Center Facilitates Wisconsin Delegation To Ireland

John Gleeson, Center for Celtic Studies

When Michael Cudahy, Milwaukee businessman, philanthropist, and proud son of John Cudahy, first U.S. Ambassador to Eire, decided to take state officials to the Emerald Isle, Chancellor Carlos Santiago asked the Center for Celtic Studies to help set up the schedule. Working closely with Irish Consul General Charles Sheehan and Terry Miller, Director of UWM’s Overseas Programs and Partnerships, we were able to pull together a busy but fruitful five-day trip to Ireland earlier this year.

The mission of the delegation was to look to Ireland for best practices in economic development, education, and creation of positive business climate. From our first meeting, with Marion Coy, Director of the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, to the last meeting with Irish President Mary McAleese, the delegation was left with a real impression that Ireland’s leaders have a common vision of a shared future, i.e., the betterment of an Irish lifestyle through quality education and sustainable economic growth.

For example, in education, high standards are the rule. High school graduates approach college as an opportunity to become well-skilled adults. College fees are largely paid by the state. The word we heard repeated more than any other was “nimble” – describing the ability to move forward, adjust, and respond to the needs of the global economy.

Apart from the wealth of information, the warmth of the welcome and the generous extent of the hospitality our delegation also gained some insight into the Irish character. As we were leaving Aras an Uachtarain following a cozy fireside chat with President McAleese to head across the road for a reception graciously hosted by U.S. Ambassador Jim Kenny and Margaret, his Wisconsin-born wife at their historic Georgian residence, Governor Doyle turned to me and asked, “John, are there no unpleasant people in Ireland?” and to be honest, at that moment I could not think of one!
ccs lecture series

Throughout the year the UWM Center for Celtic studies hosts numerous events exploring the wonders of the Celtic World. Most of these are free and open to the public. Fall gatherings will include informal sessions featuring Celtic traditional music Masters, "A Coole Evening with Lady Gregory," our annual Samhain celebration, lectures including Graeme Morton on Scottish Migration to north America, all at the Hefter Center. There will also be a Samuel Beckett exhibition incorporating readings, films and a seminar. To be kept up to date on these and all our events just e-mail gleeson@uwm.edu. One of the spring highlights was the launch of James Liddy’s On the Raft with Fr. Rossele. Some poems from which we have included among pictures from recent events.

Mo Mowlam - R.I.P.

Mo Mowlam, M.P., former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, passed away from cancer last year. As a young political scientist, Mo began her teaching career here at UWM. It was because of that and her brilliant humanitarian work on the Northern Ireland peace process, culminating in the ‘Good Friday’ Agreement that some of us nominated her for an honorary degree from UWM. Such was the universal high regard for her that our efforts received full support across the board, not just on campus but, (perhaps, surprising for a British politician) more notably from the Irish community at large. Mo was honored and delighted to receive the honorary degree, but unfortunately her failing health prevented her traveling to Milwaukee for the conferring.

A memorial service was held at Drury Lane theatre in London in late November and I was asked by her partner, Jon Norton and the British Consul General to represent UWM and our community at this celebration of her life. Half hooley, half remembrance, the event reflected Mo’s unconventional life, her wicked sense of humor, love of games and that big heart of hers. Kind words were spoken by Tony and Cherie Blair, Bill and Hillary Clinton, and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern. The presence of people like John Preston, Betty Boothroyd, Dawn French, Neil Kinnock, Mark Durkan, Jeremy Irons, Sinead Cusack and singer Lulu reflected her wide circle of friends.

I was delighted to discover that her favorite band was Ian Drury and The Blockheads, something else we had in common! Ian, the man with the famous rhythm stick, also passed away recently and it’s not hard to imagine the pair of them partying on the club side of Heaven. We downed mugs of merlot, The Blockheads, Lulu, Four Poofs and a Piano performed for us. Mighty craic, Mo! Ar dheis Dhe go raibh do aman! -John Gleeson

Scott's Wha Hae

Southwestern Wisconsin boasts not just one, but two festivals celebrating Scottish heritage. They booked the summer nicely so you’ll be able to attend both of these wonderful events.

Scottish Fest: The Milwaukee Highland Games

Saturday, June 3, 2006 - Old Heidelberg Park (9am to 9pm)

See spectacular bagpipe bands, sample great Scottish food, watch beautiful Highland Dancing, and see working sheepdogs. Watch unique athletic events, march in the colorful Parade of Tartans, sing and dance at the Ceilidh or volunteer to help at the event. For more information call (414) 422-9535. Online at: http://www.milwaukeehighlandgames.com

The Wisconsin Highland Games

Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 1-3, 2006 (Times vary by day)

A weekend of Celtic culture at the Waushesa County Expo Center! Highland dancers, pipers, and drummers, the caber toss, lug of war, border collies herding sheep, a knight in full armor, living history, a marketplace full of exotic goods, a pub with fine ales and the music of the British Isles, competitions in the harp, the longbow, the feats of strength - all this awaits you at the celebration. For more information, visit them online at: http://wisconsinscottish.org/games.html

