

The Eastern Voice

Volume 27, Issue 2
February 2015

Upcoming dates to keep in mind...

February 16th, 2015: Submission deadline for the Bronner Award

March 27th and 28th, 2015: EASA Conference in Glassboro, New Jersey

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New Jersey Folk Culture and Lore: An interview with Dr. Angus Gillespie

Dr. Angus Gillespie is a professor of American Studies at



Rutgers and folklorist who studies myths, legends, and tales in the United States. His work in folklore has explored historical figures including Buffalo Bill, Casey Jones, Calamity Jane, and Molly Pitcher, as well as contemporary folklore about New Jersey and conspiracy theories. Dr. Gillespie will be offering the keynote address at the

Eastern American Studies Association conference, and presenting recent work about the New Jersey Turnpike.

You are not from New Jersey originally. How did you become fascinated with New Jersey's folklore? When I was a graduate student in what was then called "American Civilization" at the University of Pennsylvania many years ago, I concentrated in the folklore aspect of the program. Sometime later when I was hired by the American Studies Department at Rutgers, I was asked to teach an introductory course in American Folklore.

The course covered the usual topics—myth, legend, folktale, and ballad. Gradually, it occurred to me that most of the students, being New Jersey residents, would appreciate local examples. The students themselves began suggesting New Jersey material, and I rapidly incorporated that material into the course, starting with the legend of the Jersey Devil.

Ben Franklin famously likened New Jersey to "a keg tapped at both ends." How does proximity to New York and Philadelphia affect the identities of New Jerseyans? Surrounded by these two big cities, New Jersey typically gets little respect. These two cities think of themselves as very sophisticated. They see New Jersey as an ignorant hinterland. The state is often depicted as an unfashionable place—identified with criminality, dim-wittedness, and pollution. This disrespect is so pervasive that there is a recognized category called "the Jersey Joke," a topic that my colleagues, most notably Michael Aaron Rockland, have often addressed in books and journal articles.

You have organized the New Jersey Folk Festival for many years (how many exactly?). Can you share any trends you have perceived over time? For example, Americans have witnessed the advents of lots of modern technology since you started doing the festival. Does increased modernity tend to

make people more interested or less interested in folk culture? Last year, in 2014, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the New Jersey Folk Festival. And, yes, the festival has changed over time. When I started the festival back in the 1970s, I was using as model the Kutztown Folk Festival in Pennsylvania. I had been introduced to that festival by Professor Don Yoder at Penn. Basically, the Kutztown Folk Festival was a celebration of rural nostalgia. It was notable for beekeeping, quilting, blacksmithing, pottery, woodcarving, and so forth—along with the farm arts such as hay baling and sheep shearing. We have all those things in New Jersey, of course, and we featured them for the first five years. But then I realized that we were essentially celebrating South Jersey (the rural part of the state) over and over again. Beginning in 1980, we shifted our focus to the celebrating the traditions of the various ethnic groups in New Jersey. This revised focus allowed us to include the people of central and northern New Jersey—including groups such as the Cubans, the Irish, the Lebanese, the Haitians, and so forth.

You wrote a book on the *Twin Towers* in 1999. How did the events of 9/11 affect your career and the book? As you point out, that book came out in 1999, two years before the attacks of 9-11-2001. At that time Rutgers Press printed 3,000 copies of the book. By September 1, 2001, only about 2,000 had been sold. Most of those had been purchased by my mother. But then, within an hour of the attacks, my book became #1 on Amazon.com, and it spent six weeks on the New York Times best-seller list. Needless to say, it was very gratifying for an obscure academic book to become the focus of so much attention. There were many favorable reviews at the time. For example, the New York Times wrote, “Well researched...gives us a sense of what we have lost.” I was interviewed on all the major television networks. Larry King gave me a one-word endorsement: “Brilliant.” So you could say that I have had my proverbial fifteen minutes of fame.

Many of us will be traveling to this year's conference on the New Jersey Turnpike. Can a highway have a folklore? I mean, it's just a long boring strip of asphalt, right? Well, because the New Jersey Turnpike is so heavily used, it is very familiar to most Americans. For people from the rest of the country, it is one of the central experiences of the East Coast, along with Times Square in New York and the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. Mention of the New Jersey Turnpike evokes powerful images of dense traffic combined with an industrial landscape and chemically fouled air. For New Jerseyans, the Turnpike is not only a primary form of transportation; it is, perhaps, their most important common experience, the source of much of what it means to be a New Jerseyan.

