

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

IRISH STUDIES

Burns Visiting Scholar, Spring 2017 Semester



Kevin Barry

The Center for Irish Programs and the Burns Library welcome the Irish novelist and short story writer Kevin Barry as Burns Visiting Scholar in Irish Studies for the spring 2017 semester. Kevin's career has been marked by a rapid and popular success that has been validated by the views of critics and fellow writers and by success in literary awards. In 2007 Barry won the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature for his short story collection *There are Little Kingdoms*. Four years later saw the publication of his first novel *City of Bohane*, which won the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award in 2013 and has been described as "flamboyant and malevolent, speaking in a vernacular like no other." The previous year another short-story collection, *Dark Lies the Island*, had been

published. Finally, in 2015 Barry's *Beatlebone* won the Goldsmith's Prize, which is awarded for work that breaks the mould of fictional conventions.

Born in Limerick, Kevin has lived in many places, including Cork, Santa Barbara, Barcelona, and Liverpool. Recent years have, however, seen him settle in Sligo, where he has purchased and renovated a former police station. He is driven by enormous creative energy though he disarmingly refers to himself as a "raving egomaniac."

Barry's most recent novel *Beatlebone* imagines John Lennon's journey to an island he owns in Ireland, his battles with creative block, primal scream therapy, and his new album, the eponymous *Beatlebone*. "My initial spark of inspiration is always place. I go cycling around where I live in County Sligo and, when I passed Clew Bay, I remembered that John Lennon owned one of the islands there in the 70s when it was the end of the hippie trail and there were communes everywhere. This gave me a vague idea for this novel: John is looking for his island and can't find it. Once I had the voice it came alive."

Being an Irish writer has given Kevin Barry the resources of tradition. "I love the radical streak—Beckett and Joyce and Flann O'Brien were happy to go nuts on the page and be inventive. I also love Beckett's letters because no matter how bleak you're feeling, Sam is always feeling worse. There's so much writing from this small, wet black rock at the edge of the Atlantic. I don't think the fact that we get 300 days of rain is unconnected—it's the ideal condition for a nation of storytellers. You have to make stuff up or you'd go nuts."

Irish Studies Spring 2017 Events

The Center for Irish Programs at Boston College is pleased to offer a variety of events that are free and open to the public:

FEBRUARY

1 | AN EVENING WITH THE EDITORS: A WINTER PAPERS 2 SHOWCASE AND Q&A Wednesday, 6-8 p.m., Connolly House



Olivia Smith and Kevin Barry, courtesy of the *Irish Examiner*

Kevin Barry and **Olivia Smith**, editors of *Winter Papers*, will discuss the second volume of Ireland's annual arts anthology. This thoughtfully curated and beautifully designed publication showcases a wide range of artistic talent—from literary and visual arts to essays and interviews on performing arts. This event will include selections from *Winter Papers 2* and a Q&A.

3 | LECTURE Friday, 12:15 p.m.
Burns Library, Fine Print Room
Luncheon to follow, Irish Room

Lucy McDiarmid, the Marie Frazee-Baldassarre Professor of English at Monclair State University and the author of the recently published book *At Home in the Revolution: What Women Said and Did in 1916*, will present “**Fairies, Rebels, and the Boundaries of the House in 1916**,” followed by a brief Q&A session.

9 | THEATRE CONFERENCE ON MARTIN MCDONAGH'S *THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE*

Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Connolly House



The Center for Irish Programs is pleased to present a day of events to celebrate the staging of Galway's **Druid Theatre Company's** production of McDonagh's *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, with an address by artistic director **Garry Hynes**, discussion with the cast, and talks on McDonagh and Druid.

Free and open to the public. To register for the production itself, visit <https://artsemerson.org>.

15 | THE 2017 THOMAS J. FLATLEY IRISH STUDIES LECTURE SERIES

Wednesday, 4 p.m., Connolly House

Enda Delaney, professor of history, University of Edinburgh, will present “**Out of Time: Ireland and Modernity**.” Professor Delaney's lecture explores an alternative perspective on Ireland's past, seeing Ireland's experience as a transformative encounter with modernity, with all the tensions and opportunities that such an encounter inevitably brings.