Upcoming Events for the Conference of Celtic Women

Jun, 2, 2006 Topic: “Threaded Metaphors - Part II”

“A Celebration with Fiber Artists and Poets” Speaker: Six Poets and Six Fiber Artists Collaborate. A bringing together of the arts of textile weaving and poetry by local artisans is very special. In December, 2004 the audience was riveted by these twelve women who blended their work and thoughts in new dimensions and metaphors. It was a special treat for everyone, so unexpected and reaching the soul. Their art collaborations will remain on exhibit in Parlor B for several weeks. This evening will feature a wine and cheese offering as each poet and fiber artist explains her work.

July and August: No lectures during these summer months. All lectures are held from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee. Admission is $5 for all. Everyone is welcome including men and non-members as well as Celtic Women members. Tea and biscuits are served. Please join us for a delightful few hours of Celtic education and entertainment. You may call the ICHC at 414-345-8600 for more information.

The Conference of Celtic Women hosts a three-day event in Milwaukee, Wisconsin at the ICHC. This year the dates will be October 12 - 14, 2006. The weekend consists of a Thursday evening welcome reception and two full days of programs on Friday and Saturday. Meals are included in the registration fee, as well as a Friday evening concert which features musicians, dancers, tellers and performers on the Conference schedule. The festivities wind up on Saturday evening with a banquet and closing ceremonies.

For more information, visit the Conference of Celtic Women on the web at: http://www.conferenceofcelticwomen.org

Winter Solstice at Newgrange

Newgrange tumulus is the oldest building in Europe, the interior of which is visited by the rays of the rising sun during the winter solstice. Now, you can experience this magical phenomenon for yourself!

The Irish Office of Public Works has instituted a lottery to select a group from all those who would like to be present in the chamber at dawn on the 21st of December each year. The Center for Celtic Studies has a limited number of official lottery application forms and to receive yours free, just send a self-addressed stamped, business-sized envelope to:

Center for Celtic Studies
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
P.O. Box 413
Milwaukee, WI 53201

Newgrange from the Air - Older than the Pyramids, Newgrange is the site of much Celtic mythology, folklore and legend.
A visit from Andrew Welsh, MSP

Bob Mc William, St. Andrew's Society

Tartan Day, conceived in Canada and adopted in the US in 1996 has gained a great deal of momentum in the past few years. Presently, fifty states have one or more Tartan Day events. April 6th was chosen because it was on that date that the Declaration of Arbroath, Scotland’s Declaration of Independence, was signed in 1320. A great effort throughout the Scottish community in the US was made to have April 6th recognized by Congress as National Tartan Day. In 1997 Senator Trent Lott persuaded the US Senate to pass unanimously Senate Resolution 155, designating April 6th as National Tartan Day. Within two years the House passed a similar version of the Senate Resolution.

Andrew Welsh, SNP who represents Arbroath and the Angus District in the Scottish Parliament was our special guest in Milwaukee this year. Mr. Welsh flew in with me from Washington where we had attended a luncheon to celebrate the founding of the Congressional Friends of Scotland Caucus.

He spoke to a Celtic Studies class at UWM, met with Mayor Tom Barrett, and later at the UWM Helfer Center, gave a spellbinding lecture with such passion and eloquence that he received a standing ovation equivalent to three curtain calls on a theater stage (Visit e-Keltoi for lecture text). This was followed by a memorable dinner at the Carnegie of the Midwest, which lasted late into the evening. Andrew Welsh’s visit to the Center for Celtic Studies was co-sponsored by the St. Andrew’s Society and was part of a full week of Tartan Day events which included Ceilidhes, lectures, and workshops at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center.

Graduate Program in Scottish Studies

Students considering graduate studies might want to consider a new program that allows study of Scotland’s culture, history and languages. Students considering graduate studies might want to consider a new program that allows study of Scotland’s culture, history and languages. This new taught MSc in Scottish Studies, enhances skills and knowledge base and prepares the students for future employment opportunities and careers or further research at PhD level.

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Celtic Studies

103: First Semester Gaelic. 
TR 9:30-10:45, Seosai Nic Rabhartaigh

203: Third Semester Gaelic, TR 6:30-7:45am Seosai Nic Rabhartaigh

133: Celtic Crossings, W 4:30-7:10, Nancy M. Walczyk.

192: Fact & Fiction in Celtic Film, TR 11-12:15, John Gleeson.

250: Selected Topics in Celtic Studies

001: Scottish Adventure Literature, MW 9:30-10:45am, George Clark.

002: Celtic Religion, MW 2:30-15pm, James R. Lewis

003: Ireland in the 20th Century, TR 6-7:15pm, John Gleeson.