Let's shift to sports. The New Jersey Nets is a strange name because the moniker refers to a prop of the sport rather than something distinctive about the team's region (there is no baseball team called "the home plates" or "the Foul Poles"). For the same reason, the New Jersey Devils is a great name!

Can you tell us the origins of that name? Well, you're right. The name New Jersey Nets is rather strange since it's named for an important part of the equipment of the game rather than after some kind of animal or mascot. However, I understand that there are two good reasons for the name. The first has to do with alliteration, the repetition of the initial consonant sound of the letter “N”—New and Nets. Also notice the rhyming with other sports franchises in the area—baseball's Mets and football's Jets. Now, with regard to the New Jersey Devils, there is an interesting story there. It seems that the team got that name back in 1982 from the legend of the Jersey Devil, a creature said to inhabit the Pine Barrens of South Jersey. Over 10,000 people had voted in a contest to select the name. As a folklorist, the name makes me a bit uncomfortable. In the first place, the original legend tells us of the Jersey Devil (singular) a monstrous creature that has terrified the people of South Jersey for more than 250 years. So, in terms of tradition, the name Jersey Devils (plural) makes no sense. Okay, I understand that a hockey team has more than one player, but still... In the second place, the people who know this creature best, those in Absecon Township of Atlantic County, seldom refer to the creature as the Jersey Devil. Rather, they tend to call it the Leeds Devil, after the family in which the creature was allegedly born. But perhaps I am just being a fussy professor. Most New Jersey hockey fans love the name just as it is.

Is there a story behind your decision to study the Jersey Devil and the mysterious Pine Barrens? Just between the two of us, does that monster really exist?

The Jersey Devil is a legendary creature said to have the torso of a man, the head of a horse, the feet of a goat, the wings of a bat, and long, serpentine tail. I got started studying the Jersey Devil in the early 1970s as part of an effort to incorporate local examples into my introductory course on “American Folklore”. Then I became more serious when I was invited to make a presentation on the topic at an international conference on legends held at the University of Nebraska in Omaha in 1979. Preparing this conference paper forced me to deal with the creature in a more formal and considered manner. People often ask me if the creature really exists. As a professional folklorist, I feel obliged to be neutral. It is important not to be close-minded and dismissive. At the same time, it is important to be open-minded, but not naïve, in considering new evidence. In

my classes, I like to point out that; so far, there is no proof that the creature exists. However, we must keep in mind that proving that the creature does not exist is not possible.

What was it like working with *Monster Quest*, the popular TV show that sent Crypto-zoologists out hunting for Sasquatch, the Loch Ness Monster, and the Chupacabra? As I am sure you know, *Monster Quest* was an American television series that aired from 2007 to 2010 on the History Channel. The program dealt with the search for various cryptozoological creatures reportedly witnessed around the world. My involvement came with the episode “Devils in New Jersey” which aired on February 25, 2009. I enjoyed working with Tom Phillips, the director, who has become a good friend. The program followed a predictable pattern. It started with an eyewitness account given by a mother and son, who seemed sure that they had seen the creature, followed with an “investigation.” Were the eyewitnesses telling the truth? Well, according to the lie detector expert, they were truthful. Even a retired NYPD detective seemed to be convinced of their truthfulness. They really believed that they saw something. But could they have been mistaken? Could it have been a bat? Call in a bat expert. Could it have been an owl? Call in an owl expert. In other words, the show followed a familiar formula. That formula was always given at the beginning of each show in

an ominous voice-over: “People around the world report seeing monsters. Science searches for answers...on *Monster Quest*.” I kept insisting to the director that science searching for answers was the wrong approach. Instead, we should have folklore searching for answers! There may or may not be a Jersey Devil out there, but we do have stories and the stories can be studied. Well, Tom Phillips said, “Angus, you are right, of course. But this show is about entertainment. People work hard all day long at jobs that they hate. They come home, and they turn on the television. They want to be entertained.”

