

American Name Society Bulletin

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New Orleans 2020

Nick Spitzer of *American Routes* to Present Keynote at 2020 ANS

Nicholas Rudolph Spitzer, better known as Nick Spitzer, producer of *American Routes*, will present the keynote at the 2020 American Name Society Conference, to be held in New Orleans, January 2-5, in conjunction with the Linguistic Society of America. Nick will speak on "Roots to Routes: Naming an American Public Radio Program."



Nick Spitzer

His presentation will be based on his ethnographic work in New Orleans and French Louisiana, as well as draw from radio interviews he has conducted with uniquely named singers, such as Dolly Parton and Dr. John. Spitzer will discuss songs about names, name improvisations and poetics, occupationally appropriate names, and names in family folklore. Nick notes that his "comments will be framed by a pun on homonyms of two different metaphors in naming

the public radio program called *American Routes* that attempts to be a sonic journey of words and music that edifies while it entertains." Spitzer's keynote is scheduled for Saturday, January 4, from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

For many fans of American music, Nick Spitzer is a household name due to the popularity of his *American Routes* show, a two-hour public radio program devoted to vernacular music and cultures. The program is heard on over 325 stations by up to a million weekly listeners. Since 1998, *American Routes*, produced by Spitzer at Tulane University's Alcée Fortier Studios and distributed by PRX - Public Radio Exchange, has been supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Nick Spitzer interviews reveler during Mardi Gras

As a folklorist, Spitzer is internationally recognized for his work with community-based cultures of the Gulf South, cultural creolization, American traditional music, documentary arts, and public policy. A professor of anthropology at Tulane University since 2008, Nick teaches classes in the ethnography of the Gulf South, cultural creolization, and political folklore. He has lectured widely in the U.S., Europe, and China on the role of culture as an agent in recovery from natural, manmade, and economic disasters.

Nick holds a B.A. *cum laude* in anthropology from Penn (1972), and an M.A. (1976) and Ph.D. in anthropology and folklore from the University of Texas at Austin (1986). His M.A. thesis "I Got the World in a Jug': African-

American Women's 'Classic Blues'" was awarded honorable mention for student essays by the American Folklore Society. His Ph.D. dissertation at Texas, "Zydeco and Mardi Gras: Creole Identity and Performance Genres in Rural French Louisiana," was awarded with distinction.

In 2002 Spitzer received the Benjamin Botkin Lifetime Award in Public Folklore from the American Folklore Society. He was Mellon Humanities Professor at Tulane in 2004 and named a Fellow of the American Folklore Society Fellow in 2005. Nick was Louisiana Humanist of the Year for cultural recovery work after Hurricane Katrina in 2006. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2007 to support continued work on traditional creativity in Louisiana Creole communities. He received the 2013 James Williams Rivers Prize recipient for contributions to Louisiana culture from the Center for Louisiana Studies and the 2016 Spark Professorship of the School of Arts, both at the University of Louisiana.

Since Hurricane Katrina, Spitzer's focus has been on the local revival of Creole consciousness through a variety of community-designed means such as festivals and museums, heritage groups, school curricula, and media. His work informs local, national and global models of cultural creolization and cultural resilience. Nick is currently working on a "Creole Compendium" box set, inclusive of a lifetime of writing, recordings, and related media documentation in Creole communities in New Orleans, French Louisiana, and beyond.

Dorothy Dodge Robbins

Documentary Film on Changing Slave Names

The ANS 2020 meeting will feature, for the first time, a film on naming, to be shown Friday night from 6:30-8 pm. The one-hour documentary is called "DNA: Using genealogy to change my (slave) last name", directed and produced by Nware Burge, an African-American History teacher.



Nware Rahsaan Burge

In it, he explores the idea of using DNA testing to reclaim his African name and heritage. Mr. Burge will be on hand to introduce his film and answer questions afterwards. This film won best documentary award at the 2018 Black Star International Film Festival held in Ghana's capital Accra and is a compelling account of how names intersect with culture, history, and personal empowerment.

