
IRISH STUDIES

Peter Fallon Named Burns Visiting Scholar for Academic Year 2012-2013



Peter Fallon

The Center for Irish Programs and the John J. Burns Library of Boston College are pleased to welcome Irish poet, editor, and publisher Peter Fallon as the 2012-2013 Burns Library Visiting Scholar in Irish Studies. In 1970, at the age of 18, Fallon, already a published poet, founded The Gallery Press, which has established itself as Ireland's preeminent literary publishing house in the rich tradition of Dun Emer

Press, Cuala Press, Three Candles Press, and Dolmen Press. Gallery has published more than 400 books of poems and plays by Irish writers, including Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, Gerald Dawe, Seamus Heaney, Brian Friel, Derek Mahon, John Montague, Tom Kilroy, Paul Muldoon, Ciaran Carson, Medbh McGuckian, John Banville, Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin, Marina Carr and Michael Hartnett, and it has fostered a new generation of Irish poets, including Vona Groarke, Peter Sirr, Conor O'Callaghan, Kerry Hardie, Aidan Rooney and Alan Gillis. On July 2, 1995, The Abbey Theatre in Dublin, Ireland's National Theatre, was filled to celebrate twenty-five years of The Gallery Press, with readings introduced by Seamus Heaney. In her opening address, the President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, enthusiastically declared: "The Gallery Press has spent the last twenty-five years contributing towards bringing Irish poets and writers of plays and fiction to a wider world culture. I warmly salute the enormous contribution Peter Fallon has made to the diverse and challenging voices in Ireland."

The Gallery Press's fortieth anniversary in 2010 was celebrated by readings, special events, and publications at the Dublin Book Festival, Poetry Now, Cúirt, the Yeats Summer School, and Glucksman Ireland House/NYU. RTE, Ireland's national radio, marked the occasion with an hour-long *Arts Show* special. The Dublin Writers Festival culminated in a gala reading at the Abbey Theatre in June, where Seamus Heaney introduced the participating poets. Bill Whelan composed and premiered settings for a number of poems

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IRISH STUDIES—GAELIC ROOTS FALL 2012 SCHEDULE

Irish Studies sadly suffered the loss of Adjunct Professor of History, Ruth-Ann Harris, with her sudden passing on September 5th. Ruth-Ann's work on the genealogical database Information Wanted/Missing Friends continues under the guidance of Senior Reference Librarian Kathy Williams, with whom Ruth-Ann had collaborated on this long-term project. Their work is based on the Missing Friends column of the *Boston Pilot* newspaper, which began in 1831 and continued through 1916. The column has expanded over the past two years to include the years 1862 through 1870, and work continues on the remaining records.

To date, sixty-three thousand records have been included in the Boston College infowanted.bc.edu website, which is used extensively by genealogists and historians.

Additional funding has recently been provided by a gift from local construction magnate Jay Cashman, whose generous donation was matched by funding from the Center for Irish Programs at Boston College. These funds will allow upgrades to be made to the search engine, making this online database more user-friendly, and increasing its value to historical research.

Adjunct Professor of English Vera Krielkamp and McMullen Museum Director Dr. Nancy Netzer received rave reviews and widespread acclaim for the successful exhibit produced in collaboration with Irish Studies faculty at Boston College. Reviewers from both sides of the Atlantic had high praise for "Rural Ireland: The Inside Story." See

Cate McQuaid in the *Boston Globe*, February 28, 2012, and Fintan O'Toole in *The Irish Times*, April 21, 2012.

Irish Music Librarian Elizabeth Sweeney reports that Sullivan Artist-in-Residence Séamus Connolly has prepared yet another ambitious concert schedule for the coming academic year. This year's calendar includes:

Tuesday, September 25

Irish Music on Uilleann Pipes Concert by Joey Abarta
2101 Commonwealth Avenue
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Brighton Campus, BC

Tuesday, October 23

Irish Dance & Céili, Directed by Kieran Jordan, Music by Sullivan Artist-in-Residence Séamus Connolly with Michael Tubridy (formerly of the Chieftains) & Friends
Gasson Hall Irish Room
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Chestnut Hill Campus, BC



Kathleen Conneely

Thursday, November 1

Irish Music on Whistle, Accordion, Guitar, & Vocals Concert featuring Kathleen Conneely, Dan Gurney & Eamon O'Leary
Gasson Hall Irish Room
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Chestnut Hill Campus, BC



