

# JEANNIE B. THOMAS

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## EDUCATION

**Ph.D., English/Folklore and Ethnic Studies**, University of Oregon, June 1992. Field exams in Folklore and Ethnic Studies and Twentieth-Century American Literature with an emphasis on Ethnic Literature. Language: German

**M.S., American Studies**, Utah State University, 1987

**B.S., American Studies**, Utah State University, 1985. National Merit Scholar, Magna cum laude

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Professor of English**, Department of English and Folklore Program, Utah State University, 2004-present. Courses cross-listed in Anthropology, English, and History.

**Associate Professor of English**, Department of English and Folklore Program, Utah State University, 1999-present. Courses cross-listed in Anthropology, English, and History.

**Assistant Professor of English and Women's Studies**, Department of English and Women's Studies Program, Indiana State University, 1992-1998. Courses cross-listed in English and Women's Studies.

## ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

**Department Head, Department of English**, summer 2009-present. In charge of one of the largest departments at USU; 51 faculty at Logan and regional campuses and over 90 total employees. Responsible for departmental budget, curriculum, day-to-day operations, promotion, tenure, fundraising, and staffing. Accomplishments include successful completion of Regents Review, 2-year curricular revision and overhaul, instituting "Read and Feeds" (which celebrate department authors), and building interior remodel.

**Interim Associate Dean of the Arts, College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences**, summer 2008-2010. In charge of the Caine School of the Arts (consisting of 10 arts programs and departments in the College). Other duties included budget planning, development planning and assistance, personnel management (including promotion and tenure), proposal writing, and teaching.

**Acting Director, Interior Design**, summer 2006-summer 2008. Interim appointment by the Dean to head Interior Design. Position equivalent to a department head. Duties included budgeting, personnel management (including promotion and tenure) scheduling, hiring, assessment, accreditation, staffing, and teaching. Received commendation for administrative excellence from the national accrediting body, The Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA).

**Director, Folklore Program**, Utah State University, 2003-2008. Duties included curriculum and schedule planning, working with national organizations (including the American Folklore Society and the

Library of Congress) advising on both graduate and undergraduate levels, recruitment, arranging national level internships for students, and teaching.

**Acting Director, Folklore Program,** Utah State University, 2002-03.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

**Brian McConnell Book Award,** for *Haunting Experiences: Ghosts in Contemporary Folklore*, August 2008. Competition for prize is international.

**Humanist of the Year Award (for research).** College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Utah State University, April 2001.

**Researcher of the Year Award.** Department of English, Utah State University, March 2001.

**Elli Kögäs-Maranda Prize,** for book, *Featherless Chickens, Laughing Women, and Serious Stories*, "outstanding work on women's culture and feminist theory," November 1998. Competition for prize is international.

**Diversity Award** (for service as the Native American Student Group Advisor and Minority Students Program Mentor). Indiana State University, April 1998.

**Educational Excellence Teaching Award.** College of Arts and Sciences, Indiana State University, April 1997.

**Service Award.** School of Graduate Studies, University of Oregon, May 1991.

**Outstanding Composition Teacher Award.** Department of English, University of Oregon, May 1991.

**Timmons Award for Thesis.** Department of History, Utah State University, May 1987.

## BOOKS AND BOOKS IN PROGRESS

***Haunting Experiences: Ghosts in Contemporary Folklore.*** Co-authored with Diane Goldstein and Sylvia Grider. Logan: Utah State University Press, 2007. 272 pages (Brian McConnell Award).

***Naked Barbies, Warrior Joes, and Other Forms of Visible Gender.*** Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2003. 240 pages.

***Featherless Chickens, Laughing Women, and Serious Stories.*** Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1997. 228 pages (Kögäs-Maranda Prize).

***Dark Tourism as Danse Macabre.*** Book manuscript in progress. Under contract with University of Illinois Press.

## REFEREED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

"The Cemetery as Marketplace in Salem, Massachusetts." In *Fieldworking*, ed. Bonnie Stone Sunstein and Elizabeth Chiseri-Strater, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2011.

"Heckling Hillary: Jokes, Late-Night Television, and Hillary Rodham Clinton." In *Geek Chic: Smart Women in Popular Culture*, ed. Sherrie Inness. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

"Communicative Commemoration and Graveside Shrines: Jim Morrison, Princess Diana, My 'Bro' Max, and Boogs the Cat." In *Spontaneous Shrines and Public Memorializations of Death*, ed. Jack Santino, pp. 17-40. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.

"Ride 'Em Barbie Girl: Commodifying Folklore, Place, and the Exotic." In *Worldviews and the West: The Life of the Place Itself*, ed. Polly Stewart, Steve Siporin, C. W. Sullivan, and Suzi Jones, pp. 65-86. Logan: Utah State University Press, 2000.

