

BOSTON COLLEGE  
CENTER FOR IRISH PROGRAMS  
IRISH STUDIES | IRISH INSTITUTE | BURNS LIBRARY | BC-IRELAND

# IRISH STUDIES

## Burns Visiting Scholar, Fall 2015 Semester



Rev. James H. Murphy

Rev. James H. Murphy, C.M., professor of English at DePaul University, Chicago, will serve as the Burns Visiting Scholar in Irish Studies for the fall 2015 semester. A graduate of the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, he was awarded a BD by Heythrop College of the University of London in 1984 and an HDE by Trinity College Dublin in 1987. Murphy earned his Ph.D. in Anglo-Irish literature from University College Dublin in 1991 and has been a fellow of the Royal Historical Society since 2009.

Professor Murphy's published books include: *Catholic Fiction and Social Reality in Ireland, 1873-1922* (Greenwood, Westport, CT, 1997), *Abject Loyalty: Nationalism and Monarchy in Ireland During the Reign*

*of Queen Victoria* (Cork: Cork University Press, 2001), *Ireland: A Social, Cultural and Literary History, 1791-1891* (Dublin: Four Courts, 2003), *Irish Novelists and the Victorian Age* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), and *Ireland's Czar: Gladstonian Government and the Lord Lieutenancies of the Red Earl Spencer, 1868-1886* (University College Dublin Press, 2014). Murphy has also edited or co-edited an additional eight books.

Apart from these book-length publications, Murphy has been a prominent contributor to several dozen professional journals and books that reflect his interest and expertise in both Irish literature and history. A multidisciplinary scholar, he has also published widely on issues of gender and sexuality. His principal areas of research, however, are the political, social, and cultural history of the so-called "long century" (1791-1922).

This semester, Professor Murphy will teach an advanced topic seminar in the Department of English entitled Irish Victorian Fiction, an area in which he is a widely respected authority.

In the spring semester, Dr. Colman O'Clabaigh, OSB of Glenstal Abbey, Ireland, will come to BC from St. John's, Collegeville, Minnesota, as the University's Burns Visiting Scholar. Dr. O'Clabaigh is the author of, among other works, *The Friars of Ireland 1124-1540* (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012), which won the 2013 National University of Ireland prize for Irish Historical Research. Further details concerning Dr. O'Clabaigh will be available in our next newsletter.

## Irish Studies Fall 2015 Events

**September 23** | 7:00 p.m.

Gasson Hall Irish Room

BC's Lowell Humanities Series presents Professor Declan Kiberd, Irish writer and scholar. His lecture is titled "Militarism or Modernism? Intellectual Origins of the Easter Rising, Dublin, 1916."

**October 1, 2015** | 6:00 p.m.

Devlin Hall Room 101

Reception to follow in Connolly House.

Professor Margaret Kelleher, Inaugural Adele Dalsimer Memorial Lecturer, presents "Focla Déigheanacha (Dying Words): The Execution of Myles Joyce (Galway, 1882) and Its Continuing Legacy."

**October 24** | 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Devlin Hall Room 101

150th anniversary of the birth of Yeats

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the renowned Irish poet W.B. Yeats, the Center for Irish Programs will host a one-day conference at Boston College.

The lineup of speakers includes:

Michael Woods, Princeton University

Carrie Preston, Boston University

Rebecca Troeger, University of Connecticut

Elizabeth Loizeaux, Boston University

Paige Reynolds, Holy Cross College

John Paul Riquelme, Boston University

Andrew Kuhn, Boston College

There will be an opportunity in the course of the day to read your favorite Yeats poem.

**November 18** | 4:30 p.m.

Burns Library

Lecture in the Thompson Room, reception to follow in the Library's Irish Room

The Burns Visiting Scholar Lecture "Novelists and Politicians in Nineteenth Century Ireland," presented by James H. Murphy, C.M., fall 2015 Burns Visiting Scholar.

**December 9** |

5:00 p.m.

Devlin Hall Room 101

Reception to follow at Connolly House.

Professor Monica McWilliams, Ulster University, presents:

"Women and the Peace Process in Northern Ireland."

McWilliams was the founder of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition and played a prominent part in the Northern Ireland Peace process.



