

NAACLT News

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North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers

From the Editor's Computer...

Thomas W. Ihde

New Jersey

ihdet@naaclt.org

This issue marks the second year and as a result second volume of NAACLT News. Over the past year the newsletter has grown and so have the number of pages and columns. If you have missed any of the first four issues I'd be more than glad to post them on to you. Just send a dollar to cover postage. We have plenty of back copies. [No. 1](#) is a somewhat historic issue now outlining the initial motivation for the founding of NAACLT. [No. 2](#) had an excellent article by Kara Smith entitled [Justification for Scottish Gaelic Education in Canada](#). The same issue also carried a description of the [LCTL Project](#) at the University of Minnesota. [No. 3](#) contained bios of our executive board and [No. 4](#) included a couple of articles on the Internet and its use by Celticists. That same issue also carried an inspiring [article by Jim Duran](#) on NAACLT'95.

I would like to welcome all readers to submit short articles. Let us keep this newsletter as a somewhat informal place for the exchange of ideas and notices. Deadlines are the 15th of October, January, April, and July.

This issue is probably arriving a week or two late in your mailbox. My deepest apologies. I have just returned from a six week stay in Ireland. During that time I met with several members and friends of NAACLT. I attended the Celtic Linguistics Conference at [University College Dublin](#). Nancy Stenson chaired a session and Dónall P. Ó Baoill who is a member of our editorial board presented a paper. The following week I presented at the ACIS-CAIS annual conference held this year at [Queen's University, Belfast](#). Liam Ó Cuinneagain presented in the same session as I did and James Blake was the chair of that session. Both Liam and James are also members of our editorial board. I also met Ron Crow who is known to readers of this newsletter, Donald McNamara who teaches Irish at Mercer County Community College in New Jersey, Maura Banta who teaches Irish in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Adult Education program (NJ), and Frank and Pat Dugan who teach Irish in Albany, New York among other places. After a week in Belfast, I went to Áras Mhairtín Uí Chadhain, the Irish language center of [University College Galway](#) located in Connemara. There I met two other NAACLT members: Jim Duran who teaches Irish in the UCLA extension program and Caoimhin Mac Lochlainn who teaches Irish at the University of Pittsburgh. Unfortunately I was not able to attend the 10th International Congress of Celtic Studies at the University of Edinburgh, but I'm sure that several NAACLT members were in attendance. Perhaps one of them could fill us in on what happened by writing a short article for the next issue of NAACLT News.

The Celtic Computer

John T. McCranie

California

jtm@naaclt.org

In the [previous column](#) I looked at a number of mailing lists that might be of interest to teachers and students of the Celtic languages. If you are new to the Internet, you might have signed on to many (or all) of them at

once - and then been surprised to come back the next day and find hundreds of messages waiting in your mailbox! Each of these lists produces a different amount of mail, with a greater or lesser number of interesting messages mixed in with the rest. It is very difficult to find the interesting bits when messages from different lists are all going to the same place. There are, however, tools that make things much easier. These "filter" programs read the header information of each incoming mail message (who it's from, what mailing list it refers to, what the subject is, &c.), and can take a variety of actions based on that. For example, the following rule takes all messages from the GAELIC-L mailing list and puts them into a separate mailbox called "0gaelic":

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if( to is GAELIC-L ) then save 0gaelic
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I use a zero as the first character of all incoming mailbox names, so they appear first in a sorted list of all mail files and I can quickly tell what kind of mail and how much I have at any moment (I'm currently on over 20 mailing lists). Since all messages from one mail list are in one file, it is easy to scan the subject lines and quickly find the messages that sound interesting enough to read - or that don't and should be deleted. The rule given above is for the program filter, which is found on Unix machines with the elm or pine mail reading programs. There are a variety of filter programs available for many different systems though, so you should ask your system administrator what type of mail filtering is available on your system.

Membership List to Appear in the Next Issue of NAACLT News

In the November issue of NAACLT News a list of paid members will be published. This is a common practice among professional organizations and is usually done annually. Dues were due 1 August, and that will make the names, addresses, phone, fax, and e-mail information particularly current. If you have not paid your 1995-96 dues, please do as soon as possible so that you can be included in this list. If for any reason you do not want your name to appear on the list, please let Ron Crow know by writing him at the address on page 4 or at his e-mail address 71155.3260@compuserve.com.

This address/phone/e-mail list should help increase communication among Celtic language teachers and researchers as well. The list will only include paid members. Honorary members, the editorial board of the [Journal of Celtic Language Learning](#), will not be included. Also those who have received a number of complimentary copies as well as 1994-95 paid members who have not renewed their dues will not be included. In the 1994-95 school year, NAACLT had 43 paid members, had 13 honorary members (4 of whom were also paid members), and sent out complimentary copies at one time or another to an additional 132 Celtic language teachers in Canada and the US.

