



triskele

a newsletter of uwm's center for celtic studies



volume 0 issue 1

Bealtaine 2006

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 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.



L to R: John Gleeson, Monsignor Halligan, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, Michael Cudahy, Irish President Mary McAleese, Governor Jim Doyle, Tim Sheehy, President, GMBA, Chancellor Carlos Santiago

Whereas, in the nineteen eighties, whole graduating classes left Ireland due to a lack of job opportunities, now half a million people have moved to Ireland, attracted by the "Celtic Tiger" economy, two-hundred thousand of whom are returning exiles. Today, unemployment is a choice not a scourge.

The delegation visited companies such as Hewlett-Packard and Boston Scientific, and we were provided with detailed informational presentations by the senior executives of the Industrial Development Authority, Enterprise Ireland, HETAC, and the Department of Education. Dr. Connor Brady, President of University College Dublin, Eamonn O'Cuiv, Minister for Gaeltacht and Community Affairs, and Noel Tracy, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, all hosted briefing lunches in our honor. The Honorable Catherine Byrne, Lord Mayor of Dublin gave a reception for the delegation, and invited along students and faculty from the UWM Celtic Studies/Theatre Department Winterim program, who happened to be in Dublin at the same time.

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 Uachtairain 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!



Wisconsin Delegation, UWM Students and Faculty at Dublin Lord Mayor's Reception

fáilte!

croeso!

mannbet!

kroesan!

welcome!

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. Roseliep* some poems from which we have included among pictures from recent events.



Eamonn O'Neill with Loreto Guinan, Bog Expert and Heritage Officer for County Meath

Time Present

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



Author Angela Bourke with Michael Gillespie at the screening and discussion of the Irish film "The Rocky Road to Dublin"



Professor Liam Kelly, Irish Art Historian with our own Seosaí Nic Rabhartaigh

All Souls Day

*My parents died and are buried
with stone-barmen all around them,
their glasses fill again:
I bring fresh limes to their graves.*

New Year's Eve

*I had a dream that Jim Hazard had put
a poem for me inside a golden biscuit tin.*



Bob McWilliam, Eamonn O'Neill, Guinness Historian John O'Sullivan, Cat Murphy, Paddy Murray, and John Gleeson

Pro Defunctis

*Let us invoke the dead
for five minutes of memory
in pajamas underpants when they took them off*

Aislingí

*Kay Boyle/Frank O'Connor's daughter
hitchhiking among lorries, 'Is there a phone near here
we need to ring Co. Wexford.'*



Irish Harper Máire Ní Chathasaigh

Mo Mowlan - R.I.P.

Mo Mowlan, 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, Sinéad 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 Dé go raibh do anam! -John Gleeson

fall 2006 class schedule

Celtic Studies

103: First Semester Gaelic,

001: TR 9:30-10:45, Seosai Nic Rabhartaigh

002: MW 6:30-7:45, Caoimhe Ní Ghráda

203: Third Semester Gaelic, TR 6:30-7:45pm 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 2-3:15 pm, James R. Lewis

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

Dance

370-904, World Movement Traditions: Irish Step

M 5:00pm-7:40pm, Aine McMenamin-Johnson

English

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

518: Studies in Irish Literature: Irish Aesthetes: 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 Timothy Crain

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.

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 Lanters, 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 Rei-Doval, Assistant Professor, Spanish and Portuguese

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

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

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.

CCS students abroad

Queen Mary, Liz and the Ladies

Dr. Nancy Madden Walczyk, Center for Celtic Studies

Why did Mary, Queen of Scots, lose her head? Why did her cousin, Elizabeth I, Queen of England, approve of Mary's beheading? Why did women comprise 80% of the victims of Scotland's witch-hunts in the 16th c.? What did gentlemen really do in the dining rooms after the ladies withdrew? What was life like for a rural, peasant woman or for an urban housemaid? These and other questions formed the basis for the Celtic Studies Winterim program in History and Women's Studies in Scotland this past January.

Led by myself and Dr. Kathy Callahan (History), our course focused on the lives of women of all classes in Scotland from the 16th to the 19th centuries. We visited castles, palaces, Big Houses, town houses; we attended a Christmas pantomime and a Scots dialect version of Tartuffe; we took a Women's Walk of Edinburgh's Royal Mile, then went underground to see where the not-so-royals hid out from the law; we found out what haggis is and ate it anyway.

