

BOSTON COLLEGE

CENTER FOR IRISH PROGRAMS

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IRISH STUDIES

Center for Irish Programs Hires New BC-Ireland Director

Professor Michael Cronin has been named Academic Director of Boston College – Ireland. In making the announcement University Professor of History Thomas E. Hachey, the Executive Director of the BC Center for Irish Programs headquartered at Connolly House on the Chestnut Hill campus, hailed Cronin as an accomplished academic and an experienced program administrator. The appointment concludes a several month search for an Academic Director whose task it will be to develop and manage a diverse and challenging set of University projects in Ireland.

Cronin earned BA and MA degrees in history at the University of Kent at Canterbury, and completed a PhD degree in Irish history in 1994 at Oxford University. He is currently a Senior Research Fellow in History at DeMontfort University in Leicester, England. The author of several monographs, including *The Blue Shirts and Irish Politics* (Four Courts Press, 1997), Cronin has also edited, or co-edited, a half dozen volumes and has published some three dozen articles in scholarly journals and other books. During the past decade, moreover, Professor Cronin has been actively engaged in acquiring a substantial number of external grants, sponsoring conferences, and providing consultancy services in both the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Professor Hachey, to whom the new Academic Director will report, said he was confident that Cronin possesses both the vision and the talent needed to implement Boston College's ambitious plan for the Center's Dublin opera-



BC- Ireland Director Michael Cronin.

tions. The assignment involves working closely with the Irish Studies Co-Directors in sponsoring academic symposia; with the Director of the Irish Institute in support of its government-funded peace process initiatives; and with the Director of the Burns Library, which will occasionally exhibit some of its exceptional holdings at the St. Stephen's Green facility. The Academic Director of BC-Ireland will also liaise with faculty coordinators on Irish campuses where BC students are in attendance; work with the Center for International Partnerships and Programs in monitoring student internships; and provide a resource center in Dublin for visiting students, faculty, alumni and friends of Boston College. Cronin's appointment commences on March 7, 2005.



Joe Nugent

Irish Language Professor Joe Nugent Joins Irish Studies

Irish Studies is delighted to welcome Irish language and literature scholar Joseph Nugent to the University as Assistant Professor in the English Department and the Irish Studies Program. Nugent is already popular among students at Boston College for his work teaching Irish language courses here as a visiting instructor this past year. Faculty and students look forward to continuing to work with him in the years to come.

Joe is originally from Mullingar in Ireland and comes to BC from the University of California at Berkeley, where he taught Irish language, college writing, pedagogy, Joyce's *Ulysses*, war literature of the 20th century, and imperialism in the Victorian novel as a doctoral candidate. His research interests include pedagogy, curriculum development, expository writing, technology in the classroom, Joyce, Irish nationalism, the popular culture of Irish religious experience, the modern Irish language, and the Victorian novel. His dissertation focuses on constructions of masculinity in Irish nationalism.

Gerald Dawe Named Burns Scholar for Spring 2005

The Belfast-born poet Gerald Dawe was among ten scholars elected Fellow of Trinity College Dublin in spring 2004. A pupil of Orangefield Boys' School in Belfast during the 1960s, Dawe studied at the University of Ulster before moving to National University of Ireland, Galway in 1974, where he researched the work of the 19th-century Irish novelist and short story writer, William Carleton. His first collection of poems, *Sheltering Places*, was published by the Blackstaff Press in 1978. He taught at the National University of Ireland, Galway for many years until 1987, when he took up a lectureship in English at Trinity College. In 1999 he was appointed Lecturer in English and Director of the Oscar Wilde Centre for Irish Writing at Trinity. Along with Brendan Kennelly he established the first graduate creative writing program to be offered by an Irish university. Author of six collections of poetry, including *The Lundys Letter* (for which he was awarded the Macaulay Fellowship in Literature), *Sunday School*, *Heart of Hearts*, *The Morning Train* and, most recently, *Lake Geneva*, Gerald Dawe has also published *The Rest is History* (1998), an innovative study of Belfast's cultural roots in the work of Van Morrison and Stewart Parker, among others. With Nicholas Allen he is preparing a volume of his collected essays, *The Proper Word: Ireland, Poetry and Politics* and, with Marco Sonzogni, he translated *The Night Fountain*, the uncollected poems of Italian Nobel laureate Salvatore Quasimodo. He will be working on an anthology of Irish war poetry during his time at Boston College.

