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IRISH STUDIES

Carmel O'Reilly named Monan Professor for Spring 2010



Carmel O'Reilly is the 2010 Rev. J. Donald Monan, S.J. Professor in Theatre Arts. As the Monan Professor, O'Reilly will conduct a semester-long residency at Boston College and direct the production of Brian Friel's *Translations* in the Theatre Department.

Born in Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, O'Reilly has been a fixture in Irish and American theatre for a number of years. The theater company she founded, Sógán Theatre Company, is now in its fourteenth sea-

son (eighth at the Boston Centre for the Arts), and O'Reilly remains as Sógán's Artistic Director. Her oversight at Sógán has allowed O'Reilly to carry out the company's mission of introducing Irish and Celtic plays with diverse perspectives on modern Ireland to Boston audiences.

O'Reilly will bring her much-sought-after talent to Boston College's take on *Translations*, originally produced in 1980 by the Field Day Theatre Company. The play is set in the fictional community of Baile Beag, County Donegal and depicts the encounters between a motley group of Irish-speaking locals and British soldiers sent to map Ireland in 1833, vividly illustrating the connections between language and nationality. One of playwright Brian Friel's most celebrated works, *Translations* ran on Broadway in 1995 and 2007, at Dublin's Abbey Theatre in 2001, and at London's National Theatre in 2005.

In directing *Translations* as the Monan Professor this spring, O'Reilly will lead a cast of eight undergraduates and two professional actors (Stephen Russell and Dafydd Rees). The play debuts Wednesday, February 17 and continues daily through Sunday, February 21 at the Robsham Theater Arts Center's Bonn Studio Theatre. The production is ideal for a university setting, according to O'Reilly, offering "challenging roles for both young male and female actors to explore...difficult dialect work and a commitment to the business of acting through serious ensemble work." For ticket information on the Theatre Department's production of *Translations*, contact the Robsham Theatre Arts Center box office at 617-552-4800.

Center for Irish Programs to host Maurice Fitzpatrick

Maurice Fitzpatrick is a Keio University Tokyo-based teacher and scholar of Irish literature. Last year, he wrote and co-produced a film for The RTÉ and BBC called *The Boys of St Columb's*. The film, which premiered at the Galway Film Festival on July 10, 2009, tells the story of the first generation of Northern Irish schoolchildren to profit from the Northern Ireland Education Act of 1947. That legislation, inaugurated by the Attlee government, provided free education for everyone in the United Kingdom who passed its auxiliary test, known as the Eleven Plus. The film uses the St Columb's College experience as a lens through which one can better appreciate how transformative that piece of legislation was. St Columb's, a boys' diocesan school in Derry, is the only school in the world to boast two Nobel Laureates among its former pupils. One particularly noteworthy group of St Columb's students, all of whom were born between the years 1936 to 1947, included John Hume, Seamus Heaney, Seamus Deane, Eamonn McCann, Brian Friel, Martin O'Neill, Phil Coulter, Paul Brady, James Sharkey, and Bishop Daly, among others.

Fitzpatrick conducted interviews with each of them and published a companion book to complement the film. They examine how the reform provided by that education proved empowering. Northern Ireland's oppressed community learned to articulate its grievances through civil rights demonstrations that were often inspired by the similar agitation for civil rights in the USA during the late 1960s. Seamus Heaney commended the film for its accuracy in telling a story that each of the distinguished interviewees witnessed firsthand.

Following the inaugural launch of this undertaking at the Boston College Center for Irish Programs on February 4, Fitzpatrick proceeds to New York during the second week of February to lecture and show the film at several different venues. He presently is preparing to extend his lecture/film presentations through April, and invites scholarly, cinematic, and Irish culture-oriented parties to contact him via email [creeney@gmail.com] if interested in hosting programs entailing formal lectures, or informal sympo-

sia, that would accompany public or private screenings of *The Boys of St Columb's*.

