Indiana University Folklore Traditions * Institute Traditions

Alumni News

Vol. 11

College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association

Summer 1997

From the chair

s the Folklore Institute moves into its summer rhythm, and the Llush greenness and humidity of southern Indiana envelops us, we reflect back upon this past year. The new sound and video laboratory (SAVAIL) has become a focal point of research as students become adept at involving computer analysis with qualitative research methods. A set of working papers documenting those efforts will be published on the World Wide Web, as well as in printed form.

The graduate students have formed a ries of task forces for their wonderfully diverse interests: activist pedagogy, CD-ROM publications for education, and networking with other schools where folklore is taught. These students bring their rich backgrounds to the study of folklore and make our Folklore Institute a truly interdisciplinary center of learning.

The most significant change in the last year, however, rests in the growing undergraduate program, which draws students from around the country. The 30some students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in folklore and ethnomusicology show amazing abilities for studying their topics.

Among these fine young scholars are Peter Knapczyk, who earned a Senior Achievement Award, Jody Sarich, who received both a Senior Achievement Award and a Founders Day Award, and Cynthia Stout, who received a Senior Achievement Award and an Honors Division Award for her honors thesis.

If you know of a high school student who would like to learn about our unergraduate program, please contact Prossor John Johnson, director of undergraduate studies, johnsonj@indiana.edu or visit our Web site at http:// www.indiana.edu/~folklore/.

— Ruth M. Stone



Back home at IU

A hearty welcome back to Moira Smith, PhD'92, who rejoined the university this year as subject specialist for anthropology, folklore, sociology, and women's studies at the IU Library. Moira takes the reins of the folklore collection from Polly Grimshaw, who retired last year. Moira received her Masters in Library Science from IU in 1994, and worked as assistant head of reference for instructional services at the University of Miami before returning to Indiana.



The First-Year Graduate Class, 1996-97. Bottom row, from left: Megan Hassell, Sachiko Okamoto, Natalie Underberg, Christie Fox, Stacy Tidmore. Row 2: Tracie Wilson, Joan Zaretti, Hien Nguyen, Stephanie Shonekan. Row 3: Lisa Gabbert, John Fenn, Kathleen Glenister, Margaret Van Blaricom, Andy Kolovos. Row 4: Amy Goldenberg, Cecilia Obeng, Matt Bradley. Row 5: Melinda Collins, Troy Boyer, Alex Perullo, John Roleke, Kurt Hartwig.

Remembering Stith Thompson, a great scholar and folklorist

tith Thompson would come to my office and sit down and talk, and he would tell me about his childhood and things like that. He was a very generous and gentle man. He was such a well known folklorist all over the world that everyone as soon as they published something, no matter where, would send him a copy. Unlike many people, he didn't keep all these books. Once he looked at them, he would bring them over to the library and add them to the collection. So that's where it got its rich depth, you might say, just from his receiving all these books and his generosity in giving them to the library.

In the 1930s, during the Depression, to show how much the administration here at Indiana supported folklore, the dean of the college gave Stith special funds when Stith and his wife Louise traveled all over the world. And we can see that today in some of the books when you open them up you can see what monies titles were purchased from. They would say 'special funds,' and I knew that these books were purchased by Stith when he was in Scandinavia or Europe or Ireland. In France he bought a large collection of books from Russian immigrants, and also during the 1930s he bought books from Jewish immigrants who were leaving Nazi Germany at the time. He was a great scholar, yet he never kept a large personal library. He just liked to purchase the books and read them, and then he gave them to the folklore collection.

But really the most poignant story I have about Stith is from when he and his wife Louise were going over to the retirement home in Columbus, and he called me over to his office in Memorial Hall. He wanted to give the library his core collection, his most precious books. Just one book case, about 60 books, maybe 70, I haven't counted them. We sat there and

he would take each book off the shelf, open it up, look at it, and say, "Oh yes, I remember when so and so did his research." And he would tell me a little bit about it and then he would hand me the book and take the next book. I sat there all afternoon, and he did that with practically all the books — he opened them up and said, "Oh, yes." And I said, "Stith, please keep these books. You could take them over to Columbus with you." And



This bust of Stith Thompson was returned to the Folklore Institute after a daring rescue in 1992 by the Thompson Liberation Front. The bust receives visitors (here with Rick Gagné and son, David) at its post amid generations of dissertations at the Stith Thompson House.

he said, "No, I am not doing any more research, and I want you to have them."

