

Volume II, Issue 2

TRISKELE



A newsletter of UWM's Center for Celtic Studies



Samhain, 2003

Fáilte! Croeso! Mannbet! Kroesan! Fair Faa Ye! Welcome! "A Jewel in Milwaukee's Crown"

A recent edition of the internationally circulating, top-selling journal *Irish Music Magazine*, referred to our Center as "The Jewel in Milwaukee's crown." In an address at Irish Fest this year, Irish Government Minister Eamonn O Cuiv reiterated his government's support and admiration for our efforts on behalf of the Irish Language. This semester over 250 students are enrolled in Celtic Studies courses, and the number of certificate candidates continues to grow.

The health and strength of our program is due in no small measure to the dedication and enthusiasm of our small staff, and the brilliance and energy of our associated faculty. Fair play to **Jose Lanters** who took the co-directorship role while **Bettina Arnold** was on sabbatical. Along with her many other duties, including Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies in the English Department, the length as on the straight and parrow associated.



Annie McMenamin-Johnson's Irish Dance class in full flight

she kept us on the straight and narrow academically. Jose is currently coordinating our role as host of the 2004 Mid-West American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS) conference in October 2004.

Fair dues also to **Nancy Madden Walczyk**, who held the fort while the rest of us were booleying in the summer pastures of mind and body. The success of our *Denis Sullivan* fundraiser is due in no small way to Nancy's organizational skills, and her new Celtic Crossings course is a model of multi-discipline study - an exciting and unique addition to our curriculum.

Speaking of gems, the emerald in our treasury is no doubt our groundbreaking on-line journal *e-Keltoi*, the Center's on-line journal of interdisciplinary Celtic Studies. The brainchild of our advisory committee, *e-Keltoi* has been created almost single-handedly by **Bettina Arnold**, with assistance from the Anthropology Department. The journal will be launched at our Samhain Celebration. The current volume contains two articles on language survival and language death in Brittany and Scottish-America, a discussion of the disappearance of Ireland from Irish film, an investigation of Gaelic sources relating to the involvement of Scottish Highlanders in warfare in North America, and an illustrated discussion of the interpretation of Iron Age chariots based on medieval texts. Check them out at http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/celtic/ekeltoi/ and click on "What's New".



John Gleeson, Kathy McGarry, Brenda Fitzsimons, James Liddy & Mark Connolly at the ICHC

The Center helped facilitate the recent Irish Press Photographers Association (PPAI) award exhibition at the Irish Cultural Heritage Center. PPAI President Brenda Fitzsimons (the first woman to be employed as a photographer by the *Irish Times* in the paper's 150 year history), came to UWM and spoke to an appreciative audience of students and faculty on "The Role of the Photo Journalist in Ireland Today." UWM poet and professor James Liddy opened the exhibit at the ICHC.

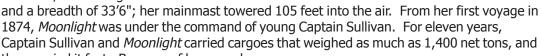
Denis Sullivan Celebration Cruise

Born in Dublin, Ireland in 1849, Denis Sullivan immigrated with his family to Dunnville, Ontario, near Lake Erie, when he was a child. He began sailing the Great Lakes when he was just seventeen, and before long, had earned his master's license. In 1873, Denis Sullivan settled in the Milwaukee area, which was a shipping and shipbuilding center for the Great Lakes. He quickly impressed Mr. David Vance, a prominent Milwaukee ship owner, with his

L-R: Derek, Rebecca & Randy, of 'St. Brendan's Voyage'

credentials and abilities. In 1874, Vance awarded Sullivan command of the new schooner *Moonlight*, built by Milwaukee's Wolf and Davidson Shipyard.

Moonlight was a large, three-masted schooner, with a length of 213 feet



they carried it fast. Because of her speed, newspapers of the day called *Moonlight*, "Queen of the Lakes."

For a few years after *Moonlight*, Sullivan commanded the steamship

Veronica. He then become involved in other aspects of shipping, serving as Marine Inspector for D. Vance & Co., followed by a year as Wrecking Master, with offices at 381 Broadway. One of Captain Sullivan's close friends in Milwaukee was W.E. Fitzgerald, the father of Edmund Fitzgerald, former president of Northwestern Mutual Life, and the namesake for the ship Edmund Fitzgerald, which foundered mysteriously in Lake Superior in 1974. The Fitzgeralds were from County Limerick. By the end of his long career, which began in Milwaukee, Sullivan's expert knowledge had made him a valued member of the Chicago Harbor Commission and the Chicago Board of Trade.



