Margaret Kelleher named Burns Scholar for 2002/2003

Irish Studies is delighted to announce that Margaret Kelleher has been named Burns Scholar for 2002-2003. Margaret received her BA from University College Cork in 1984 and in 1985 was awarded the Fr. Martin Harney scholarship in Irish Studies. She studied at Boston College where she earned her Ph.D. in 1992. Her many publications include The Feminization of Famine: Expressions of the Inexpressible? (Duke and Cork University Press, 1997), Gender Perspectives in Nineteenth-Century Ireland (co-editor, 1997), Making It New: Essays on the Revised Leaving Certificate Syllabus (The Lilliput Press, 2000), and a contribution to the forthcoming Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing. She is currently working on a study of the publication history of nineteenth-century Irish women novelists and is editing, with Philip O’Leary, the Cambridge History of Irish Literature.

Margaret lectured at Mater Dei Institute of Education, Dublin (1991-96) before joining the faculty at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth where she currently teaches. According to Margaret, “The Burns Library Visiting Chair provides a unique opportunity to work with the rich resources of the Burns Library alongside the stimulating interdisciplinary scholarship of Boston College’s Irish Studies Program. I look forward greatly to my year at Boston College.”

LEFT, Margaret Kelleher. Photo by Gary Wayne Gilbert.
Boston College Irish Studies Film Series

The Boston College Irish Studies Program is pleased to announce its third annual film series featuring the best of contemporary Irish movies and a number of new documentaries. Feature films will be screened on consecutive Sundays between February 24 and March 24 at the West Newton Cinema and documentary films will be screened on consecutive Mondays at Boston College, Devlin Hall.

The series will open February 24 with a rare screening of Roddy Doyle scripted *When Brendan Met Trudy*, a hilarious comedy about an uptight schoolteacher. The film has not yet been released in the United States. The second Sunday will feature *A Love Divided*, directed by Sydney McCartney. Based on actual events in a small seaside town in 1950s Ireland it tells the story of a young Protestant woman whose love for a Catholic farmer is challenged by the sectarian tension of her insular society. *Orson Welles’ Ghost Story* will precede it. Starring Welles and directed by Hilton Edwards, this classic supernatural short has been out of circulation for 40 years. The third Sunday will feature *Southpaw*, a film directed by Liam McGrath. It tells the emotive story of two years in the life of Francis Barrett, a nineteen-year-old traveller and amateur welterweight boxer from Galway who qualified for the Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996 where he carried the Irish flag in the opening ceremony. March 13th’s feature is *Sunday*, written by Jimmy McGovern and directed by Charles McDougall. This is the first time this critically acclaimed film, which addresses the killings known as Bloody Sunday, has been screened outside the United States.

The following Sunday (St. Patrick’s Day) will see the screening of *The Most Fertile Man in Ireland*, Dudi Appleton’s comedy which takes an irreverent look at the sexual politics in Northern Ireland. The film has already received a number of prestigious awards including Audience Award for Best Film at the New York Film Fleadh, and Best Director at the US Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen.
The series will conclude with *As the Beast Sleeps*, a darkly compelling exploration of how loyalties to families, friends and the loyalist cause in Northern Ireland are tested to breaking point by the conflicting demands of the peace process. It will be paired with a short film, *Dance Lexie Dance*. This short drama, nominated for an Academy Award in 1998 as Best Live-Action Short, tells the story of Laura, a 12-year-old Protestant girl who wants to be a ‘Riverdancer’ when she grows up.

