

## Folk song conference/alumni reunion to convene

Only one month to go! "Wasn't That a Time? The Richard Reuss Memorial Folk Music Conference" will be held on May 17-19 in Read Hall on the IU Bloomington campus. It will be a timely celebration of, and nostalgic tribute to, a unique era in American musical and social history. The excitement is growing as speakers confirm their participation and we finalize the schedule.

The conference is funded by the Indiana Humanities Council and sponsored by the Folklore Institute, the Indiana University Archives, and the Archives of Traditional Music at IU Bloomington; the Department of History at IU Northwest; and the city of Bloomington.

As of now, here's what's planned:  
**Friday, May 17**

- Richard Reuss: His Scholarship and Contributions

Bernie Asbell (Chair)

Joe Hickerson, Bruce Harrah-Conforth, David Dunaway

- An Overview of the Role of Traditional Folk Music

John Cohen

- The Revival and Popular Folk Music

David Samuelson (Chair)



*Joe Hickerson and his son*

Lou Gottlieb, Dick Weissman, Bob Gibson

- Record Reviewing, Criticism, and the Folk Revival

Burt Feintuch (Chair)

Ed Kahn, Barry Hansen

**Saturday, May 18**

- Folk Music Magazines and Folk Music Journalism

Izzy Young (Chair)

Irwin Silber, Jon Pankake

- Folk Revival and Singers/Songwriters

Pat Sky, Len Chandler,

Mimi Fariña

- The Folk Revival and Thoughts About the Future

Kenneth Goldstein

- Greenwich Village

Roy Berkeley (Chair)

Izzy Young, John Cohen,

Oscar Brand

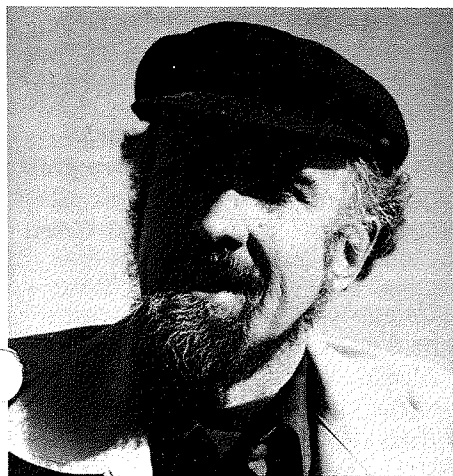
- Bloomington and Other Local Scenes

Paul Tyler (Chair)

Neil Rosenberg, Mike Fleischer,

Frank Hamilton

Low-cost housing may still be available at Read Hall. It must be reserved and paid in advance by calling Velma Carmichael at 812/855-0043. For anyone flying to Indianapolis, American Airlines is offering a 5 percent discount. Call Rita, Omega World Travel, 800/678-2566. Be sure to tell her it's related to the Folk Music Conference.



*Richard Reuss*

### Preview: Join us!

On Friday night, there will be a hootenanny with Dr. Demento (Barry Hansen) and on Saturday a dinner (\$5 at the door; children free), followed by a square dance, with Izzy Young and Irwin Silber, and open jamming into the wee hours.

On Sunday at noon, those who are interested are invited to participate in a brown bag lunch discussion in Read Hall Lounge on "Folk Music Revival in Comparative Perspective." There will be a few short presentations.

# Bauman completes term as chair

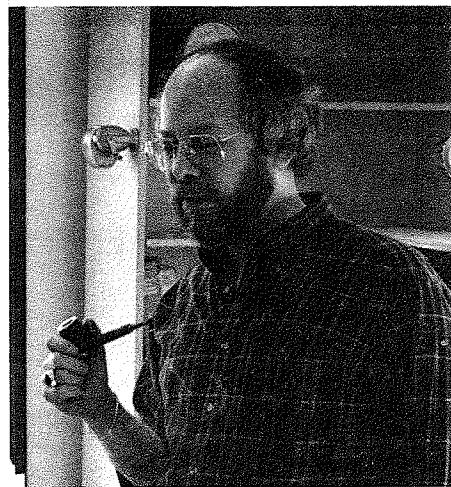
This summer Richard Bauman concludes his five-year stint as chair of the Folklore Institute, a period marked by the consolidation of the Institute's position as the premier gathering of folklorists in the United States. Dick's stewardship of the department saw major developments in a number of key areas.

