

NAACLT News

April 1995
Vol. 1, No. 4
North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers

Membership in NAACLT

If you are receiving this newsletter as a complementary copy and would like to become a member of NAACLT, please send a check in US funds to Mr. Ron Crow, NAACLT Secretary/Treasurer, 3990 Havensport Road, Carroll, OH 43112-9711. Checks can be made out to "NAACLT." Membership fees are due every August. Those paying now should mention that the dues are for the 1995-1996 academic year. Current members will find a membership renewal form with this newsletter.

President's Note

Kara Smith
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The North American Association of Celtic Language Teachers was formed this past year in an effort to organize Celtic language educators in Canada and the United States. "NAACLT" provides a vital link for teachers of Breton, Cornish, Irish, Manx, and Welsh. With this link, teachers may interact with other educators in their linguistic field of study. They may exchange pedagogical and curriculum ideas. They may also provide support for the growing number of Celtic students on our continent.

It is my hope that Celtic language teachers will begin to band together to nurture and restore our heritage languages. Due to our geographical diversity, we can rarely accomplish this in person, but we can take advantage of our electronic resources. Electronic mail, such as "flteach" (listserv@ubvm.cc.buffalo.edu), and Internet services, such as the Welsh Internet course (www.cs.brown.edu/fun/welsh), are now available for teachers to access and use. If you have a query or request, it may be sent to any one of us at NAACLT; we would be more than happy to answer your question, or provide you with the address of someone who could. In this way, all of us can begin to form alliances and friendships, something that is essential to our work as teachers of less commonly taught languages.

To help with this mission, some of our upcoming projects include, "a teaching certificate" for Celtic language educators, a Celtic learning journal, and a 1996 conference at the University of Pennsylvania on the 23rd of November. I hope that all of you will take advantage of the services and expertise we have to offer. Enjoy our languages, agus failte!

The Celtic Language Learning Conference in Glendale: Some Personal Observations

Jim Duran
Long Beach, California

On Saturday, 25 March 1995, the North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers held its very first conference at Glendale Community College in Glendale, California. I admit to having been apprehensive about the way things would turn out, having never met most of the participants and having misgivings about how many people -- academic and non-academic -- would come to a conference that was ostensibly for applied linguists dealing with "less commonly taught languages" (LCTLs). I walked away from the conference, however, elated with the whole experience. The attendance was good (around fifty people, I understand), and the spirit of the participants -- both academic and non-academic -- was warm and enthusiastic.

After hearing the first couple of papers, I relaxed considerably, since I felt myself at home with fellow language teachers who were obviously committed to their respective languages and willing to explore bold and innovative approaches to the teaching of Celtic languages. The audience, too, which included a number of beginning and intermediate level students of Celtic languages, showed itself very interested in and receptive to the ideas proposed. The thing that most impressed me, however, was the youth of the presenters; this was a whole new generation of applied linguists coming into their prime with years of productive activity ahead of them, North Americans whose obvious fluency in their respective languages was acquired largely on this continent. This is a generation, moreover, that is well aware that the path of the Celtic language teacher is the "road less traveled" and may not be the quickest route to professional rewards and career advancement. They may count themselves lucky, in fact, if they are not treated at odd times like Chechens at a congress of Soviet linguists. Still, the linguistic and cultural suppression of non-English speaking groups in the Anglo-American world seems to be ending, and presumably speakers of Celtic languages may eventually acquire the same rights to maintain their languages and cultures in English-speaking host countries as speakers of, e.g., Spanish, Chinese, or Urdu. In fact, the labor of love of the Celtic language teacher may be well repaid professionally in the coming years, since the linguistic world is belatedly recognizing the importance of Celtic languages for linguistic theory and since the "dying" Celtic languages seem to be quite successful at finding new groups of speakers at home and abroad. This surprising vitality should keep Celtic languages on the linguistic "world map" and, hence, on the scholarly agenda.

It would have been nice for the conference to have been spread over two days, instead of being restricted to one day, since there was so little time for conference participants to get to know one another. Fortunately, some of the papers presented at the conference will be published in the new [Journal of Celtic Language Learning](#), so that the ideas presented at the conference will be preserved for us and disseminated widely.

I find myself looking forward avidly to the next conference, to be held at the University of Pennsylvania in November, 1996, and wondering how on earth I'll make it to the east coast! In the meanwhile, I'll be forced to finally hook up to the Internet, so that I can be in touch with the rest of you.