Dance

370-304, World Movement Traditions: Irish Step M 5:00-7:45pm, Aine McMenamin-Johnson

English

306: Survey of Irish Literature, MW 11am-12:15pm, Nancy Walczyk

518: Studies in Irish Literature: Irish Aesthetics: Yeats, Wilde, Moore, Kate O’Brien, TR 12:30-1:45pm, James Liddy

History

200-001: Historical Roots of Contemporary Issues: The Civil Strife in Northern Ireland. TR 8:00am-9:15am

235: (HU) English History to 1688 TR 12:30-1:45pm, Andrew Larson

353: Ireland Since 1600: Colony to Independent State, MW 4:00-5:45pm, Nicholas Wolf

Portuguese

499 Galician Culture: An Overview, TR 2-3:15pm, Isabel Méndez-Santalla.

scholarships

Shamrock Club, Paddy Clancy, and Irish Fest scholarship applications are available in the Center for Celtic Studies office, located in Holton Hall, Room 290. The Paddy Clancy Scholarship funds study at the University of Limerick in Ireland. The Shamrock Club Scholarship provides financial assistance to any individual interested in furthering his or her knowledge of Irish culture and heritage. Irish Fest Scholarships can be applied to any area of study. Please note that the scholarships have various deadlines.

Advisory and Curriculum Committee Members

Bettina Arnold, Associate Professor, Anthropology. Iron Age European Archaeology

Kathy Callahan, Adjunct Associate Professor History. Irish and British history, Women’s history

George Clark, Associate Professor, English. Scottish literature

Tim Crain, Senior Lecturer, History. Northern Ireland, Scottish History

Michael Gillespie, Marquette University, Professor, English, Joyce Scholar

John Gleeson, Senior Lecturer, Celtic Studies. Irish language, Irish history, Film

Andrew Kincaid, Assistant Professor, English. Irish literature

Josepha Lanteri, Professor, English. Irish literature

James Liddy, Professor, English. Irish poetry

Michael Liston, Chair, Department of Philosophy

Seosai Nic Rabhartaigh, Lecturer, Celtic Studies. Irish language, Irish literature

Michael Noonan, Professor, English. Celtic languages

Gabriel Re-Doval, Assistant Professor, Spanish and Portuguese

Ruth Schwerterfeger, Professor, German. Irish and European cultural studies

Nancy Madden Walczyk, Senior Lecturer, English. Celtic and Irish literature, Irish women’s studies
Searching for Inspiration

At the beginning of February I was discussing Irish language literature with my class here at UWM. The students have been studying the Irish language for four semesters now, and they are very interested in Irish language poetry. Because of this interest, I showed them a DVD of a recent interview with the poet, Cathal Ó Searcaigh. They took a while to get used to Cathal’s dialect, but they really enjoyed what he had to say about his poetry.

In one part of the interview Cathal spoke about where his inspiration comes from when he is writing. “Tugann achán rud inspioráid dom. Fiú siúl fada thart ar an tábla, spreagann sín sin an saotharlaocht….” Agus iad fós ag gáin, d’iarr mé mo orthu an rud dteanna a thriailí an leasach cúig boireadóire, a ghruid súil a dhruidhú agus féin a shamhlaí ag siúl thart ar an tábla, chun fáil amach an díoladh inspioráid ar bith chuig. Is iad seo a leanas na dánta a scríobh.

With help and advice from two stalwart friends of Celtic Studies, Eamonn Ó Neill and Cosmo Canini, many freezing hours were spent sawing, stuffing, and painting in a rasty old cobex of a garage on Capitol Drive.

Ag siúl thart ar an tábla le Dennis Cooper
An bord a thimpéalaí, An clog a thimpéalaí, An domhair a thimpéalaí --
An rud a théann timpeall
Ag siúl thart ar an tábla le Heatherv Levin
Chas mé thart imealle ar an tábhall, cosúil le bheith ag siúl thart i smaointe: timpeall, agus timpeall.
Cor tar éis coir, gach cas agus cor de maígne:
 cora cuach an taoil!

Ag siúl thart ar an tábla le Jeff Kiszak
Feicim mo chailt atá a féacaint orm sa ag siúl thart ar mo thabhall, agus an padrón ar an t-fhírais stríochach agus cat-cháirch!

Irish Fest Summer School Celebrates 20th Year!
Sunday, August 13 through Friday, August 18, 2006

Held here at UWM the week before Irish Fest in association with CCS, this popular school features classes for adults and children in all levels. Learn fiddle, bodhran, flute, guitar, tin whistle and ceili, set and step dance, song, genealogy, Irish language, Aran knitting, and weaving. Included will be a variety of cultural lectures. Many of the instructors will also entertain at the 2006 Milwaukee Irish Fest. For more information please call Barb Breed-Heidel at 262-227-6538, or e-mail her at johed@uwm.edu.

The full schedule of classes is available online at: http://www.irishfest.com/summerschool
Professor Joseph Watson of University College Dublin gave the inaugural Hyde Memorial Lecture at the Pabst Theater on February 24th, 2006. Professor Watson is Foundation Chair of Modern Irish Language and Literature at UCD where he has been Dean of Celtic Faculty.

