Irish President Visits UWM  

Praises Work of Center for Celtic Studies

Irish President Mary McAleese visited the UWM campus on August 20th to recognize and support the work of the Center. She was accompanied by her husband Dr. Martin McAleese and the Honorable Noel Fahey, Irish Ambassador to the U.S.. In a reception hosted by UWM Chancellor Carlos Santiago she met faculty, students and friends of Celtic Studies from the community. John Gleeson, Co-director of the Center, introduced the President, praised her role as Ireland's outstanding holder of the office, and spoke of some of Milwaukee's many links to Ireland. President McAleese particularly singled out the work of Celtic Studies in creating strong links with Ireland through our Irish language programs and our Study Abroad initiatives. She also announced the continuing support for our Irish language programs by the Irish government with a three-year grant for both our on-campus and community outreach programs. She tied Ireland's recent economic boom, the "Celtic Tiger," to that nation's strong investment in university education.

The President spent time meeting many of the guests and viewed an exhibit created by Max Yela of the Golda Meir Library that featured some rare Irish books and facsimiles in our Special Collections. John Gleeson presented President McAleese with two specially handbound and boxed books to honor her visit: the autobiography of Douglas Hyde, written by former UWM professors Gareth and Janet Dunleavy, and a copy of the memoirs of Jeremiah Curtin, a 19th-century collector of Irish folklore who was reared in Greenfield, Wisconsin. Poet James Liddy of the UWM English department read a poem that he wrote for the occasion of the President's visit, and student Brian Hart sang a song in the Irish language. Lá mhóir stairiúil agus charduil a bhi ann. A memorable day in the short history of the center!
This past March, four faculty, three staff, and 14 students from UWM took part in a one-week archaeological field school on Achill Island, off the coast of County Mayo in western Ireland. Professors Bettina Arnold, Robert Jeske, John Richards and Patricia Richards are in the process of developing a cooperative, multidisciplinary approach to a teaching and research project that centers on the archaeology of prehistoric island landscapes. The March trip involved a reconnaissance of Achill and Co. Mayo mortuary monuments and feasting sites and of the way human activity patterns can be read in the archaeological record of such landscapes. The pilot field school is the beginning of what we hope will be a long-term research project conducted in conjunction with the Achill Archaeological Field School (http://www.achill-fieldschool.com) and the National University of Ireland—Galway. The one-week study program included lectures on Irish archaeology and archaeological techniques, site visits, and some architectural survey of Slievemore, a historic village that was deserted in the 19th century.

Future research potential includes several sites that have not been professionally examined to date. One of these is a promontory fort on Achill Beag known as Dún Coillmor. A stratified site at Cathair Point on Achill Beag is another possibility. It contains medieval deposits and a shell midden that has yielded an imported glass bead dated to the La Tène Iron Age, and may well contain earlier Bronze Age materials. The Achill Archaeological Field School staff of Theresa MacDonald (who founded the Field School in 1991), visiting archaeologist Nicholas Brannon, and Field School Assistant archaeologist Anja Goethals of Ghent University (Belgium) proved to be excellent hosts and teachers. We hope to be able to steer students from UWM and the community interested in Celtic Studies and/or archaeology to Achill for the Field School.

The Center for Celtic Studies joined the local Scottish community in celebrating Scottish Tartan Week this past April. Official Tartan Day was celebrated on Wednesday April 6th at the UW-Milwaukee Hefter Center. Our speakers presented a colloquium on Scottish America. Richard Finlay, Professor of History at the University of Strathclyde presented on “Scotland and America: The 20th Century Connection”, which discussed Scottish immigrants’ from the 18th and 19th centuries rapid assimilation into American culture. The Head of History at the University of Glasgow, Lizzane Henderson, shared folktales that have survived the crossing of the Atlantic from Scotland to America in her lecture “Scottish Folktale in America.” Ted Cowan, Professor of Scottish History also at the University of Glasgow explained in his talk, “Two Declarations: Scotland 1320, America 1776”, the background of Tartan Day as a particular North American salute to the Scots’ contributions to the New World.

The Center thanks Bob McWilliams for his industry in bringing our Scottish guests to Milwaukee for this occasion. “Mey ye aye keep hail an hertie till ye’re auld eneuch tae dee!”
UWM Theater Performance In Residence at the Axis Center, Ballymun, Dublin.

