

IRISH STUDIES



Transitions



After twenty-five years as co-director and director of the Boston College Irish Studies program, Kevin O'Neill will take a well-earned break from this position in September. Robert Savage and Marjorie Howes have been appointed co-directors.

O'Neill co-founded the Irish Studies program in 1978 with the late Adele Dalsimer and together they built a comprehensive interdisciplinary program that has become a model for other institutions in the United States and

abroad. He is looking forward to returning to his research on eighteenth-century Ireland. Kevin is currently involved in a village-level study of Irish society from 1750 to 1829 that is based upon diaries and letters. He also plans to continue his long-term study of Irish economic and demographic change.

Kevin recently reflected on this transition: "Twenty-five years is a long time, even for a historian. During the last twenty-five years I have devoted my professional life to developing and directing Irish Studies at Boston College. It has been a rare privilege. During most of those years I worked alongside my close friend, Adele Dalsimer. We often joked about what strange circumstances brought us together at Boston College and allowed us to work together so closely for so long. After our shared passion for exploring the complexity of Irish history and culture with our students, I believe that it was the great pleasure that we shared in meeting and collaborating with so many talented and often extraordinary people both here in Boston and in Ireland that kept us steady in our course. Adele and I most treasured the colleagues that have joined our program, and it gives me immense pleasure and confidence to hand the reins to Rob Savage and Marjorie Howes. It was out of such interdisciplinary collaboration that this program was created and nurtured, and in these very capable hands it will continue to prosper."

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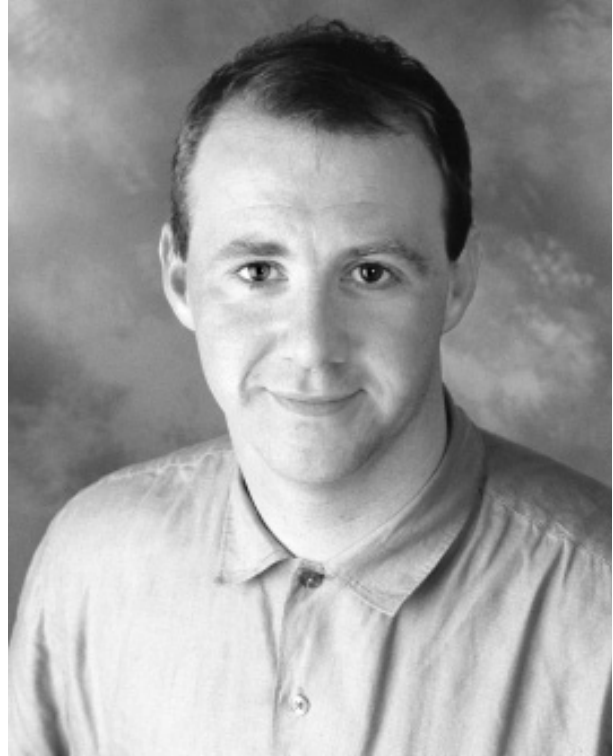
IRELAND IN THE NEW
CENTURY

page 8

LEFT: Kevin O'Neill



Ann Morrison Spinney



Breen Ó Conchubhair

Two New Faculty Join Irish Studies

After an extensive international search, Boston College is delighted to announce that Breen Ó Conchubhair and Ann Morrison Spinney will be joining Irish Studies this fall. Breen has been teaching Irish at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. His coming to BC greatly enhances the Irish language and literature offerings, enriching both the undergraduate and graduate programs. He will also be working with the Irish collection at the Burns Library where he will help catalogue the papers of Flann O’Brien and Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill and the holdings of rare Irish manuscripts. He is currently working on a book project that explores the Irish language and literary revival of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Breen received his doctorate from the National University of Ireland, Galway, writing a dissertation that explored the internal origins and external stimulus for the Gaelic Revival and its European dimensions. His publications include *Irish!* (1999) and articles on fiction in Irish in *Irish-Australian Studies*, *Irish University Review*,

Irisleabhar Mhá Nuad, and *New Hibernia Review*.