"Stone Angels, Naked Mourners, and Various Virgins: Statues, Legends, and the Gendering of Intimacy." *Contemporary Legend* 3 (2000):127-160.

"Bluegrass and 'White Trash': A Case Study Concerning the Name 'Folklore' and Class Bias." Co-authored with Doug Enders. *Journal of Folklore Research* 37.1(2000): 23-52.

"Dumb Blondes, Dan Quayle, and Hillary Clinton: Gender, Sexuality, and Stupidity in Jokes." *Journal of American Folklore* 110.437(1997):277-313.

"Pickup Trucks, Horses, Women, and Foreplay: The Fluidity of Folklore." *Western Folklore* 54.3(1995):213-228.

"Campus Legends and Lore." In *Special Edition of Study Skills for Today's College Student*, ed. Jerold Apps and Indiana State University, pp. 34-45. New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1995.

"ISU's Barfing Ghost Legend." In *Special Edition of Study Skills for Today's College Student*, ed. Jerold Apps and Indiana State University, pp. 50-53. New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1995.

"Out of the Frying Pan and Into the Postmodern: Folklore and Contemporary Literary Theory." *Southern Folklore* 51.2(1994):107-20.

"Pain, Pleasure, and the Spectral: The Barfing Ghost of Burford Hall." *Folklore Forum* 24.2(1991):27-38.

"The Bighorn Medicine Wheel: When Native American Religion Becomes American History." *Midwestern Folklore* 18.2(1992):56-63.

"Woman and the Wilderness of Legend: An Intolerable 'Margin of Mess.'" *Pacific Coast Philology* 26.1-2(1991):96-104.

"Hecate in a Habit: Gender, Religion, and Legend." *Northwest Folklore* 9.2(1991): 14-27.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

"Ghosts." In *The Chicago Companion to the Child*, ed. Thomas Bidell, Ann C. Dailey, Suzanne D. Dixon, Peggy J. Miller, and John Modell. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press (forthcoming).

"Barbie Doll." In *Encyclopedia of Women's Folklore and Folklife*, ed. Theresa Vaughan and Liz Locke. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2009.

Four poems, "Woman, 41," "Salem, Massachusetts, Playground at Gallows Hill," "Shins

Around the Fire (A Jig),” and “Instructions for Installing Blinds.” In *Folklore Muse: Poetry, Fiction, and Other Reflections by Folklorists*, ed. Frank DeCaro. Logan, Utah: Utah State University Press, 2008.

“Gender.” In *Encyclopedia of World Folklore*, ed. William Clements. Greenwood, Ct.: Greenwood Press, 2005.

Review of Jack Santino’s *Signs of War and Peace*. In *Journal of American Folklore*, Spring 2004 (117.464):228-9.

Review of Susan Stern’s film, *Barbie Nation: An Unauthorized Tour*. In *Journal of American Folklore* 114.454 (2001):490-91.

Review of Kathleen Stoker’s *Folklore Fights the Nazis*. In *Folklore Forum* 31.1 (2000):87-8.

Review of Julie Cruikshank’s *The Social Life of Stories: Narrative and Knowledge in the Yukon Territory*. In *Journal of Folklore Research* 36.1(1999):92-3.

Review of Pauline Greenhill and Diane Tye’s *Undisciplined Women: Tradition and Culture in Canada*. In *Western Folklore* 57.2-3 (1998):195-95.

“Postmodernism.” In *Encyclopedia of Folklore and Literature*, ed. Mary Ellen Brown and Bruce Rosenberg, pp. 514-15. Denver: ABC-CLIO, 1998.

“Creating the Black Folk Hero.” *African American Review* 28.1(1994):151-52.

Review of David Murray’s *Forked Tongues: Speech, Writing, and Representation in North American Indian Texts*. In *Journal of American Folklore* 105(1992):491-9.

## GRANTS

Historic Preservation Fund Grants to Indian Tribes, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian Organizations, Consultant; PI Crow Tribe of Indians, Hubert Two Leggins, “Every Morning of the World Revisited: Crow History and Culture,” submitted 2011.

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Consultant; PI Northern Arapaho Tribe, Sharon Kahin, “Wind River Memories,” submitted 2011.

Utah Humanities Council, February 2002 (with Andrea Tinnemeyer and Pat Gantt). Funding for visit of Helena Maria Viramontes as speaker for Women’s History Month.

