Tá an teanga beo i Milwaukee! The language lives in Milwaukee! UWM has the distinction of being one of a small handful of colleges in North America offering a full program on the Irish language (Gaelic). The tradition began some thirty years ago with the innovative work of the late Professor Janet Dunleavy and her husband Gareth. Today we offer four semesters in conversational Gaelic along with complementary courses in literature and culture and a very popular Study Abroad program in the Donegal Gaeltacht. The study and appreciation of this richest and oldest of European vernacular languages has become one of the strengths and cornerstones of our Celtic Studies program.

The Milwaukee community also has a long history of activism in support of Irish language preservation. Jeremiah Curtin, noted linguist and diplomat and the first Milwaukeean to attend Harvard, made it his business to learn Irish among the Irish Gaelic community of Boston. As an ethnographer working for the Smithsonian Institute, he was one of the first collectors of Irish folklore to use the spoken tongue of the people rather than the Hiberno-English used by the likes of William Butler Yeats and Lady Gregory.

Jeremiah Quinn, who left Ireland as a young man, capped a lifelong local commitment to Irish language and culture when in 1906, at the Pabst Theatre, he introduced Dr. Douglas Hyde to a capacity crowd, including the Governor, Archbishop, and other dignitaries. Hyde, one of the founders of the Gaelic League that was organized to halt the decline of the language, went on to become the first president of Ireland in 1937.

Ireland’s current president, Dr. Mary MacAleese, is also an Irish language enthusiast, taking the unprecedented step of having her official biography first published in Irish. Launched recently in Dublin, it is the work of Ray Mac Mánis, her Irish language tutor and speechwriter. Ray is a regular teacher in our Study Abroad program and at the Irish Fest Summer School that meets on the UWM campus every August. Turas phearsanta Mháire Mhic Ghiolla Iosa ó Ard Eoin I mBéal Feirse go tairseach Áras ar Uachtaráin atá á ríomh ag Ray Mac Mánais sa bheathaíseánís údaraithe seo inar ceadalodh dó sleachta as a dialann phearsanta a fhóilsíú.

In 1906 the Pabst Theatre audience presented Douglas Hyde with a sum sufficient to cover the salary of a teacher back in Ireland. Recently Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D., Minister for the Gaeltacht, awarded the Center for Celtic Studies a grant to bring an Irish teacher to UWM. Úna Nic Gabhann from Donegal is currently completing her first semester teaching with us, and she describes her very positive experience on page 2 of this issue of Triskele. The minister, however, has set us a challenge. The continued support from the Irish government is dependent upon matching support from the community.

We’ve already benefited greatly from the individual generosity of friends in the community. Many more of you continue to express a desire to support the ongoing work at the Center. We are therefore delighted to announce the formation of a “Friends of Celtic Studies” organization that will facilitate and channel the wonderful goodwill that exists between our community, our students, and our program. Please see page 7 for details of our fall fundraising event, a Celtic Celebration Cruise. This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of what we do. I hope you’ll join us!

- John Gleeson -
Liz Carrol, the world-renowned fiddler, has expressed an interest in teaching a credit course in Irish fiddling. We hope to offer this class in Spring 2004. Watch for more details in the next issue of Triskele. Meanwhile, Martin Hayes, labeled “the best fiddle player on the planet” by Ireland’s Sunday Independent, recently spent a morning with our students and members of the community accompanied by guitarist Denis Cahill. Martin played, reminisced, articulated his approach to music, and answered questions from an audience visibly moved and charmed by Martin’s style, insight, and genius.

Our Ethnic Studies 250:305 fall class on Song Traditions of the Celtic World, presented by Kathy Cowan, will be a musicological and cultural study of songs from the Celtic countries. We will study and compare modality of the melodies, melodic structure, lyrics and texts from each country. We will study traditional song, work song, the songs of Thomas Moore, Robert Burns, and their Welsh and Breton equivalents. We will look at the effect of modern harmonization and interpretive style from Edward Bunting to Seán Ó Riada to Herbert Hughes to Percy French. There will be presentations on sacred music: The Scottish Psalter, Hymnology from all countries, the Catholic Mass and Protestant service music, songs from the Music Hall, and great singers of Celtic origin—John McCormack to Joe Heaney. And best of all, we’ll get to sing at every class! Please join us.

