

Folklore Studies

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON FOLKLORE PROGRAM

Spring 2009

UO Folklore Program Widely Represented at 2008–9 Conferences

From the American Folklore Society national conference to the Western States Folklore Society regional meetings and international events, University of Oregon Folklore Program faculty members and students continue to demonstrate significant involvement and influence on the discipline of folklore studies, earning notable honors and awards for their presentations at numerous academic meetings. In October, the UO Folklore Program had a strong presence at the American Folklore Society Conference in Louisville, Kentucky (see full list of presentations on page 3). This year, Professor Sharon Sherman was elected as a fellow of the American Folklore Society (AFS), an honorary body of folklorists whose election to the fellows signifies their contributions to the field.

Tying into the “Commons and Commonwealth” theme for this year’s conference, faculty members and students from the University of Oregon led a lively discussion on the subject of “ethnographic archives in the era of the electronic commonwealth.” Folklore Program faculty member John Fenn chaired the session, which explored issues related to the management of cultural heritage collections in the digital domain. The Folklore Program’s collaboration with the University of Oregon Libraries on the Randall V. Mills Archive of Northwest Folklore provided a case study for the forum discussion. In this project, the Folklore Program will replace the Mills Archive card catalogs with the Archivists’ Toolkit data management system and serve as an online catalog for book collections and student folklore fieldwork projects. In addition, the database will allow the archive to export finding aids for collections to the UO Libraries databases. The Mills Archive project



Folklore archive enthusiasts at the 2008 American Folklore Society meeting, Louisville, Kentucky; back row, from left to right, Nathan Georgitis, Erin O'Meara, John Fenn, Andy Kolovos, Daniel Wojcik; front row, Ziyang You, James Fox, and Casey Schmitt.

may contribute to the Ethnographic Archives Initiative, a larger national discussion led by AFS. Fenn was joined on the panel by colleagues from the UO Libraries, including James Fox, head of special collections, Erin O'Meara, electronic records archivist, and Nathan Georgitis, metadata librarian. The Vermont Folklife Center's Andy Kolovos, who consulted on the project, also served as a panelist. Others in attendance from the UO included Daniel Wojcik, former UO archivists Joe O'Connell, Casey Schmitt, and Ziyang You, as well as representatives from folklore archives across the United States.

In April, graduate student Summer Pennell, former student Jen Furl, and folklore faculty members Doug Blandy, John Fenn, and Lisa Gilman attended the annual meeting of the Association of Western States Folklorists, held this year at Fort Worden State Park in Townsend, Washington. Blandy was invited to colead “Networking with Community Arts Roundtable” with Bill Cleveland, the director of the Center for the Study of Art and

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ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

The University of Oregon's Folklore Program is one of the nation's most progressive centers for folklore studies. The interdisciplinary nature of the program allows independent-minded students to design their own programs according to their interests. Each year, students and faculty members present at conferences nationwide, publish articles, and produce award-winning films. The program is also home to the Randall V. Mills Archive of Northwest Folklore, which houses nearly 20,000 documents and films.

FOLKLORE PROGRAM

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UNIVERSITY
OF OREGON

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Notes from Program Director Daniel Wojcik



Daniel Wojcik

This past year has been an important time of growth and transformation for the University of Oregon Folklore Program, despite difficult economic conditions and ensuing budget challenges. Student enrollment and interest in UO folklore studies are at an all-time high, as the interdisciplinary nature and relevance of our program continues to attract innovative, serious students who think beyond disciplinary boundaries.

The 2008–9 academic year was busy and productive, and this newsletter documents some of the many accomplishments and accolades that our faculty, students, and alumni have attained. This past year, faculty members have published a number of important works, received various awards, and presented papers at conferences nationally and internationally. Although these are described in detail in the following pages, a few of the highlights include the following: Professor Sharon Sherman being elected a fellow of the American Folklore Society; Associate Professor Lisa Gilman's tenure in the Department of English; and folklorist John Fenn's recent hire as an assistant professor in the Arts and Administration Program. Another important and ongoing activity is our continued collaboration with the UO Libraries' University Archives and Special Collections to enhance the visibility and accessibility of the holdings of the Randall V. Mills Archive of Northwest Folklore.

Our students also have accomplished much in terms of presentations, publications, awards, and creative work. They have continued the tradition of the "Archive Hour" series and organized various public events and presentations. With the students' enthusiasm and supportive efforts, our "Track Town Traditions" events, held in conjunction with the 2008 Olympic Team Trials in Eugene, were filled to capacity and received rave reviews as well as local and national media coverage. Additional updates about the successes of our alumni and students, as well as our upcoming events, may be found on our webpage: www.uoregon.edu/~flr. Feel free to contact us with any news, and please visit us if you are in town.

As I step down as director of the Folklore Program, I am gratified to have assisted in

"I am continually impressed by the originality of our students' work, the significance of their final projects, and their overall enthusiasm and creativity."

—Daniel Wojcik

the program's growth, continuing the work of previous directors Barre Toelken and Sharon Sherman. During the past three years, we have expanded and formalized course offerings, and doubled the number of participating faculty members, resulting in collaborative efforts across campus to build the program and support our graduate students. We have enhanced our curriculum, created a new webpage, and have updated and renovated the Mills Archive. We also have increased the visibility and outreach of the Folklore Program by partnering with local communities and organizing numerous public events, such as our various film and speaker series, oral history and video documentations of local culture, guest lectures, and assorted exhibits and performances.

These efforts, along with the success of our graduates who hold positions in academia, museum work, video production, and public folklore, have helped with student recruitment. We currently have twenty-one graduate students including Ph.D. students who specialize in folklore. Twelve students have graduated from our program this year, and eleven incoming students will join us in the fall term of 2009—our largest class of graduates and the largest class of first-year graduate students ever. Fourteen undergraduate students are now pursuing the certificate in folklore, also the largest number ever. The increase in students interested in folklore studies and the increased financial support they receive has been the most fulfilling part of my term as director. I am continually impressed by the originality of our students' work, the significance of their final projects, and their overall enthusiasm and creativity. It has been rewarding to be a part of this exciting time for the UO Folklore Program, and I thank all of you who have supported and strengthened our program.

AMERICAN FOLKLORE SOCIETY CONFERENCE

FORUM: Ethnographic Archives in the Era of the Electronic Commonwealth (sponsored by the Archives and Libraries Section, American Folklore Society). Chair: John Fenn (UO folklore), James Fox (UO folklore affiliate), Nathan Georgitis (UO folklore), Andy Kolovos (Vermont Folklife Center), Erin O'Meara (University Archives and Special Collections)

PANEL: Rituals of Mourning: Memorialization, Self, and Society

"Memorialization as Protest in the Ghost Bike Movement" (Robert Dobler, UO folklore)

"Pre's Rock: Ritual and Runners' Traditions at the Roadside Memorial for Steve Prefontaine" (Daniel Wojcik, UO folklore)

MEDIA SESSION: Making Music, Building Bridges (Elaine Vradenburgh, UO folklore alum)

PANEL: Meeting on the Intellectual Commons: Papers in Honor of Michael Owen Jones

"Analyzing Issues of Intangible Cultural Heritage in China" (Sharon Sherman, UO folklore)

PANEL: Rediscovering Music

"Playing This Supposedly Long-Dead Music': The British Folk-Song Repertoire and Style of Alasdair Roberts" (Joseph O'Connell, UO folklore)

PANEL: Archiving and Digital Education

"Dos and Don'ts of Going Digital" (Alysia D. McLain, UO folklore alum)

PANEL: Vernacular and Outside Art

"Punk Gig Fliers as Urban Folk Art" (David A. Ensminger, UO folklore)

PANEL: Heroes

"The McCandless Phenomenon: In Pursuit of the Magic Bus" (Casey Schmitt, UO folklore alum)