Paul Murray will visit the Boston College campus in late October 2015 in connection with his new novel *The Mark and the Void*. Murray is one of the best young Irish contemporary writers. His first novel, *An Evening of Long Goodbyes*, was shortlisted for the Whitbread First Novel Prize in 2003. His second novel, *Skipper Dies*, was longlisted for the Booker Prize in 2010. We hope to have copies of his much anticipated *The Mark and the Void* available for his visit.

We also hope to have Kevin Barry on campus at some point in the fall. His new novel, *Beatlebone*, will be published by Canongate in October. Barry was the winner of the 2013 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award.

Please keep an eye on our Web site for details of both events. For those of you who have provided your e-mail address, we shall alert you in good time to these and other events.

**Please share your e-mail address so we may keep you advised of upcoming news, events, and event details. You may send contact information to: [irish@bc.edu](mailto:irish@bc.edu).**

In recent years, this newsletter has reported on events not only in Irish Studies at Boston College but also those related to the Irish Institute, Boston College-Ireland, and the Irish Collections of the Burns Library. My 15-year tenure as executive director of the Center for Irish Programs ended on August 15, 2015, when I began a one-year sabbatical, to subsequently return as Research Professor in Residence. My successor as head of Irish Programs at Boston College, Oliver P. Rafferty, S.J., is a talented and dedicated scholar in whose care the enterprise will flourish. I wish him and my colleagues every good fortune moving forward.

— Thomas E. Hachey  
Center for Irish Programs  
Boston College

## The Arts and Crafts Movement: Making It Irish

From February to early June 2016, the McMullen Museum of Art at Boston College will mount the first comprehensive exhibition of the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Irish Arts and Crafts movement. *The Arts and Crafts Movement: Making It Irish* gathers and contextualizes objects that evidence Celtic revivalist and pre-modernist visual motifs created in a period of political and social upheaval preceding and following independence in 1921.

The exhibition includes domestic objects as well as other works created for political, pedagogical, or spiritual purposes. It will, for the first time in America, display Arts and Crafts metalwork, textiles, bookbinding, woodwork, and illumination from the collection of the Honan Chapel in Cork City. That masterpiece of Irish Arts and Crafts achievement was consecrated in November 1916, the year of the Battle of the Somme in France and Ireland's Easter Rising; a year that initiated hostilities culminating in independence from colonial rule five years later.

Included among the items displayed are a 1904 sodality banner of a medieval Irish saint, designed by modernist artist Jack Yeats and embroidered by the

new women's collective, the Dun Emer Guild; a Celtic revivalist casket commissioned as a gift to the first senate of the Irish Free State to hold the vellum roll containing each senator's signature; examples of jewelry inspired by nineteenth-century archaeological discoveries of early Christian metalwork; and exquisite lacework produced by rural women and organized by elite patrons. To demonstrate why Irish stained glass artists gained international prominence in the early twentieth century, the exhibition displays Harry Clarke's and Wilhelmina Geddes's glass panels, which evoke Ireland's Celtic and early Christian past.



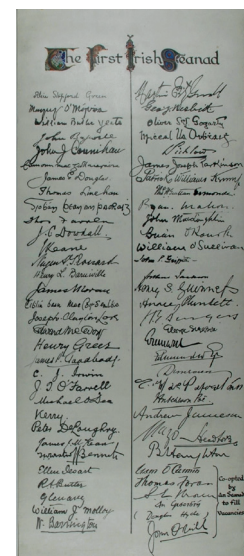
Mia Cranwill, *Senate Casket*, 1924, copper, silver, gold, and enamel. Royal Irish Academy



Harry Clarke, *The Baptism of St. Patrick*, 1912, acidified, stained, and painted glass. National College of Art and Design, Dublin

The exhibition is co-curated by Vera Kreilkamp of Boston College's Irish Studies faculty and Diana Larsen, assistant director of the McMullen Museum. Members of the University's Irish Studies facul-

ty and scholars from Ireland, Northern Ireland, Canada, and the United States will contribute to its interdisciplinary catalogue. Major lenders include the National Museum of Ireland, the Royal Irish Academy, the National College of Art and Design, the Crawford Art Gallery and the Honan Chapel in Cork, St. Brendan's Cathedral in Loughrea, National Museums Northern Ireland, and private collectors in Ireland and the United States.