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

Center for Irish Programs/ Irish Studies History Seminars

Since Friday, January 15 and continuing throughout the spring semester, the Center for Irish Programs is hosting a series of seminars featuring prominent scholars in the field of Irish history. First in the series is a visit from Professor Nicholas Canny of the National University of Ireland, Galway, who will share his unparalleled expertise on early modern Ireland and Europe. Canny, President of the Royal Irish Academy, has authored a number of critically appraised books on Irish, British, European, and Atlantic history and is widely acknowledged as one of the most influential historians of this era. Next in the series will be Professor Guy Beiner of Ben Gurion University, University of the Negev (Israel), who will discuss memories in Ulster of the 1798 Rebellion. Professor Beiner's seminar will take place at noon on February 22 in Connolly House.

Spring 2010 Irish Film Series

The Boston College Irish Film Series will mark its ninth year and once again bring some of Ireland's best independent films and documentaries to Boston. Irish Studies, in collaboration with Reel Ireland (a part of the Irish Film Institute in Dublin), is happy to invite viewers to screenings of these films at Boston College's Chestnut Hill Campus.



Desmond Bell's *MacGill: Child of the Dead End* tells the story of Patrick MacGill, the Irish navy poet, novelist, dramatist, and screenwriter. One of Ireland's most

successful authors, MacGill was born into poverty in late-nineteenth century Donegal. His life, played out in the film by actor Stephen Rea, took him from

Donegal to the Scottish Highlands, from the royal court at Windsor to Hollywood, and ultimately to Florida, where he died poverty-stricken in 1963. Bell's film, named after MacGill's classic book *Children of the Dead End*, combines early cinema archive with live action shot in Ireland, Scotland, and England.

Among the documentaries that will be screened at BC is *The Liberties*, a captivating look at the section of Dublin of the same name. Producer and director Shane Hogan crafts a series of twelve short films, each bringing out a unique person or part of the Liberties community. From a man who raised seven daughters in a two bedroom flat to an evangelical church reaching out to parishioners with bingo, *The Liberties* depicts the uniqueness of what the *Sunday Business Post* calls "an area of Dublin whose people have always had a sense of themselves as distinct."

Another documentary, *Ba Mhaith an Saol Fadò E* (They Were Good Old Days), is part of writer Brenda Ní Shuilleabhain's chronicle of Irish-speaking emigrants to America. Part of a longer series entitled Bibeanna, the film examines the childhoods of women from the Gaeltacht area of Ireland and describes their school days, families, homes, and everyday lives. Ní Shuilleabhain's documentary shows the cash poor but culturally rich background emigrants left behind, revealing a happy existence borne out of precarious circumstances. Please see the Irish Studies Website for complete listings.



Rag-and-bone man Ollie "Valentine" Bolger. He is a self-proclaimed "Beggin' Ass" who is familiar to visitors to the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin as he plies his trade outside the building.

Boston College-Queen's University Faculty Exchange

For the second consecutive year, Boston College and Queen's University, Belfast will take part in a week-long faculty exchange program. Desmond Bell, Professor of Film Studies at Queen's, will come to Boston to present his latest film, *Child of the Dead End*, at Boston College's Irish Film Festival. Professor Bell, whose earlier works include *Hard Road to Klondike* and *The Last Storyteller*, will also meet with Boston College students and faculty to discuss his innovative approach to documentary film. On the other end of the faculty exchange, Professor Vera Kreilkamp of Boston College will visit Belfast and give a lecture entitled, "Big House Fiction and Irish Literary Modernism." As literary editor of the interdisciplinary journal *Éire-Ireland*, Professor Kreilkamp will also meet with young scholars and graduate students to discuss publishing in the field of Irish Studies.