Burns Library showcases the Shaw Collection

For the first time, the Burns Library is exhibiting its extensive George Bernard Shaw Collection to the public. The show opened in November 2004 and will continue to be shown through April of this year. Titled "Mr. Shaw's Time Is Filled Up for Months to Come," the exclusive exhibit is free and open to the public.

It is one of the largest exhibits ever at the Burns Library, occupying all display areas on the building's main floor. The Burns Library acquired the collection, which contains over 3,400 items, in 2002 from collector Samuel Freedman in an acquisition made possible by the Brian P. Burns Endowed Acquisitions Fund. Burns Librarian Robert O'Neill said of the collection that it is "considered by many to have been the finest Shaw collection in private hands," and that "it catapults our holdings into a place among the major Shaw collections in the world."



Phil O'Leary

Philip O'Leary's *Gaelic Prose In The Irish Free State, 1922-1939*

Professor Philip O'Leary's new book, *Gaelic Prose in the Irish Free State, 1922-1939*, will be launched on April 26th at Boston College. Declan Kiberd, Professor of Anglo-Irish Literature at University College Dublin, will introduce the book. The work is a continuation of Professor O'Leary's path-breaking book on the prose literature of the Gaelic Revival. The period following the War of Independence and Civil War saw an outpouring of book-length works in Irish from the state publishing agency An Gúm. The frequency and production of new plays, both original and trans-

lated, have never been approached since. Professor O'Leary has investigated all of these works as well as journalism and manuscript materials and discusses them in a lively and often humorous manner. He also discusses the contribution of writers like Liam O'Flaherty, Sean O'Faolain and Frank O'Connor, who, while better known for their work in English, also either wrote on occasion in Irish or engaged in debates within the Gaelic movement. The publication will be an essential reference book for anyone interested in Irish literature in the twentieth century. Philip O'Leary is Associate Professor in the Irish Studies program at Boston College and co-General Editor of the forthcoming *Cambridge History of Irish Literature*. His book, *The Prose Literature of the Gaelic Revival, 1881-1921: Ideology and Innovation*, was awarded the 1995 Donald Murphy Prize by the American Conference for Irish Studies.

Summer Research Fellowship Awarded to Dr Timothy J. Meagher

This year's Summer Research Fellowship has been awarded to Dr Timothy Meagher, Associate Professor of History at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Dr Meagher will use his time at BC to further his research on Irish America. He will look specifically at how regional origins in Ireland affected Boston Irish immigrants' adaptations to America. Dr Meagher teaches American immigration history, Irish American history, and public history. He has also served as the Director of the Center for Irish Studies and as Archivist, Museum Director and Curator at the Catholic University of America. His published works include: *A Guide to Irish American History* (Columbia University Press, forthcoming), and *Inventing Irish America: Generation, Class and Ethnic Identity in a New England City, 1880 to 1928* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2001), for which he won the American Conference for Irish Studies' James Donnelly Sr prize. He has also edited several volumes, most recently *The New York Irish* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996) with Ronald Bayor.

Fifth Annual Boston College Irish Studies Film Series



Tom Murphy as Adam (left) and Mark O'Halloran as Paul in *Adam and Paul*

Irish Studies has always considered film to be an integral part of Ireland's complex culture. Again this year Irish Studies will offer a film series featuring the best of contemporary Irish feature and documentary film. The series has been developed with the support of the West Newton Cinema, an independently owned and operated "art house" movie theater that has gained a reputation for screening innovative American and international films. Feature films will be screened on Sundays between February 27 and March 27 at the West Newton Cinema, and a number of other films will be screened on Mondays beginning February 21st at Boston College. The series will open with the American premiere of *The Boys From County Clare*, a film set in Ireland during the 1970s. The film follows the fortunes of two estranged brothers, both fiddle players, who meet up again after twenty-five years at the All Ireland Ceili Band Competition where they are playing in rival bands. Director Shimmy Marcus's film *Headrush* has won

critical praise in Ireland and Europe for its depiction of contemporary Ireland. *Headrush* is a crime comedy about two disillusioned youths, struggling through a haze of cannabis, hoping to solve all their problems by smuggling a consignment of drugs for a local gangster. In *Blind Flight*, which tells the story of Brian Keenan's and John McCarthy's internationally famous imprisonment, two men from totally different backgrounds meet only because of the accident of captivity and learn to care for each other.

