

NAACLT News

February 1995

Vol. 1, No. 3

North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers

Celtic Language Learning Conference

NAACLT'95 will prove to be a day full of thought provoking presentations and an excellent opportunity to meet with other Celtic language teachers. The program which will take place at Glendale Community College (CA) 25 March 1995 presently stands as follows:

- **STUDENT MOTIVATION THROUGH JOURNAL WRITING IN MODERN IRISH** Roslyn Blyn (University of Pennsylvania)
- **DIALECTS, SPEECH COMMUNITIES AND APPLIED LINGUISTICS: A REALISTIC APPROACH TO THE TEACHING OF IRISH IN NON-IRISH SPEAKING AREAS** James J. Duran (Loyola Marymount University)
- **TEACHER CERTIFICATION AND LESS COMMONLY TAUGHT LANGUAGES** Thomas W. Ihde (Bergen Community College)
- **MEDIEVAL WELSH IN THE MID-PACIFIC: THE WORKSHEET AS INTERACTIVE** Kathryn Klingebiel (University of Hawaii-Manoa)
- **COMPUTING IN IRISH** John T. McCranie (San Francisco State University)
- **THE WORLD WIDE WEB FOR WELSH: THE WORLD'S LARGEST WELSH CLASSROOM** Mark Nodine and Briony Williams
- **IRISH LANGUAGE ORAL ASSESSMENT TEST** Beth Ellyn O'Mullan (Rutgers University), Liam Guidry and Breandan Mac Liam (Brookdale Community College)
- **MARKETING A SECOND LANGUAGE: THE CASE OF THE SCOTTISH GAELIC LEARNING REVIVAL IN ONTARIO** Kara Smith (University of Western Ontario)
- **VIDEO IN THE IRISH LANGUAGE CLASSROOM** Nancy Stenson (University of Minnesota)

The conference pre-registration fees are:

NAACLT Member \$10, Non-Member \$15, Membership & Conference \$25 (\$20 for students). (Normal membership fee is \$15/yr, \$10/yr for students). After 1 March 1995 the conference fees will increase by \$5. All concerns should be addressed to:

John T. McCranie
 Department of Computer Science
 San Francisco State University
 1600 Holloway Avenue
 San Francisco, CA 94132

or jtm@naaclt.org.

John T. McCranie

Elections for NAACLT Executive Committee

If you are a paid member, you will find a ballot with your copy of the newsletter. If for some reason you did not receive a ballot, please contact me as soon as possible at stensonn@naaclt.org or at Linguistics, ILASLL, University of Minnesota, 192 Klaeber Court, 320-16th Avenue, SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455. All ballots must be returned by 15 February.

Each of the candidates were asked to provide me with some information on themselves. Descriptions can be found below.

Candidates' Biographies

PRESIDENT

Kara Smith is a language instructor in South-Western Ontario. She conducts research in Canadian language policies out of the Faculty of Education at the University of Western Ontario. Ms. Smith also instructs a Scottish Gaelic beginners' course at St. Clair College and teaches senior English at Wallaceburg District Secondary School off of the Walpole Reserve. Her latest publications include "Scottish Gaelic Education," in the Comparative International Education Journal and "The Marketing of a Second Language" in the Association of Scottish Literary Studies' Journal. Ms. Smith has been working toward the advancement and promotion of Scottish Gaelic education now for the past three years.

VICE-PRESIDENT

Thomas W. Ihde is Instructor of Humanities at Bergen Community College where he currently teaches English and Irish as second languages. He is also writing his doctoral thesis on feedback in second language writing under the supervision of Dr. David Singleton of Trinity College, University of Dublin. Mr. Ihde received the M.Phil degree in Applied Linguistics after two years of studies at Trinity between 1989 and 1991.

In addition to several articles, Thomas Ihde recently edited a volume published by Bergin & Garvey entitled The Irish Language in the United States: a historical, sociolinguistic, and applied linguistic survey.