The faculty added two new members, Professors Henry Glassie and Gregory Schrempf. The graduate and undergraduate curricula were revised to promote clarity in student programs and to enhance the course offerings. Innova-

tive revisions were implemented in PhD qualifying procedures, in the admissions process, and in graduate advising. Special Projects continued to sponsor and facilitate significant research and outreach initiatives.

Richard Bauman can take pride in the legacy of his tenure as chair, which has resulted in an increased efficiency in departmental operations and a strengthened presence of the Folklore Institute among scholars in folklore studies and related disciplines worldwide.

—John McDowell



Richard Bauman

## About our faculty...

Congratulations to Richard Bauman on his promotion to Distinguished Professor of Folklore (see details in the fall issue of *Traditions*). In addition, Dick has been named a Folklore Fellow of the Finnish Academy of Sciences.

In June, Mary Ellen Brown will have completed her six-year term as director of Women's Studies. She has been awarded a Summer National Resource Language Fellowship in West Euro-

pean Studies. She is also anticipating six months in Paris and a focused return to Scottish and ballad studies.

On March 2, Sandra Dolby-Stahl participated in a conference on folklore and education sponsored by UCLA and the school district of greater Los Angeles. As one of the invited speakers, she presented a paper titled "Stories, Self, and the Skill of Cultural Appreciation." The conference was organized by Michael Owen Jones and Judith Haut of UCLA.

The *New York Times* has placed Henry Glassie's book, *The Spirit of Folk Art*, on its Notable Books of the Year list. The book also won the Fred Kniffen Award of the Pioneer America Society. Henry has been named a Folklore Fellow of the Finnish Academy of Sciences and Letters.

Roger Janelli has been appointed to the Area Studies Advanced Research Grants Committee of the Social Science Research Council.

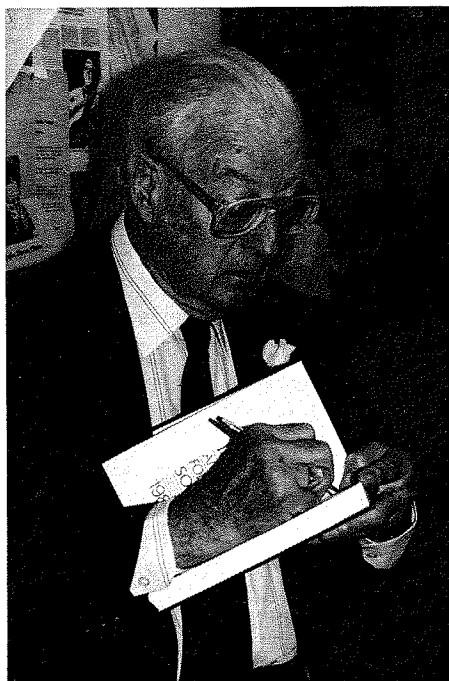
John Johnson has been awarded a Lilly Foundation Open Fellowship for the academic year 1991-92. At the IU Music School he will be learning new skills with which to analyze the relationship between Somali poetic scansion and the music to which it is recited. IU Press is publishing his book, *The Epic of Son-Jara: A Linear Translation*. In January, John presented a paper during a conference on "Power, Marginality, and Oral Literature" at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London.

The Folklore Faculty has elected John McDowell the next chair of the Folklore Institute (more on this in the next issue of *Traditions*).