Laurel Sutton

Names of the Year 2019 Call for Nominations

The American Name Society requests nominations for the "Names of the Year for 2019." The names selected will be ones that best illustrate, through their creation and/or use during the past 12 months, important trends in the culture of the United States. It is not necessary, however, for a nominated name to have originated in the US. Any name can be nominated as long as it has been prominent in North American cultural discourse during the past year.

Nominations are called for in the following categories:

Personal Names: Names or nicknames of individual real people or individual animals.

Place Names: Names or nicknames of any real geographical location, including all natural features, political subdivisions, streets, and buildings. Names of national or ethnic groups based on place name could be included here.

Trade Names: Names of real commercial products, as well as names of both for-profit and non-profit incorporated companies and organizations, including businesses and universities.

Artistic & Literary Names: Names of fictional persons, places, or institutions, in any written, oral, or visual medium, as well as titles of art works, books, plays, television programs, or movies. Such names are deliberately given by the creator of the work.

E-Names: Names of persons, figures, places, products, businesses, institutions, operations, organizations, platforms, and movements that exist in the virtual world

Miscellaneous Names: Any name which does not fit in the above five categories, such as names created by linguistic errors, names of particular inanimate objects, names of unorganized political movements, names of languages, etc. In most cases, such items would be capitalized in everyday English orthography.

Winners will be chosen in each category, and then a final vote will determine the overall Name of the Year for 2019. Anyone may nominate a name. All members of the American Name Society attending the annual meeting will select the winner from among the nominees at the annual ANS meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana on January 3, 2020. The winner will be announced that evening at a joint celebration with the American Dialect Society.

Advance nominations must be received before January 1, 2020. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. Please send your nominations, along with a brief rationale, by surface mail or e-mail to:

Dr. Cleveland K. EvansPsychology Department
Bellevue University
1000 Galvin Road South
Bellevue, NE 68005-3098

We look forward to receiving your submission!

2020 ANS Panel at MLA

The Modern Language Association Convention



will be held in Seattle, WA, and will host a panel proposed by the Allied Conference Coordinator of the American Name Society, Dr. Andreas

Gavrielatos. This time the panel will revolve around the literary theme "Semantic relations and personal names." The panel theme relates to the semantic connotations names may gain and how they may be used by authors to encourage layers of readers' interpretation.

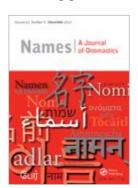
The three papers selected will offer a collective approach to the use of the semantics of names in different literary periods and genres. They are (in random order): the *Naming and Auctoritas in Chrétien de Troyes and Marie de France* by Alani Hicks-Bartlett (New York University), the *Name Meanings and Associations in Twelfth Night* by Grant Smith (Eastern Washington University), and the *Accumulating Names in Thomas Hardy* by Calista McRae (New Jersey Institute of Technology).

NAMES: A Journal of Onomastics

From the Journal Editor-in-Chief

Dear Colleagues,

Since my last interim report, I have concentrated on working with the staff of Taylor and Francis to continue to try to find solutions to the continuing problems in the manuscript



registration, editing, revision, printing, and delivery of our journal. With this goal in mind, I continue to work intensively with our expanded team of expert reviewers; our *NAMES* Book Review Editor, Dr. Christine De Vinne; our

ANS Treasurer, Dr. Saundra Wright; our ANS Vice President, Laurel Sutton; and our immediate past Editor-in-Chief. Dr. Frank Nuessel. This combined effort has been made more difficult by the continuing in-house technical and personnel problems of our current publishing firm and its outsourced printing partners. In an attempt to minimize the inconvenience experienced by our members and subscribers as well as prospective authors and readers, the ANS publication team has substantially increased its efforts. This collaborative work and personal commitment has resulted in the publication of the 4 staple issues of NAMES for 2019. Considering the number and severity of the obstacles we have faced, this success is by no means small. It stands as a testament to our collective commitment to the ANS and its community. We have been assured by the publication team of Taylor and Francis that the final issue of 2019 will be completed before the year's end. Our sincere hope for 2020 is that this sustained cooperation will help to make the publication process more efficient, punctual, and reliable. As always, should you experience any difficulty with NAMES, please do not hesitate to contact me. I shall do my level best to make sure that your enquiry is handled as expeditiously as possible. I would like to end

this update by, once again, expressing my sincere apologies for this unfortunate set of circumstances.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for a Safe and Peaceful New Year

