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Current Appointment

1993- Present

Folklorist/Curator/Education Specialist, Smithsonian Institution
Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

Past Appointments

1990 – 1992

Adjunct Professor, University of Maryland/Baltimore County
American Studies Department

1987 - 1990

Contract positions, Smithsonian Institution, Office of Folklife Programs

1984 – 1987

Education Assistant, Indianapolis Children's Museum
Co-Director, Materials at Hand, not-for-profit cultural organization

1982 -1984

Indiana State Folk Arts Coordinator, Indiana Arts Commission

Education

Indiana University, Ph.D. in Folklore
(Minors: Anthropology and Educational Media), 1990
Indiana University, M.A. in Folklore, 1979
Smith College, B.A., in American Studies, Concentration History, 1977

Research Foci

Material culture, traditional medicine and foodways research and presentation
Folklore and Education research, training and publication
Educational media and publication
Mentorship of interns and fellows as future professionals

Curatorial Positions

Programs for Smithsonian Folklife Festival Curated:

2017, “50th Anniversary Weekend”
2012, “Campus and Community”
2010, “Smithsonian Inside Out”
2009, “Wales Smithsonian Cymru”
2007, “Roots of Virginia Culture”
2004, “Water Ways: Mid-Atlantic Maritime”
1999, “New Hampshire Stories”
1997, “African Immigrants to Washington, DC”
1996, “Working at the Smithsonian”
1991, “Family Farming in the Heartland”
1988, “Massachusetts, Commonwealth of Culture”

Family Activities Area of Smithsonian Folklife Festival Curated:

2017, “Circus Science” (Circus Program)
2016, “Txiki Txoko” (Basque Program)
2015, “Wawawasi” (Peru Program)

With Hanna Griff, curated Pop-Up Exhibitions at 2016, 2017 and 2018 American Folklore Society meetings to showcase work of fellow scholars

With Charles Weber, Producer/Curator: The Medicinal Garden on-line multi-media exhibition, 2014 <https://folklife.si.edu/online-exhibitions/the-medicinal-garden/smithsonian>

Producer/Curator: “Water Ways: Mid-Atlantic Maritime Communities” on-line exhibition (2005), <https://festival.si.edu/2004/water-ways/smithsonian>

Traveling Exhibition, “Materials at Hand: Indiana Folk Crafts Today,” various locations around Indiana, 1984 – 86

Exhibition on early amateur photography, Indiana University Museum of Anthropology, Folklore and History, 1978

Exhibitions on historic portrait photography and Valentine’s Day cards, created as work-study experience at Northampton Historical Society, Northampton, MA: 1976-77

Dissertation

Evaluating Public Sector Folklore: The Tennessee State Parks Folklife Project. 1990
Indiana University.

Publications

Books and Special Issues of Journals

Seasonal (novel). 2002. Rockville, MD: Round Barn Press

With John Major, Caravan to America: 2002. The Living Arts of the Silk Road (Chicago: Carus Publications).

With Gregory Hanson, special editors, "Public Folklore" Special Issue of Folklore Forum. 31(2): 2000.

Refereed Book Chapters

Folklorists as Curators. Publication anticipated 2021. In Downs, Kristina, Jesse Fivecoats and Meredith McGriff, eds. The Future of American Folkloristics. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

The Smithsonian Folklife Festival: Auspicious Many Doors. 2016. In Cadaval, Olivia, Sojin Kim and Diana Baird N'Diaye, eds. Curatorial Conversations: Cultural Representation and the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi: 217 – 240.

Refereed Journal Articles and Encyclopedia Entries

Hearing Voices: The Stories of Community Folklore Scholars. Submitted September 22, 2019 to the Journal of American Folklore (solicited by editors)

With Charmaine Branch. 2016. Inspired Learning: The Smithsonian Folklife Festival and Art Museum Education Strategies. Journal of Folklore and Education 3: 91-104. Chicago: Local Learning.

<https://magazine.communityworksinstitute.org/experiencing-culture-from-the-inside-out-working-as-a-smithsonian-folklife-festival-intern/> EXPERIENCING CULTURE FROM THE INSIDE OUT: WORKING AS A SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL INTERN. 2016. Community Works Institute Journal: Digital Magazine for Educators.

The Life of a Welsh Wall: Views of an interactive installation at the 2009 Wales Smithsonian Cymru Program. 2015. Journal of American Folklore 128 (510): 476-477.