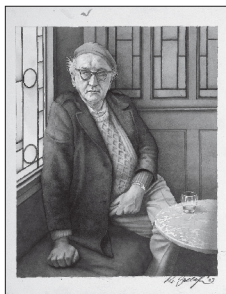
News from the Irish Institute

The Irish Institute's mission is to support the peace and reconciliation process on the island of Ireland through the provision of educational seminars and study visits for public officials, business leaders, and educators. This spring will see the Irish Institute design and deliver another five study programs for Ireland/Northern Ireland. As always, participants will spend one week in Boston before continuing onward to benefit from the perspective offered by another city region. Programs will include: Education for Citizenship, January 12th-22nd (Austin, TX); Sustainable Civic Government, February 9th-19th (Charleston, SC); Political Journalism, March 9th-19th (Washington, DC); Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability for Smaller Businesses, April 6th-16th (Seattle, WA); and Women's Health and Wellness, May 11th-21st (Detroit, MI).

In addition to its US Government-funded work, the Irish Institute will continue its long-term relationship with the University of Ulster. In March, the Institute will once again host the UU Executive Leadership program and in June, returning for its second year, will be the UU Arts & Business program. Later in the summer, the Institute will welcome MBA students from the

Management Center of Innsbruck, Austria as well as those from a new partnership with the Universidad de Deusto in Bilbao, Spain. For more information about any of these programs, please go to the Irish Institute's Web page at www.bc.edu/irishinstitute.

McMullen Exhibit to Feature Irish Writers



Patrick Kavanagh
by Robert Ballagh

In the fall of 2010, the McMullen Museum will host an exhibit entitled "Writers' Lives and the Arts of Portraiture." The original exhibit was created by Peter Murray, Director of the Crawford Art Gallery in Cork, Ireland. It includes portrait paintings, sketches, and sculptures of many of Ireland's most prominent

writers, such as George Bernard Shaw, W.B. Yeats, James Joyce, Augusta Gregory, J.M. Synge, Patrick Kavanagh, Samuel Beckett, and Seamus Heaney. The McMullen show will feature most of the original exhibit and will add materials drawn from the holdings of Boston College's Burns Library, including the recently acquired Bobbie Hanvey Archive, which contains photographs of a number of contemporary writers. "Writers' Lives" will explore how visual artists, creative writers, and other thinkers have represented the lives of Irish writers through portraiture, biography, and autobiography.

Irish Writers Visit BC

Irish Studies is delighted that Éilís Ní Dhuibhne and Conor O'Callaghan will come to Boston College in February and April as part of the Irish Writers Series. Both will be giving readings of their works at Connolly House and meeting and working with undergraduate and graduate students.

Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, currently Writer Fellow at University College Dublin, has written several collections of short stories, many novels, books for children, and plays for stage and radio. Her work has won many awards, including the Stewart Parker Award for Dra-

ma, the Butler Award for Prose, several Oireachtas Awards for novels in Irish, and three Bisto Awards for Children's Literature. *The Dancer's Dancing*, one of her novels, was short-listed for the Orange Prize in 2000. Her most recent English-language novel, entitled *Fox, Swallow, Scarecrow*, appeared in 2008. Ní Dhuibhne will read selections of her work at Connolly House on Monday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m.

In April, Conor O'Callaghan arrives at Boston College from Wake Forest University, where he serves as poet-in-residence when not teaching at Sheffield Hallam University in England. Winner of the Patrick Kavanagh Award, the Rooney Prize Special Award, and the Times Educational Fellowship, O'Callaghan has published several collections of poems, including *Fiction*, which was short-listed for the Irish Times Poetry Now Prize in 2005. He will give a reading of his work at 7:00 pm in Connolly House on Monday, April 12.

Bloomsday in April

Had James Joyce paid more attention to the American college semester system, he might have chosen a more agreeable date than June 16 for what we now call "Bloomsday." That is, of course, the day on which Leopold Bloom and Stephen Dedalus traversed the streets of Dublin through the pages of *Ulysses*. This year, Boston College will correct the late Mr. Joyce's negligence. By declaring this a moveable feast day—and shifting it to Sunday, April 18—we'll be able to gather our students all the more certainly into the celebration of all things Joycean.

Not just students, but the public. The Center for Irish Programs and Professor Patricia Riffin of the Theatre Department have provided two fabulous Bloomsdays here on campus already. This year, we'll do it again, here in Connolly House that Sunday afternoon.