I. M. Nick

In Memoriam

Donald J. Orth (1925-2019)

Long-time ANS member and past president of the American Name Society Donald J. Orth died peacefully at his home in Falls Church, Virginia on October 30, 2019 at the age of 94. Donald



presented papers at numerous ANS meetings over the years. He served as the executive Secretary of the U. S. Board on Geographic Names, and among his many publications on toponymy was the highly regarded *Dictionary of Alaska Place Names*. Don was a significant

contributor to the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names.

A native of Wisconsin, Don joined the U.S. Navy in 1942 and landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day. He studied anthropology, cartography, and geography at the University of Wisconsin, knowledge essential for his 39-year career with the U. S. Geological Survey in Denver, Colorado. There he was involved with topographic surveying programs in the Western United States. He was also behind the creation of the automated Geographic Names Information System, the first of its kind in the world. Orth received the U.S. Department of Interior's Medal and Meritorious Service Award for substantial contributions to cartography through his work in toponymy.

Don taught courses in Geography at George Washington University and Catholic University in Washington D.C. He was a member of the International Congress of Onomastic Sciences. Don engaged in many active hobbies, including mountain-climbing and historic preservation. Don is survived by his wife, Martha B. Orth, five grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and 17 great-great grandchildren.

ANS Executive Council for 2019

End-of-year Reports

ANS Officers

ANS PRESIDENT

Dorothy Dodge Robins

From January 3 through 6, 2019, I presided over the ANS Conference in New York City. Since then, I have been engaged in activities related to the planning of the 2020 ANS Conference to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, my home state. These conference-related tasks included sending out a CFP, receiving and organizing conference abstracts (with assistance from Vice President Laurel Sutton who created a useful spreadsheet), finding abstract reviewers to vet the abstracts. sending out notifications of acceptance or rejection to submitters—along with reviewers' notes, organizing abstracts into sessions, securing a keynote speaker, sending out reminders and conference updates to presenters, and locating a venue in New Orleans for our annual banquet. I prepared and submitted materials required by the LSA for their conference planning and program, including the ANS conference schedule and abstracts document. I have made adjustments to our 2020 conference program as needed. I kept Vice President Laurel Sutton posted on most of these steps in the process as she will be planning the 2021 ANS conference, to be held in her home state of California.

Additionally, I communicated with Executive Council members on matters of policy, including preparation of the slate of EC candidates for 2020. On a regular basis, I corresponded with ANS members and other interested parties regarding ANS matters, often related to the conference, but also about more general society questions or names inquiries. Recently, I corresponded with Jan Tent about protocols for announcing the recipient of the 2019 Emerging Scholar Award. There were some miscellaneous tasks as well this year, such as ordering and shipping a replacement plaque for the 2018 Article of the Year award. Admittedly, my first

year serving as president of the ANS was a learning experience. I benefited a great deal from the counsel of my fellow officers, whose contributions keep our society functioning. I look forward to continuing to serve in my role as President of the ANS for one more year.

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VICE PRESIDENT

Laurel Sutton

As Vice President, I have supported Dorothy Robbins, our President, in managing the day-to-day business of the ANS. In addition, I have taken over the duties of the Membership Officer, who left us midyear with no notice and no time to find a replacement. Much of 2019 was spent developing a plan to solve our publishing issues by moving to a new publisher. Other activities during 2019 included:

- managed membership and payments; worked with T&F to keep membership up to date;
- set up payments for ANS 2020 conference;
- read abstracts for ANS 2020 conference;
- peer reviewed papers for *Names* journal;
- explored other publishers and organized the ANS-EC vote on moving to a new publisher;
- set up Dropbox account for all vital ANS documentation;
- continued to make improvements to the website and post news, supporting our Information Officer;
- fielded email sent to the ANS;
- circulated our Call for Papers to many sister societies.

