



NAACLCT NEWS

North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers

President's Message

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As the tragedies of September 11 have resounded around the world, so have they resonated with Celtic language communities, including our own. How little could we guess as we gathered last spring at NAACLCT 2001 in Jersey City that the familiar skyline would change so drastically within a few months. And as we enjoyed the final "field-trip" by ferry to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, snapping photos with the cityscape almost taken for granted, how could we know that this would prove such an ephemeral opportunity? Those who live in the mid-Atlantic or northeastern areas of the United States have perhaps had numerous opportunities to gaze at or even buy a bagel in the World Trade Towers; our visitors from abroad could not know that they would be among the last groups to enjoy the splendors of a bustling shining neon New York in a more innocent and trusting era.

With a metropolis the size of New York, no group remains untouched when the city's core is scarred. Although our immediate membership was spared, our colleagues have suffered and lost loved ones. We have learned of near misses and narrow escapes. Tom Ihde was

inbound on a PATH train but fortunately not close enough to the area to be directly affected. New York Irish teacher Daithí Mac Lochlainn was evacuated from one of the adjacent World Trade buildings. Fellow Irish teacher Barra Ó Donnabháin was "running a little late" that morning and instead of being inside the World Trade Towers with his out-of-town guest, was outside, near the entrance, just in time to look up and see the plane crash. Tragically, there was no near miss or narrow escape for firefighter John Patrick Tierney, age 27, son of another colleague and Irish teacher, Seán Ó Tiarna, of Staten Island. Young Tierney had been with the Fire Department for six short weeks before this call to duty took his life.

We will not forget September 11 but it will help to us in our healing to remember our resolve and why we are involved in teaching and researching the Celtic languages to begin with. All of these cultures have suffered linguistic repression, to name just one of their struggles. We have all heard of "Welsh (K)nots" and "bataí scóir" and other punishments inflicted upon children who were simply speaking their native, and in many cases, their only language on school grounds.

But somehow, the languages survived and to look at the world of the Celtic media and publications today, they are almost blossoming. The language of the bards has become the language of the giga-byte, as we hear the on-line news in Welsh on BBC or peruse Sabhail Mòr Ostaig's stòr-data for the latest

Gaelic computer terminology. Ta Breck gynsaghey coontey and Bran ag Comhaireamh, translations of Eric Hill's renowned "Spot" series, entertain and educate Celtic-speaking children and their parents struggling to keep up with them in naíonraí or in Mooinjer Veggey. TV-Breizh has been launched and at www.ex.ac.uk/~ajbeer/bodin.htm one can read William Bodinar's 18th-century letter in Cornish. If, as Betty Smith proclaimed in her Irish-American classic novel, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, a tree can grow "... out of that grating. It gets no sun, and water only when it rains. It's growing out of sour earth. And it's strong because its hard struggle to live is making it strong," then surely we can make something grow from this parched sour earth and help the Celtic languages continue to spread their seed in North America and blossom. These languages are strong because they too have had a hard struggle to live, poorly nourished and cut off from many critical resources.

And as we ponder what memorial will grow from the sour earth of Manhattan's "ground-zero," a park, a shrine, or a new building, we can consider our work part of an ongoing tribute to those ancestors and forefathers who have suffered or died throughout history, in famines, clearances, or forced migrations. So let's keep up the good work and plan for an exuberant conference in Antigonish as our hosts, Catriona Parsons and Kenneth Nilsen, welcome us to again to St. Francis Xavier for NAACLCT 2002.

- Roslyn Blyn-LaDrew,
President

Introducing our newest officer: Member-at-large Delyth Prys

Delyth is the Chief Editor of the Welsh Terminology Centre, University of Wales, Bangor. She graduated with an honours degree in Welsh from Aberystwyth University College, Wales and subsequently did research at Bangor before becoming assistant editor of the Univeristy of Wales Dictionary and later the Welsh Academy Dictionary. She has edited a number of bilingual Welsh/English terminology dictionaries and is involved in language engineering and Celtic languages. She recently established Termcelt as an e-mail discussion list for Celtic terminologists and is also interested in Wales/America links and in Welsh art. She is married with three (nearly) grown-up sons and likes to travel in Europe and America.