Conference Papers

Thomas W. Ihde
New Jersey
ihdet@naaclt.org

The major goal of our organization as recognized in our constitution is to **enable Celtic language instructors and applied linguists to contribute to the greater field of second language learning through conference participation and publications**. Conference participation includes attending a conference, chairing a session, as well as presenting a paper. Some of our members had their first opportunity to present a paper in Glendale, CA at the NAACLT'95 conference. Although you do not need to wait until our next conference before presenting a paper, the NAACLT conference can be a great place to start.

Papers generally present research findings or theoretical explanations of a topic in question. However in more applied circles, a paper may even present a new technique or classroom experience.

Examples of research papers would include the papers of Roslyn Blyn and Kara Smith at NAACLT'95. Roslyn used material produced from a limited number of students to highlight a particular approach to language

learning. This particular example was qualitative in nature in that it provided an in-depth look into the performance of a small group of students. Kara's paper, on the other hand, which surveyed a larger number of students was quantitative in nature. She wanted to see on the average what motivated students of Scottish Gaelic to learn the language. She was not overly concerned with any one student's opinion, but rather the sample as a whole.

Examples of papers that highlighted a technique were well represented at NAACLT'95. For example, Nancy Stenson talked of her use of video in the Irish language classroom. She used actual video clips to highlight her ideas and classroom practices. Mark Nodine spoke of the uses of the World Wide Web for the Welsh language learner. Thanks to Dennis Doyle's great patience, an actual live link to the WWW was maintained during the presentation.

Jim Duran, on the other hand, presented his topic from a more theoretical perspective. Although he did not report on research findings or a particular technique, due to his many years of experience in teaching Irish and his understanding of the language acquisition process, Jim was able to provide attendees with greater insight into approaches used for teaching Irish as a foreign language.

There are also many other types of presentations such as workshops and poster sessions. Often, if you do not feel comfortable speaking before a group, it may be helpful to co-author your paper with a more experienced presenter. I hope this article has provided some of our members with a better understanding of one aspect of conference papers. Start thinking of a topic; November 1996 is just over a year away. The first call for paper proposals will go out with our next newsletter!

NAACLT'95: Suggestions

We would like to thank all those who sent back the questionnaires enabling us to evaluate the 1995 conference. In 1996 we promise to have the questionnaires ready for you at the conference so you will not have to mail them to us.

Although we only received eight responses of the 50 or so attendees, their input was quite valuable. When asked what they felt were the strong points of the conference, four claimed that the program was good, three referred to the selection of subjects, and two claimed the speakers were the strongest element of the conference. Two referred to the ability to meet others in the same field as being a positive aspect. At least one person mentioned each of the following as well: good location, excellent technical facilities, and friendly/cooperative environment.

The weakest point was clearly that the conference was too short lasting only one day. Half of the respondents voiced this opinion. One individual claimed that having no keynote speaker was a drawback. Another pointed to limited member interaction. Other negative points included Irish language being over represented, the criteria for paper acceptance being unclear, and the need for a larger area for displays and hand-outs.

Other suggested changes not mentioned above included planned social event(s), a list of attendees being made available, paper summaries accompanying the schedule, the addition of workshops to the program, lunch being included in the conference, accommodation being provided on site, greater emphasis on learning about Celtic cultures, and lastly promotion of regional as well as national ties.

Although only eight questionnaires were returned, it can be seen that the survey was well worth the effort. These suggestions represent many excellent ideas that will help the annual NAACLT conference grow as our organization continues to grow.

[Journal of Celtic Language Learning](#)

Several excellent articles and short essays were received from both NAACLT conference presenters and Celtic

language teachers and researchers world-wide. The editorial board is currently reading these submissions. They have until 15 August to critique the submissions. The editors of the *Journal of Celtic Language Learning* hope to let the submitters know of their decision some time in September. A few articles may be accepted for publication but held over for volume two in November 1996.

It is expected that the first volume will be mailed out sometime in November 1995. Please remember that only those subscriptions received by Ron Crow by 1 October 1995 will receive a hard copy. We will only have the exact number of copies printed for subscribers. We hope to be able to offer back copies on microfiche, however we cannot guarantee that this service will be available.

Subscription rates (one volume) are only US\$10 for members and US\$12 for non-members in North American. The institutional rate is US\$17 and non-North American addresses should add US\$3 for additional postage and handling.

Researchers and teachers are welcome to submit their articles (2,500-3,000 words) or short descriptions of a program or technique (200-500 words) for publication. The deadline for volume two is 15 April 1996, however submissions can be sent at any time. Two typed copies of the article should be sent to Nancy Stenson, Institute of Linguistics and Asian and Slavic Languages, University of Minnesota, 192 Klæber Court, 320-16th Avenue, SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455. If possible, the text should also be submitted via e-mail or on an IBM formatted disk to Thomas Ihde (address below).

Conferences

Only those conferences whose proposal deadline has not passed are mentioned in detail here. Contact the editor if further information is needed on any of these.