Michael Ó Súilleabháin

Wednesday, November 14

Between Worlds: Lecture/Recital Featuring Micheál Ó Súilleabháin, Piano with String Quartet & Sullivan Artist-in-Residence Séamus Connolly
Gasson Hall Irish Room
7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Chestnut Hill Campus, BC

Wednesday, December 5

A Christmas Gathering: Irish Music, Songs & Stories Featuring Gabriel Donohue & Marian Makins with Sullivan Artist-in-Residence Séamus Connolly and Boston College Irish Programs Students
Walsh Hall Function Room
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Chestnut Hill Campus, BC

ALL OF THE ABOVE CONCERTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

For more on the Gaelic Roots Series, visit www.bc.edu/gaelicroots or telephone 617-552-6396.

Co-sponsored by the Center for Irish Programs and the Irish Music Center of the John J. Burns Library

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including Peter Fallon's "The Woman of the House," which has since been presented, sung by Julie Feeney, at the National Concert Hall and, with the National Concert Orchestra, broadcast on RTE.

Fallon is an Honors Graduate of Trinity College, Dublin. In 2009, he received an Alumni Award and, the following year, was appointed Adjunct Professor in the School of English of Trinity College, Dublin. He has given more than 200 readings at universities and colleges in the US — including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Emory University. He has read in a dozen countries — in Europe (France, the Czech Republic, England, Scotland and Wales), Canada (the Harbourfront Festival), and Japan. Peter also read at the inaugural International Writers' Conference, Ottawa, and the first Dublin Writers Festival. In the spring of 2000, he was the inaugural Heimbold Professor of Irish Studies at Villanova University, PA, which conferred on him an Honorary Doctorate. Recently, he has read at the Beall Poetry Festival (Waco, Texas), the Aldeburgh Festival (England), and the *Kenyon Review* Literary Festival (Ohio, 2011). He has conducted workshops at The Irish Writers' Centre, Cúirt (The International Writers' Festival, Galway) and the Yeats International Summer School.

His own collections of poems include *The Speaking Stones* (1978), *Winter Work* (1983), *The News and Weather* (1987) and *Eye to Eye* (1992). *News of the World*, his selected poems, was published in the U.S. by Wake Forest University Press in 1993. An expanded edition, *News of the World: Selected and New Poems*, was published in Ireland in 1998, included in the *Irish Times'* "Books of the Year," and reprinted twice. Fallon's poems have been translated into French, German, Irish and Japanese, and volumes of *Selected Poems* have been published in Romanian and Hungarian. *Tarry Flynn* (based on a novel by Patrick Kavanagh) received its first professional production in the U.S. and was published in 2004. *The Georgics of Virgil*, a Poetry Book Society Recommended

Translation, appeared in 2004. A revised edition has been issued by Oxford University Press (Oxford/New York) in its World's Classics Series. In 1990, Fallon edited, with Derek Mahon, the best-selling anthology *The Penguin Book of Contemporary Irish Poetry*. His most recent collection of poems is *The Company of Horses* (2007). He is one of the youngest contributors included in *The Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing: 550 A.D. to the Present*.

Fallon is a member of Aosdána, the association which elects and "honours artists who have made an outstanding contribution to the arts in Ireland." Among his many other honors, Fallon received the 1993 O'Shaughnessy Poetry Award from the Irish American Cultural Institute, whose citation read: *Peter Fallon's poetry has continued to flourish and deepen despite the extraordinary demands of his career as a publisher. The late poems of his most recent collection, Eye to Eye, are the finest he has written. When the history of Irish poetry in the late twentieth century comes to be written, the name of Peter Fallon is sure to turn up everywhere.*

Peter lives in Loughcrew, County Meath, where he farmed for many years, and his poetry reflects that strong connection to the land. Seamus Heaney wrote of Fallon:

Care, company, community have been fundamental concerns of Peter Fallon's writing in and about the world, care for people and place, for planet earth and the poetry of earth, for the values espoused in Virgil's Georgics which he has translated...and the seriousness of that caretaking has developed over the years to a point where the artistic and the moral have converged.

— Seamus Heaney, June 2010

During his stay at Boston College, Fallon will teach two courses, one in the fall and spring terms each. His fall course is entitled "Heaney and Friel: Writing Ireland, Writing the World." The spring course will be a Poetry Workshop. In addition to these, Fallon will make one public presentation each semester. The primary purpose of the Burns Chair, however, is to provide visiting scholars with the opportunity to research and write, making use of the rich resources available at Boston College in general and at the Burns Library in particular.