Ethnomusicologist Ann Morrison Spinney will also be joining Irish Studies in the fall, taking part in a program that has a rich and diverse musical tradition. Her research interests include the exchange between England, Scotland, and Ireland in the ballad tradition, and the development of contemporary music forms including trans-Atlantic “Celtic punk.” Ann will teach a variety of Irish music courses, will work with Séamus Connolly, the director of the Irish Studies Music Program, and will collaborate with other faculty to bring music into the classroom as an academic discipline. Ann’s presence will also enhance the rich offerings Irish Studies has in performance courses, which include fiddle, flute, and dance. Having published several ethnomusicological studies on Native American peoples of the Northeast, Ann is also interested in the parallels between English perceptions of and interactions with Irish people and Native North Americans in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Gaelic Roots 2003

In June, the campus was once again filled with the spirited cadence of step dancing and the distinctive sounds of fiddles, tin whistles, harps, pipes, and other traditional instruments during the 2003 Gaelic Roots Festival. Over 300 participants traveled from countries as far away as Austria, Germany, Canada, Scotland, and Ireland to participate in the popular week-long festival. Gaelic Roots 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. The summer school and festival has for ten years drawn the world's finest Gaelic performing artists to campus to teach and perform in an exciting and collegial setting. Students immersed themselves in traditional Irish, Scottish, and Cape Breton music.

Due to the growing difficulty of receiving work visas for its international instructors, this was the final year that Gaelic Roots will run as a summer program. According to festival director Séamus Connolly, U.S. visa procedures have become so complicated and expensive in the past couple of years that it is prohibitive to continue bringing Celtic musicians from Europe to teach at the week-long event. However, Séamus is restructuring Gaelic Roots to offer workshops, lectures, and concerts during the academic year. As attested to by the growing Irish Music Center and archive and the new hire in ethnomusicology, Boston College is committed to supporting Irish music. Gaelic Roots will emerge again with a new, updated format.

Please watch the Gaelic Roots Web site, www.bc.edu/irish, for details.

Fiddler Sara Milonovich and vocalist Cathie Ryan perform at the Gaelic Roots Farewell Concert.



LEE PELLEGRINI

Stranger Than Fiction

The Boston College Irish Studies program has always had a strong interest in Irish feature and documentary film. Over the past four years the Irish Studies Film Series has screened dozens of films, many of which received their American premiere as part of the series. During this time we have been very fortunate to have the help of the Irish Film Institute, which has provided tremendous logistical and moral support.

Although the number of Irish films that have received a cinema release has risen slowly over the last few years, there are still many that will never be seen in the United States. This year we are pleased to announce that we will collaborate with the Irish Film Institute as part of its innovative *Stranger Than Fiction* series. This film festival, curated by Gráinne Humphreys, features a selection of contemporary international documentary films that are shown at the Irish Film Center in Dublin. This year an audience poll will be conducted and the Best Irish Documentary will be chosen. The film and its filmmaker will travel to Boston College; the film will be screened at the Chestnut Hill campus as part of the Irish Studies fall program. Please watch our Web site for details.

Michael Cronin Named Irish Studies Research Fellow

Michael Cronin, senior research fellow in History at De Montfort University, Leicester, will be the fall Irish Studies Research Fellow. Professor Cronin will make use of Boston College's Special Irish Collection at the Burns Library and the serials at the O'Neill Library to work on a manuscript of his current research project, *Ireland's Image: State Formation and Projection, 1922-66*. Events of this period that he is particularly interested in are: Aonach Tailteann in 1924, 1928, and 1932; the Eucharistic Congress of 1932; Ireland's participation at the 1939 New York World's Fair; the An Tostal gatherings of the mid-1950s; and the fiftieth anniversary of the 1916 Rising. His research of this period will also take into account President Kennedy's historic visit to Ireland. The collections of the Kennedy Library and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Archives include materials that will aid this research. Michael Cronin's publications include *A History of Ireland* (Palgrave, 2001), *Sport and Nationalism in Ireland: Gaelic Games, Soccer and Identity Since 1884* (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 1999), and *The Blueshirts and Irish Politics* (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 1997). Michael will speak in the lecture series "Ireland Before the Republic: Politics and Culture, 1922-1949." This series will feature members of the Irish Studies faculty and a number of guests including Alvin Jackson of Queens University, Belfast, and Angela Bourke and Mary Daly from University College, Dublin. The fall lecture schedule is in this newsletter; please see our Web site for full details.

