Irish Studies Program Receives $1 Million Gift

Gil Sullivan, a 1966 Boston College graduate, says he has never forgotten the people and values that have influenced his life. So when Sullivan made a $1 million gift to the University’s Irish Studies Program this spring, he asked that the endowment be named in honor of two long-serving members of the Boston College community: Senior Vice President James P. McIntyre and the late Rev. Francis C. Mackin, SJ. “It’s not so much what you have, but it is what you are willing to give,” says Sullivan, who recently sold his I-PAK business, New England’s largest distributor of rigid packaging goods, such as plastic bottles and cans. “I feel compelled to give back because I have gotten so much.” Sullivan, who is originally from Boston’s Dorchester section, is proud of his Irish heritage and has long been a supporter of the University’s Irish Studies Program. He and Fr. Mackin, a former BC faculty member and administrator who served as an Alumni Association chaplain before his death in 2005, shared a love of all things Irish and a friendship was easily formed. “I always admired Fr. Mackin for his involvement in Irish studies,” Sullivan says. “He was just a very nice man. He never seemed to tire of my questions.” In a similar fashion, Sullivan also got to know McIntyre, who has held a number of senior administrative posts in his long Boston College career. “Jim McIntyre is one fine Catholic layman who has devoted his working career to Boston College,” Sullivan says. “I am honored and overwhelmed to be named in Gil’s generous gift to Boston College,” says McIntyre. “He obviously has made the values of Jesuit education a part of his life, and for Fr. Mackin and myself to be recognized for having played a role in helping to form those values is very, very meaningful.”

Says Sullivan, with a laugh, “This all started because I am Irish, and now we have kids at BC from Iowa and Arizona and all sorts of places where they have probably met three Irish people in their lives. “This school was originally founded for Irish immigrant kids. Now we have become the finest Catholic university in the country, but we should remember our roots.”

—Reid Oslin
Burns Scholar Brendan Kennelly

Brendan Kennelly is the Burns Library Scholar in Irish Studies this semester. Born in Ballylongford, Co. Kerry in 1936, he was educated at St. Ita's in Tarbert, Trinity College, Dublin, and Leeds University. His 1966 Ph.D. dissertation was titled “Modern Irish Poetry and the Irish Epic.” Kennelly is one of Ireland's best-known contemporary poets and has published over thirty books of poetry, including My Dark Fathers (1964), Collection One: Getting Up Early (1966), Good Souls to Survive (1967), Dream of a Black Fox (1968), Love Cry (1972), The Voices (1973), Shelley in Dublin (1974), A Kind of Trust (1975), Islandman (1977), A Small Light (1979), and The House That Jack Didn't Build (1982). He has also published prose and was commissioned by Penguin to edit the Penguin Book of Irish Verse. A collection of his own prose edited by Ake Persson titled Journey into Joy: Selected Prose was published in 1994. A prolific writer, Kennelly is also the author of two novels, The Crooked Cross (1963) and The Florentines (1967), and three plays in a Greek Trilogy, Antigone, Medea and The Trojan Women. He has also translated poems from Irish in A Drinking Cup (1970) and Mary (Dublin 1987). A selection of his collected translations was published as Love of Ireland: Poems from the Irish (1989).

His last collections of poems are The Singing Tree (1998), Begin (1999), and Glimpses (2001). Kennelly was Professor of Modern Literature at Trinity College, Dublin for over 30 years, and retired from that post in 2005. He will teach a course in creative writing in the Department of English during the fall semester.

Ireland's Magdalen Laundries and the Nation's Architecture of Containment

The University of Notre Dame Press has just published Associate Professor of English and Irish Studies Jim Smith's Ireland's Magdalen Laundries and the Nation's Architecture of Containment. The Magdalen laundries were workhouses in which many Irish women and girls were effectively imprisoned because they were perceived to be a threat to the moral fiber of society. Originating in the eighteenth century, they were operated by various orders of the Catholic Church from the post-famine period until the last laundry closed in 1996. The Magdalen laundries have become an important issue in Irish culture, especially with the 2002 release of the film The Magdalene Sisters. Focusing on the ten Catholic Magdalen laundries operating between 1922 and 1996, Smith's book offers the first history of these institutions in the twentieth century. Because the religious orders have not opened their archival records, Smith argues that Ireland's Magdalen institutions continue to exist in the public mind primarily at the level of story (cultural representation and survivor testimony) rather than history (archival history and documentation). Copies can be obtained from the press at http://www3.undpress.nd.edu/main.php.