Celtic Crossings-- Who were the Celts? Who are the Celts? This irresistible potpourri of all that’s intriguing and exciting about the Celtic World is the perfect introduction to Celtic Studies. Our new “gateway course,” Ethnic Studies 133, offers an overview of Celtic cultures from their rise in Europe to their modern diaspora to every part of the globe. Team-taught by faculty from a number of UWM departments, the course explores the archaeology, myth, folklore, history, literature, language, and the art of the peoples of Breton, Cornish, Galician, Irish, Manx, Scottish, and Welsh heritages. For more information, contact the course coordinator, Nancy Walczyk, at nwalczyk@uwm.edu or voice mail at (414) 229-3302.

Teaching Gaelic at UW-Milwaukee

Una Nic Gabhann, a fellow of the Department of Modern Irish at University College Dublin, has been teaching three courses for the Center this academic year. Una’s teaching at UW—Milwaukee was co-funded by the Irish Department of the Gaeltachta with funds from Ireland’s National Lottery.

When approached by John Gleeson at Oideas Gael, Donegal and asked would I be free to teach at the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, I was surprised and delighted. After all, we were in Gleann Cholm Cille where many people from different countries and with various cultures come to learn Irish.

I teach three classes for the Center of Celtic Studies. Beginners Irish is full, with over twenty enthusiastic students. I am thrilled with their interest and their progress is outstanding. Second semester students of Irish are moving ahead at great speed also. These are students who were in John Gleeson’s class last semester and who bowled me over with their grasp of the language. I also teach a poetry class, where the students discuss various themes in the poetry of Cathal Ó Searcaigh and Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill. The course is taught through translation, but maybe some day these students might wish to discover the richness of the original poems and read them in their original Gaeilge!

The Center for Celtic Studies and the Irish language courses are an amazing achievement, I believe. The many events and activities organized create an important atmosphere for those learning the language, where they have the opportunity to practice and flaunt the “cúpla focla” that they’ve learned. The Sean-Nós Milwaukee Weekend is a perfect example of this. Not only did some of the best sean-nós singers in the world share their songs with us, but Irish speakers from Milwaukee, Madison and Chicago, of all levels of competence in the language, spoke the language in a very natural environment. Is mór an onóir dhomsa an seans a fháil a bheith ag obair san Ollscoil Wisconsin, Milwaukee.
CELTIC STUDIES COURSES FALL 2003

**Anthro 306 Lec001**  
EUROPEAN ARCHAEOLOGY, T 5:30-8:10 PM, SAB G28; Professor Bettina Arnold

**Dance 370 Lab904**  
DANCES OF THE WORLD: IRISH STEP DANCE, M 5:00-7:40 PM, Lincoln School of the Arts, 820 E. Knapp Street; instructor Aine McMenamin-Johnson

**English 275 Lec001**  
FORMS OF FOLK LITERATURE: CELTIC MYTH AND LEGEND, TR 11:00-12:15 PM, PHY 152; instructor Rikki Clark

**English 466 Lec001**  
JOYCE, R 6:30-9:00 PM, CRT 118; Professor Bruce Stark

**English 519 Lec001**  
STUDIES IN IRISH-AMERICAN LITERATURE: REFLECTIONS OF IRELAND/IRISH AMERICA, TR 12:30-1:45 PM, CRT 118; Professor James Liddy

**Ethnic St 133 Lec001**  
CELTIC CROSSINGS: CULTURAL OVERVIEW OF THE CELTIC WORLD, T 4:30-7:10 PM, CUN 151; instructor Celtic Studies Faculty

**Ethnic St 250 Lec301**  
IRISH FOLK BELIEFS AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICES, MWF 10:00-11:00 AM, AUP 179; instructor John Gleeson