Enda Delaney, photo by Maura Hickey

23 | 2017 ADELE DALSIMER MEMORIAL LECTURE

Thursday, 6 p.m., Devlin Hall 101



Clair Wills

Clair Wills, the Leonard L. Milberg '53 Chair of Irish Letters at Princeton University, presents "**Digs & Lodging Houses: Literature, Ruins & Survival in Post-War Britain.**" Wills is a leading scholar of twentieth-century British and Irish literature and society. Her lecture will explore the world of post-war British culture and will draw on the work of Harold Pinter and Samuel Beckett.

23 | FROM THE VARIETY STAGE TO THE SHAMROCK BAND: A BRIEF HISTORY OF IRISH MUSIC IN BOSTON, 1890–1930

Thursday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Connolly House



Dan Neely

Ethnomusicologist **Dan Neely** tells a story about Irish music in Boston that begins with the Gaelic revival and the variety stage and continues through to the dance bands of the 1920s and the Depression. Live music with Joey Abarta, Sean Clohessy, and Sheila Falls Keohane will follow the lecture.



Joey Abarta

MARCH

15 | ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

A celebration of St. Patrick in music and in his own words. Please visit the Irish Studies website to view further details as they become available.

21 | IRISH WRITERS SERIES

Tuesday, 4:30 p.m., Connolly House

Hofstra University Adjunct Professor of English **Connie Roberts** will read from her poetry collection *Little Witness* (2015). In January 2016 the book was shortlisted for the Shine/Strong Award, which is presented annually to the author of the best debut collection of poems by an Irish poet the previous year.

29 | THE LOWELL WRITERS SERIES IN COLLABORATION WITH FICTION DAYS AND IRISH STUDIES

Wednesday, 7 p.m., Gasson Hall, Room 100



Anne Enright

Best-selling Irish writer **Anne Enright**, most recently of *The Green Road* (2015), was named the inaugural Laureate for Irish Fiction in 2015. Enright has written numerous award-winning novels and short story collections. Her 2007 novel *The Gathering* won the Man Booker Prize for Fiction,

the Hughes and Hughes Irish Novel of the Year Award, and the Irish Fiction Award.

30 | GAELIC ROOTS PRESENTATION

Thursday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.,
Connolly House

Traditional Irish music and dance featuring Boston College students performing with their instructors, **Sheila Falls Keohane** and **Kieran Jordan**.

30 | THE 2017 THOMAS J. FLATLEY IRISH STUDIES LECTURE SERIES

Thursday, 5:30 p.m., McMullen Museum of Art, The Hill Room, Room 111



Declan McGonagle

Declan McGonagle, founding director, Irish Museum of Modern Art, presents **"It's About Them, Not Us: 'Turning' the Museum in an Anxious World."** In this illustrated lecture, McGonagle will explore issues raised by the opening and subsequent development of a museum of modern art in Ireland at the end of the twentieth century.

APRIL

4 | THE 2017 THOMAS J. FLATLEY IRISH STUDIES LECTURE SERIES

Tuesday, 5 p.m., Connolly House

Eibhear Walshe presents **"Modern Ireland in 100 Artworks."** Walshe, a leading authority on Irish authors, presents the story that emerges through these 100 works. In his lecture he will discuss this innovative publication of which he served as one of several editors. These artworks trace the story of Ireland's creative output from the revolutionary period until today.



5 | GAELIC ROOTS CONCERT

Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Cadigan Alumni Center



Traditional/folk/fusion trio from Prince Edward Island **Ten Strings and a Goatskin** will present traditional and original music inspired by their Canadian histories and roots, infused with pop and world rhythms.

