

VITA
RICHARD ALLEN BURNS

Ph.D.	University of Texas	1990	Anthropology/Folklore
M.A.	University of Texas	1984	Anthropology/Folklore
B.S./B.A.	University of Texas	1977	Education/Psychology

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor of Folklore and Anthropology, Arkansas State University, 1998-present
Assistant Professor of Folklore and Anthropology, Arkansas State University, 1993-1998

SPECIALTIES: American Folklore, Folklore of the Southern United States, African-American Folklore, Speech Play and Verbal Art, Mississippi Delta Folklore, Material Folk Culture, Ethnomusicology, Prison Folklore, and Folk Narrative

COURSES REGULARLY TAUGHT: Cultural Anthropology, Special Topics: Graduate Studies in Folklore, American Folklore, Introduction to Folklore, African-American Folklore, Material Folk Culture, Special Topics in Heritage Studies: Folklore of the Powerless.

Publications:

- Chapter 5, Where is Jody Now? Reconsidering Military Marching Chants. In *Warrior Ways: Explorations in Modern Military Folklore*. Tad Tuleja and Eric Eliason, eds. Utah State University Press, 2012 (in press).
- "Arkansas Blues and Heritage Festival" (aka "King Biscuit Blues Festival))." In *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, 2009.
- "African Americans." *Encyclopedia of World Folklore*. William Clements, ed. Greenwood Press, 2006, pp. 143-156.
- "Dozens." *Encyclopedia of African American Folklore*. Anand Prahlad, ed. Greenwood Press, 2006, pp. 346-350.
- "I got my duffel packed, I'm goin' to Iraq': Marching Chants in the Military." *Ballads and Songs-International Studies*, Volume 2 (2006). Special Issue: Ballad Mediations: Folksongs Recovered, Represented, and Re-imagined, pp. 6-18.
- "Mississippi Delta." *Encyclopedia of World Folklore*. William Clements, ed. Greenwood Press, 2006, pp. 166-175.
- "Prisoners." *Encyclopedia of American Folklife*. Simon Bronner, ed. M.E. Sharpe, Inc., 2006, pp. 992-996.
- "Toasts." *Encyclopedia of African American Folklore*. Anand Prahlad, ed. Greenwood Press, 2006, pp. 1290-1293.
- "Worldview." *Encyclopedia of World Folklore*. William Clements, ed. Greenwood Press, 2006, pp. 96-100.
- "Foodways in the Military," *Digest*, Vol. 18 (appeared in 2005 in the 1998 issue).
- "Verbal Arts: African American." In *African Folklore: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Philip M. Peek and Kwesi Yankah, New York: Routledge., 2004, pp. 387-490.
- "This is my Rifle, This is my Gun...": Gunlore in the Military,' *New Directions in Folklore*, Vol. 7 Online at <http://www.temple.edu/isllc/newfolk/military/rifle.html> (March 2004).
- "The Shotgun Houses of Trumann, Arkansas," *Arkansas Review*, 33 (1) (2002): 44-51.
- "Our Friends Have Given Consolation!': Communal Response to the Jonesboro Shootings," *Southern Folklore* 56 (2) (1999): 161-179.

- "The Blues Is on the Move, and That's What It's All About': The Late Jimmy Rogers," *Arkansas Review*, 30 (1) (1999): 58-65
- Photographs with captions focusing on scenes of the King Biscuit Blues Festival, appearing throughout issues of *Arkansas Review* (1999-2004).
- "Blues," *The Encyclopedia of Folklore and Literature*, edited by Mary Ellen Brown, ABC-CLIO Press, 1998, pp. 61-64.
- "A Folklife Survey of the Arkansas Delta," *Mid-America Folklore* 25 (1997): 1-13.
- "African-American Blacksmithing in East Texas." In *Juneteenth Texas: Essays in African-American Folklore*. Eds. Francis Edward Abernethy, Patrick B. Mullen, and Alan B. Govenar. Publications of the Texas Folklore Society, Vol. 54. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 1996, pp. 167-193.
- "Toast." In *American Folklore: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Jan Harold Brunvand, New York: Garland Publishing Company, 1996, pp. 708-710.
- "Stagolee." In *American Folklore: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Jan Harold Brunvand. New York: Garland Publishing Company, 1996, pp. 684-687.
- "Dozens." In *American Folklore: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Jan Harold Brunvand. New York: Garland Publishing Company, 1996, pp. 206-208.
- "Brewer, J. Mason." In *American Folklore: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Jan Harold Brunvand. New York: Garland Publishing Company, 1996, pp. 102-103.
- Over 100 articles on anthropology, folklore, and history for *The Handbook of Texas*. Austin: Texas State Historical Association. 1996.
- "Report on the 1995 'Delta Studies Symposium: The Blues.'" *AFS Music & Song Section Newsletter* 5 (1995): 1.
- "Folklore and Control at an Arkansas Prison Farm." *Mid-America Folklore* 23 (1995): 1-12.
- "Prison Folk Poetry: The Barone Trilogy," *Canadian Folklore canadien*, 15(1) (1993): 41-53.