**Ethnic St 250 Lec305**  
SONG TRADITIONS OF THE CELTIC WORLD, R 6:00-8:40 PM, MER 311; instructor Kathy Cowan

**German 647 Sem001**  
THE GERMAN-IRISH CONNECTION, T 3:45-6:25 PM, CRT 866 Professor Ruth Schwertfeger

**History 353 Lec001**  
IRELAND SINCE 1600: COLONY TO INDEPENDENT STATE, MW 3:30-4:45 PM, HLT 190; Professor Kathy Callahan

**Linguistics 131 Lec302**  
FIRST SEMESTER IRISH (GAELIC), TR 9:30-10:45, PHY 143; instructor TBA

**Linguistics 132 Lec302**  
SECOND SEMESTER IRISH (GAELIC), TR 2:00-3:10 pm, PHY 142; instructor John Gleeson

**Linguistics 231 Lec103**  
THIRD SEMESTER IRISH (GAELIC), T 6:15-8:55 pm, Irish Cultural Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Parlor C; instructor TBA

FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION CALL UWM AT 229-6209.

Courses are open to auditors and free to auditors sixty years of age and over.

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**Scholarships**

Paddy Clancy, Irish Fest, and Shamrock Club Scholarship applications are now available in the Center for Celtic Studies office, Holton 285. The Paddy Clancy Scholarship is June 20th, the Shamrock Club deadline is June 15th and the Irish Fest deadlines are April/November 30th.

Irish Fest Cultural Grants and Shamrock Club Scholarships can be applied to any area of study. The application deadline for the Paddy Clancy scholarship is June 20th, the Shamrock Club deadline is June 15th and the Irish Fest deadlines are April/November 30th.
Here at UW—Milwaukee we are very fortunate in having a distinguished faculty to call upon when scheduling our Celtic Studies curriculum. Their areas of interest and fields of research are wide and varied. English professor and current co-director of the Center, José Lanters, introduces us to some of her academic activities:

My research focuses mainly on 20th-century Irish fiction and drama. I am particularly interested in the intersection between literature and mythology (I was a Classics professor for a number of years!). My book Unauthorized Versions: Irish Menippean Satire, 1919-1952 was published in 2000 by the Catholic University of America Press. It looks at satirical novels by Darrell Figgis, Eimar O’Duffy, Austin Clarke, Flann O’Brien and Mervyn Wall, in the context of political and social developments in Ireland, particularly in relation to the church and censorship.

Two new articles are about to appear this spring. “Reading the Irish Future in the Celtic Past: T.W. Rolleston and the Politics of Myth” is forthcoming in Reading Irish Histories: Texts, Contexts, and the Creation of National Memory, ed. Lawrence W. McBride (Dublin: Four Courts Press). It shows how, in the first decades of the 20th century, Rolleston tried to use the lessons he derived from his reading of Celtic myth and history to help shape the Irish political future. In “Demythicizing/Remythicizing the Rising: Roddy Doyle’s A Star Called Henry” (forthcoming in the Hungarian Journal of English and American Studies) I look at the way in which this popular author debunks a number of myths about the 1916 Rising, and creates a few new ones in the process. Currently I am working on a project about the ways in which the Irish Travellers (“tinkers”) are represented in literature and pop culture.

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded Celtic Studies certificates in May 2003: Margaret Boero, Tom Chybowski, Joseph Didier, Brian Hart, Jennifer Michel, and Kate Moen. Fáinne Óir Daoibh!
Scottish Diplomat Visits UWM

In February, the Center for Celtic Studies had the pleasure of welcoming Susan Stewart, Scotland’s first diplomat in Washington, to UWM. The Center held a reception for Ms. Stewart at the Hefter Center, after which she gave an enlightening and entertaining presentation on “Scotland Today”.

Ms. Stewart described Scotland’s newly devolved Parliament and explained its relationship to the United Kingdom’s Parliament at Westminster. She showed a video of the opening session in Edinburgh on July 1, 1999, and discussed some of the key legislative initiatives that the body has worked upon. For the Americans in the audience, Stewart explained the system of proportional representation, which is designed to lead to a less adversarial and more consensual form of government.