I had to excuse myself and go out, I was crying so, to see this man who saw many years as the great folklorist giving up his most prized books. And he woul tell me about them, and all his books had marginal notes in them. Ah, I still remember that. So we went through all those books in the afternoon that day.

And when I took all those books to the library, I didn't put them in the colection right away. Some of them I did, but a lot of them I kept behind, because they'd be stolen, and a lot of these books were given to him by these famous folklorists, 'To Stith...' There are some out in the collection, and in fact several times a graduate student would bring a book in and say, "You know, Polly, this shouldn't be out in the collection," because it is so precious to see his comments.

— Polly Grimshaw, subject librarian for 31 years at the IU Library

To celebrate the recent publication of A Folklorist's Progress: Reflections of a Scholar's Life, the Folklore Institute hosted a reception at the Indiana University Foundation in the fall, for faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of the Folklore Institute and of the Stith Thompson family. Herman B Wells was present, as were Stith and Louise Thompson's daughters, Dorothy Letsinger and Rita Hays.

A Folklorist's Progress: Reflections of a Scholar's Life

Stith Thompson, with excerpts from the travel diaries of Louise Thompson Edited by John McDowell, Inta Gale Carpenter, Donald Braid, Erika Peterson-Veatch

Special Publications of the Folklore Institute, No. 5 Indiana University Press, 1996 375 pp, b&w photos, 14 illus. Cloth \$40 Paper \$20

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The Folklore Institute Alumni Address Book

The Folklore Institute is going to publish an address book listing all our alumni. To ensure that the information regarding you is correct, *please complete and return the form on page 8*. The booklets should be available for sale sometime in the coming year. Please keep us informed if your information changes.

Faculty updates

Richard Bauman has received a joint ppointment as Distinguished Professor of Speech Communications, as well as a listing in *Who's Who in America*.

Mary Ellen Brown is the happy recipient of a grant for the project "The Making of an Editor: The Precursors of Francis James Child" and a Fulbright for spring 1998 to interact with Scottish scholars toward the completion of her book on William Motherwell.

Inta Carpenter was awarded an IREX advanced research fellowship to do four months of research in Riga during spring and summer 1997. Carpenter will be studying how women's personal narratives have been used to mobilize constituencies for health care reform.

Linda Dégh returned from her stay at the School of Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh, where she was a visiting professor of ethnology in fall 1996. In addition, Dégh was awarded the Ortutay Memorial Medal from the Hungarian Ethnographical Society in honor of her recent publications.

Sandra Dolby was awarded a Teaching Excellence Recognition Award for 1997 from the IU College of Arts and Piences

Hasan El-Shamy received high praise for his Folk Traditions of the Arab World: A Guide to Motif Classification. An article in the fall 1996 Digest of Middle Eastern Studies describes the work as "absolutely outstanding, a monumental piece of scholarship."

Henry Glassie's study of traditional arts in Bangladesh is due out in fall 1997 from the IU Press.

Phlegon of Tralles' Book of Marvels, by William Hansen, was released in December 1996 by the University of Exeter Press. The book is a translation of and commentary upon the most outrageous of the ancient paradoxographers (writers about marvels). The original book was written in the second century.

Roger Janelli spent spring semester 1997 teaching in the department of Asian studies at the University of Texas at Austin.

John Johnson helped organize the summer 1996 conference for Oral Epic Fellows on "Textualization of Oral Epics" in Turku, Finland. Johnson republished one of his books with a new title, Ieelloy: Modern Poetry and Songs of the Somali, and co-edited a book, Oral Epics From Africa: Vibrant Voices from a Vast Continent, currently at the IU Press.

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1996 End-of-the-Year Faculty Roast

Right: Folklore Institute faculty and staff join in entertaining themselves and others. From left: Ronald Smith, Ruth Aten, Camille Rice, Warren Roberts, and Henry Glassie.



Above: The Folklore Institute Line Dance Team performs to the hit song "I Still Love the Folklore Institute." Front row, from left: Chair Ruth Stone, Nina Fales, Velma Carmichael, Camille Rice, Ronald Smith, Ruth Aten. Middle row: Sue Tuohy, Hasan El-Shamy, Beverly Stoeltje, John Johnson, Henry Glassie, Kathy Sitarski. Back row: Roger Janelli, Inta Carpenter, Gloria Gibson.

