

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 Since 2000:

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, pp. 79-98.  
"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).  
"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).

### Book Reviews Since 2004:

Review of *My Music, My War: The Listening Habits of U.S. Troops*, by Lisa Gilman. *Journal of American Folklore* (Spring 2018)  
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 *Working Cures: Healing, Health, and Power on Southern Slave Plantations*, by Sharla M. Fett. *Arkansas Review* 34 (1) (2003).

### Works in progress:

Book Chapter, Chapter 12: Leaving Vietnam: Retelling an "Official" Story," *Different drummers: Military Discipline and its Discontents*, edited by Tad Tuleja. Utah State University Press. Forthcoming, 2020.  
"Marine Snipers in Combat During Vietnam," Book chapter for book, *Military Folklore*, edited by Erik Eliason, submitted to The University Press of Mississippi.  
Book manuscript, *The Folk Art of Nathaniel Barrow*, under possible consideration by University Press of Mississippi.  
Book manuscript, *Prison Folklore* (University Press of Mississippi).

### **Presentations to Learned Forums Since 2010:**

- “Carlos Hathcock: A Marine Combat Sniper During the Vietnam War.” Paper presented at the 37th Meeting of the Annual International Society for Contemporary Legend Research. Memphis, Tennessee, 28 June 2019.
- “Convicts Sharing Stories.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Baltimore, Maryland, 19 October 2019
- “The Folklore of Marine Corps Snipers in Combat.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Buffalo, New York, 20 October 2018.
- “Magic Mirror”: Ethnography and the Necessity of Self in Folklife and Heritage Studies: Fieldwork and Research. Workshop organized for Heritage Studies graduate students with Jan Rosenberg as part of Delta Symposium XXIV, Wednesday, 11 April 2018.
- “Mysterious Northeast Arkansas: Ghost Stories in Jonesboro.” Paper presented at the 35th Meeting of the Annual International Society for Contemporary Legend Research. Lafayette, Louisiana, 5 June 2017.
- “The Folk Art of Nathaniel Barrow.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 17 October 2017.
- “Leaving Vietnam.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Miami, Florida, 21 October 2016.
- “AWOL Narratives,” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Long Beach, California, 16 October 2015.
- “Thank you for Your Service”: Narratives About Fake Vets, Deserters, and Military Humor.” Panel organized for the American Folklore Society in which I both chaired and presented a paper, Long Beach, California, 16 October, 2015.
- “A Texas Convict-Guard: The Legend of Butch Ainsworth.” Paper presented at the 33rd Meeting of the Annual International Society for Contemporary Legend Research. San Antonio, Texas, 30 May 2015.
- “Suck It Up, Buttercup!”: Boot Camp Oral Traditions” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society. Santa Fe, New Mexico, 7 November 2014
- “A State Folklore Society and Its Community-Based Initiatives” Paper presented at the Meeting of the American Folklore Society. Providence, Rhode Island, 17 October 2013.
- “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.

### **Service Activities:**

Annual Delta Symposium Committee (Spring, 1995-present); Graduate English Curriculum Committee, BA Curriculum Committee; Web-master for the annual Delta Symposium, Web-master for the *Arkansas Review*; Heritage Studies Doctoral Program Committee; Admissions Committee for Heritage Studies Doctoral Program; Co-Organizer and Program Coordinator for the 2019 International Folk Legend Conference held June 2019, Memphis, Tennessee; Delta Studies Advisory Board; Editorial Board for online journal, *New Directions in Folklore*. Helped with scholarship and served as a consultant toward the Rockabilly exhibit at the ASU Museum. During my years at Arkansas State University, I have encouraged anthropology students to attend monthly Lower Mississippi River Valley Archeology society meetings held here on campus. I am currently attempting to organize a minor in anthropology, which would be housed in the Department of English and Philosophy. I have also assisted in representing the Department of English and Philosophy during outdoor promotional events and assisted with Gregory Hansen in promoting the Scarlett Chess Club. Volunteer community work at the local Food Bank, and helped in charity fundraising events during annual United Cerebral Palsy telethons as well as helped serve Christmas dinner with other volunteers to feed UCP recipients.

### **Community and Public Service:**

Cellist in local quartet performing for fundraising events for Northeast Arkansas Symphony; Volunteer for United Cerebral fundraising; Volunteer in documenting the Annual King Biscuit Blues Festival; Refereed articles for the online *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Active member of the NAACP and assisted in helping to rename a street in Jonesboro to Martin Luther King Jr.

**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

**Awards, Honors, Distinctions**

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 noted blues performer and scholars to Arkansas State University's Delta Symposia, 1995-present.

1996-1997 Faculty Achievement Award for Research and Scholarship, Arkansas State University.