Scottish Education Research Grant (SERG)

By vote of the Society Council at the April meeting, Colleen Patton has been awarded a second SERG grant of $2,000 for a Gaelic language project in Scotland in 2014. Congratulations, Colleen!

This summer Colleen will administer and analyze a 2nd round of surveys to short course students of the Gaelic language at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye. This will be a refinement and continuation of the survey project she did last year. In addition she will also attend an academic conference in Edinburgh called Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig 2014, which explores topics of Gaelic research.

Last year's study became part of Colleen's portfolio toward her MA in linguistics, which she receives from UH-Manoa this spring. The project and its results were also favorably received in presentations she made to the UHM Linguistics department and to an academic conference in Hilo on Stabilizing Indigenous Languages. In the fall Colleen will begin work on her PhD in linguistics at the University of Arizona, where she will maintain contact with a native speaker of Gaelic from Skye, who teaches both in Arizona and on the Island of Skye and whom Colleen enjoyed working with last summer. Her focus as a PhD scholar will be on revitalization of endangered languages.

At last fall's St Andrew's luncheon, Society members enjoyed Colleen's enthusiastic presentation about her experiences on Skye in 2013. Colleen has since participated in several Society events and spent time talking to people about the Gaelic at our Festival table. We happily look forward to hearing from her again next fall or winter with reports on her second project. She has also offered to make a lasting gift to the Society of a Skye/Sabhal Mòr Ostaig photo album along with common Gaelic phrases and landmark names.

By fostering Colleen's interest in the Gaelic language and helping to develop her scholarly career, the two SERG grants she has received will serve not only Colleen herself, but may also help to perpetuate the Gaelic language and Highland culture—a little gift from Hawaii back to Scotland.

More pictures from the Highland Festival April 5-6

Clan Gunn at Festival

Members of the Celtic Pipes & Drums

Chuck Jamison

Walt Herring & Heather MacGregor

Looking at the map of Scottish clans

Relaxing after a battle well fought!