

NAACLT News

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North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers

Celtic Teachers' Education Day

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In conjunction with the 1996 conference at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, the North American Association of Celtic Language Teachers [NAACLT] will be holding a "Teachers' Training Day."

The "Teachers' Training Day" will give Gaelic, Irish, Welsh, and other Celtic language teachers an opportunity to take part in professional development activities lead by qualified instructors of Celtic languages. The program is one of the first to be formally adapted to the needs of Celtic language teachers. It consists of training in language acquisition, how languages are learned by students; adult learning strategies, how adults learn best in the classroom; classroom management strategies for teachers of elementary and secondary children; electronic tools which can aid a Celtic language teacher in instruction; and curriculum sessions in Gaelic, Irish, and Welsh. The curriculum sessions, for example, will be conducted by renowned teachers in Scottish Gaelic, Irish, and Welsh. These teachers will provide the participants with the materials and ideas which have made their own Celtic language classes so successful in the past.

The program has been developed from the University of Saskatchewan's Heritage Language Certification course, which is well known in Canada for turning out wonderful lesser known language teachers. It is the first of its kind for Celtic language teachers, and it is NAACLT's hope that all teachers of a Celtic language will come and participate. The day will make their own classes that much more enjoyable for them, and their students!

The professional development day for Celtic language teachers will be held on FRIDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 1996 at Lauder-Fischer Hall, The University of Pennsylvania. You may pre-register through Ron Crow [\[crow@naaclt.org\]](mailto:crow@naaclt.org), NAACLT, 3990 Havensport Road, Carroll, OH 43112-9711. Registration will also take place the day of the program from 9:00-10:00 A.M. Workshops begin at 10:00 A.M. and will conclude for the day by 3:00 P.M. If you have any questions about the training day, please feel free to contact Kara Smith [\[smithk@naaclt.org\]](mailto:smithk@naaclt.org). NAACLT welcomes all teachers to the first North American Celtic language teachers' professional development program!

NAACLT '96 BOOKINGS

If you would like to book a room with the University of Pennsylvania for the November, 1996 conference, then please contact Roslyn Blyn at: blynr@naaclt.org or Penn Language Center, University of Pennsylvania, 401 Lauder-Fischer Hall, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6330. Roslyn will need to know how many of our members intend to stay in Philadelphia during the conference. This will lower the costs for all.

10th ICCS Report: The Tenth International Congress of Celtic Studies at the University of Edinburgh from 23-29 July 1995.

Nancy Stenson
Minnesota
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Several members of NAACLT and the editorial board of the [Journal of Celtic Language Learning](#) were in attendance and presented papers on a wide range of topics. Paul Birt spoke on "Metaphors describing cerdd dafod in the work of Guto'r Glyn, " and James Blake on "The critical and creative Modern Irish prose works by Alan Titley." Bryan Frykenburg gave a paper on "Poems of Suibne Geilt and St. Mo-Ling from Brussels MS 5100-04" Joseph Nagy spoke on "Isolde observed: the continental Tristan story and its Celtic sources and analogues." Nancy Stenson read a paper entitled "Irish verb particle and related constructions," and Fred Suppe presented "Anglo-Welsh cross-cultural marriages in Wales and the Marches, 1050-1300." Martin Ball was also in attendance and chaired a session.

The Congress meets every four years, and brings together scholars from all over the world with interests in Celtic languages, literatures, linguistics, history, folklore, music, and is always a stimulating experience. Scholarly papers are interspersed with social gatherings, a choice of full-day excursions midweek, and opportunities to visit sites of the host city. In addition this year, we were treated to the warmest, sunniest summer since 1976. The Congress will return to Ireland in 1999, hosted by University College Cork. Though not yet absolutely certain, we are told that there is a good chance that the following Congress will be hosted by Harvard, the first ever to be held in the US Mark your calendars.

My Turn

We would like to give the opportunity to members to share their story with other NAACLT members. Jamie MacDonald has generously agreed to go first. Other members are invited to follow. Please send a 1,000 word article as below with photo. Special thanks to James Blake who originally suggested this sort of column [ed.].