I am a Doctoral Student in American Studies. We've been hearing a lot about the academic job market that is not exactly flourishing. In your view, should I switch majors to Crypto-zoology? Well, it's no secret that the job market for Ph.D.s in the humanities is very weak. You have to be very dedicated to go down that road, when you know how tough it is out there. Having said that, I think there is a place, albeit a small one, for cryptozoology within American Studies. As Chad Arment argues, sightings of mystery animals deserve critical objective investigation without giving in to either credulous acceptance or narrow-minded dismissal.

- Anna O'Brien, Penn State Harrisburg

From the Editor's Desk

As I pen this piece, the wind is howling and snow is falling outside my window. Old Man Winter has come out in full force and is pounding our region. At present, not many people are “enjoying culture,” as we like to say in EASA. They are instead huddled in their homes, trying to stay warm and off the icy streets. Bitterly cold and dark though the days may be, I am not in the least depressed. Why is that? My mind drifts fondly forward to Spring, when the ice will melt, the flowers will bloom, the birds will sing, and bad poetry will be written.

And that's not all I love about spring. On my calendar, I have circled a couple of days in late March when all lovers of culture will descend on Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ – the site of this year's conference. This year, the conference promises to be “epic,” as twelve-year-old boys are wont to say. If you peeked ahead and noticed that many of the panels have a folklore flair, there is a reason for that: we have joined forces with MAFA

Fun Fact. As the home of Rowan University, with a rich history surrounding its founding in the 18th century and its vital player in Cold War diplomacy, the town of Glassboro offers various local events and activities of interest to visitors--especially for those interested in learning more about regional history and connections to broader aspects of American culture. Glassboro has grown to be home to over 18,000 residents, not counting the Rowan University population. Only 20 minutes outside of Philadelphia (easily accessible by Route 55), and 40 minutes from Atlantic City, Glassboro enjoys a central and scenic location in southern New Jersey.

(the Middle Atlantic Folklife Association). Before I go any further, I want to thank that organization and its president, David Puglia, for being such great partners. I also want to thank Rowan's Emily Blanck, our Vice President and the on-site conference organizer, who has worked tirelessly to get everything ready on her campus. Finally, all would be lost were it not for the indispensable Christie Briley, our conference coordinator, and Anna O'Brien, who wrote most of the content for this newsletter.

Speaking of the newsletter, there are several highlights I wish to call your attention to. First, we know you will enjoy our "Newsmaker Interview" with Angus Gillespie, a scholar who knows more about New Jersey folklore than anyone on the planet. Second, we hope you will take in our piece on the Glassboro Summit of 1867, which was a major event in Soviet-American negotiations during the Cold War. Third, you will see that many pages are devoted to conference materials. Along with the program, you will also find a registration form, hotel information, and an introduction to Rowan University. It is our hope that, by perusing the newsletter, readers will be inspired to attend the conference if they have not already decided to do so. That said, we also have composed the newsletter with the idea that it can serve as a portable guide to Glassboro and to the conference. So don't forget to pack the newsletter away in your suitcase before you head out. We'll see you at Rowan!

Survive Winter. Enjoy Culture.



Dr. John Haddad
American Studies, Penn State Harrisburg

Whoo RU?

This year's Eastern American Studies Association Conference is hosted by Rowan University in the town of Glassboro in southern New Jersey. Rowan University was founded in 1923 to help fill the growing need for advanced educators in region. With little over 100 residents, the town of Glassboro was chosen to be the site of this new state-sponsored school after a competition involving several other small towns--eventually winning the college which would help foster economic growth. The school, originally called "Glassboro Normal School," welcomed its first class of 236 freshman to its two-year teaching program later that year.

Three name changes and sixty-nine years later, Rowan University has grown dramatically in its curriculum and student body. In one of Rowan University's first major expansions in the 1930s, the school became nationally recognized for its recognition of the special educational needs of people with reading disabilities and physical handicaps. By the 1940s, officials decided to broaden the school's focus to include a junior college that would help accommodate WWII veterans seeking education through the GI bill. The name was changed to "Glassboro State College" to reflect the shift from teaching college that began to include other programs and departments.

After continuous steady growth, engineer Henry Rowan donated \$100 million to the school--which was, at that point, the largest endowment ever given to a public college or university. In honor of the gift, the school changed its name to Rowan College of New Jersey, and achieved university status in 1997.