IRISH STUDIES CALENDAR FALL 2003

September 8

Seminar: David Roediger and Jim Barret, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. *Irish Everywhere: Irish Americans and the 'Americanization' of the 'New Immigrants,' 1900-1930* (co-sponsored with Department of History), Connolly House, 4:00 p.m.

September 16

Alvin Jackson, Queens University, Belfast. *Irish Home Rule, 1900-2000*, Respondent: Robert Savage, Boston College, Connolly House, 4:00 p.m.

September 22

James Smith, Boston College, *The Politics of Sexual Knowledge: The Origins of Ireland's Containment Culture and 'The Carrigan Report' (1931)*, Respondent: James O'Toole, Boston College, Connolly House, 5:00 p.m.

October 3

Seamus Deane, Keough Professor of Irish Studies, University of Notre Dame, *The Arrival of Modernity, 1900-1960*, Connolly House, 4:00 p.m.

October 6

Philip O'Leary, Boston College, *Why an Independent Ireland? Gaelicism as the Foundational Ideology of the Irish Free State*, Respondent: Regina Uí Chollatáin, University College, Dublin, Connolly House, 4:00 p.m.

October 14

Seminar/book launch: Francis Costello, *The Irish Revolution and its Aftermath*, Connolly House, 4:00 p.m.

November 4

Graduate Colloquium
Connolly House, 4:00 p.m.

November 10

Michael Cronin, De Montfort University, Leicester, *Building the Nation through Sport: Ireland in the 1920s*, Respondent: Paige Reynolds, College of the Holy Cross, Connolly House, 4:00 p.m.

November 20

Poetry reading: Paul Muldoon (co-sponsored with the Lowell Lecture Series), Gasson Hall, 7:30 p.m.

December 8

Angela Bourke, University College, Dublin, *Writing A Free State Childhood: Maeve Brennan*, Respondent: Philip O'Leary, Boston College, Connolly House, 4:00 p.m.

IRISH STUDIES COURSES FALL 2003

INTRODUCTION TO MODERN IRISH I

What language did the actor Colin Farrell speak when introducing U2 at the Oscars? What language did Enya (Eithne Ní Bhraonáin) speak on receiving her Grammy and Golden Globe? This communication-based course provides an introduction to the Modern Irish language. Students will acquire conversational, compositional, and grammatical skills, in addition to cultural knowledge about Ireland and the Irish language. *Breen Ó Conchubhair.*

CELTIC HEROIC AGE

A survey of the medieval heroic literature of Ireland and Wales. Emphasis will be on the prose tales of the Irish Ulster and Fenian Cycles and of the Welsh Mabinogi and related tales. The Welsh heroic poetry of Aneirin and Taliesin will also be read. *Philip O'Leary.*

NINETEENTH-CENTURY IRISH LITERATURE

This course will survey nineteenth-century Irish literature written in English, including fiction, poetry, and drama, and will introduce students to the various histories — literary, social, and political, Irish, English, Continental, and American — that shaped that literature. *Marjorie Howes.*

JAMES JOYCE

One semester. One class. One hugely important book. This course will be dedicated to an extended exploration of James Joyce's *Ulysses*, a novel that has often been called the most important literary work of the twentieth century. *Marjorie Howes.*

IRELAND: THE COLONIAL CONTEXT

This seminar spans the major cultural and historical moments and surveys the associated literary production connecting these experiences: the Norman invasion, the Elizabethan and Jacobean plantations, the emergence of an Anglo-Irish identity, the cultural nationalist response to imperialism, the ongoing decolonizing process, and the emergence of a post-colonial liberated society. *James Smith.*