Book Reviews:

- Review of *Willie Dixon: Preacher of the Blues*, by Mitsutoshi Inaba, *Arkansas Review* 43 (2) (August 2012): 135-137.
- Review of *Camp All-American, Hanoi Jane, and the High-and-Tight: Gender, Folklore, and Changing Military Culture*, by Carol Burke. *Western Folklore*, 2009.
- Review of *C.F. Martin and His Guitars, 1796-1873*, by Philip F. Gura. *Arkansas Review* 35 (2) (August 2004).
- Review of *Yuchi Ceremonial Life: Performance, Meaning, and Tradition in a Contemporary American Indian Community*, by Jason Baird. *Arkansas Review* 35 (1) (April 2004).
- Review of *Working Cures: Healing, Health, and Power on Southern Slave Plantations*, by Sharla M. Fett. *Arkansas Review* (forthcoming) 34 (1) (2003).
- Review of *Seasonal* by Betty Belanus. *Journal of American Folklore*. 117 (464) (2004): 232-233.
- Review of *The Legacy of Tamar: Courage and Faith in an African American Family*, by Raye Springfield. *Arkansas Review* 32 (2001): 80-81.
- "Reflections on *The Artist Outsider*." Review essay of *The Artist Outsider: Creativity and the Boundaries of Culture*, edited by Michael D. Hall and Eugene W. Metcalf, Jr. *Mid-America Folklore* 25 (1998): 84-91.
- Review of *A Land and Life Remembered: Americo-Liberian Folk Architecture* by Svend E. Holsoe and Bernard L. Herman. *Mid-America Folklore*, 22 (1994): 113-116.

Works in progress:

Book manuscript, *Prison Folklore* (University Press of Mississippi)

With Catherine Calloway, co-editing a collection of essays presented at past Delta Symposium annual meetings.

Presentations to Learned Forums:

“Vampires and Short-Timers: The Folklore of DEROS (Date of Estimated Return from Over Seas) among Vietnam Veterans.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society; New Orleans, Louisiana, 25 October 2012.

“Military Folklore and a B-17 Waist Gunner's Story.” Paper presented as part of an organized panel, *The War Within/Out: Responses to War and Conflict*, at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society; Bloomington, Indiana, 13 October 2011.

“Mama Told Jody Not to Go Downtown...’: Where is Jody Now?” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society; Nashville, Tennessee, Indiana, 15 October 2010.

“Community Aesthetics and the Delta Blues Symposium,” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Louisville, Kentucky, 24 October 2008.

“Views From the Inside: Texas Prison Folklore and the Texas Prison Museum,” paper presentation as part of an organized panel: (Anti)Social Texts II: In Honour of Roger deV. Renwick's Retirement/Textes (anti)sociaux II: En l'honneur de la retraite de Roger deV. Renwick. Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Quebec, Canada, 2007

Panel chairperson, “Dynamic Relationships: Families, Migrants, Folklorists, Informants.” Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 19 October 2006.

Presentation of research on Mississippi Delta Folklore for ASU's Interdisciplinary Roundtable Discussion on Delta Environments and Culture. Arkansas State University (Jonesboro) 2006.

“Prison Folklore and Justice.” Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Atlanta, Georgia, 20 October 2005.

“The Concept of ‘Convict’ in Prison Folklore.” Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Salt Lake City, Utah, 16 October 2004,

“Folklore, Regional Culture, and Public Programming in the Arkansas Delta.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 10 October, 2003,

“I got my duffel packed, I'm goin' to Iraq’: Marching Chants in the Military.” Paper presented at the Thirty-third International Ballad Conference, Austin, Texas, 22 June 2003.

“Foodlore in the Military.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Rochester, New York, 19 October 2002.