It is a great privilege for me to be here in Milwaukee. The visits of President McAleese and Minister O’Cuil have confirmed its place as a center of pilgrimage for all who work to promote the Irish language. I have great admiration for what John Gleeson and his associates in the Celtic Studies Center have achieved in Irish Studies here—most especially for its pivotal component, the Irish language. As an academic, I value greatly the links our Irish universities, like University College Dublin and the University of Ulster, have with UWM. As co-founder and director of Oideas Gaeil, I am delighted to have such solid and mutually beneficial connections with the Irish Studies program here. I feel greatly honored personally to have been invited to deliver the inaugural Hyde Memorial Lecture, particularly since Douglas Hyde was founding Chair of Modern Irish in University College Dublin, our constituent college of the National University he himself so much to help found. Irish Studies at UWM is carrying forward the mission which An Craoibhín championed in America—in large measure the same cause at Oideas Gaeil would subscribe to for Ireland, namely, that the Irish language and its culture should be a part of the cultural and intellectual make-up of every Irish person. As a people we are singularly fortunate to have inherited this most valuable of possessions.

Douglas Hyde proclaimed during his visit to America a century ago that Ireland was no longer a seainbhean bhocht (‘poor old woman’) but a beautiful young girl. While in the US he was received by the celebrated President of the day, Theodore Roosevelt; on his return to Ireland he was awarded the freedom of the cities of Dublin, Cork and Limerick and in the subsequent campaign on behalf of Irish as a matriculation requirement in the National University it is estimated that between 100,000 and a quarter of a million people took part in public demonstrations. The language was riding on the crest of a huge wave of national support, fostered to a large degree by Hyde himself.

People are familiar with the term ‘renaissance man’. Douglas Hyde was to me the incarnation of ‘revival man’. He was active on so many fronts: language revival and promotion, education, academic planning, literary studies—everything, in short, that is except politics, which much as he did not, as we know, connect with the main political movement which all too swiftly followed this highpoint. National politics has had a higher priority than the language since then with Irish definitely in the back seat for much of the time. Today, however, with peace and reconciliation firmly in our sights I would maintain that the time has come to lift this vision of Hyde’s before Irish people again and to assert boldly, as he has done, that our language and its heritage are the common cultural legacy of every Irish person. What has happened today in Milwaukee represents a major step towards this goal. Long may you continue to be leaders in this vital work. Tá an fhéadadh i rith a bhuachaille san ceannairí do bhocht!
student organizations

Ceol Cois Locha - Music By the Lake
Jeff Ksiazek, Celtic Music Club

On April 28th and 29th, the Celtic Music Club at UWM and the Center for Celtic Studies, along with support from the Irish Fest Foundation and the UWM Student Association, hosted Ceol Cois Locha (Music by the Lake), a weekend of Irish traditional music concerts and workshops at UWM. The event brought four internationally-acclaimed musicians to perform and teach here in Milwaukee.

Friday night featured a kick-off concert by the weekend’s instructors. Liz Knowles on fiddle and Jackie Moran on bodhrán performed a diverse set of traditional and original tunes. Special guest Kieran O’Hare joined the duo on Uilleann pipes for several numbers. Boston’s flute and guitar duo Matt and Shannon Heaton then took the stage, playing a rake of reels and a journey bag of jigs, as well as singing several songs. The concert concluded with a mighty session featuring all the performers. The gathering then adjourned to the Ardor Pub in downtown Milwaukee for a sparkling late night session.

Saturday saw an enthusiastic group of students gather to learn from the masters. Many local music lovers, as well as several travelers from outside of Wisconsin, attended workshops on flute, fiddle, guitar, and bodhrán. Students, teachers and community members all came together for a final session at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center.

Ceol Cois Locha provided an excellent weekend of Celtic music listening and learning pleasure. The club is already planning the 2007 event, so watch the website for upcoming details!

http://www.uwm.edu/StudentOrg/celticmusicclub/

FAÍTE ISTEACH!
Premiering this fall: 4 new courses!

Portuguese 499: Galician Culture: An Overview
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MW 9:30-10:45am, George Clark.

Celtic 250-002: Celtic Religion
MW 2-3:15 pm, James R. Lewis

Celtic 250-003: Ireland in the 20th Century
TR 6-7:15pm, John Gleeson.

Broaden your horizons, make new friends!

NEW SEAN-NÓS CD IS AN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIR!

An amazing CD, Sean-Nós Cois Locha featuring live performances from the festival from 2003-2005 was launched at this year’s event. In his introduction to the CD, Lillis Ó Laoire says, “These recordings reveal the intimacy and friendliness that has characterized Sean-Nós from the start.”