Professor Nugent's public lecture will introduce some of the exciting technological work that's being done on *Ulysses* today; we'll have a dramatization of scenes from the book performed by the James Joyce Theatre Group; and you'll be welcomed into a series of introductory workshops for *Ulysses* newcomers. Throw in live music and songs from the novel, and a wonderful afternoon's entertainment is guaranteed—even if we haven't got the date quite right. The event is free and

open to the public. Sunday, April 18, 2:00-6:00. Find out more on the Bloomsday in April Website: <http://bloomsdayinapril.wordpress.com>.

BURNS LECTURE, MARCH 23RD

In March, Burns Scholar Thomas Bartlett will present “The Pursuit of Helen Landreth: Robert Emmet, Gender, and Historical Scholarship in Mid-Twentieth-Century Ireland.” Professor Bartlett is Chair in Irish History at King’s College, University of Aberdeen. The lecture will take place at 4:00 in the Thompson Room of the Burns Library.

The Irish Colloquium at BC

Once more, this April, Connolly House will welcome Irish Studies faculty from all over New England to the third annual Irish Colloquium at BC.

The forty Irish Studies scholars who attended last year will remember what a stimulating day they had. The convivial atmosphere of Connolly House provides an opportunity to establish friendships, renew acquaintances, and encounter fresh ideas from the many young faculty and senior graduate students new to the New England scene.

Participants will be invited to give brief outlines of their current work-in-progress; a round-table discussion will debate the direction of Irish Studies; Professor Vera Kreilkamp, editor of *Éire-Ireland*, will help direct you on where to get published; and we’ll throw in lunch, refreshments, and entertainment.

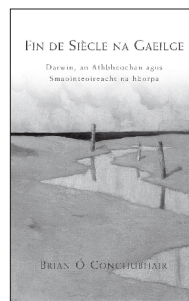
Two points of note this year: While the event is generally limited to members of faculty, we very much encourage you to bring along graduate students of promise. Secondly, we’d like to particularly invite those whose work is outside of literature and history—let others hear about your research in the music, folklore, science, archaeology, or theatre of Ireland.

Thanks to the generosity of the Center for Irish Programs and the Irish Consulate in Boston, the event, including lunch and refreshments, is free. Saturday, April 17, 9:30-3:00. For further details, contact joseph.nugent.2@bc.edu, or go to the Website: <http://theirishcolloquium.wordpress.com>.

Jim Smith Presents Case for Magdalene Redress Scheme at Dáil Éireann

Irish Studies faculty member Jim Smith was invited to speak before an all-party ad hoc committee of TDs and senators in the Irish parliament on December 15. The invitation followed his efforts on behalf of the survivor advocacy group Justice for Magdalenes since last summer, including his drafting of language toward a distinct redress scheme for survivors of the Magdalene Laundries. While in Dublin, Smith met senior officials in the Department of Justice and presented archival evidence documenting State complicity in the use of these institutions. He also met with members of the Labour Party, Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil, as well as the National Women’s Council of Ireland. Due to these meetings, the Department of Justice now acknowledges that it placed women “On Remand” and “On Probation” in the Laundries and that the Irish judicial system routinely referred women to the Magdalene institutions as an alternative to prison. These concessions contradict the Minister for Education’s earlier statement that the “State did not refer individuals nor was it complicit in referring individuals to the Magdalene Laundries” (4 September 2009). As a result, politicians from all parties have formed an Oireachtas Committee and will be pursuing the issues raised by Professor Smith’s presentation in the Dáil in the coming weeks. For further information, please visit the JFM Website at www.magdalenelaundries.com.