— Dr. Robert O'Neill
Burns Librarian

Irish Institute

The Irish Institute's mission is to support the Northern Irish peace process and promote reconciliation across the island of Ireland through educational seminars and study visits for public officials, business leaders, and educators. These programs create the space for a truly cross-border, cross-community conversation on societal issues central to Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the United States. This work is made possible by a major grant administered by the U.S. Department of State.

During the past spring semester, the Institute hosted four professional development programs. Each program included policymakers and practitioners from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, who visited Boston and one other U.S. city over the course of a ten-day exchange.

Education Policy for the 21st Century was the first program of the New Year and took place in Boston and Indianapolis. A group of ten educational leaders sought to identify systemic reforms, administrative strategies, and innovations for improving educational infrastructure, and for building a more diverse and socially inclusive educational system. "Promoting Economic Development in Rural Areas" was the subject of the February program. The aim of this exchange was to explore and share strategies for encouraging economic development in rural areas. Agri-business, education, infrastructure, investment banks, and tourism were discussed in great detail in and around Boston and the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill "Research Triangle."



Participants from the Education Policy for the 21st Century program pose for a photo while on a site visit to the Minute-man Career and Technical High School.



Women in the Workplace program participants meet with Congressman Richard E. Neal (D-MA).

In March, a group of cross-community politicians, police and justice professionals, and community organizers spent ten days traveling to Boston and Montgomery, Alabama, as part of the Alternatives to Political Violence program. In academic seminars and through site visits to such organizations as the Southern Poverty Law Center, program participants examined ways in which different communities address violent extremism. The group also had the opportunity to meet the Reverend Jesse Jackson at an event commemorating the Selma to Montgomery civil rights march of 1965.

The Institute delivered a program titled Women in the Workplace in April. Participants represented a variety of "workplaces" including business, the nonprofit sector, the military, policing, and civil service. In Boston and Washington, D.C., participants engaged with their American counterparts to examine the development and promotion of female-friendly and equal opportunity work environments. Meetings included productive sessions with the International Monetary Fund, the Sloan School of Management at M.I.T., the U.S. Department of State, and the World Bank.

In addition to a busy spring semester of federally sponsored programs, the Irish Institute hosted several personalized programs. A contingent from the



Alternatives to Political Violence Program participants at the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama.

University of Ulster's Executive Leadership program spent a week at Boston College in March to gain perspective on American business and leadership practices. In June, the Institute hosted a second group from the University of Ulster, the Developing Managers program. The longstanding partnership between the Irish Institute and the University of Ulster has proven to be fruitful for both institutions.

In addition to working with our partners at the U.S. Department of State and the University of Ulster, the Irish Institute established a significant new link with the Wild Geese Network of Irish Scientists. The Wild Geese Network facilitates discussion and connections between Irish scientists across North America. The Irish Institute has established itself as a founding partner of the Boston Chapter and looks forward to working with the Wild Geese on a number of projects.

The new academic year promises to be as busy as ever. In September, as part of our collaboration with the U.S. Department of State, we hosted ten senior public officials, information technology professionals, and public affairs personnel to study "E-Governance." This program examined, American practices of integrating technology with government and employing IT to drive public sector productivity to encourage open communications between government and citizenry and to foster deeper citizen involvement with the governing process.

The Irish Institute will next begin work on seven new U.S. Department of State-funded exchanges. In November, we will visit Milwaukee with a contingent

of policymakers, artistic directors and educators, financiers, and community leaders to study the intersection of arts and business. This program will have special resonance as Londonderry/Derry prepares to host the UK City of Culture in 2013. For our final program of 2012, we will host the Developing the Marine Economy program. Participants in this exchange will have an opportunity to see how the U.S. integrates aspects of marine economic activity such as tourism and leisure, energy development, fishing, transport, and security.

In 2013, we will host five additional U.S. Department of State-funded exchanges. These programs will explore a range of topics, including renewable energy, unemployment and social enterprise, access for the disabled, political education, and policymaking.