All it takes to make it in America is a little hard work, right? Not so. *Nickel and Dimed* is the dramatic adaptation of best-selling author Barbara Ehrenreich’s book on life as a low-wage worker. This arresting, soul-searching and often hilarious adaptation is by Joan Holden of the Tony Award-winning San Francisco Mime Troupe. *Nickel and Dimed* will be performed evenings at 7:30 starting Wednesday, December 7 and runs through December 11 with matinees on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets can be reserved at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Box office at 414-229-4308.

Two Ballymun actors traveled to Wisconsin in October to take part in the exciting new performance program at UWM that is producing *Nickel and Dimed*. They will perform in America, then travel home to perform with the UWM students in Ballymun as they begin their residency at the Axis Arts Center of Ballymun, Dublin in a truly remarkable twinning of Ballymun with Milwaukee.

You can support this “Atlantic alliance” production by attending one of the benefit performances offered in Milwaukee. The Irish Cultural Heritage Center in Milwaukee will host the play on November 12, or you can see the production at the UWM theatre December 7-11. The funds raised from these performances will support both these Irish artists in America and the production's travel costs to Ireland in January.

Jose Lanters Elected Vice President of ACIS

Prof. Josepha Lanters of the UW-Milwaukee English Department and faculty member of the Center has been elected Vice President of the American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS). Lanters will subsequently become the acting President following her two years within office. Mary Ann Ryan, a graduate student in the UWM English Department, was also elected as a graduate student representative on the ACIS executive committee for the next two years. *Comhghairdeas* and congratulations José and Mary!

Archaeologist Speaks at Certificate Ceremony

The featured speaker for the evening was Irish archaeologist Aidan O’Sullivan. Born and raised in Vallemount in the west Wicklow mountains, O’Sullivan graduated with a BA in Archaeology and Early Irish History and an MA in Archaeology from UC-Dublin. He then was awarded a PhD from NUI-Maynooth for his research and work on the social and ideological role of crannogs in early medieval Ireland. He was appointed as a College Lecturer in UC-Dublin in 2000, and recently promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2005.

NEW DEADLINES FOR TRISKELE

Please send all articles to be published in the October issue of Triskele by September 15, and those to be published in the March issue by February 15th. Articles should be e-mailed to editor Nancy Walczyk as Microsoft Word attachments. Photos and graphics should be sent as jpeg files.
STUDY ABROAD: A Student's Perspective on Our Columbcille Semester Abroad

By Amy Schoenecker

I spent my spring semester in Derry City on the Center for Celtic Studies' Colmcille Study Abroad program. As part of my studies at Magee College myself and eight other UW-Milwaukee students could choose to volunteer up to forty hours to a number of locally based organizations.

I chose to intern with the Institute of Ulster-Scots Studies under the supervision of Dr. W. Kelly at the University of Ulster. The goal of the institute is to preserve Ulster-Scotch heritage through research and to recognize Ulster-Scots' (Scottish emigrants who settled in the Ulster region) contributions to Northern Ireland and abroad. As part of my internship I researched numerous U.S. presidents' (JFK, Richard Nixon, Bill Clinton, George Bush, etc.) Ulster-Scot lineage. I traced where their ancestors came from and when they immigrated to America.

Another project I worked on involved the UNESCO City of Literature campaign. The honorable designation “City of Literature” was first bestowed upon Edinburgh, Scotland in 2004 to celebrate its colorful milieu of renowned authors, poets and playwrights. Part of my job was to recover biographies on Derry's own huge array of essayists, poets and playwrights in hopes of becoming UNESCO’s next celebrated City of Literature.

Through these internships offered through the Colmcille Semester I learned a tremendous amount about Irish heritage and the Ulster-Scot contribution, as well as how to research more efficiently and effectively.

For more information on the Columbcille Semester Abroad, contact John Gleeson at (414) 229-2608.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Celtic Women’s Conference
Irish Cultural Heritage Center
2133 W. Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI

Thursday, October 20, 2005
7-9 p.m. Welcome reception, registration, vendors, entertainment