With 12,022 undergraduates and 1,927 graduate students, Rowan University currently offers 57 bachelor's degree programs and 50 graduate degree programs across a number of disciplines and four

separate campuses. The historic commitment to public education and the enrichment of the region help support the strong community ties to Glassboro and the surrounding towns in south New Jersey. For more information about the school and its history, go to <http://www.rowan.edu/home/about/our-past-present-future/rowan-history>.

Notable Rowan Alumna: Patti Smith

Famous musician, artist and poet, Patti Smith attended Glassboro State College in the mid-1960s. During her time at Rowan, Smith studied art and made important friendships that would be reflected in her music and writing. She left the school in 1966 to concentrate on pursuing her musical career for which she would later be honored by induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Her most famous record, *Horses*, was released in 1975 and is considered a vitally important album in the formation of punk music in New York. In 2008, Smith received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Rowan University to recognize her extensive accomplishments in the arts.



What's in a name? The Story of the Glassboro Namesake

The name Glassboro reflects its 1779 founding by Soloman Stanger, a glass manufacturer who wanted the land to create a "glass works in the woods." Glassboro land was chosen for its abundance of clay and sand, as well as oak trees used as fuel for the glass furnaces. The Stanger operation was taken over later by Colonels Thomas Heston and Thomas Carpenter. Local lore about the Whitney acquirement of the glass manufacturing suggests that in 1805, Ebenezer Whitney was nursed back to health after a sea wreckage by the daughter of Colonel Thomas Heston. They eventually fell in love and married, and had five children. The eldest son, Thomas Whitney, bought the glassworks from Heston and Carpenter, changed the name to Whitney Brothers Glassworks, and helped the factory grow to become one of the most prosperous glass manufacturers in the country. For more information, visit the Glassboro Heritage Glass Museum at <http://www.heritageglassmuseum.com>.

Things to See and Do in South Jersey

The Philadelphia Museum of Art

A current exhibition, entitled "Represent: 200 Years of African American Art" highlights African American art in the museum's collection and celebrates Black American artists and their cultural legacies. The exhibition shows the changes and progression of artistic expression throughout American history, beginning with art made by free and enslaved African Americans in the 1800s, and the ways in which personal, political, and racial identity have been negotiated.

Additionally, the Philadelphia Museum of Art is showing a collection of folk art in the special exhibit "Drawn with Spirit: Pennsylvania German Fraktur from the Joan and Victor Johnson Collection." Fraktur refers to the illustrated documents made by Pennsylvania Germans to commemorate milestones and document the everyday traditions. This folk art tradition includes hand drawn and painted text with a "fractured" lettering style, surrounded by decorative painted elements. For more information about these exhibitions, visit the website at <http://www.philamuseum.org/>.



Admission: \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors, \$14 for students and youths aged 13-18, and free for children 12 & under.

Phone: (215) 763 - 8100

Location: 2600 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19130

Glassboro Heritage Glass Museum

As mentioned in the history of the naming of Glassboro, the glass industry has played a vital role in the growth and culture of the town. This museum features many of the sought after collectable glass items that the Whitney Works became known for, including flasks in various novelty shapes like cabins, pineapples, and fish.

Founded exactly 200 years after the establishment of the town of Glassboro, the glass museum includes various examples of local historical glassware, as well as insights into its manufacturing and regional history. The current temporary exhibition features milk glass as a unique and beautiful glass tradition.

Admission: Free

Location: 25 E. High Street, Glassboro, NJ

Phone: (856) 881 - 7468

South New Jersey Museum of American History

This museum, opened in 1996, preserves and exhibits artifacts and documents relating to the history of the South Jersey area. The museum was moved to its current location in Glassboro from Berlin (in Camden County, NJ) 10 years after its founding where it exhibits a range of items dating back to tools found in the region from the Pre-Columbian era. Other displays feature important artifacts and ephemera relating to the political history and contemporary political issues, as well as a collection of antique tools and farm equipment from the 19th century to today. For more information, go to

<http://www.southjerseymuseum.org/>.

Admission: \$4 for adults, \$3 for children

Phone: (856) 442 - 0688

Address: 123 E. High Street, Glassboro, NJ 08028

Broadway Theater of Pitman

Located just north of Glassboro in Pitman, NJ, this lovely historical theater features various rotating theatrical events throughout the year. The EASA conference convenes during the last weekend shows of "The 39 Steps," a fast-paced mystery described as a mix of a Hitchcock movie, spy novel, with a zany comedic twist. The Tony-winning play includes an incredible 150 characters performed by only four actors, and is an exciting way to experience the local arts and entertainment in a neighboring town. For more information, including show listings and online ticket purchase, go to <http://www.thebroadwaytheatre.org/>.