6 | THE 2017 THOMAS J. FLATLEY IRISH STUDIES LECTURE SERIES

Thursday, 5-8 p.m., Connolly House

In association with the Department of English Graduate Symposium in Women's Writing, **Julia Wright** (Dalhousie University) presents **"Supporting the Female Right to Literature: Irish Writing on Education and Authorship, 1775-1830."** Professor Wright is a leading international authority on Romanticism, particularly its Irish dimension. In her lecture she will explore debates on women's education and its relationship to women's authorship. Her lecture will be followed by an exploration of women's writing as it relates to the same theme since Romanticism. Graduate students will offer brief reflections on key texts, extracts of which will be read by a professional actor. **Registration required.**



Julia Wright

8 | AN IRISH STUDIES COLLOQUIUM

Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Connolly House

Please join the Center for Irish Programs in this day-long Irish Studies Colloquium. Further details will be posted to our website as they become available.

10 | THE 2017 THOMAS J. FLATLEY IRISH STUDIES LECTURE SERIES

Monday, 4 p.m., Devlin Hall, Room 101



Richard English

Professor Richard English presents, “Does Terrorism Work?” Richard English is Professor of Politics at Queen’s University Belfast where he is also Distinguished Professor Fellow in the George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security, and Justice. His book *Does Terrorism Work? A History* offers a reflective answer to that question.

12 | BURNS VISITING SCHOLAR LECTURE

Wednesday, 4:30 p.m., Burns Library,

Thompson Room

Reception to follow, Irish Room

Kevin Barry presents “A Writer’s Apprenticeship.” Barry is one of Ireland’s most acclaimed new literary talents. In 2007 he won the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature for his short story collection

There Are Little Kingdoms. His debut novel, *City of Bohane*, was released in 2011 and was subsequently named, in 2013, winner of the International Dublin Literary Award. 2012 saw the publication of another collection of short stories, *Dark Lies the Island*, and, in November 2015, Barry’s novel *Beatlebone* won the Goldsmith’s Prize. That prize aims to reward British and Irish fiction that breaks the mould or extends the possibilities of the novel form.

19 | IRISH WRITERS SERIES

Wednesday, 4:30 p.m., Devlin Hall,

Room 101



Caitríona Palmer

Caitríona Palmer’s new book, *An Affair with my Mother*, is a moving story of love, denial, and a daughter’s quest for the truth, revealing the dark place that adoption holds in Ireland’s history. The *Irish Examiner* says *An Affair with my Mother* is not only an achingly honest account of Caitríona’s

personal quest to find her roots; it’s also a forensic examination of the social issues surrounding it. Caitríona’s story is “a searing portrait of the social and familial forces that left Sarah—and so many other unwed Irish mothers of her generation—frightened, traumatized and bereft.”



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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.

Digital Joyce

As we know, the digital humanities have been an area of great interest in recent times. One of its foremost proponents in Irish Studies is Professor Joe Nugent of Irish Studies and the English Department at Boston College. Joe is well known for his expertise and enthusiasm for Joyce. For years he has also run an evening *Finnegans Wake* reading group and also runs an annual Joyce conference.

On October 15, Joe conducted a conference at BC at which experts from various universities made presentations on their work in digital humanities. Among them was a fascinating three-dimensional reconstruction of seventeenth-century Rome, created from contemporary illustrated maps. Joe's own current project is called Joycestick: A Gamification of *Ulysses*, which he is working on with BC students whose areas of expertise range from literature to computer science. The ultimate result will be an interactive, immersive experience (with participants employing virtual reality goggles and gloves) to digitally visit the Martello Tower in Sandycove, south of Dublin, where Joyce's novel *Ulysses* begins. There they will encounter and interact with various artifacts that will place them at various points in the text. As one of Joe's students puts it, "We are bringing virtual reality to something that's barely being used right now, using that to explain this complicated, dramatic, very deep novel that applies to so much of our lives. It's an experience that you don't want to pass up."