Friday, October 21, 2005
7 - 8:15 a.m. Continental breakfast, Upper Hall
8:30 a.m. Welcome.
9 - 9:45 Flora MacDonald Gammon: “Scots-Irish in America”
10 - 10:45 Cindy Matyi: “Carry on the Tradition”
11 - 11:45 Nolwen Monjarret: Breton Stories and Songs
11:45-1:30 p.m. Lunch
1:30 - 2:15 Betsy McGovern: Irish Music
2:30 - 3:15 Karin Stanley: “Reflections on the Irish Garden”
4:30 - 5:15 Maureen Jelks: Scottish Songs of Dundee
5:15 - 7:00 Supper
7:30 p.m. Public Concert Flora MacDonald Gammon as MC; The Caledonian Dancers; Maureen Jelks (Scottish); Betsy McGovern (Irish); Nolwen Monjarret (Breton); Jean-Andrew (Teller)

Organ interludes throughout the days signal a return to the Hallamór for continuing programming. Provided by Manx organist Carol McLernon on the 4,000-pipe Kimball organ.

Saturday, October 22
7-8:15 a.m. Breakfast - Upper Hall
8:30 a.m. Welcome
9:00 - 9:45 Nancy Griffin: “Hybrid Irish: Growing up Irish-Canadian-American”
10 - 10:45 Maureen Jelks: “Finding Your Voice at 40”
11 - 11:45 Katie Sweeney: “Precious Collections and Viewpoint”
11:45 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch, Upper Hall; Visit the Vendors
1:30 - 2:15 Betsy McGovern: Irish Music
2:30 - 3:15 Cindy Matyi: “Celtic Art and Spirituality”
3:30 - 4:15 Nolwen Monjarret: “Breton Songs and Tales”
6:30 p.m. Cocktail Hour, Upper Hall
7 - 8 p.m. Banquet, Upper Hall
8:30 p.m. Farewell, Hallamór.

For further information, contact Jean Bills at (414) 257-3770; e-mail: conference@conferenceofcelticwomen.org

Samhain Celebration Features Cornish Bard

Join the Center for Celtic Studies at our 4th annual Samhain celebration. Held as usual at the lovely (and quite possibly haunted) Heft er mansion at the corner of Lake Drive and Hartford Avenue in Milwaukee, this year’s event will feature a play for children presented by students in our Irish language classes; traditional music by some of our student musicians; and a discussion of the Celtic culture of Cornwall by Bard Benjamin Bruch.

Benjamin has been studying the Cornish language since 1995. In 1997 he won the top Cornish literary prize for his short story “Solempnyta” and in the following year was named a bard following an examination in Cornish. He chose his bardic name, Brogh, which means “badger,” to honor his home state. He is currently finishing his PhD in Celtic Languages and Literatures from Harvard University.

6:00 Reception with refreshments and music
7:00 Welcome and play
7:30 Presentation on Cornish culture by Bard Benjamin Bruch

An Cumann Ceilteach - Celtic Club at UWM

For the Fall Semester of 2005, An Cum Ceilteach will continue to hold our Irish social dances or “ceilís” on October 28th and December 3rd in Greene Hall. Instruction at 8pm and dancing at 8:30. Free and open to the public, treats and tea provided. Prizes will be awarded to the best Halloween Costume at the October 28th ceilí. We also plan to continue with our Celtic Film series and we will be busy planning our Féile Padraic or St. Patrick’s festival for March 2006.
CCS Course Listings for Spring 2006

**ANTHROPOLOGY**

Anthro 306-001: European Archaeology  M 5:30 p.m.-8:10 p.m., Prof. Bettina Arnold

**CELTIC STUDIES**

Celtic 104: Second Semester Gaelic  TR 9:30-10:45 am, John Gleeson

Celtic 204: Fourth Semester Gaelic  TR 9:30-10:45 am, Seosai Nic Rabhartaigh

Celtic 250: Selected Topics in Celtic Studies

Lec 001  The Green Screen: Images of Ireland in Film W 6-8:45 pm, John Gleeson
Lec 002  Celtic Folk and Fairy Tales MW 9:30-10:45 am, Dr. Nancy Walczyk
Lec 003  The Catholic Church in Ireland: A People’s History MW 6-7:15 pm,
Lec 004  Folklore: Material Culture of the Celtic World, TR 9:30-10:45 am, Rikki Clark

**DANCE**

Dance 370-904: World Movement Traditions: Irish Step Dance  M 5:00 p.m.-7:40 p.m., Aine McMenamin-Johnson

**ENGLISH**

English 306-001: Survey of Irish Literature  Th 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m., Prof. James Liddy.
Emphasis on the Irish plays to be performed this spring by Milwaukee Repertory Theater: Brian Friel’s A Month in the Country; UWM: Brian Friel’s Philadelphia, Here I Come and Dermot Bolger’s From These Green Heights