Our home for the trip was Newbattle Abbey College, founded in the 12th century as a Cistercian abbey. The college is located near Dalkeith, a short bus ride away from Edinburgh's city center, and is surrounded by a lovely, wooded estate with formal gardens on the river Esk.



Students & Faculty from the 2006 Scotland Winterim Program

For information on January 2007 Winterims, contact Nancy Walczyk (Scotland) at nwalczyk@uwm.edu or John Gleeson (Ireland Winterim or Spring Semester) at gleeson@uwm.edu

Spotlight On Dublin *Raeleen McMillion*

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 Gleeson 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. We spent the final week of our tour focused on the serious task of preparing and rehearsing two shows: NICKLE & DIMED and MILWAUKEE STORIES. Both are from UWM, produced as part of our student theatre season in the fall and featured two young guest actors from Ballymun.

NICKLE & DIMED is an adaptation of Barbara Ehrenreich's novel of the same title, and MILWAUKEE STORIES is a performance of local work stories, collected and developed by our students as part of their study in the UWM theatre program. Our fellow theatre artists at AXIS welcomed us with open arms and made us feel right at home in their space. They introduced us to Ballymun folks who shared their stories with us and helped us embrace the notion of universal truths.



Students & Faculty from the Celtic Theatre Winterim Program after their experience at the Abbey Theatre

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



Liz Knowles leading her fiddle workshop

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



Friday's concert: (L to R) Jackie Moran, Shannon Heaton, Liz Knowles, Kieran O'Hare, Matt Heaton.

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/>

Fáilte Isteach!

Premiering this fall: 4 new courses!

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

Celtic 250-001: Scottish Adventure Literature
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!



Volunteering at the 2005 Celtic Women's Conference were CCS students and faculty. Front Row (L to R): Nikki Tochaluski, Kathy Callahan, Jeff Ksiazek, Rachel Searcy Back Row: John Gleeson, Sara Breidenfeldt, performer Nowleen Monjarett from Brittany, Nancy Walczyk, lecturer and performer Flora MacDonald from North Carolina.

CCS Students in the Community: Spotlight on áthas



L to R: Amy, Jeff, and Heather

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*, Irish for 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>

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

sean-nós milwaukee 2006



An enthusiastic crowd gathers for Friday's Concert

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 gems of Celtic heritage is both rich and rare. With support from An tAire Eamon O'Cuiv, Irish government minister for things Gaelic, 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



Noreen Barclay with a photograph of her great grandfather

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.



Marcus Mac Conghail (left/center) leads a Saturday morning Sean-Nós workshop

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 Mhuichín*, an Irish language play by local school children under the leadership of Eileen Carpenter and her friends in Conradh Na Gaeilge gloriously linked past, present, and future.



Paistí Milwaukee present "The 3 Little Pigs" in Irish.

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 Milwaukee from the start."

"The recordings reveal the informality and friendliness of the proceedings, with audience members joining in spontaneously on the choruses and roaring with laughter at the bawdy lyrics of 'An tSeanbhean 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

RTE's arts 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 Stevens, a native of California; Síle Shigley, who was raised in Hong Kong; Kathy Cowan, from Chicago; Navan, a group from Madison; Moire 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 from Leitir Móir, Connemara; Bridget Fitzgerald and Meaití Jó Shéamuis Ó Fátharta from Connemara; Seosaimhín Nic Rabhartaigh from Donegal; Lillis Ó Laoire from Gort an Choire; and Áine Uí Mhuineacháin, from Cinn Mhara.

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 your 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



hyde memorial Lecture

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 Gleeson 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 Gael 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 did 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 as we at Oideas Gael 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.



Archbishop Timothy Dolan and Mayor Tom Barrett share a few words with the crowd



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

Douglas Hyde proclaimed during his visit to America a century ago that Ireland was no longer a seanbhean 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, inasmuch 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. Treise libh is go mba fada buan sa cheannródaíocht sibh!