Jamie MacDonald
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This is a short summary about myself, my education, and my experiences in Scotland as a way of introducing myself to the rest of the NAACLT.

I must blame my family for my interest in Gaelic and Scottish Studies. Although I was born in America, my father came from a community on the North Carolina - South Carolina border that was settled almost exclusively by Highland Scottish emigrants. Endogamy was the rule in this community, so my father's family had a strong sense of being Highland and preserved many of the cultural elements that originally came from the old country. My father was the first in my immediate family to return to Scotland, which he did in 1937. His interest in Scotland set off a chain reaction that was to greatly affect the explosion of interest in Scottish culture in the Southeast today. After my father's trip to Scotland, he got his younger brother, Donald Frank, interested as well. Donald visited Scotland in the early 1950's and returned to help found the Clan Donald Society in America. After organising several successful Clan Donald gatherings in North Carolina, Donald was contacted by Mrs. Agnes MacRae Morton, who wanted to put on a MacRae family gathering. The MacRaes owned Grandfather Mountain in Avery County, North Carolina, and this is where Mrs. MacRae wanted to hold her MacRae reunion. As luck would have it, my uncle had just returned from the Braemar Gathering in Scotland and he was interested in starting a Highland games in North Carolina. He suggested to Mrs. MacRae that they hold a Highland Games at Grandfather Mountain and model it on the Braemar Gathering. The first Grandfather Mountain Highland games held in 1956 was to spawn a series of other Highland games in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Tennessee, as well as other states. In addition, my uncle Donald started the first Scottish Country dance group in the state in the 1950s and the first Robert Burns Club. On one of his trips back to Scotland, Donald met and later married Mariettea MacLeod, a Gaelic singer from the Isle of Lewis. Marietta emigrated to North Carolina in 1960 and it was from her that I first heard the

beauty of Gaelic song when I was still a young child. I grew up attending the Grandfather Mountain games every summer and was steeped in Scottish culture. Although my uncle Donald and Marietta later returned to live in Scotland, I kept in close touch with my uncle.

I studied Anthropology and Psychology as a university undergraduate and went on to get a masters degree in Counselling. After graduate school I worked in several psychology related positions, but I never lost my interest in Scottish culture. I learned how to do Highland dancing and Scottish Country dancing and play the Scottish fiddle. In addition, my interests in Scottish history and genealogy grew. I have always been a musician and a singer, and I naturally gravitated towards Scottish songs in the 1970s. I subsequently learned some of the Gaelic songs that I had heard my aunt singing as a child.

After my first visit to Scotland in 1981, I decided to learn to speak Gaelic. Although I taught myself to sing in Gaelic by learning the sounds, I was not always aware of what I was saying. Learning the language would immensely improve my understanding and appreciation of the songs. I started with a Gaelic phrase book entitled *Blasad Gàidhlig* and later did the correspondence course *Gàidhlig Bheo*.

In 1983 I became interested in starting a School of Scottish Studies in America. I realised the need for my own formal training in this area and did much research into colleges and graduate programs, including a visit to the Gaelic College in Cape Breton. All sources pointed to the School of Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh as the best place to receive my training. In 1987 I was accepted by the University of Edinburgh and I received three separate scholarships which allowed me to pursue my dream. I was afforded the opportunity to study Gaelic under such great scholars as Professor Willie Gillies, Professor Donald Meek, and Mr. Ronnie Black. In addition, I learned much about Scottish folk song from such scholars as Dr. John MacInnes, Dr. Margaret Bennett, and Hamish Henderson. I also spent three summers on Skye at Sabhal Mor Ostaig and lived, worked, and studied Gaelic in North Uist for three months.

