

Vol 25, Spring 2019

TRADITIONS



In this Issue:

Fulbright Scholars, New Faculty, and a groundbreaking invention

Laila Rajani, Folklore MA '17
Photo by UNESCO/Asad Zaidi, 2018

TRADITIONS

FOLKLORE &
ETHNOMUSICOLOGY

Vol 25, Spring 2019

**Department of Folklore &
Ethnomusicology**

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This newsletter is published by the Department of Folklore & Ethnomusicology to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University. For activities and membership information, call (800) 824-3044 or send an e-mail to ialumni@indiana.edu.

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF FOLKLORE
AND ETHNOMUSICOLOGY

College of Arts and Sciences
Bloomington



THE COLLEGE OF
ARTS + SCIENCES
BLOOMINGTON

Letter from the Chair

Greetings from the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology at Indiana University!

Another year comes to a close at the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, and what a year it has been! As Chair, I have the distinct pleasure of sharing with you some of our major accomplishments and ongoing projects. Over the last academic year our faculty, students, and alumni have demonstrated once again that IU remains the flagship department for the study of Folklore and Ethnomusicology in North America.

First and foremost, it gives me great pleasure to announce that Dr. Solimar Otero will be joining our faculty as Full Professor this Fall. Dr. Otero is well known for her research in gender, sexuality, spirituality, and Yoruban religious practices throughout the Afro-Caribbean. We couldn't be more thrilled for Solimar and her husband Eric to be joining the faculty at IU. Not only is Solimar a perfect fit with our departmental values and mission, but her groundbreaking work in Latinx and Afro-Caribbean studies will transform the study of Folklore at IU for years to come.

In addition, I'd like to highlight a couple truly exceptional achievements from this past year. Among these we celebrated the publication of 3 monographs authored by our faculty; the conferral of 9 PhDs and 5 MAs! Several of our recent grads accepted permanent positions in the field. And Dr. Jon Kay has been appointed one of 25 Bicentennial Professors for the coming year.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize our ongoing departmental efforts to create new funding opportunities for our many stellar graduate students. This year the Department was able to create a substantial Summer Research Fellowship to support graduate students' dissertation research. We hope to sustain and expand this funding program in the coming years. Likewise, the Department has more than doubled the amount of hourly funding available and created a new permanent graduate assistantship in partnership with the Society for Ethnomusicology. These efforts are meant to provide meaningful research, teaching, and service opportunities for our graduate students, better preparing them for the career marketplace.



As the flagship department for the study of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, our mission is to apply disciplinary knowledge for the public good. We do this to advance the educational mission of Indiana University, and to sustain our long legacy of cutting-edge Folklore and Ethnomusicological scholarship.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "David McDonald". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

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Meet Our New Folks!

Alumni News



Barbara Hillers joined the Department in August, 2018. She came to Bloomington from University College Dublin, where she taught classes on folk religion, traditional storytelling, and material culture. Previously, she taught Celtic folklore, language, and literature at Harvard (2000-2009) and at the University of Edinburgh (1997-2000).

A native of northern Germany, Barbara began her formal studies in Ireland, where she developed a true passion for folklore after visiting the

National Folklore Collection in Dublin, one of the largest collections of oral literatures in the world. Barbara specializes in the dual Celtic and English-language traditions of Ireland and Scotland, a reflection of the 16 years she spent living there. Her research deals with various genres of oral literature, including storytelling and song traditions. She also co-edited *Child's Children: Ballad Study and its Legacies*, with Joseph Harris, a book on international ballad studies. While many of her publications deal with the oral background of medieval Celtic literatures, she is also interested in comparative approaches to oral genres such as epic song and the international folktale.

Barbara is delighted to join the vibrant community of folklorists and ethnomusicologists in Bloomington, where she teaches classes on World Storytelling, Folklore & Gender, and the History of Folklore. Beginning in Fall of 2019, she will be teaching a class titled: Fear, Anger, and the Internet, which will focus on the long life of online hate lore. This new course will be co-listed with the School of Informatics, Computer Science & Engineering. Barbara is a valuable addition to our team, and is more than happy to offer a cup of tea to anyone who comes knocking on her door in COB 233.

Fulbright Visiting Chair in Brazilian Music, Érica Giesbrecht, has spent her time in Bloomington conducting ethnomusicological research on dance, and exploring the potential of visual ethnography as a means of knowledge expression. Her research includes the political uses of Afro-Brazilian traditional performances by the black movement in São Paulo, memories of black elders' gala balls and, most recently, the São Paulo belly dancing scene. While here, she gave several

brown-bag lunches where she shared her work with fellow faculty, students and IU alumni, and even hosted a Brazilian Jongo Dance Workshop series.

Érica is visiting professor at the Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro. Her publications include *A X Negros e Carnavais construindo a comunidade negra de Campinas* (Pontes Editores, 2011). Her film "Baile para Matar a Saudade" (2015) won the prize of Best Ethnographic Film at the 7th International Ethnographic Film Festival in Recife (2016). Read more about Giesbrecht's work at IU on page seven.



(Above) **Elise Anderson**, Ethnomusicology PhD '19, was an invited participant on an AsiaNow roundtable titled, "The Future of Ethnic Autonomy in Xinjiang" at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, held in Denver from March 21-24, 2019. The roundtable was supported by the Ford foundation who provided a floor to speak on fields of politics, urban planning, anthropology, journalism, and rights advocacy. Elise's experience conducting research on Uyghur music in Chinese Central Asia enabled her to provide a viable perspective on troubling human rights abuses being committed by the state against members of ethnic minority communities.