## Raidin the Wake with Professor Joe Nugent

If your taste in reading runs to history, archaeology, popular science, or music, there's a reading group on campus that's just perfect for you. If what you prefer is a cutting-edge novel with an air of mystery, you're still in the right place. And if your particular obsession is for all things Irish, this will be right up your alley. Then again, if what you want is a hilarious read that leaves you rolling on the floor, you certainly won't want to miss this one. But you very likely will.

For *Finnegans Wake* is the funniest book you'll probably never read. And that's unlike the dozen or so faculty and students who indulge once a week here at BC in Joyce's astonishing, preposterous, hilarious masterpiece of enlightening obscurity, of magnificent erudition. Reading it weekly—but never expecting to finish it.

For at our typical pace of half a page (on occasion as much as a whole page) per week, we're unlikely to see page 676 any time soon. We members of *Raidin the Wake* have, after all, been at it only 11 years. So why would anyone even begin a book they'll most likely never finish? For the *Raiders* of BC (coming from English, history, mathematics, philosophy, etc.) and their equally diverse guests from BU, Tufts, Harvard, and beyond, the answers are as diverse as the disciplines they pursue: "for our love of language," "in our fascination with brilliance," "for the intellectual challenge," or, more frequently, "for the sheer bloody pleasure of it all."

Want to know more? Here are 12 vital facts about *Finnegans Wake* that every literate person should have at their page-soiled fingertips.

- It's the most difficult book in the English language. Bar none.
- It took 17 years to write—and that by a man struggling against his blindness, battling with his obsessions, troubled by his daughter's schizophrenia, and even (in a hotly contested claim) riddled with syphilis.
- In the recently published translation of the first book of the *Wake*, *Fennigen de Shouling Ye* shot to the top of the Shanghai best-seller list.
- Its main character is called Humphrey Chimpden Earwicker, who has a wife and three children. Or perhaps Mr. Porter, who owns (or doesn't) a public house. Then again, it might be the late Mr. Tim Finnegan who, famously, fell off a ladder and broke his skull. Or someone else entirely. We do know that whoever he is, his wife is the River Liffey.
- Bababadalgharaghtakamminarronnkonnbronnntonnnerronntuonnthunntrovarrhounawn-skawntoohooordenenthurnuk is one of nine 100-letter words you'll find there. Add another containing 101 letters and that's 1001 letters total. (Joyce loved his chiasmus!)
- It was the main inspiration for Jacques Derrida's theory of literary deconstruction.
- Napoleon Bonaparte, St. Patrick, Adam, Humpty Dumpty, Eamonn de Valera, the Prophet Mohammed, Mutt and Jeff, Bishop Berkeley, Tom Sawyer, and Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John (collectively Mamalujo) traverse its pages. Though all these may in fact be alter egos of the main character. Whoever he is.
- Scholars more or less agree that it's all actually a dream. Not everyone, however, agrees on who's dreaming it.
- The story revolves around an outrageously indecent incident that occurred in the Phoenix Park; but we're never quite told what. Happily for the reader, HCE's wife wrote a letter describing it in detail; unfortunately for the reader, we never get to read the letter.
- It contains three times more individual words than the entire works of Shakespeare—plays, sonnets, the lot.
- It's a gigantic hoax, written by an idiot on the backside of beauty. Not true—but that's pretty well what Joyce's one-time friend, the second-rate writer Oliver St. John Gogarty, alleged.



- It's the most readable book in the English language. Joyce knew that words were for *listening* to—always had been. He wrote *Finnegans Wake* to remind us of the fact. Don't worry about the meaning; read it out loud. Listen. And enjoy. Or join us.

In addition to its weekly meetings, *Raidin the Wake* sponsors many Joyce-related events—dinners, outings, film shows. Each fall, we host the *Waking Tim Finnegans* celebration featuring live music, performance, and recital. In spring, we brought some of the most eminent Joyceans in America to Connolly House for our *Fundamentally Theosophagusted* symposium. To learn about future events and to join our Listserv, contact [nugentj@bc.edu](mailto:nugentj@bc.edu).