NAACL 2002

The eighth annual NAACL Conference will take place at St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada, May 24-26, 2002. This signals a return for the conference to Nova Scotia, whose Cape Breton Island is North America's last bastion of Scottish Gaelic. The conference is open to all who may wish to attend---you do not have to be a teacher to attend, although the presentations are geared towards teachers. Papers will be delivered in English; but Celtic

languages are used outside the presentations as much as possible.

For some years now, May has been celebrated as Gaelic Awareness Month in Nova Scotia, with ceilidhs, féisean, workshops, students bringing Gaelic language and culture to local schools, and media coverage. This year, the NAACL conference will be part of that celebration.

To register, use the enclosed form or download forms and information from the NAACL web site (see p.3).

Getting to Antigonish

Halifax Airport is the nearest airport to Antigonish, Nova Scotia. From there to St.FX University takes about 2 hours by road. As soon as you know time of arrival at Halifax Airport, e-mail us so that we can coordinate Shuttle Bus trips. The cost each way if six (6) travel together will be \$ 25CAD; otherwise, \$30 CAD, payable at the time.

Those staying at the Claymore Inn may elect to take the bus directly from Airport to Inn, if one of the following departure times from the Airport to Antigonish fits their flight schedule: Daily 8.45 am, 2.00 pm, 4.25 pm (express), 7.00 pm. (Tel. 800-567-5151; Web : www.acadianbus.com)
COST: \$ 27.89 CAD one way; double that for return.

If you are travelling by road from the US, the Portland and Bar Harbour ferries can shorten the trip, although they land you in western Nova Scotia:
St. John, New Brunswick--
Digby,N.S. Portland, Maine--
Yarmouth, N.S.
Bar Harbor, Me--Yarmouth, N.S.

Rooms

We have arranged rooms at St. Francis Xavier, and at the nearby

Claymore Inn. If you would like a list of local B& B's, send an e-mail to cparsons@stfx.ca.

Rooms have been set aside at the university itself at a cost of \$30.53 CAD per night (\$26.55 + tax), for a single room. To secure one of these, please contact Ms. Grant, University Conference Coordinator, by telephone at 1-902-867-2855 or by e-mail at clgrant@stfx.ca. If you wish to share, she will make those arrangements for you.

Rooms are also available at the Claymore Inn, at Exit 33 Trans Canada Highway 104, Church Street, Antigonish, about a 15-minute walk to Campus. The cost of these per night is as follows, in Canadian dollars, plus tax:

Single room, double bed \$68.
Single room, queen size bed \$73.00
Double occupancy, 2 double beds \$82.00. Contact Angela MacDougall at 1-888-863-1050 (no charge) or by e-mail at greenway.inn@ns.sympatico.ca. Be sure to mention NAACL. It's important to book early; these rooms will be released a month before the conference date.

Additional Conference Activities

For those who wish to arrive on Wednesday before the conference, there will be a special program on Thursday, a trip to Cape Breton. Please indicate your interest when you send in your registration).

In addition to the Cape Breton trip scheduled for Thursday, May 23, a morning devoted to classes in Scottish Gaelic will be offered on Sunday morning, May 26, followed by a trip to historic Pictou and a Ceilidh by the Sea. The cost of the Ceilidh is CAD \$ 15.50, payable on entry . We do have to book in advance; so if you plan to take part in Sunday's activities, please tick the

available lines on the registration form.

If you are not yet a member of NAACL, you may elect to become a member at the time you send in your registration form. The membership fee of US\$ 25 entitles you to the association's journal, *The Journal of Celtic Language Learning (JCLL)*, the newsletter, and conference discount.

