

BOSTON COLLEGE
CENTER FOR IRISH PROGRAMS

IRISH STUDIES | IRISH INSTITUTE | BURNS LIBRARY | BC-IRELAND

IRISH STUDIES

Philip O'Leary Honored by NUI Galway



Professor Philip O'Leary

Professor Philip O'Leary has been granted an honorary Doctorate in Literature by the National University of Ireland, Galway. Every year, NUI Galway honors a few distinguished people in academia and other areas of endeavor. The degree will be conferred at a June ceremony in Galway. O'Leary's major publications include *Prose Literature of the Gaelic Revival: Ideology and Innovation* (1994), *Gaelic Prose in the Irish Free State, 1922-1939: A World Turned Rightside Up?* (2004), and

Déirc an Dóchais: Léamh ar Shaothar Phádraic Óig Uí Chonaire (1995). He is also the editor, with Boston College graduate Margaret Kelleher, of the landmark *Cambridge History of Irish Literature* (2006). Two equally ground-breaking books are forthcoming: *Irish Interior: Keeping Faith with the Past in Gaelic Prose, 1940-1951* (2009), and *Writing Beyond the Revival: Facing the Future in Gaelic Prose, 1940-1951* (2010).

NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE BOSTON COLLEGE CENTER FOR IRISH PROGRAMS

In addition to the extensive ties between Boston College and various cultural, educational, and political institutions in the Republic of Ireland, the several units within the Center for Irish Programs continue to expand upon the University's many linkages with Northern Ireland.

Irish Studies, for example, has recently joined with Queens University, Belfast in a faculty exchange program. That reciprocal arrangement will bring Professor Graham Walker (QUB) to Boston College in March where he will lecture on the topic of Northern Ireland, the UK, and Devolution, while Professor Ruth-Ann Harris (BC) will speak the same month in Belfast on the subject of Ulster women immigrants to America.

This January, the Irish Institute, which conducts eight programs annually under a US Government-sponsored grant intended to promote peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland, hosted a meeting in Tucson, Arizona involving senior officers from the Police Service of Northern Ireland, their Republic of Ireland Garda counterparts, and US Customs and Border Protection authorities. Programs focusing upon "Inclusive Politics" and "Innovation in 3rd Level Education" will also be provided to Northern Ireland participants by the Institute during February and April, in Washington, DC and San Francisco, respectively.

Boston College-Ireland, the Center's Dublin branch, will again include a week of travel and instruction in Northern Ireland during its three-week annual summer school program. BCI also works closely with the US consulate in Belfast in vetting Northern Ireland candidates for Institute programs in America. Moreover, our BCI director, Professor Mike Cronin, is further engaged with the Ulster dimension in a comprehensive oral history of the GAA in Ireland, which he is currently directing.

The Burns Library's Irish collections have acquired some eleven thousand photographic negatives from the collection of the award-winning Northern Ireland photographer Bobbie Hanvey. These, together with the recent acquisition of the William F. Stuart Papers, and the invaluable resources afforded by the Burns' close relationship with Belfast's Linen Hall Library, provide an invaluable resource for any study relating to "The Troubles" in Northern Ireland.

Boston College sustains active involvement with Northern Ireland universities, art galleries, and cultural programs, as well as with the political parties in the Assembly at Stormont and the Northern Ireland Bureau in Washington, DC.

Thomas E. Hachey
University Professor of History
Executive Director—Center for Irish Programs

ELECTRONIC BULLETIN

Irish Studies sends a weekly roundup of Irish Studies events, news, conferences, educational opportunities and jobs. If you would like to subscribe, please send an email with your request to irish@bc.edu.

Spring 2009 Irish Film Series



Learning Gravity

The Boston College Irish Film Series returns for its eighth year in March with a number of highly acclaimed independent films. Irish Studies, together with the West Newton Cinema and Reel Ireland, a part of the Irish Film Institute in Dublin, will collaborate again to bring both feature and documentary film to Boston audiences. This year's series will open with *Garage*, a film by the director of the hit independent film *Adam and Paul* that was screened as part of the series two years ago. The director, Lenny Abrahamson, was the winner of the CICA Art and Essai Cinema Prize at the Cannes Film Festival and the Best Film Prize at the Turin Film Festival. The film was shot on location in Offaly, Galway, and Tipperary, and the *Irish Times* describes lead actor Pat Short as "a revelation in the central role."



