

## Folklore Institute alumni hold first-ever reunion

Suggested first by our friend Gary Stanton, announced at the Indiana gathering at the American Folklore Society in Philadelphia, planned by acting co-chairmen, and managed in detail by the efficient Rachel Taber (aided greatly by Velma Carmichael), the first-ever reunion of Folklore Institute alumni took place in Bloomington on May 14-15, one week after graduation 1990.

An excuse to gather again, the reunion took as its deep purpose celebrating the careers of two of the Institute's stars: Warren Roberts and Linda Dégh. Sessions each day, now serious, now sentimental, now comic, filled the mornings, leaving the afternoons to reminiscent conversations. For the first day, John Vlach assembled a panel of speakers—John Moe, Gary Stanton, and Bob Walls—who witnessed to the influence and illustrated the great work of Warren Roberts in the study of material culture. On the second day, Anya Peterson Royce, dean of the faculties, offered a lovely tribute to Linda Dégh's profound scholarly achievement. Then Sylvia Grider led her panel—Ron Baker, Janet Langlois, and Carl Lindahl—into an amusing and affectionate treatment of Dégh's career, impact, and contribution, especially to studies of legend.

That night, things concluded with a crowded dinner (for the reunion drew more than a hundred) at which Linda Dégh was praised by her colleagues and given flowers and jewels as insufficient signs of our love for her. She responded beautifully, concentrating her remarks on the theme of the contribution of her students to her ongoing research.

—Henry Glassie



Warren Roberts (second from right), MA'50, PhD'53, professor of folklore, was honored by (from left) John Vlach, John Moe, Bob Walls, and Gary Stanton (not pictured) at the first-ever reunion of Folklore Institute alumni.



Displaying their "I Memorate Linda" T-shirts are (from left) Janet Langlois, Sylvia Grider, Linda Dégh (the honoree), Carl Lindahl, and Ron Baker.

## Retreat generates momentum

Fifteen members of the Folklore Institute faculty gathered for a retreat in the tranquil greenery of St. Meinrad Archabbey on Aug. 20-21. The immediate cause was an uneasiness regarding our implementation of the new graduate curriculum: Were we utilizing this excellent structure to instill the proper kinds of knowledge? It seemed that a definitive evaluation and refinement of the curriculum would depend on a prior discussion of values, goals, and orientations present among the Folklore faculty. With financial backing from the College of Arts and Sciences, we arranged to get together so that we could engage in a leisurely dialogue.

The retreat consisted of two blocks of time, an afternoon and a morning session. Each day we began with a wide-ranging discussion in full camera, then broke into small groups for more focused discussion, and finally reconvened as a single body to hear reports from small groups and pursue the ideas generated in that day's sessions.

We began by identifying the main areas of concern, assessing their implications, and working towards



Folklorists find a moment of relaxation at St. Meinrad's during the two-day retreat.

a resolution. A few major themes, each with numerous inflections, preoccupied the group: The intellectual identity of our discipline; the role of the Folklore Institute in its teaching, research, and outreach missions; the need for a critical history of folklore study; the challenges and opportunities posed by public sector folklore.

The faculty plans to meet on a regular basis to continue the momentum that was generated at the retreat.

—John McDowell

Just a reminder:

Come to the

### FOLKLORE INSTITUTE AFS RECEPTION

Friday, October 19,  
7:30-9:30 p.m.

Hyatt Regency, Oakland

## Jogging down memory lane

Beginning with this issue of *Traditions* excerpts from past folklore newsletters will be occasionally reprinted in this column. We hope you will enjoy the nostalgic trip.

1962 [Newsletter #2, from Richard M. Dorson]

Linda Dégh is currently visiting professor of folklore from Hungary, teaching "Survey of East European Folklore" and "Methods of Hungarian Folklore Research." She will stay through the summer session and offer a brand new course, "The Study of Legends." Her *Folktales of Hungary* is in

press, and her previous work won the Guiseppe Pitre Prize.