Internet for Beginners

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I realize that many of our members do not yet have access to the Internet. Having just recently attended a workshop by Barra Ó Donnabháin on this topic at the Irish Bookshop in New York City, I feel motivated to lay down the basics.

The first thing you will need is a computer. If you are attending or teaching at a college or working in a company that uses e-mail, you may be able to use one of

the terminals there. Adjunct instructors including those teaching in continuing education programs may have the right to use such facilities. If you are a student, teacher, or other employee, contact the computing department and ask about such facilities. If the response is favorable, you will not need to deal with the following. They will get you hooked up to the Internet.

If none of the above apply or work for you, you will need to either use the computer of a friend or buy your own. When buying a computer, you need to think about what you will be using it for over the next few years. You can access the Internet with very simple hardware. However if you will be using the same computer to write a book or design images, you will need more sophisticated hardware. Also some advanced Internet capabilities such as the World Wide Web include images and therefore more advanced hardware is needed if you want to take advantage of these.

I use an IBM compatible computer. You may prefer a Macintosh. However, I will just use my own case as an example. The most basic need for you at this moment may be to read messages on GAELIC-L or WELSH-L. Besides a computer, you will need a modem. The modem is a small box that connects your computer to the telephone jack. The modem can be placed inside your computer as well to keep things compact. You do not need two phone lines as long as you don't mind not being able to make calls or receive calls while using reading your GAELIC-L or WELSH-L messages.

Your computer will have to be able to handle the software provided by the company you chose. My mother uses America-On-Line (AOL) for DOS with a 386 IBM compatible. I have a 486 and use Windows and I'm sure some of our members even have pentiums. Anyway, you may want to phone the Internet access provider before making all your decisions on the computer you wish to buy. They will send you literature for free on their services. Modems come in different speeds. I started with a 2400 at home and I have now upgraded to a 14,400 (14.4Kbps). The 14.4 is faster and of course more expensive (it cost me about \$100). Most of the Internet access providers send you their software for free, so you don't need to worry about buying communications software. I have received copies of AOL and CompuServe for free when purchasing various pieces of hardware. AOL, for example, costs my mother \$9.95 a month. She receives five free hours a month. Since she can compose her letters before actually phoning AOL and copy (download) mail received to be read later when not connected to AOL, she has never gone beyond her five hours. Other companies charge more per month, but provide more free time.

The Internet access provider will if possible, give you a local number. If it is often busy, my only advice would be to get up earlier in the morning to read your messages. Good luck and if I can be of help drop me a note at the address in this newsletter.

The Celtic Computer

John T. McCranie
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Hello, and welcome to a new part of our newsletter. In this column I'll be passing on tidbits about various computer related items of interest to teachers and learners of the Celtic languages. If you have info or questions about any aspect of the Celtic languages and computers, please contact me at jtm@naaclt.org.

You all are probably familiar with the lists GAELIC-L and WELSH-L, which are primarily for discussions in the various Celtic languages. You may not, however, be aware of some other lists of interest to language teachers in general.

To join any of the following lists, send an email message to LISTSERV@<address> (where <address> is the part after the '@' in the list address) including the command SUBSCRIBE followed by the list name and then your name. For example, to subscribe to the list GAELIC-L, I would send the following line in an email message to LISTSERV@IRLEARN.UCD.IE

SUBSCRIBE GAELIC-L John T. McCranie

Once you have subscribed to a list, you can send a message to everyone on that list by sending it to the address given.

Some Celtic Lists:

GAELIC-L

The Gaelic (q-Celtic) Languages List. Most of the messages are in one of the Gaelics.
Address: gaelic-l@irlearn.ucd.ie

WELSH-L

The p-Celtic Languages List. Most of the messages are in the Celtic languages.
Address: welsh-l@irlearn.ucd.ie

CELTIC-L

The Celtic Culture List. Discussions in English on Celtic topics such as mythology and religion, and occasionally languages.
Address: celtic-l@irlearn.ucd.ie

CELTILING

The list for theoretical linguistic discussions of the Celtic languages (mostly in English).
Address: celtling@mitvma.mit.edu

General Language Teaching Lists:

FLTEACH

Foreign Language Teaching. For teachers of foreign languages at the high school and college levels.
Address: flteach@ubvm.cc.buffalo.edu