Ed Mikush leads our crew

hoisting the main

Nancy Walczyk and Bob McWilliam enjoy the cruise



L-R: Joan Callaway, Julie Revane, Peggy Reilly

Captain Sullivan died in Chicago in 1918. It is appropriate, therefore, that the Center has established an annual fund-raising celebration cruise on the vessel which has been named as a tribute to his memory and the contributions he and others like him have made to the development of this region. It was a lively crew of Celtic Studies family, friends and faculty that took to the water on a beautiful evening in September. The ship's larder and liquor locker had been adequately stocked with lovely epicurian rations of a Celtic nature. If you haven't experienced a glorious Milwaukee sunset from the planked deck of a Great Lakes schooner as a twilight breeze caresses the cheek, and the echoes of "Banish Misfortune" on the fiddle rise and fall softly on the water, you really are missing something special. No wonder so many of our crew are already talking about next year!

Now is the time to sign up for our Summer 2004 Study Abroad programs in Ireland!! Choose Music & Dance at the University of Limerick, or Irish Language & Culture in Donegal. Grants and scholarships available. Call the CCS for more information!

Advisory and Curriculum Committee Members

Spring 2004 Courses

Bettina Arnold, Associate Professor, Anthropology

Kathy Callahan, Associate Lecturer, History, Irish and British history, women's history

George Clark, Assistant Professor, English. Scottish Literature

Michael Gillespie, Marquette University Professor, English. Joyce Scholar

John Gleeson, Senior Lecturer, Ethnic Studies. Irish language, Irish history, Irish-American history, film

Andrew Kincaid, Assistant Professor, English. Irish literature

Josepha Lanters, Associate Professor, English. Irish literature, Irish Mythology and Folklore

James Liddy, Professor, English. Irish poetry

Michael Liston, Chair, Dept of Philosophy

Genevieve McBride, Associate Professor, History. Gender, race & Ethnicity

Michael Noonan, Professor, English. Celtic Languages

Nancy Walczyk, Senior Lecturer, English. Literature in Irish language; Irish women's studies; distance education in Celtic Studies

The following Celtic Studies Program-approved courses will be offered
in the Spring 2004 semester at UWM:

Art History (Kelly)	299 Lec 101 W 6:00-8:40 PM TBA	Medieval Irish Art
Dance (McMenamin- Johnson)	370 Lab 904 M 6:00-8:40 PM OFC 540	Irish Step Dance
English (Walczyk)	306 Lec 001 TR 11:00-12:15 PM CRT 118	Irish Literature
English (Lanters)	814 Sem 001 T 4:30-7:10 PM CRT 286	Seminar in Irish Literature
Ethnic Studies (Gleeson)	250 Lec 301 W 6:00-8:40 PM TBA	The Green Screen: World of Irish Cinema
Ethnic Studies (Cowan)	250 Lec 304 R 6:00-8:40 PM TBA	Song Traditions of the Celtic World
History (Crain)	200 Lec 002 TR 8:00-9:15 AM HLT 190	The Civil Strife in Northern Ireland
History (Larsen)	235 Lec 001 TR 2:00-3:15 PM HLT G90	English History to 1688
Linguistics (Gleeson)	131 Lec 301 TR 11:00-12:15PM TBA	First Semester Irish
Linguistics (NicRabhartaigh)	132 Lec 306 TR 9:30-10:45 AM TBA	Second Semester Irish
Linguistics (Hoffman)	231 Lec 301 T 4:30-7:15 PM TBA	Third Semester Irish

Scholarships

Paddy Clancy, Irish Fest and Shamrock Club 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. Irish Fest

scholarships can be applied to any area of study. Shamrock Club Scholarships can be used for our summer programs in Ireland.