Tickets: \$28

Phone: (856) 384 - 8381

Location: 43 S. Broadway, Pitman, NJ 08071

Edelman Planetarium

The Edelman Planetarium features family-friendly star shows projected on the entire dome, and follows evening events with a live presentation of the current night sky. The current show, "Passport to the Universe," is narrated by the acclaimed actor Tom Hanks. This show was produced by the American Museum of Natural History (aka Hayden Planetarium) and is shown in the star theater at 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. For more information, go to <http://www.rowan.edu/planetarium/>.

Admission: \$2 for family shows, and \$5 for adults, \$3 for children, students, and seniors for all other shows

Phone: (856) 256 - 4389

Location: Edelman Planetarium in Science Hall, Rowan University, 201 Mullica Hill Road, Glassboro, NJ 08028

The Mutter Museum: Grimms' Anatomy: Magic and Medicine

Famed museum of bio-medical artifacts, the College of Physicians of Philadelphia's Mutter Museum, is modeled after medical oddity exhibits of the past known as "cabinet museums." Aside from its menagerie of jars of organs and mysterious anatomical anomalies, the museum is hosting a special exhibit entitled "Grimms' Anatomy: Magic and Medicine." This display, curated by folklorists, shows some real examples of the strange and grotesque bodies described in some of the Brothers Grimm fairy-tales.

Admission: \$15 for adults, \$10 for students (with ID)

Phone: (215) 560 - 8564

Location: 19 South 22nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Local History Spotlight: The Cold War Glassboro Summit of 1967

The Hollybush Mansion on Rowan University campus was the host of a historic meeting between President Lyndon Johnson and Soviet leader Alexei Kosygin during the Cold War. Soviet premier Kosygin was in New York prior to the summit for a special United Nations General Assembly meeting, providing a unique opportunity for a face-to-face talk between the United States and Soviet Union leaders.

However, neither President Johnson nor Premier Kosygin would travel the entire distance to meet the other. Compromise was struck when it was proposed that the two would meet exactly halfway between Washington DC and New York on Rowan University campus in Glassboro, New Jersey. The town was perfect because of its access to airports

and humble, yet appropriate stature that would provide a positive representation of the American small town to Kosygin. At the time of the summit, the Hollybush mansion was the residence of Glassboro State President, Thomas Robinson. Thomas Robinson and his wife Margaret were tasked with converting their home into a suitable meeting place while the town of Glassboro prepared for the visit with security personnel.

Between June 23-25 of 1967, Kosygin and Johnson would discuss a number of important issues including nuclear proliferation and arms sales, Arab-Israeli relations, and Vietnam. Although no major accords were reached during this visit, it is widely regarded as an important political event in President

Johnson's career that reflected a diffusion of Cold War tensions.

Hollybush has since been honored as a museum and memorial site because of the Glassboro Summit. Today, visitors are welcome to tour the home, learn about the history of the event and the Cold War, and view a statue of a white dove that symbolizes the amicable meeting between world leaders.

For more information about the regional history and effects of the Glassboro Summit, see <http://www.rowan.edu/hollybush/>.

For an in-depth analysis of the Glassboro summit and the Cold War, see *The Foreign Policies of Lyndon Johnson: Beyond Vietnam* by H. W. Brands (1999).

- Anna O'Brien, Penn State Harrisburg

The 2015 Annual Conference of the Eastern American Studies Association

EASA will be partnering in 2015 with the Middle Atlantic Folklife Association to hold a joint conference bringing together cultural perspectives on "Land and Sea: Geography, Economy, and Culture in the American Experience" and other aspects of American, folklife, and heritage studies. The location of this year's meeting – Rowan University in New Jersey – provides a vantage from which to view diverse features of the Eastern United States. Looking to the east is the Atlantic Ocean and the famous "Jersey Shore." Although many people know the "Shore" for its popular entertainments, beauty contests, and gambling, it also has a longstanding maritime folk culture, including the craft of the renowned Jersey Skiff, in addition to the east of the "Pine Barrens" that attracted studies of its residents known as "Pineys" by the American Folklife Center. To the west is the Delaware River and the Philadelphia metropolitan area. Glassboro, the home of Rowan University, is historically connected to early American manufacturing – the renowned "Glass Works in the Woods" that has led some scholars to view the Delaware Valley as the cradle of American industrialism. Yet southern New Jersey is also known for being a leading producer of fresh fruits and vegetables, including cranberries, blueberries, tomatoes, and escarole/endive. The varied landscape facilitates identities often by occupational and recreational