And finally, I worked with Nware Burge to bring his documentary to this conference – a first for the ANS! I look forward to a productive 2020.

SECRETARY

Luisa Caiazzo

Since my interim report, I served as the teller for the ANS voting for leaving Taylor & Francis and moving to a new publisher.

I peer reviewed two articles that were submitted for *NAMES* and reviewed some of the proposals submitted for our conference.

I prepared and edited the Fall and Winter issues of the ANS Newsletter. Besides soliciting contributions from members, I wrote some pieces myself. As editor, I was responsible for layout and design.

As Secretary of the ANS, I was asked to deliver a presentation on the activities of the ANS at the annual meeting of *Onomastica & Letteratura* that was held in Pisa last October.

As a member of the ANSESA selection committee chaired by Jan Tent I peer reviewed the proposals submitted.

COORDINATOR OF THE NAME OF THE YEAR ELECTION

Cleveland Evans

For 2018 we had twenty-six total nominees, considerably less than 2017's record of thirty-eight. However, several names were nominated by more than one person. Twenty-four nominations came in by email before the meeting, and two were nominated from the floor.

Gritty, name of the Philadelphia Flyers mascot that debuted on September 24, 2018, won Trade Name of the Year. This was the first year "miscellaneous" names were not included in the Trade Name category. The Place Name of the Year was *Paradise*, name of the city in northern California devastated by wild fires. The Personal Name of the Year was Jamal Khashoggi, the name of the Washington Post journalist and critic of Saudi regime assassinated at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. The Artistic & Literary Name of the Year was Wakanda, name of the fictional African country, created in 1966 by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby for their "Black Panther" comic. featured in the 2018 film *Black* Panther. The Miscellaneous Name of the Year was #Metoo, the hashtag which turned the name of an international activist movement for survivors of sexual assault.

The five winners in the overall categories became nominees for overall Name of the Year. A run-off between *Jamal Khashoggi* and *Paradise* saw the former win the title of Name of the Year for 2018 with 61% of the votes.

Later at the 2019 meeting, the ANS Executive Council voted to add a new sixth E-names

category to the Names of the Year vote for 2019 and beyond. This category is defined as "Names of persons, figures, places, products, businesses, institutions, operations, organizations, platforms, and movements that exist in the virtual world."

After revision, the Call for Nominations for Name of the Year for 2019 was sent out on December 5, 2019.

Deborah Walker ably assisted the chair of the Name of the Year Committee this year. Others are welcome to join the committee. This present chair of the committee will be resigning from his position after the 2020 annual meeting, so a new chair will be needed for next year.

As of December 30, 2019, two nominations for Trade Name of the Year, three for Place Name of the Year, five for Personal Name of the Year, one for Artistic-Literary Name of the Year, and three for Miscellaneous Name of the Year have been received. No nominations for E-name of the year have yet been made.

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ALLIED CONFERENCE COORDINATOR

Andreas Gavrielatos

The ANS participates in the 2020 MLA Convention with the panel "Semantic relations and personal names". The Call for Papers was issued and disseminated among the members of the ANS alongside the visitors of the ANS website, various blogs with a relevant interest, and several e-mail lists of researchers in Linguistics and different strands of Literature. We received a high number of proposals of exceptional quality, addressing issues and proposing papers from a wide range of periods in world literature. After careful review by volunteers with an interest and experience in the field, three papers were selected. Namely (in random order): the Naming and Auctoritas in Chrétien de Troyes and Marie de France by Alani Hicks-Bartlett (New York University), the Name Meanings and Associations in Twelfth Night by Grant Smith (Eastern Washington University), and the Accumulating Names in Thomas Hardy by Calista McRae (New Jersey Institute of Technology). The three papers will offer a collective approach to the use of the semantics of names in different literary periods

and genres, they reflect current trends in the study of Literary Onomastics, and they evince the inclusive character of the ANS.