PANEL: Virtual Communities: Internet and Identity

"Aggregate Intentionality on the Vernacular Web: The Case of 'The Homosexual Extremist's Catholic Space'" (Robert Glenn Howard, University of Wisconsin, UO folklore alum)

WORKSHOP: Professional Development

Workshop: Introduction to Digital Audio Field Recording (sponsored by the Archives and Libraries Section, American Folklore Society), co-led by John Fenn (UO folklore)

WESTERN STATES FOLKLORE SOCIETY CONFERENCE

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

"An American Soldier's iPod: Layers of Identity and Situated Listening in Iraq" (Lisa Gilman, UO folklore)

"Treating the Family Naturally: Pitfalls of Vernacular Authority in Digital Enclaves" (Robert Glenn Howard, University of Wisconsin, UO folklore alum)

"How Will I Ever Go to Confession if I Can't Make My Avatar Stop Dancing?' Logging into the Sacred through Second Life" (Kate Ristau, UO folklore alum)

"Folk Belief, Ritual, and Runners' Traditions at the Roadside Shrine for Steve Prefontaine" (Daniel Wojcik, UO folklore)

Conferences

Continued from page 1

Community in Bainbridge Island, Washington. Conference attendees also enjoyed a field trip to the Longshoremen's Hall in Tacoma, where they learned about historic paintings and the union's history. Later in April, Assistant (soon Associate) Professor Lisa Gilman, Associate Professor Daniel Wojcik, and folklore alum Kate Ristau traveled to the Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles to present papers at the Western States Folklore Society's annual conference, where they met up with previous alumni Moriah Hart and Robert Glenn Howard (see titles of presentations on this page). In June, folklore graduate student Emily West Afanador attended the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment conference, and presented a paper titled "Girls Gone Wild: Female Adventuring on African Rivers," which discussed British women adventurers (Rose in *The African Queen* and Mary Kingsley's self-depictions in *Travels in West Africa*).

Plans are under way for a strong contingent of UO folklorists to attend the annual meeting of the American Folklore Society in Boise, Idaho, in October 2009, as well as the Western States Folklore Society conference to be held at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, in April 2010. For more information about upcoming conferences as well as faculty and student participation at various events, please visit the Folklore Program website at www.uoregon.edu/~flr.

Folklore Program Celebrates Eugene's Track Town Traditions



Participants from the panel discussion on the legend and lore of Steve Prefontaine (back row, from left to right): Paul Geis, Linda Prefontaine, Pat Tyson, Geoff Hollister, Daniel Wojcik, and (front row) graduate student runners Beth Dehn and Kelley Totten.

Not every academic discipline studies the traditions of short shorts, the marathon, runner's high, fartlek workouts, the beer mile, naked relays, hash house harriers, and the legend of Prefontaine. But the Folklore Program presented students and running enthusiasts alike the opportunity to examine local running lore this past summer. June 2008 marked the Olympic Team Trials for track and field in Eugene, and Daniel Wojcik, director of the Folklore Program, organized a series of guest lectures, films, and panel discussions titled "Track Town Traditions and the Culture of Running," held in conjunction with his University of Oregon summer course of the same name.

The "Track Town Traditions" event series explored distance running, track and field, and the Olympic Games. Panel discussions included talks by famous local legends Roscoe Divine, Jim Hill, Kathy Hayes Herrmann, Tom Heinonen, Joe Henderson, Mike Manley, Cathie Twomey Bellamy, Wade Bell, and Kenny Moore. Featured films that were introduced and analyzed from an academic perspective included *Olympia, Part I: Festival of the Nations*, and *Tokyo Olympiad*. The screening of the film *Fire on the Track: The Steve Prefontaine Story* before a standing-room-only crowd was followed by a discussion with Linda Prefontaine, former UO runners

Pat Tyson and Paul Geis, Nike pioneer Geoff Hollister, and *Fire on the Track* executive producer Scott Chambers, all of whom added poignant personal anecdotes and moments of humor to the Prefontaine film event.

The "Track Town Traditions" series was attended by more than eight hundred track enthusiasts and others interested in local culture, and supported by graduate students enrolled in the Folklore Program. Students interacted with community attendees, filmed the events, and met many local running greats. Wojcik and his students hope to continue documenting Track Town traditions and to conduct interviews and partner with members of the local running community to record the forgotten stories, important oral histories, and emergent running traditions of Eugene.

A special fieldwork project carried out during the Olympic Team Trials involved recording interviews with visitors to Pre's Rock, a roadside memorial in the Hendricks Park region of Eugene, where Steve Prefontaine died in a car crash. Out-of-town visitors and Olympic hopefuls shared stories and anecdotes about the meaning Prefontaine had in their lives and their emotional reactions at the memorial site. Folklore graduate student Ziyang You, from China, found the interviews she conducted to be very moving, stating, "I now know why Prefontaine is important in both history and people's thoughts. He's still alive in many people's minds and hearts. His legacy is powerful and inspiring." For more information and to view the rough-cut preliminary film from this ongoing project, visit cascade.uoregon.edu/fall2008/online-extras/pres-rock-pilgrimage. If you would like to help support the completion of this project, please contact Daniel Wojcik.



Kent Hoffmeyer, one of the thousands of runners who visited Pre's Rock during the 2008 Olympic Team Trials in Eugene, says a prayer for Steve Prefontaine at the roadside shrine.

ChinaVine Project Continues with Art Exhibit and Travel to Guizhou Province

Opening at the Hearth Gallery on the Chinese New Year in 2009, *Expressions of China* exhibited thirty selected works from students' travels through the rural villages of Shandong Province and the cities of Jinan, Beijing, and Shanghai in 2008. The exhibit featured photographs and symbolic objects, and is an extension of ChinaVine, an interactive research effort aimed at teaching English-speaking audiences about longstanding Chinese customs and traditional art through modern technology. On its web site, ChinaVine.org, research team members have placed text, photographs and streaming video of Chinese folk art and village life. The project is a collaboration between faculty members and students from the University of Oregon and those at the University of Central Florida in the U.S., along with two universities in China, Shandong University of Art and Design, and Beijing Normal University.



Left: Professor Doug Blandy and friends on a recent trip to Guizhou Province, China.

During the past two years, ChinaVine research teams, made up of students and professors, have traveled to China four times. On a recent trip to Guizhou province in March 2009, Professor Doug Blandy and arts management graduate student Myra Tam attended an annual Mountain Ramp festival, which featured a mix of folk dance and modern Chinese pop culture, with approximately 20,000 people in attendance.

Recent Student Awards



On the corner of Thirteenth Avenue and Willamette Street in Eugene, Oregon, a ghost bike memorial was created in honor of David Minor, who died in an accident last year; the memorial is discussed in folklore student Robert Dobler's article on subject.

Robert Dobler was awarded the Warren E. Roberts Graduate Student Paper Award from the American Folklore Society for his paper "Memorialization and Protest in the Ghost Bike Movement."

Joseph O'Connell received an award for Best Graduate Paper from the Public and Private Student Conference at Indiana University for his paper "Taping Demos Politics of Participation in a Hoosier Home Recording Community."

Summer Pennell was awarded the Bruce Abrams Graduate Award in LGBT studies from the Department of Women's and Gender Studies for her project "Pinang and Ayu: A Love Story."

Kelley Totten received the Bea Roeder Scholarship from the Association of Western States Folklorists. She was also awarded a Graduate Student Research Grant from the Center for the Study of Women in Society.

Ziying You was awarded the T. Y. Yeh Award for Student Scholarship in Asian and Asian American Folklore from the American Folklore Society for her paper "The Political and Ideological Use of Folklore in Modern China." She also received a Research Award from the UO Graduate School.



Xueyuan Hou was awarded the Alma Johnson Graduate Folklore Award.