“The recordings reveal the intimacy and friendliness of the proceedings with audience members joining in spontaneously on the choruses and roaring with laughter at the bawdy lyrics of ‘An Seanbhreath Bhocht.’ - Hot Press (Ireland’s Music Newspaper)

“Even if you don’t have a word of Irish, you can’t help but be moved by the intensity and sincerity of these singers and the soulful roots of Irish song.” - Paul Keating, The Irish Voice

RTÉ’s arts program Rattlebag devoted half a recent broadcast to praising the CD. You can listen to or order a copy of this critically acclaimed collection, well on its way to becoming a best-seller, make checks payable to Center for Celtic Studies and mail to:
P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201

Stop press! Amy and Heather won their sections in the North American Fleadh and will be competing in the All-Ireland in Letterkeny in August. Comhargaideas!

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CCS Students in the Community: Spotlight on áthas

Members of local band áthas share a "certified" love of Irish music and culture - all three have earned Certificates in Celtic Studies from UWM! Finding one another amongst the many local Irish sessions and forging fast friendships, Heather Lewin-Tiarks, Amy Richter, and Jeff Ksiazek are now Milwaukee's latest Irish trad band, áthas. Áthas for Irish joy and happiness, suits them perfectly, for there's nary a moment when they are not joking, laughing, and spreading joy through their music.

Regulars at O'Donoghue's weekly set dance, áthas can also be heard at local sessions, pubs, ceilis, and out of town venues and festivals. The band has brought new energy to the Celtic Music Club and innovatively started sessions in venues other than Irish Pubs, such as the Good Harvest Market, UWM, and The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. Mark your calendars for this year's Milwaukee Irish Fest; the trio will be playing on both Saturday and Sunday. Visit áthas online at: http://athasmusic.tripod.com

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sean-nós milwaukee 2006

When Ireland’s lyric poet, senator, and noble laureate William Butler Yeats first heard Sean-Nós singing at a fair in Gort, County Galway, during a sojourn at Lady Gregory’s nearby Coole Park, he described the experience as “shocking” in its intensity, and something that “went into the nerves and core” of his being. This experience fully affirmed his dedication to the culture of Ireland.

Sean-Nós is the oldest living Irish art form and like all genres of Celtic heritage it is both rich and rare. With support from An Íiré Eamon O’Cuí, Irish government minister for cultural affairs, the Center has been organizing for some years now an annual festival of Sean-Nós on the last weekend in February.

Singers and lovers of song and language from Ireland and North America gather for concerts workshops and lectures. This year’s event was exceptionally important, for it marked the centenary of Dr Douglas Hyde’s 1906 visit to Milwaukee seeking support for the language and cultural revival movement then underway in Ireland. By collecting and translating the religious and love songs of his native province of Connaught, Hyde made a remarkably foresighted contribution to the survival of Sean-Nós. In an historical and emotional event at the Pabst Theatre this Spring, attended by many good souls in the community who share the love of this precious and inspirational component of our culture, a plaque was unveiled, a CD was launched, songs were sung, and warm-hearted words were spoken by Archbishop Timothy Dolan, Mayor Tom Barrett, Irish Consul General Charles Sheehan and Celtic Studies Professor Joseph Watson.

The presence of Noreen Barclay, the great granddaughter of Jeremiah Quinn, Irish immigrant from County Limerick, City Official and lifelong Irish Cultural activist who organized Hyde’s visit and the delightful performance of Na Trí Múichín, an Irish language play by local school children under the leadership of Eileen Carpenter and her friends in Conradh Ná Gaeltte, greatly influenced past, present, and future.

New sean-nós CD is an international affair!

An amazing CD, Sean-Nós Cois Locha featuring live performances from the festival from 2003-2005 was launched at this year’s event. In his introduction to this CD, Lílís Ó Laíre says, “These recordings reveal the intimacy and friendliness that has characterized Sean-Nós from the start.”

“The recordings reveal the intimacy and friendliness of the proceedings; with audience members joining in spontaneously on the choirs and roaring with laughter at the bawdy lyrics of ‘An Seannbhach Bhróth.’” – Hot Press (Ireland's Music Newspaper)

“Even if you don’t have a word of Irish, you can’t help but be moved by the intensity and sincerity of these singers and the soulful roots of Irish song.” – Paul Keating, The Irish Voice

RTÉ’s award program Rattlebag devoted half a recent broadcast to praising the CD. You can listen to the program at: http://www.rte.ie/arts/2006/0328/rattlebag.html

Many of the performers on the album are from outside Ireland and have come to Sean-Nós through a love of Gaelic culture and language. They include Virginia Slaven, a native of California; Síle Shigley, from Chicago; Navan, a group from Madison; More Smiley, from Vermont; Brian Hart, from Saint Louis; and Julie Henigan from southern Missouri. The Irish singers on the album are: Jimmy Crowley, from Cork; Máirín Uí Chéide or for a special price of $15 at the CCS of Milwaukee present “The 3 Little Pigs” in Irish.