The person that had the most profound effect on my Gaelic, however, was probably my Aunt Marietta's sister, Kitty MacLeod. Although Marietta was an excellent Gaelic singer, Kitty is famous throughout Scotland as one of the best Gaelic singers of all time. Sorley MacLean devotes an essay to Kitty MacLeod in his book *Ris A' Bhruaich*. Not only is Kitty an extraordinary singer, she is also an accomplished Gaelic scholar who studied under Professor Watson at Edinburgh. She was in the Celtic department at The University at the same time as such greats as Sorley MacLean, Angus Matheson, Willie Matheson, and James Carmichael Watson, the editor of the last volume of *Carmina Gaedelica*. Nearly every weekend I would catch the bus at Saint Andrew's Square and make the forty-five minute bus journey to Kitty's house in East Lothian. I would sit for hours with her by the fire in the sitting room or by her bedside if she was not feeling well. Kitty would have me read the same passage to her over and over again until my pronunciation was almost perfect. She also taught me many idioms in Gaelic, something that cannot be gleaned from a text book. Kitty has words and expressions that are not in any Gaelic dictionary. The Gaelic that she speaks is very pure, having learned much of it from relatives who were unable to speak English. I also learned much about Gaelic song from her.

Shortly after I arrived in Scotland in 1987, I became the first native born American to compete in the Scottish National Mod. The Mod is a week long series of competitions where Scotland's top singers, poets, and musicians display their talents and compete for the highest honours. One of my proudest moments was winning a prize in the Gold Medal Solo singing competition during the National Mod held in Glasgow in 1990. I also competed and won first place in local Mods held in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Before I left for Scotland in 1987, I was responsible for instigating and organising the first Gaelic Mod in the United States. This first Mod was sponsored by *An Comann Gaidhealach Ameireaga* in Alexandria, Virginia and has been held every year since 1988. This year the event was held in Ligoneer, Pennsylvania in conjunction with the Ligoneer Highland Games.

I am very interested in Gaelic broadcasting and participated in several productions while I was in Scotland. Grampian Television asked me to be program advisor for the series *The Blood is Strong* and I also appeared in two of the programs in the series. Before I returned to America in 1994, I was the narrator for a pilot Gaelic program for Grampian Television entitled *Togail Cursa Do Charolina*. Unfortunately, we did not receive enough

funding from the government to produce the series. It was great fun doing the pilot anyway.

My doctoral research was on cultural retention among the descendants of the Highland emigrants who came to Carolina from the Highlands of Scotland. I was particularly interested in the possible existence of Gaelic in North Carolina, both in written and oral tradition. As would be expected, after 200 years of domination by the English language, not much now survives. But the fact that I was able after such a long span of time to find any Gaelic in oral tradition amazed me. I discovered men and women who were able to say phrases in Gaelic and recite rhymes, bits of songs and verses from the Bible. Several Gaelic texts were published in North Carolina and one hand-written Gaelic charm has also been discovered. In addition, many families still possess Gaelic Bibles that have been passed down through many generations here in Carolina.

After I completed my doctoral work at Edinburgh, I took a position in Aberdeen-shire as an Educational Psychologist. This position was originally only for six months, but I ended up spending two years there. While in Aberdeen, I started out teaching one Gaelic class for beginners in 1992. By the next year, the first class was so successful that I added an intermediate second year Gaelic course as well. By 1994, there was a demand for a first, second, and third year class, but I was unable to remain in Aberdeen since my full time job as a psychologist ended along with my work permit. Unfortunately, I had to leave Aberdeen and return to America.

When I was living in Scotland, there was much about America that I missed. Now that I am back in America after seven years in Scotland, I miss Scotland. In particular, I miss my everyday contact with Gaelic. This includes conversation with friends, Gaelic radio and television, and Gaelic choir. While in Scotland, I sang with both the Lothian Gaelic Choir in Edinburgh and the Aberdeen Gaelic Choir. A Gaelic choir is great fun and an opportunity to socialise with other Gaelic speakers and those interested in Highland culture. I also miss my Aunt Kitty very much and the hours we spent speaking in Gaelic and about Gaelic. I hope to find a teaching position eventually where I will be able to spend some summers in Scotland continuing to study Gaelic and Gaelic song.

