

The Lou Harper Memorial Scholarship for Students of Gaeilge: Lou Harper's passion for the Irish language took him back to the classroom and across the sea. An original member of Craobh Curtin, Conradh na Gaeilge, the Milwaukee branch of the Gaelic League, he enrolled in the first semester of John Gleeson's Irish Gaelic, "an uncommonly taught language" class at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee (UWM), before studying at the Oideas Gael cultural center in Ghleann Cholm Cille in County Donegal, Ireland for several summers. He continued taking classes and attending study groups while acquiring an extensive collection of Irish language books and, for 14 years, he was co-chairman of the book sale in the Gaeltacht area at Milwaukee Irish Fest. .

Lou died on April 29, 2010, and Conradh na Gaeilge established a scholarship in his memory. It will be awarded each year to a student who shares his dedication to learning the Irish language. The scholarship will cover the tuition costs of attending an Irish immersion weekend or day-long program in the Midwest. Currently, that will include programs offered by the Center for Celtic Studies at UWM, the Celtic Cultural Center in Madison, Gaeltacht Minnesota in Minneapolis, Indiana Celtic Community at Indiana University and An Ghaeltacht Milwaukee (as Craobh Curtin is known in Ireland).

To apply, please follow these guidelines:

Please respond to each of the following questions on a separate sheet, typed and with the numbers indicated for each question. You do not have to retype the questions. Also, please include your name, address, phone number and e-mail address. The deadline for submission is September 15. Please send your application to: Sandy Hofmann, 1519 Ridge Court, Wauwatosa, WI 53213.

1. How long have you been studying Irish?
2. Why are you studying Irish?
3. Where have you been studying Irish?
4. Who has been influential in your study of Irish, i.e. a mentor, friend, relative or teacher?
5. What are your plans for using Irish in the future?
6. Have you done any outreach or volunteer activities related to the Irish language?
7. Have you attended any Irish language immersion days or weekends in the past?
8. What do you want to know that we haven't asked?

Note: You'll receive extra points for "cupla focail" in your answer.