CCS Students in the Community: Spotlight on áthas

Members of local band áthas share a “certified” love of Irish music and culture - all three have earned Certificates in Celtic Studies from UWM! Finding one another amongst the many local Irish sessions and forging fast friendships, Heather Lewin-Tiarks, Amy Richter, and Jeff Ksiazek are now Milwaukee’s latest Irish trad band, áthas. Áthas for Irish joy and happiness, suits them perfectly, for there’s nary a moment when they are not joking, laughing, and spreading joy through their music.

Regulars at O’Donoghue’s weekly set dance, áthas can also be heard at local sessions, pubs, ceilis, and out of town venues and festivals. The band has brought new energy to the Celtic Music Club and innovatively started sessions in venues other than Irish Pubs, such as the Good Harvest Market, UWM, and The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. Mark your calendars for this year’s Milwaukee Irish Fest; the trio will be playing on both Saturday and Sunday. Visit áthas online at: http://athasmusic.tripod.com

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Noreen Barclay with a photograph of her great-grandfather

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This CD is available by mail for $20 including postage, or for a special price of $15 at the CCS office and CCS events. To order a copy of this critically acclaimed collection, well on its way to becoming a best-seller, make checks payable to Center for Celtic Studies and mail to: P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201
Professor Joseph Watson of University College Dublin gave the inaugural Hyde Memorial Lecture at the Pabst Theater on February 24th, 2006. Professor Watson is Foundation Chair of Modern Irish Language and Literature at UCD where he has been Dean of Celtic Faculty.

It is a great privilege for me to be here in Milwaukee. The visits of President McAleese and Minister Ó Cuív have confirmed its place as a center of pilgrimage for all who work to promote the Irish language. I have great admiration for what John Gleenon and his associates in the Celtic Studies Center have achieved in Irish Studies here – and most especially for its pivotal component, the Irish language. As an academic, I value greatly the links our Irish universities, like University College Dublin and the University of Ulster, have with UWM. As co-founder and director of Oideas Gaeil I am delighted to have such solid and mutually beneficial connections with the Irish Studies program here. I feel greatly honored personally to have been invited to deliver the inaugural Hyde Memorial Lecture, particularly since Douglas Hyde was founding Chair of Modern Irish in University College Dublin, our constituent college of the National University he himself so much did so much to help. Irish Studies at UWM is carrying forward the mission which An Craoibhín championed in America – in large measure the same cause at Oideas Gaeil would subscribe to for Ireland, namely, that the Irish language and its culture should be a part of the cultural and intellectual make-up of every Irish person. As a people we are singularly fortunate to have inherited this most valuable of possessions.

Douglas Hyde proclaimed during his visit to America a century ago that Ireland was no longer a seainbhne bhocht ('poor woman') but a beautiful young girl. While in the US he was received by the celebrated President of the day, Theodore Roosevelt; on his return to Ireland he was awarded the freedom of the cities of Dublin, Cork and Limerick and in the subsequent campaign on behalf of Irish as a matriculation requirement in the National University it is estimated that between 100,000 and a quarter of a million people took part in public demonstrations. The language was riding on the crest of a huge wave of national support, fostered to a large degree by Hyde himself.

People are familiar with the term ‘renaissance man’. Douglas Hyde was to me the incarnation of ‘revival man’. He was active on so many fronts: language revival and promotion, education, academic planning, literary studies – everything, in short, that is except politics, on which he was deftly reticent, as much as he did not, as we know, connect with the main political movement which all too swiftly followed this highpoint. National politics has had a higher priority than the language since then with Irish decidedly in the back seat for much of the time. Today, however, with peace and reconciliation firmly in our sights I would maintain that the time has come to set this vision of Hyde’s before Irish people again and to assert boldly, as he has done, that our language and its heritage are the common cultural legacy of every Irish person. What has happened today in Milwaukee represents a major step towards this goal. Long may you continue to be leaders in this vital work. Tíse leith is go mba fada buan sa cheannródaíocht sibh!

Spotted On Dublin Raeleen McMillon

I tend to think of Ireland as a land of distractions—for the visitor, anyway. Everywhere I walked there was history to be heard, a story to be shared, music to be enjoyed, art to be taken in... and I was there to teach! This winter I had the distinct pleasure of traveling with a group of UW-Milwaukee theatre students to Ireland—and the formidable task of keeping those twenty-somethings focused on academics amid all those delicious distractions.

As a daughter of Irish ancestors, I was eager to see the land and hear the music that influenced my Appalachian childhood. As a teacher, I was thrilled to take theatre students to a country where stories, discourse, and poetry are appreciated and encouraged at every level and in every theatre, pub, bookstore, and market! We spent a week in Dublin, seeing the sights and trying out different pubs & restaurants, all the while keeping a running list of all the city monuments and the local nick-names for them. We took day trips out to explore historic interests like Newgrange, and visited Trinity College, and attended a performance at The Gate Theatre. Some of our students even got to perform on the Abbey stage! Then we packed up, got on a bus, and headed west, enjoying Galway, the spectacular Cliffs of Moher, Connemara, Sligo, and all points of interest in between.