The documentary films include a collection from the Irish Film Center, which will be introduced by Sunniva O’Flynn the head curator at the IFC. *Camera Clergy* includes films made by Irish clergy from the 1930s and 1940s. Again this year the Irish Language television station TG4 will provide two documentaries: *The Forgotten Ten*, a historical one hour film about the reburial of the ten heroes of the Irish War of Independence on consecrated ground; and *Máirtín Ó Cadhain*, a documentary about the gifted and influential Irish writer which will be introduced by Professor Philip O’Leary, of the Irish Studies Program. *The Road to Reconciliation*, a film about Northern Ireland and the controversy surrounding unresolved abuses of human rights will be introduced by film maker and Irish Studies graduate student Robert Connolly. Elizabeth Butler Cullingford, renowned Irish Studies scholar from the University of Texas, will explore the work of Irish film maker Neil Jordan in a presentation titled, *Mothers and Virgins: Sinéad O’Connor, Neil Jordan and The Butcher Boy*. Please see our web site for details of the series.
Gaelic Roots 2002

In June the campus will once again be filled with the spirited cadence of step dancing and the distinctive sounds of fiddles, tin whistles, harps, pipes and other Gaelic instruments during the 2002 Gaelic Roots Music, Song and Dance Summer School and Festival. The popular festival has garnered international acclaim for offering Irish music and dance enthusiasts an incomparable chance to study under some of the brightest stars in the Gaelic firmament. Gaelic Roots - which annually draws some of the world’s finest Gaelic performing artists to campus to teach and perform—offers a week-long immersion in traditional Irish, Scottish and Cape Breton music. Music classes will be offered on many different instruments commonly used in traditional Irish and Scottish music. This year we are also pleased to offer instruction in Appalachian fiddle. Much of the Appalachian repertoire of tunes came to America from Ireland and Scotland. Participants have praised the instructors and the opportunity for enrichment at all skill levels through classes, workshops, sessions, lectures and social events, including an evening cruise on Boston Harbor. Several hundred participants will travel from several countries - including Austria, Germany, Canada, the United States and Ireland - to attend the 2002 festival. Get on the mailing list for Gaelic Roots 2002! Contact Séamus Connolly at connolsb@bc.edu.

Musical Highlights

This semester three first class traditional Irish musicians will visit Connolly House. Dáithí Sproule, the innovative singer and guitarist with the world-renowned band Altan, will present, Music: the True Living Spiritual Tradition of Ireland, in February. In addition to his musical talents as a composer and performer, Dáithí has also had a distinguished academic career at the National University of Ireland, Dublin, the University of Minnesota, and the College of St. Thomas at St. Paul. In March, Matt Cranitch, Irish fiddle master, will visit campus to work with students studying traditional music with Séamus Connolly and Laurel Martin. In April, Brendan Bulger, the former All-Ireland champion fiddle player and a past student of our own Séamus Connolly, will give a lecture on The Transmission of Irish Music at Connolly House. Brendan is a graduate of Harvard University where he studied folklore.

Irish Studies mourns the passing of Tony Cuffe

In December Tony Cuffe, a long-time member of the Boston College Irish Studies community and one of the original teachers at the Gaelic Roots Festival, passed away after a long battle with cancer. He was one of the most admired performers in the revival of traditional music during the 1970s and 80s in Scotland, a reputation which was further enhanced after he and his family immigrated to Massachusetts in 1989. His legacy includes many highly influential albums with the Glasgow-based band Ossian and as a solo artist. He will be deeply missed by family and friends.
Maurice Bric Visiting Professor in Irish Studies

Maurice Bric, senior lecturer in American and Irish history at University College, Dublin, has been chosen as the recipient of the inaugural summer fellowship in Irish Studies. Applications were received from all over the United States, and from Ireland, the United Kingdom and Australia, for the fellowship which provides housing, office space and a stipend during the summer at Boston College. The fellowship was established to enable scholars to conduct research in the Boston area especially in the University’s Burns Library with its Special Irish Collection and the O’Neill Library.

At UCD, Bric is the Director of American Studies. He is Deputy Chairman of the Ireland-American Fulbright Commission and Academic Secretary of the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

His research explores the relationships between Ireland and America during the last quarter of the eighteenth century. Some of this work discusses the processes, typology and flow of emigration, as well as the networks within which Irish immigrants lived and worked after arriving in America. However, its main focus is on the attitudes and behavior of both “hosts” and newly-arrived with respect to the challenges of translating the “rhetoric of revolution” into a political and social system that would make republicanism a reality in America.