The Halo Effect, a comedy starring Stephen Rea, explores the world of Fatso, the proprietor of what may be the worst eatery in Dublin, who is struggling to keep a sinking ship afloat. His compulsive gambling is getting the better of him and he has to contend with an endless succession of loan sharks and debt collectors. *Adam and Paul* is a film about two lifelong friends who have withered into hapless and desperate junkies, tied together by habit and necessity. A stylized downbeat physical comedy, the film

follows the boys over the course of a single day, which like every other, is entirely devoted to the business of scrounging and stealing money for drugs.

The other feature films include Gerry Stembridge's satirical drama *Black Day at Black Rock*. The film chronicles an extraordinary day in the life of a small Irish village, Black Rock. When the population is surprised by the news that they are to be home to thirty asylum seekers, soon the whole place is in turmoil. Margo Harkin's *You Looking at Me?* is set in contemporary Belfast where Mei, a young Chinese girl, finds that falling in love with a local Protestant boy is not going to be easy. Another film set in Belfast is *Holy Cross*, a fictional drama set within real events. Two families are caught up in the headline events of 2001 on the Ardoyne Road in Belfast where a dispute arose over the rights of schoolgirls from the Catholic Ardoyne area of north Belfast to walk a few hundred yards through the predominantly Protestant area of Glenbryn to the Holy Cross primary school.

The series will also feature a number of documentaries, including Vinny Cunningham's *Battle of the Bogside*. The film documents a fateful day in the his-

tory of Ireland, August 12, 1969. The disaffected Catholic and Nationalist population in the Bogside area of Derry, Northern Ireland took to the streets to confront the Royal Ulster Constabulary in the wake of a Protestant Apprentice Boys parade in the city. The disturbances that ensued would mark the beginning of a sustained period of political unrest in the province. Robert Quinn's *Cinegaele Paradiso* is a fascinating insight into one of the most influential and pioneering figures in Irish filmmaking history, Bob Quinn. The series will end with a screening of *Fáilte Mr. President*, which tells the story of President Reagan's controversial visit to Ireland in an election year, 1984. Unexpected anti-Reagan sentiment in Ireland was to unite diverse sectors of Irish society from the Catholic Church, to left-wing groups, to then Taoiseach Garret FitzGerald. The result was a widely supported and multifaceted protest, and all played out on the US evening news... *Fáilte Mr. President* marks a turning point in Ireland's traditional love affair with America. For dates, times and locations please see our website at www.bc.edu/irish.

McMullen Museum of Art to host exhibit: “GONE: Site-specific works by Dorothy Cross”

Boston College's McMullen Museum of Art will host “GONE: Site-specific works by Dorothy Cross” from April 14 to June 30. The opening will be on April 14th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm and will feature a talk by Irish artist Dorothy Cross at 8:00 pm in Devlin 008, titled “Gone and Coming/Visual Art: A Talk by Dorothy Cross.” The exhibit was curated by BC Professor of English Robin Lydenberg and designed by Alston Conley, Chief Curator at the McMullen Museum. The show will open just before the major retrospective exhibition of Cross's work scheduled for May 2005 at the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin. The exhibition will be organized into three sections: “*The Return of the Repressed*,” “*The Impossibility of Desire*,” and “*The Inevitability of Loss*.” Unlike the austere pedagogical thrust of much contemporary site-specific work, Cross's projects are distinguished by their sensuality and wit. Using a variety of media—sculpture, photography, video, performance—Cross engages with the particularities of time and place, and at the same time inclines toward the psychic commonality

of our anxieties and desires. Although her work is highly conceptual and theoretical, she never gives up the actuality of place, the materiality of the object and her eye for unexpected beauty. Consequently, the works on display will include twenty-five beautiful large color photographs of the finished installations, three stunning videos, and several evocative sculptural objects directly or indirectly related to the nine major projects.