1972 [*Folklore Newsletter*, Vol. 1, No. 14]

The last meeting of the Folklore Students Association during the regular school year 1971-72 will be held Thursday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the classroom of the Glenn Black Archaeology Lab. The speaker will be Dr. Henry Glassie and the lecture is titled, "A Little Speech on Resurrection City, Being a Preliminary Prolegomena for a Future Gigantic Investigation of Selected Aspects of Con-

temporary American Society of Interest to Folklorists and Other Academics, or The Relevancy of Applied Folklore."

1981 [Excerpt from Richard M. Dorson's thank you note on the occasion of his 65th birthday surprise party.]

Folklore has proved a marvelous way of life. I have loved and cherished relationships with the folk and with students and colleagues who share these interests. No one is so lonely as a solitary folklorist. No one is so lucky as a folklorist surrounded by comrades.

## About our faculty . . .

**Richard Bauman** was elected president of the Society for Linguistic Anthropology. He has returned from a one-year sabbatical leave (see p. 3).

**Mary Ellen Brown** spent two weeks this summer in Poland, primarily attending a conference sponsored by Warsaw University and IU on Women and Work in the 1990s. She then went to Scotland to continue the process of gathering information on the life and times of William Motherwell, Scottish poet, journalist, editor, writer, antiquarian, best known by folklorists for his 1827 work *Minstrelsy: Ancient and Modern*.

**Inta Carpenter** has been appointed to a new position as research scholar in the Folklore Institute. She continues to work with Institute research projects, conferences, and publications as associate director of special projects. This summer she received an NEH summer fellowship and an IREX travel grant to Riga, Latvia, for a month of song festival research. In addition, she will be going to Germany next spring with an ACLS grant-in-aid for research on the creation of ideology among Latvian displaced persons.

**Linda Dégh** was the recipient of the American Folklore Society Lifetime Achievement Award. From September 1990 through May 1991, while a fellow at the National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park, she will be writing her book, titled *Legends and Beliefs: The Dialectics of a Folklore Genre*.

**Sandra Dolby Stahl**, an alumna of Manchester College, North Manchester, was invited to give a presentation at the Humanities Conference during the College Centennial Celebration. Her talk was on her book *Literary Folkloristics and the Personal Narrative*.

**Hasan El-Shamy** has been invited to present a series of lectures on Folklore and National Development at the School of Economics, Department of Political Science, Cairo University, Egypt. He will be

on sabbatical leave for the academic year 1990-91.

**Henry Glassie** received the American Folklore Society's Folk Art Centennial Award. Henry spent June leading a team through Turkey, making films and gathering commissioned art works, and spent the rest of the summer in Santa Fe, where he is building a major exhibit of contemporary Turkish Folk Art. The opening, featuring talks and demonstrations by Turkish potters and weavers, will be in June 1991, and the show, generously funded by NEH, will be up for two years.

**Michael Largey** is a part-time lecturer in folklore for the academic year 1990-91. He is teaching F111 World Folk Music.

**Dorothy Lee** will be working on her book on the history of the study of American Indian music while on a research leave for the year.

**John McDowell** was promoted to full professor of folklore.

**W. Edson Richmond** published his book *Ballad Scholarship: An Annotated Bibliography*, which is a centennial publication of the American Folklore Society, published by Garland Publishing, Inc.

**Warren Roberts** will be on sabbatical leave during the fall semester 1990. In September, he attended the meeting of the Society for Folklife Studies in St. Andrews, Scotland.

**Gregory Schrempp** traveled to New Zealand this summer in order to "fill in the holes" in his book manuscript on Maori cosmology. He reports that there are numerous cultural and intellectual developments in Maori society and in New Zealand generally, which he plans to discuss in upcoming articles and courses.

**Ronald Smith's** book chapter titled "And with His Stripes We Are Healed: Portobelo's Black Christ" will appear in the forthcoming Smithsonian Press publication *Repercussions of 1492*, in celebration of the 500-year anniversary of Columbus's discovery.

**Beverly Stoeltje** is on sabbatical leave this fall semester. During this time she will be working on her book about Queen Mothers in

Ghana, using the research materials she gathered during 1989-90 while on a Fulbright research leave in Ghana.