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Ron Crow attended University College Galway's Summer Irish Program in 1979 and 1989 and has been an Irish instructor for Conradh na Gaeilge i Lár Ohio since 1987 and at Antioch College's International Languages Program since 1993. He also teaches occasional courses in Irish and Scottish history for Ohio State University's Creative Activities program and is co-founder and co-presenter in the Gaelic League's Irish History Roundtable, which offers monthly history presentations at Ohio Dominican College. He holds a B.S. in Journalism from Ohio University and writes for U.S. Scots Magazine, the Lancaster Eagle-Gazette, and Suburban News Publication, among others. He has also been farming at Crow Brother Farms since 1982.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Paul Birt is assistant professor in the Department of Modern Languages and chair of Celtic Studies at the University of Ottawa, where he teaches Welsh, Irish, Breton and early Celtic literature. He has also taught Breton at the University of Wales, Bangor and Welsh at Catholic University Lublin, in Poland and has been a sub-editor of the Welsh Academy English-Welsh dictionary. He holds B.A., and M.A. degrees in Welsh language and literature from the University of Wales (St. David's College) and a Ph. D. from University of

Wales at Bangor. His dissertation dealt with cultural crisis in Western European minority literatures, and he has published books and articles on comparative minority languages and Welsh literature. Current research interests include the sociolinguistic study of Celtic communities, the ethnography of Canadian Celtic communities, and the development of audio-visual aids in Celtic language teaching.

John T. McCranie graduated from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks in 1991 with a B.S. in Computer Science, and worked for three years as a software engineer before returning to school. He is currently working on an M.S. in Computer Science at San Francisco State University and may enter the linguistics program after completing the M.S. His research area is Artificial Intelligence, and he is particularly interested in its applications to Computer Aided Language Learning. He is organizing a booth for the next Celtic Festival in San Francisco and is co-chair of the NAACLT'95 conference.

Beth Ellyn O'Mullan is a cultural and cognitive sociologist in the graduate Ph.D. program at Rutgers University. She received her Master's degree for a historical, comparative research paper into the 19th century Irish and Hebrew language revivals which focused primarily on the intent to invent and motivate a national identity. She has conducted intensive interviews with members of grassroots Irish language organizations in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania to track the development of a mini-Irish- American language revival. Ms. O'Mullan has presented papers at the annual Graduate Irish Studies Conference.

Last year she gave a paper entitled "Remembering Life before St. Patrick: Pagan Symbols in Early Christianity." She will also present in March of 1995 a paper entitled "The Oral Assessment of Irish Language Beginners" at the North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers conference to be held in Glendale, California. This talk will introduce a text developed to assess beginning Irish language learners, and it was written in conjunction with Brad Wilson and Liam Guidry. The manuscript is currently in submission at Yale University Press.

Nancy Stenson

NAACLT-CONSTITUTION

On 26 January 1995 the Executive Committee approved a constitution for NAACLT. Charles H. Rudd, Wayne Cowie Clarke, John T. McCranie, and Thomas W. Ihde served on the constitution committee. The document which is actually a modified version of AAAL's constitution will serve as a temporary set of rules by which this organization will grow. The vote was seven in favor of approval and one abstention. The 1994-1995 executive committee was composed of the following individuals: Jim Clarke, Ron Crow, Dennis Doyle, Wayne Harbert, Thomas W. Ihde, John T. McCranie, Michael Pearson, Kara Smith, and Nancy Stenson.

Many of the executive committee members sent in suggested changes. These will be forwarded to the chair of the constitutions committee as soon as the elected president makes such an appointment. To receive a copy of the approved constitution, write the editor at the address below.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the individuals who served on this voluntary executive committee. We would like to especially recognize the fine work carried out by those who are not running for election on the 1995- 1996 committee: Jim Clarke, who was one of the founders of NAACLT, Dennis Doyle who in addition to being co-founder, served as the local chair for NAACLT'95, Wayne Harbert who also was among the founders of NAACLT and was one of the judges for NAACLT'95 (he will continue serving the association as member of JCLL's editorial board), and Michael Pearson who served as membership chair. Nancy Stenson who is one of the founding members and who served as chair of the elections committee will continue on the executive committee by virtue of her position as editor of JCLL [Art. VI, sect. 2].

Once again we thank all of these individuals for their time and the valuable contributions they made.

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.