Faculty Research News

The History course <u>Ireland Since 1600</u>, is one of our most popular courses this semester. It was developed by **Kathy Callahan**, with financial support from the Center. When not teaching, Kathy is heavily engaged in research projects. She shares some of these with us:



Currently on my research plate is the completion of my dissertation "Women, Work and Crime: The Case of London 1783-1815." The research is based on an examination of court records from London's felony court, the Old Bailey. The criminal courts in London provided an intersection for the lives of persons of every social class. Those tried for crimes, however, were predominately from the working class.

A full twenty-six percent of the accused felons who stood trial

were women; today, in most Western countries the number is around ten percent. Included in the project is the development of a criminal profile, an examination of the crimes for which women were tried, and how women were punished. Additionally, I look at how the economic well-being of women played into their criminal behavior.

While on the surface this project seems like a pretty straightforward examination of London's criminal women, the development of the profile has revealed that a significant number of the women accused of felonies had actually been born in Ireland and Scotland! My next project will be an exploration of why those women migrated to London, what conditions existed that drove them into criminal activity, and how social prejudices may have played a part in the accusations made against them.

Irish American Post Archives

Martin Hintz, founder and publisher of the *Irish American Post*, has donated that paper's archives to UWM. The collection contains important holdings, such as rare interviews and other materials on the Northern Ireland Peace Process, as well as a history of Celtic group activities throughout the Mid-West. Graduate students are currently engaged in cataloguing the material, which is an important addition to our Golda Meir Library Archives. Mart has also donated many books on Celtic history, culture, arts and politics (many of which are first editions) to our collection. Check out the *Irish American Post* online at www.irishamericanpost.com!

An Cumann Ceilteach & Events

UWM's Celtic Club – An Cumann Ceiltach (once An Cumann Gaelach) – is now enjoying its third consecutive school year as an active UWM organization. Reactivated in the Fall of 2001 with four interested students, it now has over fifty members.

An Cumann Ceiltach (ACC) was started in order to accommodate the large number of UWM students with Celtic connections. The organization also strives to bring awareness to historical and current events, and cultural beliefs and practices through numerous events held throughout the year. These include bringing in lecturers, performers and films related to the various Celtic cultures, and attending CCS events.

Even though mid-terms are well under way, take a break with ACC this Fall semester and join us at the following:

Oct. 31 – CCS Samhain/Halloween Celebration; 6 pm at the Hefter Center, 3271 N. Lake Dr.

Nov. 21 – ACC/CCS Ceili and Gaelic Language Night; 7:30-10:30 pm at Greene Hall, 3347 N. Downer Ave. Come and learn some Irish Ceili's and try out your Irish on the pros.

We are also considering going to see *Victoria Guerin* at the movie theatre on Downer, on the evening of November 8th. Join our mailing list with the information below to get updates on this and other events!

As for the Spring semester, ACC (in conjunction with CCS) is planning the first "Celtic Week" on UWM's campus, March 10 – 17, just in time for St. Patrick's Day! This will be a week's worth of activities involving plenty of Celtic culture and craic. Keep checking the CCS Events page on the website for an accurate and complete listing.

We hope to see you at these future events, as it is sure to be full of craic, caint agus ceol! Plans are also currently in the works for Tartan Day and Bealtaine, and if you would like more information on any of these events or on ACC, or would simply like to be placed on the ACC e-mail list (you will receive event updates), please feel free to contact us at: accuwm@yahoo.com Slan go foill!

Summer in Glencolumbkille by Kelly Burow

Glencolumbkille, County Donegal, is one of Ireland's most majestically beautiful places. It is a lush valley in the heart of hauntingly beautiful moorlands. The air is pure and the land is virginesque. Glen's beauty is fashioned by the sea from the coastal cliffs of Slieve League to the magnificent sands of Silver Strand. The precipitous cliffs of Slieve League are indescribable. The beauty of light reflecting off of the mountain is truly breathtaking! The golden sandy beach and verdant cliffs of Sliver Strand mixed with the blue/green sea emulate the color pallet in an artist's masterpiece.

To the west of the village stands Father McDyer's Folk Village Museum and Heritage Centre. Established in 1967, the Folk Museum is a monument to Fr. James McDver, who came to Glen in 1951 and set about infusing the local people with a spirit of selfreliance and pride in their heritage, while providing better facilities within the parish. The complex is built in the form of a clachan, where each house is an exact replica of the traditional Donegal style used by the local people in each of three successive centuries, 18th, 19th and 20th, and is equipped with furniture, implements, tools and utensils appropriate to that period. Each thatched roof must be tied down to withstand the prevailing winds of the Atlantic. Traditionally, cottages were located in clusters providing both company and protection.