Gregory Schrempf has been appointed to the Honors faculty and will

teach his undergraduate classes in the Honors Division. Greg's book, *Magical Arrows: Zeno, the Maori, and the Folklore of the Universe*, is in press at the University of Wisconsin Press.

Ruth Stone has received a grant from Caltex to conduct a feasibility study regarding ethnomusicology research and teaching in Madagascar. In early May, she will travel there to consult with local experts. Ruth will also travel to Zimbabwe to deliver a lecture and consult with the staff and executive board members of the Ethnomusicology Programme at the Zimbabwe College of Music in Harare as part of a continuing relationship with IU.



W. Edson Richmond autographs his book, *Ballad Scholarship: An Annotated Bibliography*, during a reception celebrating its publication at the Folklore Institute on Oct. 26.

*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.

### Folklore Institute

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Publications ..... Carol Edge  
Editorial Assistant ..... Amy Park

# Folklore degrees conferred from May 1990 to May 1991

## BA Degrees:

Jennifer Hickman  
Donya L. Medley  
Dara Weaver

## MA Degrees:

Ahmed Ali Abokor, "Somali Pastoral Work Songs: The Poetic Voice of the Politically Powerless"

Donald Braid

Linda Breitag, "Authenticity and LaBotline Souriante: Quebecois Music and Living Tradition"

Nathan Light

Sumi Obinata, "Women and Japanese Ancestor Worship"

Bill Pincheon

Heather Stephens

Takashi Takahara, "Somali Pastoral Work Songs: The Poetic Voice of the

## Politically Powerless"

Carmen Tschofen

Rory Turner

## PhD Degrees:

Sally Carr Childs-Helton, "The Temporal Framework of Western Art Music Event: The Role of Markers and Cues"

Okonkwo Dibia, "Title-Taking in Ubululand: Origin and Evolution of a Traditional Political System"

Kathleen Figgen, "Miracles and Promises: Popular Religious Cults and Saints in Argentina"

Michael Largey, "Musical Ethnography in Haiti: A Study of Elite Hegemony and Musical Composition"

Nancy Cassell McEntire, "Sitting Out the Winter in the Orkney Islands:

Folksong Acquisition in Northern Scotland"

Martha Norkunas, "Tourism, History, and Ethnicity: The Politics of Public Culture in Monterey, California"

Ahmed Osman, "In Praise of the Prophet: A Structural Analysis of Sudanese Oral Religious Poetry"

Kenneth Pimple, "Speech and Moral Character: A Study of Selected Preachers in 19th-Century American Literature"

Stephen Poyser, "Days Gone By: The Oral History and Folklife of Bay Springs, Mississippi"

Addisu Tolesa, "The Historical Transformation of a Folklore Genre: The *Geerarsa* as a National Literature of the Oromo in the Context of Amhara Colonization in Ethiopia"

## About our farflung folklore alumni. . .

(continued from page 4)

Wisconsin and this summer will continue fieldwork in Sardinia and serve as a consultant to the Mediterranean Anthropological Research Equipe.

Willard B. Moore, PhD'83, teaches anthropology at Hamline University, St. Paul, Minn. He continues his work on "Circles of Tradition," Minnesota's first comprehensive folk art project.

Janis E. Rosenberg, BA'78, is the folklore coordinator for the Texarkana (Ark.) Regional Arts and Humanities Council.

Of special interest is a letter from Marie Walter, MA'57, of Anaheim, Calif., dated Dec. 17, 1990:

*"How exciting to read in Traditions of collection junkets to Riga, Zimbabwe, Turkey, and the Maori. The great thing about folklore, though, is that even if we are unable to pursue it as a career, it opens up a window that just doesn't close.*

*"...had I never been exposed to folklore, I would not have spent an evening in Stith Thompson's home as he struggled with jet lag, having just returned from Reykjavik to share new findings on Icelandic folktale with the department. Nor would I have joined my daughter in an auditorium classroom at Berkeley as Alan Dundes elicited from students new versions of the phantom hitchhiker.*

*"And when a customer at the Scientific-Technical Bookstore, where I am employed, asked me to look up contra dancing on the CD-Rom, I not only knew what he meant,*

*but also now am planning to attend the next regular meeting of his group.*

*"P.S. I believe I may have been Dr. Roberts' first graduate student."*

Sheila K. Webster, BA'74, MS'76, PhD'84, editor of the geological survey division of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, is a writing consultant to the IU School of Business.