Yearly Awards and Support of Student Work

In 2001, Susan Fagan and her husband, Tom Fagan, established the Kate Martin Undergraduate Folklore Award, given for the best archival fieldwork project by an undergraduate in a folklore class, and the Alma Johnson Graduate Folklore Award for the best project completed by a graduate student in an English or folklore graduate course. The annual awards are named for Susan's grandmothers, who were, as she realized once she began the study of folklore, the original spark for her lifelong interest in this field.

Because of the generosity of donors like Susan and Tom Fagan, the Folklore Program is able to support and award outstanding student research. This year, folklore student **Joseph O'Connell** and Asian Studies student **Xueyuan Hou** were awarded the Alma Johnson Graduate Folklore Award. Hou was recognized for her video *Mahjong: Building the Great Wall at the Table*. O'Connell was honored for his paper "Playing This Supposedly Long-Dead Music: The British Folk-Song Repertoire and Style of Alasdair Roberts."

Mandy Lindgren received the Kate Martin Undergraduate Folklore Award in recognition of her paper "Take That Shirt off! Let Me See! Bodybuilding as an Expression of Gender, Sexuality, and Hegemonic Resistance."



Right: UO folklore alumni Kate Ristau and Moriah Hart, enjoying themselves at the Western States Folklore Society conference in Los Angeles, April 2009.



Joseph O'Connell, recipient of the Alma Johnson Graduate Folklore Award, performs award-winning music under his band name, Elephant Micah.

Spotlight on Creative Student Projects

At the exhibition "A Set of Directions for Making Something" at Grotto Gallerie—an artist-run space with a constantly changing location (this time in the basement of a bookstore in Brooklyn, New York)—**Joseph O'Connell** organized an audio installation featuring self-interviews and home recordings by the music collective Rowntree Records.



A packed audience attended the performance of "Pinang and Ayu: A Love Story." Summer Pennell was the dalang (puppeteer) and scriptwriter, with musical arrangement by Qehn Jennings, musical director of Gamelan Sari Pandhawa. The music included traditional Javanese pieces, American tunes, and original compositions by Qehn.

For **Summer Pennell's** thesis project, she adapted and performed "Pinang and Ayu: A Love Story," an original wayang kulit (Indonesian shadow-puppet theater) performance by Eugene's Gamelan Sari Pandhawa. Wayang kulit is a traditional and beloved art form in Indonesia, and still attracts large audiences today. An Indonesian

orchestra, called a gamelan, provides musical accompaniment for the show. Adapted from a Javanese folktale, this production added a new twist: a lesbian storyline. Themes of sexuality, feminism, and socio-political oppression are explored through a humorous plot.

Ziying You's film *Why Are We Cooking?* *Chinese Foodways in America* participated in the 2009 Open Lens Short Film Festival at the Downtown Initiative for the Visual Arts (DIVA) in Eugene. Open Lens is DIVA's major winter celebration that attracts patrons to see the work of emerging regional film artists, attend seminars, and meet with guest filmmakers. You's film featured several local Chinese chefs, who discussed the changing dynamics of Chinese foodways in modern society. Her thesis similarly focuses on the dynamics, variations, and functions of Chinese foodways in the United States, exploring those that have continued through time and across space and that have been transformed by the processes of transnational and transcultural communication and interaction.

Al Bersch, with photographer-educator **Leslie Grant**, took part in a group show titled *The Wild So Close* at the Or Gallery, an artist-run space in Vancouver, British Columbia. The exhibition brought together varying photographic and video works to investigate concepts of leisure environments and resources, and included materials from *The Forestry Project*, Bersch and Grant's participatory documentary about logging and forestry in southeastern B.C.



A photograph by retired logger Walt Fanning, from *The Forestry Project*, an exhibit organized by Al Bersch and Leslie Grant at the Or Gallery in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Participating Faculty Members

Ina Asim, history
Martha Bayless, English
Carl Bybee, journalism and communication
Edwin L. Coleman II, English
Matthew Dennis, history
James Fox, Special Collections and University Archives
Alisa Freedman, East Asian languages and literatures
Marion Sherman Goldman, sociology
Lori Hager, arts and administration
Kingston Heath, historic preservation
Kenneth I. Helphand, landscape architecture
Shari M. Huhndorf, English
Lamia Karim, anthropology
Kathleen Rowe Karlyn, English
Brian Klopotek, anthropology
Mark Levy, music
Kenneth Liberman, sociology
David Luebke, history
Michael Majdic, Media Services
Gabriela Martinez, journalism and communication
Anne Dhu McLucas, music
Debra Merskin, journalism and communication
Camilla H. Mortensen, German and Scandinavian
Julianne Newton, journalism and communication
Jeffrey Ostler, history
Dorothee Ostmeier, German and Scandinavian
Priscilla Ovalle, English
Elizabeth Peterson, UO Libraries
Donald Peting, architecture
Ellen Rees, German and Scandinavian
Leland M. Roth, art history
Janice Rutherford, arts and administration
Gordon Sayre, English
Analisa Taylor, Romance languages
Kartz Ucci, art
Elizabeth Wheeler, English
Stephanie Wood, Center for the Study of Women in Society
Stephen Wooten, international studies

Folklore Program Adds New Faculty Member

Folklorist John Fenn recently accepted a tenure-line faculty position as an assistant professor at the University of Oregon's School of Architecture and Allied Arts, beginning fall 2009. One of his primary responsibilities in the program will be to launch and oversee the newest area of concentration within the master's degree: media management. Holding a Ph.D. in folklore and ethnomusicology from Indiana University (2004), Fenn has conducted field research on popular music and youth identity (Malawi); folks arts and material culture (southern Indiana, the Pacific Northwest); and the cultural history of African American communities in Eugene-Springfield. He has also explored the intellectual history of public sector ethnomusicology, primarily via the commercial recordings released on Folkways by Laura Boulton. His teaching includes ethnomusicology theory and methods, popular music in the African diaspora, public folklore, and media studies.



John Fenn

John Fenn's Report on Community, Culture, and the Past in Eugene, Oregon

After moving to Eugene in 2005, I heard a brief mention of a historic African American neighborhood-community that was located somewhere north of campus. That no one could tell me much about this seemingly significant element of local cultural history was not surprising given the ways institutional prejudice often dictates what we know about a place via the "official" and written record. Early in winter term of 2008, I met Lyllye Parker, an adviser in the Office of Multicultural Academic Success (OMAS) on campus, a lifelong resident of Eugene, and a daughter of the Reynolds family—a "pioneer" family in the African American community that had lived in what they called the Ferry Street Bridge area. She shared stories with me about her family and childhood during our first meeting, and her stories pushed me to want to know more. Personal interest in this issue and my goals as a folklorist vested in public sector work aligned with the need for public acknowledgement of this "hidden" history.

During the fall term of 2008, I taught a course through the Arts and Administration Program that was dedicated to gathering an oral history of the African American community that called the Alton Baker Park area of Eugene home from the mid-1940s until a forced relocation in 1949. I wanted students taking the course to engage in hands-on collaborative work related to cultural heritage and community: planning and conducting fieldwork, navigating divergent

"I wanted students taking the course to engage in hands-on collaborative work related to cultural heritage and community: planning and conducting fieldwork, navigating divergent interests among and between community groups, and satisfying expectations of multiple constituencies for a project."

—John Fenn

interests among and between community groups, and satisfying expectations of multiple constituencies for a project. The course received support from the UO Libraries Special Collections and University Archives, who agreed to catalog and house oral history materials generated through the course and who provided me with a yearlong graduate student research fellow who has been instrumental in gathering and processing materials.

The project outgrew the ten-week time span of a course, and the students who took the course conducted eight interviews and gathered archival research in a few short weeks, but much was left undone. With the help of a student in the class, I applied for money that would support ongoing fieldwork for the project, and that proposal has recently been funded. I anticipate overseeing the fieldwork into the summer and next fall.