Women and Gender Research Institute, July 2000. Presentation of research at School of Scottish Studies and International Society for Contemporary Legend Research, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Curricular Enhancement Grant, March 2000. Gathered materials in France (Paris, Loire Valley) for Material Culture class.

Women and Gender Research Institute, May 1999. Presentation of research at International Society for Contemporary Legend Research, St. John’s, Newfoundland.

General Education in Action Grant, March 1995 (with Devoney Looser). For programming and work with students in Indiana State University’s general education program.

Center for the Study of Women in Society, 1991. Jane Grant Dissertation Grant to support dissertation research at University of Oregon.

## INVITED AND GUEST LECTURES

“ ‘Paris Can Be Dangerous Even for a Princess’: Spontaneous Shrines and Public Policy.” Tanner Symposium, Utah State University, November, 2004.

“Cinderella in Cultural Context.” Utah Festival Opera, July 2004.

“Bluegrass and White Trash.” Bennion Symposium on Democracy, Utah State University, July 2003.

“Teens & Zines.” Bennion Symposium on Democracy, Utah State University, July 2003.

“Barbie.” Forum on Material and Visual Representation of Children’s Traditions, Strong National Museum of Play, Rochester, NY, October 2002.

“Worldviews, the West, and Barbie.” The Great Salt Lake Book Festival, Salt Lake City, UT, September 2001.

“Worldviews and Barbie.” Utah Children’s Museum, Salt Lake City, UT. Lecture sponsored by the Utah Humanities Council, November 2001.

“Dumb Blondes & Dan Quayle: The Construction of Stupidity in Jokes.” The Fife Conference on Folklore and Humor, Logan, UT, June 2002.

“Death Takes a Holiday.” The Fife Conference on Folklore and Celebration, Logan, UT, June 2001.

“Millennial Barbie and Commodified Folklore.” The Fife Conference on Folklore and the Millennium, Logan, UT, June 2000.

“Jokes and a Sense of Social Place.” The Fife Conference on Folklore and Sense of Place, Logan, UT, June 1998.

“Car Art, Yard Art, and Place.” The Fife Conference on Folklore and Sense of Place, Logan, UT, June 1998.

“Native American Worldviews: Folklore and the Shaping of Reality.” Burpick Lecture Series, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN, May 1993.

“Halloween at the Hilton.” Always on Friday Lecture Series, Indiana State University, October 1992.

“Celebration: Oregon Country Fair and Halloween at the Hilton.” Invited lecture, Folklore and Ethnic Studies Program, University of Oregon, December 1990.

“Folklife Museums: A Case Study.” Invited lecture, Folklore and Ethnic Studies Program, University of Oregon, November 1989.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

“Haunted Houses and Cursed Barns on Cape Breton Island.” Second Island Dynamics Conference, Island Dynamics, Valletta, Malta, May 2011.

“The Cemetery as Marketplace in Salem, Massachusetts.” American Folklore Society, Boise, Idaho, October 2009.

“The Contested Consumption of History in Salem, Massachusetts.” American Folklore Society, Louisville, Kentucky, October 2008.

“Salem’s Metamorphosis: From Tragic History to Festive Commerce.” Metamorphosis: An International Colloquium on Narrative and Folklore, Salt Lake City, UT, October 2008.

“Ghosts and the Environment.” Western States Folklore Society, Los Angeles, California, April 2007.

“Deviant Femininity, Ghosts, and the Winchester Mansion.” American Folklore Society, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 2006.

“Taking the Silly Supernatural Seriously: ‘My Toilet is Haunted.’ ” American Folklore Society, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 2004.

“ ‘Paris Can Be Dangerous Even for a Princess’: Humanities, Place, and Public Policy.” Regional Humanities, Lincoln, Nebraska, November 2003.

“The Belief Drive.” American Folklore Society, Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 2003.

“Barbie vs. G. I. Joe in the Oral Tradition.” American Folklore Society, Rochester, New York, October 2002.

“Communicative Commemoration and Graveside Shrines: Princess Diana, Jim Morrison, My ‘Bro’ Max, and Boogs the Cat.” Conference on Holiday, Celebration, Festival, Ritual, and Public Display, Bowling Green, Ohio, 2002.

“Yard Art and Gender: The Gnoming of Europe and the Goosing of America.” American Folklore Society, Anchorage, Alaska, October 2001.

“ ‘Cry, Lady, Cry’: Cemetery Statues and Legends in Historical Context.” International Society for Contemporary Legend Research, San Antonio, Texas, June 2001.

“ ‘Barbie Knew How to Make Sushi’: Folklore and Consumer Culture.” American Folklore Society, Columbus, Ohio, October 2000.