SLART-L

The second language acquisition research and teaching list. Discussions of current research, teaching methods, &c.
Address: slart-l@cunyvm.cuny.edu

MULTI-L

Language and education in multi-lingual settings.
Address: multi-l@vm.biu.ac.il

LTEST-L

Language testing research and practice.
Address: ltest-l@psuvm.psu.edu

LLTI

Language Learning and Technology International Information Forum Discussions of language labs, CALL, video tools, &c.
Address: LLTI@dartcms1.dartmouth.edu

Other Lists:**LINGUIST**

General linguistic discussions, conference announcements, book reviews, &c.
Address: LINGUIST@TAMVM1.TAMU.EDU

E-GRAD

The MLA graduate student list. Discussions range from general grad problems to teacher training to writing grant proposals.
Address: E-GRAD@RUTVM1.Rutgers.Edu

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.

- 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.
- 25 June-1 July. Belfast. 1995 ACIS-CAIS Conference. American Conference of Irish Studies and Canadian Association for Irish Studies annual conference.
- 30 June-2 July. Albuquerque, NM. Symposium on Language Loss & Public Policy. More information at Garland D. Bills, Department of Linguistics, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1196 or gbills@bootes.unm.edu.
- 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.
- 6-9 October. Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Second Language Research Forum 1995.
- 18-20 November. Anaheim, CA. 1995 American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Annual Meeting.

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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.
- 4-9 August. University of Jyväskylä, Finland. 11th World Congress of Applied Linguistics. Deadline for abstracts is 1 June 1995. More information at AILA 96 Secretariat Ms. Taru-Maija Heilala, Jyväskylä Congresses, P.O. Box 35, FIN-40351 Jyväskylä, Finland or heilala@jyu.fi.
- 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.
- 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](#). NAACLT. Call for papers has not gone out yet.

THE EDITOR, ASSOCIATION, AND ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD EXCEPT 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 NAACLT News.

James J. Blake

1995: "Irish in Education and the Media," *Éire-Ireland* 29.4, pp. 161-168.

Roslyn Blyn

1994: "A Native Speaker in the United States: Padruig Mac a' Ghoill Discusses the Popularity and Teaching of Irish" in T.W. Ihde (ed.) *The Irish Language in the United States: a historical, sociolinguistic, and applied linguistic survey*, Westport, CT: Bergin & Garvey.

James J. Duran

1994: "The Irish Language in Aran" in J. Waddell, J.W. O'Connell, and A. Korff (eds.) *The Book of Aran*, Newtownlynch, Kinvara: Tír Eolas, pp. 253-259.

Notes**Irish Language Immersion Weekends and Week**

Announcements concerning "Gaeiltacht" weekends were received from Daltaí na Gaeilge (New York) and Conradh na Gaeilge - Craobh Curtin Milwaukee. Both groups will be holding their program on the 12-14 May weekend. Although deadlines are now past for both, you can call Ethel Brogan (NY) at 914-897-5457 or Our Mother of Perpetual Retreat Center (WI) at 1-800-924-6008 to see if there is any space left for your students. Daltaí na Gaeilge will also hold a summer immersion course in Wappingers Falls, NY from 9 July to 16 July. For more information, call Ethel Brogan.

Summer Fellowships for Foreign Language Teachers K-12

The National Endowments for the Humanities in the United States has announced the availability of fellowship stipends to the sum of \$3,750 for six weeks of studies abroad. Applicants must have completed at least three years of full-time K-12 teaching and spend at least half of their time during those years teaching foreign languages. For more information, write NEH Fellowship Program for FL Teachers K-12, Connecticut College, 270 Mohegan Avenue, New London, CT 06320-4196. Application deadline is 31 October 1995.

Jobs/Jobs/Jobs/Jobs

NAACLT News welcomes job announcements free of charge. Announcements should be in the language of the position.

Position filled - advert removed.

Back Issues of NAACLT News

Back issues of NAACLT News are available at the cost of one US dollar per copy (Checks made out to "NAACLT." Send orders to Tom Ihde (see address above).

- Vol. 1, No. 1 - Goals and Mission of NAACLT
 - Vol. 1, No. 2 - LCTL Project - University of Minnesota (Stenson) and Justification for Scottish Gaelic Education in Canada (Smith)
 - Vol. 1, No. 3 - Executive board biographies
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DEADLINE for next issue: 15 July 1995

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