Oinas receives Estonian honor



Prof. Felix J. Oinas, PhD'52

e salute Professor Felix J. Oinas (Slavics, Folklore, and Central Eurasian Studies), who has been awarded the Order of the State Coat of Arms, II Class, by President Lennart Meri, for his services rendered to the Estonian Republic. This order is the highest civilian honor in Estonia. Oinas was born in Tartu, Estonia, in 1911. He studied and taught in Tartu and in Budapest, Hungary, then worked for several months in Estonia's Ministry of Education. With his family he left Estonia for Berlin in 1944 in order to avoid being captured by Russian forces. He survived the Berlin blitz and arrived at Indiana University in 1950, after working for a year in the Slavic Department at Wayne State University in Detroit. In 1952 he defended his doctoral dissertation in linguistics. He continued to teach at IU, collaborated with Archer Taylor (who taught at the Folklore Institute during the summers), received Fulbright and Guggenheim grants

to study in Helsinki and Zagreb, and traveled throughout the world with his wife, Betti. Since his retirement in 1981, Oinas has remained an active scholar. Congratulations on an honor well deserved!

Reaching out — to the community

There is a concern among folklore students and faculty about the general public's lack of awareness regarding folklore as an academic discipline and how this affects their ability to get jobs. At the American Folklore Society meeting this year, students decided that doing outreach programs, particularly with children, was one way to improve this situation. As a result, our students and faculty have reached out to the community to show how enjoyable folklore can be and to create an understanding of its importance.

Education and Activism

"We are interested in exploring pedagogy and research from an activist perspective."

— Inta Carpenter

A study group on activist pedagogy has been meeting every other week at Sandy Dolby's home to explore the larger context of the academic profession, especially as it includes the community and service activities. The group was suggested by Matt Bradley and Inta Carpenter. The call to form the group posed the following questions: What are alternative models for the course-based curriculum? How can we create a community of researchers — apprentices and mentors — across disciplinary and professional boundaries? How can we apply our research skills and expertise beyond the campus classroom? How can we contribute in ongoing and meaningful ways to the many communities of which we are a part?

The group considered such books as David Damrosch's We Scholars, Robert Coles's The Call to Service: A Witness to Idealism, William Foote Whyte's Social Theory for Action, and Michael Owen Jones's Putting Folklore to Use.

The group will be presenting a forum on the topic at the American Folklore Society meeting in Austin this fall.



The Activist Pedagogy Group: John Cash, Matt Bradley, Judi Hetrick, Erika Peterson-Veatch, Nan McEntire, Inta Carpenter. (Not shown: Sandy Dolby and Joan Zaretti).

Hoosier Courts Folklife Project

"I wanted to apply ideas and concepts from scholarship on children's folklore to practical educational applications here in Bloomington, developing ways to link Bloomington and the university."

- Gregory Hansen

John McDowell and graduate students Gregory Hansen, Deeksha Nagar, and Fernando Orejuela are completing a folklife-in-education project at Bloomngton's Hoosier Courts Nursery School. In the fall of 1995, the team began conducting folklife research with parents to identify traditional activities that potentially could be presented as part of classroom activities at the day-care center. Their presentations have focused mainly on the songs, stories, rhymes, foods, and games that commonly are shared with children. During spring semester 1996, the team helped to coordinate presentations of Korean singing games, Russian folktales, and Kazakhstani music and dance. The team currently is producing a videotape from the different presentations. The video will be given to the day-care center, and it will also be made available to the university for classes on children's folklore and cultural diversity.

Oral Histories in Church and Community

"I think that adding oral narratives to the type of community history text that is often done without them shows the contribution a folklorist can make."

- Judi Hetrick

Doctoral candidate Judi Hetrick co-chairs a group that is videotaping oral histories for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington. Among the memories recorded are comments on the contributions made to the church by Stith Thompson, a member in the congregation's early years. A 30-minute show based on the oral history tapes has aired on Bloomington Community Access Television.

Beyond Bloomington

"The programming and promotional experience gained at the Folklore Institute, especially as a member of ESA and FSA [the Ethnomusicology and Folklore Students Associations] was great preparation for this sort of work."

— Rory Turner

Doctoral candidate Rory Turner was teaching at Goucher College in Baltimore, Md., when he became involved in founding a non-profit organization known as the Baltimore International Rhythm and Drumming Society, or BIRDS. BIRDS was founded to help promote the ideal of peace through music. The society's mission is to encourage participation in and enjoyment of the world's percussion-based music. Last year, with help from the Maryland State Arts Council and the Baltimore City Arts Fund, BIRDS had its second annual festival at St. John's Church in downtown Baltimore. The day was a great success, with more than 2500 people of many backgrounds and ages meeting together in an atmosphere of joy and mutual respect. BIRDS also has been involved in many benefit performances, as well as workshops for poor children.