Visiting Scholars

In the spring, Irish Studies will host two visiting scholars from Ireland. Under an established faculty exchange with the National University of Ireland, Galway and the BC Center for International Programs, Prof. Seán Ryder will be here for a week in April to work with students and faculty. Ryder will contribute two lectures to established Irish Studies seminars offered by Kevin O’Neill and Marjorie Howes. His lectures are open to the University community. Ryder is the author of many articles and has co-edited several books including Ideology and Ireland in the Nineteenth Century and Gender and Colonialism. He is currently working on a monograph entitled The Discourse of Irish Nationalism 1792-1848. As part of this exchange, Prof. James Smith of the Boston College Irish Studies Program spent a week this past November at Galway where he presented work in university seminars.

Also in April, Prof. Liam Harte of the Academy for Irish Cultural Heritages at the University of Ulster will visit to work with faculty and students in the Irish Studies Program. Harte has published several articles and essays on twentieth-century Irish writing in books and scholarly journals and he is a frequent contributor to the Irish Times. His most recent publication is the co-edited Contemporary Irish Fiction: Themes, Tropes Theories. He is currently compiling an anthology of autobiographical prose by the Irish in Britain entitled Writing Home.

Summer Research Fellowship in Irish Studies

In the summer of 2003 the Boston College Irish Studies Program will again offer a summer research fellowship. The scholarship will provide housing at the Mill Street Cottage adjacent to the Boston College Law School and an office in Irish Studies’ Connolly House.

Scholars will be able to conduct research at Boston College libraries and at other institutions in the Boston area such as the Boston Public Library, the Massachusetts State Archive, and the John F. Kennedy Library. A travel grant of $1,000 will be offered to assist the research fellow. Write to Robert Savage c/o Boston College Irish Studies Program, Connolly House, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467.

Visiting Professor Claire Connolly

Irish Studies is pleased to announce that Claire Connolly (Cardiff University) will be a visiting professor in Irish Studies and the Department of English next year. Claire received her Ph.D. from the University of Wales, Cardiff in 1995. She has edited a number of works including Ormond, and Manoeuvring and Vivian, as part of The novels and selected works of Maria Edgeworth. In addition, she has published several articles on Irish Romantic literature. She is currently completing a manuscript on Irish Romanticism for Cambridge University Press. Connolly will teach courses that explore the Irish Revival, maps and meanings in Irish culture and a graduate seminar on Irish Romanticism.
Eyre/Land Exhibition at the McMullen Museum

In February 2003, the McMullen Museum at Boston College will mount the first exhibition of works of art to examine how cultural artifacts reveal Ireland’s contested past. Eyre/Land will comprise approximately one hundred works dating from the medieval to the modern period. The unifying thesis developed in this exhibition argues that land, a basic icon of the Irish nation, pervades its visual culture in various ways. The exhibition will move from an initial focus on the whole island in the Middle Ages to a narrower lens on the West, and finally to the single western county of Mayo. This telescoping organization reflects the growing appropriation of the West of Ireland as the imagined repository of an indigenous Irish identity by eighteenth and nineteenth-century cultural nationalists. Finally, the exhibition will explore contemporary art responding to the landscape of County Mayo (paintings, installations, videos and sculpture) that revives the Irish landscape tradition. This interdisciplinary project considers Irish visual culture in its fullest cultural and political settings. Essays in an accompanying catalogue and in wall texts will place objects within the scholarship of various academic disciplines and periods. Thus, visitors will respond to visual representations of Ireland’s land in a historically informed context. With their moveable walls, the McMullen Museum’s galleries will be configured in a series of rooms highlighting each of the four thematic sections of the exhibition: Mapping: In the footsteps of Giralus Cambrensis; Digging: Archeology and the Situating of Ireland’s Past; Possessing: Turn of the Century Irish Landscape; and Responding Today: Contemporary Interpretations of the West.