Professor Watson went on to lament the fate of the world's surviving languages with 50% destined to die by the end of this century. Quoting Irish poet Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill's comment that, "being monolingual is like being colorblind," he pointed to the different and alternative world views that are contained in languages. He then embarked on an all-embracing survey of the riches of the imagination that have been expressed in Irish language folklore, mythology, poetry, prayer, and storytelling over the course of the past two thousand years.

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



Gathered around the Hyde Memorial Plaque are: (L to R) Irish Consul General Charles Sheehan, Karen Prendergast, President ICHC, Roger Walsh, President, AOH, Archbishop Timothy Dolan, Deirdre O'Gara, Curator, Dr. Douglas Hyde Interpretative Centre in Ireland, Mayor Tom Barrett, Piper J.P. Geygan, John Gleeson

st. patrick's day

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 frugal 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



Feisty fish: An Bradán Feasa.

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.



Sarah and Cat at the Shamrock Club Award Ceremony

With help and advice from two stalwart friends of Celtic Studies, Eamonn O'Neill and Cosmo Carini, many freezing hours were spent sawing, stuffing, and painting in a nasty old icebox of a garage on Capitol Drive

And so on March 11th, 2006, a larger than life salmon waded through the streets of downtown Milwaukee. Thanks to the design and creative engineering talents of Sarah Kissinger and Cat Murphy from our CCS office, the riverine character from Celtic myth and lore came alive. Riding atop waves of inspiring Irish presidential blue, the 5 foot long body of the fish was composed of chicken wire, tissue pomps, and wood and was rendered by the fabulously fast fingers of Sarah and Cat, aided by Irish language students Amy Burkhart-Paulson and Jenny Goelzer.

The 6½ foot tall pages from the illuminated manuscript the Book of Kells were built by the Milwaukee Meitheal.* Apart from those mentioned above, the Meitheal included students Mikaela Ehly and Julia Walton, Pam Kissinger and her mother Bernice, supply finders extraordinaire, all of whom made this creation come alive.



CCS students, faculty, and volunteers pause for a picture before marching in the Shamrock Club St. Patrick's Day Parade

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 certificate students, volunteers, 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

irish fest summer school



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-Heidt at 262-227-6538, or e-mail her at johheidt@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.



L to R: Tim Young, President, St. Andrew's Society, John Gleeson, Jennifer McNaughton, Andrew Welsh, MSP, Bob McWilliam, and Jean Bills, President, Conference of Celtic Women at the Hefter Center



Mayor Tom Barrett welcomes Andrew Welsh, MSP to City Hall

As with the American invention and spread of the Saint Patrick's Day Parade, Scottish visitors to the New York and Washington celebrations took the Tartan Day idea back to Scotland. The Angus District, where Arbroath Abbey is located was the first to organize an official Tartan Day celebration.

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 ethnology at the University of Edinburgh. The program combines post-graduate qualification with internship placements 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/riches.htm>



UWM students visit the Bannockburn battlesite in Scotland

items of note

scots wha hae

Southeastern Wisconsin boasts not just one, but two festivals celebrating Scottish heritage. They bookend 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) 422-9235. 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 Waukesha County Expo Center! Highland dancers, pipers, and drummers, the caber toss, tugs 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>

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.

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 414-345-8800 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 week-end 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>

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Please send us your e-mail address if you would prefer to receive Triskele or updates about current events via the Internet.

Write to: gleeson@uwm.edu to have your name added to our e-mail list or to change your current mailing or e-mail address.



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faculty quiz

With Kathy Callahan - Adjunct Assistant Professor in the UWM History Department

What is your greatest fear?

Lawyers. (Don't tell my brother-in-law)

Which living person do you most admire?

Nelson Mandela.

What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?

I would tell you that I hate that I procrastinate, but I don't have time.

What is your greatest extravagance?

An afternoon of uninterrupted novel reading.

What is your greatest regret?

Voting for John Anderson.

What or who is the greatest love of your life?

My husband, John.

Which talent would you most like to have?

I have always wanted to be a country singer, mostly so I could wear sequins and rhinestones.

If you could choose what to come back as, what would it be?

Queen Elizabeth I or a house cat. It's a toss up.

What is your most treasured possession?

I have two: one is a photograph of me, my dad and Ernie Banks, the other is only a memory of the day Wynton 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?

I would recommend Maureen O'Dowd's book *A History of Women in Ireland 1500-1800*.

