

NAACLT 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

St.FX from ca. 1891-1950. These include D.M. MacAdam, A.M. Sinclair, P.J.Nicholson, A.T. MacDonald and Hugh MacPherson.

10.30-10.45 Coffee Break

10.45 PAPER # Two : Effie Rankin

Sean is Ùr : 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 The educational role of the 'ceilidh house' of earlier times has largely been replaced by modern technology; the age old medium of song, however, is as valid today as it was in the past.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 NAACLT 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
Nova Scotia Government Policy and Planning with
Reference to Gaelic.

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 Nahirny 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 NAACLT Executive Meeting.

1.30 Session Chair : Ken Nilsen
PAPER # 9 : Sheila Scott and Aralt Mac Giolla
Channaigh

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 9.00am 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)