Emmanuel Ribeiro demonstrates drumming techniques at a workshop in the Stith Thompson House. The early American gravestone rubbing behind him is from a collection donated to the Institute by Ann Roberts, relative of Joanna Evans and her husband, folklore graduate student Michael Evans.



Rhett Rushing discusses plans for interviewing older Bloomington residents with his new "staff."

Bridging Gaps Between Young and Old

"We're here getting the finest folklore education in the world and it seems wrong not to put it to use making other people a little richer."

- Rhett Rushing

Working last summer as the Director of the Kid City Summer Camp, **Rhett Rushing** spent most of his free time organizing and implementing intergenerational programming between Kid City and the Older American Center. As part of this project, Rushing and **Emmanuel Ribeiro** conducted a series of instructional meetings with the third and fourth graders at Kid City and taught them drumming, dance, and games from Zimbabwe. They took the show on the road and had two separate performances at the Older American Center.

Middle-School Folklore

"I wanted teachers to realize that folklore is not just supplementary to their curriculum, but can be studied independently."

- Fernando Orejuela

Esther Clinton, Fernando Orejuela, Kara Rogers, and Lisa Gilman went to a middle school in Spencer and gave presentations on folklore for all the seventh-grade English and social studies classes. The coordinating teacher is thinking about expanding the event next year into a Folklore Festival Day, during which our group of folklore students could spread throughout the school doing "cool stuff," while middle school students could walk around to the different sites and learn about various aspects of folklore.

Faculty updates

(continued from page 1)

John H. McDowell has been working on his book, Poetry and Violence on Mexico's Costa Chica, funded by the Guggenheim Foundation. McDowell spent January to June of 1996 doing fieldwork in Mexico.

In February 1997, Beverly Stoeltje spoke on Asante Queenmothers at the Museum of African Art at the Smithsonian. Stoeltje organized the spring 1997 Workshop on Women, Language, and Law in Africa at IU, and received a joint appointment as associate professor of speech communication. She was awarded a fellowship to spend the 1997–98 academic year at the School of American Research in Santa Fe, N.M.

Sue Tuohy received a Teaching Excellence Recognition Award for 1997 from the IU College of Arts and Sciences. Tuohy also received a 1997 Summer Faculty Fellowship.

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. For membership or activities information, call (800) 824-3044 or send an e-mail to iualumni@indiana.edu.

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Barbara Truesdell, PhD'96, beams after defending her dissertation. Standing, from left: Sandra Dolby, Richard Bauman, Beverly Stoeltje, John Bodnar (oral history), William Reese (education), and Roger Janelli.

Folklore degrees conferred from 5/96 to 5/97

BA Degrees: Kathleen Casey, Meagan Weeder

MA Degrees / MA Exam: John McGuigan, Susan Vanderhoef

MA Theses:

Hande Birkalan, "Pertev Naili Boratav and His Contributions to Turkish Folklore"

Lisa Gilman, "Experience, Narrative, and Silence: Exploring the Concealment of Sexual Violence"

Barbara Hummel, "Managing the World: An Analysis of Expressive Folklore Among Paramedics"

Emmanuel Ribeiro, "Traditional Courtship Games of Zimbabwe"

PhD Degrees:

Greg Kelley, "A Folkloristic Analysis of Narrative Contexts in Shakespeare" Kate Modic, "Song, Performance, and Power: The Ben Ka Di Women's Association in Bamako, Mali"

Ana Maria Ochoa, "Three Studies in the Recontextualization of Musical Folk lore in the Andean Region of Columbia"

Guntis Smidchens, "A Baltic Melody: The Folklore Movement in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, 1968–1991"

Barbara Truesdell, "God, Home, and Country': Folklore, Patriotism, and the Politics of Culture in the Daughters of the American Revolution"

Our next edition will be written by you!

In our next issue of *Traditions*, we will be going back to your days as a student at the Folklore Institute with a collection of stories and photos.

Please take a moment and try to remember those humorous or meaningful events that took place in class or at a pig roast, party, or some other event during your academic career at the Institute.

Send your stories and photos to: Ruth Aten, 504 N. Fess, Bloomington, IN 47408-3890, reaten@indiana.edu. Fax (812) 855-4008. Phone (812)855-5864.