## The John J. Burns Library of Rare Books and Special Collections

### New and notable acquisitions

Over the past several months, the Burns Library has acquired a number of significant works of Irish history, geography, and literature from De Búrca Rare Books in Blackrock, County Dublin—among them an especially rare collection of hand-colored aquatint views of Irish landscapes and coastal scenes published in 1835. The aquatint etchings are based on original watercolors by George Petrie, Andrew Nicholl, and Henry O'Neill, the three most distinguished Irish artists who worked in the genre during the nineteenth century. Petrie (1789–1866), was the first water-colorist to exhibit his works at the Royal Hibernian Academy, and became its president in 1857. He possessed remarkable abilities for rendering both dramatic and subtle atmospheric qualities in his paintings, thereby expressing the Romantic aesthetics of his age.

The Library has also purchased a bound set of three articles by Petrie on Irish antiquities: *Remarks on the Book of Mac Firbis*, *An Account of an Ancient Irish Reliquary, called the Domnach-Airgid*, and *On the History and Antiquities of Tara Hill*. All three were published by the Royal Irish Academy, the last earning him its prestigious Cunningham Medal.

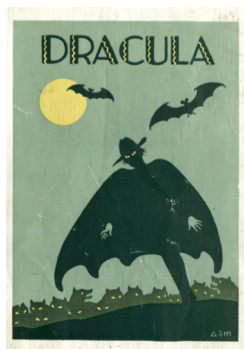


George Petrie, Andrew Nicholl, and Henry O'Neill, *Picturesque Sketches of Some of the Finest Landscape and Coast Scenery of Ireland* (Dublin: Wakeman, 1835). Above, Petrie's depiction of Gougane Barra Lake with the Hermitage of Saint Finbarr in County Cork.

De Búrca Rare Books also supplied us with an exceedingly rare copy of the 1723 Dublin printing of Jeoffry Keating's *General History of Ireland*. Keating actually composed the work a century earlier, bringing "the art of writing limpid Irish to its highest perfection," in the words of Dr. Douglas Hyde, former president of Ireland. It was subsequently translated into English and amended by the early Gaelic scholar Dermod O'Connor. Another century later, John O'Mahony, a founding member of the Fenian Brotherhood in the United States, produced his own translation, mocking O'Connor's efforts. Now both translations are available in Burns Library for students and scholars to compare.

In May, the Burns was the successful bidder for a copy of *The Statutes of Ireland, beginning the third yere of K. Edward the Second and continuing untill the end of the Parliament begunne in the eleventh yere of .... King James, and ended in the thirteenth yere of his raigne of England, Fraunce, and Ireland* (Dublin: Printed by the Societie of Stationers, 1621) that was included in the Adam's of Dublin auction of the private library of Tony Sweeney, the renowned collector and *Irish Times* racing correspondent, who died in 2012. From the same auction were also obtained several seventeenth-century anti-Catholic pamphlets relating to the so-called "Popish Plot" fabricated by Titus Oates between 1678 and 1681, alleging that a number of Jesuits, Catholic nobles, and other "papists" were conspiring to assassinate King Charles II of England, Scotland, and Ireland. At least 22 innocent men were executed, including nine Jesuits, while dozens more died in prison before Oates's accusations were exposed as an elaborately concocted scheme of lies.

The Library could not resist sinking its teeth into a first-edition copy of *Dracula* in Irish, published in 1933. The translation of the Transylvanian tale told by Dublin-born Bram Stoker was commissioned under a government program funded by finance minister Ernest Blythe, better and worse remembered for his pension-cutting austerity measures in the early years of the Irish Free State. But Blythe also wanted to give new life to literary works by rendering them in the Irish tongue. According to Dennis McIntyre, director of the Bram Stoker Heritage Centre, the name Dracula was derived from the Irish “Droch Ola,” meaning “bad blood.” The more common theory, popularized by former Boston College professor of history Radu Florescu in his 1972 book-become-film *In Search of Dracula*, is that Stoker modeled his protagonist on a fifteenth-century Romanian prince of the House of Drăculești, later nicknamed Vlad the Impaler on account of his vengeful treatment of Ottoman Turks. Even if that claim stretches evidence subsequently found in notes that Stoker left behind, there is no denying that this new acquisition has enabled us to plant our own stake more firmly in the myth of the Wallachian count.