English 622-001: Seminar in Irish Literature: Irish Literature After Yeats and Joyce  Th 11a.m – 12:15 p.m. Prof. Jose Lanters

**GLOBAL STUDIES-Letters & Science**

Global 201-LS: Intro. to Global Studies: Economics and the Environment Lec 001: The Case of Ireland.  TR: 11am-12:15 pm, Prof. Andrew Kincaid

**HISTORY**

History 236-001 (HU) Britain Since 1688: The Rise and Decline of a Great Power.  TR 2 – 3:15 pm, Dr. Kathy Callahan

**MUSIC**

Music 280  Celtic Tin Whistle.  W 6:00-8:40 pm.  Brett Lipshutz

Community members may enroll in these courses through Adult and Returning Students Services, phone (414) 229-6732. You do not need to be working on a degree. For more information, please contact the Center for Celtic Studies at 229-6520 or visit our website at http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/celtic.

Scholarships

Shamrock Club, Paddy Clancy and Irish Fest Scholarship applications are now available in the Center for Celtic Studies office, Holton 290. The Paddy Clancy Scholarship funds study at the University of Limerick. Deadline: Aug 30th. Shamrock Club and Irish Fest scholarships can be applied to any area of study and have various deadlines.
I have undertaken the independent study project of researching the tradition of weaving in Ireland, and in conjunction with the scholastic approach, I’m weaving my own version of an Irish wool blanket I found at a thrift store years ago. I started working on the blanket project before submitting the proposal for independent study. However, as I began planning how I would re-create the wool blanket, I started to wonder what was actually Irish about this blanket, other than the evidence given by the label that read, “100% wool, hand-dyed and hand-woven in the Republic of Ireland, A Crock of Gold.”

I thought, “What traditions in weaving are actually Irish, or what kind of weaving did the Irish do before the industrial age of textile factories?” Never one to let my inner questions lie dormant, I decided to dig into the matter. Now, I went into this project thinking Ireland+sheep=Irish wool, but I’ve since learned that flax and linen production in Ireland was a major industry, especially in Ulster in the 18th century. No time or desire to change my weaving project to linen, however!

Weaver Denise Benoit Explores Irish Culture in a Hands-On Project

Our 4th annual Sean Nos Milwaukee will take place on February 24-25. This event celebrates the oldest surviving Irish musical tradition of song in the Irish language. Many sean nos singers from Ireland and North America have been invited for our usual convivial weekend of concerts, workshops, and sessions.

This year’s event will be dedicated to the memory of Conradh na Gaeilge founder Dr. Douglas Hyde, and will celebrate the centenary of his historic visit to Milwaukee. A special event is being planned at the Pabst Theatre to commemorate Hyde’s 1906 lecture on the Gaelic Revival. In 1938, Hyde became the first president of Ireland. During her recent visit to Milwaukee, current Irish President Mary McAleese spoke highly of the work being done here on behalf of the Irish language and of the ongoing connection between Milwaukee and the Gaeltacht regions of Ireland. Sean Nos Milwaukee is a vital part of this transatlantic connection. For more information, check our website.
Faculty Quiz

Seosai Nic Rabhartaigh is one of our Irish language teachers. A native of Donegal, Seosai has a master’s degree in linguistics. She is a traditional singer, a fiddle player, and has published her first book on Irish song. She and her husband Dominic are rearing their two children bi-lingually.

What is your greatest fear?
To be buried alive.

Which figure in Celtic mythology do you most identify with?
Fionnuala from “The Children of Lir” for perseverance through tribulation.

Which living person do you most admire?
Mary Robinson [the former President of Ireland] for her work for the underprivileged in society.

What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?
My ability to sniff out chocolate from 20 feet away.

Which talent would you most like to have?
To be a multi-instrumentalist—I am so jealous of the good musicians.

What is your greatest extravagance?
Stepping Stone to Irish Songs by yours truly.

What is your greatest regret?
That I have no regrets.

What is your most treasured possession?
My wedding ring.

In which Celtic region would you like to spend a year of your life?
County Kerry because of the preservation of the Irish language and the people’s persistence in speaking it at all times.

What is your motto?
“Neart de reir mo bhríathar.” One of the requirements for all members of Finn Mac Cool’s fianna is to be “true to my word.”