**Ruth Stone** traveled to Harare, Zimbabwe, in May to consult with the faculty and staff of the ethnomusicology program at the Zimbabwe College of Music. While there, she evaluated the diploma program, met with potential corporate donors, and presented two lectures, "Funerals as Events among the Kpelle of Liberia" and "Theoretical Approaches to the Study of Ethnomusicology."

## Alumni notes . . .

**Helen De Long Gilbert**, MA'73, completed her PhD in clinical psychology at the Fielding Institute in 1989 and now has a private practice in psychology, St. Paul, Minn.

**Robert E. Fogal**, MA'74, PhD'80, is vice-president for development at Otterbein College, Westerville, Ohio. Fogal was named director of public service programs and director of the Fund-Raising School at the IU Center on Philanthropy, Indianapolis.

The department of Germanic languages of the University of Chicago announced that **Regina Bendiz**, PhD'87, is the third-prize winner of the prestigious 1990 Chicago Folklore Prize. She was awarded the prize for her book *Backstage Domains: Playing "William Tell" in Two Swiss Communities*, published by Peter Lange Publishing, Inc.

## FOLKLORE INSTITUTE AFS RECEPTION

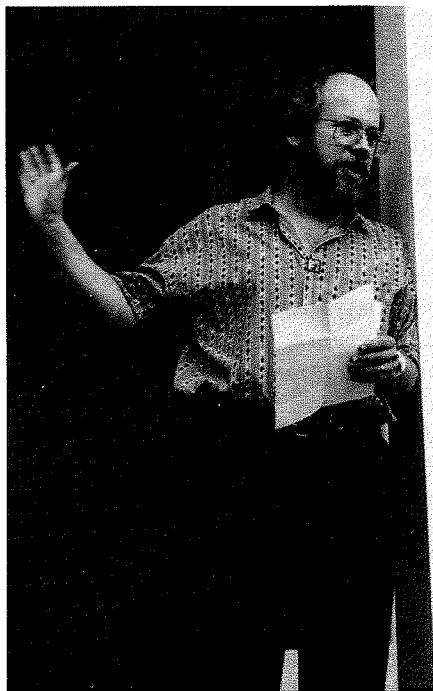
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# Bauman back from year's sabbatical

A year's leave of absence is a great boon to any scholar. To a department chair it is all the more so, an opportunity to read and write something other than administrative memos, departmental reports, and letters of recommendation. My own sabbatical allowed me to make gratifying progress on two major research projects and to see some new parts of the world in the bargain.

I have been engaged since 1985 in an ethnographic study of the production and performance of festival drama in several communities in the state of Guanajuato, Mexico. My research on *pastorela* is an extension of my career-long interest in forms of religious expression and in performance, but with certain new twists.

The expressive culture of Mexican folk Catholicism stands in almost dizzying contrast with the austerities of 17th-century Quakerism, and the elaborate public performances of Nativity plays raise significant questions about the nature of performance that do not arise in the intimate, face-to-face narrative performances of Texas storytellers. Accordingly, my work during the past year has had two



*Richard Bauman, chair of the folklore department, resumes his harness.*

principal foci: the ethnographic study of the *pastorelas* themselves and a broader theoretical rethinking of performance.

After a final (for a while, at least) field trip to Mexico in May 1989, my leave was divided between Bloomington and Ghana. Mexico and Bloomington are logical

enough, but why Ghana? I have had a long-standing interest in West African performance forms and practices and felt that the opportunity to experience them firsthand would enhance my explorations of what performance is and how it works.

This year, finally, I had two bases on which to do so: In January and February, I was in Ghana as a Fulbright spouse, tagging along after Beverly as she carried on her research on Ashanti Queen Mothers, and then I returned to Ghana in May and June under the auspices of a USIA Linkage Grant between IU and the University of Ghana. The linkage is organized around the shared interest of selected scholars at each institution in performance and includes Folklore Institute faculty members and Folklore Institute alumni from Ghana.

The first fruits of these activities are making their way toward publication, with others to follow. And I am back to chairing the department, very grateful to John McDowell and Henry Glassie for reading and writing the memos, reports, and letters in my absence.

—Richard Bauman

## "Wasn't That a Time?": A Richard Reuss Memorial Folk Music Conference

On May 16-18, 1991, the Folklore Institute will host a second alumni reunion, combined this time with a conference on the folk song revival of the fifties and sixties. Last spring, Ron Cohen, Professor of history at IU Northwest, called to explore the possibility of this retrospective.