Ghost Ship by Dorothy Cross



Ferintosh

Irish Music Events

The Irish music staff—Seamus Connolly, Sullivan Artist-in-Residence, Ann Spinney, ethnomusicologist and music professor, and Beth Sweeney, Irish music librarian—have put together a great lineup this spring. The quality and virtuosity visitors to Connolly House encounter is rarely found in such an intimate environment, allowing the audience to interact and join in with artists who could easily fill concert halls to overflowing. First on the spring schedule, on January 25, is a performance by Mairín Uí Chéide, one of Ireland's finest interpreters of sean-nós. In an evening of sean-nós singing, listeners are transported to the Gaelic-speaking areas of Ireland, while experiencing the beauty of the country through old Irish airs sung undiluted and without translation.

On February 15 at Connolly House, fiddler Seamus Connolly, accordionist Joe Derrane and guitarist John McGann will launch their new CD recording, *The Boston Edge*. In 2004, *The Boston Globe* called this recording one of the year's ten best, and Joe Derrane received the National Heritage Award, the American government's top honor for a traditional musician. On the same night, the Boston College Center for Irish Programs and Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann's Hanafin-Cooley Branch will launch Jimmy Hogan's CD, *A Clareman's Music*. This dual CD launch with performances by all the artists and a reception will provide Irish music fans with an unforgettable night.

Matt Cranitch from Cork City will join us on March 1 to give an illustrated lecture and recital titled "The changing face of Irish music." This

multimedia presentation combines a scholarly lecture with images and sounds, making it a must-see event for those knowledgeable about Irish music as well as those new to the genre. Bruce Molsky arrives on March 15 with his Appalachian fiddle. This is a return visit for Molsky, whose performances are exciting and vibrant with a strong Gaelic influence.

The music of Scotland, Cape Breton and Ireland will be performed in Gasson Hall's Irish Room on April 8 by one of the leading ensembles in North America, Ferintosh. The group, comprised of cellist Abby Newton, fiddler David Greenberg and harpist Kim Robinson, delights audiences wherever they perform. Suggested donation for the concert is \$10. On April 21, we welcome Ed Miller to Connolly House. Dr. Miller, from Edinburgh via Texas, was an instructor at Boston College's Gaelic Roots Summer School. He is one of Scottish music's foremost ambassadors, singing the traditional Lowland and Highland airs.

This spring, in addition to musical performances the Irish Music, Song and Dance Program will be offering two céilís, on March 22 and 29, in Gasson Hall's Irish Room. All abilities and ages are welcome for a fun evening of Irish dance. Michael Smith, one of America's leading dance teachers and a Boston College professor, will host the céilís and provide instruction. Our spring program concludes with a performance by the Boston College music and dance students, who will open the Boston College Arts Festival on O'Neill Plaza on April 28.

IRISH STUDIES COURSES SPRING 2005

ENGLISH

INTRODUCTION TO MODERN IRISH II

Joseph Nugent

CONTINUING MODERN IRISH II

Joseph Nugent

OLD IRISH

M.J. Connolly

WRITING WORKSHOP: POETRY

Burns Scholar Gerry Dawe

IRISH LITERATURE SURVEY —

NINETEENTH CENTURY

James Smith

THE DRAMA OF ETHNIC RENAISSANCE: THEATER AND SOCIETY IN EARLY TWEN- TIETH-CENTURY DUBLIN AND HARLEM

Philip O'Leary

IRISH CULTURE IN THE NEW CENTURY

Vera Kreilkamp

IRISH HEROIC LITERATURE IN

MODERN ADAPTATION

Philip O'Leary

YEATS

Marjorie Howes

HISTORY

CONTEMPORARY IRELAND

Robert Savage

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE IN THE AGE OF REVOLUTION: IRELAND, 1770-1815