Folklore Program Faculty

DOUG BLANDY (ARTS AND ADMINISTRATION, FOLKLORE)

Doug Blandy is currently the associate dean of academic affairs for the School of Architecture and Allied Arts, a professor and program director in the Arts and Administration Program, and the director of the Institute for Community Arts Studies at the University of Oregon. As director of the institute, he inaugurated the online advisory CultureWork. In addition, he teaches and advises students at both the graduate and undergraduate level who have an interest in arts administration and community arts. His research attends to community arts, civil society, program accessibility, and art education. He provides service to professional organizations internationally, nationally, regionally, and locally. Doug's most current research is a collaboration with scholars in China and the United States to interpret China's cultural heritage for English speaking audiences. This project can be found at ChinaVine.org.



Professor Dianne Dugaw and folklore student Summer Pennell at the UO Lavender Graduation ceremony.

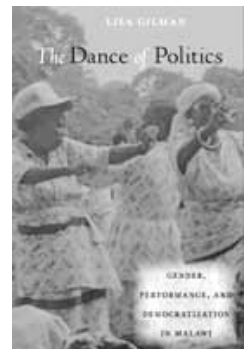
DIANNE DUGAW (ENGLISH, FOLKLORE)

Dianne Dugaw has presented lectures and performances at colleges, libraries, conferences, and festivals throughout the U.S. and Canada. Current work has focused on Anglo-American ballads and folk songs. Her definitive discussion of the term "ballad" will appear in *The New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*. Her

essay "Heroines Gritty and Tender, Printed and Oral, Late-Breaking and Traditional: Revisiting the Anglo-American Female Warrior" (forthcoming in *Ballads and Broad-sides in Britain, 1500–1800*, Anita Guerrini and Patricia Fumerton, eds.) revisits the topic of her first book, *Warrior Women and Popular Balladry, 1650–1850* and her CD "Dangerous Examples: Fighting and Sailing Women in Song" (cdbaby.com) by examining gender and sexuality in folk songs, literature, and history. During the summer of 2009, Dugaw will conduct research in Mexico on the spiritual and political aspects of the culture of the baroque era. In 2008–9, Professor Dugaw was honored with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Education and Support Services Award from the University of Oregon.

LISA GILMAN (ENGLISH, FOLKLORE)

Lisa Gilman received her Ph.D. in folklore with a minor in African studies from Indiana University in 2001. She has held appointments at the University of Toledo and Texas A&M University in addition to her current position in the Folklore Program and English department at the University of Oregon (2005–present). Gilman is interested in exploring relationships between expressive forms and socio-political issues. She is the author of *The Dance of Politics: Gender, Performance, and Democratization in Malawi* (Temple University Press, 2009) and a number of articles engaging various aspects of women's political performances in Malawi. The most recent is "Complex Genres, Intertextuality, and the Analysis of Performance" in the *Journal of American Folklore* 122 (2009). Her current research examines the musical listening of American troops when deployed to the war in Iraq and explores relationships between musical practices, experience, identity, and memory. She teaches courses in folklore about identity, politics, gender, sexuality, and African studies. Beginning in summer 2009, Gilman will be the new director of the Folklore Program at the University of Oregon.



Lisa Gilman's book *The Dance of Politics: Gender, Performance, and Democratization in Malawi*, was published by Temple University Press. The book looks at how gender and class intersect in Malawi through women's roles as political praise performers.



Lisa Gilman

PHILIP SCHER (ANTHROPOLOGY, FOLKLORE)

Philip W. Scher has been at the University of Oregon since 2002. His area of focus is the Caribbean, with primary research interests in the politics of heritage and cultural identity, popular and public culture, folklore, cultural studies, and political economy. His publications include two edited volumes: *Perspectives on the Caribbean: A Reader in Culture and Representation* from Blackwell Publishers (2008) and *Trinidad Carnival: The Cultural Politics of a Transnational Festival* from Indiana University Press (2007). Other publications include his book *Carnival and the Formation of a Caribbean Transnation* (University Press of Florida, 2003) and "Copyright Heritage: Preservation, Carnival, and the State in Trinidad" (*Anthropological Quarterly*, Summer 2002). His latest work concerns the implications for anthropology of the copyright and legal protection of expressive culture and folklore as well as a study of UNESCO World Heritage sites in the Caribbean. He is a 2008–9 recipient of a Fulbright Senior Scholar Award and a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship.

SHARON SHERMAN (ENGLISH, FOLKLORE)

Sharon R. Sherman is a professor of English and former director of the Folklore Program at the University of Oregon, where she continues to teach part-time. Her current courses are Film and Folklore, Video Fieldwork, and Magic, Myth, and Religion. She has produced more than a dozen films and videos, all of which address the interconnection between tradition and the creative process. During the past year, Professor Sherman was elected a fellow of the American Folklore Society. The fellows of the American Folklore Society are an honorary body of folklorists, whose election to the



Right: Professors Sharon Sherman and Carol Silverman at the Folklore Program picnic, October 2008.

fellows signifies their contributions to the field. She was also nominated for president of the society. Professor Sherman presented papers at the Western States Folklore Society meeting in Davis, California, and the American Folklore Society meeting in Louisville. Her publications for the past year include "Who Owns Culture and Who Decides? Ethics, Film Methodology, and Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection," *Western Folklore* 67: 2–3 (2008) and "Film and Women's Folklore," *Encyclopedia of Women's Folklore and Folklife*. She and Mikel Koven are in the planning stages for a new text on film and folklore. As the result of a Center for the Study of Women in Society Research Grant for "Whatever Happened to Zulay," a video project about Zulay Sarabino, an Otavaleña woman in Ecuador, Sherman was able to bring Zulay and her daughter, Paolita, to Eugene to continue their collaborative work on the project. The video addresses issues of transnationalism, reflexivity, globalization, and gender. Moreover, it analyzes what happens to peoples' lives when a film is made about them. Professor Sherman also continues to serve on the board of Folkstreams.net, a website devoted to streaming folklore films.

CAROL SILVERMAN (ANTHROPOLOGY, FOLKLORE)

Carol Silverman, professor of cultural anthropology and folklore at the University of Oregon and head of the Department of Anthropology, had two publications appearing in 2008 related to her work on Balkan culture and politics: "Fieldwork in Bulgaria" in *Studying Peoples in the People's Democracies II; Socialist Era Anthropology in South-East Europe*, Vintila Miailescu, Ilia Iliev, and Slobodan Naumovic, eds. (Berlin: Lit Verlag) and "Transnational Cocek: Gender and the Politics of Balkan Romani Dance," in *Balkan Dance: Essays on Characteristics, Performance, and Teaching*, Anthony Shay, ed. (McFarland Press). Her book *Romani Routes: Cultural Politics and Balkan Music in Diaspora* is in press with Oxford University Press; it will have an extensive website containing video and audio examples and photographs. She presented papers this year at the annual conferences of the American Anthropological Association, the Society for Ethnomusicology, and the Gypsy Lore Society, and at an invited conference at the University of Illinois on interpreting



emotions in Slavic cultures. She also received a UO Summer Research Award for a project on Romani music in film, and a Research Award from the Center for the Study of Women in Society for a project on education, sexuality, and gender among Macedonian Romani migrants to New York City.