communities. Evidence of its crossroads reputation is the Glassboro Summit in 1967 between President Lyndon Johnson and Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin, with the Glassboro site chosen because it is equidistant between New York and Washington, D.C.

Friday March 27th

2:00 - 3:15 pm Session Block 1

JAMES HALL 3109: Keystone Culture: Pennsylvania Perspectives

Moderator: Charles Kupfer, Penn State Harrisburg

- 🎧 Daniel Boustead, Penn State Harrisburg, "The Rise and Fall of the Pennsylvania Steel Industry"
- 🎧 Zachary Langley, Penn State Harrisburg, "Two Other Worlds of the Pennsylvania Dutch: Agrarian Tradition and Victorian Modernity in the Shaping of Pennsylvania Dutch Identity"
- 🎧 Caitlin Black, Penn State Harrisburg, "Commerce, Community, Conduit: The Enduring Value of Central Pennsylvania's Diamond-Shaped Town Squares"
- 🎧 Dave Weaver, Penn State Harrisburg, "Courage, Cause, and Comrades: A Sample of Dedication Themes for the Monuments at Gettysburg"

JAMES HALL 3110: Art & Animation: Reading the Land

Moderator: Elizabeth O'Connell-Gennari, Rowan University

- 🎧 Kate Ogden, Stockton College, "Town and Country, Land and Sea: Two Painters of Salem (NJ) and Philadelphia"
- 🎧 Robert Genter, Nassau Community College, "Barnet Newman, Abstract Art, and the Lost American Landscape"
- 🎧 Peter Bryan, Penn State Harrisburg, "The Master of the Mississippi, The King of the Klondike!: Nature, Authenticity, and the Appeal of Donald Duck"
- 🎧 Megan McGee-Yinger, Penn State Harrisburg, "The Artist in His Theme Park: The Tradition of Rational Amusement from Charles Willson Peale to Walk Disney"

JAMES HALL 3114: The Delsea Drive Reporting Project

Chair: Mark Berkey-Gerard, Rowan University

- 🎧 Mark Berkey-Gerard talks about an innovative college course in which he takes students out along the Delsea Drive Highway to collect stories, oral histories, and images that collectively document life in the local community. Students share their experiences and explain how the course changed their outlook and perspective.

3:30 - 4:45 pm Session Block 2

JAMES HALL 3109: Folk, Festival, & Fair: Cultural Performance in America

Moderator: Simon Bronner, Penn State Harrisburg

- 🎧 Anna O'Brien, Penn State Harrisburg, "The American House Show: An Ethnography of the Use of Domestic Space in Music Performance"
- 🎧 Cassandra Gunkel, Bucks County Free Library, "It's Grange Fair Time! Tradition and Innovation at the Heart of a Community Debate and Its Role in the Local Economy"
- 🎧 Doris Fair, Bucks County Community College, "Welcome to the Pumpkin Patch: Integrating Folklore and Folklife into Educational and Agritainment Programming at Hellerick's Family Farm"
- 🎧 Semontee Mitra, Penn State Harrisburg, "Children Have Their Own World of Being: An Ethnography on Children's Activities on the Day of Saraswati Puja"

JAMES HALL 3110: Archiving South Jersey

Moderator: Emily Blanck, Rowan University

- 🎧 Stephanie Allen, Richard Stockton College, "Recovering, Republishing, and Rediscovering: Why Archival Work Still Matters"
- 🎧 Tania Rivera, Richard Stockton College, "Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society and Museum: Preserving and Sharing Local History"
- 🎧 Ashley Vaccaro, Richard Stockton College, "Digitizing Chatsworth: Buzby's General Store"