In the Mailbox

Dear friends in NAACL,

We were very grieved to hear of the horrific attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington recently. It has shaken us very badly in Wales, and we know how much closer to home it is to you.

Having enjoyed your company and hospitality at two NAACL conferences, and made so many new friends amongst you, we wanted to extend our heartfelt sympathy to you at this troubled time. Our thoughts are very much with you, with those of you who have been directly affected by the tragedy, and also with the wider American community.

With all our love and best wishes,
Delyth Prys, Sara Davies, Luned Roberts, Non Ioan, Cynog Prys, Prys Morgan Jones, Gareth Roberts, Geraint Wyn Jones, Cen Williams, Menna Morgan, Bill Hicks

News from JCLL

The editors of *Journal of Celtic Language Learning* are happy to report that the long-awaited Vol. 6 is in press and should be on the way to members within a few weeks.

Volume 7 is nearly ready to go to press and will follow shortly after. We hope that by this year's conference we will be back on schedule, with the volumes for years 2001 and 2002 in print and preparations underway for volume 8, which will be published in January of 2003.

Volume 6 is a special issue on the learning of Celtic languages as first languages, with papers from a conference held in Dublin in the spring of 2000. Volume 7 will contain the first of the field reports on Celtic languages in North America, for which *JCLL* received a grant from the National Council of Organizations of Less Commonly Taught Languages in the summer of last year. The reports for volume 7 were written by members Catriona Parsons and Wayne Harbert, on the teaching of Gàidhlig and Welsh, respectively. Two more reports will appear in Volume 8 and the last two in Volume 9. Members interested in contributing reports for Irish, Manx, Breton or Cornish are urged to contact one of the editors at the e-mail addresses below:

stensonn@naaclt.org
molaoire@tinet.ie

Clóicín Dearg A New Irish Translation of *Little Red Riding Hood*.

NAACL President Roslyn Blyn-LaDrew has recently translated *Little Red Riding Hood* into Irish. The new book, *Clóicín Dearg*, is published by Another Language Press in Cincinnati, Ohio, and is distributed by AIMS International Books, which offers a wide range of books in

Spanish and a growing assortment of children's books in languages ranging from French and Spanish to Arabic, Hmong, Hindi, and Swahili, and now Irish. The book is primarily designed for elementary classes but can be used by all levels. Roslyn has developed related classroom activities for beginning through advanced classes. Those who purchase the book can obtain these complimentary lesson plans by contacting her directly through the NAACL website.

In addition to serving on the NAACL board, Roslyn chaired our Philadelphia conference and co-chaired our conference at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish. She teaches Irish at the University of Pennsylvania and is a volunteer instructor with *Daltaí na Gaeilge* which runs Irish immersion weekends in the mid-Atlantic area. She holds degrees from Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania, studied for a Junior-Year Abroad at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, and has taken summer programs in Ireland and Scotland. She also writes regularly in Irish and in English for the Irish Edition, a Philadelphia-based newspaper.

On Saturday, April 6, Roslyn read her new translation of in the Children's Department of the University of Pennsylvania Bookstore, 36th and Walnut Streets, in Philadelphia. She also spoke briefly on the Irish language itself and how it relates to Ireland's history, folklore, music and dance. The reading was interactive, with children (and adults) encouraged to participate and learn some of the sounds and meanings of Irish Gaelic words. The book was also featured at the Penn Book

Store's faculty authors day on April 11.

To order, contact: AIMS
International Books, Inc., 7709
Hamilton Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio
45231-3103.
Fax: 513-521-5592; Phone: 800-733-
2067; 513-521-5590; email:
aimsbooks@fuse.net

The book's ISBN is 0-922852-55-3.

