

Notes

**15TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF
THE NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
FOR CELTIC LANGUAGE TEACHERS
NEW YORK IRISH CENTER**

**Keynote Speaker
Séamus Blake, Ph D.**

For Dr. Séamus Blake, teaching about the roots of Irish culture must include the Gaelic language. He should know - he's been speaking Gaelic for 30 years and broadcasting in it since 1978. A New Yorker by birth, Séamus was inspired by both parents to learn the language as a child. "My father used to get a local county paper with a column in Irish, and sit me on his lap and read the Irish to me," says Séamus. He later traveled to Ireland, where he practiced Gaelic while living in the Aran Islands with an Irish family for the summer. Then as a Fulbright scholar Séamus studied Ireland's language and literature for two years at Dublin's Trinity College.

In his effort to revitalize the Irish language and cultivate awareness of its richness, utility and cultural value, Séamus has taught classes in Gaelic and history lessons at Queens College, NYU, John Jay College and The Gaelic Society of New York. Blake is currently a tenured professor at Nassau County Community College. He is the Irish Language Editor of the quarterly academic journal 'New Hibernia Review' and the senior bibliographer of the Celtic section for the annual Modern Language Association bibliography.

Dr. Blake has been the host of a weekly, hour-long Irish language program on WFUV.FM RADIO at Fordham University, and at any time on the internet at WFUV.ORG, for 17 years.



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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 20 May 2009

7:00 PM **Welcome Reception**
New York Irish Center
1040 Jackson Ave
Long Island City, NY
(718) 482-0909

sponsored by Irish Vice Consul, Breandán Ó Caollaí

Thursday, 21 May 2009

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION
BEST PRACTICES IN THE CELTIC LANGUAGE CLASSROOM

9:00 AM **Sheila Scott and Additional Presenters**

12:00 PM **Lunch Break**

SESSION I: HISTORY, ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC POLICY

1:15 PM **Dr. Séamus Blake**
Keynote Speaker
WFUV-FM Radio and WFUV.ORG, Fordham University
The Recent Fortunes of Gaelic in North America

2:15 PM **Coffee Break**

2:30 PM **Delyth Prys**
University of Wales, Bangor
Dr. Geraint Wyn Jones: Pioneer of Welsh Second Language Teaching

3:00 PM **Dr. Eugene McKendry**
Queen's University, Belfast
CRAMLAP: The Celtic, Regional, and Minority Languages Abroad Project

NAACLT Officers 2008–2009

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Member-at-Large	Cynog Prys
European Advisor	Delyth Prys

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Web site	Seumas Gagné
Journal	Kevin J. Rottet / Thomas Leigh
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Elections	Margaret McGrath
Clann Lír Book Prize	Vacant
2009 Conference, Technical	Kevin Rottet
2009 Conference, Local Organizing	Daithí Mac Lochlainn
2010 Conference	Thomas Leigh

3:30 PM **Coffee Break**

3:45 PM **Madeleine Adkins**
University of Colorado at Boulder

Language ideologies and Celtic language learning: The case of Breton

Friday, 22 May 2009

SESSION 2: TEACHING, LINGUISTICS AND ORTHOGRAPHY

9:00 AM **John Donahue**
Concordia University

Directed Conversation

9:30 AM **Hilary Mhic Suibhne**
New York University / Daltaí na Gaeilge / The Hedge School (at Iona College, New Rochelle, NY)

There Are More Questions Than Answers

10:00 AM **Coffee Break**

10:15 AM **Cynog Prys**
University of Wales, Bangor

'Everyone's Language' – The use of Welsh outside the public sector

10:45 AM **Benjamin Bruch**
Baltimore, MD

Kernewek, Kernowek, Kernùak: Developing a New Standard Written Form of Cornish

11:15 AM **Kevin Scannell**
Saint Louis University

Standardization of corpus texts for the New English-Irish Dictionary

11:45 AM **Lunch Break**

- 1:00 PM **Donald Jones Marcus**
Philadelphia, PA
The teaching of Welsh to adults in the United States
- 1:30 PM **Roslyn Blyn-Ladrew**
University of Pennsylvania
Learning Hindi, Welsh, Irish, and Scottish Gaelic in that Order – Temporary Childhood Bilingualism and Its Effects on Later Language Learning
- 2:00 PM **Coffee Break**
- 2:15 PM **Sion Rees Williams**
Lecturer in Welsh at the Open University in the East of England
Giving the Wrong Message: Some examples of erroneous Welsh signage from the private sector
- 2:45 PM **Sheila Scott**
University of Ottawa
Mutate if you like: It's got to be right in some dialect
- 3:15 PM **Kevin J. Rottet**
Indiana University
Alc'hwez ar brezhoneg eeun: A learner's lexicon of Breton
- 3:45 PM **Coffee Break**

SESSION 3: TECHNOLOGY

- 4:00 PM **Gearóid Ó Néill**
Ollscoil Luimnigh/University of Limerick
Automating the Discovery of Rules of Irish Grammar – Or how Irish came to the aid of civilization yet again
- 4:30 PM **Gruffudd Prys**
Celtic Educational Software for the North American Market

- 7:00 PM **Annual General Meeting and Banquet**
Jackson Avenue Steakhouse
1223 Jackson Ave
Long Island City, NY
(718) 784-1412

Saturday, 23 May 2009 Excursion to New York City

Sunday, 24 May 2009

- 8:30 AM **Breakfast**
The Kettle Restaurant
50-24 Skillman Ave,
Woodside, NY
(718) 335-7596
(52nd Street-Lincoln Avenue stop on the no 7 train)
- 10:00 AM **Daithí Mac Lochlainn**
Closing Remarks