IRLAND'S MAGDALEN LAUNDRIES
AND THE NATION'S ARCHITECTURE
OF CONTAINMENT

JAMES M. SMITH

Ireland’s Magdalen Laundries and the Nation’s Architecture of Containment
Dalsimer Scholars Jill Bender and Rebecca Troeger

Each year, Boston College awards the Adele Dalsimer Graduate Research/Dissertation Fellowship in memory of Adele Dalsimer, the co-founder of the Irish Studies Program. The fellowship is designed to recognize outstanding Boston College doctoral students in Irish Studies. This year’s recipient Jill Bender received her B.A. in History from the College of William and Mary in 1999, and her M.A. from the National University of Ireland, Galway, in 2002. She is currently in her fifth year of the Ph.D. program in history at Boston College. Her dissertation examines the impact of the 1857 Indian Revolt on the wider British Empire. In particular, she is examining the ways in which the uprising resonated in Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, and Jamaica.

Rebecca Troeger was the recipient of the Dalsimer Fellowship for the academic year 2006/07. Her dissertation, “The Formation of Musical Communities in Modern Irish Literature,” looks at the ways that identities are defined within and through the use of musical performance in Irish literature at various points in the twentieth century. In it, she considers current debates in the fields of ethnomusicology and cultural studies as frameworks for reading Joyce, Yeats, and others. Jill and Becky have been able to use the fellowship to write and conduct research outside of the United States.

Irish Music at Boston College, Fall 2007

The fall semester brings an exciting line-up to the Gaelic Roots Music, Song, Dance, Workshop and Lecture Series. On September 12, Brendan Begley and Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh will perform songs in English and Irish, with instrumental music on fiddle, accordion, and melodeon. Both Brendan and Caoimhín have active solo careers, and Brendan Begley is a member of Boys of the Lough. Guitarist and singer/songwriter Jim Malcolm will present a concert on September 20, having toured extensively as a member of the group Old Blind Dogs. His music has been praised for its consciousness of Scottish history and culture. Dr. Sally Sommers-Smith of Boston University will present a lecture on October 18, Play He Single: Chance and Necessity in the Traditional Music of Newfoundland. The discussion will explore Newfoundland’s interpretation of its Irish musical roots. Uilleann piper Paddy Keenan, one of the world’s foremost interpreters of both traditional and modern Irish repertoire, will present a concert on November 6. Formerly of the Bothy Band, Paddy’s solo and ensemble playing continues to reflect the deep roots of his playing style. All of the above events begin at 7 pm at Connolly House. Back by popular demand, Boston College dance teacher Meghan Allen, T.C.R.G. will direct two Irish ceili dances in the Gasson Hall Irish Room, the first on October 10, and a holiday ceili on December 5. Both begin at 6:30 and feature live music by Sullivan Artist-in-Residence Séamus Connolly (fiddle) and friends.

The O’Neill Library has a new exhibit, Some­where a Voice is Calling: American Irish Musical Interpreters, 1850-1975. On view through October, the exhibit highlights diverse musical contributions of Irish musicians in the United States, including P.S. Gilmore, John McCormack, Francis O’Neill, Michael Coleman, James Morrison, Annie McNulty, and the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem. An online supplement to the exhibit will be available on the O’Neill Library exhibits page, www.bc.edu/libraries/exhibits/.
The Irish Institute—Fall 2007

This fall promises to be an exceptionally busy and exciting time at the Irish Institute. The Institute’s mission is to support the peace and reconciliation process on the island of Ireland through the provision of educational seminars and “best practice” visits for public officials, business leaders, and educators from Ireland and Northern Ireland. For the eleventh consecutive year, the Institute’s work has been recognized in the form of a major grant from the U.S. Department of State. On the strength of this funding, the Institute will design and deliver three important programs this semester. The first initiative will be an intensive two-week Community Policing program in which fourteen senior police officials from Northern Ireland and from the Republic of Ireland will travel to the United States to focus on community policing strategies and models in two large American cities (Boston and Los Angeles). Participants in the September program will include representatives of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), the Garda Síochána, and relevant civilian bodies from both jurisdictions. The visitors will take seminars from top policing academics and will have the opportunity to interact with police in Boston and Los Angeles. They will explore the challenges both police departments have faced in their efforts to build strong community policing partnerships among an ethnically, racially, and economically diverse population.