Kevin O'Neill

IRELAND SINCE THE FAMINE

Robert Savage

MODERN IRISH HISTORY

(GRADUATE COLLOQUIUM)

Robert Savage

IRISH MUSIC & DANCE

INTRODUCTION TO IRISH FOLK MUSIC

Ann Morrison Spinney

IRISH DANCING: BEGINNER

Michael Smith

IRISH DANCING: ADVANCED BEGINNER

Michael Smith

IRISH DANCING: NOVICE

Michael Smith

TRADITIONAL IRISH FIDDLE: BEGINNER

Séamus Connolly and Laurel Martin

TIN WHISTLE: BEGINNER

TIN WHISTLE: ADVANCED BEGINNER TO INTERMEDIATE

Jimmy Noonan

POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLITICS OF NORTHERN IRELAND, 1921-PRESENT

Robert K. O'Neill

IRISH STUDIES CALENDAR

January 24

Lecture: *Ireland and the British Empire, 1690-1800*

Thomas Bartlett, Department of Modern History, University College Dublin

Part of the Ireland and the British Empire lecture series

Connolly House 4:00 pm

January 25

Musical performance: *Sean-nós*

An evening of old-style Irish singing with local singers.

Presented by Mairín Uí Chéide.

Connolly House 7:00 pm

February 14

Lecture: *Empire and Fiction: The Irish Novel*
Vera Kreilkamp, Department of English,
Pine Manor College

Part of the Ireland and the British Empire lecture series

Connolly House 4:00 pm

February 15

Joint CD Launch: *The Boston Edge* by Joe Derrane, Séamus Connolly, and John McGann and *A Clareman's Music* by flute and whistle player Jimmy Hogan.

Connolly House 7:00 pm

February 27

Film: *The Boys from County Clare*

Part of the Irish Studies Film Series

West Newton Cinema 7:00 pm

February 28

Documentary Film: *The Battle of the Bogside*

Part of the Irish Studies Film Series

Devlin Hall 008 6:30 pm

March 1

Illustrated Lecture and Recital:

The Changing Face of Irish Music

Matt Cranitch, world-renowned fiddler

Connolly House 7:00 pm

March 6

Film: *Headrush*

Part of the Irish Studies Film Series

West Newton Cinema 7:00 pm

March 13

Film: *Blind Flight*

Part of the Irish Studies Film Series

West Newton Cinema 7:00 pm

March 14

Documentary Film: *Cinegael Paradiso*

Introduced by Prof. Philip O'Leary

Part of the Irish Studies Film Series

Devlin Hall 008 6:30 pm

March 15

Musical performance: *The Gaelic Connection*

Old-time music with master fiddler

Bruce Molsky

Connolly House 7:00 pm

March 17

Film: *The Halo Effect*

Part of the Irish Studies Film Series

West Newton Cinema 7:00 pm

March 20

Film: *Adam and Paul*

Part of the Irish Studies Film Series

West Newton Cinema 7:00 pm

March 21

Lecture: *Ireland, the Union, and the Empire*

Alvin Jackson, Department of Modern

History, Queen's University Belfast

Part of the Ireland and the British Empire lecture series

Connolly House 4:00 pm

Film: *Black Day at Black Rock*

Part of the Irish Studies Film Series

Devlin Hall 008 6:30 pm

March 22

Irish dance and céili with live music

Gasson Hall, 6:30 pm

March 27

Film: *Holy Cross*

Part of the Irish Studies Film Series

West Newton Cinema, 7:00 pm

March 28

Film: *You Looking at Me?*

Part of the Irish Studies Film Series

Devlin Hall 008 6:30 pm

March 29

Irish dance and céili with live music

Gasson Hall, 6:30 pm

April 4

Film: *Fáilte Mr President*

Part of the Irish Studies Film Series

Devlin Hall 008 6:30 pm

April 8

Musical Performance: *Cape Breton Fiddle*

With cellist Abby Newton, harpist Kim

Robinson, and violinist David Greenberg.