I hope that I will get an opportunity to meet some of the members of the NAACLTL soon.

[Journal of Celtic Language Learning](#)

Several excellent articles and short essays were received. Some will appear in volume one and others in volume two. We expect volume one to be in your mailboxes (for those who subscribed) well before the arrival of your next issue of NAACLTL News. Articles include "Journal Writing as a Method of Student Motivation in Irish Language Class" by Roslyn Blyn, "Dialects, Speech Communities, and Applied Linguistics: A Realistic Approach to the Teaching of Irish in Non-Irish Speaking Areas" by Jim Duran, "Call with Methodical Explanations" by Gearóid Ó Néill and Annette McElligott, and "Teaching Speaking in Celtic Languages" by Zev bar-Lev. We have extended the deadline for journal orders to 15 November 1995. Subscriptions are \$10 for members and \$12 for non- members. Those outside of North America should add an additional \$3 for postage and handling. Checks in US funds should be mailed to Ron Crow at 3990 Havensport Road, Carroll, OH 43112-9711. Checks should be made payable to NAACLTL.

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 the next issue. The deadline for volume two is 15 April 1996, however submissions can be sent at any time. Four 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.

Members interested in reviewing books and other materials received should also write Nancy. Please let us know what language(s) and area of language learning interest you most. In return for writing a review, members would receive a complementary copy of both the material being reviewed and the issue in which your review would appear.

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 November. Boston University, MA. 20th BU Conference on Language Development. 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.

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- 23-26 March. Chicago. American Association for Applied Linguistics. 8-12 April. New York City. 1996 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting (includes session of the AERA Second Language Research SIG).
- 18-21 April. New York City. Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. For information write Northeast Conference, St. Michaels College, Dupont Hall, 29 Ethan Allen Ave., Colchester, VT 05439, USA.
- 4-7 July. Trinity College Dublin (Centre for Language and Communication Studies). The Third International Conference on Language Awareness. Abstracts by 30 November 1995 to Dr. J. Ridley, CLCS, Arts Building, Trinity College, Dublin 2, Ireland.
- 17-20 July. Hofstra University, New York. Irish Literatures: Old and New Worlds. Papers will be on all aspects of Irish Literatures: literature in English and in Irish, as related to history, folklore, the arts, womens studies, and immigration studies. Information: Dr. Maureen Murphy, School of Education, Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York 11550-1090.
- 4-9 August. University of Jyvaskyla, 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.
- 22 November. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. Celtic Language Teachers Professional Development Day.
- 23 November. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. 2nd Annual Celtic Language Learning Conference. NAACLT. See call for papers on last page of this issue.

1997

- 3-6 April. New York City. Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. For information write Northeast Conference, St. Michaels College, Dupont Hall, 29 Ethan Allen Ave., Colchester, VT 05439, USA.

Publications/Papers

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

- Tiarnan de Fréine

Publications

- 1995: "Staid na Gaeilge in Éirinn agus thar lear i gCeanada i 1995," *Garm Lú* (Celtic Studies Department, St. Michaels College, University of Toronto) 18, pp. 55-57.
- 1995: "Celtic languages and comparisons between Scots Gaelic and Irish language, and

learning opportunities in the Toronto area." Discussion with David Lowe and hosted by Kathryn O'Hara (10 August). *Later the same day*. Radio program produced and aired by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, 25 minutes.

- Ned Sturzer

Publication

- 1995 (compiler), Index of Citations to D. Simon Evans' "A Grammar of Middle Welsh", 100p., Celtic Studies Press (Books For Scholars), ISBN: 0-9646658-0-8

- James J. Duran

Publication

- 1993: Book Review of Colman L. Ó hUallacháin's *The Irish Language in Society, Being Primarily a Series of Introductory Papers and Elementary Notes on the Sociolinguistics of the Irish Language* (Edited by Mícheal A. Ó Murchú), *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 100/101, pp. 264-269.