The participation of the ANS at the MLA annual convention has a twofold significance. First, it attracts name enthusiasts who cannot attend the ANS convention, thus advertising its goals to a wider audience. Second, it underlines the importance and character of the ANS as the main association of onomastic studies worldwide. We are very pleased to participate with a diverse panel with high quality papers this year.

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TREASURER

Saundra Wright

A document was provided in hardcopy.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

I. M. Nick

In this capacity, I served as the chair of the 2019 Nominating Committee. This role involved the coordination of the team designated with soliciting, pre-selecting, and nominating a suitable slate of candidates for the office open on the ANS Executive Council. In addition, I organized the ANS-EC vote on the slate and published a report for the general membership. My duties this year also included supporting the ANS Presidency in resolving questions of parliamentary procedure. Finally, I worked intensely with ANS Vice President and ANS Treasurer, Laurel Sutton and Saundra Wright, to continue keep the data maintained on our ANS subscribers/members up-to-date and accurate.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

NAMES: A JOURNAL OF ONOMASTICS

I. M. Nick

Since my last interim report, I have concentrated on working with the staff of Taylor and Francis to continue to try to find solutions to the continuing problems in the registration, editing, revision, printing, and delivery of our journal. With this goal in mind, I have worked intensely with our expanded team of expert reviewers; Book Review Editor, Dr. Christine De Vinne: our Treasurer, Dr. Saundra Wright; our Vice President, Laurel Sutton; and our immediate past Editor-in-Chief. Dr. Frank Nuessel. This combined effort has been made more difficult by the continuing in-house problems of our current publishing firm. Nevertheless, this collaborative effort has resulted in the publication of the 4 staple issues of *NAMES* for 2019. Our hope for 2020 is that this sustained cooperation will help to make the publication process more efficient, punctuation, and reliable. As a part of my editorial duties, I have also sadly written and published a number of obituaries for long-standing members of the ANS and international onomastic community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank not only my colleagues for their incredible work this year in publishing our journal. I would also like to express my gratitude to our subscribers and authors for their patience and understanding in the face of the substantial hurdles we have faced together in making sure NAMES continues for the next generation of names enthusiasts.

BOOK EDITOR *NAMES: A JOURNAL OF ONOMASTICS*

Christine De Vinne

A special salute to Iman Nick, who concludes her first year as editor of *Names*. Much gratitude to her for the care, attention, and scholarship she brings to the journal.

With the online notice of 67:4, three new reviews have been published, on three very different books, each a remarkable piece of scholarship:

 Personal Names, Hitler, and the Holocaust: A Socio-Onomastic Study of Genocide and Nazi Germany (I. M. Nick), reviewed by Frank Nuessel

 $^{^{\}ast}$ If you would like to read the full version, please contact our Treasurer directly.

- Dictionary of Southern African Place Names (Peter Raper, Lucie A. Möller, and L. Theodorus du Plessis), reviewed by Maggie Scott
- Naming Thy Name: Cross Talk in Shakespeare's Sonnets (Elaine Scarry), reviewed by Charlène Cruxent

Eight texts are in the hands of reviewers, with a ninth pending. However, no completed reviews are currently in the queue. For that reason, I would urge three things:

- 1. If you are a reviewer who has received a text already, please complete your review now.
- 2. If you would like to become a new reviewer, please contact me at <cdevinne@ursuline.edu>
- 3. If you have a title to suggest for review, either for yourself or for another reviewer, please contact me at the above email address.