Relaxing after Irish class in Glencolumbkille

Also located on the grounds is the Dooey School House, which is an actual 19th century school. Inside you will find a collection of old photographs, books and items of local history on display. The Tea House, which places emphasis on traditional Irish dishes, is among the buildings at the Folk Village. The Tea House was my little Irish haven! Everyday for lunch I spent 7 euro 65 and indulged in the world's best egg and onion sandwich, bowl of steaming vegetable soup and slice of apple pie, while listening to the Lord of the Dance soundtrack (my favorite!). The Tea House had such a warm, inviting, kind-spirited atmosphere that I would travel back to Ireland just to have a meal there!

Glen is an area rich in archeological remains and prehistoric settlements. The most prominent remains are the pillars decorated with cross-inscribed, geometric designs, which spread over an area in the valley 3.5 miles long. The Standing Stones form what is known as the Turas Cholmcille. There are 15 stops or "Stations of the Cross" on the pilgrims' route when the Stations are traveled barefoot on June 9th, the Feast Day of St. Columba. A few miles from Glen, a court cairn at Malinmore can be found. The court cairn was so peaceful and undisturbed, that it is hard to believe that it was once used as an ancient burial ground.

"St. Columba's Valley" or "The Glen of St. Columba's Church," is the Gaelic meaning of Glencolumbkille. In the heart of the Gaeltacht, Glen immerses one's soul in the beauty of the language. I have learned that Gaelic allows you to talk about ordinary everyday things with a poetry and grace that is often missing in English. Learning the language has allowed me to feel the heartbeat of Ireland's spirit through its music, history, folklore, traditions, arts and dance.

In Glen, the locals are worked to the bone; working 6 or sometimes 7 days a week, for 10 + hours. I have learned that for the most part they work either in the fish factory in Carrick, or on a farm in or around Glen. Even though their lives seem mundane, they are in high spirits. Pubs are a place for the locals to escape the monotony of everyday life, as well as gather with family and friends.

Biddy's, Roarty's and Glen Heads are hubs of great traditional music and song. Full of laughter, life and bliss, these pubs are truly what embody the spirit of Ireland. The pubs have taught me a lot about the Irish culture. I have also learned the importance of Guinness, Smithwicks, Harp, Jameson's, John Powers, Paddy, etc.! The locals in the pubs have also broadened my Gaelic vocabulary to include such words as craic, sound, shifting, pratt, blatto, mental, etc.

Gaelic football is a primary source of entertainment, for both the players and the community. The young and old come out to support their home team. I was able to partake in a Glen vs. Glean Fin game. Unfortunately Glen lost, but it was a unique cultural experience. The locals were eager to educate us on the rules and scoring. Even though the scoring was a bit confusing, I knew that when the row of cars across the field honked their horns unmercifully, the team had scored a goal.

I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to study abroad in Ireland, most importantly in Glen. I have experienced the beauty and magic that Ireland truly possesses. What I will always cherish with me as memories of Glen is the beauty of the locals, both inside and out, the picturesque, breathtaking landscape, the pink sauce from the Chippy, spray-painted sheep, the Tea House and meeting Cathal O Searcaigh. The most memorable night of my life was the last night we were in Glen. It was a night spent on the beach by the fire, with music in my ears and a pint of Guinness in my hand. I hope in the future to have many more nights like that in Ireland!

The Liddy Chair

The Liddy Chair at the Irish Cultural Heritage Center of Wisconsin (ICHC) recognizes UWM poet and professor James Liddy's contribution to the community as teacher, mentor and resident poet. It provides a venue for visiting writers and poets. The Chair's most recent occupant was Irish Poet John Redmond, who shared his work with us at the end of last semester, in what turned out to be a convivial and well attended event at the ICHC. John Redmond was born in Dublin, and lives now in Connemara. He has been published by The Observer of London and The Irish Times, and in collections by Carcanet Press. John read from his recently published collection *Thumb's Width*.