MODERN IRISH POETRY

This course is a survey of Irish poetry since the death of W.B. Yeats in 1939. Among topics to be discussed will be the influence of Yeats on subsequent Irish poets, the emergence of a distinctly postcolonial voice on both sides of the border between North and South, and, more specifically, the interaction between poetry and politics in the North of Ireland over the past three decades. *Philip O'Leary.*

CONTEMPORARY IRELAND

This course will explore present-day Ireland by considering the complex political and cul-

tural change that has taken place in Ireland since 1960. We will address the modernization of Irish society, the impact of 'The Troubles' on Irish life, economic development and the impact of the 'Celtic tiger,' the scandals that have undermined the Catholic Church, and the worldwide popularity of Irish drama and film. *Robert Savage.*

THE STUDY AND WRITING OF HISTORY: ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS, 1939-1949

This course will examine the evolution and transformation of the Anglo-Irish relationship from the outbreak of World War II, when Ireland declared itself a neutral, to the establishment of the Irish Republic in 1949. *Thomas Hachey.*

TWENTIETH-CENTURY IRELAND

This course will explore the political, cultural, and social history of Ireland in the twentieth century. Topics covered will include the Gaelic and literary revival, women's suffrage, the struggle for independence, civil war, and the partition of the island. *Thomas Hachey.*

AMERICAN IRISH I

Between 1700 and 1855, 3.5 million Irish people crossed the Atlantic to settle in North America. This vast movement was of great historical significance on both sides of the Atlantic: it played a fundamental role in the shaping of modern Ireland, and it determined the economic, political, and cultural development of the United States. The course will examine the history of this migration in terms of the social, economic, political, and cultural history of Ireland and the United States. *Kevin Kenny.*

IRISH WOMEN EMIGRANTS: FROM IRELAND TO NORTH AMERICA

An outstanding characteristic of emigration from Ireland to North America was the large number of women in the emigration stream. This seminar course will be an examination of Irish women and emigration beginning with study of conditions in Ireland that resulted in women leaving in such large numbers. Following that will be an examination of their experience as immigrants in North America. *Ruth-Ann Harris.*

COLLOQUIUM: MODERN IRISH HISTORY

This colloquium will allow for a close reading of some of the more recent monographs that have been published. *Robert Savage.*

IRISH DANCING: BEGINNER, ADVANCED BEGINNER, & NOVICE

World-renowned Irish dance instructor and choreographer Michael Smith will offer Irish dance classes focusing on the traditional céilí dances of Ireland. Emphasis on the basic steps needed to execute céilí dances and demonstration of couple dancing will be the primary concentration of this class. No prior experience necessary in the beginner class. *Michael Smith.*

TRADITIONAL IRISH FIDDLE: BEGINNER & INTERMEDIATE

A study of traditional Irish fiddle music incorporating styles, technique, bowings, fingerings, and ornamentation. Learn to read and play the airs and dance music of Ireland along with the music of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Ireland, and that of the ancient Bardic harpers and court musicians. *Laurel Martin.*

TIN WHISTLE: BEGINNER, ADVANCED BEGINNER TO INTERMEDIATE

Learn to play the tin whistle. No prior experience required. Learn to read and play the airs and dance music of Ireland. Classes are taught at beginner and intermediate levels by Jimmy Noonan, a well-known Irish tin whistle and flute player and teacher. *Jimmy Noonan.*

INTRODUCTION TO IRISH FOLK MUSIC

An introduction to Irish music from two perspectives: a historical examination of the music and its indigenous instruments, and a close study of contemporary developments arising from the folk music revival of the 1960s, particularly in relation to ensemble performance. Both dance music and the vocal tradition will be surveyed, with an emphasis on the former. *Ann Morrison Spinney.*



HACHEY NAMED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

Thomas E. Hachey was named Boston College University Professor in April 2003. He was also named the 2003 recipient of the Roger McHugh Award for an article entitled "The Rhetoric and Reality of Irish Neutrality," which appeared in *New Hibernia Review*, winter 2002.

