



Frank Eld Our log consultant with Ambassador Kauppi

A Great Finnish/American Project  
**Finnish Nationality Classroom**

**IT IS ON THE MOVE! (Literally)**



Building to be disassembled  
and moved to U of Pitt

**The Finnish Classroom Project is about the Finns who came in this country and pioneered this land.** When they came, they brought the culture, heritage and craftsmanship they were born into. With their ‘sisu’ and unyielding will to succeed they fashioned the details of their lives and the wood structures they built in the same manner that people had done in Finland for centuries. Situated in rural surroundings, they utilized the materials available to them to build log structures which would last for generations. This craftsmanship and culture are reflected in the future Finnish Room.

With their knowledge, it was possible to turn places where no one has lived into farms and villages. **The Finnish Classroom is about the children of the pioneers who grew up here, were educated and served in important roles in many fields** where they served this country as their own. These legacies should not be allowed to get lost or forgotten. The Finnish classroom will serve as the setting for preservation of these legacies.

The Finnish Room at the University of Pittsburgh will resemble a smoke house in the “Old Country”. It will be constructed from the logs of the precisely crafted log home pictured above which was built in Minnesota c. 1900. The building is slated to be disassembled and moved to a warehouse in Pittsburgh. The beams, ceiling and smoke hole draw attention to how smoke houses were constructed and functioned for centuries in Finland. The Room will reflect the Finnish heritage in all its aspects: the high-quality log construction technique, the kaskiviljely slash-and-burn technique of farming, and the oral poetry tradition which was capable of preserving information and a language used in trading. The displayed Kalevala plates will portray life on the land with examples of the language. Also honored will be the first Finnish novelist, Aleksis Kivi, for his novel, “Seven Brothers”.

**As the project now MOVES FORWARD, much remains to be done and we need your help and transportation of logs is needed. Will you help? We also need to raise more funds quickly. This Room** will join the 30 other Nationality Rooms in the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh

For more information you may contact the Nationality Rooms office; phone 412-624-6150, email [embruhns@pitt.edu](mailto:embruhns@pitt.edu). For questions about log construction or the project work contact Frank Eld at [imfinn@icloud.com](mailto:imfinn@icloud.com). Also see web sites: [www.pitt.edu/natrooms](http://www.pitt.edu/natrooms) and [www.pittsburghfinns.net](http://www.pittsburghfinns.net).

**Donation on line: <https://giveto.pitt.edu/finnishroom>. By mail write your check to University of Pittsburgh and in memo Finnish Room. Mail to EngagePitt, Office of Institutional Advancement, 128 North Craig Street, Pittsburgh PA 15260.**