



TRISKELE



A newsletter of UWM's Center for Celtic Studies

Volume IV, Issue I



Samhain 2005

Irish President Visits UWM

Praises Work of Center for Celtic Studies



John Gleeson welcomes President McAleese

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 McAlees 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 mhór stairiúil agus charduil a bhí ann. A memorable day in the short history of the center!



President McAleese and her husband Dr. Martin McAleese take in the rare Irish book exhibit at Golda Meir Library



Left to Right: Chancellor Santiago, Poet James Liddy, John Gleeson, President McAleese and Dr. McAleese

UWM Archaeologists Visit Achill Island Field School



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.

Tartan Day Colloquium Held at UWM

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, Lianne Henderson,



shared folktales that have survived the crossing of the Atlantic from Scotland to America in her lecture "Scottish Folklore 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'r auld eneuch tae dee!*"

From left: Ted Cowan, Nancy Walczyk, John Gleeson, Richard Finley, Lianne Henderson

Nickel And Dimed

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 Lanter Elected Vice President of ACIS

Prof. Josepha Lanter 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). Lanter 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 final event of the 2004-2005 academic year was the awarding of Certificates in Celtic Studies to this year's graduates of our Certificate in Celtic Studies program. **Congratulations to Denise Benoit, Amy Richter, Carley Hackney, Morgan Sawicki, Courtney Young, and Rachel Searcy.**

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.

Center for Celtic Studies STUDY ABROAD Courses

WINTERIM PROGRAMS--JANUARY 2006

Please note that the deadline for application for Winterim programs is October 14. Contact UWM's Overseas Programs regarding applications and grant information. Phone 229-5182; e-mail: overseas@uwm.edu, or web site www.uwm.edu/Dept/CIE/OP/programs.shtml

Winterim in Edinburgh, Scotland. January 8-21

Upstairs, Downstairs, and In My Lady's Chamber

Students will spend two weeks in Dalkeith House (pictured), once considered one of the greatest country houses of Scotland. Located in a lovely village just outside of Edinburgh, the house now belongs to the Duke of Buccleuch. Program leaders Drs. Nancy Walczyk (English) and Kathy Callahan (History) will explore the lives of women who lived in these Big Houses. Topics include Mary, Queen of Scots; the Edinburgh witchcraft trials; the lives of every class of woman from the royals to the gentry and servant classes. There will be a tour of the sites associated with Mary, Queen of Scots, and several excursions to Edinburgh for tours of castles and museums and for theater and other performances. Three credits in History/Women's Studies. Contact nwalczyk@uwm.edu or callahan@uwm.edu for the complete syllabus.

Winterim in Ireland: Contemporary Irish Theatre: Culture & Context. January 3-20.

Prepare for a trip to Ireland in reading and discussions on campus and then tour with John Gleeson of Celtic Studies and Raeleen McMillion of Theatre Dept. in January. Spend time exploring local attractions, historical sites, museums, theatres and other live performances for a satisfying literary and artistic immersion into the Irish culture. The program begins in Dublin with a walking tour of St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Marshes Library, and includes a motor coach tour to New Grange and Seven Wonders of Fore; visit to Killmainham Gaol, Oscar Wilde & G.B. Shaw's houses, National Museum and National Gallery. While in Dublin, the group will also enjoy a special lecture and discussion with playwright Dermott Bolger and a visit to the famed Writer's Center. The class will also travel together across Ireland to Galway, up to Sligo, and through Yeats country, exploring points of interest and attending live performances along the way. The group will attend a special reception at the new AXIS center in Dublin, followed by a performance by UWM Theatre BFA students, and participate in the talkback discussion, before returning to Milwaukee.

STUDY ABROAD: A Student's Perspective on Our Colmccille Semester Abroad *By Amy Schoenecker*

I spent my spring semester in Derry City on the Center for Celtic Studies' Colmccille 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 Colmccille 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 Colmccille 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" History, Design and Art Inspiration.
 3:30 - 4:15 Marjorie Warren: "The Nine Trades of Dundee"
 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"
 4:30 - 5:15 Marjorie Warren, Flora MacDonald Gammon, Robert McWilliam: "Come Under my Plaidie" (17th Century Scottish Highland Dress)
 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) Heffer 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 Cumann Ceilteach will continue to hold our Irish social dances or "ceilis" 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 ceili. We also plan to continue with our Celtic Film series and we will be busy planning our Féile Padraig or St. Patrick's festival for March 2006.

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

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, Professor, English. Irish literature, Irish Mythology and Folklore

James Liddy, Professor, English. Irish poetry

Michael Liston, Associate Professor, Philosophy

Michael Noonan, Professor, English. Celtic Languages

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

Nancy Madden Walczyk, Senior Lecturer, English. Celtic & Irish literature, Irish women's studies

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.



Celtic Studies Student Activities

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

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 industrialization 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!



CCS Students in St. Paddy's Parade with Mayor Tom Barrett



Students in CCS Summer Program at Glencolumcille

SEAN NOS MILWAUKEE TO COMMEMORATE HYDE CENTENARY

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**

Triskele

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Please send us your e-mail address if you can receive Triskele via the Internet. Write to: jelillis@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

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 bhriathar." One of the requirements for all members of Finn Mac Cool's fianna is to be "true to my word."