Kara Rogers Thomas, Folklore PhD'04, was promoted to Full Professor at Frostburg State University.

Matthew Hale, Folklore PhD '18, accepted a Tenure Track Assistant Professorship at the Department of Communication at Austin Peay State University last year. Hale was also awarded a Peter Rollins Travel Grant for Early-Career Faculty from the Popular Culture Association in 2019.

Patricia Hardwick



*Patricia Hardwick,
PhD Indiana
University, Folklore
and Anthropology
(2009)*

Patricia Hardwick traveled to Indonesia this year to complete a ten-month Senior Scholar Research Fullbright. While there, she was affiliated with Universitas Indonesia. Hardwick has also been an Adjunct Associate Professor and a Research Associate-in-Residence at Hofstra University since September of 2018.

Patricia's research in Indonesia aims to contextualize the role of contemporary cultural flows that continue to shape Indonesian Malay theatrical traditions and expressions of Indonesian Malay Identity in Riau Islands Province. She also investigated the historical and cultural flows between the Riau Islands, West and Central Java, the Northeast Coast of Peninsular Malaysia, and Southern Thailand to explore the exchange of ideas, performers, and performance practices in this region. Hardwick writes: "In an era in which ownership of intangible cultural heritage is often contested in the culturally interconnected world of maritime Southeast Asia, an examination of the historical and contemporary influence of Pasisir cultural flows on performance forms, will provide perspective on the ways in which people and performing arts circulated in the region in the period before colonial rule and the emergence of modern nation-states."

The title of Hardwick's project is "Malay Chronicles, Thai Drama, Javanese Tales: Indonesian Malay Identity, Pasisir Cultural Flows and the Performing Arts in Riau Islands Province".



Custom Quilt made by Janice E. Frisch from travel t-shirts, May 2018

Janice Frisch, Folklore PhD '13, started her own business, Tangible Culture, LLC, building on the research and work she conducted while at IU. Her dissertation, quilt history, is now the subject of her lectures, and the focus of her masters thesis, custom memory t-shirt quilts, is the heart of her business. Frisch is also the editor of Uncoverings, the research Journal of the American Quilt Study Group. Find out more on her site: <https://tangibleculture.typepad.com/blog/>

Julián Antonio Carrillo, Folklore MA '14, began working at Alliance for California Traditional Arts as a Program Manager based in their Northern California office at the Presidio in San Francisco in fall, 2018.

Jeffrey Tolbert, Folklore PhD '16, joined the American Studies Program at Penn State Harrisburg as Assistant Professor of American Studies in the fall of 2018.

Leadership, Spokesmanship, Authorship

Alumna forefronts the expanding presenting of pain and privilege.



*Stephanie Shonekan,
Ethnomusicology PhD '03*

To read about Shonekan's work with fellow alumni, see page 10.

"I encourage students to expand their horizons in terms of next chapters."

T rue leaders are hard to come by. Ones who know how to listen to communities whose voices are drowned by all those attempting to speak for them. Ones who identify with those unheard voices, and translate creatively to provide multiple media of understanding. Stephanie Shonekan is one such leader. Last year, she took up the mantle as Professor and Chair of the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at University of Massachusetts Amherst.

This appointment did not distract Shonekan from the ground work, as she retains focus on the students. Shonekan writes, "I've enjoyed working with different student groups as faculty advisor. When students signal to me that they appreciate my work as a teacher and a mentor, I am encouraged to continue to develop relationships with students with a view to helping them achieve success."

Shonekan's Nigerian and Trinidadian heritage has given her a unique ability to personally connect with the stories and experiences of the peoples of both heritages across the earth. Her vast and in-depth study, experiences and perseverance, however, have equipped her with the tools to speak with a voice that resonates with all. Shonekan stepped up to be chair of the Black Studies Department at the University of Missouri during a difficult time for the university. Her leadership in her department is not the only place her voice carries. Her impactful works that explore the African Diaspora include such titles as *Life of Camilla Williams, African American Classical Singer and Opera Diva* (2011), *Soul, Country, and the USA: Race and Identity in American Music Culture* (2015). She has published multiple articles in such journals as the *Journal of Negro Education*, the *Journal of Pan African Studies*, and the *Black Music Research Journal*.

With all this in mind, it's fair to say Shonekan's work is expansive. It also delves into other forms of media, as she wrote and produced a live action film titled *Lioness of Lisabi*, which was awarded 1st prize in 2010 at the Chicago International Children's Film Festival, and in 2012 by the Girls Inc. Film Festival. However, Shonekan's roar for justice and peace does not drown out her patient illustrations of privilege and its ripple effect. Shonekan gave a TEDx Talk in September of 2016, during which she presented a unique and articulate metaphor for privilege. She compared the protection of sunscreen to the protection of privilege. This brilliant reformatting touched over 4,000 online viewers besides those who attended the talk.

As her work continues to be recognized, Shonekan's goals focus on accessibility. She shares of her hopes, saying, "I've been concerned with writing books and/or articles that are more accessible to all - scholars, music enthusiasts, race pundits, and more folks. As I conceive of new projects, I've got this on my mind." Such openmindedness is not exclusive to her work, however. Shonekan encourages students with her own experiences, saying, "When I finished my doctorate, my first tenure track job was a humanities position at a liberal/performing/media arts college. This was a great first step for me. I encourage students to expand their horizons in terms of next chapters."