When John Gleenon is your guide, you don’t miss much! It was a very full schedule with far more details than I can mention here, each rich with its own kind of educational opportunity, and my students were eating it up. One of the tastiest parts of our adventure in Ireland was visiting and working with the AXIS Arts Center in Ballymun.

Professor Joseph Watson teaching a workshop in Scots Gaelic during the 2006 Sean-Nós Weekend

One of the tastiest parts of our adventure in Ireland was visiting and working with the AXIS Arts Center in Ballymun.

Professor Joseph Watson's complete lecture is available online at our Celtic Studies Journal E-Keltoi: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/celtic/eKeltoi

For information on January 2007 Winterims, contact Nancy Walczyk (Scotland) at nwalczyk@uwm.edu or John Gleenon (Ireland Winterim or Spring Semester) at gleeson@uwm.edu
And so on March 11th, 2006, a larger than life salmon CCS students win award for Best Float! Sarah Kissinger, Center for Celtic Studies

Milwaukee’s first Saint Patrick’s Day Parade took place in 1843 and attracted around 3000 participants from around south eastern Wisconsin and as far afield as Prairie de Chien. In those frigid and frigid days before global warming they came by sled and on Shank’s mare.

The turn-out so impressed both Church and Congress that within days the latter passed the Milwaukee harbor bill and the former decided to make our fair city (then a mere but vital village) the seat of the new Archdiocese of Wisconsin. Both these events helped kick start the growth of the merry metropolis we call home.

Today’s parade is organized by the Shamrock Club, the State’s oldest Irish cultural organization, which among many other activities provides scholarships for our students. In recognition of the club’s generosity, this year our students decided to build a float depicting the Salmon of Knowledge leaping from the Book of Kells. These events helped kick start the growth of the merry metropolis we call home.

With help and advice from two stalwart friends of Celtic Studies, Eamonn O’Neill and Cosmo Caufi, many freezing hours were spent sawing, stuffing, and painting in a nasti old cubox of a garage on Capitol Drive.

All our hard work paid off when our cultural and artistic masterpiece won Best Parade Float in the Shamrock Club’s 40th Annual Saint Patrick’s Day Parade. This splendid occasion provided a forum for our certificates, students, and staff to join forces and work together to take the parade by storm. Keep an eye out for next year’s entry.

“A ‘Meitheal’ is a traditional Celtic cooperative working party”

Sarah and Cat at the Shamrock Club Award Ceremony

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Irish Fest Summer School Celebrates 20th Year! Sunday, August 13 through Friday, August 18, 2006

Held here at UWM the week before Irish Fest in association with CCS, this popular school features classes for adults and children in all levels. Learn fiddle, bodhran, flute, guitar, tin whistle and ceili, set and step dance, song, genealogy, Irish language, Aran knitting, and weaving. Included will be a variety of cultural lectures. Many of the instructors will also entertain at the 2006 Milwaukee Irish Fest. For more information please call Barb Breed-Heitd at 262-227-6538, or e-mail her at jophedd@uwm.edu.

The full schedule of classes is available online at: http://www.irishfest.com/summerschool
**tartan day**

**A visit from Andrew Welsh, MSP**

Bob Mc William, St. Andrew’s Society

Tartan Day, conceived in Canada and adopted in the US in 1996 has gained a great deal of momentum in the past few years. Presently, fifty states have one or more Tartan Day events. April 6th was chosen because it was on that date that the Declaration of Arbroath, Scotland’s Declaration of Independence, was signed in 1320.

A great effort throughout the Scottish community in the US was made to have April 6th recognized by Congress as National Tartan Day. In 1997 Senator Trent Lott persuaded the US Senate to pass unanimously Senate Resolution 155, designating April 6th as National Tartan Day. Within two years the House passed a similar version of the Senate Resolution.

Andrew Welsh, SNP who represents Arbroath and the Angus District in the Scottish Parliament was our special guest in Milwaukee this year. Mr. Welsh flew in with me from Washington where we had attended a luncheon to celebrate the founding of the Congressional Friends of Scotland Caucus.

He spoke to a Celtic Studies class at UWM, met with Mayor Tom Barrett, and later at the UWM Hefter Center, gave a spellbinding lecture with such passion and eloquence that he received a standing ovation equivalent to three curtain calls on a theater stage (Visit e-Keltoi for lecture text). This was followed by a memorable dinner at the Wisconsin Club, formerly Alexander Mitchell’s home, the Carnegie of the Midwest, which lasted late into the evening. Andrew Welsh’s visit to the Center for Celtic Studies was co-sponsored by the St. Andrew’s Society and was part of a full week of Tartan Day events which included Ceilidhes, lectures, and workshops at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center.