Dalsimer Fellowship Awarded

For the fourth year, Boston College has awarded the Adele Dalsimer Dissertation Fellowship in memory of the co-founder of Boston College's Irish Studies program. In the spirit of Professor Dalsimer's dedication to graduate students, particularly during the challenging dissertation process, this one-year fellowship is offered to a student who demonstrates an awareness of Professor Dalsimer's vision and energy. This year's recipient is Richard Murphy. Rich's dissertation is a project examining the *Bildungsroman* in twentieth-century Irish literature as the phantom ideal against which both realist and modernist Irish fictions negotiate their relation to genre and construct the self through experiences of exile and the foreign.

Rob Savage Named Galway Visiting Professor

In April an adjudicating committee appointed by the Irish-American Cultural Institute and the National University of Ireland, Galway selected Robert Savage as the IACI Visiting Fellow in Irish Studies at the National University Ireland, Galway. Rob is currently researching a political and social history of Ireland in the 1960s that focuses on the development of Radió Telefís Éireann (RTÉ), Ireland's national television service. This research examines how television challenged both church and state and acted as an agent of modernization during a decade of rapid economic, cultural, and political change. Being based in Ireland will provide him access to research materials that are critical to the project at RTÉ, the Dublin Archdiocese, and the National Archives. The fellowship is granted annually to an Irish studies scholar, typically a resident of the United States, and provides visiting faculty status at the National University of Ireland, Galway, including office accommodation. He will take up residence at the National University of Ireland, Galway in January 2004.

Nadia Smith Awarded Government of Ireland Post-Doctoral Fellowship

Nadia Smith (PhD 2003) was awarded the Government of Ireland Post-Doctoral Fellowship for 2003-2004. St. Patrick's College, which is part of Dublin City University, will host the fellowship. Nadia defended her dissertation entitled *A 'Manly Study'? Irish Women Historians as Public Intellectuals, 1868-1949*, in the spring of this year. Her research interests include modern Irish social, cultural, and women's history, as well as historiography. She has presented papers at conferences in Boston, Liverpool, Aberdeen, and Chicago. The fellowship

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

THOMAS E. HACHEY

Chair: Irish Political Controversies
American Conference for Irish Studies,
University of St. Thomas, June 2003.

"American Participation in the Peace
Process," Belfast, February 23, 2003.

"Irish Neutrality: Political Stratagem or
National Icon?" Department of Celtic
Studies, Harvard University, March 11,
2003.

RUTH-ANN M. HARRIS

"Civil War Soldier Christopher Byrne in
Minnesota Writes to His Brother Patrick,
the Harper." American Conference for
Irish Studies, University of St. Thomas,
June 2003.

MARJORIE HOWES

"Women Writers and the Irish Atlantic,"
Boston College Gaelic Roots, June 2003.

"Didactic Catholic Fiction in Late 19th
Century America," Irish Catholics: Belief,
Practice and Representation, Ireland and
America, 1776-2002, University of Notre
Dame, February 2003.

"Bodies in Motion: Sexuality, Migration,
and Labor," Notre Dame Irish Seminar,
July 2003.

"Last Poems," Yeats International Sum-
mer School, Sligo, Ireland, August 2003.

KEVIN KENNY

"Diaspora and Comparison: The Global
Irish as a Case Study," *Journal of Ameri-
can History* (June 2003).

VERA KREILKAMP

Review: *The Irish Times*, July 5, 2003, on
*Unfinished Business: Essays on Hubert
Butler*, ed. Chris Agee.

Vera Kreilkamp, Robert Savage, and
Katherine Nahum presented a roundtable
titled: "An Interdisciplinary Project in
Irish Studies: *Éire/Land* Catalogue, Exhi-
bition, and Course," American Confer-
ence for Irish Studies, University of St.
Thomas, June 2003.