Faculty News

(Below) Dr. Alisha Jones, an Assistant Professor in our department, contributed research to one of the most significant additions to New York City's Cultural Landscape: The Shed. A 200,000 sq ft modular building, the Shed has commissioned more than a dozen exhibitions, performances, and lectures with the aim of presenting both well-established and emerging artists from the worlds of theater, dance, visual art, poetry, film, and classical and pop music. On April 5th of this year, filmmaker Steve McQueen presented the grand opening with the first series of concerts titled "Soundtrack of America", which sought to create a family tree of musicians of color created with a team of academics and luminaries alike.

Dr. Jones' year was busier still as she gave a handful of lectures throughout. She presented new research on the native Philadelphian Marian Anderson at the University of Pennsylvania Library for their annual commemoration of her life in October 2018. She also had the great honor of preaching at the Princeton University Chapel in commemoration of their 2019 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Jones additionally presented research on the ethnomusicology of womanism at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL in commemoration of women's history month. Lastly, this summer she will present research at Oxford University in London and the Chautauqua Institute in New York, and preach at St. Paul's Cathedral in London and at Spelman College for the 2019 Baccalaureate.

SOUNDTRACK OF AMERICA		
DATES	CREATIVE TEAM	
April 5 - 14, 2019	Quincy Jones	
	Steve McQueen	
LOCATION	Maureen Mahon	
The McCourt	Dion 'No I.D.' Wilson	
	Tunji Balogun	
TICKETS	Greg Phillinganes	
Tickets go on sale February 6.	ADVISORS	
Become a <i>Shed Mover</i> today and get presale access on February 4.	Regina N. Bradley	
	Nelson George	
	Alisha Lola Jones	
	Matthew D. Morrison	
	Hamza Walker	

(Right) The Mathers Museum of World Cultures is currently hosting the exhibit *Sacred Drums, Sacred Trees: Haiti's Changing Climate*, curated by Assistant Professor Dr. Rebecca Dirksen. The exhibit explores how humanity, the divine, and the environment intersect through the sacred Vodou drums of Haiti and the trees from which they are made, and takes a close look at the history of deforestation in the country and how that has affected material culture and sacred performance. *Sacred Drums, Sacred Trees* features instruments that Dirksen commissioned on behalf of the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology from master craftsman Charles Charlesine, whose drums have graced the lakou (sacred yards) of the Artibonite Valley in Haiti for the past half a century. The exhibit will be on display through December 22, 2019.



(Above) During the Spring Semester of 2019, Dr. Rebecca Dirksen and Dr. Erica Giesbrecht, a Visiting Fulbright Scholar from Brazil, developed two brand-new tandem courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels that explored the theme of ethnographic film as a means of research in ethnomusicology. Seven graduate students and thirteen undergraduate students spent sixteen weeks discussing theoretical writings about films, watching and analyzing documentaries that have been influential to the use of film in scholarship, and practicing using film and audio equipment as well as editing software.

These courses counted on a pair of workshops on filming and editing techniques offered by award-winning local filmmaker Jacky Comfory, which were essential for the completion of this course. Between the two courses, students produced a total of twelve ethnographic short films.

They celebrated their success with a public screening at the Monroe County Public Library on May 1, with a turnout of about 60 attendees.



Doug Down Under

Doug Boyd (PhD '03) joins list of alumni with Fulbright Grants.

Doug Boyd was the last to suspect his passions for both technology and folklore would one day marry in a groundbreaking creation of his own design. Yet, the idea came to him as he sat in a restaurant, and like one struck by genius, he quickly scribbled it down on a napkin. It was on this napkin that Boyd had conceived an incredible leap in technology for archiving everywhere: the Oral History Metadata Synchronizer. OHMS is an open source software system for enhancing access to online oral history and field recordings. Boyd led the team that built the system, and since it's launching, about twelve-thousand oral history interviews are accessed per year by users all around the world. Since it was made open source and free in 2014, institutions in more than forty countries are using this innovative software.

That's why the National Library of Australia invited him to come and improve upon his invention, as well as give their oral history and folklore archival system a little boost. Not only has his creation been a success, but Boyd received a Fulbright Scholars Research Grant for his trip to Canberra, Australia. He headed south in February of this year and returns in May. The job doesn't come without its costs, however. "The development of OHMS takes up a growing percentage of my time and my creative energies," says Boyd. "I have focused a great deal of my research on web technologies and usability." But the work is worth the cost, as Boyd also shares, "As soon as we release an update, there is an immediate impact. That is pretty gratifying."

Such gratification could be the hope of any Folklorist or Ethnomusicologist, but Boyd says archive work had not always been in his sights. "While in school," Boyd admits, "I could never have imagined that I would be working professionally in archives, or even designing and running an open source software company." Boyd says when he saw the job opening, he hadn't even heard of such a position as an oral history archivist.

In spite of this, Boyd encourages, "I made it happen, despite the fact that I had very limited archival experience. Your

folklore/ethnomusicology degrees can take you anywhere."

He found it a pleasant surprise when his technological interests and folklore training would merge in his career path. He

offers his experience as advice and encouragement to up-and-coming folklorists and ethnomusicologists: "Innovation

is not about just spending money, it is about creativity, energy, and experimentation. Experiment and don't be afraid to fail."