JAMES HALL 3114: Roads, Rivers, & Racetracks: Americans on the Move

Moderator: John Haddad, Penn State Harrisburg

- 🎧 Hilary Miller, Penn State Harrisburg, "Travel and Tourism in the Nineteenth Century: Crafting American Identity on the National Road"
- 🎧 Scott Moser, Penn State Harrisburg, "A Finn Tale: Identifying Works in Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"
- 🎧 Wes Stauffer, Penn State Harrisburg, "Alaska-Canada Highway: Building a Road Through Wilderness"
- 🎧 Jonathan Silverman, UMass Lowell, "Mapping the Past: A Geography of Racetracks"

4:45 - 6:15 pm Plenary Session

JAMES HALL 3091: "The Child of Such Union:" A Forum on the (Em)Bedding of Folklore and American Studies

Moderator: David Puglia, Penn State Harrisburg

- 🎧 Simon Bronner, Penn State Harrisburg
- 🎧 Angus Gillespie, Rutgers University
- 🎧 James Deutsch, Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
- 🎧 Anthony Buccitelli, Penn State Harrisburg

6:15 – 7:00 pm Reception

Rowan Hall Atrium

7:00 – 8:00 Dinner

Rowan Hall Atrium

8:00 - 9:30 pm Keynote

ROWAN HALL AUDITORIUM: "The Jersey Devil on Land and at Sea"

- 🎧 Angus Gillespie, Rutgers University

Saturday March 28th

8:00 - 9:15 am Session Block 3

JAMES HALL 3109: Godly Groups: Spiritual Expressions in American Culture

Moderator: Frank McKee, La Salle University

- 🎧 Peter Lehman, Penn State Harrisburg, "Not in the Earthquake: Uses of Nature in Early 20th Century Sermons"
- 🎧 Meg Nicholas, Accokeek Foundation, "It was like a Brigadoon: Place and Worldview in the Legends of a Native Family"
- 🎧 Mary Sellers, Penn State Harrisburg, "Mary Baker Eddy and the Rise of Christian Science"
- 🎧 Spencer Green, Penn State Harrisburg, "Toilet Papering Among the Mormons: The Peculiarities of Pranking Among a Peculiar People"

JAMES HALL 3110: Heritage Today: Folklore Programs Responding to Current Times

Moderator: Mira Johnson, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts/Jump Street Inc.

- 🎧 Sally Van de Water, Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
- 🎧 Robert Baron, New York State Council on the Arts

- 🎧 Kim Nguyen, New Jersey State Council on the Arts
- 🎧 Jon Lohman, Virginia Folklife Program

JAMES HALL 3114: Mass Media(ted): Mediations on Pop Culture

Moderator: Rosina Ryan, La Salle University

- 🎧 John Price, Penn State Harrisburg, "Reimagining Poplore: American Popular Culture as a Hearth of Folkloric Communication"
- 🎧 Jared Rife, Penn State Harrisburg, "The Lathe of Heaven: Cultural Critic Through the Eyes of PBS"
- 🎧 Kendra Kreitzer, Penn State Harrisburg, "The Hatching of a Dream or a Nightmare: The Creation of the Chickenosaurus, Jack Horner, and Chaos Theory"
- 🎧 Dwonna Goldstone, Austin Peay State University, "What Good Times, the Jeffersons, and All in the Family Taught My Students and Me"

9:30-10:45 Session Block 4

JAMES HALL 2101: "Symposium: American Studies and Teacher Preparation"

Chair: Francis Ryan, La Salle University

- 🎧 Panelists TBA

JAMES HALL 2102: Nevar Fuhgeddaboutit It!: New Jersey Cultures

Moderator: Lisa Jarvinen, La Salle University

- 🎧 Angus Gillespie, Rutgers University, "Port Newark: Birthplace of Containerization"
- 🎧 James Deutsch, Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, "Fact, Fiction, and Folklore in the New Jersey Pinelands: The Case of the Outlaw Hero"
- 🎧 Cheryl Brooks, Penn State Harrisburg, "Chicken Bone Beach – The Empowered Race by the Sea"
- 🎧 Max Vande Vaarst, University of Wyoming, "A State Without a Center: Popular Culture, Urban Legend and the Search for New Jersey's Identity"