“Emo, Joe Palooka, and the Angel: Statuary, Cemetery Legends, and Gender.” International Society for Contemporary Legend Research, Edinburgh, Scotland, July 2000.

“Emo and the Angel: Cemetery Legends and Gender.” California Folklore Society, Berkeley, California, April 2000.

“Narrating Barbie: Media-Legend Barbie vs. Folk Barbie.” International Society for Contemporary Legend Research, St. John’s, Newfoundland, May 1999.

“Selling Barbie and Marketing Folklore.” California Folklore Society, Fullerton, California, April 1999.

“ ‘Monuments Themselves Memorials Need’: Statues, Virgins, and Legends.” American Folklore Society, Austin, Texas, October 1997.

“Touch Her and You’re Dead: Cemetery Statues, Gender, Legend, and Alterity.” International Society for Contemporary Legend Research, Boulder, Colorado, May 1997.

“In the Arms of the Cemetery Angel: The Strange Mundane in Supernatural Legend.” American Folklore Society, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 1996.

“Dan Quayle, Hillary Clinton, and Dumb Blonde Jokes.” American Folklore Society, Lafayette, Louisiana, October 1995.

“Celebration: Halloween at the Hilton and Hippies in the Woods.” Hoosier Folklore Society, Terre Haute, Indiana, December 1993.

“The Forgotten Folk of Cultural Studies.” American Folklore Society, Eugene, Oregon, October 1993.

“Pain, Pleasure, and the Spectral.” International Society for Contemporary Legend Research, Bloomington, Indiana, May 1993.

“Cowboys, Horses, Foreplay, and Pickup Trucks.” Hoosier Folklore Society, Terre Haute, Indiana, December 1992.

“Out of the Frying Pan and Into the Postmodern: Confessions of a Folklorist Who Reads Literary Theory.” California Folklore Society, Sacramento, California, April 1992.

“Refiguring the West Through the Sound of a Woman’s Laughter.” California Folklore Society, Los Angeles, California, April 1991.

“Woman and the Wilderness of Legend: An Intolerable ‘Margin of Mess.’” Philological Association of the Pacific Coast, San Jose, California, November 1990.

“From Narrative to Numbers, From Vision to Tourism: When Native American Religion Becomes American History.” American Folklore Society, San Francisco, California, October 1990.

“‘My Other Car is a Horse’: Transformational Uses of Folk Art Assemblage.” California Folklore Society, Santa Rosa, California, April 1990.

“Hecate in a Habit: Gender Depiction in a Legend Circulated Among Adolescents.” Pacific Northwest American Studies Association, Portland, Oregon, April 1990.

## EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

**Editor, Midwestern Folklore**, January 1995-May 1998.

**Editorial Board, Folklore Historian**, Fall 2004-present.

**Editorial Board, Western Folklore**, June 2000-2003.

**Editorial Board, Midwestern Folklore**, Spring 1993-Fall 1994.

**Editor, About It**, Summer 1997 (a magazine written by low-income, culturally diverse high school students), Indiana State University.

**Editor, 4U2NV**, Summer 1996 (a magazine written by low-income, culturally diverse high school students), Indiana State University.

**Editor, Peep This!**, Summer 1995 (a magazine written by low-income, culturally diverse high school students), Indiana State University.

**Reader Referee** for HUMOR: International Journal for Humor Research, Contemporary Legend: International Journal for Legend Research, Journal of American Folklore, Western Folklore, Southern Folklore, and Midwestern Folklore.

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Co-founder of Native Memory Project, with Sharon Kahin**, an organization that helps develop funding and assistance for the recording of Native stories and histories in the Intermountain West, 2010-present.

**Documenting Grant Bulltail's Crow Stories**, videotaping of 10 sessions of narratives and songs from Grant Bulltail, traditional Crow narrator and Vietnam Veteran, Crow Agency, Montana, November 2010.

**StoryCorps Ambassador**, worked to bring in representatives of under-represented populations to StoryCorps to have their stories recorded by StoryCorps, and its partners: National Public Radio and The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

**Member, American Folklore Society Publications Committee**, March 2002-2004.

**Member, Song Symposium Board**, Mountain West Center for Regional Studies, USU, June 2002-present.

**Director, Fife Folklore Workshop**, 2006-2008.

**Co-Director, Fife Folklore Conference**, 2003-2005.

**Consultant, Barbie doll exhibit**, Utah Children's Museum, Salt Lake City, UT, January 2001-November 2001.

**Directed USU undergraduate folklore students' field recordings** of 50 people's 9/11/01 accounts for the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress (including 21 Pentagon employees), September 2001- May 2002.