**Graduate Program in Scottish Studies**

Students considering graduate studies might want to consider a new program that allows study of Scotland’s culture, history and post-graduate qualifications in Sound or Photography Archives in Celtic and Scottish Studies, National Museums of Scotland, The National Archives of Scotland, and University of Edinburgh Library Special Collections.

This new taught MSc in Scottish Studies, enhances skills and knowledge base and prepares the students for future employment opportunities and careers or further research at PhD level.

For more information on this program contact the UWM Center for Celtic Studies at (414) 229-6520, e-mail gleeson@uwm.edu or visit the University of Edinburgh online at: http://www.celtscot.ed.ac.uk/niches.htm
ccs lecture series

Throughout the year the UWM Center for Celtic studies hosts numerous events exploring the wonders of the Celtic World. Most of these are free and open to the public. Fall gatherings will include informal sessions featuring Celtic traditional music Masters, “A Coole Evening with Lady Gregory,” our annual Samhain celebration, lectures including Graeme Morton on Scottish Migration to north America, all at the Helfer Center. There will also be a Samuel Beckett exhibition incorporating readings, films and a seminar. To be kept up to date on these and all our events just e-mail gleeson@uwm.edu. One of the spring highlights was the launch of James Liddy’s On the Raft with Fr. Rosseolle some poems from which we have included among pictures from recent events.

Time Present
Adoring the male, what precisely is it - the young girl in the boy in flower.

Professor Liam Kelly, Irish Art Historian with our own Seosail Nic Rialbhartag

Mo Mowlam - R.I.P.

Mo Mowlam, M.P., former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, passed away from cancer last year. As a young political scientist, Mo began her teaching career here at UWM. It was because of that and her brilliant humanitarian work on the Northern Ireland peace process, culminating in the ‘Good Friday’ Agreement that some of us nominated her for an honorary degree from UWM. Such was the universal high regard for her that our efforts received full support across the board, not just on campus but, (perhaps, surprising for a British politician) more notably from the Irish community at large.

A memorial service was held at Drury Lane theatre in London in late November and I was asked by her partner, Jon Norton and the British Consul General to represent UWM and our community at this celebration of her life. Half hooley, half remembrance, the event reflected Mo’s unconventional life, her wicked sense of humor, love of games and that big heart of hers. Kind words were received full support across the board, not just on campus but, (perhaps, surprising for a British politician) more notably from the Irish community at large.

Mo was honored and delighted to receive the honorary degree, but unfortunately her failing health prevented her traveling to Milwaukee for the conferring.

All Souls Day
My parents died and are buried with stone-armor and arms around them, their glasses fill again. I bring fresh limes to their graves.

Professor Liam Kelly, Irish Art Historian with our own Seosail Nic Rialbhartag

Upcoming Events for the Conference of Celtic Women

The Conference of Celtic Women hosts a three-day event in Milwaukee, Wisconsin at the ICHC. This year the dates will be October 12 - 14, 2006. The weekend consists of a Thursday evening welcome reception and two full days of programs on Friday and Saturday. Meals are included in the registration fee, as well as a Friday evening concert which features musicians, dancers, tellers and performers on the Conference schedule. The festivities wind up on Saturday evening with a banquet and closing ceremonies.

For more information, visit the Conference of Celtic Women on the web at: http://www.conferenceofcelticwomen.org
Center Facilitates Wisconsin Delegation To Ireland

When Michael Cudahy, Milwaukee businessman, philanthropist, and proud son of John Cudahy, first U.S. Ambassador to Éire, decided to take state officials to the Emerald Isle, Chancellor Carlos Santiago asked the Center for Celtic Studies to help set up the schedule. Working closely with Irish Consul General Charles Sheehan and Terry Miller, Director of UWM’s Overseas Programs and Partnerships, we were able to pull together a busy but fruitful five-day trip to Ireland earlier this year.

The mission of the delegation was to look to Ireland for best practices in economic development, education, and creation of positive business climate. From our first meeting, with Marion Coy, Director of the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, to the last meeting with Irish President Mary McAleese, the delegation was left with a real impression that Ireland’s leaders have a common vision with a shared purpose, i.e. the betterment of an Irish lifestyle through quality education and sustainable economic growth.

For example, in education, high standards are the rule. High school graduates approach college as an opportunity to become well-skilled adults. College fees are largely paid by the state. The word we heard repeated more than any other was “nimble” - describing the ability to move forward, adjust, and respond to the needs of the global economy.

What is your most treasured possession?
I have two: one is a photograph of me, my dad and Emie Banks, the other is only a memory of the day Winton Marsalis played “Happy Birthday” on his trumpet for me!

What do you regard as your lowest depth of misery?
When the Cubs lose.

In which of the Celtic regions would you like to spend a year of your life?
Galway/Aran Islands. The beauty is unsurpassable.

What is the quality you most like in a human being?
Honesty.

What is your motto?
What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.

Who is your favorite Celtic music performer(s)?
Mary Black.

What recent Celtic-related book would you recommend?