## Acquisitions list available by E-mail

Polly Grimshaw notifies us that she is no longer able to send out the Current Acquisitions List of books in folklore. However, Polly can send a copy of this list to those who have access to electronic mail services (E-mail).

Please let her know via electronic mail if you are interested: Grimshaw@IUBACS.

### Guthrie T. Meade: In Memoriam

Folklorists throughout the country mourn the death of Guthrie T. Meade, a leading authority on American, particularly Kentucky, folk music.

After training at the Folklore Institute, Gus moved to Washington in 1961 to become a computer systems analyst for the federal government. Throughout his career at the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and the General Services Administration, he remained a dedicated avocational folklorist, respected for his resourceful fieldwork and archival investigations, and for his generous sharing of findings with other researchers.

Especially interested in historic fiddlers and fiddle repertoires, he produced a number of important

documentary recordings, including *Old Time Fiddle Band Music from Kentucky* (1980), a three-record set of rare classics originally waxed for the Gennett Recording Company in the 1920s and 1930s.

Gus retired to the Frankfort, Ky., area with his wife, Mary, in 1987 and was nearing completion of two massive lifelong projects—comprehensive discographies of traditional Anglo-American instrumental and folksong recordings made prior to World War II—when he died of an intracranial hemorrhage at age 58 on Feb. 9, 1991.

Gus will be fondly remembered and sorely missed for his enthusiasm, selflessness, and gentle manner.

—Roby Cogswell

# Remembering Harry Gammerdinger (1956-1990)

The first time I met Harry Gammerdinger was in 1979 when Richard M. Dorson took our F517 class for a tour of the Folklore Archives. At that time, he and Betty Belanus held the prestigious Folklore Archives assistantships. Dorson made sure we all knew he was impressed with Harry's background: a BS in literature from MIT, while simultaneously studying mathematics.

Harry's trek from Massachusetts to Bloomington grew out of his passion to study folklore despite the success he already had achieved in a combined study of science and literature. I believe that his passion for folklore stemmed from his desire to understand the thoughts and lifestyles of other people. Folklore gave him a "sanctioned" opportunity to do what he loved to do most—talk to people. This love made him a natural fieldworker and, more important for those of us who knew him, a good friend.

Harry's presence was felt strongly at those legendary folklore parties and pig roasts because he made people feel at home, made them feel part of the community. At these parties we learned the unofficial history of the Folklore Institute as Harry imitated its more vivid personalities and told personal narratives to an enthusiastic audience, usually located somewhere near the keg. At other times, he could be found in an intense conversation, eyes slightly squinted, asking questions about the other person's research and experiences.

During the summers, he encouraged us to get out of the library and on to the softball field by forming the folklore team, which was dedicated to nurturing our talents through the abolition of strike-out and other such "meaningless" rules. Indeed, Harry had a healthy skepticism for rules and conventions, whether on the softball field or within academia. At times, he applied his

sharp wit and usual analytic perspective to the task of pointing out obvious absurdities. But his apparent irreverence was matched by his dedication to the field of folklore.

American folklore and ethnographic film, in terms of theory and production, were the focus of his attention. He published articles on topics ranging from German Americans in Missouri, material culture in Iowa and Indiana, and fishing traditions on the Missouri River. With Betty Belanus he produced the NEH-funded video "Hohenberger's Brown County" and, as media assistant at the Folklore Institute, he was involved in "The Classics Come Home: The Auburn, Cord, Duesenberg Reunion," which was broadcast nationally on PBS.