**Advisory Panelist, Folk Arts, Utah Arts Council**, September 2000-September 2004.

**Participant, Native American (Shoshone) Encampment Planning Symposium**, American West Heritage Center, Wellsville, Utah, December 2000. Funded by the Utah Endowment for the Humanities.

**Governing Council, International Society for Contemporary Legend Research**, July 2000-2003.

**Administrator, Buchan Student Prize**, International Society for Contemporary Legend Research, July 2000-2003.

**Executive Board Member, Oregon Folklore Society**, 1989-91.

**Assistant Director of Composition**, University of Oregon, 1989-90.



**Member, Womenspace Oral History Team,** 1989, a project documenting how women organized against domestic violence and built a shelter for battered women in Eugene, Oregon.

**Staff member, Ronald V. Jensen Living Historical Farm,** American West Heritage Center, Wellsville, Utah, 1985-87. Duties included historical research, interpretation, and program design.

**Intern, Public Relations and Education Departments, Buffalo Bill Historical Center,** Cody, Wyoming, 1984.

## UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

**College of Humanities and Social Sciences Leadership Team,** Utah State University. Committee of the college's department heads, 2006-present

**Steering Committee, Caine School of the Arts,** Utah State University. The Advisory Board oversees the workings of the interdisciplinary Caine School for the Arts. Committee duties include coordinating college-wide arts offerings, hiring, budgeting, and vetting applications for funding, summer 2006-present

**Dean's Advisory Panel for the Mountain West Center for Regional Studies,** Utah State University, 2004-2005

**Head, Search Committee for Department Head of Languages, Philosophy, and Speech Communication,** Fall 2005-Spring 2006

**Successful proposal for graduate fellowship in Folklore,** incremental implementation beginning in 2004, Utah State University

**Successful proposal for Folklore Minor,** December 1998-June 1999, Utah State University

### Utah State University, Committees

Advisory and Coordination Committee, 2009-present  
Departmental Administrative Committee, 2009-present  
Technical and Professional Writing Recruitment Committee, August 2010 – February 2011  
Folklore Curriculum Committee, March 2000-present  
English Dept. Space Committee, September 2002-2008  
American Studies Recruitment Committee, 2000  
Creative Writing Task Force, September 2000-2002  
Literary Studies Committee, September 1999-2001  
American Literature/American Studies Subcommittee, September 1999-present  
Executive Board Member, Undergraduate American Studies Curriculum, September 1998-2002  
Fife Folklore Archives Collection Development Committee, December 1998-present

### Utah State University, Tenure and Promotion Committees

22 committees, 1999-present

### Utah State University, Thesis Committees

Served on 3 thesis committees in 2011  
Served on 3 thesis committees in 2010  
Served on 4 thesis committees in 2009  
Served on 10 thesis committees in 2008

Served on 24 thesis committees in 2007  
Served on 6 thesis committees in 2006  
Served on 6 thesis committees in 2005  
Served on 7 thesis committees in 2004  
Served on 21 thesis committees in 2003  
Served on 6 thesis committees in 2002  
(On sabbatical in 2001)  
Served on 9 thesis committees in 2000  
Served on 9 thesis committees in 1999

**Indiana State University, Advisor**

Faculty Advisor and Founder of Native American Student Circle, December 1994-May 1998  
Mentor for students in Minority Students Program, January 1994-98  
Teaching Mentor for English Graduate Teaching Assistants, August 1993-May 1998

**Indiana State University, Committees**

First-Year Experience Committee, September 1993-May 1998  
First-year Experience Academic Subcommittee, Spring 1994-May 1998  
First-year Experience Co-Curricular Subcommittee, Fall 1995-May 1998  
General Education in Action Committee, Summer 1994-May 1998  
Women's Studies Advisory Board, Fall 1995-May 1998  
Women's Studies Director Job Search Committee, Fall 1997-Spring 1998  
University Speakers Series, Wilma Mankiller Committee, Fall 1995  
School of Graduate Studies Assistantship Committee, Fall 1993-Spring 1994  
English Department Scholarship Committee, September 1993-May 1997  
English Policy Committee, September 1993-September 1994  
English Job Search Committee, Fall 1995-Winter 1996  
English Expository Writing and Technical Writing Committee, September 1992-May 1998  
English Audio Visual Committee, September 1994-May 1997  
English Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, September 1992-September 1994  
English Scheduling and Registration, September 1992-May 1993  
Served on 5 thesis committees in from 1993-1997

**MEDIA ACTIVITIES**

Over forty news stories from 1992-present in local, regional, national, and international (Canadian) newspapers presenting my research or expertise. Media interviews with local, regional, and national outlets—including a 2006 interview with Lynn Neary on NPR.