Gasson Hall 8:00 pm

April 11

Lecture: *Ireland, the Empire, and the Commonwealth*

Deirdre McMahon, Department of History,

Mary Immaculate College,

University of Limerick

Part of the Ireland and the British Empire lecture series

Connolly House 4:00 pm

April 13

Poetry Reading

Gerald Dawe, Burns Scholar

Burns Library Thompson Room, 4:00 pm

April 14

Lecture: *Gone and Coming/Visual Art*

Dorothy Cross, Irish multimedia and installation artist

Part of the Lowell Humanities Series

Devlin 008, 8:00 pm

April 20

Lecture: *The Sunken Boat; The 'Lusitania' and Irish Modernity*

Seamus Deane, Keough Professor of Irish Studies, University of Notre Dame

Part of the Lowell Humanities Series

Higgins 300, 7:30 pm

April 21

Musical performance: *The Highlands and the Lowlands*

An evening of Scottish song presented

by singer and folklorist Dr. Ed Miller

Connolly House 7:00 pm

April 25

Lecture: *Ulysses and Us*

Declan Kiberd, University College Dublin

Connolly House 4:00 pm

April 26

Launch: *Gaelic Prose in the Irish*

Free State, 1922-1939

Philip O'Leary, Department of English

and Irish Studies Program

Connolly House 4:00 pm

April 28

Musical Performance:

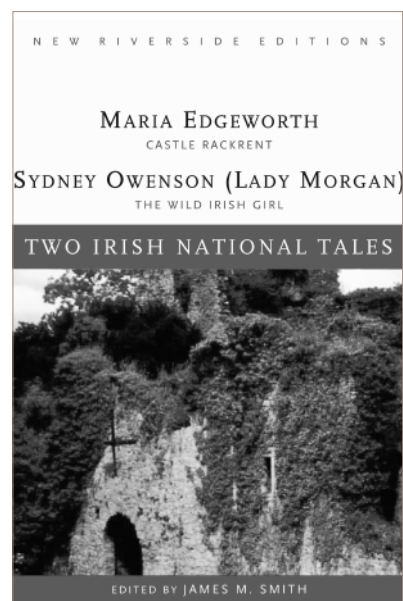
Boston College Arts Festival

Students and instructors from Boston

College's Irish Music, Song, and Dance

Program perform

O'Neill Plaza 12:00 pm



Two Irish National Tales: 'Castle Rackrent' by Maria Edgeworth and 'The Wild Irish Girl' by Sydney Owenson, part of the New Riverside Edition Series and edited by Professor James M. Smith, was published earlier this year by Houghton Mifflin.

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Dalsimer Fellowship

The Dalsimer Graduate Research Fellowship was established in honor of Professor Adele Dalsimer, co-founder and co-director of the Irish Studies Program. The fellowship is awarded annually to a deserving Boston College doctoral candidate in Irish Studies. The scholarship provides funding for advanced graduate students nearing the completion of their dissertations. Doctoral candidates interested in being considered for the Dalsimer Graduate Research Fellowship should submit a letter of interest explaining how this fellowship would enhance the applicant's scholarship, a cv and two letters of reference. Applications should be sent to Liz Sullivan, c/o Boston College Irish Studies Program, Connolly House, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467.

Deadline: March 15

Irish Studies Authors

This past year two graduates of the Irish Studies Program published their first books. Margaret Preston, Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Augustana College, published *Charitable Words: Women, Philanthropy and the Language of Charity in Nineteenth-Century Dublin* (Praeger/Greenwood). Dr Preston completed her PhD in 2000 before joining the history faculty at Augustana College in Sioux City South Dakota. Joseph Lennon, Assistant Professor of English at Manhattan College, completed his MA at BC in 1996. His book, *Irish Orientalism: A Literary and Intellectual History* was published by Syracuse University Press.

Irish Studies is written and edited by Marjorie Howes and Robert Savage with Elizabeth Sullivan and Rebecca Troeger, and published by the Center for Irish Programs, Irish Studies.

For information please contact: Irish Studies at Boston College, Connolly House, 300 Hammond Street, Chestnut Hill MA 02467, 617-552-3938 or email irish@bc.edu. See our website at www.bc.edu/irish.