There was a great turn-out from the Celtic Community, including Celtic Women International founder Jean Bills, Irish Fest’s Veronica Ceszynski, and a “kilt-clad crew” from the St. Andrew’s Society that included Jim Grazer, John Barnet, Bob McWilliam and John Alley. Rob McWilliam piped our guests into the event. Jock Smith, vice-president of the Burns Club, was among those who took part in the lively discussion that followed. The event was co-sponsored by UWM’s Institute of World Affairs.

“Virtual” Store Underwrites Scots Gaelic Projects

Briathra-Amhran-Ceol (BAC), which means “Words-Song-Music,” is the first and only Web site that uses Gaelic, particularly Gaelic music, to provide revenue for, and support of, the teaching and perpetuation of Gaelic in Scotland. The site offers a wide range of Scots Gaelic CDs and mp3s, Gaelic lyrics and CDs from the nine other Celtic regions of the world. The music ranges from traditional through church and children’s music to cutting edge and avant-garde, and features both instrumentals and vocals. All profits from sales go to fund Gaelic initiatives. The BAC site is found at www.briathra-amhran-ceol.scoutnet.co.uk.

New Winterim in Scotland

Writing in the Scottish Setting. This Winterim UWM Creative Writing professor George Clark will offer a Study Abroad program in Scotland from December 27-January 16. George will conduct a workshop in fiction, travel writing, poetry, and the creative essay. Join the class at Castle Dalkeith, a Scottish castle near Edinburgh. Live and write in a Scottish castle, visit famous literary settings, and hone your skills in this unique writing retreat. And participate in the famous Scottish Hogmanay New Year’s celebration. Limited Enrollment. Applications available from OPP in Pearse 166 or call (414) 229-5182 for more information.

Sunday Music Sessions at Flannery’s

Celtic Studies Student Denise Benoit is among a growing number who get together regularly for traditional music sessions. She tells us a bit about her particular session:

The Sunday Session, which started in 1994 in the home of Jim and Kathie Vint, has secured a lovely spot at Flannery’s, near the corner of Jefferson and Wells in downtown Milwaukee. Cream City brick, Guinness on tap and wooden chairs without arms—it doesn’t get much better than this!

Had house sessions survived, the tradition of leaving an empty, open instrument case on the front steps to mark the location would have been firmly established. In truth, the first time I did this was for the purpose of airing out the cigarette smoke from the last place we had played!

Why do we keep doing this? Many of the Sunday players have Irish names and ancestry, but most of us have none of that as an explanation. We do know the thrill of putting fiddles, flutes, pipes, tin-whistles, bodhrans, button-accordions, concertinas, bouzoukis, and guitars in a circle and the joyful sound that ensues. I can’t begin to name all of the folks who have played with us over the years, but thanks to all of you for helping to build on this tradition, and for being welcoming to new-comers, who may later on become the lead players in town.

Now, on Sundays at Flannery’s, we set up at 4 pm and play until about 6. So bring a friend and stop in for a pint or a bite of good food and listen fora spell, or open your case and join us if you play! It’s always fun to hear different tunes or new versions of tunes that are introduced when someone new or someone traveling through pulls up a chair.

Flannery’s is at 425 E. Wells St. in Milwaukee.
In the Celtic World, sean-nós ("old style") singing is the oldest surviving expression of story telling through song. When the Noble laureate poet W.B. Yeats first encountered this oral tradition at a fair in Gort, Co. Galway in 1899 he described it as "a shocking experience that went into my heart and nerves."

Unfortunately, the areas where the practice of sean-nós once flourished continue to be the places of highest emigration. Many singers now reside in North America. They hold a unique repertoire of songs filled with the riches of the imagination, feelings of history, and the interior secrets of a fast-disappearing culture. The idea of bringing some of these singers together so that the songs can be shared, passed on, and recorded for future generations was the premise for "Sean-nós Milwaukee," organized by the Center for February 28th and March 1st. Bill Kennedy from Cleveland shares his impressions:

This past February 28th and March 1st, the Center for Celtic Studies and Milwaukee’s Craobh Curtin chapter of Conradh na Gaeilge co-sponsored the “Sean-nós Milwaukee Weekend.” Co-Director of the Center, John Gleeson, met author and sean-nós singer Dr. Lillis Ó Laoríe on Tory Island last summer and invited him to Milwaukee to introduce and discuss his new book on Tory Gaeilge co-sponsored the “Sean-nós Milwaukee Weekend.” Co-Director of the Center, John Gleeson, met author and sean-nós singer Dr. Lillis Ó Laoríe on Tory Island last summer and invited him to Milwaukee to introduce and discuss his new book on Tory Island’s singing tradition, Ar Chreag I Lár na Farraige. Over the fall John and student Brian Hart developed and expanded the Sean-nós Weekend to include nine other singers from different traditions and locations. With the able assistance of alumni Wendy Landvatter and Ina Kiely, the Center’s Associate Director Nancy Walczyk, Brian Hart (who was one minute selling tickets and the next appearing on stage), and student Asher Gray, who recorded all of the events, it all went off beautifully.

The weekend kicked off on Friday afternoon with Lillis’ presentation on Tory Island. The Friday evening concert was well attended and featured the singing and comments of Meaití Jó Shéamuis Ó Fatharta, who acted as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. The other singers participating in the concert were Bridget Fitzgerald, Máirín Uí Cheide, Lillis Ó Laoríe, Áine Meanaghan, Síle Shigley, Kathy Cowan, Julie Henigan, Brian Hart and Virginia Blankenhorn. With so many singers—each sang one song before intermission and another song in the second half—the concert lasted almost four hours long altogether!

Máirín Uí Cheide, who said she was remembering and singing songs that she hadn’t sung in years, gave Saturday’s morning workshop, and again everyone came ready to spend the day. Much of the discussion concerned the variations and consistencies of the Donegal and Connemara traditions, with references to Ulster and Wexford singing as well. Saturday’s lunch was held at Paddy’s Pub, which also sponsors monthly Craobh Curtin meetings, events, classes and sessions. Singing and more singing was the order of the day. The Saturday afternoon workshop was run by Lillis. He spoke further about Tory Island and taught a couple more songs, including "A Phaidí a Ghrá." After dinner everyone convened at Slim McGinn’s, for a regular session featuring members of Ainm Rí, including the aforementioned Asher Gray. Meaití Jó sat in on uilleann pipes, and a couple of extra fiddlers joined in as well. Brian Hart showed off his skill on the box, and there were songs from Lillis and others in attendance, including a fine song in Gaelic by the Craobh Curtin President Séamus (Jim) Kearney himself.

Most, if not all of the weekend was recorded on audio and video for the Center’s archives and will be made available for study and sharing with other archives including the Traditional Music Archive in Dublin. Much was recorded for broadcast by Asher for Meaití Jó’s Radio na Gaeltachta program Lán a Mhála. You can check out his program online at www.rnag.ie for a schedule of broadcasts. Here in the States Bill Kennedy is airing selections weekly on his radio program out of Cleveland, Sweeney Astray, heard on WRUW FM 91.1 Saturdays from 1-2 and available on the web live and archived at www.wruw.org.

Both singers and audience thoroughly enjoyed this first great gathering of sean-nós aficionados in North America. Mark your calendar for next year, and join us February 27th and 28th in 2004 for another great weekend of song and talk.

If you’ve ever seen Irish set dancing or studied Irish cultural history, you may know that dancing the sets is a grand tradition rooted in late 18th century Ireland and flourishing worldwide today. In the Milwaukee area, classes are offered throughout the year to introduce beginners to this lively and highly social Irish pastime. The next series of these classes is scheduled from June 11-July 30, meeting on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at O’Donoghue’s Irish Pub, 13225 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove. The classes provide a foundation in traditional set dancing with an emphasis on footwork and style. Prior dance experience is not required. You need not come with a partner. Following each Wednesday’s class, there are two or three hours of informal dancing, sometimes with live music. Visitors are welcome even if they do not wish to dance. Class size is limited, so advance registration is important. The fee for the series (eight classes) is $20. For more information, please visit the Milwaukee Set Dance web site at www.c7r.com/setdance/. There you can also download a registration form. Or contact Julie (414 321-3521 or e-mail: jpuhek23@earthlink.net) to request a brochure or for answers to your questions. -Jim Vint
Working For John Hume

Students on our Colmcille Semester in Ireland are offered internships. Kate Moen describes her experiences working for Nobel Peace laureate John Hume’s S.D.L.P. (Social Democratic Labour Party):

I have been interning with the SDLP since the beginning of February. My experience working in the offices of John Tierney, MLA (Member, Local Assembly) and Mark Durkan (MLA and head of the party) have been educational, interesting and insightful.