DANIEL WOJCİK (ENGLISH, FOLKLORE)

Daniel Wojcik continues to teach folklore courses in the areas of belief studies, subcultures, new religions, and vernacular art. His article "Spirits, Apparitions, and Traditions of Supernatural Photography" was published in *Visual Resources: An International Journal of Documentation* in a special issue titled "Visualizing the Invisible: Visionary Technologies in Religious and Cultural Contexts" (2009). His essays "Bohemianism," "Native American Church," and "Peoples Temple (Jonestown)" appeared in *American Countercultures: An Encyclopedia of Nonconformists, Alternative Lifestyles, and Radical Ideas in U.S. History* (2009). Another article, "Avertive Apocalypticism: Using Spiritual Techniques to Avert Worldly Catastrophe," is forthcoming in the *Oxford Handbook of Millennialism*, the definitive volume on millennial movements. Wojcik's film project, *Pre's Rock: Legacy and Lore at the Roadside Shrine for Steve Prefontaine*, was highlighted in *Cascade Magazine*, Fall 2008 (cascade.uoregon.edu/fall2008/online-extras/pres-rock-pilgrimage). He presented papers at the annual meetings of the American Folklore Society and the Western States Folklore Society, and will deliver the Meertens Ethnology Lecture at the Meertens Institute in Amsterdam this summer. Throughout 2010, Wojcik will be on sabbatical and completing research and publications on self-taught visionary artists, and contemporary religious and environmentalist apocalyptic beliefs.

Spotlight on Affiliated Faculty

As the UO Folklore Program expands, we are constantly gaining new partners and affiliates from other campus departments who find folklore studies to be in direct and pertinent relationship to their own fields and research. Through association with the Folklore Program, these individuals gain support for offering courses and engaging inquiries that might otherwise be overlooked while greatly broadening and enriching the theoretical and academic perspectives and opportunities available to folklore students. While this year we turn the spotlight on a small sampling of these individuals in recognition of their important contributions to the Folklore Program in 2008–9, we will feature different faculty members each year in forthcoming issues. Full biographical and research information for other affiliated faculty members may be found online at uoregon.edu/~flr/faculty/fac.htm.



Kingston Heath

KINGSTON HEATH (HISTORIC PRESERVATION)

Kingston Heath is a professor and director of the graduate program in historic preservation. He earned a M.A. in art history from the University of Chicago and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in American studies from Brown University. Previous work experience includes state architectural historian for the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, supervisor of historical interpretation at

Far left: Professor Carol Silverman's book *Romani Routes: Cultural Politics and Balkan Music in Diaspora* is currently in press. Taken by Silverman in 1990, this photograph shows a groom's female relatives dancing with a tray of henna as part of the five-day wedding ceremony of Muslim Macedonian Roma.



Gaby Maldonado sells hand-knit ponchos to a tourist from her family's weaving studio in Hualhuas, Peru. Folklore student Kelley Totten spent three months learning from Gaby and her family, as well as other craftswomen in the region, about handicrafts and tourism—the subject of Kelley's M.A. thesis.

Mystic Seaport, and professor of architectural history and historic preservation at Montana State University and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He has served two terms as a member of the board of directors of the Vernacular Architecture Forum. Areas of specialization include vernacular architecture of the American West, New England workers' housing, American building construction history, and vernacular architecture theory. He is the author of *The Patina of Place: The Cultural Weathering of a New England Industrial Landscape* and *Vernacular Architecture and Regional Design: Cultural Process and Environmental Response*. He is also the founder and director of the Croatia Field School, an interdisciplinary program that focuses on the traditional stone environments of Croatia's Central Dalmatian Coast. Professor Heath teaches Building Construction History, Identifying and Interpreting Vernacular Settings, and Preservation Theory.

MARK LEVY (MUSIC)

Mark Levy is an instructor of ethnomusicology at the UO School of Music and Dance, where he has been teaching courses in world music since 1991. He also coordinates an ongoing series of public lecture-demonstrations and concerts on campus related to music traditions of the world. He is currently the curator for an exhibit of musical instruments from many cultures, which opened at the UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History in June. Levy has a long-term interest in folk music and dance of the Balkans, and is a performer on a variety of folk instruments from that region. He has wide-ranging interests in many other world music traditions, particularly the classical music of North and South India, and gamelan music of Java and Bali.

DEBRA MERSKIN (JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION)

Associate Professor Debra Merskin's research addresses issues of representational ethics in visual and verbal discourse in mass media with an emphasis on racial and gender stereotyping. In addition, her interests include the effects of media and popular culture representations of the natural world including humans and other animals. She is currently completing a book about the social, psychological, and cultural context for stereotyping in American mass media and

pursuing advanced graduate work in Jungian depth psychology.



Dorothee Ostmeier

DOROTHEE OSTMEIER (GERMAN AND SCANDINAVIAN)

An associate professor of German and a participating faculty member of comparative literature, Dorothee Ostmeier's research and teaching focuses on German literature and culture of the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. International reviews recognize Ostmeier's study on the poet Nelly Sachs as one of the few works that analyze Sachs' cryptic dramatic writings, which she composed after escaping Nazi persecution in 1941. Ostmeier's courses on fairy-tale traditions, fantasy, and the uncanny tackle the moves from utopian to antiutopian tales and link these to questions of social marginalization, gender imbalance, imaginary friends, and schizophrenic characters. This teaching has inspired two of her recent essays that explore postmodern revisions of conventional concepts of fairy-tale "magic" and "wonder," "Magic Realities Reconsidered: Ever After" (to be published by *Mosaic*) and "Zwischenwelten der Phantasie" (Internet journal *Paraplui*, 2008). This year Ostmeier will complete her current book on gender constructs in poetic dialogues of the twentieth century. She has served on the advisory board of the Oregon Humanities Center, on the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee, and as an adviser for the College of Arts and Sciences. She has initiated and coorganized the German internship program and manifold activities of the Healing Arts Research Interest Group at the Center for the Study of Women in Society.

2008–9 Graduate Students

AL BERSCH is working on a participatory art project with Oregon Commercial Fishers in collaboration with artists Leslie Grant and Nina Pessin-Whedbee. He is interested in vernacular photographs and personal maps, in terms of how these documentary materials express multiple meanings through everyday use. He recently gave a presentation about police and forensic photography for “Archive Hour” at the Randall V. Mills Archive of Northwest Folklore. His current work is a continuation of a long-term critical documentary practice focusing on representation of resource extraction industry and labor communities. He is a cofounder and curator of Grotto Gallerie, a free-floating gallery space.

VINCENT BISSON received his B.A. in the humanities from the Florida Institute of Technology. His interest in moving images and history has led him to investigate popular culture, history, and audiences. His intended thesis project will blend perspectives from folklore, popular culture, and history in order to investigate audience lore as well as the relationship between audiences and historical films.

ANDREW P. BROTTLUND is currently working on his master’s degree in English with an interest in the folklore of the nineteenth century, and particular focus on queer themes and issues including homosexual identity within the Victorian period. His main textual focus will be the fairy tales of Oscar Wilde, although he is also interested in the writings of Hans Christian Andersen and the connection between the homosexual and the archetype of the vampire, particularly as it is portrayed in Victorian fiction.

TIFFANY A. CHRISTIAN earned her B.A. in English literature and creative writing from Pacific University, and she holds an M.F.A. in creative writing from Chapman University. Her research interests include apocalypse (primarily postapocalypse) studies, cyber studies, popular culture, and film in an American context. Tiffany is also a vocalist and songwriter, and she can claim world music among her myriad interests. Currently, Tiffany is working on ideas for film projects involving karaoke performance and local disaster preparedness groups.



JEN DARE is an English Ph.D. student with a specialty in folklore. She is interested in the way in which mythological figurative or narrative symbols simultaneously operate within contemporary religious movements, American cinema, folklore, and popular narratives. Her dissertation, which analyzes apocalyptic ideas, gender issues, and feminist fiction, is titled, “Throwing the Book at Him: Apocalyptic Christian Theology and Feminist Dystopian Narratives.” Jen’s other interests include stories of the strange, the fantastic, and the unusual—namely the all-American love of the outré in varying academic guises, especially zombies.