Garage

Another feature film is Cathal Black's *Learning Gravity*. Part manifesto and part memoir, *Learning Gravity* chronicles the life of Thomas Lynch, the renowned poet and essayist whose work won the American Book Award and inspired the HBO series *Six Feet Under*. Narrated by Lynch, *Learning Gravity* touches on the Lynch family's roots on the west coast of Ireland and its stories from the family business of funeral home management in

Michigan. A third feature is Marian Quinn's coming-of-age film *32A*, which won Best Feature at the Galway Film Fleadh.



32A

Documentaries in the series will also run on Thursdays throughout the month of March (12, 19, 26) and April (April 2). Irish Studies continues to work with TG4, the Irish language network in Ireland, and independent filmmakers to bring innovative documentaries to the BC campus. Documentaries include a film about the life of Irish revolutionary Ernie O'Malley, *On Another Man's Wound*. O'Malley, a veteran of the 1916 Rising, the War of Independence, and the Irish Civil War, is widely regarded as having written the most literary account of the revolutionary period. The film will be introduced by his son Cormac. In addition, the founding director of the Boston Irish Film Festival Peter Flynn, will introduce *Coming into Clover*, a research project on early Irish-American Film. Other documentaries include *Saviours*, *Oilean Thorai*, and *Inis Airc*. Two musical films, *O'Donoghue's Opera*, directed by Kevin Sheldon, and *Fleá Ceoil*, directed by Louis Marcus, will also be shown.

Feature films will be screened at the West Newton Cinema, an independently owned and operated art house theater that has gained a reputation for screening innovative American and international films. Documentaries included in the series will show in Cushing Hall 001 at Boston College's Chestnut Hill campus and are free of charge. A tentative listing of all features and documentaries is included below. Dates and titles are subject to change. Please see the Irish Studies website at <http://www.bc.edu/irish> for further details.

Features (screened at the West Newton Cinema, 7:00 pm)

March 15: *Garage* and *Oilean Thorai*

March 16: *32A* and *Inis Airc*

March 17: *Learning Gravity* and *Saviours*

Documentaries (screened at Boston College's Chestnut Hill Campus, Cushing Hall, Rm. 001, 6:30 pm)

March 12: *On Another Man's Wound*

March 19: *Jigs and Reels (O'Donoghue's Opera and Fleá Ceoil)*

March 26: *Coming into Clover*

April 2: *Saviours*

Prof. Graham Walker Comes to Boston College



Professor Graham Walker

Graham Walker, Professor of Political History at Queen's University, Belfast, will come to Boston College this spring as a visiting professor. His visit is part of a faculty exchange between Boston College and Queen's University, Belfast that will send Professor Ruth-Ann Harris from BC to Queens during the semester. While

at BC, Professor Walker intends to conduct research for his current project on the Ulster Unionist Party, which builds on his earlier published work, including, most recently, *A History of the Ulster Unionist Party: Protest, Pragmatism, Pessimism* (2004). Professor Walker's current research explores the fragmentation and re-configuration of Ulster Unionist Politics in the 1970s; he examines in particular the extent to which Ulster Unionism can be related to the concepts of "Unitary State" and "Union State" Unionism seen in other parts of the United Kingdom. Political pamphlets in the Irish Political Pamphlet Collection and the Canon Rogers Collection at Boston College's Burns Library will constitute the bulk of Professor Walker's research while in Boston. Additionally, Professor Walker is eager to talk about his research with other scholars in the Boston area and take advantage of Boston College's centrality to North American-Irish scholarly partnerships and endeavors. On Tuesday, March 31 at 4:00 pm in Connolly House, Professor Walker will give a lecture titled, "The Northern Ireland Problem and UK Devolution, 1968-79." The lecture is free and is open to the public.

