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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

COSCA Appoints Dr. Bruce Durie Official Seannachaidh

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The Council of Scottish Clans & Associations is delighted and honored to announce the appointment of Dr. Bruce Durie, BSc (Hons) PhD OMLJ FSAScot FColIT FIGRS FHEA as COSCA's *Seannachaidh*. Dr. Durie will be consulting on a range of genealogical and ancestral questions and projects for COSCA and its members.

"As Scottish Americans we celebrate our collective and personal heritage with great energy" said Susan McIntosh, President of The Council of Scottish Clans & Associations. "Having an accurate and complete understanding of people and events long past is critical in distinguishing serious pursuit of ethnic heritage from mere hobby. Bruce Durie brings an unquestioned professionalism and depth of knowledge on a huge range of topics and disciplines that are important to almost every Scottish American."

Regarding his appointment and the opportunity to work more closely with COSCA, Dr. Durie stated "I am, for the record, chuffed to little mint balls and genuinely honoured". Bruce's unrivaled professional qualifications, his depth of knowledge, readiness to help and remarkable wit have made him a favorite of Scottish Americans.

In addition to resolving challenging puzzles from the past Dr. Durie will be helping to design and present workshops and other resources to help all Scottish Americans become better genealogists and historians. McIntosh pointed out that "COSCA is especially excited about one of our first joint projects with Dr. Durie, which is intended to provide support, encouragement and useful information for the growing number of clan and family society volunteer genealogists and DNA project managers who are interested in networking, sharing and learning more about their work."

Dr. Durie has already been building - with stakeholders on both sides of the Atlantic - interest and consensus on just such a genealogy network concept. Bruce's vision is an educational, development, information and support network for those central persons in each clan or family who work closely with the Chief or other officers, and can provide clan members the appropriate advice and guidance on genealogy, family history, DNA, heraldry, crests, tartans and other matters relevant to the Scottish Diaspora Clans and Families community. Some clan and family societies have appointed such a "*Seannachaidh*" and many have not but would like to.

The principle of a *Seannachaidh* network or council has been welcomed by the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, the Society of Scottish Armigers, COSCA and others, and links are being forged with universities in Scotland the USA.

[**Seannachaidh* – genealogist, historian, bard, orator and heraldist.]



Dr. Bruce Durie Summary Bio:



Bruce Durie is considered one of Scotland's top genealogists, with an international reputation. He is perhaps best known for his BBC radio series, “Digging Up Your Roots” (eighth season in 2014), and “A House with A Past”, and he has authored 30 books, including the best-selling “Scottish Genealogy” now in its 3rd edition. (www.bruce-durie.co.uk/books). Bruce founded the much-acclaimed post-graduate program in Genealogical Studies at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, which he headed for six years as Course Director, until 2011. Now a Fellow at Strathclyde, he is developing a full-time one-year Masters and a Doctoral programme. He also teaches courses on Genealogy, Documents and Heraldry at the University of Edinburgh. Recently elected to the prestigious Académie Internationale de Généalogie (the only member from Scotland), he is Shennachie (Genealogist and Historian) to the Chief of Durie (www.duriefamily.co.uk) and Shennachie to the Order of Alba (<http://www.orderofalba.org/>).

The Council of Scottish Clans & Associations is a 501c3 non profit organization founded in 1976 that serves and represents the interests of the Scottish American ancestral diaspora and in particular our more than 120 member Scottish clan, family and heritage societies across the United States. Learn more about COSCA and the work that we do at www.COSCA.Scot and www.Facebook.com/AncestralScots.