JAMES HALL 3109: Gender Identities: Past & Present

Moderator: Deborah Gussman, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

- 🎧 Amy Milligan, Elizabethtown College, "Shared Images: Reappropriations of Nazi Symbols by the LGBTQ Community"
- 🎧 Julia Morrow, Penn State Harrisburg, "Untitled Presentation about Bobbed Hairstyles of the Early 1900s"
- 🎧 Sharon Musher, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, "Reconstructing a Life: Hadassah Kaplan in Palestine, 1932-1933"
- 🎧 Jeanine Ruhsam, Penn State Harrisburg, "Concepts of the Land: Wilderness, Ownership, and Gender"

JAMES HALL 3114: Sandylore: Cultural Resources & Expressions

Chair: Nancy Solomon, Long Island Traditions

- 🎧 Eileen Condon, Center for Traditional Music and Dance
- 🎧 Erzuli Guillaume, Verite Sou Tanbou
- 🎧 Deenps "Gran Bwa" Bazile, Verite Sou Tanbou
- 🎧 Kay Turner, American Folklore Society

JAMES HALL 3110: American Ethnicities: Representations and Actualities

Moderator: John Haddad, Penn State Harrisburg

- 🎧 Mary Kate Rivera, Penn State Harrisburg, "Latinos in the Ring: Ethnicity in 20th Century American Boxing"
- 🎧 Steve Jackowicz, Bridgewater University, "The Land of the Immortals: An Examination of Chinese Folklore Maps and Their Role in the Chinese Perception and Immigration to North America"

- 🎧 Rosemary Hathaway, West Virginia University, "'Fear the Beard': The Institutionalized Sexism of a College Tradition"
- 🎧 Chris Haraszkiwicz, Penn State Harrisburg, "Discontent in Arab America: Data Provides a Growing Identity Crisis in Arab Americans Post-9/11"

11:00-12:15 Session Block 5

JAMES HALL 2101: Undergraduate Roundtable (Moderator: Francis Ryan, La Salle University)

Moderator: Francis Ryan, La Salle University

Presenters TBA

JAMES HALL 2102: Gender Identities: Profession & Presentation

Moderator: Sharon Musher, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

- 🎧 Rebecca Cecala, Penn State Harrisburg, "The Physiology of a City: Progressive and Modernist Impulses in Dr. S. Josephine Baker's Bureau of Child Hygiene"
- 🎧 Erin Stettner, Penn State Harrisburg, "They Really DID Read it for the Articles: Playboy and the Redefinition of Masculinity in the 1950s"
- 🎧 Scott Hamilton-Suter, Bridgewater College, "'An Army of Noble Women': Gender Roles and the Humor of the World Wars"
- 🎧 Paulina Guerrero, Indiana University, "The Smith Island Crabmeat Co-Op: Local Knowledge and Its Engagement with Global Market Systems"

JAMES HALL 3109: Dynamics of Cultural Traditions in New Jersey (Forum)

Chair: Iveta Pirgova, Down Jersey Folklife Program at Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center

- 🎧 Kim Nguyen, Folk Arts Program at New Jersey State Council on the Arts
- 🎧 Jaclyn Wood, Jersey Shore Folklife Center at Tuckerton Seaport
- 🎧 Eva Walters, Folklife Program for New Jersey at Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission
- 🎧 Isha Vyas, Folklife Program for New Jersey at Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission
- 🎧 Thomas Carroll, Perkins Center for the Arts Folklife Center

JAMES HALL 3110: Grass-Roots Public History in the Mid-Atlantic Region: Les Lieux de Memoire on the Local Level

Moderator: Louise Stevenson, Franklin and Marshall College

- 🎧 Erin Bernard, Temple University, "Manufacturing Fire: Embers, Memories, and the Philly History Truck"
- 🎧 Gail Friedman, Temple University, "Roiling on the River: Del-AWARE and Eco-Politics in the Reagan Era"
- 🎧 Mandi Magnuson-Hung, Rutgers University, "Training for the Local in the Public Humanities"
- 🎧 Levi Fox, Temple University, "War Memorials and Heritage Tourism: The Korean Conflict as Case Study"

JAMES HALL 3114: Documentary Film Screening: Mill Stories: Remembering Sparrows Point Steel Mill

- 🎧 Michelle Stefano, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- 🎧 Bill Shewbridge, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

12:15 – 2:00 pm Lunch and Awards (Owl's Nest)

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