Entries on Cuisine of Americans originally from Botswana, Isle of Man, Namibia, Swaziland, Wales, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. 2015. In Long, Lucy, ed. Ethnic American Food Today. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.

With Katie Fernandez. 2014. Making Meaning on the Mall: The Smithsonian Folklife Festival as a Constructivist Museum. *Museum Curator* 57 (4): 437 – 454.

With Janet Langlois, “Monstrous Births” in Jane Garry & Hasan El-Shamy, eds. *Archetypes and Motifs in Folklore and Literature: A Handbook*. Armonk: M. E. Sharpe, 2005.

‘Water Ways’ in North Carolina: Representing Maritime Communities at the 2004 Smithsonian Folklife Festival. 2015. *North Carolina Folklore Journal* 52 (1): 39-49.

"The Structure of Public Sector Folklore: the Tennessee State Parks Folklife Project." *Kentucky Folklore Record* 32 (July-December 1986): 82-90.

"Fieldwork in Public Sector Folklore: The Tennessee State Parks Folklife Example." *Tennessee Folklore Society Bulletin* 52 (Spring 1986):6-11.

The Poodle in the Microwave Oven: Free Association and a Modern Legend. 1981. *Kentucky Folklore Record*; Bowling Green. 27:3: 66

Reviews

Reviewed Work 2019: C. Kurt Dewhurst, Patricia Hall, and Charlie Seeman. *Folklife and Museums: Twenty-First Century Perspectives*. *Journal of American Folklore* 132 (523): 85-87.

Reviewed Work 2006. Mood, Terry Ann. *American Regional Folklore: A Sourcebook and Research Guide* by Terry Ann Mood *Western Folklore* 65, (3): 361-363

Reviewed Work 2004: Cyberpl@y: *Communicating Online*. *Journal of American Folklore* 117 (463): 119-20.

Smithsonian Folklife Festival Program Book Articles

Smithsonian Inside Out: Crafting a Folklife Festival Program on the Smithsonian. 2010. *Smithsonian Folklife Festival Program Book* 2010: 51-61.

A Sustainable Wales: Connecting Past, Present and Future. 2009. *Smithsonian Folklife Festival Program Book* 2009: 66-70.

Roots of Virginia Culture: The Past is Present. 2007. *Smithsonian Folklife Festival Program Book* 2007: 58-64.

Water Ways: Mid-Atlantic Maritime Communities. 2004. *Smithsonian Folklife Festival Program Book*:

"New Hampshire Stories." Smithsonian Folklife Festival Program Book. (1999).

"African Immigrants in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area." Smithsonian Folklife Festival Program Book 1997.

With Marjorie Hunt, "Working at the Smithsonian." Smithsonian Folklife Festival Program Book 1996: 64- .

"A Challenge a Day: Pam Henson, Smithsonian Institution Historian." Smithsonian Folklife Festival Program Book. 1996: 69 - .

"Family Farm Folklore." Smithsonian Folklife Festival Program Book 1991: 32-

"Ingenuity and Tradition: The Common Wealth of Massachusetts." Smithsonian Festival Program Book 1988: 7 -

Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage Web Site Features

<https://festival.si.edu/blog/west-virginia-ginseng-trade>, Dealing in Green Gold: The Ginseng Trade in West Virginia. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Festival Blog*. September 11, 2019.

<https://festival.si.edu/50objects>, 50 Years, 50 Objects: Storied Objects from the Smithsonian Folklife Festival 1967-2017. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage*. 2019.

<https://folklife.si.edu/magazine/spiced-ginseng-tea>, "Human Root" for the Holidays: Spiced Ginseng Tea. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Folklife Magazine*. December 26, 2018.

<https://folklife.si.edu/magazine/tribute-dr-james-duke-green-farmacy-garden>, A Tribute to Dr. James Duke and His Green Farmacy Garden. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Folklife Magazine*. December 3, 2018.

<https://folklife.si.edu/magazine/bengali-interpretation-of-american-history-national-mall-patachitra>, A Bengali Interpretation of American History: The National Mall Patachitra. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Folklife Magazine*. October 11, 2018.

<https://folklife.si.edu/magazine/ripley-garden-hort-nerd-janet-draper>, Take a Tour with the "Hort-Nerd" of Smithsonian's Ripley Garden. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Folklife Magazine*. June 12, 2018.