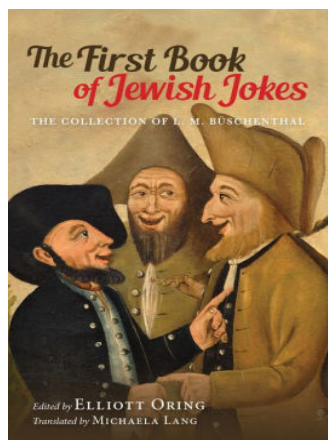
*Doug Boyd,
UK Oral Historian*

***"Experiment,
and don't be
afraid to fail."***

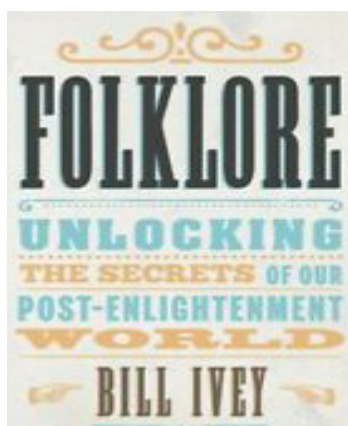
Among Boyd's achievements and the OHMS, he also currently manages over forty concurrent oral history interviewing initiatives that document a variety of topics. He also manages the archival collection of over 13,000 oral history interviews, as well as the \$1.4 million endowment at the Louis B. Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky. Alongside the Fulbright grant, Boyd has received the 2018 Archival Innovator Award from the Society of American Archivists, as well as the 2016 Roy Rosenzweig Prize for Innovation in Digital History. He also received the 2015 Award for Oral History in a Non-Print Format from the Oral History Association for the *Goin' North: Stories of the First Great Migration to Philadelphia*, in collaboration with West Chester University, Charles Hardy III, and Jenneken Smucker. Boyd was also recognized by University of Kentucky Libraries in 2015 with the Paul A. Willis Award for Outstanding Faculty.

New Publications

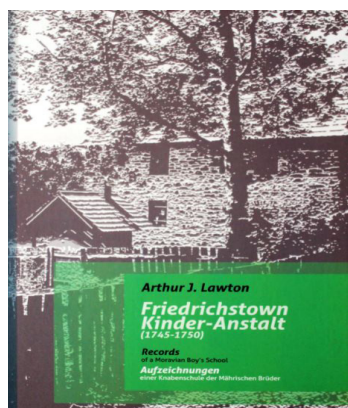
Elliot Oring (PhD '74), released *The First Book of Jewish Jokes: The Collection of L. M. Büschenthal* in 2016. The book takes the Jewish joke back two centuries. It explores where the concept of "Jewish jokes" comes from and how jokes as a genre were attached to the Jewish people in the first place. The purpose of the translation and collection of the anthology was to try and get the study of the Jewish jokes and humor more generally defined on some kind of historical footing.



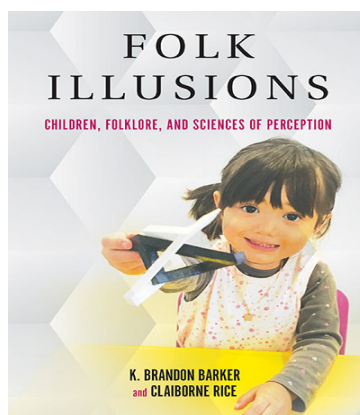
Bill Ivey released *Folklore: Unlocking the Secrets of Our Post-Enlightenment World* in the fall of 2018. In this work, Ivey seeks to discuss the end of the Enlightenment, and it's hand in the the linked threat of human rights around the world. He also argues the Folklorist's role in reversing this negative trend of thought, and the tools at their disposal to help shape a better world.



Arthur J. Lawton, PhD '13, published *Friedrichstown Kinder-Anstalt (1745-1750): Records of a Moravian Boy's School, Kirchenbuch, Vol. 1* in 2018. Lawton has been researching Henry Antes who owned the land and home in which the boy's school was held since 1964.



Department Lecturer Brandon Barker published *Folk Illusions: Children, Folklore, and Sciences of Perception*. Bloomington University Press 2019, with Claiborne Rice.



Alumni News

Nathan Gibson, MA '12, PhD Graduate student, and Ethnic American Music Curator (University of Wisconsin) released his latest recording project this May. *Nate Gibson & the Stars of Starday* was released by Bear Family Records, with 24 country, bluegrass, gospel, and rockabilly duets with Starday recording artists from the 1950s and '60s, as well as a 50 page booklet about the album. Backing Gibson and the Starday Stars are Marty Stuart, members of his Fabulous Superlatives band, and many more talented musicians including department alums Mike Lee and Timon Kaple.

Zilia Balkansky-Sellés, Folklore PhD '18, has worked at the Indiana University Bloomington Groups Scholars Program since October 2015.

Raynetta Wiggins, Ethnomusicology PhD '18, started a position as the Manager of Choir Curriculum and Performance with a nonprofit in Washington, DC called Washington Performing Arts in the fall of 2018.

Lisa Gilman, Folklore PhD '01, began a new job as an Assistant Professor of Folklore at George Mason University in the fall of 2018.

Lijun Zhang, Folklore PhD '14, will begin her new job as Assistant Professor of Folklore at George Mason University in Fall 2019.

Black Lives Matter & Music

Five alumni come together to create a brilliant work of inspirational and productive self-awareness.

