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Good Friends
The Friends of Harvard Celtic Studies was formed in 1993 to participate in and support the numerous programs and activities of Harvard’s Celtic Department. The Friends’ primary mission is to help fund the following programs:

- Stipends for students attending intensive language courses in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Brittany
- Honoraria for visiting artists and scholars
- Travel support for students attending conferences or workshops devoted to Celtic cultures
- Assistance to middle and high school teachers in introducing Celtic literature and history to their students
- Publications relating to research in the Celtic cultures

An important goal of the Friends is to make accessible to the community at-large a rich and assorted presentation of Celtic culture and scholarship, and to encourage non-academic members of the area’s large Celtic community to partake in Harvard Celtic activities. We welcome anyone who appreciates Celtic culture and who wishes to participate in its dissemination.

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GOOD FRIENDS

Once Margo got over her shock, she was ready to do what she had really come to the Thompson Room for, which was to assist in acknowledging 2002’s outstanding Friend, Margot Gill, Administrative Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, for all the support and encouragement so generously given down the years to the cause of Celtic studies. Dean Gill was introduced by Dr. Elizabeth Gray, Secretary to the Board of Overseers, an alumna of the Celtic Department and course instructor in Celtic literature and mythology in the Division of Continuing Education. Elizabeth recalled having first met our guest of honor when they were both young tutors at Harvard, noting how much she had benefitted from their friendship. Dean Gill responded after receiving her crystal dish from Pat Ford and Friends chairman Phil Haughey, saying that as a result of working with Elizabeth she had admired this little department down the years and had that very morning been extolling it for setting other departments such a good example in its exchange programs with universities overseas.

Guest of Honor: Dean Margot Gill, with admiring Friends, Dr. Elizabeth Gray and Chairman Phil Haughey.
NEH GROUP GOES

BEFORE

(Above)
Back row, l to r: Jenn DuFault, Martin Dempsey, Ilana Rodriguez, Kate Lawson, Theresa Siega, Cara Gamberdella, Jim Murphy, and Kathy McCormack.


AFTER
Fifteen school teachers from around the country converged on the Celtic Department from June 24 to July 25 to study medieval Irish literature this past summer. The seminar was directed by Professor Patrick Ford under a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For three hours each day, four days a week, for five weeks these teachers, mostly high school literature teachers, struggled successfully to master the rudiments of Irish epic and saga. They also were taken on field trips by Pat and Chadine, and they enjoyed food and conviviality each Monday evening at the Fords’ home in Belmont.

They came from Washington, Florida, California, Connecticut, and places in between. They came as strangers but soon became inseparable and, as one teacher put it in an e-mail to the others recently, “We are the best group I have ever encountered and though the mundane work (and very important work) of day-to-day teaching often obscures an incredible summer, it was a great one, one for the ages, and I am forever grateful to each of you.”

According to Professor Ford, the seminar, like those he directed in 1994, 1996, and 1999, is designed to introduce teachers to an important body of epic and saga literature which they, in turn, can incorporate into their schools’ curricula. Thus will CúChulainn and the other Irish heroes take their rightful places beside Beowulf, Gilgamesh, Achilles, and Roland.
Friends for egather for Fall

Come help us kick off the 2002-3 academic year on Thursday, October 24, 7-9 PM, in Thompson Room, Barker Center, Harvard.

Greet your good Friends, returning students, faculty, and associates of the Department; meet our new graduate student, Matt Knight, and Celtic Department associate Paul-André Bempéchat.

As usual, there’s free parking just a block away in the Felton Street garage. Just tell them what you’ve come to attend. See you there!

Paul-André Bempéchat

Noted performer brings Breton music and texts

A new Celtic Department associate, Paul-André is a noted classical pianist and a scholar of Breton music and composers who has performed in such leading concert halls as the Vienna, Berlin, and Stockholm Philharmonics, as well as nearby Jordan Hall and our own Sanders Theatre.

While here at Harvard, Paul will be researching classical Breton and other Celtic composers, examining how they wove their folk music and languages into their art. The growth of musical and literary ties between the Celtic provinces is another area of interest for Paul, and he has already been instrumental in acquiring for Harvard a small library of books on Breton music, about which more in a later issue. Welcome, P-A!

MAKING PLANS

Friends foregather for Fall

Friends December Dinner

The annual Friends black tie dinner at Loeb House will be held this year on December 3, 2002.

Guest of Honor will be Professor P. G. (Gerry) McKenna, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Ulster.

The fastest growing university in the United Kingdom, the University of Ulster has campuses at Coleraine, Belfast, Jordanstown, and Magee College in Londonderry. Under President McKenna’s leadership the institution has been praised for outreach efforts in at-risk Ulster neighborhoods. It has recently embarked on an exchange program with the Harvard Celtic Department and, we are proud to state, our own Dr. Kate Chadbourne is currently teaching and doing research at Magee.
WELCOME, NEW FRIENDS

We are pleased to welcome to our midst Dr. Brian Frykenberg and his spouse, Sarah Andrew, M.D.

FRIENDS OF HARVARD CELTIC STUDIES MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please count me/us as members of the Friends of Harvard Celtic Studies in the category checked below. In addition to the benefits described above, I'll also receive a free subscription to the Friends newsletter.

Friend □ $100.00 per annum  Patron □ $250.00 per annum  Benefactor □ $500.00 per annum

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If you have questions about the Friends of Harvard Celtic Studies, please call 617-496-6305. Return this form to:
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