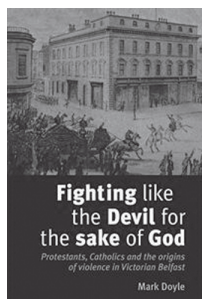
Irish Studies Alums Publish New Books



In *Fin de Siècle na Gaeilge: Darwin, an Athbheochan agus Smaointeoireacht na hEorpa*, published by An Clòchomhar, Brian Ó Conchubhair explores Darwinism, degeneration, racial hybridity, race extermination, cultural decline, and cultural nationalism in the second half of nineteenth-century Ireland. He uses these

contemporary concerns to explain the creation of an intellectual environment receptive to the turn of

the century Irish revival. The book has its origins in the author's work under Professor Philip O'Leary of Boston College, as well as research conducted in the Burns Library. Ó'Conchubhair's book received the prestigious 2009 Oireachtas na Gaelige Award. He is Assistant Professor of Irish Language and Literature at the University of Notre Dame.



Mark Doyle's monograph, *Fighting Like the Devil for the Sake of God: Protestants, Catholics, and the Origins of Violence in Victorian Belfast*, has been well received by leading scholars in Irish history. An inquiry into the roots of frequent mid-nineteenth century rioting in Belfast, the book uncovers the social conditions that

fed into Protestant-Catholic divisiveness and violence, ultimately revealing that, far from being natural or inevitable, the city's "tradition" of violence resulted from the everyday acts of Belfast residents. Doyle, now Assistant Professor of History at Middle Tennessee State University, originally undertook this project as a dissertation at Boston College under the supervision of Professors Kevin O'Neill and Peter Weiler. *Fighting Like the Devil*, his first book, is published by Manchester University Press/Palgrave.

Announcement for the 2010-11 Dalsimer and Finley Fellowships

Irish Studies is pleased to announce that applications for the 2010-11 Adele Dalsimer Graduate Research/Dissertation Fellowship will be received until March 1, 2010. The Dalsimer Fellowship is designed to recognize outstanding Boston College doctoral students in Irish Studies (History and English) who are currently researching and/or writing their dissertations. It is named in honor of the late Adele Dalsimer, co-founder of the Irish Studies Program at Boston College and professor in the English Department. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest describing their research, curriculum vitae, and two letters of recommendation from faculty members familiar with their work. Please address application materials to Boston College Irish Studies

Program, Connolly House, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467. Questions concerning the application can be directed to irish@bc.edu.

The Maeve O'Reilly Finley Fellowship will be awarded to a Boston College undergraduate who has been accepted for graduate work in Irish Studies at an Irish university or a Boston College alumnus in good standing as a graduate student at an Irish university. Ms. O'Reilly Finley, a longtime friend of Irish Studies who held a great interest in encouraging graduate study in Ireland, established the fellowship. Interested applicants should submit a transcript, 3-5-page essay describing a plan of study, curriculum vitae, and two letters of recommendation from Boston College faculty no later than March 1, 2010. Please address application materials to Boston College Irish Studies Program, Connolly House, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467. Questions concerning the application can be directed to irish@bc.edu.

Boston College-Ireland News

VISITING FELLOW IN DUBLIN, 2010

Mary Burke, Department of English, University of Connecticut, has been selected as the Visiting Fellow for 2010. Mary studied at Trinity College Dublin and Queen's University Belfast, where she completed her Ph.D. She has written widely on the place of Irish Travellers in literature, and last year published *"Tinkers": Synge and the Cultural History of the Irish Traveller* with Oxford University Press. While based at the Centre for Irish Programmes in Dublin, she will work on the writings of Edna O'Brien and will explore the O'Brien material in the National Library, the National Archives, and University College Dublin Archives.

IRISH SPORTING HERITAGE

The Department of Art, Sport, and Tourism-funded project Irish Sporting Heritage, which is based at Boston College-Ireland, has now gone live on the Web. Located at www.irishsportingheritage.com, the Website explains the need for the project, encourages people to take part in identifying sites of sporting heritage, and lists the top five sites for each county in Ireland. The work of the project was explored in January at a one-day conference, "Places to Play: Irish Sporting Heritage."