<https://folklife.si.edu/magazine/a-curators-travelogue-in-west-bengal>, A Curator's

Travelogue in West Bengal. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Folklife Magazine*. March 12, 2018

<https://folklife.si.edu/news-and-events/communities-connecting-heritage-a-folklife-field-trip-to-india>, Communities Connecting Heritage: A Folklife Field Trip to India. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, News and Events*. January 31, 2018.

<https://festival.si.edu/blog/its-still-christmas-in-armenia>, It's Still Christmas in Armenia. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Festival Blog*. January 3, 2018.

<https://festival.si.edu/blog/the-marvelous-miraculous-circus-science-machine>, The Marvelous, Miraculous Circus Science Machine. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Festival Blog*. July 7, 2017.

<https://folklife.si.edu/talkstory/2017/life-after-folklife-intern-experiences-in-cultural-education>, Life After Folklife: Intern Experiences in Cultural Education. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Folklife Magazine*. March 2, 2017.

<https://folklife.si.edu/talkstory/2015/saucijzenbroodjes-to-tourtiere-a-meat-in-crust-christmas-theme>, Saucijzenbroodjes to Tourtière: A Meat-in-Crust Christmas Theme. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Folklife Magazine*. December 14, 2015.

<https://folklife.si.edu/news-and-events/meredydd-evans-folkways-artist-and-language-activist>, Meredydd Evans, Folkways Artist and Language Activist (December 9, 1919–February 21, 2015). *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, News and Events*, February 23, 2015.

<https://folklife.si.edu/talkstory/2014/a-welsh-christmas-in-july>, A Welsh Christmas in July. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Folklife Magazine*. December 22, 2014.

<https://folklife.si.edu/talkstory/2014/stealing-ideas-folklore-and-education>, “Stealing Ideas”: Folklore and Education. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Folklife Magazine*. November 24, 2014.

<https://folklife.si.edu/talkstory/2014/remembering-the-flat-rats>, Remembering the Flat Rats. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Folklife Magazine*. September 15, 2014.

<https://folklife.si.edu/talkstory/2014/folklife-festival-visitor-survey-what-the-trends-tell-us>, Festival Visitor Survey: What the Trends Tell Us. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Folklife Magazine*. August 14, 2014.

<https://festival.si.edu/blog/2014/visitors-count-surveying-at-the-folklife-festival/>, Visitors

Count! Surveying at the Folklife Festival, *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Festival Blog*. June 29, 2014.

<https://festival.si.edu/blog/2014/working-magic-podcasts-behind-every-oscar/>, Working Magic Podcasts: Behind Every Oscar. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Festival Blog*. February 28, 2014.

<https://festival.si.edu/blog/2013/the-return-of-the-welsh-presenting-at-the-one-world-many-voices-endangered-languages-and-cultural-heritage-program-of-the-2013-smithsonian-folklife-festival/>, The Return of the Welsh—Presenting at One World, Many Voices. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Festival Blog*. September 19, 2013.

<https://festival.si.edu/blog/2013/streakers-strollers-and-students-what-kind-of-festival-visitor-are-you/>, Streakers, Strollers, and Students: What Kind of Festival Visitor Are You? *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Festival Blog*. July 4, 2013.

<https://festival.si.edu/blog/2012/experiencing-south-africa/>, Experiencing South Africa. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Festival Blog*. November 9, 2012.
<https://festival.si.edu/blog/2012/through-a-curators-lens-campus-and-community/>, Through a Curator's Lens: Campus and Community. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Festival Blog*. July 8, 2012

<https://festival.si.edu/blog/2012/food-competitions-cheese-and-land-grant-universities/>, Food Competitions, Cheese, and Land-grant Universities. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Festival Blog*. July 5, 2012.

<https://festival.si.edu/blog/2010/a-day-in-the-life-of-the-smithsonian-inside-out-program-in-photos>, A Day in the Life: Smithsonian Inside Out Program. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Festival Blog*. July 5, 2010.

<https://festival.si.edu/blog/2010/my-smithsonian-your-smithsonian>, My Smithsonian, Your Smithsonian. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Festival Blog*. July 3, 2010.