- 7-11 September. University College Dublin. 5th Annual EUROSOLA conference (European Second Language Association).
- 6-9 October. Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Second Language Research Forum 1995.
- 19-21 October. Bloomington, MN. Research and Practice in Immersion Education (see Notes below).
- 3-5 November. Boston University, MA. 20th BU Conference on Language Development. More information at 138 Mountfort St. Boston, MA 02215 or info@louis-xiv.bu.edu.
- 18-20 November. Anaheim, CA. 1995 American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Annual Meeting.
- 25 November. Trinity College Dublin. Lexicon and Vocabulary: theory and practice. Sponsored by the Irish Association for Applied Linguistics. Abstract deadline is 15 September 1995. More information at IRAAL, c/o ITI, 31 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2, Ireland.

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- 23-26 March. Chicago. American Association for Applied Linguistics. Deadline for abstracts is 17 September 1995 (5PM CT). More information at AAAL, 7630 West 145th Street, Suite 202, Apple Valley, MN 55124.
- 8-12 April. New York City. 1996 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting (includes session of the AERA Second Language Research SIG).
- 4-7 July. Trinity College Dublin (Centre for Language and Communication Studies). The Third International Conference on Language Awareness. Deadline for abstracts is 31 September 1995. More information at Dr. Jennifer Ridley, Centre for Language and Communication Studies, Arts Building, Trinity College, Dublin 2, Ireland.
- 4-9 August. University of Jyväskylä, Finland. 11th World Congress of Applied Linguistics.
- 5-7 September. University of Wales, Cardiff. 11th Sociolinguistics Symposium
- 22-24 November. Philadelphia, PA. American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Annual Meeting. Call for papers has not gone out yet.

- 23 November. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. [2nd Annual Celtic Language Learning Conference](#). NAACLTL. Call for papers will be issued in November 1995.

THE EDITOR, ASSOCIATION, AND ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD ACCEPT NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCURACY OF CONFERENCE INFORMATION.

Publications/Papers

Please continue to send information of your publications and papers on Celtic language learning to the editor of NAACLTL News.

Thomas W. Ihde

Publications

- 1995: **Irish Culture and Language**. Interview by Amilia Duggun (31 May). On Campus... at Bergen Community College, no. 186. Television program produced and directed by Jack Dirr, 25 minutes.
- 1995: **Teaching Irish to Americans: Focus on Feedback**, Teanga: The Irish Yearbook of Applied Linguistics 15, pp. 81-89.

Papers

- 1994: **100 Years A Growing: Irish Language Courses at American Colleges** American Conference for Irish Studies Mid-Atlantic region conference, Immaculata College, Frazer, PA.
- 1995: **Famine, Immigration, and the Irish Language** Faculty Forum, Bergen Community College, NJ.
- 1995: **Teacher Certification and Less Commonly Taught Languages** North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers conference, Glendale Community College, CA.
- 1995: **Dialect Choice in the Learning of Irish** American Conference for Irish Studies annual meeting, Queen's University, Belfast.

Kara A. Smith

Publication

- 1994: **Scottish Gaelic Education** Canadian and International Education. Vol. 24(2).

Paper

- 1995: **Marketing a Second Language: The Case of the Scottish Gaelic Learning Revival in Ontario** North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers conference, Glendale Community College, CA.

NAACLTL Executive Committee 1995-1996

Kara Smith, President

smithk@naaclt.org

Thomas Ihde, Vice-President

ihdet@naaclt.org

Ron Crow, Secretary/Treasurer

crowr@naaclt.org

Paul W. Birt, Member-at-large

birtp@naaclt.org

John T. McCranie, Member-at-large

jtm@naaclt.org

Beth Ellyn O'Mullan, Member-at-large

omullanb@naaclt.org

Roslyn Blyn, Local Conference Chair, NAACL'T'96

blynr@naaclt.org

Charles Rudd, Constitution Chair

ruddc@naaclt.org

Nancy Stenson, Co-Editor, *Journal of Celtic Language Learning*

stensonn@naaclt.org

Notes

Research and Practive in Immersion Education: Looking Back and Looking Forward

This conference sponsored by the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Council on Teaching of Languages and Cultures will take place at Holiday Inn International in Bloomington, Minnesota 19-21 October 1995. It will be the first major gathering of researchers and instructors of immersion programs in nearly twenty years. Keynote speakers will include Fred Genesee and Wallace Lambert of McGill University, Merrill Swain of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, and Guadalupe Valdhs of Stanford University. For information call 612- 625-3850. Registration must be received by 5 October 1995.

Irish Language Immersion Weekend

An announcements concerning an upcoming **Gaeltacht** weekend was received from Daltaí na Gaeilge. It will be held Friday to Sunday, 15-17 September 1995 in Esopus, NY. The deadline for reservations is 30 August 1995 however teachers should encourage their students to register early due to limited space. Car pooling can be arranged; participants often come from as far as Quibec and Florida.

NAACL'T News

EDITOR: Thomas W. Ihde

American Language Program

Bergen Community College

400 Paramus Road

Paramus, New Jersey 07652-1595

E-mail: ihdet@naaclt.org

This and previous editions of NAACL'T News may be read at the following World Wide Web address:

<http://www.naaclt.org>

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