“**H**ope,” writes Fernando Orejuela, Senior lecturer at IU Bloomington’s department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, “hope and some modicum of healing.” This was the motive behind the work of five IU Folklore and Ethnomusicology Alumni, Fernando Orejuela, Stephanie Shonekan, Alison Martin, Langston Collin Wilkins, and Denise Dalphond, as they packed each page they were allotted with perspective. The forward was written by Portia K. Maultsby, Emerita Professor of Ethnomusicology. *Black Lives Matter and Music: Protest, Intervention, Reflection*, dives into perhaps the deepest illness of our nation, and searches for medicinal patterns in the music of young people of color. Each contributor put their pen to protest, and to present conversations about institutional racism, class hierarchies, and cultural hegemony, and explain that such conversations are necessary to sustain all the time and not just in waves. They hope to support the efforts in the streets, but also to explore what else they as scholars can do to make some difference. Orejuela shared one possible impact: “Maybe there is one chapter here that will make one person re-evaluate their position on the events we describe a little or a lot differently. Or inspire someone to write or do work that we were unable to address in the few pages we were allotted that will make change happen.”

Shonekan shares the outlook of hope, writing, “I look forward to

an academic community devoid of the -isms that plague us inside and outside the Ivory Tower.” Their work has made its rounds, as more and more wish to hear them speak on it’s contents. Shonekan writes of the recognition, “We know we are on the right track when peers and others recognize our contributions to the field.”

Alison Martin brought insight about what it was like to work with fellow alumni, saying “I really enjoyed the process of writing my chapter for the book, I had great feedback from both Stephanie and Fernando. I became an ethnomusicologist to do this kind of critical work, so it’s great to have an opportunity to do so in my own department.”

The work is definitely an achievement, as it draws from both ethnographic research and personal experience to discuss black struggle, liberation, and identity through music.

The book was printed by Indiana University Press, and is available now.



Alumni News

Rebekah Moore, Ethnoscology PhD '15, has accepted a position as Tenure Track faculty at Northeastern University starting fall, 2019.

Langston Wilkins, Ethnomusicology PhD '16, started a position as Director at the Center for Washington Cultural Traditions in Feb. 2019. Wilkins also gave a Benjamin Botkin lecture this April at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

Dr. Tyron Cooper, Ethnomusicology PhD '13, Director of IU Archives of African American and African Diaspora Studies, and Adjunct professor at the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, was nominated for two Emmy Awards in the category of "Musical Composition/Arrangement". The works up for the award are his music compositions in PBS documentaries *Eva A-7063* and *The Music Makers of Gennett Records*.

Daniel Peretti, Folklore PhD '09, began his new job as Assistant Professor of Folklore at Memorial University in Newfoundland, Canada, Fall 2018.

Suzanne Godby Ingalsbe, Folklore PhD '17, has worked at the Institute for Advanced Study at Indiana University Bloomington since 2015 as the Associate Director.

Juan Sebastián Rojas, Ethnomusicology PhD '18, teaches at the El Bosque University in Bogotá, Colombia.

Talk Around B-Town

Alumni News



(Above) Lisa Gilman gave a talk at the department titled *My Music, My War: The listening Habits of U.S. Troops in Iraq and Afghanistan*.



(Left) Solimar Otero graced the department with her presence last fall to give a talk about her new book (and also effectively endeared the grad students to her).

(Right) For the 2019 Dorson Memorial Lecture, the department warmly welcomed alumnus Tom Mould, PhD '01.



(Left) Jan Rosenberg, Folklore BA '78, and Karen Duffy, Folklore PhD '02, enjoying a chat with Tom Mould, Folklore PhD '01, at the Dorson Memorial Lecture reception.



The Reception was held at the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology in March 2019.



(Above) **Annette B. Fromm**, Folklore PhD '92, joined Dr. Roger Janelli, Dr. Dawnhee Yim, and Dr. Deming An at the 2019 meeting of the editorial board of the International Journal of Intangible Heritage. She was also newly appointed as Associate Editor of Sephardic Horizons, an international online journal.

Hsin-Wen Hsu, Ethnomusicology PhD '14, began teaching as an Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology at the Graduate Institute of Ethnomusicology, National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) in August, 2018. In 2017, Hsin-Wen won WZU's Teaching Excellence Award. He also received a two-year research grant from the Ministry of Science and Technology in 2017, and a one-year research grant from NTNU in 2018.

Kate Schramm, Folklore PhD '16, was appointed Director of the Connecticut Cultural Heritage Arts Program at the Connecticut Historical Society in the fall of 2018.

Suzanne Barber, Folklore PhD '18, accepted a position at Union College in the fall of 2018.

Folks Abroad

Graduate Students set out to gather fieldwork, study languages, and gain crucial experiences in summer, 2018.