ROBERT DOBLER is a third-year student planning to graduate in fall 2009. His areas of interest include alternative memorialization processes (Internet memorials, ghost bike memorials, memorial tattoos), neocircus and sideshow movements, the apocalyptic comic books of Jack Chick, and American roadside attractions (private museums, personal collections, outsider art environments, and the “world’s largest” anything). He has won a few awards and published a small handful of articles, encyclopedia entries, and book reviews. His project “Alternative Memorials: Death and Memory in Modern America” was selected for the 2009 Folklore Studies in a Multicultural World workshop and book series program supported by the American Folklore Society. This year, he published a chapter titled “Ghosts in the Machine: Mourning the MySpace Dead” in the forthcoming book *Folklore and the Internet: Vernacular Expression in a Digital World*, edited by Trevor Blank and published by Utah State University Press.

Team Folklore: Graduate students in Daniel Wojcik’s course, History and Theory of Folklore Research, celebrate the end of the term by feasting in the folklore archive, subverting archival restrictions.

MIRA JOHNSON received her B.A. in the great books from St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland. A first year master's student, she is working with the folklore, English, and anthropology departments to investigate the relationship between spirituality and place, particularly natural environments. Her intended thesis project will focus on the Catholic mountain pilgrimage site of Croagh Patrick in County Mayo, Ireland.

ASHLEY GOSSMAN is a second-year master's student interested in Tanzanian material culture and women's narratives about traditionality and authenticity in tourist art objects. Her final project work will be done in Tanzania this summer, where she will volunteer with a women's group and make a documentary film about Tanzanian women artists and batik printing traditions. Her B.A. is in cultural-visual anthropology from the University of Florida.

KOM KUNYOSYING is a Ph.D. candidate in English with an emphasis in vernacular culture. His dissertation, *The Interrelation of Form, Theme, and Ethnicity in American Comics*, focuses on developing a critical framework for integrating literary theory and the analysis of comics, and on ethnicity and symbolic order in American literary and popular culture located especially at intersections of verbal and visual representation. He recently presented "The Interrelation of Form, Theme, and the Question of the Animal in Nick Abadzis' *Laika*" at the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, in June 2009 at the University of Victoria, and will present "The Interrelation of Ethnicity and Form in Gene Yang's *American Born Chinese*" at the International Comics Arts Forum in October 2009 at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

JESSE LEROY MABUS is a master's student specializing in folklore, anthropology, and religious studies. He is currently on leave working with the Clatsop Community College library in Astoria, Oregon, and studying Spanish. His previous work has focused on calendrical events in Olympia, Washington, the WTO protests in Seattle, current antiwar protests, as well as the neopagan tradition of reclaiming.

CAROLINE McNABB is interested in female mythic and legendary characters in Oaxacan women's narratives and folk art. She plans to pursue fieldwork in Teotitlan del Valle, Mexico, in summer 2009. She will explore negotiations of power, cultural heritage and identity, and intercultural contact and syncretism.

ROBB NORTON is a Eugene native whose primary research interests include new media and digital culture. He has studied documentary filmmaking and cultural studies in England, as well as Japanese language and culture in Japan. He was one of the filmmakers of the award-winning feature film *Pizza Girl*, produced in Eugene.

JENNY NOYCE is a first year Ph.D. student in English with an interest in folklore. She received an M.A. in creative writing from the University of Kansas, and is now studying early twentieth century British and Irish literature. She plans to pursue research in postcolonial studies and the novel, folklore, narrative, and national identity.

In her life away from the university, **DEB PARKER** lives in the high desert of central Oregon and teaches high school. She is interested in ethnobotany, specifically in cataloguing the plants described in medieval literature and ballads, examining and evaluating the efficacy of traditional uses of that plant life, and exploring the symbolism associated with certain plants. In her free time, she teaches ballet and loves to do a host of outdoor activities ranging from scuba diving to camping with the Society for Creative Anachronism.

In 2004, **WHITNEY PHILLIPS** graduated from Humboldt State University with a B.A. in philosophy; in 2007, she received an M.F.A. in creative writing (fiction) from Emerson College. She is now working on a decidedly un-English English Ph.D., pursuing the structured emphasis in folklore in the English department, with specific focus on new media and the Internet. She is especially interested in trolling, naughty humor, and politics, not necessarily in that order.

SUZANNE REED is a second-year graduate student with a degree in fine art and craft from Evergreen State College. She served for three years as the Folk Arts Program assistant at the Washington State Arts Commission. Her interests include metalsmithing, fiber arts, flame-worked glass, woodworking, folk arts and cultural brokerage, figure skating, semiotic games, and musical instrument construction.

Communication and society Ph.D. candidate **ANDRÉ SIROIS** received a Lorry I. Lokey Journalism Scholar Award and a \$10,000 scholarship that will allow him to conduct field research this summer for his dissertation titled "Scratching the Digital Itch," which focuses on the vernacular culture of hip-hop DJs and turntablists and their uses of technology in the digital age. His alter ego, DJ Food Stamp, has been busy coordinating and promoting this year's Bach Remix—a

performance-based “competition” where DJs do live turntablist remixes of Bach’s music—to coincide with the Oregon Bach Festival. Along with Professor Janet Wasko, he is putting the final touches on a book chapter titled “Toward a Political Economy of the Recorded Music Industry: Redefinitions and New Trajectories in the Digital Age” in the *Handbook of Political Economy of Communications*. With Shannon Martin of Indiana University, he is cowriting a law manuscript that analyzes the politics of copyright and art in the case of the pending lawsuit between Shepard Fairey and the Associated Press for Fairey’s use of an AP image in the production of the now iconic Obama *Hope* stencil piece, titled “Hope for a Fairey Use.”

DON STACY’s studies emphasize folklore, journalism, and arts and administration. Don performed interviews and wrote scripts for segments of *Making Pictures* (a documentary about photojournalism at *The Register-Guard* and its function in the Eugene community), which aired on OPB in 2007. In April 2008, he finished *All Mixed Up*, a forty-minute documentary on mixed tapes and CDs as material culture and folk process that he presented at the 2008 Western States Folklore Society conference. The film’s companion article has been accepted for publication in the *Folklore Forum*. Currently, Don is working on a documentary about the Dutch tradition of *Sinterklaas* (Surprise), celebrated on Saint Nicholas Day, December 6, and its manifestations in the United States. Don is also a musician, painter, photographer, filmmaker, poet, autism program specialist, and a member of the UO Disabilities Studies Advisory Committee.

GAIL STEVENSON received her B.A. in English from the University of Oregon in 2004. She is focusing on contemporary American folklore with an emphasis on folk art and material culture and behavior. Her fieldwork and final project center on an artist in the Northwest who has created an outdoor art environment from salvaged materials and found objects. Gail is examining where such idiosyncratic art stands within the dynamics of community and tradition, and how it functions therapeutically and as a source of social interaction. Her thesis, in progress, is titled “Sharing Love through Art: Social Connections, Maintenance of Identity, and Healing in Richard Tracy’s Ephemeral Art Environment in Centralia, Washington.”

KEVIN TAYLOR received his B.A. from the University of Oregon in philosophy and religious studies. His areas of focus within folklore are religious studies and arts and



administration. Current research interests include new religious movements, apocalyptic eschatology, and prophetic tradition.

KELLEY TOTTEN is a third-year master’s student with a B.A. in journalism and French from Washington and Lee University. This summer, she will complete her thesis, titled “Crafting Memories in the Mantaro Valley of Peru: Performance and Visual Representation in Craftswomen’s Souvenir Production.” The thesis explores the experiences of craftswomen from the Mantaro Valley of Peru who make traditional items to sell to tourists. This year, she presented her film, *A Week at the Folk School* for “Archive Hour” at the Randall V. Mills Archive of Northwest Folklore.

CHRISTY VRTIS is a first-year M.A. student whose areas of concentration include folklore, English, and women’s and gender studies. She received her first B.A. in theater and psychology from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, and a second B.A. in English from the University of Oregon. Her current research interests include community gardens and folklore and ritual in African and Caribbean women’s literature.