Adele Dalsimer Fellowship

For the third year running Boston College will award the Adele Dalsimer Graduate Fellowship in memory of the co-founder of Boston College’s Irish Studies Program. The fellowship is primarily intended to enable Ph.D. candidates in Irish Studies, who have achieved ABD status, to complete the research or writing needed to finish. The successful candidate will have demonstrated a commitment to Irish Studies through their active participation in program events and activities. In order to be considered for the fellowship, please contact Robert Savage, Associate Director, Irish Studies by May 15, 2002.

Presentations continued from back


Works in Progress

In summer 2001, Philip O’Leary of Boston College and Margaret Kelleher of NUI Maynooth were commissioned by Cambridge University Press to edit The Cambridge History of Irish Literature (2 vols). This is a unique, and timely, project that will create the first comprehensive history of Irish literature in its two major languages. The volumes will include contributions from over thirty internationally renowned scholars, from a range of Irish, British and North American universities.

Robert Savage is editing a collection of essays, Ireland: Politics, Culture and Identity. The collection is from a conference held at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C. in May of 2000 titled Island: Arts from Ireland.

Kevin Kenny is editing Eire-Ireland, XXXVIII (Spring/Summer 2002), a special double issue (Part Two) on the American Irish. Kenny is also editing Ireland and the British Empire (forthcoming, Oxford University Press, 2003), a book of historical essays offering a major new interpretation of Irish history in the context of the imperial relation with Britain from the Elizabethan plantations to the present.

Marjorie Howes contributed a chapter on 20th century Irish women writers in the forthcoming The Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing, vol. 4.
IRISH STUDIES COURSES
FALL 2001

THE IRISH REVIVAL AND ITS CRITICS 1890-1940
This course will investigate the phenomenon known as the Irish Revival, a movement that comprised literary, linguistic, athletic, and cultural attempts to reclaim Irish identity in the face of British imperialism. Writers covered will include Yeats, Synge, O’Casey, Joyce, and O’Brien. Matthew Lambert.

IRISH GOTHIC
This course explores the literature and culture of nineteenth century Ireland through ideas of the “gothic.” Students will read literary and non-literary texts that employ the themes, conventions, and structures of gothic fiction, and will consider their relation to historical, social, and political issues. Marjorie Howes.

20TH CENTURY IRISH WOMEN WRITERS
This course examines poetry, prose and drama in English by twentieth-century Irish women writers. Topics to be covered include: women writers’ relation to, and participation in, the categories of traditional literary history, such as modernism, postmodernism, the Irish Revival and Counter-Revival; their engagement with social and political. Marjorie Howes.

DRAMA OF THE IRISH AND HARLEM RENAISSANCE
The course will examine two cases of ethnic renaissance in English-language theater and culture, the Irish dramatic movement of Yeats, Gregory, Synge, and the Fays; and the dramatic wing of the Harlem Renaissance, initiated by DuBois. Philip O’Leary.

POETRY AND POLITICS IN EARLY MODERN IRELAND 1541-1688
The political poetry of the period will be discussed and analyzed against the historical background. We will focus on the mentalité of native intelligentsia as it is reflected in the poetry and as it responded to the momentous changes of the period, the origins and rise of the cult of the Stuarts and the historiography of the period. Burns Scholar Breandán Ó Buachalla.

TWENTIETH-CENTURY IRISH FICTION
Students read a selection of twentieth century Irish novels so as to identify, discuss and better understand complex cultural phenomena that become manifest in the aftermath of the colonial experience. Fiction, in this sense, maps, represents and resists attempts by the nation-state to emerge from colonial oppression even as a culture and a society strives for post-colonial liberation. James Smith.

IRELAND SINCE THE FAMINE
The course will explore the complex political, economic and social history of Ireland since the Great Famine. Topics covered will include the development of constitutional nationalism, radical republicanism and the struggle for independence, the civil war and the partition of the island, economic development and civil unrest in Northern Ireland. Robert Savage.

REPRESENTING THE TROUBLES: UNREST IN 20TH CENTURY IRELAND
This course examines how filmmakers and writers of drama and fiction represent the political, social and cultural history of twentieth-century Ireland. We also consider the representation of “the troubles” in film and fiction. Robert Savage.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE IN THE AGE OF REPRESENTATION: IRELAND, 1770-1815
Students will examine the impact of the emergence of colonial nationalism and Republicanism, the Revolution of 1798, and the Act of Union by using the personal papers of Mary Shackleton, a resident of the village of Ballitore, Co. Kildare. Kevin O’Neill.