October will see the Irish Institute hosting fourteen young political leaders from Ireland and Northern Ireland for a two-week visit in which participants will examine how American political parties are structured, and how they operate within the American political landscape. The group will comprise individuals from across the political spectrum. While in the United States, the participants will focus in particular on efforts to increase youth participation in civic and political life. To that end, the group will meet with political party representatives, civic leaders, grassroots organizations, and elected officials in both Massachusetts and Washington, D.C. In December, the Irish Institute will welcome fourteen educators, school principals, department of education policymakers, and university lecturers from Ireland and Northern Ireland for a program entitled Inclusive Education in a Diverse Society. This program will speak to the task of creating a public education system capable of nurturing the population of a multi-cultural and religiously diverse society. Seminar topics and site visits will focus on questions such as teaching English as a second language, developing an inclusive curriculum, and integrating students of different religious and cultural backgrounds into the educational system. Participants will meet with school principals, superintendents, and policymakers in Massachusetts and Nashville, Tennessee.

For more information or to be involved in these programs as a site visit host, a speaker, or a sponsor, please contact the Director of the Irish Institute, Dr. Niamh Lynch, at lynchni@bc.edu or 617-552-4503, or visit www.bc.edu/irishinstitute.

2007 Publications and Presentations

Seamus Connolly

Seamus will be marking the 50th year anniversary of his first entry (and victory) at the Under 14 Fiddle Competition in Tulla, County Clare with a visit to the competition.

Mike Cronin


Thomas Hachey

Named to IRISH AMERICA listing of the Top 100 Irish Americans. February 2007.


Marjorie Howes


Kevin Kenny

The Irish: Towards the USA, an Illustrated History (2006). Published simultaneously in Italian as Gli irlandesi che hanno fatto l'America, Giuliana Olivero, translator.


**Vera Kreilkamp**


**Ann Morrison Spinney**


**Enya’s World**: Negotiating Global, Local, and Post Colonial Contexts in Music, the Women in Irish Culture and History Conference, University College Dublin, October 2006.


**Joseph Nugent**


**Scottish Moral Hygiene and Irish Mental Gymnastics.** California Celtic Conference, UC Berkeley, March 2007.


**Phil O’Leary**


**Kevin O’Neill**


**Rob Savage**

Rob Savage was Leverhulme Visiting Professor at the University of Edinburgh, Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities in 2007. His Leverhulme Lectures included:


Elizabeth Bowen’s Ireland? Film, Controvery, and Depicting ‘Real Ireland’ in the 1960s*. University of Liverpool, March 28.

Loansharks, Ham-Fisted Hyperbole, and Testing the Limits of ‘Public Service’ Broadcasting in 1960s Ireland*. National University of Ireland, Galway, April 2.

*Cultural Shift and the Catholic Church: *‘Rathbrec,’ and Social Documentary in 1960s Ireland*. University of Edinburgh, Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities, May 3.


**James Smith**


**Boston College-Ireland Lecture Series: “The New Irish”**

During the academic year 2007/08, Boston College-Ireland will run a lecture series based on the theme of “The new Irish.” Given the seismic changes that have taken place in recent years that have seen Ireland transformed from a nation of net emigration to one of large scale inward migration and immigration, the lectures will allow these issues to be discussed. The series will mirror many of the themes that will be discussed at Chestnut Hill in the joint lecture series between The Irish Studies and African and African Diaspora Studies programs and will also build on the highly successful Irish Institute Programme of 2007, Ethnically Diverse Leaders. Full details of the lectures and the dates can be found at: http://www.bc.edu/centers/irish/dublin/.
Visiting Fellow in Irish Studies at Boston College-Ireland