JENÉE WILDE has completed her first year as a Ph.D. English student with a concentration in folklore. Her research interests include queer theory, sexual subcultures, and American literature and popular culture. At the National Popular Culture Association conference in April, she presented a paper titled “Queer Matters in Batman and Robin: Why We Insist on a Sexual Identity for Batman.” She has a B.A. in English and journalism from Boise State University and an M.F.A. in writing from Goddard College. Prior to embarking on her second career as an academic, Wilde was a professional journalist and editor.

Kelley Totten, Elizabeth Dehn, and Mira Johnson make dumplings during a Chinese New Year celebration.

Recent Graduates

EMILY WEST AFANADOR will continue making music and films after graduation. She plans to combine these, making promotional featurettes and music videos for independent rock bands. After completing her project, a film titled *Rocking the Boat: Gender Dynamics in Co-ed Independent Rock Bands of Eugene*, her next documentary follows up on scholarly research of the griot tradition in West Africa, and will be filmed in Mali and Burkina Faso in January 2010. Nongovernmental organization management will pay the rent while pursuing fame and fortune in the music and film industries.

VALERIE DOWBENKO graduated from the Folklore Program in spring 2009. Her interests include second generations of new religious movements, funerary rites for the deceased (specifically the *Tibetan Book of the Dead*), and traditions and religious rituals involving pain and suffering. Her thesis is titled "Living Religion: Religious Practices of Young Adults, Spiritual Creativity, and the Dynamics of a New Religious Movement."

ELIZABETH DEHN graduated from the Folklore Program in December and is looking for work in the field of museum education. Her thesis, titled "We Are Still Here: Native Artist Displays at the Museum of Natural and Cultural History," consisted of a show at the Museum of Natural and Cultural History in Eugene, Oregon. She is currently utilizing her folklore skills by videotaping interviews with local musicians for the Museum of Natural and Cultural History and volunteering for cultural events in the community. In March 2010, Beth is looking forward to teaching English in Uruguay with a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship grant.

JENNIFER FURL studied in the Folklore and Arts and Administration programs and the Department of Anthropology at Oregon. Her final project, "Telling Stories, Moving Forward, Performing the Personal: How Community Writing Programs Contribute to Changing Lives. Back-Story: A Plan for a Nonprofit Organization," focused on community writing organizations for adults. Currently, she is a freelance writer and editor living in Portland and volunteers with Write Around Portland.

ELIZABETH KRISTIN HANCOCK graduated from the University of Oregon with

a B.A. in political science and a minor in English. Her interest in dead languages has led her to study Latin, Old English, and Old Norse. She combines this love of language with her interest in Greek and Latin authors, which led her to study classics as well. Her thesis is titled "Masculinity and the Male Body from the World of the Ancients to the World Wide Web."

COURTNEY MCINTYRE received her bachelor of science in secondary English education from the University of Missouri at Columbia. Her areas of focus in the Folklore Program were anthropology and women's and gender studies. Courtney's current research and interests focus upon birthing rituals, with special emphasis on the ways in which birthing centers and midwifery benefit women and society. Her thesis, titled "Birthing Centers as Ritual Spaces: The Embodiment of Compliance and Resistance under One Roof—A Case Study," focuses on a local, midwife-run birthing center, where she volunteers and assists with births.

JOSEPH O'CONNELL'S thesis, titled "The 'Ruralismo' of Rowntree Records: Vernacular Music Media Production as Group Formation and Place Identification," examines expressive uses of sound recording in everyday life. This work culminates in an ethnographic social history of Rowntree Records, an "imaginary" record label and social music-making scene operative in Richmond, Indiana, during the early 2000s. He has also written about folk revivalism in contemporary underground music. In March 2009, he attended Private/Public, an academic conference in Bloomington, Indiana, planned collaboratively by Indiana University and Ohio State University folklore and ethnomusicology student associations. His presentation examined the creation of a local micropublic around social practices of "folk" audio engineering—the home recording of music using available consumer electronics. He also gave a presentation about Rowntree Records for Archive Hour at the Randall V. Mills Archive of Northwest Folklore. This summer he will be working on a project with Traditional Arts Indiana, based in Bloomington.

SUMMER PENNELL graduated in spring 2009. Her terminal project was a lesbian- and feminist-slanted Indonesian wayang kulit (shadow-puppet theater) titled "Pinang and Ayu: A Love Story," which was performed with Eugene's Gamelan Sari Pandhawa in May 2009 and which won the Bruce Abrams

Graduate Award in LGBT studies, through the Department of Women's and Gender Studies. Summer has been playing music with Sari Pandhawa since fall 2007 and feels lucky to have the opportunity to learn and perform with the group. Her main interests are in performance arts, gender, and sexuality. After graduating, she hopes to work toward making sex education in the public schools inclusive of and open to all identities, conduct research with LGBTQ people, and continue learning gamelan in Indonesia.

ZIYING YOU is a native of Henan, China, and is trying to be a good cook of Henan cuisine, which is the most ancient cuisine in China, and has been established as the standard cuisine for Chinese national banquets because of its comprehensiveness, mild tastes, and wide acceptance. In addition to foodways, she has great interest in the history of Chinese folklore studies; the Chinese storytelling movement; and performance, film, and traditional music. Her M.A. thesis, titled "Tradition and Transformation: Toward an Interpretation of Chinese Foodways in the United States and Representations of Chinese Foodways in Modern Cinema," is a study of the dynamics, variations, and functions of Chinese foodways in the United States, with a focus on those that have continued through time and across space, and that have been transformed by the processes of transnational and transcultural communication and interaction. After graduating from the UO, she will pursue her Ph.D. at Ohio State University, with a concentration in Chinese folklore.

Alumni News and Updates

UO folklore alumni have gone on to careers in academics, public-sector folklore, and various other interesting and intriguing occupations drawing directly from their folkloristic, theoretical, and fieldwork training in Eugene, Oregon. This year, we've selected a few former program members for the newsletter's spotlight. Additional biographies and work updates for many others may be accessed online at www.uoregon.edu/~flr. Alumni are encouraged to visit the site to catch up with their colleagues and to submit new biographies and updates for themselves.

After graduating from the UO Folklore

Program, **AMY BARKSDALE** continued her research in folklore and cultural studies in the media and communications department at Goldsmiths, University of London, where she is a Ph.D. candidate. Her dissertation, "Sex, Pseudosuicide, and Survival: The Cultural and Political Significance of the Altgrrrl Phenomenon," evaluates the growing popularity of a subcultural identity she has titled "altgrrrl" among young women. Her research and teaching interests include cultural studies, biopolitics, gender studies, and culture work. Amy works with service providers for self-harming women with the hope of developing the field of culture work and of incorporating the theory and practical knowledge emerging from the fields of folklore and media and cultural studies into educational, medical, and criminal justice programming models. Amy is a theory-based lecturer at London Metropolitan Film School and is a visiting tutor at Goldsmiths, University of London. She can be reached at ae.barksdale@gmail.com.



David Ensminger, in front of one of the display walls of the punk poster show for which he acted as curator.

DAVID ENSMINGER graduated from the Folklore Program in fall 2008 and relocated to Houston, Texas, where he focuses on rock 'n' roll subcultures, plays in bands, and organizes concerts and flea markets. His thesis was titled "Visual Vitriol: The Urban Folk Art and Culture of the Punk Generation." Examining the historic contributions of gays and lesbians, Hispanics, and skateboarders

in punk, he publishes articles in the Houston Press, Maximum Rock 'n' Roll, and Trust (Germany). In October, his paper and audio-visual presentation, "Punk Gig Fliers as Urban Folk Art," was presented at the annual meeting of the American Folklore Society in Louisville, Kentucky. In November, he acted as curator of a punk gig poster show at Umpqua Community College titled "Visual Vitriol," and he presented two lectures for the Oregon Diversity Institute at the college during the same month, including "The Shape of Youth Narratives: Rethinking the Power of Street Art" and "Practicing History from Below: Real Power to the People." His manuscript, "Visual Vitriol: The Art and Culture of the Punk Generation," is being considered by the University Press of Mississippi. Currently he is cowriting the biography of an iconic punk singer. He has also established a folklore blog, modernfolklorists.wordpress.com, a visual compendium of modern folklore, featuring hundreds of images and video. In August, he will join Lee College as a full-time faculty member teaching English, composition, humanities, and folklore.