THE AMERICAN IRISH II
Since 1845, almost 6 million Irish people have crossed the Atlantic to North America. This course examines the history of this migration in terms of the social, economic, political, and cultural history of the Irish in Ireland and the United States. Kevin Kenny.

COLLOQUIUM: NORTHERN IRELAND
This course will explore the history of Northern Ireland from 1912 to 1998. Emphasis will be on a close reading of recent historiography that has explored the complexities of Northern Ireland. Issues that will be considered include the consolidation of Stormont, the disenfranchisement of the Catholic community, the development of Unionism, Republicanism and Nationalism, civil unrest in the province and the peace process. Robert Savage.

ABBEY THEATRE
The Abbey Theatre Program, a six-week Summer Workshop in Dublin, consists of an intensive five weeks of classes, lectures, and demonstrations by members of the Abbey Theatre Company in acting, directing, production, and management, culminating in the staging of an Irish play. There will also be lectures in the history of Irish theatre. Philip O’Leary.

INTRODUCTION TO MODERN IRISH II
A course for beginners in the Irish language as spoken in Connemara (County Galway). The course is intended to develop both conversational and compositional skills and the ability to read Irish Prose. Philip O’Leary.

CONTINUING MODERN IRISH II
This is a continuing course in modern Irish for those with a basic knowledge of the language. Emphasis will be on developing the ability to read contemporary literature in all genres. The primary focus of the course will be on the Irish of Conamara (County Galway), but other dialects will be studied as well, and some attention will be given to reading texts in the older Gaelic type. Donna Wong.

IRISH DANCING: BEGINNER/IRISH DANCING: ADVANCED BEGINNER
World-renowned Irish dance instructor/choreographer Michael Smith will offer Irish dance classes focusing on the traditional céilí dances of Ireland. Michael Smith.

IRISH DANCING: ADVANCED
In this more advanced course for experienced students Irish dance instructor/choreographer Michael Smith will offer more intensive classes focusing on the traditional céilí dances of Ireland. Michael Smith.

TIN WHISTLE
This course is an introduction to the traditional music of the tin whistle. Students will learn to read and play the airs and dance music of Ireland. Generation D type tin whistles are available. Jimmy Noonan.

TRADITIONAL IRISH FIDDLE CLASS
A study of traditional Irish Fiddle music incorporating styles, technique, bowings, fingerings, and ornamentation. Two renowned players and teachers Seamus Connolly and Laurel Martin teach classes at two levels, beginners and intermediate.

Irish Studies is written and edited by Robert Savage, Damien Murray and Jean Carroll, and published by the Boston College Irish Studies Program. Produced by the Boston College Office of Marketing Communications. BCP 1998, 2/02.

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PRESENTATIONS

Mark Doyle, Bridging Identities: Protestants as Nationalists in the Repeal Era.
Nadia Smith, Dissonant voices and the politics of historiography in Ireland, 1868-1968: the case of Irish women historians.
Mary Kate Stouffer, Travellers in literature: comparing literary representations in the 20th and 21st centuries.
Becky Troeger, ‘O’chrone, Mavrone, Leave me alone and I’ll sing about it’: O’Faoláin’s deconstruction of mythology in ‘No country for young men.’
Ely Janis, Set apart? Ireland’s neutrality policy from 1945-73.
Forrest Lehman, Sketches by Boz and Dubliners: complementary urban collections.
Katie McCormick, Islands on an island: Anglo-Irish estates and the encroachment of the ‘natural’ landscape in Elizabeth Bowen’s ‘The Last September’.

Other presentations:
James Smith Patricia Burke Brogan’s Eclipsed and Ireland’s Architecture of Containment. ACIS New England Meeting, Boston,


PUBLICATIONS

Thomas E. Hachey reviewed books for Irish Literary Supplement (fall issue) and for Albion.