A short video on the project can be found here: <http://joycestick.bc.edu/2016/10/04/joycestick-a-gamification-of-ulysses/>

Irish Literature

The Center for Irish Programs had visits in the fall semester of 2016 from two scholars of Irish literature who presented talks at Connolly House. Ronan McDonald, based at the University of New South Wales, Australia, has broad expertise in Modernism in literature, with a particular interest in Samuel Beckett. His talk, "The Value of Beckett," touched on many aspects of the work of perhaps the greatest playwright of the twentieth century and focused particularly on ways it has given meaning, and been given meaning, in various cultural contexts. Ronan also visited the Burns Library where Burns Librarian Dr. Christian Dupont showed him BC's important Beckett holdings.

Jim Shanahan is a faculty member at Dublin City University, specializing in nineteenth-century Irish fiction. He presented a talk on Irish Gothic novels from the early part of that century. It is typically argued that Gothic is a Protestant genre, tailored to the experience of an isolated ruling group in a hostile culture as the Protestant Ascendancy was at the time in Ireland. Jim argued, however, that wealthier Catholics also had a fear of the "peasantry" and could themselves, at times, deploy Gothic conventions.



Louis de Paor, Liam O Muirthile, Deirdre Brennan, and Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill at Burns Library, Boston College

Louis de Paor Poetry Reading

Louis de Paor, director of Irish Studies at the National University of Ireland, Galway, served as Burns Visiting Scholar in Irish Studies in the fall semester of 2016, teaching a class on Flann O'Brien, the mid-twentieth-century Irish Modernist novelist and humorist. Professor de Paor is one of those people for whom the use of the hackneyed phrase Renaissance man is actually appropriate. He is a scholar, teacher, editor, and distinguished poet in the Irish language. 2016 saw the publication of his *Leabhar na hAthghabhála*, an anthology of twentieth-century Irish poetry, in Irish with English translation. At the invitation of Burns Librarian Dr. Christian Dupont, Louis led a wonderful celebration of Gaelic poetry with the help of Irish-language poets Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill, Deirdre Brennan, and Liam O Muirthile. Each read some of their own poems from the anthology, then poems by others while Louis provided a fascinating account of the development of Irish-language poetry in modern Ireland. Interestingly, it emerged that such poetry really only began to firmly establish itself from the 1940s. Several weeks later, Louis gave a fascinating Burns lecture on the work of Flann O'Brien and Máirtín Ó Cadhain.



Anne Anderson

Ambassador Anne Anderson at Boston College

Wednesday, November 30, 2016, saw a visit to Boston College from Her Excellency Anne Anderson, Irish ambassador to the United States. She visited in the company of Fionnuala Quinlan and Aoife Budd, consul general and vice consul, respectively, in Boston. Ms. Quinlan had visited earlier in the semester for a screening of Notre Dame's documentary on the 1916 Rising and Ms. Budd has opened the annual Joyce conference at Connolly House. Ambassador Anderson is the 17th Irish ambassador in Washington and the first woman to hold the post. She moved to Washington in 2013 having been Ireland's permanent representative at the United Nations for the previous four years. Prior to that, she served as ambassador to France, as permanent representative to the European Union in Brussels, and at the United Nations in Geneva. She has had a special interest in promoting gender equality and in 2015 was listed as one of Ireland's 25 most powerful women.

The ambassador's talk took as its starting point the recent celebrations of the 1916 Rising but went on to present a perceptive, and at times sobering assessment of the challenges Ireland currently faces in the world. She emphasized two matters in particular. The first, inevitably, Brexit and the serious implications it could present for both the Irish economy and for the peace process in Northern Ireland. The second addressed the granting of green cards to Irish people wishing to work in the United States. There are, she estimated, some 50,000 undocumented Irish people in the US and yet they are provided only one-fifth of 1 percent of all green

cards issued annually. Ms. Anderson expressed the opinion that this is proportionately too low a number for a country that has contributed so much to the development of the US economy and society. Among other things, it may forebode a weakening of the historically close links between Ireland and America, with fewer first- and second-generation Irish Americans in the future. The Irish government had hoped that congressional legislation might bring about a change to this situation but unfortunately this has not passed. The night of the ambassador's address was a wet and windy one so it was heartening to see such a large turnout at the Cadigan Alumni Center on the Brighton Campus. The audience of students, faculty, staff, and friends of Irish Studies at BC was an interested one judging by the perceptive questions asked of the ambassador after her address.