John Redmond and James Liddy

vw

It takes, sometimes, a '69 Beetle, with clapped-out hubcaps, to drive us down, beyond the high-tide mark, where the pale-shelled razorfish muscle out on moist, dark sand. It takes a road, and two boreens, to drive us out, beyond Carna, beyond empty pubs and soundless houses, to where a boy on a rickety tractor carves saw-toothed circles on the broken ground.

Beyond the voracious Atlantic surf in which it is half-immersed, beyond mackerel, kelp and bottle-nosed whales, the Mexican workers who make them still would scarcely recommend the tide be poured on our Volkswagen's steering. Beyond a miracle it will hardly start.

We have overslept.

You turn the key.

Nothing is beyond German engineering.

-John Redmond

Ruth "The Wee Wild One" Schwertfeger

Ever since Irish and German settlers came together in 1844 to elect Mathew Stein and Andrew Mc Cormack to the then Yankee-dominated Milwaukee Village Board, both communities have had a unique history of connectedness and interaction. A look at the long list of German names among its membership of such organizations as the Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin or the Shamrock Club, for instance, reflects the local intermarriage of Irish charm and German efficiency. If sometimes the result has been German charm and Irish efficiency, the bonds are nonetheless socially strong and enduring.

Irish-born German professor **Ruth Schwertfeger** has created a course that explores the Irish/German connection particularly in cultural affairs. Titled "Ireland and Germany," this upper level course looks at "Das Land der Heiligen und der Gelehoten" (the Island of Saints and Scholars) as a source of inspiration for writers including Goethe and Boll, a desirable destination for serious drinkers, and a haven for tourists looking for peace and tranquility. Other topics include the current relationship within the E.U. and the historical one between Eire and the Third Reich, as well as the role of sports – particularly soccer.



Prof. Ruth Schwertfeger

Professor Schwertfeger is a distinguished author with a new book coming out in the spring. *The Wee Wild One: Stories of Belfast and Beyond* explores by means of memoir various facets of social life in Northern Ireland that lie in the more hidden territory, often by-passed amidst the stereotypes imposed by history and public rhetoric. Impressionistic in scope and style, the stories range over a fairly long history, beginning in 1916 and extending to the more recent period of the Troubles.

The author returns to her past as a schoolgirl in Belfast, and from within a carefully reconstructed classroom, reflects upon other issues, especially of identity, both national and religious. Sometimes her writing reflects a perspective that is clearly shaped by her experiences of living in the United States, but these are unapologetically Northern Irish stories. Language is their unifying principle, and it emerges as the marker and register of boundaries, as well as the magnet that draws exiles back to the homeland.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our local **CELTIC WOMEN'S GROUP** continues to sponsor an excellent and on-going series of entertaining and informative **talks with tea and scones** in the convivial parlour of the Irish Cultural Heritage Center (I.C.H.C.) 2133 west Wisconsin Avenue on the first Friday of every month at 5:30pm. Admission is \$5 for all. For more info, call the ICHC at 414-345-8800. The program is as follows:

Nov. 7, 2003 Topic: "My Life with Cherish The Ladies" (5:45-6:15 pm)

Speaker: Joanie Madden, Leader of Cherish the Ladies.

Dec. 5, 2003 Topic: Celtic Women Christmas Celebration. Craft artisans will

explain their creations on display.

Jan. 2, 2004 Topic: "Scottish Dance - Have a Fling!" Speaker: Meribeth Waldrop. Feb. 6, 2004 Topic: "The Ward Irish Music Archives" Speaker: Barry Stapleton. Mar. 5, 2004 Topic: "Irish Poets Yeats and Kavanaugh" Speaker: Jim Kearney.

Apr. 1, 2004 Topic: "The Manx Culture" Speaker: Joyce Benjamin

May 6, 2004 Topic: "Wisconsin Highland Games" Speaker: Connie Young of Clan Young

Jun. 3, 2004 Topic: "Immigration Patterns of the Celts to North America" Speaker: Patricia Keeney

Geyh, genealogist

MILWAUKEE IRISH ARTS our Irish community theatre company will present **ECLISPSED** by Patricia Burke Brogan at the SCHROEDER THEATRE Cardinal Stritch University, beginning November 20th. Phone: (414) 229-2608.