Many people in and out of Indiana seemed intrigued, including state-funding agencies, and plans have progressed considerably since that first contact. The Archives of Traditional Music agreed to co-sponsor this gathering of academics, performers, producers, and enthusiasts. The city of Bloomington

also is actively involved, providing space for lectures and concerts. In June, we learned that the Indiana Humanities Council awarded us funding.

Plans include informal panel discussions on such topics as performers, the record industry, the Village scene, publications, as well as a keynote lecture and a plenary session. Evening concerts will take place on Friday and Saturday nights. Registration for the conference is free. Moderately priced housing will be available at campus dormitories. As details get worked out, we will send out more information.

Come to the

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Hyatt Regency, Oakland

Meet old friends,  
make new ones, and  
peruse our folklore photo album.

(Yes, the reception is really on  
Friday,  
not Saturday,  
as listed in the preliminary schedule.)

## About our students...

The student achievements for this year are exceptionally impressive. Congratulations one and all!

This summer **Linda Adams**, **Martha Griesheimer**, and **Rory Turner** were appointed as graduate interns with the Kentucky Folklife Program to conduct fieldwork and supervise undergraduate students and volunteers for the Ohio River Folklife Project.

**Abbie Anderson** and **Todd Wilson** received FLAS awards from the African Studies Program.

**Katherine Borland** received the Richard M. Dorson Dissertation Research Award (\$1,000) and was also first alternate for the Latin American Fellowship.

**Robert Dover** was the recipient of both a Graduate School Grant-in-Aid of Research and a McArthur Graduate Student Research Fellowship. In addition, IU Press will publish *Andean Cosmologies*, which he edited with **Kathy Seibold** and **John McDowell**.

During the spring semester 1991, **Hanna Griff** will be teaching American Studies/Folklore as a visiting lecturer at Grinnell College, Iowa. Hanna also received a Graduate School Grant-in-Aid of Research.

**Jennifer Hickman** was elected to the Society of Phi Beta Kappa.

**Wongani Katundu** was awarded a Graduate Minority Fellowship.

**Doreen Klassen** and **Linda Williams** studied Shona this summer on a CIC Traveling Scholar Program to Michigan State University.

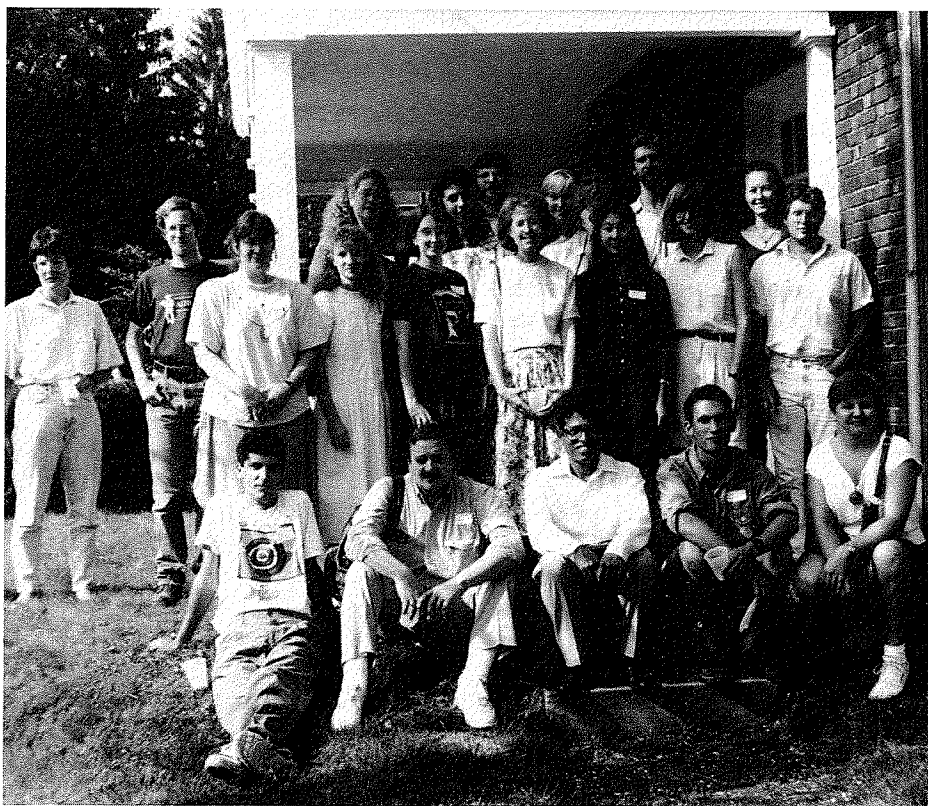
**Nathan Light** won the MacArthur Scholar Award of the Indiana Center on Global and World Peace (1990-91).