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

Irish Literary Supplement Digitized

The Boston College Libraries are pleased to announce that the complete "backfiles" of *The Irish Literary Supplement (ILS)* are now freely available online. They may be accessed from <http://newspapers.bc.edu> as well as from the American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS) website (<http://acisweb.org>). Going forward, all but the current issue will be accessible in digital format.

ILS founder and editor Robert Lowery welcomed the Libraries' offer to digitize the full run of the biannual review of books of Irish interest. "When I started the *ILS*," Lowery remarked, "I had no idea whether it would be around over three decades later. But it is evident that it has been meeting a need in the ever-growing Irish Studies community." A 2015 survey of ACIS readers, who receive copies as a benefit of membership, affirmed that many continue to appreciate the tabloid layout, which the digitized version faithfully replicates while also supporting article-level and keyword search access. "The newspaper format is akin to other such reviews like the *New York Review of Books*," one survey respondent commented, "or the *Times Literary Supplement*. There's something about that format that keeps me reading the reviews for weeks after I receive each issue."

The inaugural issue of the *ILS* appeared in spring 1982. It included 28 pages of reviews and editorials—the same as most current issues although in some early years it contained as many as 60 pages. In 1985, arrangements were made to distribute copies to all current ACIS members. Distribution to other individuals and libraries around the world were facilitated by agents in Canada and Ireland. Access to past issues was facilitated through microfilm copies.

Since 1986, the *ILS* has been published in association with the Irish Studies Program at Boston College, which has helped to underwrite printing costs. Program founders Adele Dalsimer and Kevin O'Neill joined the editorial board at that time, which has over the years included other BC faculty, notably Philip O'Leary, Rob Savage, and Ruth Ann Harris, as well as Richard Kearney, who had launched another Irish Studies journal in Dublin, *The Crane Bag*, before coming to BC. Thomas Hachey joined the board in 2001 following his appointment as executive director of what became BC's Center for Irish Programs. Since 2008, the *ILS* has included a section devoted to the Center's news, further solidifying the strong connection between the *ILS* and Irish Studies at Boston College.

This past fall, the BC Libraries approached Lowery with a proposal to digitize the complete run of the *ILS*. The Libraries have made it a priority to represent the identity and history of BC in its digital collections. The *ILS* is an appropriate addition that enhances the BC online presence (see: <http://libguides.bc.edu/digital-collections>). The entire run, comprising some 2,424 pages in 70 issues, is freely accessible online via the same platform the Libraries have used for various BC newspapers and campus publications. According to University Librarian Thomas B. Wall, "The BC Libraries are committed to supporting high-quality open-access content. Partnering with Robert Lowery to increase access to *The Irish Literary Supplement* offered a perfect opportunity to demonstrate that commitment and increase the value of BC's ongoing investment in the publication."

Acquisition Highlight: Yeats, *Where There is Nothing*

It is hard to find an edition of Yeats that the Burns Library lacks, so complete are our holdings thanks to the comprehensive collection donated by Brookline radiologist and Harvard Professor of Medicine Brian Leeming in 1989, complemented since by subsequent

additions, such as the copy of the privately printed volume containing Yeats's early short stories "The Tables of the Law" and "The Adoration of the Magi," which we purchased two years ago.

At the Boston Book Fair this past October, a local bookseller presented us with an opportunity to acquire another privately printed work by Yeats, this time an early play, *Where There is Nothing*.

The Leeming collection included a copy of the first appearance of the play in the November 1902 supplement to *The United Irishman*, Arthur Griffith's nationalist newspaper. It also contained the first London edition published by H.A. Bullen in 1903. In time, the first American public edition issued by Macmillan had been added, but lacking still was a copy of the earliest instantiation of the text represented by the limited editions that John Quinn had printed in New York between late October and early November 1902 for the purposes of securing an American copyright and publisher.