IRISH STUDIES COURSES SPRING 2009

ENGLISH

INTRODUCTION TO MODERN IRISH II
JOSEPH NUGENT

IN THE SHADOW OF JOYCE
JOSEPH NUGENT

CONTINUING MODERN IRISH II
PHILIP O'LEARY

CELTIC HEROIC AGE: WORD AND IMAGE
PHILIP O'LEARY

19TH CENTURY IRISH LITERATURE SURVEY
JAMES SMITH

THE BALLAD TRADITION
ANN MORRISON SPINNEY

THE IRISH REVIVAL AND ITS CRITICS,
1890-1942
VERA KREILKAMP

TWENTIETH CENTURY IRISH WOMEN WRITERS
MARJORIE HOWES

IRISH-AMERICAN ATLANTIC
MARJORIE HOWES

HISTORY

STUDY AND WRITING OF HISTORY:
REVOLUTION AND REACTION, IRELAND
1918-23
VISITING BURNS SCHOLAR
DIARMAID FERRITER

REPRESENTATIONS OF TWENTIETH CENTURY
IRELAND: FILM AND FICTION
ROBERT SAVAGE

IRELAND SINCE THE FAMINE
ROBERT SAVAGE

AMERICAN IMMIGRATION AND ETHNICITY
KEVIN KENNY

GRADUATE COLLOQUIUM: IRELAND
BEFORE 1850
KEVIN O'NEILL

MUSIC

THE BALLAD TRADITION
ANN MORRISON SPINNEY

EXPERIENCED BEGINNER IRISH FIDDLE
TINA LECH

INTERMEDIATE IRISH FIDDLE
SEAMUS CONNOLLY

EXPERIENCED TO INTERMEDIATE
TIN WHISTLE
JAMES NOONAN

BEGINNER IRISH DANCING
MEGHAN ALLEN

ADVANCED BEGINNER IRISH DANCING
MEGHAN ALLEN

ADVANCED IRISH DANCING
MEGHAN ALLEN

POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLITICS OF NORTHERN
IRELAND, 1921-PRESENT
ROBERT O'NEILL

Méabh Ní Fhuartháin to Speak at BC

Méabh Ní Fhuartháin, a former member of the Irish Studies faculty at Boston College, will return to the campus in January to deliver a talk entitled, “Notai do Mhóltóirí/Notes for Adjudicators: Codifying Irish Traditional Music and Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, 1951-1972.” Ní Fhuartháin conducted her graduate work at Brown University and Boston College and worked as a member of the Irish Studies department at BC before returning to Ireland. She is currently working on her PhD at the Centre for Irish Studies, National University of Ireland, Galway. At NUI Galway, Ní Fhuartháin is exploring Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann as a literal and powerfully symbolic agent of culture. Her talk at Boston College will take place on January 22, from 6:30-7:30 pm in Connolly House.

Summer in Dublin

So accurate was James Joyce’s depiction of Dublin that were the city destroyed, he liked to think, it could be rebuilt from the text of *Ulysses*. To understand his works, he was saying, we must first understand his city. What better place, then, to read the Joyce canon than in Dublin?

Under the auspices of BC’s International Studies Program, Professor Joe Nugent will offer an intensive course on Joyce’s works this coming August. Taught in the headquarters of BC Ireland overlooking St. Stephen’s Green, lectures will present a unique perspective on Ireland through the writings of the country’s greatest twentieth-century author. Interaction with the text will be encouraged through a series of excursions to historical and cultural landmarks in Dublin and in the provinces. Both BC students and interested outsiders are welcome to apply for this three-credit course that runs from July 31 to August 22. You can visit Professor Nugent’s course website at www.bc.edu/joyceinireland.

For those who prefer to travel in June, the Center for Irish Studies will repeat its highly successful Summer Studies in Ireland course and its Summer Internship program.

Technology Award

The enthusiasm of Professor Nugent’s students has led to a 2009 ATIG technology grant to pursue the project begun in last semester’s *Ulysses* seminar. Thirty-three committed undergraduates produced an interactive map of Dublin through Google Maps. Tracing the movements of the novel’s protagonists across the streets of the city, *The Boston College Guide to Ulysses* will be immediately available to students and scholars. With the assistance of this award, worth \$15,000, the technological acumen of Nugent’s class will be developed into a pedagogical tool enabling faculty from various disciplines to engage their students in recreating historical or literary moments. Not confined to academics, however, the map will also be available in the public domain to enable tourists and Joyce enthusiasts to recreate the journeys of Stephen Dedalus and Leopold Bloom on that first Bloomsday, June 16, 1904.

The Amharc Éireann News Reels

In 1955, an innovative Irish language organization, Gael-Linn, began to produce short newsreels that quickly became popular, showing in cinemas throughout Ireland. Between 1956 and 1964, over 250 editions of *Amharc Éireann* (*A View of Ireland*) were produced. The short Irish-language films addressed political, social, and cultural developments in Ireland, providing a vivid window on the development of modern Ireland. This spring, Irish Studies will work with An Foras Feasa, NUI Maynooth, the Dundalk Institute of Technology, the Irish Film Institute, and Gael-Linn on an ambitious project to bring a wealth of these short films into the classroom. The aim of the project is to build a wiki-based learning environment around the source material. The project will be used for the first time in Rob Savage’s course, Ireland through Film and Fiction, a course that explores the development of feature and documentary film in twentieth century Ireland. Students will access subtitled film and related primary sources to develop a better understanding of the complexities of Irish media history and consider issues concerning Irish cultural history. Students will work together in teams to develop a wiki-site as part of this collaboration.