I chose my internship with the SDLP because of my respect and admiration for civil rights leader and peace activist John Hume. Hume’s work in Derry during “The Troubles” in the 1960’s and 1970’s is legendary and helped to secure a peace process in 1998, which won him the Nobel Peace Prize. The SDLP is a democratic socialist party committed to its constituency. I have been active in politics since high school, and I have never seen a political organization or party so committed to its community at a local level. Area residents throughout Derry call into John Hume or Mark Durkan’s offices, expecting the politician to listen to their concerns on a wide range of issues, and more importantly, they expect Mr Hume or Mr. Durkan to work with them to find a solution.

I spend one Thursday a week in either John Hume’s office or Mark Durkan’s constituency office. Though the assembly is currently dissolved pending resolution of policing and other issues, the simple experience of being surrounded by MPs and Councilors and political figures is really intense. I have worked on a great deal of constituency issues, and have made it up to work at Stormont (Northern Ireland Parliament building) in Belfast as well. Recently I attended an SDLP event in Belfast to mark the fifth anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement; it was wonderful. The next election is on May 29th of this year, and I have also worked a lot on registering voters and working with the electoral office.

The SDLP is the only party with the vision and the ability to maintain a lasting peace throughout the North, and I feel incredibly honored and grateful to the UWM Center for Celtic Studies for the opportunity to work with it.

Celtic Celebration Cruise

September 25th 2003. You’re cordially invited to join us for a sail aboard the ‘Denis Sullivan’ honoring Irish heritage on the Great Lakes, Thursday, September 25th. Sailing time 5:30 p.m. Donation: $100.00 per person (tax exempt to the extent allowable by law). Includes sailing cruise, light buffet, beer, wine, soda, and Irish music. Proceeds go to our Irish language program development fund. The sail is limited to 50 people, and tickets can be had by contacting Nancy Walczyk at 229-3302 or nwalczyk@uwm.edu.

Applications for the 2004 Columcille Semester are being accepted through October 15. Forms are available from UWM Overseas Programs and Partnerships, Pearse Hall 166, or the Center for Celtic Studies, Holton Hall 290.
Faculty Quiz

In each edition of our newsletter, a member of the Celtic Studies faculty at UWM answers a series of questions. This issue’s response was provided by Asst Professor of English George Clark (pictured).

What is your greatest fear?
Dentists and bankers.

Which figure in Celtic mythology do you most identify with?
Fergus, because he can kick Cuchulainn’s backside, and Cuchulainn knows it.

Which living person do you most admire?
Nelson Mandela

What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?
I’m a frightful liar, but then what fiction writer isn’t?

What is your greatest extravagance?
No extravagances, only the necessities: Smoked Salmon and Milk Stout

What is your greatest regret?
Regrets are for gowks.

Which talent would you most like to have?
I’d love to be able to whistle—it’s a dying art.

If you could choose a particular person or animal to come back as, who or what would it be?
An otter. They’re the only mammal comfortable living on all seven continents, and they seem to spend the bulk of their waking hours playing and eating.

What is your most treasured possession?
My Milwaukee bungalow, the first home I’ve ever owned.

In which Celtic region would you like to spend a year of your life?
Galicia, Spain

How would you like to die?
Shoulder to shoulder with William Wallace, fighting Brits.

What is your motto?
The family motto for the Scottish Clarks is (I swear I’m not making this up): “Free for a Blast, Free for a Blast”

What is your favorite Celtic music group?
Planxty

What recent Celtic-related book would you recommend?
The Life and African Exploration of Dr. David Livingstone: Comprising All His Extensive Travels and Discoveries as Detailed in His Diary, Reports, and Letters, Including His Famous Last Journals. All right, Dr. Livingstone’s book is not exactly “recent” having been first published posthumously in 1876, but the reprint came out last year.