- 3-5 February. Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH. Endangered Languages Conference.
- 3-5 March. University of California-Berkeley. 17th Annual California Celtic Conference. Deadline for proposals is 8 February 1995. Papers will include a wide variety of Celtic topics, including anthropology, archaeology, art, folklore, history, linguistics, literature, and music. Proposals should be one page in length, and papers should be no longer than 20 minutes. Abstracts should be sent to Heather Jones: by e-mail: hrjones@uclink.berkeley.edu, by FAX: 643-5688, or by post to: Heather Jones, Department of Linguistics, 2337 Dwinelle Hall, UC-Berkeley, CA 94720. The conference is free.
- 16-18 March. College of Charleston, Charleston, SC. American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS) Southern Region Conference.
- 24-27 March. Long Beach, CA. Language Testing Research Colloquium.
- 25 March. Glendale, CA. North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers conference.
- 25-28 March. Long Beach, CA. American Association for Applied Linguistics Annual Meeting.
- 20-22 April. University of Kentucky. Kentucky Foreign Language Conference.
- 21 April. University of Bristol, UK. Conservation of Endangered Languages Seminar.
- 4-5 May. CUNY Graduate School & University Center, NY, NY. Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition.
- 1-2 June. University of Rio Grande, Rio Grande, OH. North American Conference on Welsh Studies.
- 22-23 June. University College Dublin. Celtic Linguistics Conference. Abstract deadline 15 February 1995. Abstracts are invited for 30 minute talks on all aspects of theoretically-oriented research on the Celtic languages. Please submit 4 copies of a 1- page abstract (3 anonymous and one camera-ready with name, affiliation, etc.) to the address below. Abstracts must be received by February 15, 1995. Contact: Celtic Linguistics Conference, Department of Linguistics, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland or to chiosain@ollamh.ucd.ie.
- 25 June-1 July. Belfast. 1995 ACIS-CAIS Conference. American Conference of Irish Studies and Canadian Association for Irish Studies annual conference.
- 23-29 July. University of Edinburgh. 10th Congress of Celtic Studies. 10th International Congress of Celtic Studies.
- 7-11 September. University College Dublin. 5th Annual EUROSOLA conference (European Second Language Association). Deadline for abstracts is 25 May 1995. Abstracts should be addressed to Vera Regan: fax: +353-1-706 175, email: vmregan@irlearn.ucd.ie, telephone +353-1-706 8448, address: Department of French, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland.
- 18-20 November. Anaheim, CA. 1995 American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Annual Meeting.
- 6-9 October. Cornell University. Second Language Research Forum 1995. Abstract deadline: 9 March 1995. SLRF 1995, Nuria Lopez Ortega, Abstract Committee, DMLL, Morrill Hall, Cornell U., Ithaca, NY

14853-4701 or slrf95@cornell.edu.

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- 5-7 September. University of Wales, Cardiff. 11th Sociolinguistics Symposium. More information at 11th S.S., Ctr Lang & Comm Res, U Wales, P.O. Box 94, Cardiff, CF1 3X, Wales or ss11@cardiff.ac.uk.

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

NOTES

Workshop for Irish Teachers

There will be a workshop for all teachers of Irish and those who are considering teaching Irish from Sunday afternoon, 19 February 1995, to Monday morning, 20 February, in Esopus, NY. The workshop which is entitled Múinteoireacht na Gaeilge: Teagasc Meánchúrsaí will be presented by Liam Ó Cuinneagáin (Oideas Gael) and is sponsored by Daltaí na Gaeilge. For more information call Ethel Brogan at 914-897-5457.

Irish Language Activities at Bergen Community College

Bergen Community College will begin to offer an Irish language class for beginners through their Division of Continuing Education. CE179-01 Irish Language for Beginners will be offered Wednesdays from 15 March to 24 May from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Paramus, NJ campus.

On 16 March a lecture will be presented by Thomas Ihde entitled "Famine Immigration and the Irish language." The talk which is open to the public will be accompanied by a slide presentation. A response to the lecture will be provided by Dr. George Skau of the History Department at BCC. The talk is part of the greater Faculty Forum program at the college. The lecture will take place at 1:10 p.m. in room C-211 in the main building on campus.

Gaelic Summer School

A Gaelic Summer School will be held by the University of Edinburgh Centre for Continuing Education as follows: Elementary 3-21 July, Intermediate 10-21 July, Advanced 10-21 July. Details from Centre for Continuing Education, Edinburgh University, 11 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh, Scotland.

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DEADLINE for next issue: 15 April 1995