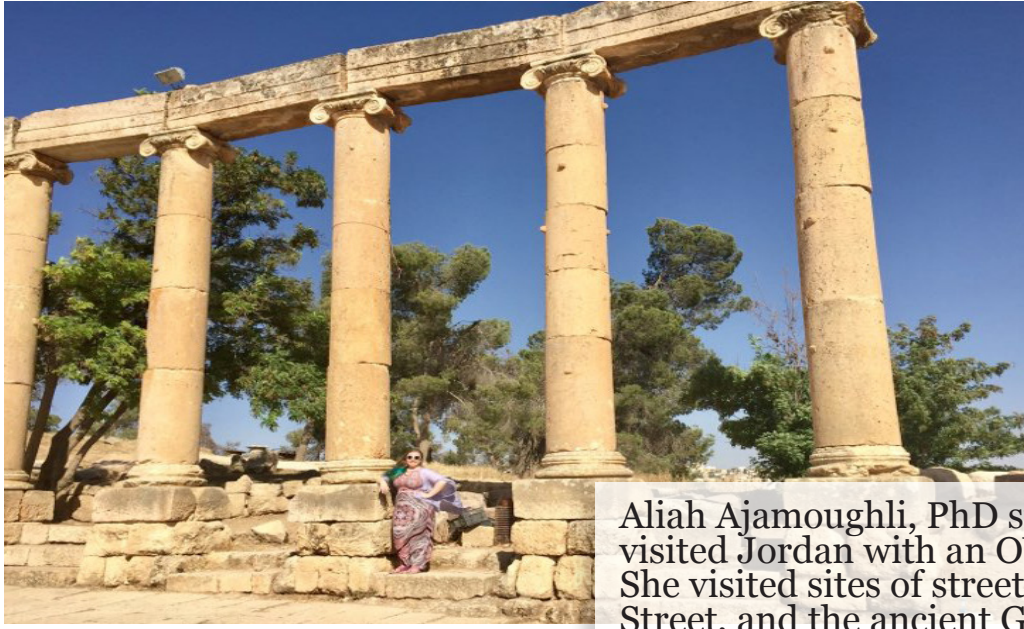
Gloria Colom in Puerto Rico, with friend Derek and his uncle, Samuel. Colom studied construction archives at the University of Puerto Rico's School of Architecture and a house in Utuado.



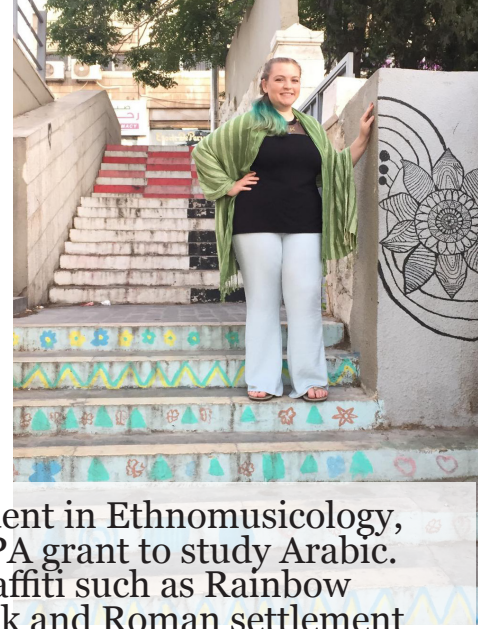
Micah Ling, Carrie Hertz, Jason Jackson and Kurt Dewhurst in Sanjiang County, China, studying textiles.



Folks Abroad Continued



Aliah Ajamoughli, PhD student in Ethnomusicology, visited Jordan with an OVIPA grant to study Arabic. She visited sites of street graffiti such as Rainbow Street, and the ancient Greek and Roman settlement ruins, Jarash.



Christian James, studied Hindi on an 8 week Critical Language Scholarship. He stayed with a family in the Tilak Nagar neighborhood, and saw such sights as the Moto Doongri fort and the Laxmi Narayan Temple.



(Above) Ben Bridges, Folklore PhD student, and Kelly Totten, PhD '17, worked together to create an archive at the John C. Campbell Folk School

(Left) Kelly Bosworth in Washington, DC for her Making American Music internship at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History.

What Makes a Monkey?

Professors attempt to draw the line of humanity through creative works.



Brandon Barker, Lecturer in Folklore in the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, and Daniel Povinelli, Professor of Biology at the University of Louisiana, recently had their play, *Confessions of a Former Monkey Mind Doctor*, selected as a featured event of Indiana University's College of Arts and Sciences Animal/Human themed Fall 2018 Themester Program.

Over the past several years, Povinelli and Barker have published interviews and short works of fiction that wrestle with the complex answers to the question: What do humans want from animals? A forthcoming special issue of the *Journal of Folklore Research* co-edited by Barker and Povinelli, critically examines the recent, surprising rise of Aesopian Fables as a template for designing experiments in the science of animal cognition. This issue rallies interdisciplinary contributions, including comparative and developmental psychologists, and IU's own distinguished scholars, William Hansen, Classics Emeritus, and Gregory Schrempp, Professor of Folklore. The special issue concludes with a new and extensive catalog of anthropomorphized behaviors projected onto animals in both folkloric narratives and scientific experimentation.

The show follows comparative psychologist Dr. Fomomindo, returning to her lab after a two-year sabbatical to say goodbye to her beloved chimps she has spent her life studying. To her surprise, Mojo—a human-like-trickster-of-a-chimp—shows up in hopes of hooking the doctor into her old, scientific ways. But what happens when her pursuit of closing the gap between humans and animals leaves her trapped in a hall of mirrors from which she may never escape? And what happens to the animals in her care – especially the one inside her head?

The play takes the form of a new genre: a traveling theatrical lecture, an inversion of traditional approaches to communicating science to the public. For two years, Doctor Fomomindo and Mojo entertained academic audiences in New York, Germany, Estonia and elsewhere, forcing academics who study animals to confront the social, ethical, and philosophical implications of their work. *Confessions'* inclusion in Indiana University's Themester allowed Povinelli and Barker to develop the show into an entertaining and haunting drama for the general public. The play is kicking off a national tour focused on University venues beginning this fall at the University of Louisiana and the Acadiana Center for the Arts in Lafayette.



