

March 18, 2019

Dear ISCLR Award Committee,

We write to you to happily nominate Diane Goldstein for the Linda Dégh Lifetime Achievement Award in Legend Scholarship from the International Society for Contemporary Legend Research. Like Linda Dégh, Diane Goldstein has contributed to furthering our understanding of legendry and its related folkloric genres in a number of ways.

She served as the President of ISCLR, from 2004–2007, as well as First Vice President from 2002–2004. She has also served on the editorial board for the Society's journal, *Contemporary Legend*, from 2003 onward. Alongside these other leadership roles within the Society, she was also Program Chair for ISCLR in 1999, 2001, 2002, and 2015 when the Society met in St. John's, Newfoundland; San Antonio, Texas; and Sheffield, England, respectively. Outside of these considerable contributions to ISCLR, Diane also served as President of the American Folklore Society, from 2012–2014 and has served on editorial boards for several other publications in the field of folkloristics.

Diane says herself that she is drawn to all things bleak and depressing, and throughout her career she has continually shed light on dark subject matter. She has written extensively on contemporary legend and related genres. Her monograph *Once Upon A Virus: AIDS Legends and Vernacular Risk Perception* examines the ways rumor and legend impact individual and group behavior as well as legal policy in relation to disease. Her co-authored book *Haunting Experiences: Ghosts in Contemporary Folklore* explores the supernatural legend and memorate within the context of present-day society. Other works that underscore her devotion to legend scholarship and qualify her for this award include editing special issues on September 11th and the Stigmatized Vernacular. In the last several years she has contributed to understandings of such topics as disaster response, fake news, and untellability.

Diane has also done exemplary work in applied folkloristics, serving on international commissions and advisory boards. Her devotion to furthering legend scholarship also shows in her teaching. She inspires her students to push boundaries in their own scholarship. In a discipline which is primarily celebratory, Diane encourages her students to look critically and without fear at the bleaker aspects of expressive culture.

Through the vitality of her research, publication, and teaching as well as her continued service to the discipline, Diane Goldstein has kept legend at the forefront of contemporary folkloristics. Without hesitation we nominate her for the Linda Dégh Lifetime Achievement Award.

Sincerely,

Jesse A. Fivecoate, PhD Candidate
Indiana University

Kristina Downs, PhD
Journal of Folklore Research