Boston College’s Centre for Irish Programmes, based in Dublin, is pleased to offer a Visiting Fellowship in Irish Studies. The Fellowship is open to any scholar of post-doctoral standing working in any area of Irish Studies. The Fellow will be given an office in the Centre for Irish Programmes building at 42 St. Stephen’s Green in the heart of Dublin and a short walk to the National Library and National Archives. The Centre runs a full lecture and research seminar program throughout the year, and the Fellow would be invited to present a lecture during their tenure. There will be a payment of €5,000 to the Fellow to assist with travel to Ireland and some basic research costs. The Fellowship is for a period of between two and six months, and is available from January 2008. If you wish to apply, send a curriculum vitae and a two-page rationale of the research that you wish to undertake while in Dublin. The deadline for applications is November 17, 2007. For further information, please contact the Director of the Centre, Mike Cronin at mike.cronin@bc.edu.

Olympiad Na nGael

In April 2007 the Irish language television channel, TG4, screened an hour-long documentary, Aonach Taileann: Olympiad na nGael. The program was based on Mike Cronin’s ongoing research in the area, and explored how a major sporting and cultural festival was employed as a central part of state formation following independence from Britain. The documentary, which was made in conjunction with Union Films and InQuest, featured many leading Irish historians and commentators, including Roy Foster, Louise Ryan, Paul Rouse and Marcus de Burca. The film, which featured newreel and documentary footage from Ireland, the U.K. and U.S., was narrated by the Director of the Centre for Irish Studies at NUI Galway, Louis de Paor.

Contemporary Irish Novelists at BC

This fall, the Irish Studies Program continues its commitment to bringing Ireland’s best creative writers to campus every year. Anne Enright kicks off the fall line-up. Her novel The Gathering was recently nominated for this year’s Man Booker Prize for Fiction. Earlier fiction includes The Pleasures of Eliza Lynch, What Are You Like? (Royal Society of Author’s Encore Prize), The Wig My Father Wore, and The Portable Virgin (Rooney Prize for Irish Literature). Her writing has appeared in The New Yorker, The Paris Review, Granta, and The London Review of Books. Colum McCann, whose novel Zoli was released earlier this year, will follow. Author of four novels (Dancer, This Side of Brightness and Songdogs) and two collections of short stories (Everything in this Country Must and Fishing the Sloe-Black River), McCann was named Esquire magazine’s “Writer of the Year” in 2003. Other awards include a Pushcart Prize and the Rooney Prize. His writing has appeared in The New Yorker, The Atlantic Monthly, and GQ among other places. His short film, Everything in this Country Must, directed by Gary McKendry, was nominated for an Oscar in 2005. Both writers will give a reading from recent work. In addition, each writer will meet with students to discuss literature’s role in representing ongoing transformations in contemporary Irish society.

Honorary Fellows at Boston College-Ireland

During the academic year 2007/08, Boston College-Ireland will host two Honorary Fellows who are on leave from their own institutions: Dr. Senia Paseta (Oxford University) and Dr. Lucy Collins (St. Martin’s College). Dr. Paseta is the recipient of the prestigious Philip Leverhulme award, and will be researching a history of social policy in the Irish Free State. Dr. Collins, who has been awarded leave by her own institution, will be completing a book on contemporary Irish women poets.
Faculty News

James Smith was promoted to the position of Associate Professor in the English department in the spring of 2007. He received his B.A. from University College Dublin (Ireland), his M.A. in English from Clark University, his M.A. in Anglo-Irish Studies from University College Dublin and his Ph.D. from Boston College. He specializes in Irish literature and culture, cultural studies, and the application of post-colonial theory to an Irish context. He teaches graduate seminars on modern and contemporary Irish fiction, and on Ireland's colonial contexts. He has published articles in a wide range of journals including Signs: A Journal of Women in Culture and Society, Journal of the History of Sexuality, Éire-Ireland: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Irish Studies ELH and edited Two Irish National Tales: Maria Edgeworth's Castle Rackrent and Sydney Owenson's The Wild Irish Girl.