Jobs/Jobs/Jobs/Jobs

LECTURESHIP CELTIC STUDIES

The Celtic Department of Harvard University invites applications for a three-year lectureship in Celtic Studies, beginning fall, 1996. The position requires a scholar with formal training (Ph.D. or equivalent) in the general field of Celtic Studies, and with strong credentials in teaching and research in Modern Irish and Scottish Gaelic language, literature and culture. Harvard University is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer; women and minority candidates especially are encouraged to apply. Closing date 15 November 1995. Applications should be addressed to Search Committee Chair, Celtic Department, Harvard University, 61 Kirkland St., 3rd Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138. From: *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 13 October 1995.

TENURE-TRACK POSITION IN LINGUISTIC ANTHROPOLOGY

The University of Arizona Department of Anthropology invites applications for a tenure-track position in Linguistic Anthropology at the Assistant Professor level, beginning Fall 1996. Ph.D. required. Topical and geographical areas open, although preference will be given to candidates with specializations that link linguistic to cultural interests, particularly gender and language, health discourses, Hispanic sociolinguistics and language, and culture and cognition, and to candidates with area interests other than native North American. Review of applications will begin November 1, with applications accepted no later than January 8, 1996. The University of Arizona is an affirmative action, equal opportunity, ADA employer. Women and minorities are especially encouraged to apply. Send letter of application that includes statement of research and teaching interests, vita, and names and addresses of 3 references to Jane H. Hill, Chair, Linguistic Anthropology Search Committee, Department of Anthropology, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721. From: *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 20, 1995.

Notes

Irish Language Weekends

The Washington branch of Conradh na Gaeilge sent us news of up-coming Gaeltacht Weekends. A weekend will be held in Jamison, PA 10-12 November 1995. Contact Liam Guidry at 908-571-1988. The Montréal Irish Language Study Circle will hold a weekend at Laurentian Lodge near Montréal, Québec from 17-19 November, 1995. Call Karin Austin at 514-937-7392.

Cànan is Òran

Scottish Gaelic Immersion Classes will be held at St. Michaels College, The University of Toronto,

Toronto, Ontario, on the following 3 Saturdays in 1995/96: 18 November, 20 January, and 9 March. The classes begin at 9:00am and conclude at 3:00pm. To register, please call David Lowe at (416) 703-1890, or Kara Smith at (519) 354-8949. All levels of learners are welcome!

Scottish Gaelic Language Weekend

Bolton, Ontario will host a Gaelic Language Weekend on 8-10 November 1996. The weekend will include classes in the Scottish Gaelic language, singing, historical lectures, a book fair, and a chlidh and dinner on the Saturday evening. For more information, please contact David Lowe at (416) 703-1890, or write to *Celtica*, 507-725 King Street West, Toronto, ON M5V 2W9. *Cùm Gàidhlig Beò*.

Who Said That?

Comhar na Múinteoirí Gaeilge has produced a teach yourself Irish video (2 hrs. US\$25, p+p inc.). NTSC (North American) version. Suitable for adult classes or home study (introduction). Available from Comhar na Múinteoirí Gaeilge, 7 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, Ireland.

A Welsh Course in Upstate New York

Robert Jones sent us the following. A Welsh course began 19 October 1995 in Binghamton, which is in upstate New York. We are meeting in the Unitarian Universalist Congregation church at 183 Riverside Drive in the city of Binghamton. The first part of the course will run until the middle of January, and the second part will pick up right where the first one leaves off, and will run until the middle of May. If you know anyone who may be interested, please have them contact me through e-mail at BR00321@bingvmb.cc.binghamton.edu or by telephone at (607) 786-9414. We meet every Thursday night at 7:00 for an hour and fifteen minute session. This course is being developed in part by the Welsh Society of the Southern Tier of New York. Also you should note the course is essentially free of charge except for photocopies and a small monthly donation to the church for use of the facilities.

Membership List

The current [NAACLT Membership List](#).

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<http://www.naaclt.org/News>

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