“You could roll that thing to Bay and set it up and move in it’: The Shotgun Houses of Trumann, Arkansas.” Paper presented as part of an organized panel, “Houses and Surroundings,” at the Annual Meeting of the Pioneer America Society, Bardstown, Kentucky, 19 October 2001.

“Later that night while I was laying on my bunk I heard my door being opened...’: Stories About Building Tenders in a Texas Prison.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Columbus, Ohio, 27 October 2000.

- “This is My Rifle, This is My Gun...’: Gunlore in the Military,” Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Memphis, 23 October 1999.
- “Military Folklore.” Panel organized and chaired for the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Memphis, 23 October 1999 (see above entry).
- “A Communal Response to the Jonesboro Tragedy.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Portland, Oregon, 30 October 1998.
- Chair of panel, “Responses to Tragedy,” at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Portland, Oregon, 30 October 1998.
- “You might as well throw it away if you don’t get paid for it’: The Folk Art of Nathaniel Barrow.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Austin, Texas, 30 October 1997.
- “Sharing Vietnam: An Ex-Marine’s Personal Experience Narrative.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 20 October 1996.
- “Military Folklore.” Panel organized and chaired for the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 20 October 1996.
- “A Folklife Survey of the Arkansas Delta.” Paper presented at a symposium, “The Mississippi River and Her People,” Memphis, Tennessee, 15 March 1996.
- “The times change and the music changes, but sooner or later they come back to it’: Sonny Payne and His ‘King Biscuit Time.’” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Lafayette, Louisiana, 13 October 1995.
- “Grammar and Style as an Index of World View in Prison Folklore.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Eugene, Oregon, 29 October 1993.”Folklore and Control at an Arkansas Prison Farm.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 20 October 1994.
- “The tale he told convinced his hearers he was speaking the truth.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Jacksonville, Florida, 18 October 1992.
- “Generating Folklore in a Texas Prison Classroom.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, St. John’s, Newfoundland, 18 October 1991.
- “Writing Ethnographies and Collecting Folklore in a Texas Prison.” Paper presented at the Mid-America American Studies Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, 12 April 1991.
- “Marie’s Tea Room #2: An East Austin Cultural Institution.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Texas State Historical Association, Dallas, Texas, 9 March 1991.
- “Stories About Convict Raconteurs.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Oakland, California, 18 October 1990.
- “These Few Last Lines’: Prison Folk Poetry.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19 October 1989.
- “Prison Folklore.” Panel organized and chaired for the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 29 October 1988.
- “Folklore and Social Structure in a Texas Prison.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 29 October 1988.
- “The Structuring of Authority in Texas Prison Narratives.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 23 October 1987.

Service Activities

Department

Project Co-director, Delta Studies Symposium: The Blues (April 20-22, 1995).
 Delta Blues Committee, 1994-present (Director, 1998-99).
 Graduate Curriculum Committee
 BA Curriculum Committee
 Library Books Acquisition Committee
 Web-master for the annual Delta Blues Symposium
 Web-master for the *Arkansas Review*

College

Heritage Studies Doctoral Program Committee
 Admissions Committee for Heritage Studies Doctoral Program

University

Delta Studies Advisory Board
 University Faculty Senate
 Faculty Pre-Handbook Committee

Community and Public Service

Cellist in the ASU Orchestra
 Volunteer for United Cerebral Palsy Christmas Dinner
 Classical Guitarist in the ASU Guitar Orchestra
 Volunteer at the Annual Arkansas Blues and Heritage Festival
 Refereed articles for the online *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*

Professional Organizations

American Folklore Society
 American Folklife and Education Section of the American Folklore Society
 Foodways Section of the American Folklore Society
 Folk Belief and Religious Folklife Section of the American Folklore Society
 Folk Narrative Section of the American Folklore Society
 Music and Folksong Section of the American Folklore Society
 Central Mississippi Valley Archeological Society
 Mid-America Folklore Society
 Committee of organizers resurrecting the Arkansas Folklore Society

Awards, Honors, Distinctions for Service

Faculty Achievement Award for Service in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, 2004-2005.
 Heritage Studies Mini-Grant, ASU, \$450, 2005.
 Awarded matching grants from the Lecture-Concert series to bring blues performers to the Delta Blues Symposia, 1995-2004.
 1996-1997 Faculty Achievement Award for Research and Scholarship, Arkansas State University.