Quinn was a second-generation Irish-American corporate lawyer and premier collector of European Modernist art who likewise supported many Modernist writers. He had met Yeats and Lady Augusta Gregory during his first trip to Ireland in 1900, and later helped them establish the Abbey Theatre, where a substantially reworked version of *Where There is Nothing* was performed in 1907 as *The Unicorn from the Stars*.

Lady Gregory had more to do with that reworking than Yeats would ultimately give her credit for and it was she, along with Douglas Hyde, who had helped him write the original draft in about two weeks' time—the haste being brought about by the souring of Yeats's relationship with fellow writer George Moore.

In a note to its publication in *The United Irishman* supplement, Yeats commented: "*Where There is Nothing* is founded upon a subject which I suggested to George Moore when there seemed to be a sudden need of a play for the Irish Literary Theatre; we talked of collaboration, but this did not go beyond some rambling talks. Then the need went past, and I gradually put so much of myself into the fable that I felt I must write on it alone, and took it back into my own hands with his consent."

Hardly on his own, and hardly with amiable accord, as Moore had threatened legal action. Yet the

editions that Quinn had printed did contain a dedication from Yeats to Lady Gregory for “plays that are in part your own.”

Quinn had an initial run of 15 copies of *Where There is Nothing* printed by John Lane at the Knickerbocker Press, and then 30 more on larger paper set from the same type, yet with some corrections and absent the printer’s name. It is this second state that we recently acquired.

In a review that appeared in 1914, anarchist Emma Goldman remarked, “*Where There Is Nothing* is of great social significance, deeply revolutionary in the sense that it carries the message of the destruction of every institution—State, Property, and Church—that enslaves humanity. For where there is nothing, there man begins.” And from there as well, our collections continue to grow.

Irish Women Rising Exhibition Extended

Due to popular interest, the current exhibition in Burns Library celebrating Irish Republican women, originally scheduled to close on February 11, has been extended through March 25.



Maud Gonne embroidered banner

“Irish Women Rising: Gender and Politics in Revolutionary Ireland, 1900–1923,” features a wealth of rare primary documents and artifacts, such as autograph books kept by female prisoners during the Irish Civil War. Many are drawn from a collection on Irish women revolutionaries acquired last February from collector Loretta Clarke Murray of Ballina, County Mayo, who was able to join us for a special reception co-sponsored by the Eire Society of Boston on November 18. It included a conversation about the importance of the Irish language, then and now, led by fall 2016 Burns Visiting Scholar in Irish Studies Louis de Paor and Professor Joseph Nugent.



Bean na h-Eireann (The Woman of Ireland), Vol. 2, No. 21, November, 1910

On February 3, Lucy McDiarmid, currently the Marie Frazee-Baldassarre Professor of English at Montclair State University, gave a luncheon talk titled “Fairies, Rebels, and the Boundaries of the House in 1916” based on her award-winning study *At Home in the Revolution: What Women Said and Did in 1916*. Her talk will take place at the Burns Library.

Boston College-Ireland

Neenan Fellow 2017

Professor Ed Madden, from the University of South Carolina, has been selected as the 2017 Neenan Visiting Fellow in Irish Studies at BC-Ireland. Professor Madden is an accomplished scholar whose publications include *Tiresian Poetics: Modernism, Sexuality, Voice 1888-2001*, published by Fairleigh Dickinson University Press in 2008, as well as a number of collections of poetry. He has published widely on the topic of gender and sexuality in Ireland, and is currently the director of the Women’s and Gender Studies program at USC. During his fellowship, Professor Madden will research the Irish migrant writer Colm Clifford, son of Sigerson Clifford, a playwright and gay activist in London whose plays document the experiences of Irish migrants in London in the late 1970s and 1980s.

In addition to his research, Professor Madden will organize a reading of one of Clifford’s plays at BC-Ireland, which will help revive interest in the writer. The work on Clifford will be used in a wider context in a monograph being prepared by Professor Madden on homosexuality, masculinity, and Irish culture.