Names has received from Ediciones Reichenberger a copy of Onomástica, Deonomástica, y Documentación (2019), edited by Jorge Braga Riera and Karlos Cid Abasolo. Here I provide an overview of this new text, composed of 14 essays in Spanish, many by authors at Universidad Complutense de Madrid. The book opens with an essay that discusses the intersection points of toponymy and anthroponomy; what follows are multiple focused studies ranging from drama and fiction to paleography and the handwriting in signatures. If anyone would like to receive this book, either for the preparation of a book review or for personal study, please contact me.

INFORMATION OFFICER

Evgeny Shokhenmayer

I'm keeping up to inform our audience about names-related news and events not only from the USA but worldwide. During the current year 2019, I've posted over 130 news. Many of the posts are discussing important onomastic news and events, not just ANS business, so we are providing valuable information to a much larger audience and, hopefully, will gain new members because of that.

For the next six months, the purpose of the ANS Information officer will be to share interesting information about various names. Even though I became a father a couple of months ago, I envisage to work out a strategy to look for and detect the best suitable content for the ANS news. Besides that, we will continue to represent and promote the American Name Society, provide valuable messages, grow the community and attract new members.

Members-at-Large

MEMBER AT LARGE (2019-2021)

Jan Tent

This year, I reviewed about 4-5 articles that were submitted for *NAMES*. I also reviewed about 8 abstracts submitted for the ANS conference, and chaired the ANS ESA selection committee.

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MEMBER AT LARGE (2019-2020)

Sharon N. Obasi

As a Member at Large, I have spent the past months observing the running of the American Name Society with particular attention to the content posted on the webpage. I have also had the privilege of serving as an abstract reviewer for the 2020 American Name Society conference as well as an article reviewer for the journal *NAMES*.

MEMBER AT LARGE (2017-2019)

Jason Chen

I served as a member of the ANSESA panel this year and worked in collaboration with Jan Tent and Luisa Caiazzo to review the submissions for the Emerging Scholar Award. In addition, I will be presenting a paper and chairing two sessions at the ANS Annual Meeting. I am looking forward to seeing the ANS members at the conference!

Facebook Special Interest Group Coordinators

End-of-year Reports

SIG COORDINATOR - LITERARY NAMES

Susan Beherens

I continue to manage the Literary Names special interest group on Facebook.

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SIG COORDINATOR - PERSONAL NAMES

Maryann Parada

Not available

SIG COORDINATOR - PLACE NAMES

Sharon N. Obasi

As coordinator of the Facebook Special Interest Group on Place Names I have continued efforts to post information regarding toponymic research, policies, as well as "fun facts" about place names from around the globe. The Facebook group now has 70 members and I thank all participants for contributing to the growth of this group. I look forward to continuing to increase group membership and to stimulate conversation regarding place names.

SIG COORDINATOR - TRADE NAMES

Mirko Casagranda

As Facebook Special Interest Group Coordinator for Trade Names, in the second half of 2019 I posted some articles and news on brand names, trademarks and trade names, accepted and refused new members on the basis of their interests, and moderated some of the posts written by other members. I believe that for 2020 it is important to team up with the other coordinators in order to expand and revive the participation of group members.

Editor's Message

Dear All,

Our meeting is so close! It's a real treat to think that in just a very few days many of us will meet



again. As always, our conference is a very special occasion for all of us to share our interests and enjoy some time together. This year, the multifaceted range of topics presented, our beloved Names of the Year ceremony and new events such as the documentary

film on naming that will be screened will make our stay in New Orleans a truly rewarding experience!

On a more personal note, editing this newsletter for the last four years has been an especially rewarding experience in many ways. It's been a privilege to work in an environment characterized by teamwork, professionalism and expertise. And it's been tremendously motivating to receive helpful comments, suggestions as well as interesting contributions from both the Executive Council and the members of the ANS big family throughout these years.

I feel therefore honored to have served as Secretary of this lively and resourceful Society and wish all the very best to our next Secretary!

As always, my thanks go to our President Dorothy Dodge Robbins for her eagle eye in the final editing of this newsletter.

In closing, I would like to wish you all a peaceful, safe and rewarding 2020!

All best, *Luisa Caiazzo*

ANS Executive Council for 2019

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