Alumni News

James Leary, Folklore PhD '78 and Professor Emeritus of Folklore and Scandinavian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, had his album *Alpine Dreaming: The Helvetica Records Story, 1920-1924* nominated for a Best Album Notes Grammy. Leary's nominated album is a double CD and illustrated booklet issued on Archeophone Records, and featuring all 36 recordings produced by a Swiss immigrant record label based in Monroe, Wisconsin.

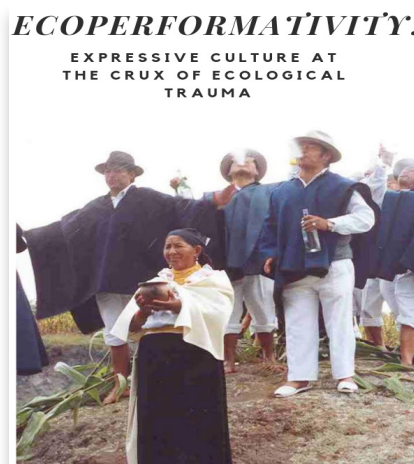


Joe Tomesh and family, by James Leary, 1990, Haugen, Wisconsin. Joe Tomesh plays accordion while Albert Tomesh and his sister, Dorothy Schwab, dance. John, Rose, Regina, and Tony Tomesh look on.

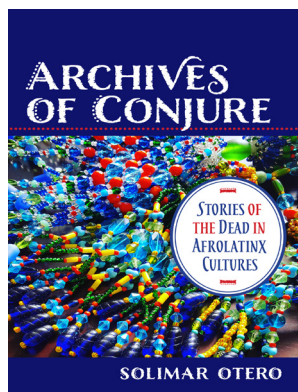
Elinor Levy, Folklore PhD '03, is the folk arts program manager at Arts Mid-Hudson. The program was just awarded \$5,000 for Humanities New York and \$2,000 from the Fairgame grant (NY) for 3-month program (July-September) *Mixed Status*, a multi-media, multi-site series of exhibitions and programs facilitating exploration of the social spaces of marginalized status in American culture.

Faculty News Cont.

(Right) John. H. McDowell was a visiting professor in the Anthropology Department at UC Berkeley this spring semester. He taught classes at both the graduate and undergraduate level. While there, he also delivered the Alan Dundes Guest Lecture on March 14 titled, "Ecoperformativity: Expressive Culture at the Crux of Ecological Trauma", which drew on his research in Colombia's Sibundov Valley and the area around Otavalo, Ecuador; sites where indigenous peoples are using traditional expressive resources to protest invasive development projects.



(Left) Fernando Orejuela, Ethnomusicology PhD '05, Stephanie Shonekan, Ethnomusicology PhD '03, and Allie Martin, Ethnomusicology MA '16 and current PhD candidate, are giving a Benjamin Botkin lecture in June at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.



(Left) Solimar Otero gave a lecture last semester based on her upcoming book, *Archives of Conjure*, to be published by Columbia University Press in February 2020. Her study covers over ten years of fieldwork in Cuba and archival research on Afro-Cuban spiritual practices. Otero answered questions regarding secrecy, ethics, and archiving sensitive cultural practices, particularly in Cuban context. Professor Otero will join the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology in the Fall of 2019.

Department Update

Since our last issue, we have awarded:

11 PhD degrees

7 MA degrees

8 BA degrees

*Faculty and Staff Photo,
by Jesse Fivecoate, 2019*



Then and Now



(Left) Recognize any of these faces? This picture of the incoming class of 1974 sparked some interest as the uncovering of the photo from decades past left many current faculty and staff at the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology wondering about who the students were! Of course, we recognized Richard Dorson, even with his fancy hat, but it took a group effort to gather the names for the other smiles photographed. We took to Facebook to ask some of you if you recognized anyone, and some of you even spotted yourselves! We learned that this photo was taken at the annual dinner, during which students would gather and eat food from various places around the world. At this particular outing, Dorson had even requested that everyone go in Folk Costume.

Front row, left to right: Sharon Sherman, Eleanor Wachs, Jean Kaplan, Libby Tucker, Greta Swenson.

Back row, left to right: Unknown, Dewey Reeves, Richard Dorson, Bill McCarthy, and Dewey Reeve's spouse.

(Right) Welcome to the incoming class of 2019! These first years worked hard and learned a lot. Notice any style similarities with the photo above? There might be one or two shared styles among folklorists no matter what year it is.



Front row, left to right: Caroline Tatem, Amanda Lueck, Addie McKnight.

Back row, left to right: Dilara Inam, Hunter Dux, Suyash Kumar Neupane, Andy Martinez, and Charles Exdell.

Alumni at Work

*Alumni fieldwork photo
contest winners*



Photo by UNESCO/Asad Zaidi, 2018

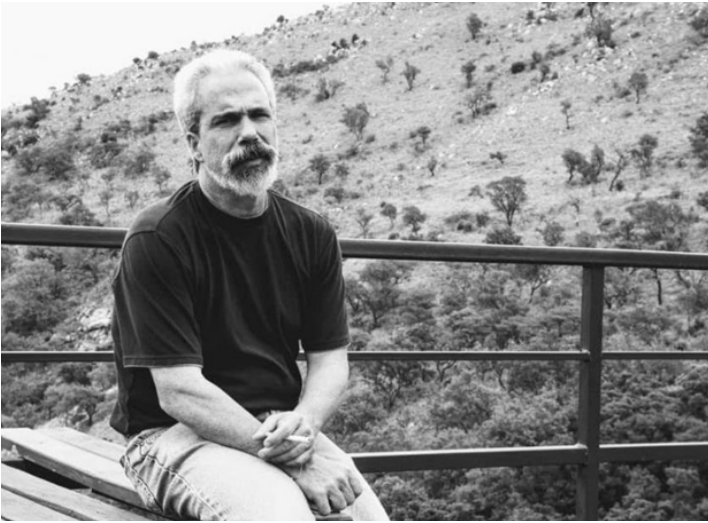
The Winner of our photo contest! Laila Rajani, Folklore MA '17, conducted research in August of 2018 with the indigenous Kalasha community in Chitral, Pakistan.