At the beginning, he seemed to hold out little hope that his dissertation, a comprehensive study of the role of ethnographic film in our field, would ever be finished. But one day he showed me the new computer that his mother, Florence Gammerdinger, bought for him as incentive to finish his PhD. Harry was also concerned with the parameters of the discipline of folklore, in research and in teaching. He co-authored a study of folklore and computers and wrote an article on how to use folklore to teach mathematics and science.

After receiving his PhD, he moved to Memphis where he taught English, mathematics, and folklore at Memphis State College and worked as a research associate at the Center for Southern Folklife. During that time he married Kathy Wright.

Harry made his last trip to Bloomington for the alumni reunion in the spring of 1990. It was a difficult time for him. And the toll of battling Hodgkin's disease for nearly a decade was obvious to us all. One evening, however, a group of us "oldies" got

together for quiet reminiscing. Just then, Carl Lindahl knocked on the door, armed with sketch pads, magic markers, and a plan that we would create communal works of art to present to Linda Dégh the next day in honor of her retirement. The art never made it into the public sphere; artists we are not. But we spent the next three hours with Harry laughing together. Last fall, when I learned of Harry's death, I thought back to similar evenings of debate, laughter, stories, and friendship. He will be remembered with warmth and love.

—Sue Tuohy

Note: Friends wishing to send donations in Harry's name should make checks payable to Indiana University Foundation, and indicate on the check that the contribution is intended for the Harry Gammerdinger Memorial Fund. Please send checks to the Folklore Institute, to the attention of Velma Carmichael. As funds accumulate, we will earmark them for activities of special interest to Harry, such as ethnographic film showings, sponsored talks, or applications of folklore to social activism.

—Richard Bauman

## About our alumni...

Maria Green, MA'90, has been featured in an article appearing in *IU Law Update*, an IU School of Law—Bloomington publication. It states that Maria's "interest in advocacy has carried her over from folklore to law, which she sees as a powerful tool for increasing recognition of cultural diversity," and she "is looking forward to finding ways to combine her two interests."

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, PhD'72, received a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies, East European Division, and a grant-in-aid from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture for her project "Intellectual History of Jewish Folklore and Ethnology."

Sabina Magliocco, PhD'88, has been a visiting lecturer in the Folklore Program and the Department of French and Italian at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, since January 1990. Her book, *Le Due Madonne: Festa e Trasformazione Sociale in Sardegna*, will be published by the University of Sassari this spring. She has received a Hewlett Award from the University of

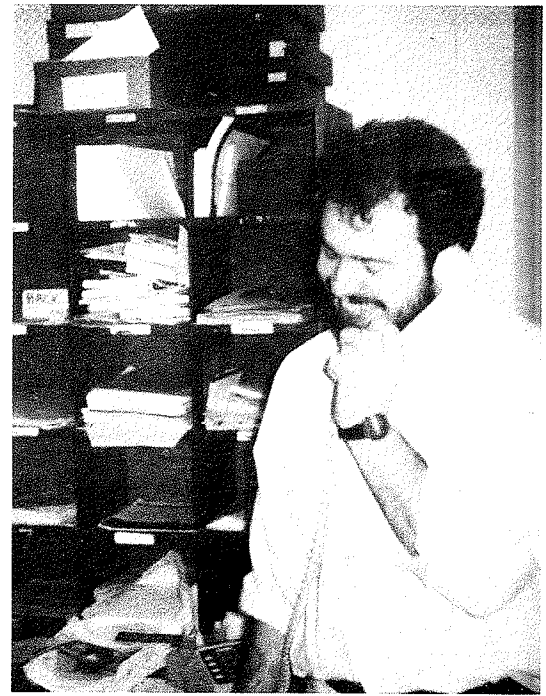
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## Institute hosts Gilmore and Leary

For two days in March, Janet Gilmore, PhD'81, and Jim Leary, PhD'78, staff folklorists at the Wisconsin Folk Museum, visited campus to make a variety of presentations to folklore faculty and students. On Sunday afternoon, March 24, Jim talked about his role as researcher for Michael Loukinen's film *Medicine Fiddle*. His presentation was part of the Ethnomusicology Students

Association Film Festival. During a brown bag lunch discussion moderated by Mary Ellen Brown, Janet reflected on her experiences as a female studying the man's world of commercial fishing. Later that same afternoon, both Janet and Jim spoke about their research interests and the variety of public programming activities they have carried out in Wisconsin.