Century Ireland

BC-Ireland continues work on the Century Ireland project that charts the history of Irish life from 1913–1923. It is an online project available at www.rte.ie/centuryireland. The site was recently voted in a national poll as one of the best websites available to the public during the centenary events marking the 1916 Easter Rising. The poll was organized by the National Library and the presentation was made to Century Ireland by Heather Humphreys, TD, Minister for the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The importance of the poll results is that the top 10 rated 1916 websites, including Century Ireland, will be permanently archived by the National Library.

Coverage of events 100 years ago will continue on Century Ireland throughout 2017, and highlights will include the East Clare by-election and the victory of Eamon de Valera, the Irish Convention, ongoing fighting on the Western Front, and the entry of the United States into the First World War.

Eagles on the Road: Interview with Irish Institute/Global Leadership Institute Director Dr. Robert Mauro

This past fall, the Boston College Eagles took the football team on the road to compete in the Aer Lingus College Football Classic in Dublin. The game capped off a week of academic, business, and cultural events, all aimed at promoting and deepening the connection between Boston College and the country of Ireland.

We interviewed Irish Institute and Global Leadership Institute Director Dr. Robert Mauro to hear more about his work around the game.

What was the role of the II/GLI around the game?

The Irish Institute at the Global Leadership Institute has a long history of working with leaders in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Since 1999, over 1,200 executives from Ireland have come to Boston College on Irish Institute programming. Thanks to these deep



Senator George Mitchell with Dr. Robert Mauro

ties, we have an incredibly strong network that we were able to reconnect with and leverage around the game to ensure the trip would be a success.

What kinds of events took place in Dublin?

As the official slogan of the week stated, the trip to Ireland was about “much more than a game.” It was a chance to connect the academic, business, and alumni communities of Boston College, Dublin, and our opponents from Georgia Tech.

With that in mind, we were involved in several events around Dublin throughout the week. We helped to host a golf outing and networking dinner with the Ireland Gateway to Europe trade and business delegation, a welcome follow-up to their trip to Boston College last April. We partnered with the Lawyers' Business Development Club to host a fireside chat with prominent Irish businesswoman Marie O'Connor. We also supported the IDA Ireland Business Breakfast, which brought business leaders from Boston and Georgia together for a leadership conversation.

And of course there were plenty of other events by the Boston College community, including the Joint Faculty Symposium, the Celebration Mass, Boston College parade, and game kickoff, and plenty of parties and tailgates!

What was a highlight of the week?

For our organization, the highlight of the week was the Irish Institute Alumni Luncheon. This event allowed us to bring together over 350 of our federal program alumni who have come through our programs over the past 16 years. The event featured

a keynote address from Senator George Mitchell, one of the key architects of the Belfast Peace Agreement, as well as addresses from US Ambassador Kevin O'Malley, Irish Institute alumnus Minister Charlie Flanagan, and alumni panels on youth diversion and economic development. It was a fantastic event that allowed us to reconnect with our participants and share the vision and mission of the Irish Institute and Global Leadership Institute going forward.

What are some of your goals coming out of the Classic?

We don't see the connection between Ireland and Boston College ending with the game. For us, the Classic was a launching point for a series of initiatives that we hope to develop in the months and years to come. We're working with the business community in Dublin to establish the Boston College-Ireland Business Council. We're also continuing to partner with the Boston College Athletics department to help identify and create opportunities for future student athlete development through international travel. We

are involved in some exciting opportunities with the Church in the 21st Century program, which hopes to share some of their work with universities and organizations in Ireland.

Finally, we are looking to harness a lot of the excitement and momentum from the game to drive our next program. In April, we'll be running a federally funded program entitled "Advocating for Human and Civil Rights for the LGBT Community." This is an area of tremendous interest in Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the United States, and provides another opportunity for the Boston College community to engage with colleagues and peers in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

As exciting as the events of the Classic were, we're more excited at the opportunities that wait in the year to come!

For more about the Irish Institute and Global Leadership Institute, visit us at bc.edu/gli.