Runner up. Matthew Hale, Folklore PhD '18, took this photo of Spat Otakan, a special effects artist, as he hand sculpts faux wounds and bite marks in a clay zombie arm.



Photo by Matthew Hale, 2018

In Memoriam



Robert VH Dover (PhD '95), que en paz descansa

I received word and now confirmation that my former student, longtime friend, and frequent scholarly collaborator, Robert VH Dover, experienced a fatal heart attack on December 14, 2018, in Medellín, Colombia. Bob initiated his graduate studies in the IU Folklore Institute in the mid-1980s, and I recall many wonderful moments from those early years of our acquaintance – in particular, I can see that smile and hear the gentle laugh registering the absurdity of things. Having done study abroad in South America, Bob gravitated toward Latin American topics. He became a star pupil in Francisco Tandioy's Inga class, and defended in 1995 an outstanding doctoral thesis based on research in the Sibundoy

*Valley of Colombia, titled "Nucanchi Gente Pura: The ideology of Recuperación in the Inga Communities of Colombia's Sibundoy Valley." During his time at IU, Bob joined with me and Katharine Seibold, then a graduate student in Anthropology at IU, to organize in 1988 a symposium on Andean cultures, resulting in the publication by IU Press in 1992 of the influential collection, *Andean Cosmologies through Time: Persistence and Emergence*.*

Bob left Indiana in 1991 to take on a lectureship in Native Studies at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, and remained there through 1996. In the fall of 1997 he took a tenure-track position in the Departamento de Antropología at the Universidad de Antioquia in Medellín, Colombia, one of that nation's outstanding educational institutions. Bob found a viable niche there, obtaining tenure and pursuing research that initially drew on his work in the southwest of Colombia but increasingly turned to issues of public health and health delivery, both in Colombia and in South Africa. A stellar series of publications in this arena reveals a core feature of Bob's personality, the pleasure he took in collaborative research and his effectiveness as a research partner.

*In late September of 2018 I had a pleasant exchange of emails with Bob, prompted by my finding his excellent introductory essay to the 2006 reissue of a major resource in Colombian studies, Victor Daniel Bonilla's *Siervos de dios y amos de indios: El estado y la misión Capuchina en el Putumayo*. Bob expressed that he was energized, but also exhausted, by a series of activities spanning the domains of research, teaching, administration, and grant-writing. He mentioned involvement in the lives of his two children, Hilary and Thomas, and generally seemed primed to tackle the next set of challenges awaiting him.*

It is hard to believe that this vibrant and good-hearted man no longer walks the earth.

-John H. McDowell, Professor of Folklore, Indiana University

In Memoriam



*Raymond Hall, a wonderful student, colleague, and friend, died peacefully at home on April 7, 2018, in Ellensburg, Washington, at the age of 69. Raymond, a native son of Indianapolis, served in Vietnam and lived in Mexico before making his way to IU, where he initially became a Master Diver and an Underwater Archeologist, later turning to graduate studies in Folklore. Raymond secured the PhD in 1999 with a thesis titled *The Afromestizo on Mexico's Atlantic Coast: Ethnicity through Food, Festival, and Dance*, based on fieldwork on the Veracruz coast of Mexico. He transformed this thesis into a book, *An Ethnographic Study of Afro-Mexicans in Mexico's Gulf Coast: Fishing, Festivals, and Foodways*, published by Mellen Press in 2008. This work offers a vivid and insightful portrait of this Afro-descendent population through the lens of their traditional expressive culture.*

Raymond, accompanied by his wife Diane, left IU to take on a series of academic appointments, beginning at DePauw University and culminating at Central Washington University where he became an associate professor, retiring in 2018. In all of his academic settings, Raymond devoted time and energy to the cause of inclusivity. By all accounts, he was a much-appreciated teacher and colleague, and he continued to pursue intellectual interests focused on African-origin and Indigenous populations in the New World.

Allow me one personal anecdote. In the summer of 2000 Raymond (Ramón) and I travelled to Cuba to attend an academic conference, but we strayed from the group and found ourselves in the good company of Henry and Carlos, who introduced us to their families and shared their lives with us in old Havana. Raymond, personable and affable as ever, formed a lasting friendship with these good fellows, just as he did with so many people, of such varied backgrounds, over the course his life.

Raymond, we miss you.

John H. McDowell, Professor of Folklore, Indiana University

Don't see your name?

Tell us how you're doing—we'd love to know! Please email alumni updates and tidbits to:

folkethn@indiana.edu

Make sure to include your degree and graduation year, and we'll work your news in to the next edition of *Traditions*!

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American Folklore Society, IU Alumni Reception 2018, Buffalo, NY



In the neighborhood? Stop on by the Classroom Office Building and say hello!



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