*Publications: Folklore Michael Mason at work.*

## *The Folklore Institute at Work*



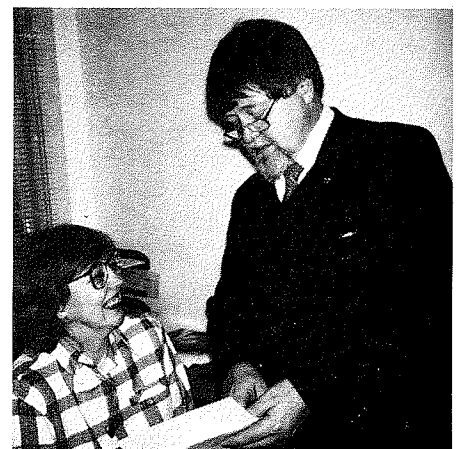
*Warren E. Roberts congratulates Richard Vidutis on his PhD defense.*



*The '90-'91 Richard M. Dorson Dissertation Research Award Committee: Ruth Stone, Inta Carpenter, John McDowell, Richard Baumann.*



*Inta Carpenter and Lynne Hamer confer about the Journal of Folklore Research.*



*Ruth Aten and John Johnson consult.*

## The JFR Corner

Your state-of-the art folklore journal reminds you that we want YOU on our list of subscribers. Stay in touch with the latest trends in international folklore scholarship and support this worthy enterprise of your *alma mater*.

The *Journal of Folklore Research*, volume 27, no. 3, is about to roll off the presses, filled with theoretical and substantive views from authors in Zimbabwe, the West Bank, Chile, Brazil, and the United States. If you subscribe now, you may specify that you want to start with volume 27

(1990), which means you will also receive the new-smaking double issue, "Native Latin American Cultures Through Their Discourse," with guest editor Ellen Basso.

Other recent special issues that are still available include: "Performance in Contemporary African Arts," "Feminist Revisions in Folklore Studies," and "Richard M. Dorson's Views and Works: An Assessment."

Get in step with the latest news. Subscribe now!

—Lynne Hamer and John McDowell



## From the editor

As they say, "All good things come to an end," and so this August, after 13 years as a member of the Institute's folklore family, I shall begin a new life passage. For more than a decade, I have found it exciting to be a part of the Institute's new developments and challenges. I have particularly enjoyed publicizing through *Traditions* the achievements of both the faculty and students, noting with shared pride the names of those I once knew as incoming students now appearing in the alumni news section, and publishing news about alumni who were here before I was. It was also fun to help record the Folklore Institute's history through photograph albums highlighting celebrations and other events. I hope that my name will remain on *Traditions'* mailing list, for I shall always be interested in what is happening here, in what I consider to be my very special "folk group." Adieu!

—Sydelle Grant

## 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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## Indexing under way

For almost a year and a half, 30 Folklore Institute volunteers have been diligently indexing folklore journals for inclusion in the next *MLA Bibliography*. As a result, the number of folklore entries has substantially increased, with more journals now being indexed and indexed more consistently than was previously possible. Now, when folklorists use the latest editions of the folklore volume of the *MLA Bibliography*, they can be much more confident that it accurately reflects the literature in the field.

We have applied for a grant from the NEH Access Division to continue this project for the next two years. If our application is successful, we will be encouraging more folklore alumni to join us in this important work.

—Polly Grimshaw and Moira Smith