Foodways Section for her paper "Wor Sue Gai and Claiming Local Identity."

**Elizabeth Zaleski** received the 2012 Elli Köngäs-Maranda Student Paper Prize in the The AFS Women's Section for her paper "Other Writer's Mothers: Reflections on Representing Family."

The [Center for Folklore Studies](#) is delighted to announce that the College of Arts and Sciences of the Ohio State University has created two new graduate fellowships targeted for folklore students. Because our PhD program is interdepartmental, these fellowships will make it easier for us to admit students whose research interests do not align well with departmental priorities. They will also allow us to offer a total of six years of support instead of the usual five, allowing for a supported fieldwork year.

[Amy Shuman](#) was featured on the English department's Tumblr ([osuenglish.tumblr.com](http://osuenglish.tumblr.com)) for her work with the Disability Studies program

[Levi Gibbs](#), Ph.D. student in Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, was recently featured in the 2012 Global Newsletter of the Office of International Affairs. Gibbs spent 10 months studying with Wang Xiangrong, "King of Northern Shaanxi Folksongs." Click [here](#) to read about his experience.

[Will Pooley](#), for his publication in *Western Folklore!* In his article, "Can the 'Peasant' Speak?: Witchcraft and Silence in Guillaume Cazaux's 'The Mass of Saint Sécaire,'" Pooley credits the 2010 annual Ohio State University and Indiana University Folklore and Ethnomusicology Student Associations' joint conference, [Contact: The Dynamics of Power and Culture](#), for inspiring him to think about the concept of contact (September 13, 2012 )

[Mark Bender](#) who published his [article](#) comparing ethnographic poetry from Southwest China and Northeast India

[Tim Thurston](#) who received Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship to support the conclusion of his fieldwork on sketch comedy as a vehicle of cultural revival and negotiation in Qinghai province, China (September 10,2012)

[Dorothy Noyes](#) who contributed to the blog for the Interdisciplinary Research Group on Cultural Property of the German Research Foundation. Her post is titled [An Operatic Cultural Property: Smetana in Berlin](#). (September 4, 2012), and in addition also recently contributed to "Push Me Pull You: Questions of Co-Authorship," a blog conversation of the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage.

[Elo-Hanna Seljamaa](#), who defended her dissertation, "A Home for 121 Nationalities or Less: Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Integration in Post-Soviet Estonia" (directed by Dr. Dorothy Noyes). Elo-Hanna assumed the position of Researcher in the Department of Estonian and Comparative Folklore at the University of Tartu. (August 15,2012)

[Ben Gatling](#), who defended his dissertation, "**Post-Soviet Sufism: Texts and the Performance of Tradition in Tajikistan**" (directed by Margaret Mills). Ben has begun an appointment as [Lecturing Fellow at Duke University](#), teaching intensive writing courses in Islamic Studies. (August 13, 2012)

[Dr. Merrill Kaplan](#) on the publication of her co-edited collection, [News from Other Worlds: Studies in Nordic Folklore, Mythology and Culture](#)! Kaplan is also author of *Thou Fearful Guest: Addressing the Past in Four Tales in Flateyjarbók* (Folklore Fellows Communications 301, 2011) (July 23, 2012)

[Yuanhao \(Graham\) Zhao](#) for successfully defending his M.A. thesis! Graham is in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. (July 1, 2012)

[Meagan Winkelman](#), one of four senior English majors nominated for the English department's Denney Award for excellence in English coursework and scholarly pursuits. Meagan is off to Oregon to enter a graduate program in Folklore and has been awarded a teaching fellowship! (July 1, 2012)

[Joanna Spanos](#) on receiving a Coca-Cola Critical Difference for Women Grant to continue her dissertation fieldwork in central Pennsylvania (July 1,2012)

*This year, the Center heartily welcomed:*

[Cassie Patterson](#) as the new Associate Director of the OSU Center for Folklore Studies, starting July 1, 2012. Cassie takes the position from our very dear [Barbara Lloyd](#), the Center's first Associate Director. Barbara worked alongside Pat Mullen, Amy Shuman, Dorothy Noyes, and Ray Cashman to build and expand the Center for Folklore Studies over the past 11 years. Her

contributions to the program, its faculty and students, and the field of folklore are immeasurable

[Margaret Lyngdoh](#), visiting scholar who arrived in September 2012. After her undergraduate work at North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Margaret became a PhD student at the University of Tartu, where she is finishing her dissertation with our colleague Ulo Valk. Margaret came to work with Amy Shuman on narrative theory

*FSA had quite a successful and busy year!:*

Congratulations to the newly-elected [2013-2014 Folklore Student Association Executive Board](#):

Graduate Co-Chair: **Cristina Benedetti**  
Undergraduate Co-Chair: **Ryan Johnson**  
Treasurer: **Brittany Warman**  
Secretary: **Sara Cleto**

FSA members [Puja Batra-Wells, Cristina Benedetti and Rachel Paiscik](#) joined the Central Ohio Student Advocates for the Arts in attending National Arts Advocacy Day in Washington D.C. April 8-9. They met with Ohio legislators to talk about the importance of the arts in our lives, and to advocate for continued funding for the arts and arts education.

**On Friday, October 19**, the Folklore Student Association hosted a practice session for our members presenting at the annual American Folklore Society conference. Big thanks to Dr. Merrill Kaplan who attended and provided invaluable feedback!