JAMES SMITH

Chair: Éilís Ní Dhuíbhne, American Con-
ference for Irish Studies, University of St.
Thomas, June 2003.

"The Origins of a State-Inscribed Con-
tainment Culture: The Criminal Law
Amendment Act (1935) and the Carrigan
Commission (1931)," American Confer-
ence for Irish Studies, University of St.
Thomas, June 2003.

GRADUATE STUDENT PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

KATE COSTELLO-SULLIVAN

"If that is not Irish': Conflicting Identities in Elizabeth Gaskell's North and South," Society for the Study of Nineteenth-Century Ireland, Queens University, Belfast, June 21, 2003.

MIKE HUTCHESON

"Agroecology and Agroforestry," "The British Empire," and "Gilbert White" in Shepard Krech III, John McNeill, and Carolyn Merchant, eds., *World Environmental History* (Routledge, 2003).

KELLY MCGOVERN

"From Dirty Splodge to Bright Poppy: Feminine Substances, Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, and Contemporary Irish Women's Fiction," American Conference for Irish Studies, University of St. Thomas, June 2003.

ERIN PASZKO

"The Old System Was Easier: Complications of Tradition and Modernity in Éilís Ní Dhuibhne's *The Dancers Dancing*," American Conference for Irish Studies, University of St. Thomas, June 2003.

SARA STENSON

"Map Metaphors: Éilís Ní Dhuibhne's *The Dancers Dancing*," American Conference for Irish Studies, University of St. Thomas, June 2003.

REBECCA TROEGER

"A Map of a Tune': Identity and Authenticity in Literary Representations of Irish Music," American Conference for Irish Studies, University of St. Thomas, June 2003.

MARGARET MCPARTLIN is the 2003 recipient of the Maeve O'Reilly Finley Scholarship in Irish Studies. Maggie will pursue an MA degree in English at University College, Cork, this fall. The scholarship was established by the late Maeve O'Reilly Finley, a longtime friend and supporter, to allow BC students the opportunity to conduct graduate study in Ireland.

provides funding and an institutional base with office space which will allow Nadia to complete her research. Nadia is writing a biography of Dorothy Macardle that has been commissioned by Cork University Press as part of their Radical Irish Lives series.

Kevin Kenny Promoted

The University recently announced that Kevin Kenny has been promoted to the rank of professor in the department of history. Professor Kenny's publications include *Making Sense of the Molly Maguires* (1998) and *The American Irish: A History* (2000). He is currently researching the history of popular protest movements in eighteenth-century Ireland and America and editing a collection of historical essays, *Ireland and the British Empire*, for Oxford University Press.



In September Alvin Jackson, professor of history at Queen's University, Belfast and 1996-1997 Burns Scholar in Irish Studies, will return to Boston College. Alvin will give the inaugural lecture in *Ireland Before the Republic: Culture and Politics, 1922-1949*, a ten-part lecture series which will run during the academic year. Since leaving BC Alvin has published two major books: *Ireland 1798-1998* and, most recently, the critically acclaimed *Irish Home Rule*, which will be launched after his lecture.

BOSTON COLLEGE

Irish Studies
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Ireland in the New Century

Ireland in the New Century: Politics, Culture and Identity, edited by Robert Savage, will be launched this fall in Connolly House. Dr. Savage edited and wrote a chapter in the volume, which features essays from the president of Ireland, Mary McAleese, Richard Kearney, Alvin Jackson, Declan Kiberd, Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh, Kevin Whelan, Séamus Deane, Declan McGonagle, Elizabeth Butler Cullingford, Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, and Kevin Kenny. The book is from a major international conference funded by the Department of Education and Science, Ireland. This support enabled over seventy-five graduate students from universities all over Ireland, Northern Ireland, and North America to attend the con-



ference, which was held in May 2000 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Along with the Irish president, the then United States Secretary of Education Richard Riley attended and participated in the conference. This was part of a major two-week festival, "Island: Arts from Ireland," that was conceived by the former American Ambassador to Ireland, Jean Kennedy Smith.

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