Bram Stoker, *Dracula*, translated into Irish by Seán Ó Cuirrín (Dublin: Oifig Díolta Foillseacháin Rialtais, 1933). Cover design by Austin Molloy.

## Boston College-Ireland

### The William B. Neenan, S.J., Visiting Fellowship at Boston College-Ireland

Applications are invited for the William B. Neenan, S.J., Visiting Fellowship at Boston College-Ireland during 2016. The Fellowship is named to honor the work of Fr. Neenan, who came to Boston College in 1979 as the first Thomas I. Gasson Professor. Neenan served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 1980 to 1987 before assuming the role of academic vice president and dean of faculties. During his tenure, the University established itself among the nation's top institutions of higher education. From 1998, he served as vice president and special assistant to the president. Sadly, in 2014, Fr. Neenan passed away.

The Fellowship is open to any scholar in the field of Irish Studies and requires that a period of time be spent conducting research in Dublin. The Fellowship may be held at any time during 2016 for a required minimum period of two months. The Fellowship holder will be awarded a stipend of €5,000 and will have access to the Boston College-Ireland building with an office and administrative support during their stay in Ireland.

The closing date for Fellowship application is December 7, 2015. To apply, please send your curriculum vitae and a two-page explanation of the research you plan to undertake in Ireland, as well as details of proposed outputs, to Professor Mike Cronin at [croninmr@bc.edu](mailto:croninmr@bc.edu).

### Boston College football in Ireland

In June 2015, it was announced that the Boston College football team will play Georgia Tech at Dublin's Aviva Stadium on Saturday, September 3, 2016. The game, officially the *Aer Lingus College Football Classic*, represents BC athletics' second visit to Ireland since having participated in Dublin's inaugural *Emerald Island Classic* in 1988. Travel packages are now available for the game via [www.collegefootballireland.com](http://www.collegefootballireland.com). Boston College-Ireland looks forward to welcoming BC's many traveling fans during that exciting football weekend and will host a number of events and exhibitions around the time of the game. More news will be available on those happenings in the spring issue of the newsletter. The game's announcement was made in Dublin and Boston, addressed by Taoiseach Enda Kenny and US Ambassador to Ireland Kevin O'Malley. After the formal launch, the Taoiseach met with BC students who were engaged in a summer class in Dublin at that time.

### Century Ireland

Work continues on the Century Ireland project ([www.rte.ie/centuryireland](http://www.rte.ie/centuryireland)). The coming months will feature coverage of some seminal events in Irish history from a century ago. These include the centenary of the burial of the Fenian, Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, at Glasnevin cemetery on August 1, 1915, which is most famous for Patrick Pearse's graveside oration where he stated "the fools, the fools, the fools!—They have left us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace." The emergence of Pearse as a leading figure in the advanced nationalist cause marked the beginning of

a radicalization of Irish politics that would culminate with the Easter Rising in Dublin in 1916. Century Ireland will unveil a project dedicated to the events of Easter 1916 in October. For updates follow the project on twitter #CenturyIrl.

## Irish Institute/Global Leadership Institute

Listen to any conversation in a BC dining hall and you'll quickly notice that the University has undergone significant change in recent years. Boston College has evolved into an internationally recognized institution, educating students from around the globe. In 2014, the number of international undergraduates enrolled at BC reached an all-time high, and early indicators are for that record to be surpassed by this fall's incoming class of freshmen.

BC's Irish Institute and Global Leadership Institute (GLI) share in this new, globally minded mission, and 2014 saw the institutes extend to new geographic regions, engaging with participants from a variety of backgrounds. The pillars of the Irish Institute and the GLI (learning, application, reflection, and networking) have been shared with participants from Dublin to Dubai.

2014 saw the GLI travel still farther afield, with sessions held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on Urban Innovation, Dynamic Leadership, and Innovation and Creativity. These two-day courses, with a focus on smart infrastructure and innovation, brought Boston College faculty together with a diverse group of executives from the Middle East and Northern Africa. Boston and Dubai share a number of parallels, which may serve to foster a rich network of partnerships between them.