SEAN NOS SINGING WEEKEND

Our second **Sean Nos Milwaukee** will take place here at U.W.M. on Friday and Saturday Febuary 20 and 21. This gathering features noted and lesser known traditional singers in a program of workshops, lectures, sessions, and a concert. The event is recorded for archival use and broadcast on Radio na Gaeltachta – Irish public radio.

LORD LYON VISIT

On Tuesday, February 24th **Lord Lyon**, Scotland's King of Arms and Keeper of Heraldry, will be the Center's guest. In the afternoon Lord Lyon will meet with students and faculty and in the evening there will be a reception and a talk by Lord Lyon at the Hefter Center. The evening event is open to the public and we welcome all our friends in the community.

IRISH CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER CONCERT SERIES

The music continues with the magnificent **Cherish the Ladies** on November 7th, the one and only **Tommy Makem** on December 13th, and **The Poor Clares** on December 20th.

The Spring series is already shaping up with the great **Altan** slated for March 4th and balladeer **Danny Doyle** March 12th. Tickets for the Spring series go on sale January 2nd. For more info, call 414-345-8800.

CELTIC ART EXHIBITION AT I.C.H.C.

A major exhibit of Celtic Art opens at the I.C.H.C. on Thursday November 6th and runs through Febuary. You're welcome to an opening reception and talk on Celtic art by **Cindy Matyi**. Phone: (414) 345-8800.

CAMPUS SAINT PATRICK'S FESTIVAL

For the first time in many years U.W.M. will be in session during Saint Patrick's Day. So, working with An Cumann Ceilteach, UWM's Celtic Club, we are planning a series of celebratory cultural events in the week leading up to and including the great day itself. Watch for word of great green things to come in the new year.

SAINT PATRICK'S NIGHT DINNER WITH TOM SWEENEY

Milwaukee Irish Arts annual Saint Patrick's Night Dinner takes place at the Italian Community Center on Wednesday **March 17**th. The evening's guest will be Irish ballad singer, songwriter, and storyteller Tom Sweeney. For more information call 414-229-2608.

See our website www.uwm.edu/Dept/celtic for updated event information!

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TO:

Please send us your e-mail address if you can receive Triskele via the Internet. Write to: asg@uwm.edu to have your name added to our e-mail mailing list, or to change your current mailing or e-mail address.

Faculty Quiz

In each edition of our newsletter, a member of the Celtic Studies faculty at UWM will be answering a series of questions...this volume's questions were answered by English Senior Lecturer Nancy Walczyk (pictured).

Which Celtic figure do you most identify with?

Queen Medb of Connaught.* Not because I resemble her in any way, but because she's one of the most interesting women in literature: part myth, part legend, warrior, harridan, heroine, and she seems to get re-invented in every century for the past millennium.

What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?

Well, this article was due last week and I'm just writing it now, so I guess it's procrastination.

What is your favorite Celtic music group?

Right now, I'm listening to Navan* a lot. I enjoy their Celticlanguage harmonies, their mix of laments and lively songs, and the fact that they're home grown talent. They represent the best traditions of the Celtic diaspora in the 21st century.

What Celtic-related book would you recommend?

Any book by Irish-language poet Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill.* Although she writes in the Irish language, her poetry is available in dual-language editions and has been translated into English by some of Ireland's best poets. So, you get two poems for the price of one.

What is your greatest extravagance/most treasured possession?

Celtic-design jewelry by Catherine Crowe. Catherine uses Continental Celtic designs in her modern cloisonné work. I took her class at the Irish Fest Summer School one year, and found how difficult (but fun) this work is. Creating the jewelry took me back to those La Tène* period artisans who invented the "Celtic" look in the 3rd century B.C.



What is your motto?

Getting most of my life philosophy from pub songs, I'll nominate: "The cares of tomorrow can wait 'til this day is done." Or, as Scarlett O'Hara put it, "I'll think about it tomorrow." These choices could possibly be related to the procrastination issue, mentioned above.

How would you like to die?

Die? Who said anything about dying? I plan to find one of those boats that sails to the Isle of Avalon* and hang out with Arthur.

*Want to learn more about this person, place, or thing? Take Ethnic 133: Celtic Crossings, offered in fall by the faculty of the Center for Celtic Studies!