Alumni notes

Harris Berger, PhD'95, has received a nure-track position teaching music at Гехаs А&М.

Donald Braid, PhD'96, is a senior lecturer in the department of English and literature at Butler University, Indianapolis.

William Manning Clements, MA'69, PhD'74, is the author of Native American Verbal Art: Texts and Contexts, published last year by the University of Arizona Press.

Nina Fales, PhD'93, will be leaving her position at the Folklore Institute's Sound and Video Analysis Laboratory (SAVAIL) and moving to California.

Jean Freedman, PhD'95, teaches in

the fine arts department at Truman State University in Missouri.

Hanna Griff, MA'85, PhD'94, is an associate professor at Sanyo Gakuen University in Okayama-Shi, Japan.

Greg Kelley, PhD'96, has been awarded a tenure-track position in the humanities department at East Georgia College, Swinsboro.

Michael Mason, PhD'97, is working in exhibit development at the National Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian, researching the African diaspora.

A folklorist for the Ozark Folk Center, Mountain View, Ark., William K. McNeil, PhD'80, recently edited the second edition of Appalachian Images in Folk and Popular Culture, published by the University of Tennessee Press.

Anna Maria Ochoa, PhD'96, is an

editor and archivist for the archival section of Colcultura.

After a stint teaching in Shanghai, China, John William Schiffeler, MA'74, has returned to his teaching post at the University of California, Berkeley. An article about his experiences, "Shanghai Schooling," appeared in the November 1996 issue of the Social Register Observer. He has also prepared two other manuscripts for publication, "Musings of an Artist" and "Traditional Chinese Medicine: A Study of the Shan Hai Ching."

Guntis Smidchens, PhD'96, is a visiting academic at the University of Washington, Seattle.

Mary Beth Stein, PhD'93, is an assistant professor of German at George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

Student makes cultural understanding his business

ith all the talk of interdisciplinary collaboration in academia and challenges on the job market, many folklorists are considering ways to connect their training and interests to areas outside of folklore. However, when folklore doctoral candidate John Laudun took a leap from traditional culture to corporate culture,

some considered it a rash and even foolhardy act.

Laudun, whose academic work includes an MA in critical theory and a BA in philosophy and poetics, serves as assistant director of executive education at the IU School of Business. His responsibilities include managing custom programs for individual corporations and organizing educational consortia.

The school's clientele is international in scope. The diversity of the

Laudun teaches business executives to think and work cross-culturally

international marketplace is a key reason why Laudun was hired. Laudun explains that "the program was originally about defining the global enterprise within multiple logics, in that there is a logic for doing business in corporate America, there is a logic for doing business in Europe, there of those methods and ideas in the classroom." are a number of logics for doing business in Asia." Helping people to understand the various contexts in which they are working before they develop a strategy has been one of

stand the processes and problems with which they are Laudun explains that while his work is challenging, his research training has stood him in good stead. "I think that folklore has the best qualitative research paradigm there is," he says, adding that "folklorists are naturals for organizational development." He feels that his present experience in the business world will be beneficial in work within a more traditional folkloristic capacity. "What I am doing is experiential education, facilitating team building, facilitating personal development, facilitating team development. I can't wait to be back in the humanities classroom and use some

Laudun's primary tasks. "I have taught what I call thinking

cross-culturally or working cross-culturally," he explains.

"The strength that folklore brought was a much more

sophisticated understanding of culture and the dynamics of

culture." Laudun adds, "It is a very popular thing to talk

about in business right now. People are researching it and

reading and they are making changes or making decisions

based on that understanding. So that's an area of culture

that has very real ramifications for the world. Those ideas

Laudun's experience suggests that theoretical understand-

ing can be as useful as practical skills in the business world.

At a recent program in China, a major topic was the

multiple roles that executives must play. He found that

sociolinguistic ideas about frames of reference were par-

ticularly useful as he considered how to address their con-

cerns. "There are a number of people in the humanities and

social sciences who have talked about this stuff, but it's still

relatively new to the schools of business." The challenge for

Laudun is learning to speak to non-specialists, translating

his ideas into their language, and at the same time learning

to translate their ideas into his language in order to under-

about culture affect hundreds of thousands of lives."

Laudun remarks that "as much as they aren't very clear about thinking about culture, we aren't very clear about thinking about business."

INDIANA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Virgil T. DeVault Alumni Center 1000 East 17th Street Bloomington, Indiana 47408-1521





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