The audience was drawn from sporting organizations, cultural groups, and heritage offices from around the country. Speakers included Professor Douglas Booth from the University of Otago, New Zealand and Professor John Bale from the University of Keele, UK, as well as experts from the cultural heritage field in Ireland and leaders of sporting federations.

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

The spring 2010 events will feature several dynamic collaborations exploring the traditional music of Ireland, Scotland, Cape Breton, Appalachia, New England, and Scandinavia. On Feb. 18, Dan Milner and Robbie O'Connell will present a concert of "Irish Love Songs and Sea Ballads" on vocals and guitars. Performer, song collector, and writer Dan Milner has been involved in folk song all his life, and learned much of his early repertoire from his father. His 2009 Smithsonian Folkways recording *Irish Pirate Ballads and Other Songs of the Sea* has been nominated for an Indie award. Milner, who has sung at many prominent venues in North America and Europe, will appear at Boston College with songwriter and performer Robbie O'Connell, Irish-America's foremost balladeer. Robbie O'Connell was born in Waterford and grew up in Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary. Moving to the United States in the 1970s, he teamed up with his uncles, the famous Clancy Brothers, with whom he recorded three albums.

On March 18, Cape Breton fiddle and piano player Kimberley Fraser, together with fiddle player, piano player, and stepdancer Troy MacGillivray, showcases the Scottish-influenced traditional music of Cape Breton Island. A master at the trio of fiddling, step-dancing, and piano, Kimberley Fraser is a sought-after teacher for all three. She has traveled the world from Victoria to Afghanistan, bringing Cape Breton music with her wherever she goes. Nova Scotia native Troy MacGillivray was already teaching piano by the age of 13 at the Gaelic College of Celtic Arts and Crafts in St. Ann's, Cape Breton. He has studied both classical and traditional music, has four CDs and several awards to his credit, and has showcased at a number of prestigious events.

Cindy Kallet and Grey Larsen, both highly regarded for decades of music making, have joined musical forces in a new duo. Their March 25 concert, "Cross the Water," will feature songs and tunes rooted in the folk traditions of Ireland, New England, Appalachia, and Scandinavia. Cindy Kallet, who has been writing music and playing the guitar since age 11, has performed throughout the US for more than thirty years. She is a gifted songwriter, singer, and guitarist with five solo albums to her credit. Grey Larsen is one of America's top players of the Irish flute and tin whistle, as well as being an accomplished singer and multi-instrumentalist. He has spent decades learning from elder masters in the US and Ireland, and combines traditional training with an academic background in composition and early music.

The band Chulrua, led by accordion player Paddy O'Brien, will give a concert on April 8. The band will also feature singer/guitarist Pat Egan and guest fiddle player Dale Russ. A native of County Offaly, Paddy O'Brien moved to Dublin in 1969 and performed with both the Castle Céilí Band and Ceoltóirí Laighean. He won the highest awards in Ireland for button accordion playing before immigrating to the US in the late 1970s. Since his arrival, he has been collaborating, recording, and performing worldwide. He released his first solo album, *Stranger at the Gate*, in 1988, and has recorded and published volume one of *The Paddy O'Brien Tune Collection*, a historic compilation of 500 double jigs and reels from his vast repertoire. Pat Egan, originally from County Tipperary, learned much of his early repertoire from singers and guitarists in his home parish. He began playing and recording professionally in Westport, County Mayo in the 1980s, and moved to the US in the late 1990s to form Chulrua with Paddy O'Brien. Pat has toured, taught, and performed nationally and internationally. Joining Chulrua on this occasion will be guest fiddle player Dale Russ, who appeared at Boston College in 1990 as part of the landmark fiddle festival "My Love is in America." Dale Russ, who began on guitar at age six, began playing the fiddle in 1973 after moving from Connecticut to Washington State. His recordings include *North Amerikay* with Finn MacGinty and *Reeds and Rosin* with Todd Denman.

The Gaelic Roots series is directed by Séamus Connolly, Sullivan Family Artist in Residence at Boston College. All four events will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Connolly House (300 Hammond St.) and are free of charge.

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