Visit us on-line at
www.naaclt.org

Special deal on Irish teaching video

Comhar na Múinteoirí Gaeilge are offering their Irish video lessons *Who Said That?* to NAACLT members at a special price of \$5.00 (US). *Who Said That?* is a two-tape set providing basic conversational Irish lessons based on dialogues built around everyday situations, including a family at breakfast, children quarrelling, a shopping trip, an evening at the pub, etc. Dialogues are introduced phrase by phrase at first, with English commentary and explanations at each step, then repeated in their entirety at the end of the lesson (or at the beginning of the later lessons). The tapes alone don't constitute a full course, but would be a nice supplement to other materials. In addition to working through them in their entirety, one could use a few lines at a time to introduce basic expressions to beginners, using the commentary and short segments of

the dialogue to show use of the expressions in context; more advanced learners could go straight to the full dialogues, bypassing the commentary, to practice listening to conversational Irish by (mostly) native speakers. The actors performing the dialogues speak Connemara Irish, but the commentator speaks Munster Irish and pronounces several of the words and phrases in that dialect during her commentary, so the tapes also present opportunities to illustrate and discuss dialect differences. To order a copy, write to Comhar na Múinteoirí Gaeilge, 7 Cearnóg Mhuirfean, Baile Atha Cliath 2.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

April 12-14, 2002. The National Council of Organizations of Less Commonly Taught Languages, , Arlington, Virginia, US. See <http://www.councilnet.org/pages/CNet_Announcements.html#fifthannu> for more information.

May 3, 2002. Irish Language in the United States Symposium. CUNY Institute for Irish American Studies, Lehman College, Bronx, New York, US. See <<http://mywebpages.comcast.net/ihd/cunyias.htm>> for more information.

May 9-12, 2002. The Celtic Studies Association of North America Conference. University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, USA. For more information, see <<http://www.cis.upenn.edu/~csana/>>

May 24-26, 2002. North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers Conference. St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada. See <<http://www.naaclt.org>> for more information.

May 25-28, 2002. The Canadian Association of Applied Linguistics. University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. See <<http://www.aclacaal.org/congres.html>> for more information.

June 5-8, 2002. American Conference for Irish Studies National Meeting. Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, US. See <<http://www.acisweb.com/cfp.html>> for more information.

31 July-2 August, 2002. Rannsachadh na Gaidhlig 2, U of Glasgow, Contact: Sheila Kidd, Dept. of Celtic, U of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ (S.Kidd@celtic.arts.gla.ac.uk)

August 8-10, 2002. FEL VI: "Endangered Languages and their Literatures: Building a Past for the Future" Antigua, Guatemala. 8-10 August 2002 Contact: Nicholas Ostler nostler@CHIBCHA.DEMON.CO.UK

NAACLT News

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Please send announcements and
news by the following deadlines:

Winter edition: October 15
Spring edition: January 15
Summer edition: May 15
Autumn edition: July 15

Conference Registration Form

A. Please mail this form with your check (payable to the Celtic Dep't., St. F.X. U.) to

Catriona Parsons, NAACLT 2002
 Celtic Studies
 St. Francis Xavier University
 Antigonish, Nova Scotia
 B2G 2W5
 Canada

to arrive NOT LATER than May 1, 2002. After that date, add US \$ 5.00.
 Please fill out the amount you are paying for each item and the total.

1. Events

B. Day Trip **US \$ 25** **\$ _____**
 (US \$ 28 after May I)

Lobster dinner US \$ 25 \$ _____
 (US \$ 28 after May I)

(Please indicate if you wish a vegetarian meal)

Special Fee (req. for misc. entertainment
 and refreshments) US \$ 10 \$ _____

Event Fee Subtotal **\$ _____**

C.

1. Conference Fee

Conference (Member) 2 days US \$ 16 \$ _____
 1 day US \$ 10

Conference (Non-Member) 2 days \$ 21 \$ _____
 1 day \$ 15

Membership US \$ 25 \$ _____

Total **\$ _____**

For the activities listed below, please indicate by a tick that you would like to participate :

Gaelic Class (free of charge) _____
 Visit to Historic Pictou/ Ceilidh by the Sea _____