SPRING 2017 IRISH STUDIES COURSES

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Undergraduate; Irish Language and Literature

ENGL 1094	Intro Modern Irish II	T TH 10:30	Holmberg
ENGL 2098	Continuing Modern Irish II	T TH 9	Holmberg
ENGL 2101	Celtic Heroic Age	T TH 12	O'Leary
ENGL 4518	Reading Irish Childhood	T TH 1:30	Smith

Graduate

ENGL 8800	Irish Gothic	T 7-9:30 pm	Howes
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HISTORY

HIST 3262	Ireland: Social and Political Violence	T 3-5:25 pm	Rafferty
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Electives:

HIST 2240	Introduction to Irish History	T TH 12	Rafferty
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Upper Division Electives:

HIST 4278	Ireland before the Famine	T TH 12	O'Neill
HIST 4281	Film, Media & Modern Ireland	M 4-6:25	Savage

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Tin Whistle, Dance, Fiddle

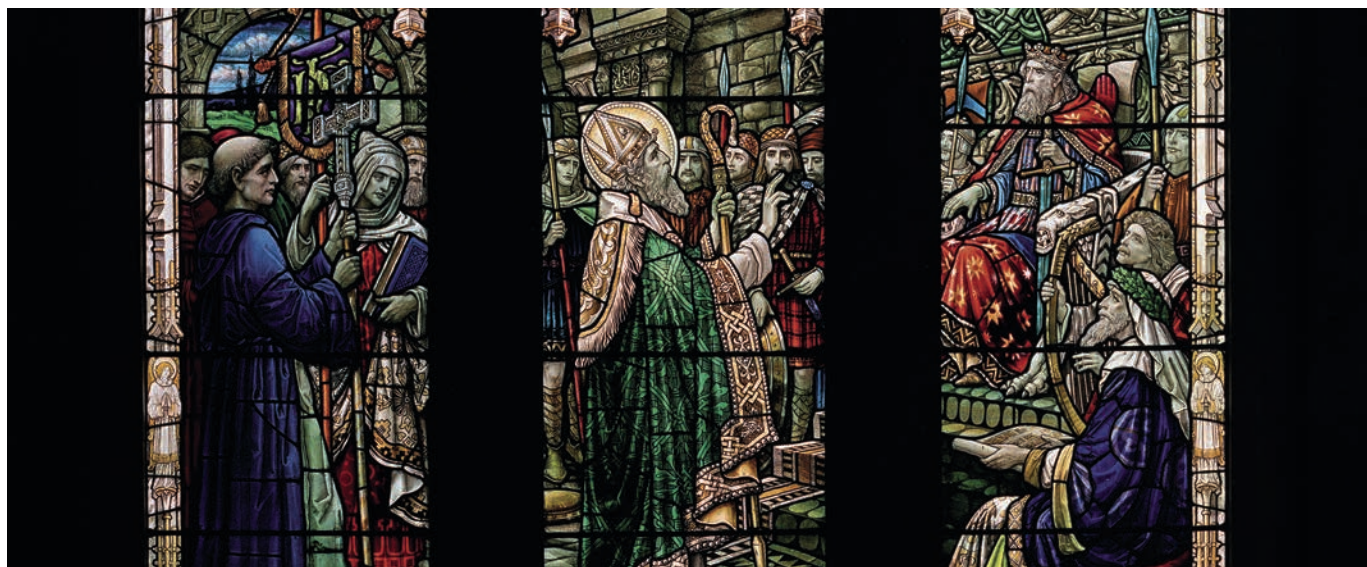
MUSP 161501	Irish Fiddle/Experienced Beginner	TH 6:30-7:15 pm	Falls Keohane
MUSP 162001	Traditional Irish Dance	W 3:30-5pm	Jordan
MUSP 260001	Irish Fiddle/Intermediate	TH 7:15-8 pm	Falls Keohane

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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. See our Web site at www.bc.edu/irish. *Irish Studies* is edited by Joan Reilly.