Friends of Irish Studies

Over the years, Irish Studies has been jointly supported by University funds and generous gifts from the Friends of Irish Studies. Established in 1985 to provide financial support for Irish Studies, the Friends are a select group of individuals possessing a keen interest in Ireland, its literature, music, history, politics and society as well as an interest in advancing the understanding of Ireland among Americans. Much of the public programming responsible for bringing leading writers, musicians, and artists to Boston College would not be possible without the support of the Friends. For information about joining the Friends, please contact us at (617) 552-3938. Donations can be sent to: Irish Studies Lecture Series, Connolly House, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467.

IRISH STUDIES COURSES
FALL 2007

ENGLISH

EN 093
Introduction to Modern Irish I
Joseph Nugent

EN 097
Continuing Modern Irish I
Joseph Nugent

EN 101
Celtic Heroic Age
Philip O'Leary

EN 181
Irish Literature Survey: Twentieth Century
James Smith

EN 309
Joyce's Ulysses
Paul Doherty

EN 447
Twentieth Century Irish Women Writers
Rebecca Troeger

EN 566
Special Topics in Writing Poetry
Burns Scholar Brendan Kennelly

EN 732
Contemporary Irish Fiction
James Smith

EN 893
Contemporary Irish Drama
Philip O'Leary

HISTORY

HS 300
Study and Writing of History: Irish Nationalism vs. Ulster Unionism, 1922-1972
Thomas Hachey

HS 434
History of Northern Ireland, 1912 to the Present
Robert Savage

HS 435
Ireland Before the Famine
Kevin O'Neill

HS 558
The American Irish
Kevin Kenny

HS 654
Irish Women Emigrants: The Irish and American Context
Ruth-Ann Harris

HS 845
Colloquium: Famine and Social Crisis
Kevin O'Neill

MUSIC

MU 130
Introduction to Irish Folk Music
Ann Morrison Spinney

MU 051
Beginning Irish Fiddle
Laurel Martin

MU 052-053
Experienced Beginner to Intermediate Irish Fiddle
Seamus Connolly

MU 071-077
Irish Dancing
Meghan Allen

MU 087
Beginning Tin Whistle
Jimmy Noonan

MU 088
Experienced to Intermediate Tin Whistle
Jimmy Noonan
FALL CALENDAR
CHESTNUT HILL

September 12
Concert: Brendan Begley & Caomhín Ó Raghallaigh, button accordion, fiddle and song
Connolly House, 7:00 pm

September 20
Concert: Jim Malcolm, Scottish song with guitar
Connolly House, 7:00 pm

September 24
Lecture: Irish memory and modern multiculturalism. Tom Hayden, political activist and author of the Port Huron Statement
Connolly House, 4:00 pm
Part of the Atlantic Worlds in Black and White Lecture Series. Co-sponsored by the Department of African and African Diaspora Studies

September 26
Reading: Irish novelist Anne Enright Higgins, 3:00 pm

October 10
Irish Dance & Céilí: Directed by Meghan Allen, T.C.R.G. Live music by Séamus Connolly, Larry Reynolds and friends
Gasson Hall, Room 100, 6:30 pm

October 15
Lecture: Black Irish, Irish whiteness, and Atlantic state formation
David Lloyd, University of Southern California
Connolly House, 4:00 pm
Part of the Atlantic Worlds in Black and White Lecture Series. Co-sponsored by the Department of African and African Diaspora Studies

October 18
Lecture: Sally Sommers-Smith, “Play He Single: Chance and Necessity in the Traditional Music of Newfoundland”
Connolly House, 7:00 pm

October 29
Lecture: The Survival of the British-Irish Union, 1800–1920
Alvin Jackson, University of Edinburgh
Connolly House, 3:00 pm

November 1
Reading: Irish novelist Colum McCann
Connolly House, 7:30 pm

November 6
Concert: Paddy Keenan, uilleann pipes
Connolly House, 7:00 pm

November 12
Lecture: Remembering slavery in the postcolonial state: Frederick Douglass and Ireland
Fionnghuala Sweeney, University of Liverpool
Connolly House, 4:00 pm
Part of the Atlantic Worlds in Black and White Lecture Series. Co-sponsored by the Department of African and African Diaspora Studies

December 5
Irish Dance & Céilí: Directed by Meghan Allen, T.C.R.G. Live music by Séamus Connolly, Larry Reynolds and friends
Gasson Hall, Room 100, 6:30 pm