Boston College-Ireland

Visiting Fellow in Irish Studies at BC Ireland

This year's fellowship has been awarded to Professor Patricia Haberstroh, from the Department of Fine Arts at La Salle University in Philadelphia. While in Dublin, she will be working on a book provisionally titled, *Borders, Thresholds, Crossroads: The Poetry of Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin*. The book will focus primarily on her poetry, but will also cover her prose, in a study which explores the ways in which Ní Chuilleanáin uses art, history, religion, and myth to imagine the mysteries at the core of human existence. Professor Haberstroh has previously published *Opening the Field: Irish Women, Texts and Contexts*, co-edited with Christine St. Peter of the University of Victoria, British Columbia (2007), *My Self, My Muse: Irish Women Poets Reflect on Life and Art* (2001), and *Women Creating Women: Contemporary Irish Women Poets* (1996).

Summer School 2009

Following the success of the previous Summer Schools, Boston College-Ireland is pleased to announce that the Summer School will run again during June 2009. The Summer School lasts for three weeks and is open to Boston College students, as well as those studying in other American universities. The Summer School is based around the theme of Contemporary Irish Culture and earns each student three credits. The 2009 Summer School will follow the route taken in previous years. The Summer School opens in Galway and affords students the opportunity to visit County Clare, the Aran Islands, and Connemara. While in Galway, classes will take place at NUI Galway's Centre for Irish Studies and will introduce students to the recent history and politics of Ireland. The Summer School then moves to Belfast, where it will be based at the Institute for Irish Studies at Queen's University. The students will be taken on tours of the city, the community interfaces, and mural sites, and will attend classes on the peace process and the social and cultural aspects of life in contemporary Northern Ireland. For the final leg of the Summer School, the students are based at Boston College-Ireland in Dublin. While there, they

will be able to visit tourist sites such as the Guinness Storehouse, Croke Park, the National Gallery, and Abbey Theatre, as well as important historical and political sites including the Dáil and Kilmainham Gaol. The classes in Dublin concentrate on literature and drama, as well as the recent growth of the Irish economy, popular culture, and tourism.

Internships in Ireland

Boston College-Ireland organizes eight-week, unpaid internship placements within several sectors of Irish life and society. Interns receive an orientation upon arrival at BC-Ireland and continued support throughout their eight-week placements, and have access to a range of social and cultural events. Students live in university accommodations and have the opportunity to travel throughout Ireland and Europe while they are there. Host organizations include federal and local governmental departments, and commercial and non-profit institutions. Previous hosts have included the Department of the Taoiseach, the Department of Finance, Department of Justice, National Museum service, Football Association of Ireland, Venture Philanthropy, and Dublin Chamber of Commerce.

For more information on the Summer School or internships, visit: <http://www.bc.edu/centers/irish/dublin/about/activities> or contact Thea Gilien at gilien@bc.edu.

Gaelic Roots Music, Song, Dance, Workshop, and Lecture Series

By Sean Smith, *Boston College Chronicle*

The spring 2009 Gaelic Roots Music, Song, Dance, Workshop, and Lecture Series will once again present a diverse slate of informational and entertaining events that illustrate the richness in traditional music, from Ireland and elsewhere.

On Wednesday, January 28, Assistant Professor Ann Spinney (Music) will deliver a lecture titled, "Regional Styles in Irish Music: A Conversation." Spinney, a musicologist whose scholarly interests

extend to Native American music, has regularly taught and researched topics in Irish and Celtic music, especially its more recent developments; among others, her presentations have included subjects such as Enya, “Celtic Woman” and Celtic punk. On February 10, Gaelic Roots will feature a concert of Franco-American music by fiddler Donna Hébert, who earned a 2008 Massachusetts Artists’ Fellowship in the Folk Arts, a merit award given by the Massachusetts Cultural Council to “recognize exceptional work and to support the further development of talent.”

On March 24, Gaelic Roots will host one of New England’s most popular bands, Nightingale. The group, comprising Becky Tracy (fiddle), Keith Murphy (guitar, mandolin, piano, foot percussion, vocals) and Jeremiah McLane (accordion, piano) has gained an avid following for their inventive arrangements of music from New England, Canada, Ireland, and France, for not only performances but contra dances.