Last summer, over 150 high school and college-age students visited from Brazil to participate in 10-day programs on entrepreneurship. We also hosted executives from Kuwait and MBA students from Brazil while continuing our long-standing business programs with participants from Ulster University in Northern Ireland. This summer saw these programs double in size!

This spring, participants from Ireland and Northern Ireland hosted a number of "follow-on visits" back in their homeland after visits. American visitors studied the work and practices of their new Irish and Northern Irish colleagues' organizations, offering a meaningful opportunity for in-depth discussion.

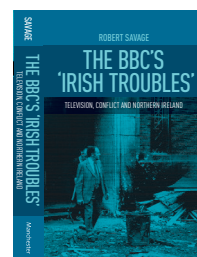
Over the past few months, the Irish Institute has welcomed a number of visiting politicians and political leaders from Ireland, Northern Ireland, and beyond. In the spring of 2015, Deputy Prime Minister Joan Burton visited Boston College to deliver a lecture on Ireland's recovery and economic growth. Later in the season, Connolly House welcomed Minister for the Diaspora Jimmy Deenihan, TD, FG, who spoke on issues related to immigration reform and the Irish diaspora in America. And from the American political world, former Maryland governor and presidential hopeful Martin O'Malley spoke to a group of students and guests on his political ambitions and visions for the future.

The Institute had the opportunity to interact with undergraduates and the wider Boston College community during International Education Week (IEW), when Mr. Andrew O'Brien, special representative for global partnerships to Secretary of State John Kerry, joined Irish Consul General Breandán Ó Caollaí and British Consul General Susie Kitchens to explore US contributions to the peace and reconciliation process in Ireland. The panel focused on diplomacy, conflict resolution, and social justice, and panel members reflected on their experiences and expectations for the future. A lively question and answer period followed and the event was one of the most popular sessions of IEW.

We are pleased to announce the publication of a new book by one of our distinguished faculty members, Robert J. Savage Jr.'s *The BBC's 'Irish Troubles': Television, Conflict and Northern Ireland* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2015), distributed in North America by Oxford University Press. Dr.



Savage is Professor of the Practice of History in the



Department of History at BC. The work has already attracted international attention from *The Sunday Times*, and the *Irish Times* review said that it was based on "gold standard research." The book traces the difficulties the BBC worked under and the pressures it faced from both the British government

and Northern Irish terrorists as it sought to report the Troubles impartially and objectively.



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## Gaelic Roots Series

The Gaelic Roots Music, Song, Dance, Workshop, and Lecture Series continues this fall with the events listed below. This popular series is presented annually by the Center for Irish Programs in collaboration with the University Libraries and Alumni Association. Details for all events may be found at [bc.edu/gaelicroots](http://bc.edu/gaelicroots) and [facebook.com/gaelicroots](https://facebook.com/gaelicroots).

### **Irish Dance and Ceili**

Thursday, October 15 | 6:30 p.m.  
Gasson Hall Irish Room

### **Paddy O'Brien (accordion)**

### **and Nathan Gourley (fiddle) Concert**

Thursday, November 12 | 6:30 p.m.  
Theology & Ministry Library Auditorium

FOR FURTHER PERFORMANCES, AS THEY BECOME CONFIRMED

Please visit our websites at: <http://www.bc.edu/centers/irish/studies/calendar.html>  
<http://www.bc.edu/centers/irish/gaelicroots/>

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## BOSTON COLLEGE CENTER FOR IRISH PROGRAMS

The Boston College Center for Irish Programs is headquartered in Connolly House on the University's Chestnut Hill Campus. The Center includes BC's Irish Studies Program, the Irish Institute, Boston College-Ireland on St. Stephen's Green in Dublin, and the Burns Library's Irish Collections.

In addition to providing administrative support and program coordination for each of these units, the Center also serves as an umbrella under which any Irish-related activities on each of the Boston College campuses may obtain resource assistance.

For more information, please contact: Irish Studies at Boston College, Connolly House, 300 Hammond Street, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467, 617-552-6396, or e-mail [irish@bc.edu](mailto:irish@bc.edu). See our Web site at [www.bc.edu/irish](http://www.bc.edu/irish). *Irish Studies* is edited by Joan Reilly.