DAVID H. FAUX practices entertainment law in New York City. He serves as the director of business affairs for the Dramatists Guild of America. His past and present clients include individuals and organizations involved in the theater, fashion, sports and fitness, film, fine arts, photography, and graphic design industries—and the rumor, if you heard it, is true: one of his occasional clients is a professional psychic (he counsels her on corporate and business matters). He has served on panels involving subjects as broad-ranging as theater and film financing, licensing contracts, authorial concerns when stage scripts are adapted to the stage, and obtaining underlying rights. He has lectured across the nation on "Author as a CEO." He has also chaired programs in boxing law and basics in fine arts and the law (e.g., art gallery agreements). For the New York State Bar Association, he is on the Executive Committee of the Entertainment, Arts, and Sports Law Section, where he also cochairs the Fashion Law Committee and represents member-lawyers from Brooklyn and Staten Island. Last year, Dave was very busy getting married to Kaori Kato at the beginning of the year. It was a Rinzaï Zen ceremony at midtown's Shobo-ji Temple. The reception had an amazing bluegrass band. Nieces and Nephews, led by Uncle Sheriff Bob. Before 2008 was out, his wife gave birth to

Miwa Dorothy Faux, who has the beauty of her mother, the foolhardiness of her father, and more stubbornness than both parents combined. While they currently reside in the Bronx, they hope to own a house in Queens by the end of this year.

KRISTIANNE HUNTSBERGER received her M.A. in folklore with a graduate certificate in women's and gender studies in 2006. Her research focused on women's narrative rituals and their impact on social and spiritual identity. She received a Sumasil Foundation Grant and an Ethel O. Gardner P.E.O. Scholarship for her documentary film project about centenarian and Christian Scientist Lorine Cady Willard. In the intervening years, Kristianne has spent time traveling in Africa and Europe, writing, marketing literary events for Richard Hugo House in Seattle, and working at the Seattle Art Museum. Her writing can be found in publications such as *Colors Northwest*, *Water Bridge Review*, *Transitions Abroad*, *Asia by the Book*, and *Rain Taxi*.

KATE RISTAU graduated from the University of Oregon with her M.A. in folklore in spring 2008. The title of her thesis is "Sacred Networks: How Catholic Communities Affirm Belief and Sustain Community on the Internet." She continues to research how religious communities interact online. Her current work is focused on the virtual world of Second Life. She presented preliminary research on faith in Second Life at the Western States Folklore Society Meeting in April 2009. Her presentation was titled "'How will I ever go to confession if I can't make my avatar stop dancing?': Logging into the Sacred through Second Life." She lives in Portland with her husband, Bob, and her dog, Winslow. She is currently teaching composition courses at the University of Oregon and enjoying it immensely.

CASEY SCHMITT graduated from the UO in 2008 after completing his master's thesis, "Wilderness, Wildmen, and the Liminal Landscape: An Exploration of Supernatural Space in the Oregon Folk Tradition." In late spring and summer 2008, he helped facilitate Professor Wojcik's 2008 "Track Town Traditions and the Culture of Running" series, while serving on the production crew of the documentary film "Pre's Rock: Legacy and Lore." In August 2008, he left Oregon to begin work as a humanities instructor at Parkland College, in Champaign, Illinois, teaching introductory college English, research methods, and composition. In

October, he presented a paper at the AFS conference, "The McCandless Phenomenon: In Pursuit of the Magic Bus," that explored the emergent folk legend of American vagabond Christopher McCandless and the pilgrimage traditions that have developed since his death. Also during the meeting, he chaired a panel on vernacular and outside art, while catching up with several of his former colleagues from the UO. In 2009, Casey will join fellow UO alum and now Associate Professor Robert Glenn Howard at the University of Wisconsin at Madison as he begins work on a Ph.D. in communication arts, focusing on rhetoric and oral narrative tradition, while continuing active folkloristic study and involvement through Madison's own folklore department. He hopes to engage in research on narrative and oratory associated with concepts of death and dying, from legend and commemoration to eulogy and gallows humor. Other recent work includes research on comparative religion and archetypal forms and characters as they appear in American graphic novels.

CAROL SPELLMAN graduated from the UO Folklore Program in 2002 with a focus on documentary video, ethnomusicology, and Irish folklore that culminated in a paper and documentary video, *For the Love of the Tune: Irish Women and Traditional Music*. From 2002 through 2009, Carol worked as the folklife education coordinator at the Oregon Historical Society Folklife Program in Portland, where she organized grant-funded programs with the diverse folk artists living in Oregon as well as with K-12 students. Several participants in Carol's courses received awards for their short documentary work including topics related to Latino, Western, and Native American traditional arts. Recently she worked with master artists and their apprentices in the Traditional Arts Apprentice Program and on the Oregon Historical Society's *Oregon Is Indian Country* traveling exhibit, scheduled through 2010. Tribal council offices, libraries, and local historical societies in every county in Oregon host this exhibit. As senior convener of the American Folklore Society Folklore and Education Section, Carol is recognized for her work in integrating folklore with state education departments' educational standards. She received an honorable mention for her work on *Portraits of Oregon*. Carol is currently working as an independent public sector folklorist, teaching in-services nationally, assisting on grant panels, and instructing in the Oregon public school

system. She credits her dedication to public sector folklore, community documentation, and the "mania" of video to the inspirational "crew" of professors at the University of Oregon Folklore Program including Sharon Sherman, Dianne Dugaw, Daniel Wojcik, and across the campus to Mark Levy, Carol Silverman, and Daniel Miller. To view videos made by youth from *Portraits of Oregon* see: 4-hwebwizards.org. For Carol's personal work with Anders Lund on short vignettes filmed at the annual Elko Cowboy Poetry Gathering, visit www.westernfolklife.org/site1/index.php/National-Poetry-Gathering-Videos/Gathering-Moments-on-Film.html.

After completing her M.A. in the UO Folklore Program, **MICKEY STELLAVATO** worked for the 4-J School District as the natives program librarian. She then decided to apply to the School of Journalism and Communication's Ph.D. program, where she is currently finishing her first year of course work. Her focus is using media portrayals, the first-person narrative, and visual ethnography as a means of talking about rape, very much in the spirit and intention of the testimonio. Her hope is that by drawing connections through disciplines, working with women's advocates within the academy as well as with community activists, we might overcome the stigma attached to rape and other forms of sexual violence against women in the United States.

ELAINE VRADENBURGH graduated from the UO Folklore Program in 2008. Her thesis project, *Making Music, Building Bridges*, was a fifty-minute documentary about a grassroots movement that has developed in the United States to preserve Zimbabwean musical traditions. Her video is being distributed by Dandemutande and was recently featured on *Etude*, an online literary nonfiction journal of the University of Oregon. Elaine currently lives in Olympia, Washington, where she is active in the local filmmaking community. She works for the Olympia Film Society as a fundraiser and board of directors coordinator. Elaine initiated a task force to revive the Olympia Film Ranch, the educational program of the Film Society, where she hopes to organize her first digital storytelling workshop in the fall. She recently began working as a freelance video editor for a youth-driven prevention education project, Gear Up with Music, and hopes to expand her business to include folklore-related projects. Elaine can be contacted at elaine.vrad@gmail.com.

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- state-of-the-art digital recorder for student projects
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- supplies for the folklore archive
- funding for student scholarships and awards
- students' travel expenses for conferences and research



Recent graduates Ziyang You (left) and Emily Afanador (right) with Daniel Wojcik at the commencement ceremonies in June 2009.

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