

ARIZONA DANCER and SETON ALUMNAE, ALEXIS HODEL, AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS TCRG - IRISH DANCE TEACHER'S CERTIFICATION

April 21, 2010 (Chandler, AZ) -- Arizona's newest Irish Dance teacher is the first to be born and raised in Arizona, and to have received all her training in the state. Alexis Hodel received her certification as an Irish Dance teacher after taking a rigorous, three-day exam given in Los Angeles this past January, passing two of the three sections with honors.



Hodel is the lead Irish dance instructor for the Bracken School of Irish Dance under the mentorship of Thomas Bracken, A.D.C.R.G., owner and director of the Chandler-based school. Bracken enthusiastically acknowledges her contribution to the success of his school.

“I am so proud of all that she’s accomplished in the midst of her academic workload at ASU and the limited time she had available to her. This is a real testament to our school, her character, and the dancers she’s inspired.”

The Arizona State University senior has been involved in Irish culture from an early age: she began Irish Dance at the age of 9 and has qualified to compete at the World Championships several times. In 2009, she represented the Arizona Irish-American community as the Arizona Colleen and as the Arizona Rose at the Rose of Tralee competition in Ireland.

Hodel's certification was officially announced on April 4th at this year's Irish Dance World Championships in Glasgow, Scotland. Her designation as a Teagascóir Choimisiúin le Rinci Gaelacha, or T.C.R.G., allows her to train students to compete at all levels, from beginning through championship. Hodel is looking forward to training the next generation of dancers in Arizona, saying, “I’m very excited to have the chance to help these kids develop into champions and to be able to share such an important part of my life with them.”

During the summer, she will be offering an introductory workshop for new students who are interested in learning Irish Dance. For more information on the workshop and on the Bracken School of Irish Dance, please visit the school’s website at www.brackenirishdance.com.