**Kate Modic** will be doing research in Mali from December 1990 to December 1991 with a Fulbright Hayes Award.

**Bill Pincheon** is an Equal Opportunity Fellowship awardee.

**George Schoemaker** has a West European Exchange Travel Grant and Fellowship at the University of Paris X-Nanterre for the academic year.

**Guntis Smidchens** received an



*The Folklore Institute welcomes the newest generation of folklorists, 1990.*

**IREX Developmental Fellowship** to prepare for long-term fieldwork in the Baltic States (1990-91). He also has a \$200 Richard M. Dorson Dissertation Research Award.

**Mary Beth Stein** has received two

awards: Graduate School Grant-in-Aid and Mellon Dissertation Write-Up Fellowship. She was also a visiting lecturer in the department of Germanic studies at IU during the 1989-90 academic year.

## Tell us about yourself . . .

Pass along the latest about yourself to *Traditions*, Indiana University Alumni Association, IMU M-17, Bloomington, IN 47405. Please use this form for address correction.

Your news \_\_\_\_\_

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## The JFR Corner

How long has it been since you read through a copy of the *Journal of Folklore Research*? On behalf of the editorial board, I invite you to examine a recent issue.

The journal publishes articles and reviews with a slant toward the international folklore scene. A few years ago, we began a new section called "Research and Methodology Notes" to open a forum on these important dimensions of folklore research. With the final issue for this year we will inaugurate a new section, "Encounters with Folklore," which will feature mostly descriptive accounts of particular folklore traditions.

Volume 27:1,2 (1990) is a special issue titled "Native Latin American Cultures through Their Discourse." Edited by Professor Ellen Basso of the University of Arizona, it consists of papers delivered at the International Congress of Americanists in Amsterdam, Holland, during summer 1988. These papers work closely with verbal materials, primarily narrative and ceremonial texts, in probing the relationship between verbal art and its cultural surround in various native Latin American communities. The special projects committee at the Folklore Institute has decided to adopt this issue of *JFR*

as a first release in a revived and modified publications series to be called Special Publications of the Folklore Institute. This pioneer release will be available from the Folklore Institute in November 1990 at a projected cost of \$6.95 per issue.

In a more personal vein, I ask you to become actively involved in our just-launched subscription drive. If you are not a current subscriber to *JFR*, we would like to add your name to our growing list. Subscribe now, and we will send you a complimentary copy of Volume 26:1, "Richard M. Dorson's Views and Works: An Assessment," a special issue edited by Professor Robert Georges of UCLA. You will also be guaranteed the current low rates of only \$15 for individuals. We would also appreciate having you send us the names and addresses of a few colleagues who might be interested in subscribing; maybe you would even like to make the connections to these discriminating people for us.

And finally, please keep the *Journal of Folklore Research* in mind as an outlet for your finest scholarly work. We promise a serious peer review of all manuscripts received.

—John McDowell

## ATTENTION ALL FOLKLORE ALUMNI

We really do need to hear about you! Do you have any new positions, projects, articles, or books? More than 300 copies of *Traditions* are mailed out biannually, and this newsletter is one of the main ways we can keep in contact with the "Folklore Family." So let's hear from you soon. Please send your news items to Syd Grant, Folklore Institute, 504 N. Fess, Bloomington, IN 47405.

*Traditions* is published by the Indiana University Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Folklore Institute and the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Association, to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University.

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