NAACL'T 2002

8th Annual Conference
of the
North American Association of Celtic Language Teachers
St. Francis Xavier University
Antigonish, Nova Scotia
May 23-26

PROGRAM

Wednesday, May 22 : Early bird arrivals meet informally at Piper's Pub, 33 College Street, Antigonish (902-863-2590), beginning ca. 8.30—9.30 pm.

Thursday, May 23 : 8.30-9.00 am Registration, Immaculata, 2nd floor. Field Trip to Cape Breton. Departure ca. 9.00 am from Immaculata Hall parking lot; return ca.6.00—7.00 pm.
(Price: US $25; after May 1, US $28) (travel only)

Conference Events
Immaculata Hall, Second Floor

Friday, May 24

9.00 am Registration, coffee, pastries

9.30 Welcome

9.45 Session Chair: Nancy Stenson
PAPER # One : Ken Nilsen
Gaelic Pioneers of St. Francis Xavier University : St. Francis Xavier was one of the first, if not the first institution of higher learning in North America to include Scottish Gaelic in its curriculum. After touching briefly on the question of Scottish Gaelic in other institutions of higher learning in Scotland and North America, the paper will then focus on the careers of a number of individuals who were involved with Gaelic at

10.30-10.45 Coffee Break

10.45 PAPER # Two: Effie Rankin

Sean is Ur : This multi-media presentation will attempt to show how language learning may be enhanced using a computerized slide show with musical accompaniment. The educational role of the ‘ceilidh house’ of earlier times has largely been replaced by modern technology; the age old medium of song, however, is as valid today as it was in the past. For those who live outwith the Scottish Gàidhealtachd, the computer can become an especially powerful tool for language acquisition.

11.30 NAACL T General Meeting

12.00 Lunch

1.30 Session Chair: Catriona Parsons

PAPER # 3: Seumas Watson

Gàidhlig tro’Sheanchas will explore applications of recorded field work with Nova Scotia Gaelic speakers as a resource for learners of Scottish Gaelic. Attention will be drawn to personal goals affecting motivations for language learning. Recommendations will be made for bringing a cultural context to instructional materials and surroundings.

2.15 PAPER # 4: Dorothy Milne

A Grammatical Introduction to Irish : A two-semester, beginners’ level, grammar-based course in Irish will be described. It focuses on reading, writing, and pronunciation and on enabling students to progress to learning independently from commercially available courses. The text that is being developed for the course will be available for discussion.

3.00-3.15 Coffee Break
3.15 An Informational Session: David Newlands

4.00 PAPER # 5: Roslyn Blyn-LaDrew
Using Robert Flaherty’s 1934 Film, *Man of Aran*, in an Irish Language Class: Man of Aran is “a problematic film in many respects despite its undoubted influence” according to Lance Pettitt (*Screening Ireland*). Its footage is among the earliest shot in a Gaeltacht and the film is readily available in the US. However, there are some problems concerning its use in class. It was shot as a silent film, and a spoken soundtrack, difficult to hear and largely in English, was added later. With premieres in London and on Broadway, the film was clearly not primarily intended for Gaeltacht consumption, let alone use in a language classroom.

How can such a film be used in beginning, intermediate, and advanced language classes? This workshop presents some ideas stimulated by my showing the film to a class of primarily freshmen and sophomores who were intrigued by what a basking shark is, where the Aran Islands are, what the characters were saying, and what happened to the little girl left on the rocky hillside.

4.45 PAPER # 6: Nancy Stenson
Beyond the third generation phenomenon: Irish Americans and the Irish language.
The paper examines Nahin and Fishman’s claims about the patterns of linguistic behavior of immigrants to North America and their descendants, and considers the resurgence of interest in Irish among both immigrants and American-born in that context. Discussion of Irish-American involvement with the language includes review of two surveys of Irish speakers—native speakers and learners, regarding their patterns of language use and attitudes toward the language.
Friday Night
7.00 pm Lobster Dinner and Ceilidh

Saturday
8.30-9.15 am Children's Book Prize Committee Meeting
8.30-9.15 Registration, Coffee, Pastries
9.15 Welcome: Roslyn Blyn-LaDrew, NAACLT President
Ken Nilsen, Chair St.FXU Celtic Dep’t.
9.30 Session Chair: Roslyn Blyn-Ladrew
PAPER #6: Geraint Wyn Jones
Institutional Language Planning:
The paper critically examines some of the issues involved
when promoting bilingual workplace practices. Among
those discussed are the importance of planning, of
'ownership' and of language negotiation. A range of
policy implementation issues are also considered. The
paper concludes by noting the contribution that
professional programmes can make and the challenges
involved when monitoring and tracking progress.
10.15 Coffee break

10.30 PAPER #7: Delyth Prys
The American dimension to the Welsh language debate
in the nineteenth century: Should the Welsh in
America let go of their language and integrate fully into
American society? This was a topic of great concern to
the Welsh language press in Wales and in America and
is discussed in this paper as a precursor to the
contemporary sociolinguistic debate on language shift
and language transfer.
11.15 PAPER #8: Gearóid Ó Néill
A Set of Strategies for Making Irish Texts Available
to Manx Speakers: This presentation shows how a
collection of techniques based mainly on grapheme-
to-phoneme transformations can be used to transcribe,
using a computer system, Irish texts to Manx-like text
to be readily intelligible to the Manx reader. It can be
used simply for making Irish texts readily available to
Manx readers or provide facilities to aid learners of
Irish or Manx, who already know one of the
languages.

12.00-1.30pm Lunch and NAACL Executive Meeting.

1.30 Session Chair: Ken Nilsen
PAPER # 9: Sheila Scott and Aralt Mac Giolla
Chonnaigh
Subsequent evaluation of results of recognition tests
for mutated sounds (Scott and Kenny, 2000)
suggests that recognition of known basic words is
lower for eclipsis than lenition. This phenomenon is
explained in terms of the fact that eclipsing sounds in
Irish are basic phonemes, while leniting sounds in
general are not.

2.15-2.30 Coffee break

2.30 Keynote Speaker: Mark Wringe

3.30 Milling Song Workshop: Lewis MacKinnon

4.30 AUCTION

5.00(Mass at St. Ninian’s)

7.00 pm Dinner

Sunday, May 26: Registration at 9.00 am for 9.30 am Gaelic Classes,
Immaculata Hall, 2nd Floor
11.30 Lunch
12.45-1.00 pm, depart for Ceilidh by the Sea, DeCoste
Theatre, Pictou (Cost: $15.50 at door)
Ca. 4.00, visit “Hector” Museum (Cost: $3.50 at door)