For more information on the Irish Institute, please visit us on the web at www.bc.edu/irishinstitute, www.facebook.com/theirishinstitute, and follow us on Twitter @BC_Irish_Inst

— **Dr. Robert Mauro**
Director, Irish Institute

Boston College-Ireland

The William B. Neenan, S.J., Visiting Fellowship at Boston College-Ireland

Scholars are invited to submit applications for the 2013 William B. Neenan, S.J., Visiting Fellowship at Boston College-Ireland. The Fellowship is named to honor the work of Fr. Neenan, who came to Boston College in 1979 as the inaugural Thomas I. Gasson Professor. He served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 1980 to 1987 before assuming the role of academic vice president and dean of faculties. During his tenure, the University established itself among the nation's top institutions of higher education. Since 1998, Fr. Neenan has held the title of vice president and special assistant to the president. The Fellowship is open to any scholar working in the field of Irish Studies, and requires the recipient to devote time in which to conduct research in Dublin. The recipient may carry out such research at any time during the course of the calendar year, over the required minimum of two months. The holder of the Fellowship will be awarded a stipend of €5000, will have access to office space within the Boston College-Ireland facility, and will be provided with administrative support during his/her stay in Ireland.

The closing date for Fellowship applications is November 26, 2012. To apply, please send your curriculum vitae, with an explanation of the research you wish to undertake in Ireland and details of proposed outputs, to Professor Mike Cronin, croninmr@bc.edu.

The Gaelic Athletic Association Oral History Project

After four years of work, the GAA Oral History Project, carried out by Boston College-Ireland, is now complete. The project, which involved seven staff and over twenty interns, was formally moved to the GAA Museum and Archives on September 1, 2012. In its completed form, the Oral History Project includes nearly 900 full-length audio and film interviews, some 9,000 items (including photographs, poems, letters, maps, etc.) as well as over 3,000 questionnaires completed by both schoolchildren and adults. Within the archive there is material from every one of the 32 counties, as well as from North America, the UK, Australia and Asia. Project respondents included men

and women from the ages of 7 to 102. The range of material contained in the archive is vast, and details much more than simply the GAA. It is an archive that speaks to the social history of Ireland and its diaspora, and will serve as a valuable historical legacy. The final database that will be housed in the GAA Museum and Archives is fully searchable by keyword and theme, allowing users to inspect digitized versions of the material or listen to interviews in high-quality sound. It is our hope that the archive will eventually be made available online to all.

Amateurism: What Was It? What Is It?

On Friday, November 30, Boston College Ireland will host this one-day symposium, which will be addressed by, among others, the 2012 William B. Neenan Visiting Fellow, Professor Dilwyn Porter from DMU Leicester. Professor Porter is a historian of business and its culture, and has recently been working on a major monograph about how amateurism functioned as civic code in Britain from the mid-nineteenth century to the end of the twentieth. The scope of his work includes Ireland, and the symposium will allow scholars to discuss how amateurism functioned across the island in areas such as sport, philanthropy, business, government and the law. The full range of speakers and the timetable for the day will be available on the BC-Ireland website beginning in mid-September. Please contact Professor Mike Cronin at croninmr@bc.edu for further details.

Ireland's Sporting Heritage

Although the Boston College-Ireland project on Ireland's Sporting Heritage was completed in 2011, continued and growing interest in the project and associated book, *Places We Play: Ireland's Sporting Heritage* (Cork: 2011), has resulted in Professor Mike Cronin and Dr. Roisin Higgins being invited to deliver a plenary address to the annual Society for the Study of Nineteenth Century Ireland Conference. Held at the Mater Dei Institute for Education in June 2012, the conference theme was "Leisure," and the plenary assessed the emergence and development of a physical landscape of leisure in nineteenth-century Ireland. In particular, the lecture focused on the spread of golf courses across the island, and how they were supported by other important agencies of modernization such as railways, the military, and the hotel industry.

President Kennedy in New Ross

The year 2013 will mark the 50th anniversary of President Kennedy's visit to Ireland, and in particular, a return to his family homeplace of New Ross, Co Wexford. To mark the occasion, New Ross Council is holding a series of events coinciding with the anniversary, including the staging of the inaugural Kennedy Summer School. One of the main drivers of the program, New Ross Councilor Michael Sheehan, is an alumnus of the Boston College Irish Institute program. Boston College-Ireland will work with Michael to plan the inaugural summer school programme, which will explore Kennedy's legacy and engage with second-level students to promote the idea of civic culture. Further details can be found at www.jfk5oireland.com.

Sport and the British (and the Irish!)