Nightingale

Ken Perlman, a pioneer of the “clawhammer” banjo style, will join fiddler Alan Jabbour on April 1 for an evening of traditional American music. Jabbour, in addition to being a talented fiddler, served for more than 30 years in federal cultural agencies, notably the Library of Congress Archive



Tony McManus

of Folk Song and American Folk-life Center, and the folk arts program of the National Endowment for the Arts. The Gaelic Roots spring schedule closes out April 14 with a performance by fiddler Maeve Donnelly and guitarist Tony McManus. Donnelly is steeped in the fiddle styles of East Galway and Clare, but also explores the Nova Scotia and Quebec traditions. McManus, equally adept at playing both rhythm and melody, is one of the most sought-after Celtic guitarists today.

All Gaelic Roots events are free and open to the public, and are held at Connolly House on Hammond Street at 6:30 pm. For more information, email irish@bc.edu, call (617) 552-3938, or visit www.bc.edu/gaelicroots.

Our free public programming would not be possible without the generosity of donors.

**Donations can be sent to: Irish Studies Lecture Series,
Connolly House, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467.
Email irish@bc.edu for more information.**

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IRISH STUDIES CALENDAR

Thursday, January 22

Lecture: Notai do Mholtóirí/Notes for adjudicators: codifying Irish traditional music and Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, 1951-1972
Méabh Ní Fhuartháin
Connolly House, 6:30-7:30 pm

Monday, January 26

Lecture: Age as a category of analysis in the history of childhood
Harry Hendrick, University of Southern Denmark
Connolly House, 4:00 pm

Wednesday, January 28

Regional styles in Irish music: A conversation
Ann Spinney
Connolly House, 6:30-8:00 pm

Tuesday, February 10

Concert: Donna Hébert performs traditional Franco-American fiddle music
Connolly House, 6:30-8:30 pm

Monday, February 23

Thomas J. Flatley Lecture: The children of the nation?: representations of poor children in mainstream nationalist journalism, 1882 and 1913
Margot Gayle Backus, University of Houston
Connolly House, 4:00 pm

Tuesday, February 24

Lecture: A certain tendency in Irish cinema
Michael Patrick Gillespie, Marquette University
Burns Library, 4:00 pm

Tuesday, February 24

Lecture: The vanishing Irish: the impact of emigration from twentieth century Ireland
Diarmaid Ferriter, Burns Library Scholar
Burns Library, 4:00 pm

Tuesday, February 24

Nightingale: Concert of traditional music from New England, Canada, Ireland, and France
Nightingale features Becky Tracy (fiddle), Jeremiah McLane (piano and accordion), and Keith Murphy (guitar, mandolin, foot percussion, vocals)
Connolly House, 6:30-8:30 pm

Thursday, March 12

Documentary: *On Another Man's Wound*
Chestnut Hill, Cushing Hall, Rm. 001, 6:30 pm

Sunday, March 15

Film: *Oilean Thorai and Garage*
West Newton Cinema, 6:00 and 7:00 pm

Monday, March 16

Film: *Inis Airc* and 32A
West Newton Cinema, 6:00 and 7:00 pm

Tuesday, March 17

Film: *Saviours* and *Learning Gravity*
West Newton Cinema, 6:00 and 7:00 pm

Thursday, March 19:

Documentary: *Jigs and Reels*
(*O'Donoghue's Opera* and *Fleá Ceoil*)
Chestnut Hill, Cushing Hall, Rm. 001, 6:30 pm

Thursday, March 26

Documentary: *Coming into Clover*
Chestnut Hill, Cushing Hall, Rm. 001, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, March 31

Lecture: The Northern Ireland problem and UK devolution, 1968-79
Graham Walker, Queens University Belfast
Connolly House, 4:00 pm

Wednesday, April 1

Concert: Ken Perlman and Alan Jabbour perform traditional American fiddle and banjo music
Connolly House, 6:30-8:30 pm

Thursday, April 2

Documentary: *Saviours*
Chestnut Hill, Cushing Hall, Rm. 001, 6:30 pm

Monday, April 6

Thomas J. Flatley Lecture: Coming of age in the 1990s: Mary Robinson and the Irish literary childhood
Jane Elizabeth Dougherty, Southern Illinois University
Connolly House, 4:00 pm

Tuesday, April 14

Concert: Maeve Donnelly and Tony McManus perform fiddle and guitar music from Ireland, Scotland, and beyond
Connolly House, 6:30-8:30 pm

Irish Studies is edited by

Marjorie Howes and Robert Savage
with Rachel Bowes and Ian Delahanty.

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