<https://festival.si.edu/blog/2010/and-then-there-were-ten-smithsonian-inside-out-interns>, Our Dynamic Ten: Smithsonian Inside Out Interns. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Festival Blog*. June 16, 2010.

<https://festival.si.edu/2009/wales/curator-preview/smithsonian>, Wales Smithsonian Cymru—Curator's Preview. *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage*. 2009.

<https://folkways.si.edu/songs-water-ways-maritime/world/music/article/smithsonian> “Songs of the Water Ways: Maritime Music”
Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, 2006.

<https://folkways.si.edu/songs-make-winter-bright-traditions-singing-christmas-other-winter-holidays/childrens/music/article/smithsonian> “Songs to Make Winter Bright”
Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, 2005.

Educational Media Publications and Media Products

Special Editor, American Folk: National Heritage Fellows. 2017. FACES Magazine: People, Places and Cultures. Cricket Media.

Special Editor, The Basque Regions. 2016. FACES Magazine: People, Places and Cultures. Cricket Media.

Special Editor. Peru: Land of Riches. 2015. FACES Magazine: People, Places and Cultures. Cricket Media.

Co-Producer/Writer: Multi-Media Educational kits:
“Discovering Our Delta” (2001)

With Cadaval, Olivia et al. 1995. "Borders and Identities: Identidad y Fronteras" Multi-Media Education Kit. Smithsonian Center for Folklife Programs & Cultural Studies, 1995.

With Cathy Kerst. 1993. Everyone Eats Bread: A Multicultural Unit for First Graders. BJ Belanus, CH Kerst - 1993 – ERIC

Class of 2000: Family Stories: a Teacher's Guide
BJ Belanus - 1991 - National Public Radio

Editor and contributor, *Folklore in the Classroom*
Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1985

Educational booklets for *Mysteries in History Toolbox Project*, the Children's Museum, Indianapolis, on the subjects of oral history and folklore; archeology; architecture and the built environment; visual and written documentation; and artifact reading (1985).

Co producer, 16mm. film, "Hohenberger's Brown County," a historical look at Brown County, Indiana through the eyes of photographer Frank Hohenberger (1982).

Teaching and Training Experience

1988 – Present:

Supervisor to an average of six university or graduate school level interns per year, often including overseeing research projects for credit; totaling approximately 180 mentees.

2019: Directed 22 virtual intern researchers throughout the Appalachian region for the project "American Ginseng: Local Knowledge, Global Roots"

2017-18: Directed educational exchange experience, "Learning Together for a Brighter Future" for the Communities Connecting Heritage program of the US State Department

May 2015

With Diana N'Diaye, workshop on techniques for research toward a Smithsonian Folklife Festival program, Yerevan, Armenia.

2015

Undergraduate Instructor, "Introduction to Folklore," George Mason University
Department of English, winter/spring semester

Summer 2008

With Olivia Cadaval, Diana N'Diaye and Marjorie Hunt. Teaching for Understanding. A directed experience for undergraduate interns in evaluating educational aspects of the 2008 Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

1995-2001

Bringing Folklore into your Classroom: A Multicultural Learning Experience. Five-day seminar for local teachers during the Smithsonian Folklife Festival; 12 – 15 teachers participated each year.

1994-2001

Co-founder and instructor for annual five-day Smithsonian Teacher's Seminar, "Folklore in Your Classroom," using Smithsonian Folklife Festival as a learning laboratory.

1990 – 1992

Adjunct Professor, University of Maryland Baltimore County, American Studies Department (classes in Material Culture, American Childhood and The American Family).

1989 and 1990

Director, Folklore Summer Institute for Community Scholars, training for non-degree holders conducting folklore research and presentation.

1986

Instructor in Folklore: Introduction to American Folklore, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis

1980 and 1981

Instructor in Folklore: Introduction to American Folklore, IUPUI Indianapolis and IUPUI Columbus

1979-80

Assistant Instructor, Introduction to American Folklore, Indiana University, Bloomington

Ethnographic, Folklore and Oral History Fieldwork Research Experience

1988 – Present

Fieldwork for Smithsonian Folklife Festival programs as listed above, supervising fieldwork teams as well as conducting my own fieldwork.

1984-1986

Fieldwork for the exhibition and publication, "Materials at Hand: Indiana Folk Crafts Today."

1981, summer

Folklore fieldwork for Local Library Project, Meridian and Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.