A 15-minute program on the links between sport and the British was broadcast daily by BBC Radio in February and March 2012 in preparation for the London Olympics. The series included two programs on Ireland, which were scripted by Professor Mike Cronin. One focused on the rejection of British culture by the GAA and its subsequent embrace of indigenous games, while the other explored the complex relationships between sport and the period of the troubles in Northern Ireland. Professor Cronin was also featured in the final two programmes discussing the globalization of sport and the potential legacy of London 2012. The entire 30-program series can now be purchased online from the BBC store and may also be downloaded via the BBC player and I-tunes.

— **Professor Michael Cronin**
Director, Boston College-Ireland

Burns Library Irish Collections

The Burns Library recently acquired the extensive personal archive and library of University of Chicago Professor Emmet Larkin, who died on March 19, 2012, at the age of 84. The collection of some 200 boxes of records and books was donated to Boston College by Larkin's widow, Dianne. Larkin was a distinguished scholar who devoted much of his career to the study of

the role of the Catholic Church in nineteenth-century Ireland. He was credited with introducing the concept of "devotional revolution" to explain the special relationship between the Catholic Church and the Irish people in the post-Famine era. His first book, *James Larkin, Irish Labour Leader, 1876-1947*, was published in 1965; his last book, *The Pastoral Role of the Roman Catholic Church in Pre-Famine Ireland, 1750-1850*, was published in 2006, the year he retired. His most popular book was perhaps *The Historical Dimensions of Irish Catholicism*, a collection of three essays he had published in the *American Historical Review*. Larkin's magnum opus, however, was the seven-volume work on the political history of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland from 1850 to 1891, published between 1975 and 1996. In researching this work, Larkin mined, as no one before him ever had, the ecclesiastical archives of Ireland, the UK, and Rome.

Larkin was one of the founders of the American Committee for Irish Studies, which was organized to bring together scholars engaged with the history and literature of Ireland. The Burns Library houses the ACIS archives, and Larkin's personal archives contain many files relating to the organization. Because of its importance, the Burns Library has already arranged for a team of archivists to process the collection.

The Burns Library was the successful bidder at the Whyte's April 21, 2012 auction of the paramilitary archives (1967-1998) of Ulster Volunteer Force leader Augustus Andrew (Gusty) Spence (1933-2011). Documents in the archives, according to Whyte's catalogue description, "cover a period of over 30 years and relate to his paramilitary career, organization and discipline within the UVF, agreements with other loyalist paramilitary groups, his imprisonment and later moves to peaceful methods including an unpublished account of discussions with the Provisional I.R.A. in 1974."

— **Dr. Robert O'Neill**
Burns Librarian



Ruth-Ann Harris, Irish Studies Scholar



Irish Studies faculty member Ruth-Ann Harris passed away suddenly on September 5, 2012 at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. Dr. Harris is survived by her husband, John, their three children, Catherine, Dorothy, and Rees, and eight grandchildren.

Ruth-Ann, a faculty member in the Irish Studies Program at Boston College for nearly two decades, was

a researcher in Irish social and economic history as well as immigration. She served as researcher and editor for an eight-volume set of books, *The Search for Missing Friends: Irish Immigrant Advertisements Placed in The Boston Pilot*, a compilation of advertisements from 1831-1921 in *The Boston Pilot* "Missing Friends" column placed by Irish seeking others who were "lost" following emigration. A database of those advertisements, including more than 41,000 records in a searchable online database, was launched by Boston College in 2005. Center Executive Director Thomas Hachey said that Ruth-Ann's dedication to Irish Studies at Boston College was total and unwavering and that she will be profoundly missed by students and faculty alike.

BOSTON COLLEGE CENTER FOR IRISH PROGRAMS

The Boston College Center for Irish Programs is headquartered in Connolly House on the University's main campus in Chestnut Hill. The Center includes BC's Irish Studies Program, the Irish Institute, Boston College Ireland on St. Stephen's Green in Dublin, and the Burns Library's Irish Collections.

In addition to providing administrative support and program coordination for each of these units, the Center also serves as an umbrella under which any Irish-related activities on each of the Boston College campuses may obtain resource assistance.

For more information, please contact: Irish Studies at Boston College, Connolly House, 300 Hammond Street, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467, 617-552-6396, or e-mail irish@bc.edu. See our website at www.bc.edu/irish. *Irish Studies* is edited by Joan Reilly.