

Óireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta 2015

Teaching Staff

IRISH LANGUAGE IMMERSION WEEKEND

San Francisco, September 25–27, 2015

Liam Ó Cuinneagáin

Leibhéal 1. Trained as a teacher at St. Patrick's College in Drumcondra, Dublin, Liam spent over twenty years as a primary teacher and school principal in Dublin and has taught the language at every level. He recently completed the second of two 5-year terms as *Cathaoirleach* (Chairman) of *Údarás na Gaeltachta*, the agency responsible for the cultural and economic wellbeing of the Gaeltacht regions nationally. He is a well-known language activist and in 2011 he was awarded the annual "*Gradam an Phiarsaigh*" trophy for services to education and the Irish language. Liam was one of the founders and is currently the director of *Oideas Gael* in Glencolmcille, Co. Donegal, which has been providing Irish language classes for adults since 1984.



Bairbre Ní Chiardha

Leibhéal 2. Bairbre inherited a love of the Irish language and culture from her native *Cois Fharraige* [Connemara] in County Galway, Ireland. She pursued a career in education and currently resides in Milwaukee teaching Irish at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Bairbre was born in a small town in County Galway. Ní Chiardha's parents were teachers bilingual in English and Irish. Bairbre is a master of the Connemara / Galway dialect.



Seosaimhín Nic Rabhartaigh

Leibhéal 3. Seosaimhín was raised in the heart of the *Tír Chonaill* Gaeltacht in Donegal in a home where Irish was intrinsic part of her personal and cultural identity. Seosai holds a Master's from Trinity College, Dublin in Early and Modern Irish Language and Literature, and went on to post-graduate qualification in primary education from St. Andrew's College in Glasgow, Scotland.



With a Master's in Education she has taught in elementary schools in Scotland, England, Ireland and Belgium. She has also taught the Irish language to adults at the University of Milwaukee and John Carroll University in Cleveland. Seosaimhín has given guest lectures on Irish language and cultural topics, including the Law tracts, the role of the "*file*" in early Irish society and early Irish mythology. She is a poet, a student of languages, a song-writer, composer of music, aspiring fiddle player and mother to two bilingual children.



Ray Mac Mánaís

Leibhéal 4. Ray Mac Mánaís is a retired principal of **Gaelscoileanna** a national, voluntary organization promoting the development of Irish-medium schools at primary and at post-primary levels based in Dublin. Ray was a speech writer to Ireland's former president, Mary McAleese and was her Irish language tutor. He wrote and published the former president's biography, *Máire Mhic Ghiolla Íosa: Beathaisnéis*, *The Road from Ardoyne: The Making of the President*.

Ray is a leading figure in the art of **lúibíní**, often described as comic conversational song as well as **Agallamh Beirte** (traditional, witty conversation for two) A popular entertainer and television personality in Ireland, he is easy to find on Youtube.

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