1980, summer

Folklore fieldwork and presentation, Tennessee State Parks Folklife Project.

1979, summer

Oral history research, Waverly Plantation Project, cultural resource management project under contract to the Army Corps of Engineers

Professional Presentations

2018

Presenter, National Folk Festival, Salisbury, MD

1986 – Present

Presenter at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival (introducing and interpreting traditional culture to a wide audience in areas of crafts, occupational skills, foodways, and building arts; chosen by curators of the programs)

1977 - 2019

Presentations at the annual American Folklore Society meetings on various aspects of Public Folklore, Folklore and Education, Material Culture and Narrative (presentations reviewed and accepted by program committees of annual meetings), including:

“Exchanging Views: A Conversation with Elliot Oring,” American Folklore Society 2000 Annual Meeting, Columbus, OH. (First in a series of three presentations of an innovative format involving conversations with senior scholars about their careers, continued in 2001 with Judy McCulloh and in 2002 with Roger Abrahams).

“Many Have Walked This Path Before”: Self-Empowerment Stories from Community Folklore Scholars, American Folklore Society 1990 Annual Meeting, Oakland, CA.

“A Lump of Alum, a Thimbleful of Zinc”: Folk Contraceptive Practices, American Folklore Society 1977 Annual Meeting, Pittsburg, PA.

Betty Belanus – Tracking New Hampshire: Follow up from the 1999 Smithsonian Folklife Festival

<https://www.appliedanthro.org/application/files/1015/6138/3065/2015.pdf> Page 44

September 2012

Presenter, [Nomvula’s festival in South Africa]

July 2001

Keynote address: Museum of Frontier Culture Teacher’s Institute, Staunton, VA.

April 2001

“Public History and Public Folklore Intersections,” National Council on Public History Annual Conference, Ottawa.

October 2000

“Initiating a Community Scholar Program,” Oral History Association Annual Conference, Durham, NC.

June 2000

Presenter, Restaging of “New Hampshire Stories” festival program, in Hopkinton, NH

Selected Research and Media Grants

2017/18

“Learning Together toward a Brighter Future,” Communities Connecting Heritage grant from the US State Department

2012

South Africa ROF

2011

Australia ROF

Smithsonian Scholarly Studies Grant, October – November 2008 for research on the Welsh settlements of Patagonia, Argentina

2007

Research Fellowship,

2005

Smithsonian Educational Initiative Grant for development of on-line exhibition, “Water Ways: Mid-Atlantic Maritime Communities.”

2002-03

Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy, grant for ethnographic research on Virginia coastal folklife in preparation for the 2004 “Water Ways: Mid-Atlantic Maritime Communities” program for the 2004 Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

2002

Smithsonian Women’s Committee Grant for research, design and printing of “The Silk Road at the Smithsonian,” an interactive graphic and poster depicting interesting items from the historic Silk Road in Smithsonian collections.

1983

National Endowment for the Arts Folk Arts Program Grant for Indiana Local Libraries Project, to conduct ethnographic fieldwork in six counties and give presentations at local libraries around Indiana.

1977

National Endowment for the Humanities Youthgrant in the Humanities for Senior Honor Thesis in American Studies on the history of Merino Sheep farming in Addison County, Vermont.

Professional Awards and Service

Vice President, Middle Atlantic Folklorist Association. 2018 – present

American Folklore Society, Co-Convener, Folklore and Education Section, 2015-2017

Advisor, Craft Convening. April 1-2, 2017, Sandborn Mills Farm, Sandborn, NH

American Folklore Society Executive Board: 2001-2003

Advisory Board for Local Learning: Folk Arts and Education Network, 1997 – present

Journal of Folklore Research, Corresponding Editor, 2000 - 2007

Journal of American Folklore, event and exhibition review editor, 2002 – 03

American Folklore Society, Co-Convener, Public Programs Section, 1996-98

American Folklore Society, Public Programs Fellowship to Western Kentucky University, Spring 1997

Former Professional Service

Editor, Parent Drama Booster Newsletter, Washington-Lee High School: 2005/06

Girl Scout Troop #518 Cookie Mother, organized sales of troop's annual fund raising: 1998 and 2000

Indiana University Graduate School Fellowships: 1977 - 1980

Graduation Cum Laude, Smith College: 1977

Elizabeth Babcock Poetry Prize, Smith College: 1977